

Budget Could Be Test Of Latino Political Clout

By Joseph Torres

It's a window of opportunity that's already the target of a political stone or two. But the federal government may finally address the paramount need to raise the academic performance and high school completion rate of Hispanic students nationwide.

President Clinton's \$1.7 trillion budget for fiscal year 1999 calls for spending \$600 million on an education plan that increases funding for programs affecting Hispanic students.

Pressed by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus during a White House meeting last year to give the community's educational concerns top priority, the president has taken the first step.

Vice President Al Gore and Education Secretary Richard Riley revealed the administration's goals for Hispanic education at a White House ceremony Feb. 4, the same day Clinton submitted his proposal to Congress for the nation's first balanced budget in 30 years.

Hispanic advocates applauded both the action and the way it was handled. The ad-



El Presidente Clinton y el Vice Presidente Gore durante una junta donde prometieron trabajar para el mejoramiento de la educación con los dineros del nuevo presupuesto. El nuevo presupuesto se considera por el Congreso durante los proximos meses.

ministration didn't just throw money at the problem, they conceded. It made a genuine effort to consult with the caucus and Latino educational groups.

Here's why Hispanics insist that education of their children must become a national priority:

The Hispanic dropout rate, which includes immigrants

who never enrolled in school, is 30 percent, more than double the national average. It has been there or higher for the past 30 years. Hispanics make up 56 percent of all U.S. immigrants, but 90 percent of all immigrant dropouts. In 1976, there were 2.8 million Latino kids attending public schools, making up 6.4 percent of the student population.

By 1995 that number increased to more than six million, or 14 percent.

The administration's budget proposals included raising funding for Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act by \$393 million to \$7.8 billion. Title I awards grants to school districts that provide additional services to help low-income K-12 students meet academic standards. In 1994-95, 32 percent of all students served by Title I were Hispanic.

The administration requested \$394 million, a \$33 million increase, for adult education. Hispanics make up 34 percent of the 3.9 million adults served through Adult Basic Education courses. Sixty-seven percent are enrolled in English-as-a-Second-Language classes.

Of all schools seeking teachers for their ESL and bilingual education classrooms, 27.2 percent have difficulties filling vacancies, according to the U.S. Department of Education. Fewer than one in five teachers serving Limited-English-Proficient students are certified in either ESL or

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News Briefs

Plan Gives College Guidance to Poor

Under a new plan announced by President Clinton, children from poor families would have the chance to pair up with mentors, tutors, and counselors as early as grade six to gear them toward college, reports Associated Press.

Clinton unveiled the \$140 million effort Wednesday, saying there are plenty of poor children "who just need a little spark to go on to great things."

The High Hopes for College program aims to provide children from disadvantaged families with support to guide them to college and brighter futures. Clinton's fiscal 1999 budget allots \$140 million and an additional \$70 million to be phased in during 2000 and 2001 for the program.

Under Clinton's proposal, colleges would form partnerships with middle and junior-high schools that have large concentration of children from low-income families. The president hopes to reach more than 1 million students at 3,000 middle schools over the next five years.

By working with parents, churches, local businesses and community groups, children in the program would receive information on the significance of attending college. They would receive help as minor as filling out a college application, and as major as taking part in trips to campuses, summer programs and after-school activities to whet their appetites for college.

They also would have to take tougher classes to prepare them for the academic rigors of post-secondary education. Their parents would receive a "21st Century Scholar" certificate that spells out the amount of college aid for which their children would be eligible, Clinton said, "so they will never have any doubt that if they do their part, they can, in fact, go on to college."

The program was the brainchild of Rep. Chaka Fattah, D-Pa., who patterned it after programs in Philadelphia that provide disadvantaged students with mentors, tuition assistance and general encouragement.

"These young people ... are the future of our country, and the choices that they make in their lives will either tax our society or benefit our society," Fattah said. "This life that these young people have been given is not a dress rehearsal. This initiative challenges them to do their absolute best."

Social Security Fix a Clinton Priority

President Clinton today prodded Congress to make saving surplus funds for a future fix of Social Security "the driving principal of this year's work," reports Associated Press.

He also announced that the first of four regional forums on overhauling Social Security would be held April 7 in Kansas City, Mo.

It was Clinton's first extended remarks on Social Security since he suggested in his State of the Union address last month that Congress set aside any budget surplus to help shore up the nation's retirement program.

Social Security currently takes in more payroll taxes from working Americans than it pays out in benefits to retirees. But after baby boomers start to retire around 2010, that situation will be reversed. Without changes, Social Security by 2029 will be unable to pay due retirement benefits.

"If we act soon, less is more," Clinton told his audience of mostly students. "We can take relatively modest steps in any number of directions to run this 2029 number well out into the future."

Most GOP leaders in Congress want to use the anticipated budget surplus for tax cuts.

Clinton disagreed and said Congress instead should put the money aside. "I think it should be the driving principle of this year's work in the United States Congress. Do not have a tax cut. Do not have a spending program that deals with that surplus."

"I was encouraged that Speaker (Newt) Gingrich said the other day that he felt we should save the surplus until we had fixed Social Security first," Clinton said.

However, what Gingrich said was that Congress could save any budget surplus for Social Security and still give Americans a tax break -- if Clinton would give up new spending proposals.

The Clinton administration is forecasting that, not only will the budget be balanced for the first time in 30 years in fiscal 1999, but there will be a \$200 billion surplus over the next five years. Fiscal 1999 begins next Oct. 1.

In addition to announcing the date and location of the first Social Security forum, Clinton said that he would participate in a teleconference on the subject on March 21 sponsored by the Pew Charitable Trust.

The teleconference will enable him to speak with people in 10 cities.

Food Stamp Debit Cards Ease Shame

Phildaelphia Inquirer - Some people describe it as a quick, sideways glance that silently communicates volumes: disapproval, resentment, disgust, sometimes even pity.

Others say it's more like a stare: slow and judgmental. Eyes carefully study the groceries on the conveyor belt, moving from the boxes of cookies to the bottles of soda, vigilant for signs of extravagance. Mumbles rise from the others on line about the extra wait.

It's a common experience at the checkout line for someone paying with food stamps. Soon, people on public assistance won't be so conspicuous.

Under the 1996 federal welfare-reform law, states are required to replace cumbersome, paper-laden food-stamp programs with automated systems that give recipients access to their benefits with the whisk of a card.

New Jersey began distributing food stamp benefits electronically two years ago in a pilot program in Essex, Hudson and Camden Counties, which account for half the state's welfare caseload. Several other counties are due to go on-line in the spring.

Fifteen other states are also using cards on a limited basis. Under welfare reform, all 50 states must at least have begun an electronic benefits program by 2002.

In New Jersey and Pennsylvania, welfare and food stamp benefits are wired to accounts established for each recipient. Recipients can use the cards to get cash welfare benefits as well as to pay for food. They can be used at ATMs almost anywhere in the country to get cash, and at supermarkets throughout Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

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"El Respeto al Derecho Ajeno es La Paz."
"Respect for the Rights of Others Is Peace"
Lic. Benito Juarez



EL EDITOR

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Lubbock, Texas

Established 1977 - Texas' Oldest Hispanic Owned Newspapers

Hernandez' Resolutions Killed

In what Councilman Victor Hernandez said was an effort that the City undertake some positive steps toward reaching a region-wide resolution to long-term economic development goals, the Councilman introduced 4 resolution to be considered at the week's meeting.

Of the seven members of the Council only 4 were present on Thursday and none seconded the motion for consideration of the resolution.

The resolutions called for:

a. a voluntarily imposed moratorium, prohibiting the

Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero

Every now and then we have to remind our readers that this newspaper doesn't run on love. Since this Saturday is Valentine's Day I thought it might be good to again remind you.



The saying Love makes the world go around doesn't really apply in the making of this newspaper. What makes the world go around for us is it's advertisers who week end and week out put their advertising in our newspaper. Many times it's very hard to get people to spend money advertising and meke them realize that our readers do spend money and care about who really wants their business enough to support a newspaper that realtes to them.

It seems that daily we get comments about how people love to read our paper. But yet many of our advertisers don't get the message.

Do us a favor, next time you go shopping, eating, looking for a place to fill out your income tax, etc. they them you read about their services in El Editor. And next time you go into a store that you have never seem them advertise in El Editor...ask them why they don't. We sure would appreciate it.

Lubbock City Council from placing before the voters the issue of a tax increase to be used for "economic development initiatives";

b. a temporary "cap" on the amount of funds which can be transferred to Market Lubbock, Inc. at a rate equivalent to the "old mil tax";

c. a resolution which calls for an election which would determine, once and for all, the preference of Lubbock Citizens to either: a) continue to fund "economic development initiatives" through a rate equivalent to the "old mil tax"; or b) have a rate equivalent to the "old mil tax" used to reduce the ad valor em property tax rate; and

d. the creation of a Regional Economic Development Commission.

Councilman Hernandez said that "It is critical that the issue of whether or not the citizens wish to continue to fund economic development initiatives" be determined. Just as there are those adamant in their position of continuing to fund economic development by whatever means, there are those just as adamant that the continued use of taxes to fund economic development is not

only unwarranted but unwelcome as well. The solution is easy, place the issue before the voters."

The steps outlined were meant as initial steps which Hernandez said were needed to be undertaken. "The resolutions to this issue will not be easy, nor will they be necessarily popular with all -- but they will be vital to this City's continued growth and well-being," said Hernandez.

With no one seconding the resolution when placed before the Council, the resolution essentially died but alternative efforts are being planned by Hernandez.

Aprobacion De Presupuesto Podria Ser Prueba

Por Joseph Torres

Es una ventana de oportunidad que ya es el blanco de una piedra política o dos. Pero el gobierno federal puede enfocarse por fin sobre la necesidad imperiosa de elevar el desempeño académico y la tasa de terminación de estudios secundarios por parte de los estudiantes latinos en toda la nación.

