

Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero

It's the end of the year, the decade, the millennium. So what now? I can remember many years ago when I was in grade school the question of the year 2000 came up. We were imagining what would happen. Being a dumb little Mexican kid, as many of my teachers thought of me, I really couldn't imagine. I remember saying, "There's no way." I really couldn't imagine myself living through what had been predicted for 1984 much less reaching the age of 50 and seeing the year 2000.

I thought a lot about what to write this week. I thought that maybe I should follow tradition, pull out the last 52 issues of El Editor and write about what had happened during the year. But then I thought, all this will probably be reported over and over through the news, the A-J and every other news medium in Lubbock. I mean who wants to keep hearing about the arrest of the Hampton coaches, the killing of a 15 year old by Lubbock police, the biggest Fiesta del 16 ever held in Lubbock, the Mayor being called a "bitch" by Councilman Hernandez?

All these things that happened in 1999 were interesting but if I were to write about them, why should I stop just writing about this past year. I asked myself if I would also have the obligation to write about the past 25 years in which I have been involved in writing about happenings in our community or for that matter relating the happenings of the past millennium of which I have learned through reading history.

I then thought I should write about my personal experiences during the past 50 years and thought that would rather be more appropriately related to people through what I would think could be memoirs that I plan to publish in the future -- that's if I find someone to pay for the printing.

So after thinking about what I should write about and drinking a few beers I came to the conclusion that I should just sit down at my computer and write -- like it says in the commercial "let my fingers do the talking." --- Is that the way it goes?

After all, I've written this column for quite a few years. It even goes back to when I was a janitor, typist, and what I wanted to think was a cub reporter at La Voz newspaper studying under Gus Medina, the person I call "the father of Chicano journalism in West Texas."

I remember when I first wrote "Comentarios", I asked my friend Nephtali DeLeon, who was by then an accomplished writer, for his opinion. He replied that it was a good effort, but why did I write in Chinese. I gathered that he meant my spelling, grammar and overall writing in Spanish needed some help.

There I go again talking about the past. Before you know it I'll be writing like Burl Ives and writing about the "chickens ro'ming in the yard."

Funny that as I am writing this column, I took a little time to change the channel on TV and up popped up of old movie entitled "Close Encounters of the Third Kind".

During this millennium things haven't happened as described in the movie and many of my friends would swear that humans on earth are it. I mean, nothing else lives in this Universe or anywhere else for that matter.

The "alien" is coming out of the space ship in the movie right now. It brings to mind that most of my ancestors and many of my present friends are also called "aliens". For that matter they're even "illegal" and mostly "unwanted" in this millennium. They don't look anything like this thing that is coming out of the space ship.

This would probably be a good place to lead into my next segment of my column called "Maybe things that didn't happen, but maybe we should work toward making them happen." Or perhaps it should be entitled "Why Shouldn't We?"

I guess we can start with right here at home in Lubbock. I mean why shouldn't we raise beyond having just one token representative on all the boards and commissions. It seems that our elected representatives always just consider one Hispanic to be on those important boards who really have the power to make decisions. Maybe we should work toward making it happen.

Another "why shouldn't we" would be the question of why local banks don't have minority representation on their Boards. Perhaps it's time to start looking into local lending practices by banks. Make them sit up and listen. This is something that the local housing advocates should tackle immediately. With close to 2,000 people to be left homeless by McDougal why are we so quiet? For that matter isn't it time to develop a minority owned bank? The initiative to start one might come from the minority chambers. This would give them something to do besides planning banquets.

In the last few years we have seen just about all the local organizations that at one time advocated civil rights, equal access and rights for minorities became lackadaisical and negligent in seeking and pressing for better living conditions for the disenfranchised, poor, homeless and all those lacking in the everyday conveniences that many people have. Shouldn't we as members of those organizations start to work toward regressing to the point of being advocates for the poor?

It has been projected that Hispanics and Blacks will comprise more than 50% of the population in Lubbock by the year 2010. Some say it might be as early as 2005. Again should we start asking ourselves, our civic leaders and all those in power what type of plan is being developed in order for us to control our own future? Hundreds of kids are currently doing bad in school, this according to state achievement tests and statistics gathered by our own schools. Shouldn't we start investigating why and should we start working toward change so that schools will directly start working toward overcoming those many obstacles that are placed before us? I think it's about time.

Texas Tech. We saw a few years ago that Tech initiated a Cultural Diversity Program in the office of the Chancellor. I would guess that their mission would be to diversify the University not only in the field of student population but in trying to also expand it's faculty and staff. Funny that last time I attended a Tech game all the black on brown faces that I saw in the game program, besides the director of Cultural Diversity, were on one page, one picture...the ground maintenance department. The student population is currently less than 3% Hispanic and 2% Black while both groups combines currently make up more than 35% of the general population around Lubbock and close to 20% of the population in Texas. Can we not see that something is wrong? Yet again we see student groups preoccupied with planning parties, having fajita cook-off and piñata busts a way of "showcasing" our culture. Chancellor John Montford has made many promises that in essence say that he will work toward increasing minority student population. To my knowledge nothing comparable has been said about increasing faculty and staff. At one time there had been talk of hiring a Chicano at the Chancellor level that was later dropped and the Cultural Diversity office appeared in its stead. Since its inception the office has been moved out of the West Wing and completely off campus. Does this tell us something?

On the issue of admission to law and medical schools, scholarships, fellowships and financial aid for minorities we saw a few years ago that the Hopwood decision gave universities throughout the state an opening to use it as a scapegoat to not provide opportunities for minorities. Many universities have found other avenues for providing scholarships and financial aid for minorities. Many have done it through the ex-student associations and other organizations associated with their respective schools. At Tech we haven't seen any effort to replace those lost opportunities. They opt to fall back on the excuse that it is illegal to favor admission or extra financial aid for minorities. As the new millennium begins, isn't it time to change Tech's attitude?

On the State level I can see that Texas is headed more and more toward also ignoring the real needs of people in favor of big business. All of our state leaders have also grown to become complacent and choose to ignore the needs of not only minorities but the consumer in general. Insurance companies, their highly paid lawyers and lobbyists are virtually running the State to their convenience. And what are our lawmakers doing besides holding out their hands? Isn't it time for consumers unite and elect real representatives to our law making bodies in Austin.

Have I covered everything? Probably not. For sure there are many issues that need to be addressed just as there are many things that didn't happen in the past millennium that maybe we should work toward making them happen. Why shouldn't we?

Hispanics In The Year 2000:

As Seen Through A Dusty Crystal Ball

By Kay Bárbaro

What do you do when a whole new century is unfolding and you've run out of space in your filing cabinet?

You thin out the folders, of course. Dump those historical tidbits you once considered so precious into the wastebasket.

That's precisely what I was doing when I came across three Xeroxed pages from an April 1977 edition of The Futurist magazine. They contained an article titled "The Future Consequences of Illegal Immigration."

Its columns of print, faded to near-invisibility, still shone a blinding light on the U.S. Hispanic community. Author Richard Downes offered two scenarios for what might lie ahead.

Twenty-two years later, I squint to read his words:

Scenario One: "Peaceful Transition to a Spanish-Speaking Society":

- Incoming Hispanic workers help to keep down wage cost. Inflation abates.

- Appointment of first Hispanic to Supreme Court is hailed as a milestone in Anglo-Spanish harmony.

- Acceptance of Puerto Rico as the 51st state gives recognition to Spanish as one of two official U.S. languages.

- Los Angeles Times begins publishing a Spanish-language edition; other newspapers follow.

- Acceptance of Hispanics into U.S. relieves population pressure in Latin America, allowing the area to make faster economic progress.

- All government officials who do not already know Spanish take courses so as to deal with the Hispanic population.

- Election of first Hispanic president marks final triumph of U.S. progression to a bilingual nation.

Downes offered no deadlines or benchmarks, but the year 2000 seems an appropriate time for review.

Our scorecard shows a couple of bull's-eyes: Low-paid immigrants have helped keep U.S. inflation at bay, and their money orders mailed home have certainly braced Latin America's economic stability.

We're still waiting for our community to produce one "qualified" candidate for the Supreme Court.

The Los Angeles Times resolved its readership frustration by buying a 50 percent interest in the nation's largest Spanish-language daily, La Opinión. And Puerto Rico remains a long, long way from becoming our 51st state, particularly after the Vieques turmoil.

Has Spanish become our second official language? Hardly. The *cielo* is not falling. Promoting this false fear has only enriched a few scoundrels who continue to gain media

validity as they play on this theme.

Few government bureaucrats are bothering with Spanish courses, but our leading presidential candidates are getting A's.

Downes also offered a second scenario: "International Strife Leads to Breakup of U.S.A." It projected:

- Heavily Hispanic areas in the Southwest experience increasing violence -- crimes committed by illegal aliens, attacks by citizens, retaliatory attacks by aliens.

- English-speaking vigilante groups spring up to assist law-enforcement agencies.

- A "reformed" Ku Klux Klan develops. Blacks are admitted and join whites in terrorizing immigrants.

- Distinction between "legal" and "illegal" immigrants becomes blurred. (Both) begin to face increasing hostility.

- Hispanic citizens organize a national "March on Washington" to demand equal rights and an end to oppression.

- Unemployed Americans march on Washington to protest the loss of jobs to aliens.

- An agitation for return of Mexican territory mounts; a new Mexican president proposes "review" of the 19th-century treaty. U.S. Hispanics press U.S. government to negotiate.

Again, a mixed scorecard: Anti-Hispanic vigilante groups have

sprung up in many states, and the KKK has targeted Latino immigrants with its hate, but without help from African Americans. And the public distinction between documented and undocumented immigrants has indeed blurred.

In October 1996, California activist Juan Jos Gutierrez led a Latino "March on Washington." But media attention and impact on policymakers lasted barely a day. No counter-march against Hispanics or immigrants has occurred, thanks in part to a strong economy and the fact the few native-born residents really want to work for the wages many immigrants earn tending food crops and wringing chickens' necks.

Mexico's not clamoring to get the Southwest back. Nor do the nearly 20 million U.S. residents of Mexican heritage want to give it back. Another silly, insulting myth.

As the United States marches boldly into the 21st century, no crystal ball is necessary to see that its 33 million loyal Hispanics are keeping pace and increasingly contributing to its rich tapestry.

(Kay Bárbaro is a pseudonym used by Hispanic Link Weekly Report editors to byline the column "Sin Pelos en la Lengua" ("Telling It Like It Is"). This column was written by publisher Charlie Erickson.)

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



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Los Hispanos En El Año 2000:

Vistos A Traves De Una Bola De Cristal

Por Kay Bárbaro

¿Qué hace cuando está desplegándose todo un nuevo siglo y a usted se le ha terminado el espacio en sus archivos? Usted tira muchas cosas, desde luego.