El presupuesto del Presidente Clinton para el año fiscal de 1999, ascendente a \$1.7 trillones, dispone el desembolso de \$600 millones para un plan de enseñanza que aumenta el financiamiento para los programas que surten gran efecto sobre los estudiantes hispanos.

Apremiado por el Grupo Congresional Hispano durante una reunión en la Casa Blanca el año pasado para que diera prioridad máxima a los intereses de la comunidad por la enseñanza, el presidente ha dado el primer paso.

El Vice-Presidente Al Gore y el Secretario de Instrucción Pública Richard Riley revelaron los objetivos del gobierno para la enseñanza de los hispanos en una ceremonia en la Casa Blanca el 4 de febrero, el mismo día en que Clinton presentó su propuesta al Congreso para el primer presupuesto equilibrado de la nación en 30 años.

Los defensores hispanos aplaudieron tanto a la acción como al modo de manejarla. El gobierno no se limitó a "tirar dinero" al problema, según reconocieron aquéllos, sino que hizo un esfuerzo genuino para consultar con el Grupo y las organizaciones

latinas de la enseñanza.

He aquí el por qué los hispanos insisten en que la enseñanza de sus hijos debe llegar a ser una prioridad nacional:

La tasa de abandono de los estudios entre los hispanos, que incluye a los inmigrantes



Los Infantes De Marina Han Desembarcado En La Frontera De Mexico

Por Víctor Landa

Tengo este hábito de decir a la gente que soy un rapaz de la frontera. Lo digo como respuesta a la inevitable pregunta: "¿De dónde eres?" cuando conozco a alguien. Desde luego, los recién conocidos parecen fijarse en la palabra "rapaz", cuando en verdad lo que yo creo que sea interesante es el hecho de que soy de la frontera.

No puedo decir que soy únicamente de Laredo, Texas, porque sería sólo media verdad. La otra mitad de la verdad es que soy de Nuevo Laredo, México, también. Durante la mayor parte de mi niñez y adolescencia atravesaba la frontera política entre los Estados Unidos y México por lo menos dos veces al día, una vez yendo y la otra viniendo.

He vivido y estudiado en ambas naciones y tengo amigos a los dos lados. Conozco las calles y los callejones de todas las comunidades fronterizas tan bien como conozco a las mejores "taqueñas" de ambas ciudades. (Desde luego, en Laredo, Texas, a los tacos del desayuno se les llama "mariachis", y en gran medida para disgusto de las camareras. Y yo agrego "sin guitarra" cuando los ordeno.)

Hay matices ligeros en los ritmos de cada lado del río que sólo alguien que haya vivido inmerso en los dos lugares puede descubrir.

Mucho ha cambiado desde que atravesé el Puente Internacional por última vez, pero

acostumbraba ser un lugar donde el tiempo era señalado por el sol poniente, el sonido de las campanas de las iglesias y la vista de los pájaros que maniobraban por encima y se asentaban en los árboles enormes de las plazas.

Para mi disgusto, el lugar pacífico con sus mareas alta y baja de personas y vidas, se ha convertido en una frontera de contención. Los informes recientes de los Infantes de Marina de los Estados Unidos patrullando las zonas fronterizas, como si fueran una zona de guerra, parecen casi irreales.

Entre el ganado y los coyotes del llano, entre el "mezquite" y el "huisache" y el polvo eterno del desierto, hay ahora muchachos fuertemente armados vestidos de camuflaje, capacitados para matar. Y entre el afán y el apurillo del comercio fronterizo típico debemos agregar ahora el sonido de los helicópteros militares que dispersan a los grupos de "urracas" vespertinas. Su razón expuesta es que van a unirse a la guerra contra los narcóticos.

Para estar seguros, la frontera meridional de los Estados Unidos es una zona como no hay otra en el país. En ningún otro lugar de estos Estados Unidos el gobierno federal desplegaría visiblemente tropas armadas. En ninguna otra zona no militar del país, las Fuerzas Armadas de los Estados Unidos construirían

carreteras y helipuertos como si estuvieran preparándose para un asedio. Ningún otro lugar lo permitiría.

Y sin embargo, las protestas constantes en contra de lo que asciende a ser una ocupación militar de la frontera han quedado sin respuesta. No fué sino hasta que un joven pastor de Presidio, Texas, fué muerto por estar en su lugar acostumbrado a su hora de costumbre, que la operación militar fué puesta en tela de juicio.

Pero todavía los soldados permanecen. Más recientemente, han estado desbaratando el "llano" con el pretexto de que les ayudará a hacer su trabajo mejor.

El extremo sería ridículo. El extremo sería desplegar a los Infantes de Marina en todos los lugares de la nación donde se compran y venden narcóticos. El extremo sería enviar a soldados armados a patrullar las calles de las ciudades más peligrosas del país, para crear un estado militar a fin de reprimir los males del tráfico ilegal de narcóticos. El extremo nunca sucedería, porque no lo permitiríamos.

De modo que, ¿qué es lo que hace que la frontera sea distinta?

¿Cuánto tiempo pasará antes de que se detenga a los ciudadanos privados en las carreteras porque lucen sospechosos? ¿Cuánto tiempo pasará antes de que los residentes de

la frontera sean detenidos al azar en los retenes de control, mirando hacia dentro del cañón de un rifle?

¿Nunca, dicen ustedes? En Presidio, Ezequiel Hernández fué muerto mientras cuidaba su rebaño de cabras. Fué muerto a tiros por Infantes de Marina que hacían su trabajo. ¿Quién habría pensado que tal cosa fuera posible?

Nunca, decían ellos. Pero sucedió, tan irreal como pueda sonar.

Si se necesita más patrullaje para combatir al tráfico de narcóticos a lo largo de la frontera, ¿por qué no aumentar la cantidad de agentes para la ejecución de las leyes de narcóticos en todo el país? ¿Por qué no aumentar el nivel de cooperación entre las dependencias que combaten al tráfico de narcóticos a ambos lados de la frontera? ¿Por qué no hacer algo substancial respecto a disminuir la demanda de narcóticos que esclaviza a las mentes de tantos de nuestros jóvenes?

Lo que me preocupa es lo que pueda suceder una vez que estas operaciones militares "mínimas" dejen de detener a los narcóticos.

El extremo puede no estar tan lejos como parece.

(Victor Landa es director de información de la estación de "Telemundo" KVDA-TV, en San Antonio.)

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The Marines Have Landed On The Mexican Border

By Victor Landa

I have this habit of telling people I'm a border brat. I say it in response to the inevitable "Where are you from?" when I first meet someone. Of course, new acquaintances seem to fix on the word "brat," when in fact what I believe is interesting is the fact that I'm from the border.

I can't say I'm only from Laredo, Texas, because it would be half the truth. The other half of the truth is that I'm from Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, as well. Throughout most of my childhood and adolescence I crossed the political border between the United States and Mexico at least twice a day, once going and once coming.

I've lived and studied in both nations and have friends on either side. I know the streets and back alleys of each border community as well as I know the best *taqueñas* in both towns. (Of course, in Laredo, Texas, breakfast tacos are called *mariachis*, and much to a server's chagrin, I'll add *sin guitarra* when I order.)

There are nuances in the rhythms of each side of the river that only someone who has lived in both places can detect.

Much has changed since I last walked across the International Bridge, but it used to be a place where time was marked by the setting sun, the sound of church bells and the sight of birds swirling overhead and settling in the massive trees of the plazas.

Much to my chagrin, the peaceful place with its predictable ebb and flow of people and lives has turned into a border of contention. Recent reports of United States Marines patrolling the border areas as if it were a war zone seem almost surreal.

Among the cattle and coyotes of the *llano*, among the *mezquite* and *huisache* and the eternal dust of the desert there are now heavily armed boys dressed in camouflage, trained to kill. And amidst the hustle and bustle of the typical border commerce we must now add the sound of army helicopters dispersing the swirls of evening *urracas*. Their given reason is to join in the war on drugs.

To be sure, the southern border of the United States is an area like no other in the country. In no other place in these United States would the federal government blatantly deploy armed troops. In no other

non-military area of the country would the U.S. Armed Forces construct roads and heliports as if preparing for a siege. No other place would stand for it.

And yet the constant protests against what amounts to a military occupation of the border have gone unheard. It wasn't until a young goatherder in Presidio, Texas, was killed for being in his usual place at his usual time that the military operation came under question. And still the soldiers remain. Most recently they have been tearing up the *llano* with the excuse that it will help them do their job better.

The extreme would be ridiculous. The extreme would be to deploy Marines to every place in the nation where illegal drugs are bought and sold. The extreme would be to send armed soldiers to patrol the streets of the most dangerous neighborhoods in the country, to create a military state in order to squelch the evils of drug trafficking.

The extreme would never happen because we wouldn't permit it. So what makes the border different?

How long before private citizens are stopped on the high-

ways because they look suspicious? How long before residents of the border are stopped at random check points, looking into the barrel of a rifle?

Never, you say? In Presidio, Ezequiel Hernandez was killed while protecting his herd of goats. He was shot by Marines doing their job. Who would have thought such a thing possible? Never, they said. But it happened, surreal as it may sound.

If more patrolling is needed to combat drug trafficking along the border, then why not increase the number of drug enforcement agents in the entire country? Why not increase the level of cooperation between drug fighting agencies on both sides of the border? Why not do something substantial about decreasing the demand for drugs that enslaves the minds of so many of our young people?

What worries me is what may happen once these "minimal" military operations fail to stop drugs. The extreme may not be as far off as it seems.

(Victor Landa is news director of the Telemundo station KVDA-TV in San Antonio.)

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Los Hispanos Renuevan Las Ciudades Y Los Suburbios

Por Joseph Torres

Los hispanos están en movimiento. Literalmente.

Un par de encuestas de la Oficina del Censo que fueron publicadas en las semanas recientes señalan a los latinos de los Estados Unidos, especialmente los inmigrantes, como una brisa fresca que revigora al clima económico y social de las zonas metropolitanas por todos los Estados Unidos.