Tira a la basura los bocados de historia que una vez consideró muy preciados.

Eso es precisamente lo que yo estaba haciendo cuando tropecé con tres páginas copiadas a Xerox de una edición de abril de 1977 de la revista "The Futurist." Las mismas contenían un artículo titulado: "Las Futuras Futuras de la Inmigración Ilegal." Sus columnas de texto, desvanecidas hasta quedar casi invisibles, todavía lanzaban una luz cegadora sobre la comunidad hispana de los Estados Unidos. El autor Richard Downes ofreció dos escenarios para lo que hubiera adelante.

Veintidós años después, me pongo bizco al leer sus palabras: Primer escenario: "La Transición Pacífica a una Sociedad de Habla Hispana":

- Los trabajadores hispanos ayudan a mantener bajo el costo de los salarios. La inflación disminuye.

- El nombramiento del primer hispano a la Corte Suprema es saludado como un hito en la armonía entre anglos e hispanos.

- La aceptación de Puerto Rico como el quincuagésimo-primer estado da reconocimiento al español como uno de los dos idiomas oficiales de los Estados Unidos.

- El "Times" de Los Angeles empieza a publicar una edición en español; otros periódicos le siguen.

- La aceptación de los hispanos en los Estados Unidos alivia la presión de la población en la América Latina, permitiendo que esta zona haga un adelanto

económico más rápido.

- Todos los funcionarios del gobierno que ya no sepan español toman cursos para tratar con la población hispana.

- La elección del primer presidente hispano señala el triunfo final del adelanto de los Estados Unidos hacia una nación bilingüe.

Downes no ofreció fechas límites ni marcas fijas, pero el año 2000 parece ser un momento adecuado para la revisión.

Nuestra tarjeta de punteo muestra un par de blancos certeros: Los inmigrantes que ganan salarios bajos han ayudado a mantener a raya a la inflación en los Estados Unidos, y sus giros enviados por correo han apoyado, en verdad, a la estabilidad económica de América Latina.

Todavía estamos esperando que nuestra comunidad produzca un candidato "capacitado" para la Corte Suprema.

El "Times" de Los Angeles resolvió la desilusión de sus lectores al comprar un interés del 50 por ciento en el mayor diario en español de la nación, "La Opinión." Y Puerto Rico sigue estando a una grandísima distancia de convertirse en nuestro próximo estado, especialmente después del tumulto de Vieques.

¿Se ha convertido el español en nuestro segundo idioma oficial? Difícilmente. El cielo no está cayéndose. El promover este falso temor sólo ha enriquecido a unos cuantos granujas que continúan ganando validez en los medios informativos mientras se aferran a este tema.

Pocos burócratas del gobierno están molestandose en tomar cursos de español, pero nuestros principales candidatos

presidenciales están recibiendo calificaciones de "AD." Downes ofreció también un segundo escenario: "La lucha internacional lleva al desmembramiento de Estados Unidos." El mismo proyectó:

- Las zonas densamente pobladas de hispanos en el suroeste del país experimentan una violencia cada vez mayor -- delitos cometidos por extranjeros ilegales, ataques por parte de los ciudadanos, represalias por parte de los extranjeros.

- Grupos de "vigilantes" de habla inglesa surgen para ayudar a las dependencias del cumplimiento de la ley.

- Se desarrolla un Ku Klux Klan "reformado." Se admite a los afroamericanos y se unen a los anglosajones para aterrorizar a los inmigrantes.

- La distinción entre los inmigrantes "legales" e "ilegales" llega a ser borrosa. Ambos empiezan a enfrentarse a una hostilidad cada vez mayor.

- Los ciudadanos hispanos organizan una "Marcha Nacional sobre Washington" para exigir igualdad de derechos y el fin de la opresión.

- Los estadounidenses desempleados marchan en Washington para protestar la pérdida de empleos a favor de los extranjeros.

- Aumenta la agitación para la devolución de los territorios mexicanos, un nuevo presidente de México propone la "revisión" del tratado del siglo XIX. Los hispanos de Estados Unidos apremian al gobierno estadounidense para negociar.

Nuevamente, unas predicciones mixtas: Los grupos de "vigilantes" anti-hispanos han surgido en muchos estados y el KKK se ha

enfocado sobre los inmigrantes latinos con su odio, pero sin la ayuda de los afro-americanos. Y la distinción pública entre los inmigrantes documentados e indocumentados ha llegado a ser borrosa en verdad.

En octubre de 1996, el activista de California Juan José Gutiérrez dirigió una "Marcha Latina sobre Washington." Pero la atención de los medios informativos y el efecto sobre los políticos duraron escasamente un día. No ha ocurrido ninguna contra-marcha en contra de los hispanos o los inmigrantes, gracias en parte a una economía fuerte y al hecho de que pocos residentes nativos quieren realmente trabajar por los salarios que ganan muchos inmigrantes atendiendo a nuestras cosechas de alimentos y retorciéndoles los pescuezos a los pollos.

México no está clamando para recuperar al suroeste. Ni tampoco los cerca de 20 millones de residentes estadounidenses de ancestro mexicano quieren regresar. Otro mito tonto e insultante.

A medida que Estados Unidos marcha audazmente hacia el siglo XXI, no se necesita de ninguna bola de cristal para ver que sus 33 millones de leales hispanos están manteniendo el paso y contribuyendo cada vez más a su rica tapicería.

(Kay Bárbaro es un pseudónimo usado por los editores del Hispanic Link Weekly Report para titular la columna "Sin Pelos en la Lengua." Esta columna fue escrita por el director de Hispanic Link, Charlie Erickson.)

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1999 Banner Year For Hispanic Pop

New York. - This year will be remembered in modern music history as the one in which young bilingual Hispanic artists took the U.S. market by storm with dynamic pop.

The principal protagonists of the trend were Puerto Ricans Ricky Martin, Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony and Spaniard Enrique Iglesias, who surpassed his father, the crooning Julio, in the English-language market despite Enrique's relatively short career.

All of them have the same basic characteristics: they are young, modern and bilingual, they began by captivating markets in Latin America and Spain, and all of them have made the crossover into the English-speaking market with a mix of pop and Hispanic rhythms. All too were backed by powerful recording companies.

The phenomenon started with Ricky Martin and his performance on the night of the Grammy awards, at which he

gained instant celebrity. Soon thousands had learned his contagious "Copa De La Vida" by heart.

A publicity blitz put him in every nook and cranny of the United States. "Ricky-mania" invaded the market with "Ricky Martin," his first album in English, a fusion of Hispanic and non-Hispanic rhythms and instruments that has sold more than 10 million copies worldwide.

The first song on the record, "Livin' La Vida Loca," was a mega-hit.

His concerts attracted millions of fans - predominantly female - and prompted comparisons to the hysteria provoked by Elvis Presley and the Beatles decades ago.

After the success of Cuban-born star Gloria Estefan and her Miami Sound Machine in the early 1980s, no Hispanic artist had gained the exposure Martin did. Suddenly his face was in all the important publications every

week, from Rolling Stone and People Magazine to "The New York Times."

However, the market demanded not only a new idol, but a trend.

Enter Jennifer Lopez, a part-Puerto Rican and part North American actress. After her roles on the screen, she recorded the sexy and ingenious "On The 6" which put her on the top of the best-sold albums list.

The market rediscovered another salsa singer, Marc Anthony, already beloved in the Spanish-speaking market (one of the important differences from

the rest), who put out a single in English, "I Need to Know." The song, the main cut on his album "Marc Anthony," was a hit.

Enrique Iglesias joined the list of newly discovered singers with his contagious "Bailamos," which radio broadcasters played time and again once it became popular in the movie "The Wild West."

However, many listeners have not forgotten that before the '99 harvest, the way was paved by other Hispanic artists like Jose Feliciano, Julio Iglesias, Tito Puente and Damaso Perez Prado

Happy New Year, New Decade and New Millennium! ¡Felicidades!

At the Construction Site:

Same Music, New Listeners

By Víctor Landa

I once watched a man in khaki pants and a white T-shirt build a wall around our house. It took him the better part of two weeks to pound wooden stakes into the ground, mark the lines with string from stake to stake, dig a trench waist-deep to form a foundation and raise the cinder-block structure at least two times my height. Every day I'd come home from school and sit quietly in the shade of a large tree to watch him work. He cut precise measures of iron rods with a hacksaw. He took thinner bars and bent them into squares using the strength of his arms and a form he made by driving nails into a block of wood. Then he formed iron columns by tying the rods and bars together with wire. These were to be the strength of the concrete pillars that made the wall cohesive. He did the whole thing by himself. He mixed the gravel with the cement, set his own plumb lines, laid each block, tapping and pressing until it was sitting just so. The whole time a small radio sat on the ground close to him, with a piece of wire stuck in the hole where the antenna should have been. Corridos and cumbias blared from the speaker. I'm told the old wall is still there, sound and intact. This fall I've had the chance to watch a house being built, but it's been mostly ghosts doing the work. I pass by the house every morn-

ing and see how the work is advancing, but I rarely see the workers. What were foundation forms one day is a fully poured block of concrete the next. A wooden frame bloomed overnight, and the plumbing appeared as if by magic. But on a sunny morning last week when I passed the house, I heard something that made me stop. I distinctly heard a radio booming from behind the structure. I parked and walked, following the unmistakable rhythm of a cumbia to the far end of the structure, where I saw the ghost. A lone man was driving nails into the frame, fastening a window in place. He wore blue jeans and a T-shirt with a red Nike logo and the words "Just Do It" written across the back. And I remembered. It seems that no matter where you go in this city of San Antonio, there is construction going on. Houses are blooming as if seeded in rows. And wherever there is construction, there is the sound of blaring corridos and Tejano polkas. An article published in the Austin American-Statesman recently claimed that if it were not for undocumented workers, the city's construction boom would be nonexistent. It's estimated that as much as 70 percent of the construction labor in many parts of Texas is made up of undocumented immigrants. And while you would think that the labor unions would cry foul over the matter, the reality is quite different.

Of course, it wasn't too long ago that organized labor accused undocumented immigrants of being the demons that would cause the collapse of U.S. prosperity. Union laborers found that workers who were willing to earn less were displacing them. Then suddenly they changed their point of view. The union leaders have heard the same music from almost every construction site in the nation, and they are learning to dance to a different rhythm. Now organized labor is advocating on behalf of immigrants, going so far as to call for the opportunity of legal residence and citizenship of undocumented workers. What the unions hear are the corridos heard in construction sites, and what they see are large numbers of potential union workers. Given the right to vote, added to the rolls of dues-paying members, it's not so hard to see why the unions had such a radical change of mind concerning immigrant labor. In the eyes of organized labor, immigrants are now seen as the backbone of our national progress. Immigrants are suddenly a political commodity. Or so it appears. There's nothing new about carpenters and bricklayers and roofers and plumbers working to the sound of tropical rhythms. What's new is that now they aren't the only ones listening. (Victor Landa is news director of Telemundo affiliate KVDA-TV-60 in San Antonio, Texas.) (c) 2000, Hispanic Link News Service.