Según aquéllos que han revisado la información, esta población móvil está surtiendo un efecto positivo sobre las comunidades urbanas de modos tan inesperados como disminuyendo la delincuencia y eliminando montones de basura.

Un informe de la Oficina del Censo de los Estados Unidos, publicado el 31 de diciembre, reveló que la migración hispana desempeñó un papel considerable en las zonas metropolitanas que experimentaron los aumentos de población más rápidos y mayores entre 1990 y 1996.

De las diez Zonas Estadísticas Metropolitanas (MSADs en inglés) con el crecimiento más rápido, cuatro están en Texas, y una cada una en Arkansas, Arizona, Idaho, Florida, Nevada y Utah. La MSA de Las Vegas, Nevada/Arizona, encabezó la relación con 40.9 por ciento, seguida por dos MSADs de Texas: Laredo (32.7 por ciento)

to) y McAllen- Edinburg-Mission (29.2 por ciento).

De las MSADs consolidadas con el crecimiento mayor, California tiene tres y Texas tiene dos (véase el cuadro estadístico).

El Profesor Leo Estrada, de la Universidad de California en Los Angeles, dijo a Hispanic Link que los latinos fueron participantes considerables en nueve de las 10 zonas metropolitanas de crecimiento más rápido. El agregó que la inmigración y el movimiento de los hispanos fueron también contribuyentes importantes a las 10 zonas metropolitanas que tuvieron los mayores logros numéricos.

Si no hubiera sido por un aumento de 550,000 habitantes en la población hispana del Condado de Los Angeles, el condado habría perdido más de 300,000 residentes entre 1990 y 1996. En vez de eso, creció

desde 8.87 millones hasta 9.13 millones.

Estrada agregó que los aumentos extraordinarios de la población hispana en tales zonas pueden atribuirse a la juventud de la población, su disposición a emigrar para encontrar empleo y las redes de las familias extendidas que los latinos tienen en comunidades dadas.

Los inmigrantes son por lo general cumplidores de las leyes y merecen crédito extra por mejorar la calidad de la vida en las zonas a las que se mudan, agregó él. El los vio como un factor en la razón de que la delincuencia en las ciudades tales como Nueva York haya disminuído, atribuyendo también la disminución de la delincuencia juvenil en escala nacional a la inmigración.

La necesidad de disponer de

Continued on Page 4

Sittin' Here Thinkin'

Cutlers on the Web!

by Ira Cutler

The other day I was sittin' here doing my other job - being a partner in a consulting firm - and I wanted to locate a fellow I had not seen or heard about in years. The thing is that he would be just the right person for a piece of work that we might end up getting a contract to do. Putting the right person on the right assignment is a lot of what success in consulting is all about.

At any rate, I got so desperate that I tried to find my former colleague by entering his name in Yahoo!, the search engine on the web, and ultimately I found some phone numbers and addresses that just might turn out to be him. It is really tough to hide out these days.

And then, for the fun of it, I looked me up and, lo and behold, Yahoo! found 24948 web pages in response to a search for Ira Cutler. The first dozen or so are really about me -- articles I have written, some Sittin' Here Thinkin' columns and some a little more scholarly -- but then as soon as they ran out of stuff on Ira Cutler, they listed references to what seems to be all the other Cutlers in the world. What a bunch they are.

One interesting Cutler was Alpheus Cutler who, on Tuesday, March 23 1847, met with Brigham Young and others in Nebraska to define new boundaries for the Winter Quarters City. A scholarly Cutler, William G. Cutler, apparently wrote the definitive "History of the State of Kansas" which was first published in 1883. A scientist, HC Cutler, produced a paper in 1942 that established the system of recognition and classification of maize or corn into distinct "races."

Other prominent Cutlers include Lloyd Cutler, who was persuaded by President Clinton in 1994 to serve as White House counsel during Clinton's first term. Cutler, described as "the ultimate Washington lawyer" and a "Washington gray eminence," had held the same job in the Carter administration. His role for Clinton was to help quiet the uproar over White House ethics. Lucky Lloyd! Another Cutler lawyer is the infamous Bruce Cutler, chief attorney for convicted mobster John Gotti. There is a lot more on the Web about Bruce than Lloyd, oddly enough, especially on The John Gotti Tribute Page, which also comes up when you do an Ira Cutler web search.

There are a lot of more ordinary, less famous Cutlers as well. Richard Cutler, a handsome young man from the Department of Mathematics at Utah State University, has a web page of his own, as do a number of either out of work or endlessly hustling Cutlers. Rupert Cutler, for example, provides a range of consultancy services to assist those involved in the property industry and related fields. Christopher W. Cutler, D.D.S. is on the faculty of Emory University School of Dentistry. Koli Cutler from Los Angeles advertises herself as an American Standard Sign Language translator. William (Bill) Edward Cutler is a freelance/contract writer-editor serving a wide variety of businesses and he has a real nice Website but a rather forbidding picture of himself. Try to smile, Bill!

Craig Cutler is one of a number of artistic Cutlers, a photographer here in New York. Maybe Craig could take a happier picture of Bill. Jack Cutler is a photographer, too, offering "an array of glamour nudes for downloading and for sale." Jack's nude pictures are art, I am glad to say, not smut; not that I looked at them too much. Prince Ivor Cutler is a Scottish poet, musician and actor who was in the Beatles' film "Magical Mystery Tour." Elisabeth Cutler, a singer-songwriter, has a new album out called Bury The Ghost. You can click on her Website and hear some of it. Amazing, huh?

There are a lot of Cutler companies out there, too. Cutler Graphics, Cutler Realty (which is on Old Cutler Road in Miami) and CUTLER & COMPANY, an investment management and mutual fund company in California, Oregon, and Indiana. Then there is Cutler Pheasant Supply, Inc. in Michigan and, of course, there is Cutler-Hammer which, with sales of approximately \$2 billion, 54,000 employees and 155 manufacturing sites in 26 countries around the world and sales for 1996 of \$7 billion.

There is a Residence Hall at Case Western Reserve University named Cutler and an article in the campus magazine in which a student is complaining about mice getting into her ramen noodle soup there. Colorado College's Cutler Hall, built in 1878, is the oldest building on campus and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Cutler, Maine is home to the Little River Lodge, which sounds like a charming bed and breakfast. A Cutler Middle School serves Mystic, Connecticut. There is a Cutler Health Center at the University of Maine and Cutler, Illinois is the home of the Tri-County Pentecostal Church "Where everybody is somebody, and Jesus Christ is Lord."

I only went through the first 200 of the nearly 25,000 Ira Cutler search responses. Up ahead, I suspect, they will run out of Cutlers and start telling me about Iras - Ira Gershwin, Ira Hayes who raised the flag on Iwo Jima and others. I expect to be told as well about Individual Retirement Accounts and the Irish Republican Army.

But it is the Cutlers I feel most close to, although it is almost certain that not a single one of them is in any way related to me. How do I know? Well, the deal is that my family has not been Cutlers for very long. We were the Mastrofski family when my father's relatives left Russia and somehow, through bureaucracy or forged papers or whichever family legend you choose to believe, we became Cutlers by the time we reached New York.

I plan to contact some of the Cutlers, anyway, especially the rich, powerful and/or interesting ones and maybe I can find some Mastrofskis, too. These days we all need all the connections we can get.

Ira Cutler, HN4072@handsnet.org, says he's seeking a semi-legitimate outlet for thoughts and ideas too irreverent, too iconoclastic, or just too nasty for polite, serious, self-important company. He promises us a Monday column most weeks. More recently Ira has become involved in communicating in another way, through speeches which he calls Standin' Here Talkin'.

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Chiapas Counterinsurgency Campaign Spreads Fear

BY MARY JO MCCONAHAY

POLHO, MEXICO -- This cloud-shrouded Indian town, far from the hot lowland jungle headquarters of the armed Zapatistas, is living proof of how far the Chiapas rebellion has spread. Filling with the displaced, surrounded by new police and army outposts, Polho has become one of the newest hot spots in a counterinsurgency campaign that threatens to engulf Mexico's southernmost state.

Talks between the Mexican government and the Zapatistas broke down two years ago. An official cease fire is in place but conflict has continued by other means, turning Chiapas into a checkerboard of authorities and loyalties.

Displacement began in jungle regions in 1995 when Zapatista sympathizers fled their homes in fear as army troops entered their settlements and erected bases. About a year later, thousands more -- including non-Zapatistas -- were forced from villages in the Northern regions by paramilitary units linked to the ruling party (the PRI) and the government.

Now displacement is hitting the highlands. This town

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bilingual instruction. The budget calls for \$33 million in additional spending to train 20,000 teachers over the next five years to teach LEP students.

Funding for bilingual education itself would increase from \$199 million to \$232 million and the dollars allocated to Hispanic Serving Institutions in higher education would climb from \$12 million to \$28 million.

Clinton also asked for \$60 million in new funding to improve education programs for migrant youths and adults. Support for migrant education, which serves 610,000 students, would climb from \$305 million to \$354 million in fiscal year 1999.

"No More Excuses," a report commissioned by the administration and released by the Hispanic Dropout Project during the ceremony, offered several recommendations to remedy the high dropout rate. It concluded: "Hispanics confront too many excuses for the country's inaction regarding their education status."

Among Latinos on hand at the ceremony to laud what the administration has labeled its "Hispanic Education Action Plan" were House members Ruben Hinojosa (D-Texas), Loretta Sanchez (D-Calif.) and Ed Pastor (D-Ariz.) Also there, Lisa Navarrete, spokesperson for the National Council of La Raza, praised the package as targeting the right areas, particularly younger students. But a major battle is foreseen getting the increases through Congress.

Already, House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) has gone on record as opposing the president's proposed education spending, saying any budget "surpluses" should go toward tax cuts.