En El Lugar de la Construcción

La Misma Música con Nueva Audiencia

Por Víctor Landa

Una vez observé a un hombre con pantalones khaki y una camiseta blanca, construir una pared alrededor de nuestra casa. Le tomó casi dos semanas el incrustar los listones de madera en la tierra, marcar las líneas con cuerda de listón a listón, excavar una zanja de profundidad hasta la cintura para hacer los cimientos y elevar la estructura de bloques de concreto por lo menos a dos veces mi estatura. Cada día yo llegaba a casa de la escuela y me sentaba tranquilamente a la sombra de un gran árbol para observarlo mientras trabajaba. Cortaba medidas precisas de cabillas de hierro con una segueta. Tomaba varillas más delgadas y las torcía para formar cuadrados, usando la fuerza de sus brazos y un molde que él hizo clavando puntillas en un bloque de madera. Después formó columnas de hierro atando las cabillas y las varillas con alambre. Estas habrían de ser los refuerzos de las columnas de concreto que mantendrían unidas a las paredes. Hizo todo eso por sí mismo. Mezcló la gravilla con el cemento, fijó sus propias líneas de plomada, puso cada bloque, dándole golpecitos y apretándolo hasta que estuviera situado en forma adecuada. Durante todo ese tiempo, un radio pequeño estuvo sobre la tierra cerca de él, con un pedazo de alambre puesto en donde debía estar la antena. Los corridos y las cumbias chillaban desde la bocina. Me dicen que la antigua pared está aún allí, sólida e intacta. Este otoño tuve la oportunidad de observar la construcción de una casa, pero los que han hecho el trabajo han sido mayormente fantasmas. Paso

por la casa todas las mañanas y veo cómo adelanta el trabajo, pero rara vez miro a los trabajadores. Los que fueron moldes para los cimientos un día son bloques de concreto vertidos completamente al siguiente día. Una armazón de madera floreció de la noche a la mañana y las cañerías aparecieron como por arte de magia. Pero en una mañana soleada la semana pasada, pasé por la casa y escuché algo que me hizo detener. Oí distante una radio sonando desde atrás de la estructura. Me estacioné y caminé, siguiendo al inconfundible ritmo de una cumbia hasta el extremo lejano de la estructura, donde ví al fantasma. Un hombre solitario estaba clavando puntillas en la estructura, para sujetar una ventana en su lugar. Llevaba mahones azules y una camiseta con un emblema "Nike" en rojo y las palabras "sólo hazlo" impresas sobre la espalda. Y recordé. Parece que, sin importar a dónde uno vaya en esta ciudad de San Antonio, hay construcción en progreso. Las casas florecen como si las hubieran sembrado en surcos. Y donde quiera que haya construcción está el sonido de los corridos y las polkas tejanas que rompen el silencio. Un artículo publicado en el periódico Austin American-Statesman afirmó recientemente que si no fuera por los trabajadores indocumentados, el auge de la construcción en la ciudad no existiría. Se estima que el 70 por ciento de la mano de obra para la construcción en muchas partes de Texas está formado por inmigrantes indocumentados. Y aunque se pensaría que los sindicatos de trabajadores pegaran el grito al cielo, la realidad es bastante distinta. Por supuesto, no hace mucho tiempo que los

sindicales acusaban a los inmigrantes indocumentados de ser los demonios que ocasionarían el derrumbe de la prosperidad de Estados Unidos. Los sindicalistas se percataron de que los obreros que estaban dispuestos a ganar menos estaban desplazándolos. Entonces, de pronto, cambiaron su punto de vista. Los líderes sindicales han escuchado la misma música desde casi todos los terrenos en construcción de la nación, y están aprendiendo a bailar a un ritmo diferente. Ahora el sindicalismo organizado está abogando a favor de los inmigrantes, incluso hasta pidiendo la oportunidad de la residencia legal y la ciudadanía para los trabajadores indocumentados. Lo que escuchan los sindicatos son los corridos que se oyen en los sitios de construcción y lo que ven son grandes cantidades de miembros en potencia para los sindicatos. Dado el derecho a votar, añadido a las nóminas de los miembros que pagan cuotas, no es tan difícil ver por qué los sindicatos cambiaron de idea tan radicalmente en lo tocante a la mano de obra inmigrante. A ojos del sindicalismo organizado, se ve ahora a los inmigrantes como la espina dorsal de nuestro adelanto nacional. Los inmigrantes son de pronto una mercancía política. O así lo parecen. No hay nada de nuevo sobre los carpinteros, albañiles, techadores y fontaneros trabajando al sonido de los ritmos tropicales. Lo que es nuevo es que ellos ya no son los únicos escuchando. (Victor Landa es el director de noticias de la estación KVDA-TV, la afiliada de Telemundo en San Antonio, Texas.) Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 2000.

Who Knows What a Better Life is?.....Somtimes Children Do

BY KIMI EISELE, PACIFIC NEWS SERVICE

TUCSON — It is easy for some Americans to assume that staying in the United States will mean young Elian Gonzalez — the Cuban 5-year old found clinging to a life raft — is assured of a "better life" in Miami. Perhaps. Perhaps not. Elian, whose mother and 10 others died when their boat from Havana sank, has just had a birthday among Miami relatives. Ask any six-year old showered with toys if he thinks he is in the Promised Land, and he might answer the same way Elian did, that yes, he liked it there. On the other hand, I recall a billboard in Cuba several years ago that read, "Today 200 million children in the world sleep on the streets. None of them is Cuban." The sign oozed with island nationalism but it also underscored the successes of the 1959 revolution — education, housing, health care for all. What if Elian did not want to make the trip to Florida in the first place? Though difficult for most Americans to fathom, it is indeed true that not everyone from "down south" or "over there" is longing to come to the United States. Take a group of children I know who live on the Mexican side of the U.S. border, in a rough neighborhood on the outskirts of Nogales, 60 miles south of Tucson. This is home to over 80 U.S. and other foreign-owned assembly plants that have attracted thousands of rural Mexicans looking for work. There is no open sea to navigate, but a mere fence (along with 3,000 armed border patrol agents) to separate Mexicans here from the United States. Daily, illegal crossings are made, not in small boats but by foot across hot desert, or crammed into airless vans maneuvered by less-than-honest smugglers. Once they're across the line, we often find them dead. When we find them alive — even if they are six years old — we send them back to Mexico with nary a word. But when I spoke to children and their families outside Nogales I was surprised to learn that the place where I came from was not an object of desire. Some the age of Elian Gonzalez did not even know where the United States was. Others, including some who had visited, expressed no wish to move here. Consider the comment of a nine-year-old who had seen home videos filmed by an aunt living in Tucson. When I asked if she wished to live "on the other side," she replied, "No. There, there are no houses, only trailers." Last spring, I took three ten-year-old girls from the neighborhood with me to Tijuana, the city of two million just south of San Diego, to participate in a conference on the border environment. We stayed in a fancy hotel with shiny marble floors, an escalator, and two elevators. Only mildly interested in the conference, the girls spent most of their time in the hotel room, in the bathtub to be specific, amazed to turn on a faucet over and over and have hot water rush out. While I worried that such luxury would raise their expectations about material comforts and set them up for disappointment, after four days they were more than ready to go home. Of course, the case of little Elian is more complicated. Or is it? On the Mexican border, most of the parents of the kids I know have joined a low-wage work force, which gives them, sometimes, access to health care and the chance to build a house of cardboard. So even where America is just a skip away, not everyone dreams of crossing the line. Today crowds take to the streets in Havana to demand Elian's return, while in Miami his relatives load him with presents and demand that he stay. It may seem unrealistic to ask Elian to make the decision himself but it is far more disturbing to think that his country's leader and the powerful lobby of anti-Castro Cuban Americans in Miami are trying to make it for him.

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Councilman T.J. Patterson Marches into the Millennium

All Lubbock citizens are invited to join Councilman Patterson at his 74th March against drugs, violence, and gangs. It is to start on the Texas Tech Campus on Broadway and University Avenue. He will be marching down on Broadway toward the County Courthouse. The march is scheduled to be on Friday, Dec. 31, 1999 at noon. For more information, contact Andrea Bell, City of Lubbock Council Staff 775-2052.

THE COURAGE OF ROSE BIRD

By Dick Meister

Farm workers lost one of their true champions with the death in December of Rose Bird, former chief justice of California's State Supreme Court. Much was made of Bird's unyielding opposition to capital punishment, a stand that was most responsible for voters ousting her from the court in 1986. But close attention also should be paid to her role in granting basic rights to farm workers and others who had long been denied them. Bird's public efforts on their behalf began two years before she joined the court in 1977, during her

tenure as Democratic Governor Jerry Brown's secretary of agriculture. Bird, the first woman to hold any cabinet-level position in California, was also one of the few non-growers who have held the agriculture post. Although using her opposition to the death penalty as the campaign's main theme and enlisting prosecutors to lead it, the wealthy growers and other business interests who bankrolled the effort were concerned mainly with the court's pro-labor stance. The recall effort also successfully removed Cruz Reynoso, the first

Hispanic to serve as a member of the California Supreme Court, and Joseph Grogin, a labor lawyer prior to being named to the body. In one stroke, the recall's backers were able to turn one of the nation's most progressive high courts into one of its most reactionary. They were particularly angered by a ruling that state and local government employees had the right to strike as long as they did not endanger public health and safety. Only firefighters were specifically excluded. Bird argued that all workers, be they in government or private indus-

try, have nothing less than a constitutional right to strike. "The individual's freedom to withhold personal service is basic to the constitutional concept of liberty," Bird wrote. "Without this freedom, working people would be at the total mercy of their employers, unable either to bargain effectively or to extricate themselves from an intolerable situation. Such a situation would make a mockery out of the fundamental right to pursue life, liberty and happiness." Business interests attacked the decision as what one of their newspaper backers called "an act of

monumental judicial presumptuousness... only the latest example of the... anti-business bias of the state high court under the leadership of Rose Bird." Organized labor, however, was pleased that "civil rights have finally come to public employees in California," as one of their union leaders declared. "We are no longer second-class citizens." The decision was handed down as Bird's opponents were mounting their election campaign against her, but that did not deter her from taking the strongest possible stand in favor of public employee rights — one stronger than even her fellow liberal justices. That was typical of Bird, who invariably refused to compromise on

what she felt were vital principles. It was that inflexibility which helped secure basic rights for innumerable working people, and she would not abandon it, even though it eventually would cause her downfall. Even many of those who led the drive that finally removed her from office recognized Rose Bird's integrity, eloquence, brilliance and, above all, unflinching devotion to what she believed to be fair and just, whatever the cost to her. (Dick Meister, a free-lance columnist in San Francisco, has covered labor issues for four decades as a reporter, editor and commentator.) (c) 2000, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by Los Angeles Times Syndicate

EL VALOR DE ROSE BIRD

Por Dick Meister

Los trabajadores agrícolas perdieron a una de sus verdaderos campeones con la muerte, el mes pasado, de Rose Bird, la ex presidente de la Corte Suprema de California. Mucho se hizo con la oposición ineludible de la juez Bird a la pena de muerte, una postura que fue principalmente responsable de que los electores la sacaran en 1986. Pero debe prestarse igualmente una atención próxima a su papel en la concesión de los derechos fundamentales a los trabajadores agrícolas y a otras personas a quienes se les habían negado durante largo tiempo. Las gestiones públicas de Bird a favor de estos trabajadores empezaron dos años antes de que

ella formara parte del tribunal, en 1977, durante su permanencia como secretaria de Agricultura en la administración del gobernador demócrata Jerry Brown. Fue la primera mujer que desempeñó una plaza a nivel del gabinete estatal en California, y también una persona de las pocas que no eran cultivadores que hayan ostentado la plaza de agricultura. Aunque emplearon la oposición de ella a la pena de muerte como el tema principal de la campaña y reclutaron a los fiscales para dirigirla, los cultivadores ricos y otros intereses mercantiles que financiaron esa gestión estaban preocupados en primer lugar por la postura del tribunal a favor de los trabajadores.