Latino pressure is credited with helping send Bob Dornan's plan to use his House friends to nullify his defeat at the hands of Loretta Sanchez down in flames.

But this is expected to be a tougher fight. It could be the big test of national Latino political power, not only to rally its own community, but to keep the issue high on the administration's priority list and to procure strong support from every ally, inside and outside of the education community, that it can find.

(Joseph Torres is editor of the national newsweekly Hispanic Link Weekly Report in Washington, D.C.)
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Roberto Albores asumió como nuevo gobernador del estado de Chiapas.

in the Chenalho district is home to Tzotzil Indians, who sympathize with the Zapatistas.

Modest houses spread downhill from a two-lane highway among coffee-rich green mountains about 50 miles north of the colonial city of San Cristobal de las Casas.

Polho is an ordinary-looking village, centered on church and school, but fragile, open-walled shelters spill beyond the town, which has become a haven for villagers from miles around fleeing paramilitary violence in their own hamlets. In the last half year, Polho's population has increased from 1,000 to over 7,000.

According to interviews with residents of several villages and reports from human rights groups, the paramilitary targets have included not only Zapatista sympathizers but neutrals who refuse to pick up arms against their neighbors, adherents of the opposition Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) -- which has done very well in elections in the area -- and village PRI figures who have spoken out publicly against the violence.

After the December 22 massacre of 45 unarmed Indians at Acteal, only 6 miles up the road, the human flow into Polho became a flood.

"We cannot ask these people to return to their homes, because there is danger

there," said Hector, 28, a health attendant. "But I can't see how we are going to resolve the problem of food."

There is an air of crisis. During daylight hours, townspeople distribute donations from civilian organizations -- taking food, clothes,



Marcos considera que las maniobras de "desarme" que realizan las Fuerzas Armadas pueden provocar "enfrentamientos armados entre nuestras fuerzas y las del gobierno".

toys and school books from trucks on the highway down slippery, narrow trails to encampments where families huddle, some with only a thin plastic sheet to protect them from the rain.

But at noon one recent day, members of the town council stood before a heavy metal chain barrier and turned away a delegation from the Ministry of Health -- although medicines are badly needed -- because the town will not accept aid from the PRI-led government.

"They feed and protect the paramilitaries who put us here," fumed one farmer from the hamlet of La Libertad. The displaced say they do not check on their homes or crops for fear the paramilitaries will pick them off on the way. As the hour grows later, the men gather in knots to talk-- over soft drinks, as the self-declared "autonomous" Zapatista communities have pledged to keep themselves dry. On the highway above, they can see soldiers in dark green, state police in dark blue, federal police in black passing by or just loitering.

Luciano, 35, a member of the autonomous Zapatista municipal council, says the civilian community is unarmed, and feels defenseless, "encircled" by the military. Like many others, Luciano "ran all the way here" when he heard the shooting at Acteal. That lasted six hours, according to eyewitnesses,

with paramilitary units firing high-caliber weapons at their victims while police, at one entrance to the town, kept firing lower caliber arms into the air.

So they came to Polho "to concentrate in a place where perhaps they couldn't kill us" one 38-year-old farmer explains. Or, as Luciano says, "to all die together if that was what was to happen."


The military is now every-



New officers for the American GI Forum were installed this past week to serve for the coming year.

Newly installed officers were sworn in by Pete Garza (left) and include: (l-r) Robert Narvaiz, vice commander; Francisco J. Gutiérrez, commander; Joe Carrillo, sgt.-at-arms; Bill Romero Camp, secretary and not pictured Maria Campos, treasurer.

During the installation, Gutiérrez stressed the importance of building a strong forum as a family veteran's organization. Gutiérrez said that one of the main projects of the Forum was going to build a memorial for all Lubbock veterans in Lubbock county.

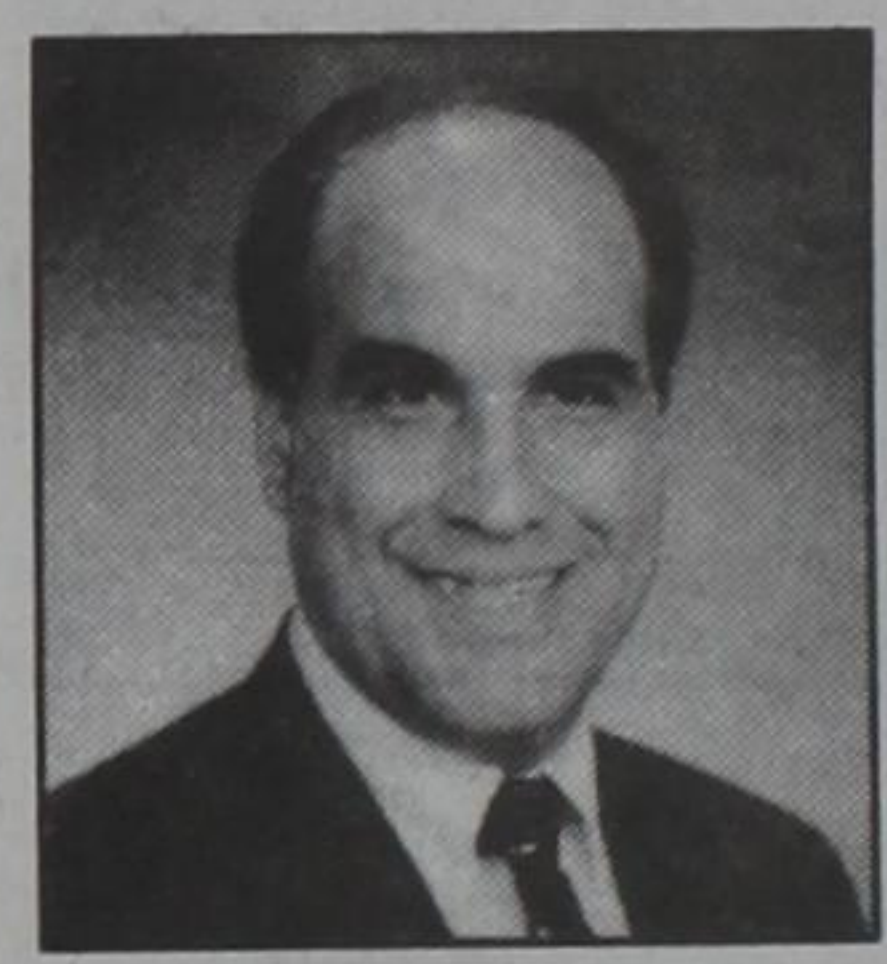


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Spring Training Set To Begin In MLB

By BEN WALKER

PHOENIX - So, where were we?

Moises Alou, Kevin Brown and Robb Nen were winning the World Series for the Florida Marlins.

The Milwaukee Brewers were playing in the American League. Pedro Martinez was in Montreal, Chuck Knoblauch in Minnesota and Kenny Lofton in Atlanta.

Davey Johnson still had a job. The Tampa Bay Devil Rays and Arizona Diamondbacks didn't have any players, not really.

Has it really been just 108 days since Edgar Renteria's two-out single in the bottom of the 11th inning ended Game 7 in Miami?

Now, it's time for the sweetest sound of spring. No, not the shush of the Olympic bobsleds nor the swish of Michael Jordan's jumper.

Those magic words that baseball fans wait all winter to hear: It's time for pitchers and catchers to report to spring training.

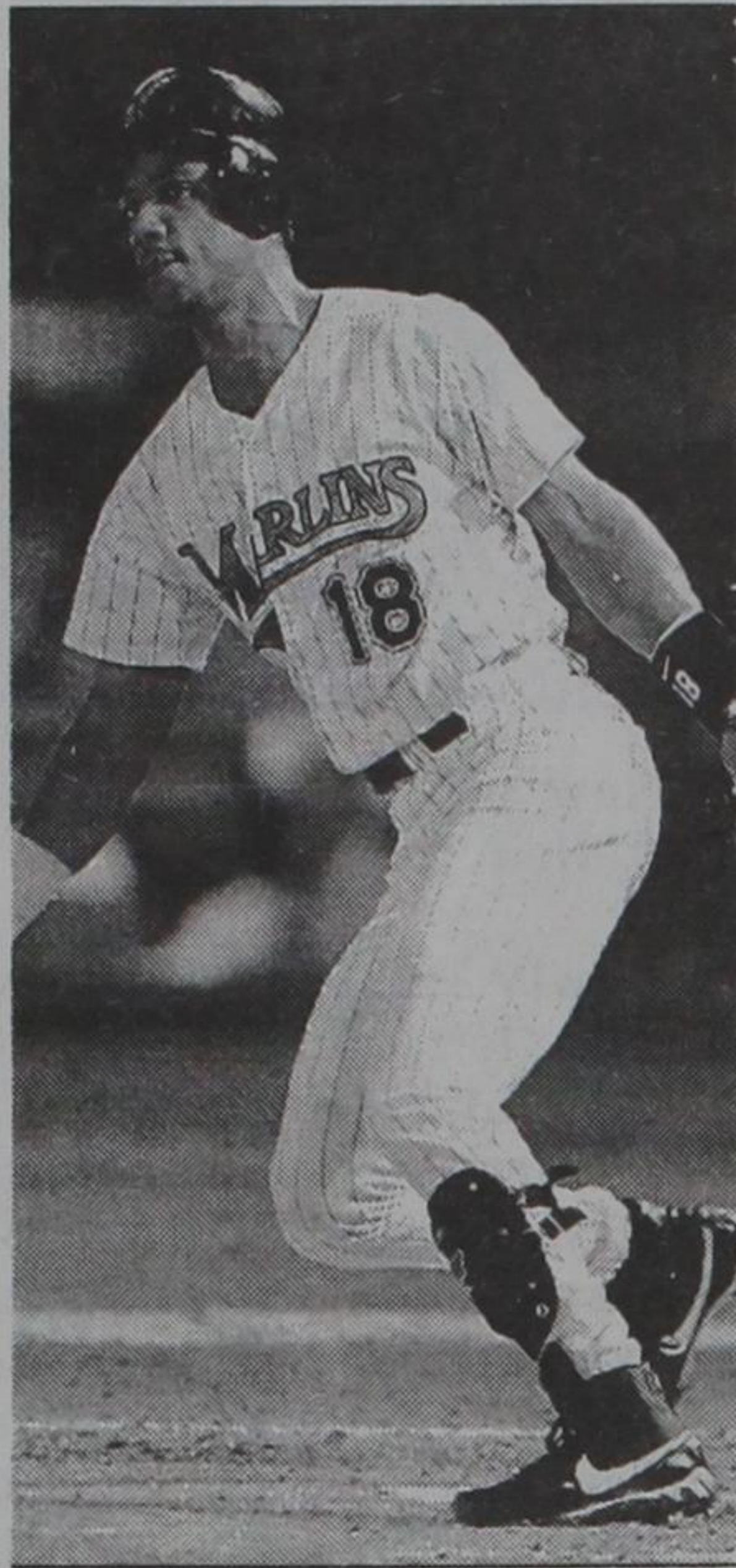
When camps start opening Thursday - the Marlins, Cleveland and Cincinnati will be the first to get going - much of the major league landscape will have changed.

When the Marlins, who shed 12 members of their 25-man World Series roster in a salary purge, play the first exhibition game of the year Feb. 25, many of the differences will be readily apparent.

There will be 30 teams this season. The expansion Diamondbacks and Devil Rays are well-stocked with familiar names, too.

Arizona signed Andy Benes and Jay Bell and traded for Matt Williams and Devon White, while Tampa Bay signed Roberto Hernandez, Wilson Alvarez and Wade Boggs and traded for Fred McGriff.

Good enough to contend for a playoff spot? Maybe not, but in an era in which the Marlins zoomed from novices to No. 1 in only five years, anything is possible, especially when big bucks are involved.



"We're not going to be a typical expansion team by any stretch of the imagination," Arizona owner Jerry Colangelo said.

The Diamondbacks will head two hours south of Phoenix and train in Tucson, Ariz., and the Devil Rays will work out at St. Petersburg, Fla., just a few minutes from their home field.

Several clubs will be in new places this spring. The Chicago White Sox left Sarasota, Fla., and shifted to Tucson, while the Cincinnati Reds packed up from Plant City, Fla., and moved into Sarasota.

The St. Louis Cardinals left St. Petersburg and will share a camp in Jupiter, Fla., with the Montreal Expos, who had been in West Palm Beach. The Atlanta Braves also left West Palm and will take up residence at the Disney Wide World of Sports complex in Kissimmee, Fla., near the entrance to the Magic Kingdom.

The Brewers will change suburbs in Phoenix, leaving Chandler and moving to Maryvale. Milwaukee already has shifted from the AL to the NL, marking the first team in the majors to change

leagues since the 1892 season.

The Detroit Tigers also made a move, going from the AL East to the AL Central. That let Tampa Bay take its geographically correct spot in the AL East, and Arizona will join the NL West.

Not all of baseball's top players will be in action right away, however.

All-Star catcher Todd Hundley may miss the entire year because of elbow trouble and former Cy Young winner John Smoltz is expected to start the season on the disabled list because of elbow surgery.

NL MVP Larry Walker also is having elbow trouble, and ace pitchers David Cone and Kevin Appier are taking it easy. Florida pitcher Alex Fernandez will be sidelined the whole season after a torn rotator cuff finished him in the NL playoffs - at least he remained on the roster, unlike Alou, Brown, Nen, White, Al Leiter, Jeff Conine and a half-dozen others.

Brett Butler, Eddie Murray and Ryne Sandberg retired. But career saves leader Lee Smith, who retired last July, is trying a comeback with the Royals.

"I don't like sitting around doing nothing. I'm going to have to play some ball so I can relax a little bit," Smith said.

Many other big-name players have new addresses.

Martinez, the NL Cy Young winner, was traded from Montreal to Boston and signed a record \$75 million, six-year contract. The Twins, who may move out of Minneapolis after this season, traded Knoblauch to the New York Yankees and Cleveland re-acquired Lofton.

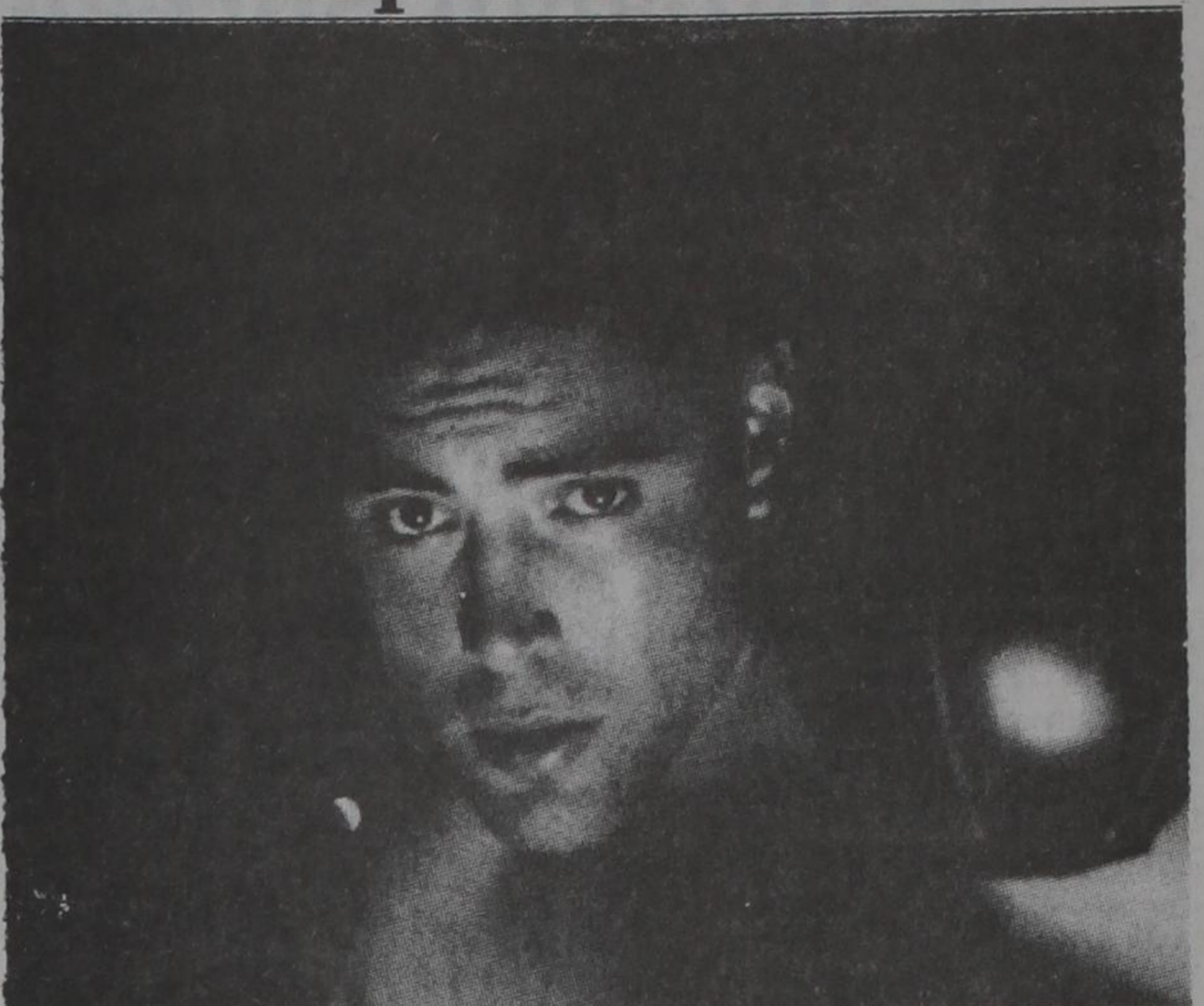
Among others on the move: Darryl Kile left Houston and signed with Colorado, Marquis Grissom was traded from Cleveland to Milwaukee, Randy Myers left Baltimore and signed with Toronto and Andres Galarraga exited Colorado and signed with Atlanta. Also, Jose Canseco left Oakland for Toronto and Cecil Fielder moved from the Yankees to Anaheim.

Boxing-De la Hoya's Wrist Injury Postpones Charpentier Bout

LAS VEGAS, - World Boxing Council welterweight champion Oscar de la Hoya suffered an injury in training, postponing his title bout against Patrick Charpentier of France until March 14th, Top Rank said on Tuesday.

De La Hoya suffered the injury in sparring over the weekend in Coachella, California, where he had been training for several weeks. The unbeaten champion was scheduled to fight Charpentier on February 28th in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

De la Hoya, 25, is 27-0 with 22 knockouts. Charpentier is 26-4-1 with 22 knockouts. The 12-round bout will be in Las Vegas.



los hispanos tienden a ser inquilinos y no propietarios de viviendas, dijo él.

Con la cantidad de empleos en las ciudades que va en disminución y las familias hispanas establecidas mudándose a los suburbios, hizo notar Gregory Rodríguez, beca-

do de investigación de la Universidad Pepperdine, de Malibú, California, los suburbios mismos tienden a llegar a ser más pobres. Ray Suárez, moderador del programa "Talk of the Nation" de la Radio Nacional Pública, ha estado explorando el éxodo urbano conjunto en la investigación documental para su libro próximo a publicarse, titulado "Huyendo de Casa". Suárez observó que, aunque muchos latinos están comprando hogares suburbanos que están disminuyendo de valor y revitalizando las

vecindades que fueron una vez predominantemente blancas, algunas de tales zonas están llegando a ser cada vez más "barrios" segregados.