La gestión para destituir la sacó igualmente con éxito a Cruz Reynoso, el primer hispano que haya sido miembro de la Corte Suprema de California, y a Joseph Grogin, abogado especialista en asuntos laborales antes de ser designado para la corte. De un plumazo, los partidarios de la destitución pudieron convertir a uno de los altos tribunales más progresistas de la nación en uno de los más reaccionarios. A ellos les enojaba especialmente un dictamen que los empleados de los gobiernos estatal y locales tenían derecho a declararse en huelga siempre que no pusieran en peligro la salud y la seguridad pública. Sólo los bomberos fueron excluidos específicamente.

La juez Bird argumentó que todos los trabajadores, ya estuvieran en el gobierno o en la industria privada, no tienen nada menos que un derecho constitucional para declararse en huelga. "La libertad individual para retener el servicio personal es fundamental para el concepto constitucional de la libertad," escribió ella. "Sin esta libertad, los trabajadores se hallarían totalmente a merced de sus empleadores, incapaces de negociar eficazmente o de salirse de una situación intolerable. Dicha situación sería una burla del derecho fundamental a proseguir la vida, la libertad y la felicidad." Los intereses mercantiles atacaron a la decisión como lo que

se negó invariablemente a transigir sobre lo que ella sentía que eran principios vitales. Fue esa inflexibilidad la que ayudó a asegurar los derechos fundamentales para innumerables personas trabajadoras, y la cual ella no abandonaría aún cuando llevaría con el tiempo a ocasionar su caída. Aún muchos de quienes dirigieron la campaña que terminó por desplazarla de su puesto, reconocieron la integridad de Rose Bird, su elocuencia, su brillantez y, sobre todo, su devoción infatigable a lo que ella creía que era equitativo y justo, sin que le importara lo que pudiera costarle. (Dick Meister, columnista por cuenta propia en San Francisco, ha escrito sobre asuntos laborales durante cuatro décadas como reportero, editor y comentarista.) Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en el año 2000. Distribuido por Los Angeles Times.

Happy New Year, New Decade and New Millennium! ¡Felicidades!

Latino Police, NCLR Unite To Fight Bad Enforcement Practices

By Patricia Guadalupe

Latinos have a number of nicknames -- not all of them flattering -- for the police who are paid to protect them. To mention a few, there are *pies planos*, *rata* ("rat"), *placa* ("badge"), *marrano* ("pig"), *jura* ("the law"), *el perro* ("the dogcatcher") and *chota* ("the fuzz").

They reflect the relationships that have long existed between many Hispanics and the traditionally non-Hispanic white, monolingual, monocultural police agencies. The divisions remain, even as some enlightened law-enforcement leaders recruit vigorously for more men and women from the Latino community to join their ranks.

Latinos now constitute about 4 percent of the country's law-enforcement officers. Frequently, they encounter distrust and hostility from both sides. But as their numbers and confidence have grown, Latino officers have started building a bridge of understanding between the two groups.

Last month that bridge grew a little more trustworthy, especially to the community.

On Dec. 14, the Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association and the National Latino Peace Officers Association -- the two largest police organizations in the United States -- announced a joint initiative to improve Latino numbers in the profession and to address such issues as racial profiling and discrimination in general by law-enforcement officials.

"There are many (non-Hispanic law-enforcement officers) that know nothing about the community and its cultural differences with other communities. They work in the (Latino) community, and they don't understand it," said NLPOA president Edwin Ríos, of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

NLPOA, with more than 500 active members nationwide, and HAPCOA, with 5,000 affiliates and members, signed an agreement with the nation's most active Hispanic advocacy organization, the National Council of La Raza.

Among the coalition's immediate goals is the establishment of what its leaders call "an early warning system" on problems affecting the Hispanic community and Hispanic law-enforcement personnel. The latter still have grave concerns about the support -- often in life-and-death situations -- they receive from fellow officers.

"It's about working from the inside and from the outside," said NCLR president Raúl Yzaguirre. "Law-enforcement personnel provide us with information about what is going on in their departments, and from the outside we can put pressure to find a solution."

A recent NCLR report, "The Mainstreaming of Hate: A Report on Latinos and Harassment, Hate Violence and Law Enforcement Abuse in the '90s," found that racial profiling of people of color and instances of police harassment and abuse against Hispanics is on the increase.

"While statistically documenting such incidents continues to be problematic, NCLR has documented a tripling of cases reported to our offices over the past several years," Yzaguirre says. "It's a severe problem."



Millennium Celebration!!!

The Christian Renewal Center, Our Lady of Guadalupe & Our Lady of Grace will host a New Year's Eve Dance on Friday, Dec. 31, 1999 starting at 8:00 pm til 1:00 am at the Christian Renewal Center which is located at 4th & Toledo Avenue. The cost will be \$15 per person. Live music. For more information call 763-0710.

Policías Latinos Y Grupo Hispano Se Unen Para Combatir a Las Practicas De Cumplimiento Malas

Por Patricia Guadalupe

Los latinos tienen cierto número de apodos -- no todos ellos elogiosos -- para la policía: *pies planos*, *rata*, *placa*, *marrano*, *jura*, *el perro*, *chota*.

Las relaciones entre muchos hispanos y el tradicionalmente anglosajón personal de policía -- monolingües y monoculturales -- a las que se paga para mantener la paz, han estado tensas durante muchos años. Continúan las divisiones, aún cuando algunos policías han estado fuertemente reclutando en busca de más hombres y mujeres de la comunidad latina para que se unan a sus filas.

Los latinos forman ahora el 4 por ciento de los agentes de policía en el país. A menudo, se enfrentan a la desconfianza y la hostilidad de ambos lados. Pero a medida que sus cifras y su confianza han aumentado, los agentes latinos han empezado a tender un puente de comprensión entre los dos grupos.

El mes pasado, ese puente llegó a ser un poco más digno de confianza.

El 14 de diciembre, la Asociación de Agentes Hispano-Americanos de Comandantes de Policía (HAPCOA en inglés) y la Asociación Nacional Latina de Agentes del Orden (NLPOA en inglés) anunciaron una iniciativa conjunta para mejorar las cifras de latinos en la profesión y enfocarse sobre asuntos tales como los "perfiles raciales" y la discriminación en general por parte de la policía.

"Hay muchos agentes (no hispanos) que no saben nada acerca de la comunidad (latina) y sus diferencias culturales con otras comunidades. Trabajan en la comunidad latina, pero no la comprenden," dice el presidente de la NLPOA, Edwin Ríos de San Juan, Puerto Rico.

La NLPOA, con más de 5,000 miembros activos en todo el país, y HAPCOA, con 5,000 afiliados y

miembros, firmaron un acuerdo con el Consejo Nacional de La Raza (NCLR en inglés).

Entre los objetivos inmediatos de la coalición se halla el establecimiento de lo que sus líderes califican de "sistema de advertencia temprana" para saber mejor sobre problemas que afectan a la comunidad hispana y al personal policiaca hispana. Los últimos tienen aún preocupaciones graves sobre el apoyo -- a menudo en situaciones de vida o muerte -- que reciben de sus colegas.

"Se trata de trabajar desde adentro y fuera," explica el presidente de NCLR, Raúl Yzaguirre. "El personal del cumplimiento de la ley nos da información sobre lo que está sucediendo en sus departamentos, y nosotros podemos hacer presión desde fuera para hallar una solución."

Un reciente informe del NCLR, titulado "El Traslado del Odio a la Corriente Principal: Informe sobre los Latinos y el Hostigamiento, la Violencia por Odio y el Abuso del Cumplimiento de la Ley en el Decenio de 1990," halló que los perfiles raciales de las personas de color y los casos de hostigamiento por parte de la policía, así como los abusos contra los hispanos, están aumentando.

"Aunque el substanciamiento estadístico de tales incidentes continúa siendo problemático, NCLR ha documentado una triplicación de los casos informados a nuestras oficinas durante los años más recientes," dice Yzaguirre. "Es un problema grave."

La Organización Americana sobre Derechos Civiles (ACLU en inglés), que califica a los perfiles raciales como "el primer acto de discriminación del sistema de justicia penal contra las personas de color," está

pidiendo al Congreso que apruebe legislación que exija a los departamentos de policía el recopilar estadísticas raciales y étnicas sobre los conductores de automóviles detenidos.

"Aunque el perfil racial de los afroamericanos ha recibido una gran cantidad de atención, su efecto sobre los latinos no ha sido informado tan ampliamente," dice la asesora legal legislativa de ACLU, Rachel King. "La coalición debería ayudar a cambiar eso."

El presidente nacional de HAPCOA, Adrián García, de Houston, observa: "Muchos departamentos de policía han hecho adelantos sólidos para diversificar sus fuerzas de trabajo. No obstante, los latinos continúan gravemente subrepresentados en la mayoría

de los departamentos de policía importantes de todo el país, especialmente en las filas de supervisor."

NCLR informó que en Houston, por ejemplo, aunque la población hispana está cerca del 30 por ciento, los latinos tienen menos del 8 por ciento de las plazas de supervisión dentro del departamento de policía.

En Los Angeles, donde los hispanos son casi la mitad de la población, sólo el 14 por ciento están en plazas de supervisión para el cumplimiento de la ley.

En la zona de Metro-Dade, en el sur de la Florida, donde los hispanos constituyen casi el 50 por ciento de la población del condado, menos del 14 por ciento de los supervisores del cumplimiento de la ley son hispanos.

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IMPRESION EN MATERIAL DE ADHERENCIA POR ESTATICA

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blanco de .010, además deben tener la capacidad de realizar el proceso de suaje. Los interesados deben presentar muestras de sus trabajos de impresión, la historia detallada de su compañía y una lista descriptiva del equipo con el que cuentan. Los precios deben ser competitivos.

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Latino Literature Makes Inroads in the United States

By LYDIA GIL

WASHINGTON, Latino literature has gained increasing acceptance in the United States, a trend not only evidenced by the growing number of publications targeting this group, but by the recent flourishing of escapist and popular literature by Hispanic writers.

Although Random House's Vintage Books boasts of spearheading the trend to publish works by Hispanic writers in the United States, its catalogue seems to concentrate

on what can be easily identified as "Latino literature."

For example, Random House's Vintage Español published "The House on Mango Street" by Sandra Cisneros, as well as "When I was Puerto Rican" by Esmeralda Santiago in 1994.

Both books were simultaneously published in English and Spanish to double potential sales.

In 20 Years Arte Publico Has Made an Indelible Mark on Publishing

In 1997, the winning strategy

was repeated with "The House on the Lagoon" by Puerto Rican Rosario Ferré.

In light of the burgeoning Hispanic market in the United States, Penguin Putman's Viking division published its own line of bilingual editions, including "Dreaming in Cuban" by Cuban-American Cristina Garcia.

In the spring of 1999, Viking also published "Geographies of Home," the first novel by Dominican Loida Maritza Perez.

The fact that the world's second-largest book publisher gambled with a new generation of Latino writers in the United States illustrates a fundamental change in market strategy.

These titles, however, share a sense of domesticity, a nostalgia for a paradise lost and a tendency to challenge notions of ethnic, racial or national identity.

They are books that can easily be categorized as "Hispanic narrative," which simplifies the publishing process.

Although it is evident that large U.S. publishers have a strong Latino representation, the Hispanic presence in genres like science fiction and fantasy is much more reduced.

Nevertheless, works by Latinos are slowly becoming part of U.S. popular literature.

Random House's Villard Books, which specializes in science fiction, recently

published "Anonymous Rex: A Detective Story," by Cuban-American Eric Garcia, with spectacular success.

In the genre of romance novels, New York's Kensington publishers launched a series of bilingual romance novels called "Encanto."

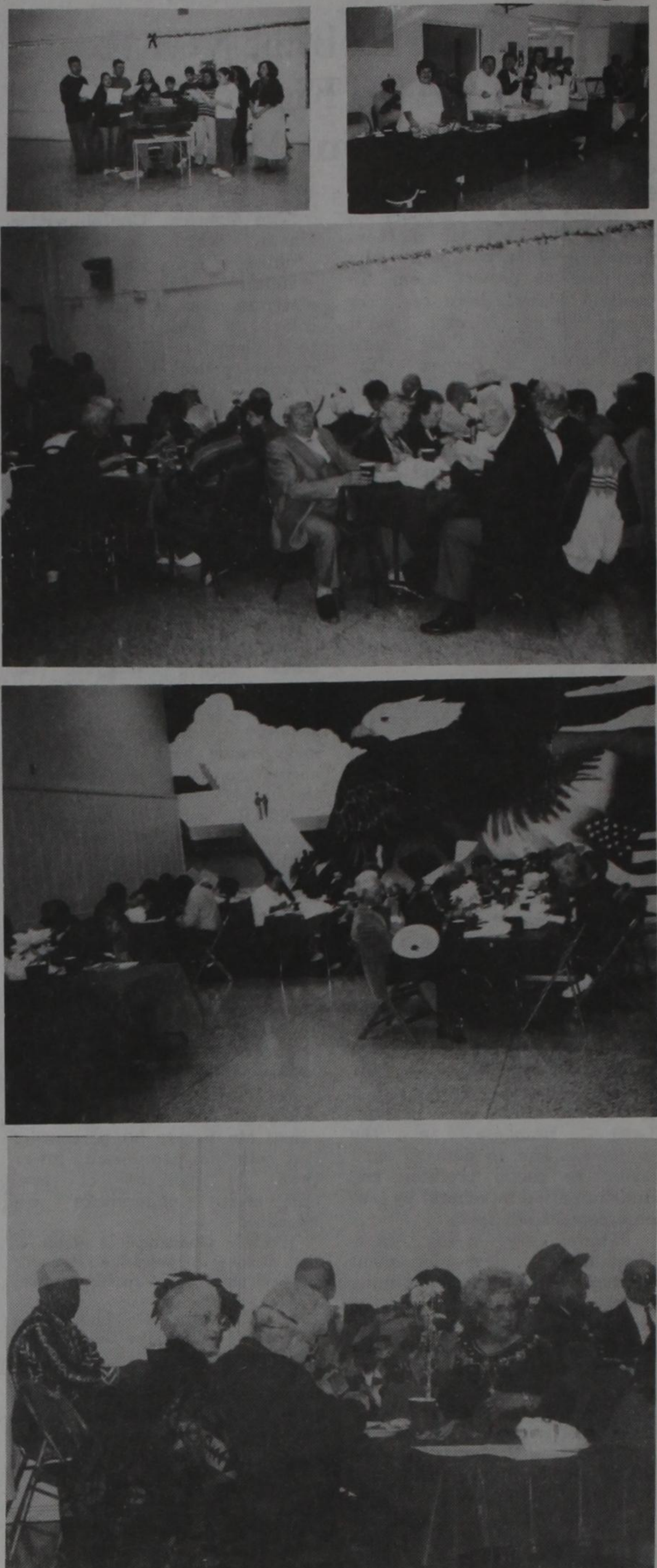
The series hit the market in August. After a warm reception by the public, Kensington created the "Encanto Romance Book Club."

Kensington's interest in popular literature written by Hispanic women for Hispanic women marks the beginning of a revolution in U.S. publishing circles. Kensington is second only to Harlequin in the publishing of romance novels.

"There is still much left to do," according to Dominican writer Junot Diaz. "We are still showing publishers how well we can write English... People must be able to read us for pleasure in all sorts of books... and not just to stay in contact with their people."

Although the absence of Latino literary agents is evident, Diaz notes Latinos writing popular literature will not encounter any difficulties when looking for a publisher.

"Show me a well-written science fiction manuscript written by a Latino and I bet you it will be published," Diaz said.



PANSAMIENTOS DEL PREDICADOR Por Pastor: Frank García Lubbock, Texas

EL ÁRBOL DE NAVIDAD (El cedro)



Hay quien todavía critique el árbol de navidad que se usa en nuestras iglesias como adorno, y luego también en nuestros hogares, pero que no deberíamos de descartarlo, sin antes aprender las lecciones que en él tenemos. Aunque en estos últimos años se usa el pino, en vez del cedro para estos días festivos, no así en años pasados. Es muy probable que personas de mayor edad se acuerden que antes usábamos el cedro como adorno de navidad. Como quiera que sea, no hay ninguna virtud en estos árboles, más que las hermosas enseñanzas que de ellos se desprenden para nosotros. Pues solo son parte y adorno de navidad. Bueno: la Biblia también tiene algo que decirnos del cedro, y las enseñanzas que en ello tenemos. Hay tres árboles en la Biblia muy históricos y muy usados por Dios en su Santuario en el tabernáculo. El Cedro, la Palma y el Olivo. pero por esta vez nos ocuparemos en el cedro y sus lecciones que tenemos para nosotros. El cedro fue conocido primeramente por el nombre de sittim, Ex. 25:5 Mientras que el olivo nos habla de santidad, por ser usado en el lugar santo, y de ahí tenemos el aceite de olivo el cual usamos para orar por los enfermos. El palmar o la palma, nos habla de rectitud, creciendo rectamente, levantándose sobre todo árbol, dando su fruto bien arriba. Y el cedro nos habla de firmeza. En el santuario del tabernáculo todo era de cedro; el arca, la mesa, las varas para llevar la mesa; todo era de cedro, cubierto de oro. ¿Porqué? porque el cedro es de una madera muy durable y de grande precio. Se parece mucho al carácter del verdadero cristiano, y que siempre florece según Sal. 92:12-15 Tres poderes o virtudes sobresalen en el cedro; si está plantado, está siempre verde: no pierde su color y no pierde su olor. Los años, las tempestades, el verano o el invierno; nunca lo hacen cambiar. En esto se parece al carácter del verdadero cristiano. Si lo cortan en pedazos o muchos pedazos, nunca pierde su color y nunca pierde su olor. Si Usted toma uno de estos pedazos se dará cuenta que tiene olor de cedro y color de cedro. No importa el tiempo que esté tirado, siempre que usted levanta un pedazo de esta madera notará que está rojizo, con su color y olor a cedro. Pues así es el carácter del verdadero cristiano, que no importa cuántos pedazos hagan de él, por las luchas o las pruebas o la enfermedad o la edad, nunca pierde su olor y su color de cristiano. Todo el tiempo le acompañará su olor y color de cristiano. Qué bonito. Y así como los cedros eran cortados del Líbano, para ir y tomar parte en el lugar santo de Dios en el Tabernáculo, así un día muchos cedros seremos cortados de esta vida para ir y tomar parte en el reino de los cielos. Que nuestra firmeza nos ayude a ser firmes hasta ese día. Así pensamos, Así oramos y así esperamos. Gracias, y gracias por su atención. F.G.

Disability Advisory Committee Vacancy

The Lubbock Public Transit Advisory Board would like to announce a vacancy on the Disability Advisory Committee (DAC). The DAC is a subcommittee which reviews policies and regulations and advises the Lubbock Public Transit Advisory Board on issues related to the provision of public transportation service for individuals with disabilities. Citibus is the local transportation provider for the City of Lubbock.

All interested individuals willing to serve on this committee may submit a letter of interest and resume, or other biographical information, by 5:00 p.m., January 18, 2000 to Citibus, P.O. box 2000, Lubbock, Texas 79457. The Lubbock Public Transit Advisory Board will appoint a new committee member to the DAC at the January 25th Board Meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Shannon Garrett at Citibus (806) 767-2380 ext. 222.

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New Treatment Could Help Asthma Sufferers

DENVER, - Researchers at the National Jewish Medical Center (NJMC) here have developed a new treatment, with no side effects, that could

help thousands of asthma sufferers.

In 1966, doctors at the institute discovered that the antibody IgE was responsible for allergic asthma by causing inflammation of the respiratory tissues.

The new treatment, which took 30 years to develop, apparently destroys the IgE antibody, hence its name "Anti-IgE."

Three out of four people who tried the drug had no side effects. The study was recently published in the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine.

The treatment's best attribute, according to experts, is that it could eliminate the need for corticosteroids.