Suárez, que ganó su grado de maestría en estudios urbanos en la Universidad de Chicago, señaló que los hispanos hallan más cómodo el mu-

darse a las zonas suburbanas de las ciudades del sur y del oeste que a otras partes, porque dependen de los automóviles y porque las estructuras físicas y culturales de las comunidades están más de acuerdo con sus estilos de vida.

La población latina juvenil de los Estados Unidos totaliza ahora 32 millones. Alimentada por las tasas de nacimientos y por la inmigración, está creciendo a un ritmo de más de un millón al año. De modo que dondequiera que haya espacio y empleos, la nación puede esperar que los hispanos se conviertan en un fenómeno demográfico nacional, no en un fenómeno aislado en bolsones étnicos en una relación limitada de ciudades y estados.

(Joseph Torres es el editor del semanario nacional Hispanic Link Weekly Report.)

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materiales de desecho sólidos ha disminuido en California, aún cuando la población haya aumentado. Estrada acreditó esa disminución en parte a los inmigrantes, que tienen mayores probabilidades de reprocesar los artículos tales como las ropas, en vez de tirarlas.

A medida que los hispanos y otros inmigrantes se mudan a las ciudades, otras familias hispanas son parte de una corriente nacional continua de población desde las ciudades centrales hacia los suburbios. Otra encuesta del Censo publicada en Diciembre halló que en el período de 12 meses comprendido entre marzo de 1995 y marzo de 1996, 853,000 latinos salieron de sus residencias urbanas hacia la vida suburbana más tranquila.

El analizador de cursos de acción del Consejo Nacional de La Raza, Eric Rodríguez, atribuyó esto también a la naturaleza juvenil del grupo y a su disposición de migrar a donde haya empleos disponibles. Alimentando esa tendencia estuvo el hecho de que

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KARLA

Many people were being arrested by the Roman Army because of rumors that a particular group called the "PATH" was plotting to revolt against the Roman Empire. Mid through the cult-type people and turned over to these leaders were had games for members of the was horrid. While all child Karla that all these

ultimately affect her life.

Some families fleeing these predators met at "Melito", a small town by the shore of the "Mediterrano", gulf. They boarded a large merchant ship headed to some near by islands. Joining them was a teacher named "Nicodemus". He was going to one of the islands named "Plamos". Nicodemus was transporting a multitude of ancient scrolls. The ship took sail to the islands early that morning.

Halfway into the voyage, the ship got caught in a very bad storm. After the storm cleared, the ship seemed to just wonder aimlessly at sea. The storm had taken them off course. The ship's rudder had been damaged during the storm and they drifted at the mercy of wind and waves for months.

It was a little life saver that the ship was loaded with food supply. The food was to have been delivered at rich islands. Finally land was spotted.

Because of the time spent at sea, the people did not think that this land was what Path were seeking. Surely it could not be the island of CRETE.

First Century A.D., they were hunted, arrested the rulers of that time of ethotic nature and sport that involved "Path". The result Death this happened the was unaware events would ...

It had to be "MALTA".

An island One hundred miles south of "SITRACURA."

Created and Illustrated by André Deléon Edited by Bida Agiero

continued next week

Read It In El Editor First

Latina Authors Find Border No Barrier

By Michelle Garcia

Two Latina literary giants traveled far from their Mexico City and Texas homes this month to share their talents, wisdom and spiritual gifts. The National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C., hosted Elena Poniatowska and Sandra Cisneros.

They stood side-by-side on stage -- a mejicana and a chicana -- facing an overflow audience of mostly brown faces. Two days after tickets for the event were placed on public sale last month, the museum's small theater was fully booked.

Both women read from their works and conversed with their audience in English, flavored occasionally with Spanish.

Pioneer Mexican novelist Elena Poniatowska, who began her career as a journalist in the 1950s and has authored more than 40 books, swept the dominantly female crowd to

the Mexican hills for a scene in her latest novel, "Tinísima," a sizzling fictional biography of photographer Tina Modotti.

The younger Cisneros has produced three books, including the top-selling "The House on Mango Street." Two years ago, she received a prestigious MacArthur Foun-

ation "Genius" Award. Poniatowska translated "Mango Street" for publication in Latin America.

Cisneros is probably best known beyond literary circles for her battle last year with a San Antonio preservation group over its demand that she repaint her purple -- "periwinkle," Cisneros de-

scribes it more precisely -- house, which sits on the fringe of the city's historical district. Cisneros, a strong cultural advocate, used the issue to challenge the group's failure to respect the city's Mexican roots.

Cisneros mesmerized the audience with a political essay tied to a personal loss when her father died. Then she shifted to an intimate moment between a tía and her niece from her work in progress, "Caramelo."

Excerpts from both novels ended with the triumph of truly strong women -- one a nobody, the other famous -- over loss, betrayal and the reality of sexism. They were realities known by readers on both sides of the border.

But it was the relationships between mejicana and chicana writers that seemed to absorb their audience most.

Barrio wisdom often plays on their differences. It claims the side of the border you come

from determines whether you are shunned by chicanas as an unscoured immigrant or dismissed by the mejicanas as a sell-out.

A member of the audience asked Poniatowska about her relationship as a mejicana writer to chicana writers. The author recounted her introduction to chicana authors many years ago at a historic meeting of chicana and mejicana writers in Mexico.

"I found out they were very brave," she said. "We Mexican women are not as brave as they are. They came from two cultures that tried to destroy them."

"They didn't belong to the Mexicans. 'Tu no eres mejicana.' Americans didn't accept them either. 'No, you're not an Anglo-Saxon.' So they built up a very strong personality. They have a lot of courage about issues that we didn't have..."

Chicanas' outspokenness -- "forma muy abierta" -- star-

ted her. "I met Gloria Anzaldúa (author of "Borderlands, the New Frontera") and the first thing she told me was, 'I am a chicano, I come from a minority and I'm a dyke.'

"I remember meeting Sandra Cisneros, who, of course, has such a great personality and was so generous with me. I met Cheri Moraga (co-editor of "A Bridge Called My Back") and she was extraordinary, a great poet and very strong."

"They were so self-assertive. We're not taught to be assertive in Mexico. We are just taught to marry someone, to catch a man. I admire chicanos so much."


While they pay homage to their roots, the writings of Cisneros and Anzaldúa relate the experiences of a culture that straddles the border, uniquely chicana and often tejana. Cisneros responded to the "here" versus "there" perspective in an earlier interview.

"I think once you see yourself in the other, in that person who is most unlike you, then the story has done its political work. Then we cease to be a 'they' or 'that' or 'those kind,' and we become humans."

Cisneros added her perspective on the division. "I'm in a nice vantage point of being neither Mexican nor completely American. From the middle, I can see the places where the two don't fit. Those interstices are a rich place to write."

But that rich place is becoming a harder place to cultivate. While the two neighbors encourage more commercial trade, the natural flow of people and ideas is becoming restricted by U.S. attempts to seal the border. Writers such as Cisneros and Poniatowska will increasingly become the foot soldiers crossing threatened bridges for our stories and voices.

(Michelle Garcia is a reporter with Pacifica Radio in Washington, D.C.) Copyright 1998, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Sandra Cisneros

 La casa en
 Mango Street

"...una planta conmovedora... encantadora y tierna... Como la mejor poesía, abre las venetas del corazón sin una palabra malgastada."
 —Miami Herald

Las Autoras Latinas Hallan Que La Frontera No Es Obstaculo

Por Michelle Garcia

Dos gigantes literarias latinas viajaron lejos de sus hogares de Ciudad México y Texas en este mes para compartir sus talentos, sabiduría y dones espirituales. El Museo Nacional de Mujeres en las Artes, de Washington, DC., recibió a Elena Poniatowska y a Sandra Cisneros.

Ellas estuvieron una al lado de la otra en el escenario -- una mejicana y una chicana -- de frente a un auditorio congestionado primordialmente de caras pardas. Dos días después que los boletos para el acontecimiento fueron puestos a la venta pública el mes pasado, el pequeño teatro del museo estaba reservado por completo.

Ambas mujeres leyeron de sus obras y conversaron con su auditorio en inglés, condimentado en ocasiones con el español.

La novelista mexicana precursora Elena Poniatowska, que empezó su carrera como periodista en el decenio de 1950 y ha sido autora de más de 40 libros, llevó a la multitud predominantemente femenina a las colinas de México para una escena de su novela más reciente, "Tinísima," una biografía de ficción muy caliente de la fotógrafa Tina Modotti.

Cisneros, que es más joven, ha producido tres libros, in-

cluyendo el de mayor venta titulada "La Casa de la Calle Mango". Hace dos años, ella recibió un prestigioso Galar-dón "Genius" de la Fundación MacArthur. Poniatowska tradujo "Mango Street" para su publicación en la América Latina.

Cisneros es probablemente mejor conocida más allá de los círculos literarios por su batalla del año pasado con un grupo de conservación de San Antonio, por la exigencia de éste de que ella volviera a pintar su casa de color púrpura -- color de "hierba doncella", la describe Cisneros más precisamente -- que está situada en el distrito histórico de la ciudad. Cisneros, defensora cultural sólida, usó el asunto para retar al grupo por haber dejado de respetar las raíces mexicanas de la ciudad.

Cisneros hipnotizó al auditorio con un ensayo político enlazado con una pérdida personal cuando murió su padre. Entonces ella cambió a un momento íntimo entre una tía y su sobrina, de su libro más reciente, "Caramelo".

Los extractos de ambas novelas terminaron con el triunfo de mujeres verdaderamente fuertes -- una que no era nadie y la otra famosa -- sobre pérdida, traición y la realidad del prejuicio sexual.

Esas eran realidades conocidas por los lectores de ambos lados de la frontera.

Pero fué la relación entre las escritoras "mejicana" y "chicana" lo que pareció absorber a su auditorio en



mayor medida.

La sabiduría del "barrio" se enfoca a menudo sobre sus diferencias. Alega que el lado de la frontera de donde se procede determina si una resulta esquivada por las "chicanas" como una inmigrante no limpia o descartada por las "mejicanas" como una "vendida".