Henry Milgrom, pediatric asthma specialist at the NJMC and the study's director, said that although corticosteroids reduce asthma, they can also cause osteoporosis, high blood pressure and cataracts and can affect a child's growth.

"The elimination of or reduction in the use of corticosteroids would be a highly beneficial development in the treatment of allergic asthma," Milgrom said.

"Therapy based on Anti-IgE reduces the need for steroids in some patients and eliminates it in others," he said.

Of the 10 to 15 million asthma sufferers in the United States, an estimated 6 percent are Hispanic.

A study by the American Lung Association found that some 20 percent of Hispanic children under age 11 suffer from asthma.

For reasons still to be determined, Puerto Ricans have the highest incidence of the illness. Of the 3.7 million Puerto Ricans in the United States, 19 percent (700,000) are asthmatic.

Central Americans and South Americans displayed the lowest incidence, 5 and 2 percent, respectively.

Asthma is a medical condition marked by inflammation of the respiratory passages, which is the body's response to various environmental stimuli, including pollen, dust, cigarette smoke, cold air, overexertion and animal hair.

Symptoms include a chronic cough accompanied by wheezing, inability to take in enough air and chest congestion.

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The Year In Boxing Deserves a 'bah, humbug'

By Norm Frauenheim

In boxing, there is no holiday season. Not this year. Bah, humbug. After 12 months full of bizarre decisions, lousy fights, incompetent judging, indictments, tragedy, late blows and low blows, here's a lump of coal for each and everyone. Let's skip Christmas and move on to New Year's. Then, at least, some resolutions can be made.

Here are few suggestions for

those who need them:

Mike Tyson: Resolve an end to all the craziness. If not, resolve to disappear.

Don King: Resolve to say something that can be believed, or makes sense. Please, say something other than "Only in America." If not, resolve to be silent for just a little while.

Oscar De La Hoya: Resolve to do all your running in training, instead of from Felix Trinidad.

Felix Trinidad: Resolve to get a good pair of running shoes, just in case you'll need them for pursuit in the rematch.

Bob Arum: Resolve to get the rematch done.

Dan Goossen: Resolve not to sit with King at phony news conferences such as the one in which the David Reid-Trinidad fight was announced and then cancelled.

Lennox Lewis: Resolve to be more aggressive, or prepare to lose to Tyson.

Evander Holyfield: Resolve to retire.

Bob Lee: Resolve to turn over the International Boxing Federation to the Feds.

IBF: Resolve to re-name the acronym the International Bribery Association.

World Boxing Council: Resolve not to take bribes.

World Boxing Association: Resolve to do what the WBC probably won't.

New Jersey's ringside judges: Resolve to get a clue.

Roy Jones, Jr.: Resolve to fight more often than you commentate.

Naseem Hamed: Resolve to tone down the pre-fight theatrics, or join a Vegas dance troupe.

George Foreman: Resolve to stay out the ring and keep the burgers on the grill.

Ike Quartey: Resolve to get Fernando Vargas into the ring.

Fernando Vargas: Resolve to stay away from Quartey.

Jackie Frazier-Lyde: Resolve to stay in your law office and out of the gym named for your father, Joe Frazier.

Laila Ali: Resolve not to embarrass your dad, Muhammad Ali, in a Jackie Frazier-Lyde fight, a mockery of the classic Ali-Frazier rivalry.

Senator John McCain: Resolve to get the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act passed before the next presidential election.

Ali: Resolve to be the same person you've always been.

Briefly ...

* One hooligan to another: Tyson's opponent, Julius Francis on Jan. 29 at Manchester, England, is one of those self-proclaimed soccer ruffians who spent 10 years in prison for "causing bodily harm." A nasty scar across his stomach is from a knife fight. "I've done some unlicensed fighting," he said. In licensed fights, he's 21-7 with 11 knockouts. He's been knocked out four times. He's been described as nothing more than a sparring partner for

Tyson. But, with Tyson these days, who really knows? Showtime will telecast the fight, tape-delay, on the night before the Super Bowl.

* Retirement talk: World Boxing Organization junior-flyweight champion Michael Carbajal, a former IBF and WBC champ, sounds as if he's serious about retirement this time. He quit a couple of years ago, only to make the predictable comeback. After going 4-0 and winning the WBO title, Carbajal, 32, says: "I don't think I'll fight again."

* Legal corner: The mother of the late Stephan Johnson has contacted Johnnie Cochran, O.J. Simpson's attorney. Johnson died after collapsing in the ring at Atlantic City a few weeks ago. He was allowed to fight in South Carolina, Georgia and, finally, New Jersey, despite the fact that he was under medical suspension in Canada.

* Behind another legal corner: Goossen, the promoter for America Presents, is suing Arum and Home Box Office because he says they are blocking the Trinidad-Reid fight in an attempt to put together the De La Hoya-Trinidad rematch. Meanwhile, there's talk that King is trying to prevent De La Hoya from fighting anybody, including Derrell Coley in February, until the rematch. Why? Money, money, money. King is contractually obligated to pay Trinidad a minimum of \$4 million per fight. He's also obligated to put Trinidad in a bout sometime within the first four months of the New Year. Without De La Hoya, it is believed that a Trinidad bout would not generate enough money to cover his minimum, which means King would have to reach into his own pocket. Wouldn't you love to see that?

* Conflict-of-interest corner: Julio Cesar Chavez scored a third-round stoppage of Buck Smith in a comeback last Saturday (Dec. 18) at Culiacan, Chavez' hometown in the Mexican state of Sinaloa. It turns out that Chavez was also the promoter. Wonder if he picked his own opponent? How much did he pay the judges and referee? Meanwhile, there's no truth to the rumor that the IBF has moved its offices from New Jersey to Culiacan.

* And Jackie Frazier-Lyde, on a bout with Laila Ali: "It would establish her financially, and then I would establish her horizontally."

Warriors To Go On Warpath January 8th

Lubbock's Warriors Boxing Club are scheduled to have the first boxing tournament of the year next week as they host teams from throughout West Texas. The tournament to be held at the Koko Palace located on 50th and Ave. Q will feature some of the top athletes in the USA.

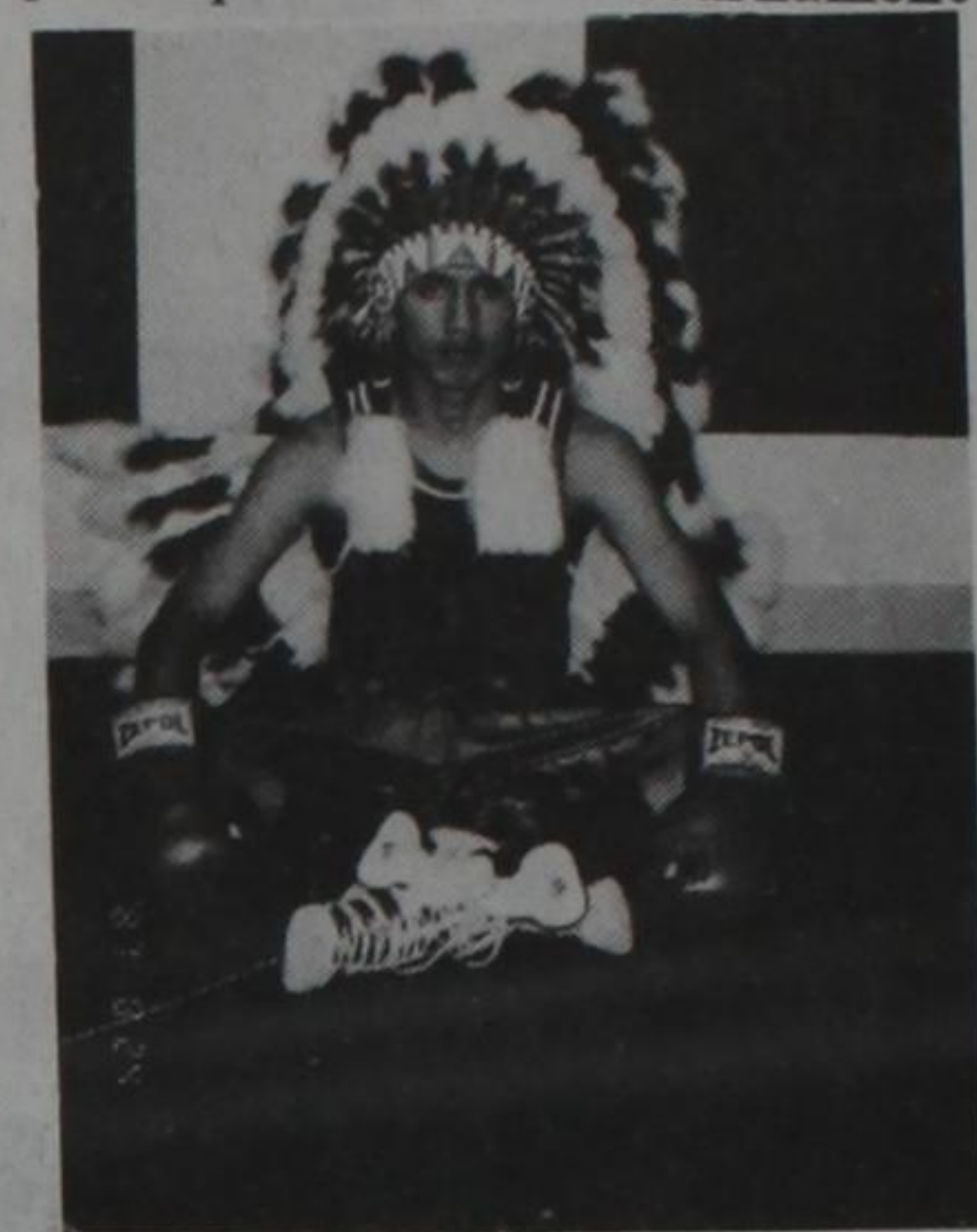
Three of the featured Warriors are State champions and will participate in the tournament.

Among them are Edward Hernandez II who is the 165 lb.

Jr. He is currently the 156 lb. Light Middleweight Texas Champion. He is attending Texas Tech University.

In 1999 he was honored as Texas State Athlete of the Year and Texas State Regional Golden Gloves Champion. In 1998 he was Texas State Golden Gloves Champion and Texas State TAAF Champion.

The third champion to participate in the tournament



will be Hector Villarreal who is the 112 Flyweight Texas Champion. He is currently attending Lubbock High School and is a member of the JV football team.

In 1999 he earned the title of National Jr. Silver Gloves Champion and Texas State Jr. Silver Gloves Champion. In 1998 he was Texas State Jr. TAAF Champion and Texas State Jr. TAAF Champion.

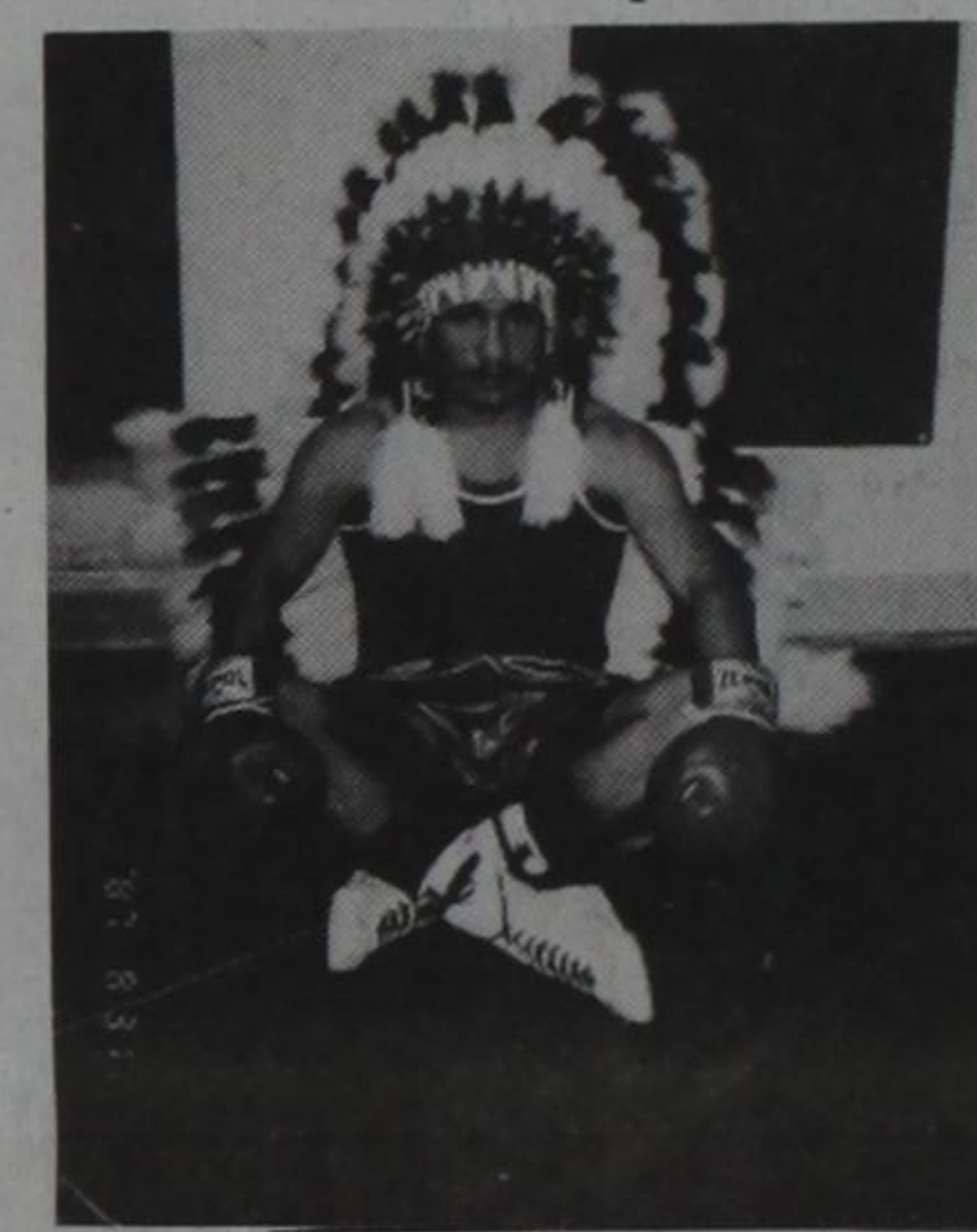
There will be approximately 15 other bouts during the tournament. Admission for the tournament is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. For more information call Edward Hernandez at 762-4990.



middleweight Texas Champion. He is currently attending the University of Notre Dame where he is a sophomore. Two of his honors in 1999 include university of Notre Dame Bengal Bouts Champion and most outstanding collegiate tournament boxer.

In 1998, Hernandez was Texas State Athlete of the Year, Texas State USA Boxing Champion and Texas State TAAF Champion.

Another of the featured boxers will be Joseph Rosendo



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- Idalou -- Casa Municipal 208 Calle Main
- Post -- Centro de la Comunidad, Casa Municipal
- Ralls -- Casa Municipal (800 Ave. I)
- Ransom Canyon - Estacion de Bomberos
- Shallowater -- Casa Municipal (801 Ave. G)
- Slaton -- Departamento de Policia (175 N. 8)
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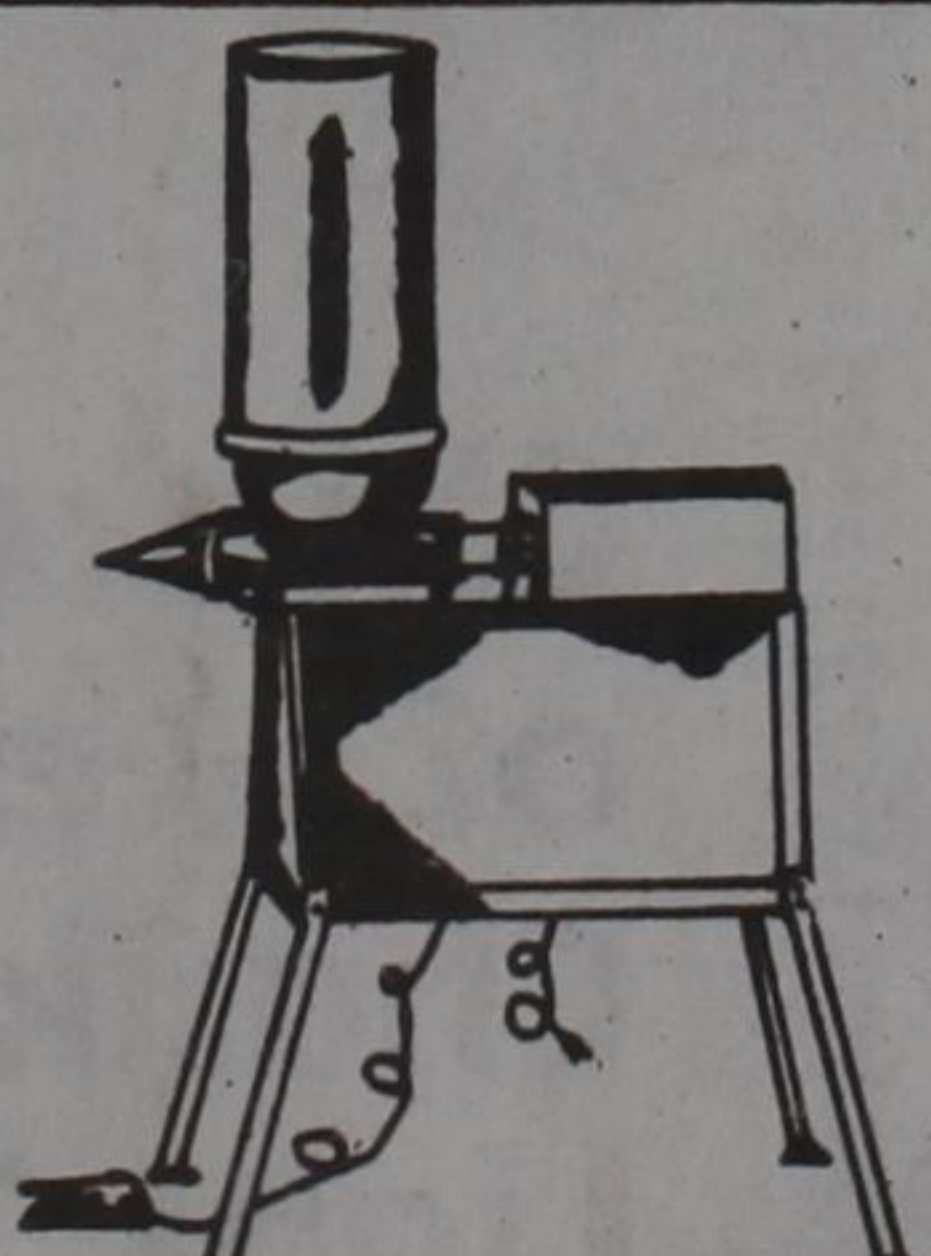
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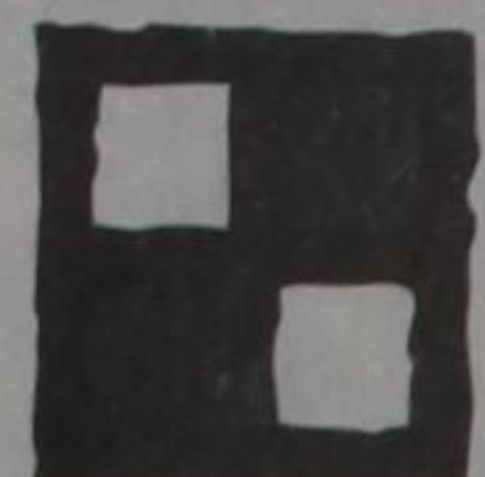
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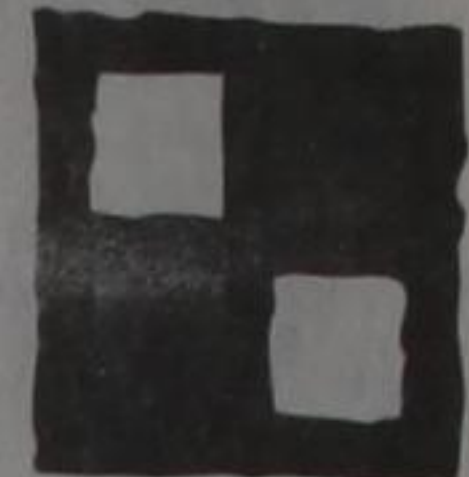
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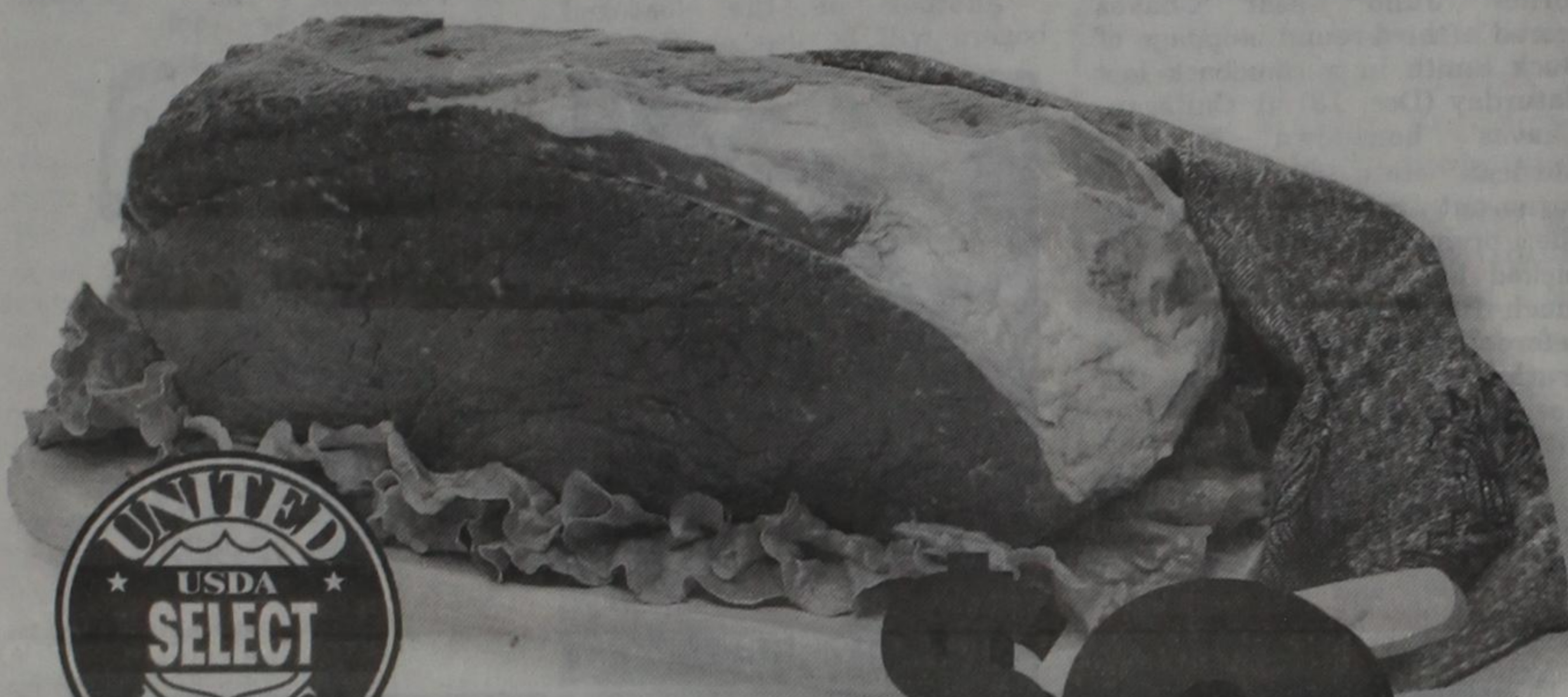