Un miembro del auditorio preguntó a Poniatowska sobre su relación como una escritora "mejicana" con las escritoras "chicanas".

La autora recordó su presentación a las autoras

"chicanas" hace muchos años en una reunión histórica de escritoras "chicanas" y "mejicanas" en México.

"Encontré que ellas eran muy valerosas", dijo ella. "Nosotras, las mujeres mexi-

canas, no somos tan valientes como ellas. Ellas vinieron de dos culturas que trataron de destruirlas. Ellas no pertenecían a los mexicanos. 'Tú no eres mejicana'. Los estadounidenses no las aceptaron tampoco. 'No, tú no eres anglo-sajón. De modo que ellas construyeron una personalidad muy fuerte. Ellas tienen mucho valor sobre los asuntos, que nosotros no tenemos...'

La franqueza de las chicanas -- "forma muy abierta" -- le asombró. "Conocí a Gloria

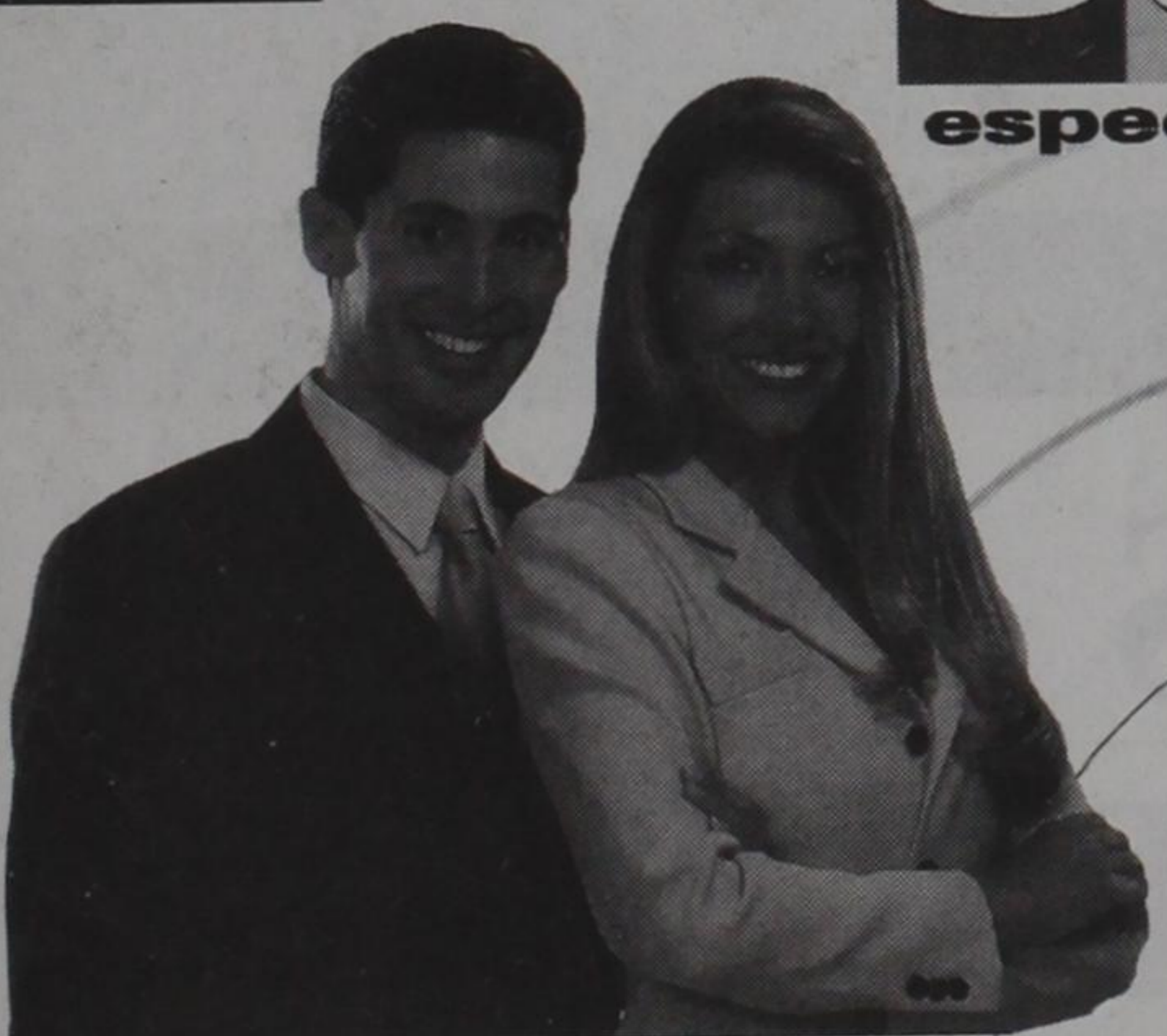

Anzaldúa (la autora de "Borderlands, la Nueva Frontera") y lo primero que ella me dijo fué: "Soy chicana, vengo de una minoría y soy un dique.D


"Recuerdo haber conocido a Sandra Cisneros, quien, desde luego, tiene una personalidad muy grande y fué muy generosa conmigo. Conocí a Cheri Moraga (co-editora de "A Bridge Called My Back") y ella era extraordinaria, una gran poetisa y muy fuerte. Ellas eran muy agresivas. En México no se nos enseña a ser agresivas. Sólo se nos enseña a casarnos con alguien, a atrapar a un hombre. Yo admiro mucho a los chicanos".

Mientras ellas rinden homenaje a sus raíces, los es-

Continued on Page 6

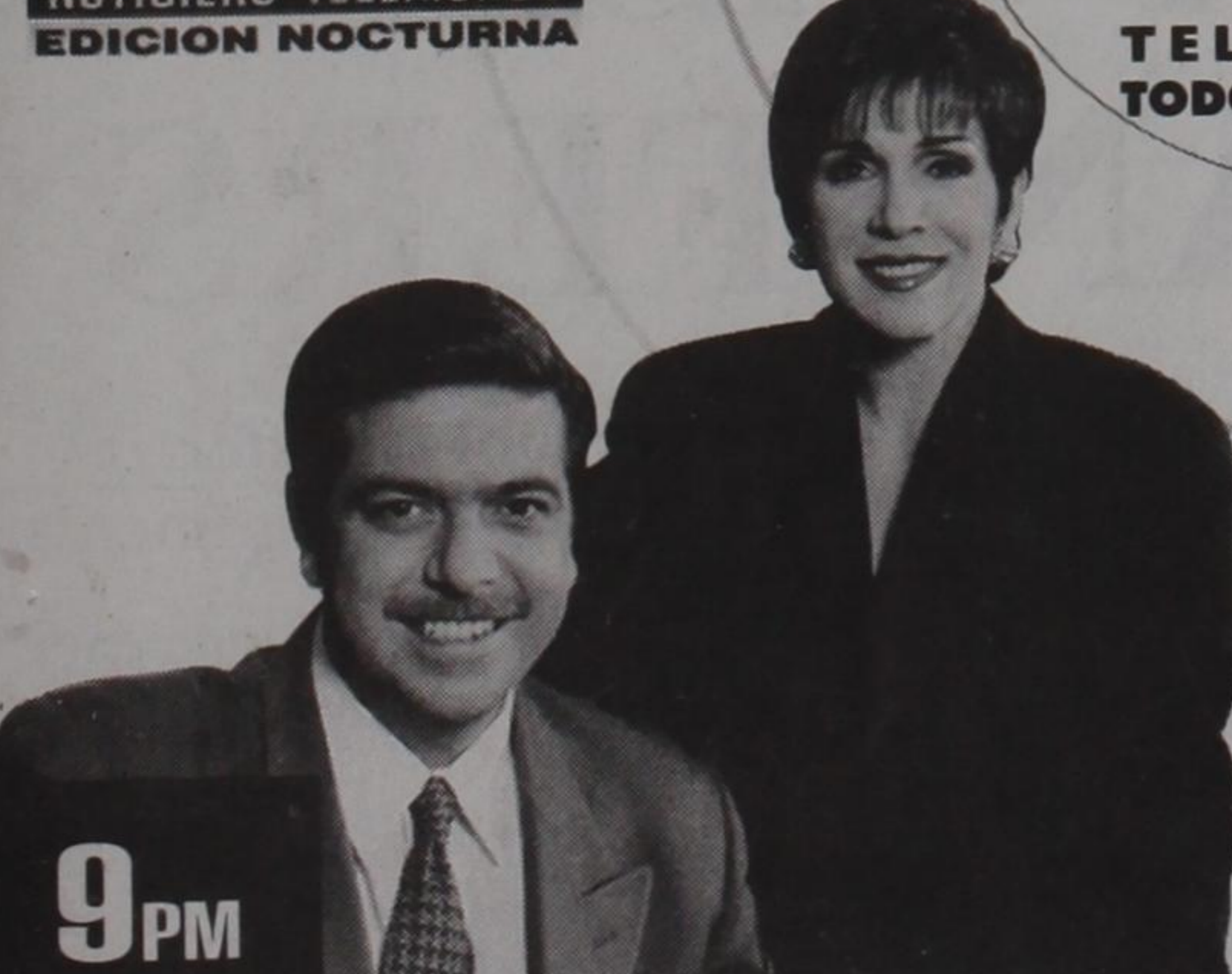
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News Briefs

Turhan Wagstaff, a carpenter on disability, said he was pleased that the coupons would soon be history.

"No more standing in line at the bank or out in the cold at the check-cashing stores, waiting for your stamps or to cash your [welfare] check," he said.

State officials in Pennsylvania and New Jersey say they plan to install machines that can read the cards in a wide variety of locations, including large and small stores.

The Pennsylvania program allows four free transactions a month at cash machines, including balance inquiries and withdrawals. After that, there is a 50-cent fee per transaction. The fees apply to welfare benefits, but not food stamps.

State welfare officials say recipients can avoid frequent use of cash machines by going to supermarkets, where they can draw cash welfare payments and get account balances after making purchases.

Pennsylvania recipients can also call a 24-hour, toll-free number for account balances: 888-328-7366.

Group Says Programs for Kids a Priority

A child advocacy group says child care and after-school programs steer children away from crime, and the government should spend more money on them, reports Associated Press.

The group, dubbed "Fight Crime: Invest in Kids," said more than 180 law-enforcement leaders and crime victims support their position and have urged Congress to put more emphasis on preventing crime.

The group has criticized juvenile crime bills pending in Congress, saying they will starve child care and after-school programs that include sports, music and drama activities. The bills would toughen federal laws dealing with juvenile crime and give states strong incentives to do the same.

Supporters of get-tough measures pending in Congress say they are designed to fix weaknesses in the juvenile justice system and that prevention is addressed in other legislation. They also have said that spending more money won't necessarily reduce crime.

President Clinton's budget proposal for 1999, released Monday, seeks increases for Head Start and several programs to boost child care, including child care tax credits for middle-income people, child care subsidies for poor parents and day care block grants for states.

The Fight Crime group issued a report yesterday citing studies showing the benefits of the programs they back.

In a letter to Congress, the group asked lawmakers to spend an additional \$10 billion on Head Start and at least \$20 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant to make child care available to more parents.

Autoras Latinas

From Page 5

critos de Cisneros y Anzaldúa relatan la experiencia de una cultura que está a horcajadas sobre la frontera, singularmente "chicana" y a menudo "mejicana". Cisneros respondió a la perspectiva de "aquí" versus "allá" en una entrevista.

"Creo que una vez que alguien se ve a sí mismo(a) en la otra persona, en esa persona que es más improbablemente usted, entonces el relato ha hecho su trabajo político. Entonces dejamos de ser "ellosD, o "ésa o "esa clasé y nos convertimos en humanos".

Cisneros agregó su perspectiva sobre la división. "Estoy en un punto ventajoso de no ser mexicana ni completamente estadounidense. Desde el centro, puedo ver los

lugares donde las dos circunstancias no encajan. Esos intersticios son un lugar rico para escribir".

Pero ese lugar rico está llegando a ser un lugar más difícil para cultivar. Aunque los dos vecinos alientan a un mayor comercio, la corriente natural de personas e ideas está llegando a ser limitada por las tentativas estadounidenses de sellar la frontera. Las escritoras tales como Cisneros y Poniatowska llegarán a ser, cada vez en mayor medida, los soldados de infantería que atraviesan los puentes amenazados para nuestros relatos y nuestras voces.

(Michelle García es reportera de Pá-dica Radio en Washington, DC.)

Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 1998. Distribuido por The Los Angeles Times Syndicate



Un Rayito De Luz

Por Sofia Martinez

En la Palabra de Dios encontramos también las bases, y fundamentos de nuestra vida de comunidad, de como debemos comportarnos con los hermanos. En Col. 3,16, vemos que también los demás tienen algo de Cristo para nosotros, pues su Palabra habita en ellos. De aquí podemos aprender a recibir la corrección fraterna y pensar que así como nosotros somos "cartas" de Cristo para ellos, también ellos son para nosotros. Muchos enojos y sentimientos

desaparecerán si pensamos constantemente que nuestros hermanos son enviados de Cristo para nosotros, como cartas, y cantaríamos siempre agradecidos con salmos, himnos y cánticos inspirados.

El II Corintios 3,3. leemos que Pablo dice que somos una carta de Cristo escrita por el Espíritu Santo, en el mismo corazón. Y, una carta, siempre es un mensaje, un información importante, una petición//Si somos una carta de Dios, somos algo muy importante para nuestros hermanos y tenemos que estar muy atentos para saber cual es el mensaje que el Señor quiere darles a nuestros hermanos por medio de nosotros. Somos cartas de Dios; y no deben quedarse encerradas en el sobre, sin que naide las pueda leer; tenemos obligación de hacerlas llegar a su destino. (Colosenses 3,16).

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From Page 1

que nunca se matricularon en la escuela, es del 30 por ciento, más que el doble del promedio nacional. Ha estado en esa cifra u otra superior durante los 30 años recientes. Los hispanos forman el 56 por ciento de todos los inmigrantes a los Estados Unidos, pero tienen el 90 por ciento de todos los desertores escolares entre los inmigrantes.

En 1976 había 2.8 millones de chicos latinos que asistían a las escuelas públicas, formando el 6.4 por ciento de la población escolar. Para 1995, ese número ascendía a más de seis millones, o sea el 14 por ciento de la población escolar.

Las propuestas presupuestarias del gobierno incluyeron el aumento del financiamiento para el Título I de la Ley de Enseñanza Elemental y Secundaria en \$393 millones, hasta \$7,800 millones. El Título I concede subvenciones a los distritos escolares que proporcionan servicios adicionales a los estudiantes de ingresos bajos entre el kindergarten y el 12x grado. En el curso escolar de 1994 a 1995, el 32 por ciento de todos los estudiantes servidos por el Título I fueron hispanos.

El gobierno solicitó \$394 millones, un aumento de \$33 millones, para la enseñanza de adultos. Los hispanos forman el 34 por ciento de los 3,900,000 adultos a quienes se presta servicios a través de los cursos de Enseñanza Básica para Adultos. El 67 por ciento están matriculados en clases de Inglés como Segundo Idioma (ESL).

De todas las escuelas que procuran maestros para sus aulas de clases de Inglés como Segundo Idioma (ESL) y enseñanza bilingüe, el 27.2 por ciento tienen dificultad para llenar las plazas vacantes, según el Departamento Federal de la Enseñanza. Menos de uno de cada cinco maestros que enseñan a los estudiantes con Conocimientos Limitados del Inglés (LEP) han sido certificados, ya sea en ESL o en la enseñanza bilingüe. El presupuesto pide \$33 millones en desembolsos adicionales para capacitar a 20,000 maestros durante los cinco años próximos, a fin de enseñar a los estudiantes LEP.

El financiamiento para la enseñanza bilingüe misma aumentaría de \$199 millones a \$232 millones, y los dólares asignados para las Instituciones Hispanas de Servicio en la enseñanza superior aumentarían desde \$12 mil-

lones a \$28 millones.

Clinton pidió también \$60 millones de nuevo financiamiento para mejorar los programas de enseñanza para jóvenes y adultos migrantes. El apoyo a la enseñanza para los migrantes, que presta servicios a 610,000 estudiantes, aumentaría de \$305 millones a \$354 millones en el año fiscal de 1999.

"No Más Pretextos", un informe encargado por el gobierno y publicado por el Proyecto para los Desertores Hispanos durante la ceremonia, ofrecía varias recomendaciones para remediar la tasa elevada de deserciones escolares. Y terminaba diciendo: "Los hispanos se enfrentan a demasiados pretextos para la inacción del país en lo referente a su situación en la enseñanza".

Entre los latinos presentes en la ceremonia para elogiar lo que el gobierno ha titulado su "Plan de Acción de Enseñanza para los Hispanos" se hallaban los Representantes Rubén Hinojosa (demócrata por Texas), Loretta Sánchez (demócrata por California) y Ed Pastor (demócrata por Arizona).

Otra asistente, Lisa Navarrete, portavoz del Consejo Nacional de La Raza, elogió el conjunto legislativo como que se enfoca sobre los campos correctos, especialmente los estudiantes jóvenes.

Pero se pronostica una lucha importante para hacer que el Congreso apruebe los aumentos.

El Presidente de la Cámara, Newt Gingrich (republicano por Georgia), ya se ha manifestado como que se opone a los gastos de enseñanza propuestos por el presidente, diciendo que cualesquiera "superávits" presupuestarios deben utilizarse para rebajar los impuestos.

A la presión de los latinos se le acredita con ayudar a enviar "a la lona" el plan de Bob Dornan para usar a sus amigos de la Cámara a anular su derrota a manos de Loretta Sánchez.

Pero se espera que ésta será una lucha más intensa. Podría ser la primera prueba del poder político latino, no sólo para reunir a su propia comunidad, sino para mantener el asunto en un lugar alto en la lista de prioridades del gobierno y para procurar un apoyo sólido de todos los aliados, dentro y fuera de la comunidad de la enseñanza, a quienes pueda encontrar.

(Joseph Torres es el editor del semanario nacional Hispanic Link Weekly Report en Washington, DC.)

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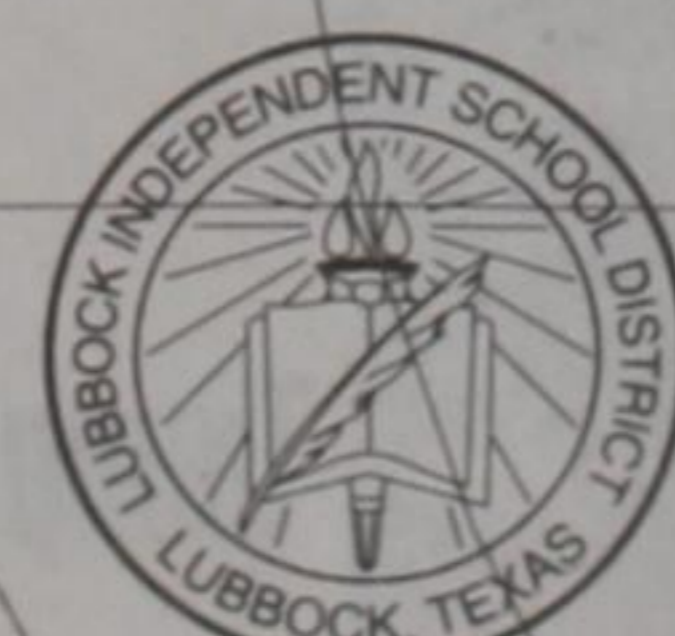
El Editor

March, 1998

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