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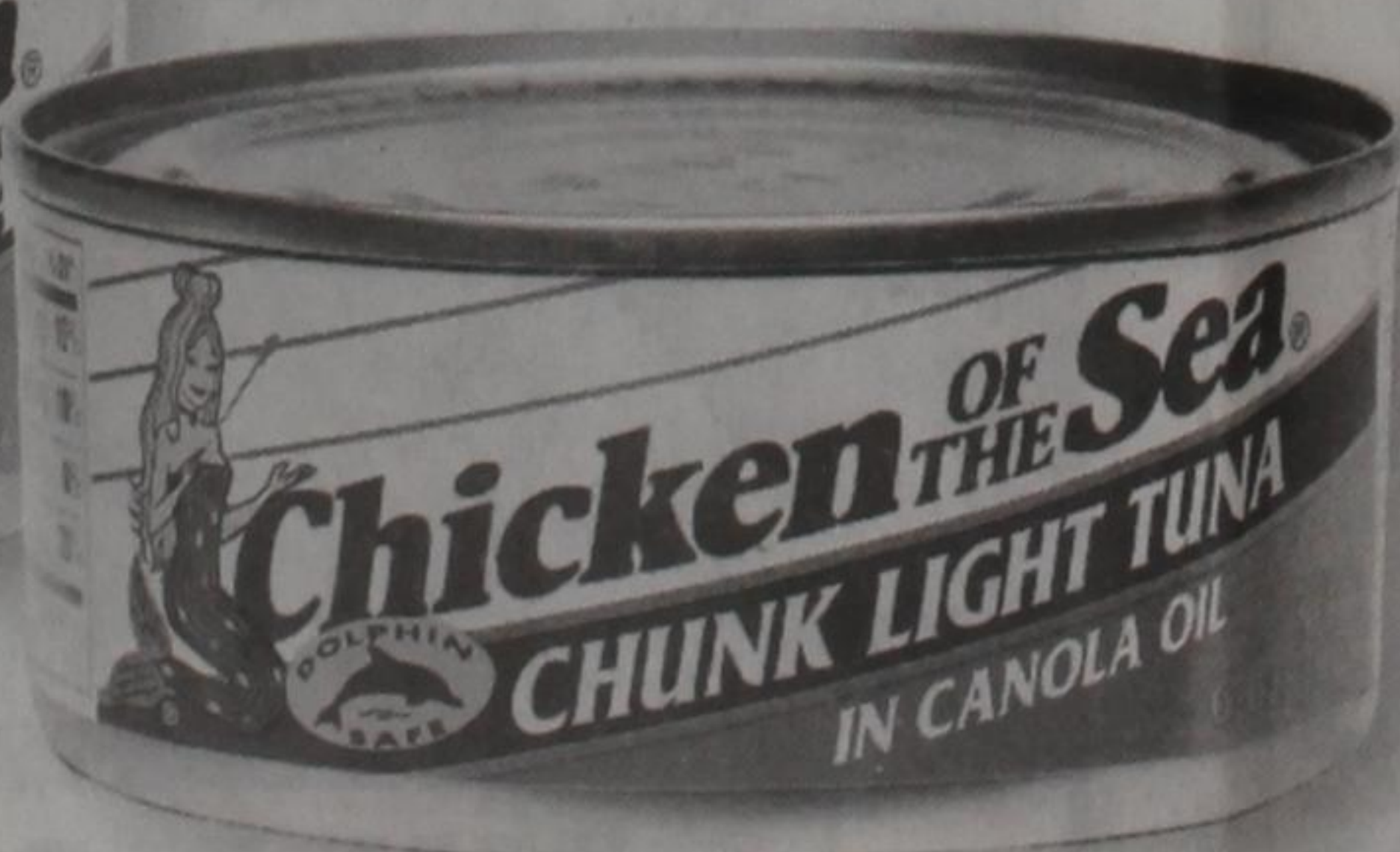
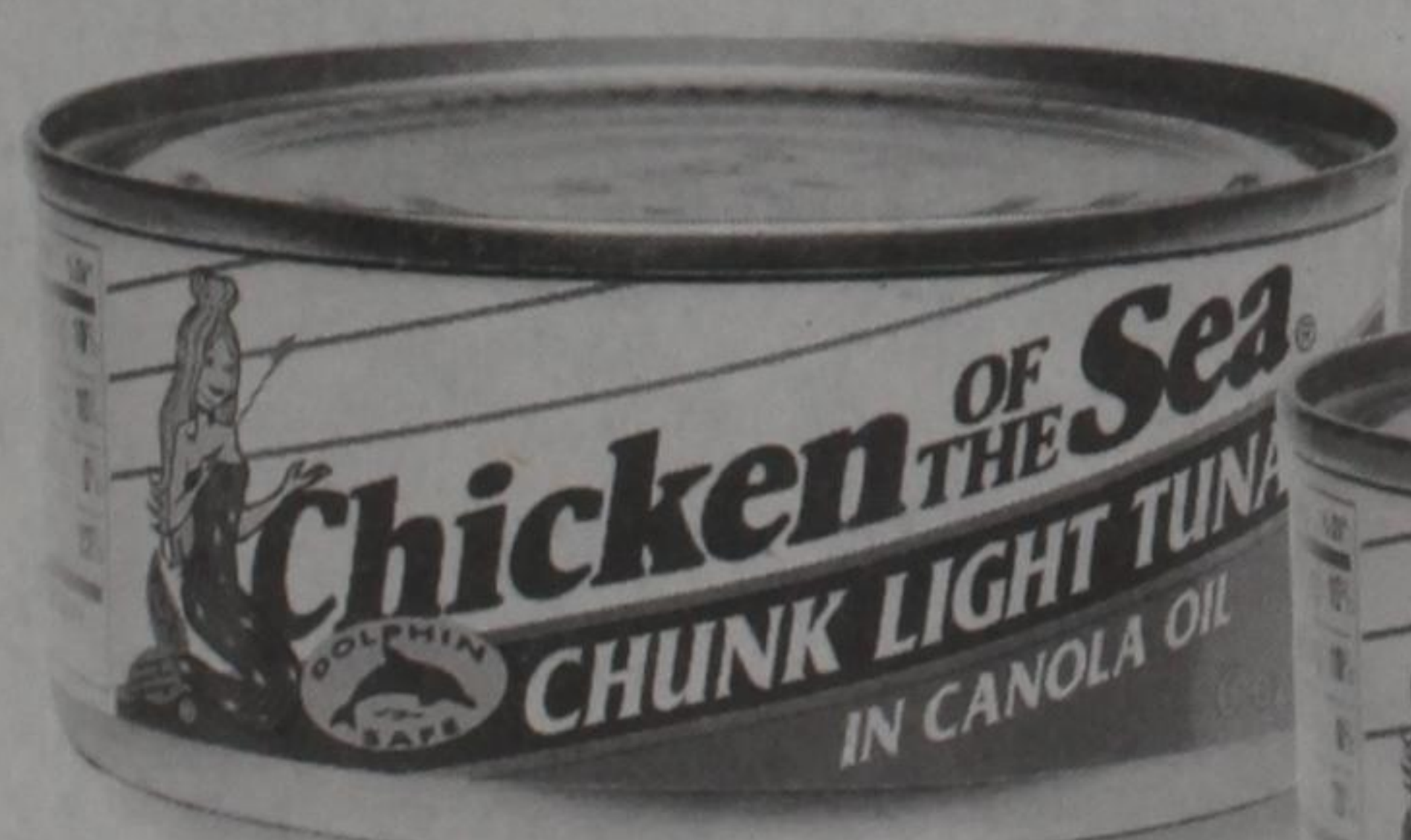
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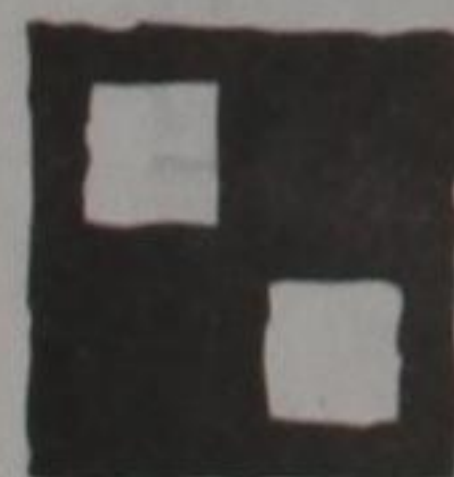
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