

Muere a la Edad de 23 años en su altura de fama

Cortan Corto la Vida de Selena

Hubiera cumplido 25 años de edad este próximo día 16 de Abril día de Pascua. La famosa y muy querida cantante Selena Quintanilla Perez no logro celebrar su cumpleaños porque fue asesinada por una fanatica quien logro primeramente alcanzar su confianza y despues, segun reportes, la estaba robando.

Selena callo de balazos el dia 31 de Marzo. La policia han puesto cargos en contra de Yolanda Saldívar por el asesinato y actualmente esta bajo finaza de \$100,000 y permanece en la carcel.

La muerte de la cantante y actiz causo temblores por todos los Estados Unidos y México. Ella habia sido reconocida como una de la mejores cantantes quien promovian la musica Tejana.

Mas de 20,000 personas asistieron servicios especiales en la ciudad de Corpus Christi y miles de fanaticos de toda la nación participaron en darle honor a la cantante con mostar listones, pender velas y mantener sus luces de auto prendidas por todo el fin de semana.

En Lubbock cines de sus admiradores formaron una fila de autos que a un

punto logro llegar desde la calle 19 hasta el Loop 289 atravez de la Carretera 27.

El fenomeno de la musica de Selena crecia diariamente. Ella logro ganar

los Dinos y logrando su primer LP en el 1983.

En el 1993 ella firmo un contrato internacional con la compania SBK para producir un disco en ingles. Segun reportes, ya se habian grabado 4 canciones de dicho album y se produciran en el muy cercano futuro. Ella actualmente tenia 8 LPs bajo la tiqueta EMI Latino y varios otros bajos las tiquetas Freddy y Hacienda.

En la capital de Austin Selena fue reconocida por el Senado con una resolución adoptada unanimamente.

"Vamos a pensar de ella atravez de los años y Selena viviera eternamente joven en los corazones y alma de todos nosotros," dijo el Senador Eddie Lucio de Brownsville.

El Senador Carlos Truan, Demócrata de Corpus Christi dio alabanza a el mensaje que ella daba a los jovenes de animarlos que se quedarán en la escuela y que rechazaran las drogas. "Yo nunca en mi vida he visto tanta gente y jovenes quien la amaban," dijo Truan.

El Senador Mario Gallegos, Demócrata de Galena Park dijo que no eran solo jovenes quien admiraban su musica. "Mientras estresemana trabajo aqui en Austin tratando con la problemas de el estado, al fin de semana el escuchar la musica de Selena era mi descanso oír la musica de Selena.

Los Senadores pararon sus actividades para mantener un momento de silencio en honor de la cantante.

Que Descanse en Paz.



el muy pertijiso Premio Grammy el año 1994 por el disco "Selena Live". Tambien se le concurrio cantidades de premios en los Premios de la Musica Tejana desde el 1987. habiendo empesado su carrera en el 1981 con su grupo Selena y

News Briefs

Democrats Want Wage Hike

The Associated Press reports that Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle D-SD, held up a box of cereal costing \$4.59 on Friday to illustrate why he thinks America should increase its minimum wage. He said, "Someone working on the minimum wage actually has to work more than one hour to pay for this box of Rice Krispies."

Democrats held a news conference on the day before the fourth anniversary of the last increase to say that the minimum wage hasn't kept up with real-world costs. The current minimum wage is \$4.25. Democrats would like to increase it by 45 cents on July 4, and an additional 45 cents in July 1996.

Republicans are adamantly opposed, saying the move would hurt the economy and cost jobs. House Majority Leader Dick Arney has pledged to fight an increase "with every fiber in my being," and says he would like to get rid of the minimum wage altogether.

FCC Wants Education Plan

The Associated Press reports that the Federal Communications Commission is pushing an innovative plan to make stations air a minimum amount of educational programming for children. The plan will be unveiled by at the agency's meeting on Wednesday.

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Reed Hundt called television 'the third parent' in many homes.

If the plan is adopted, the government would order stations to provide a certain number of hours of educational shows. Broadcasters could choose to pay other stations to produce and air the programs.

People involved in the process say stations initially would have to air three hours a week of educational programming. A station would have to air a minimum of one hour a week. It could make a deal with another station, commercial or public, to broadcast the remaining required hours. Cable television would not be affected. Stations trading programming obligations would be responsible for promoting them.

The Center for Media Education and other critics have asked the FCC to require stations to air seven hours a week between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. They also have asked for a clear definition of what is educational or informational programming.

Putting Kids First

An editorial in the San Jose Mercury News says that San Mateo County in California has found ways to make children a priority.

The county supervisors, along with several city councils and school boards, have decided that 1995 is the year to make an all-out effort to address the plight of children and families.

In Redwood City, every city department has been told to make children a priority. City workers are mentoring high school students, teaching them about job possibilities from administration to park maintenance. In the city planning and zoning departments, putting kids first could mean providing help to a child care provider who wants to open a new center.

The county's Criminal Justice Council is trying to help women convicted of crimes stay out of jail so they won't be separated from their children. Its innovative New Alternatives program allows non-violent women offenders to live at home while learning job skills, attending parenting classes and getting substance abuse counseling. This program not only helps children avoid the trauma of being separated from their mothers, but it also saves the county the cost of incarceration and foster care.

The editorial says that even in this relatively affluent county, there are 25,000 low-income children. Nearly one-fifth of the county's fourth-graders can't understand a basic reading assignment. Domestic violence, child abuse and teen pregnancy are up.

This year county officials hope to get the community involved in addressing children's problems. The editorial concludes, it will take at least a Decade of the Child to solve them.

GOP Declares Agreement on Tax Cuts

The Washington Post reports that House Republican leaders have persuaded GOP moderates to support the tax cut plan. In return the leadership agreed to a watered-down version of the moderates' demands for linking tax cuts to deficit reduction.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) voiced confidence that the tax package would pass when brought to the floor Wednesday or Thursday.

The tax plan, includes a \$500-per-child tax credit, a 50 percent reduction in the capital gains tax and numerous tax breaks for businesses and corporations.

The Republican moderates agreed to support the tax bill in return for legislative assurances the tax cuts could not take effect until the House and Senate completed work late this summer on a long-term budget to eliminate the deficit by 2002. The moderates also conceded to drop their demands that the tax cuts would be revoked in the event Congress missed a deficit reduction target.

The Republicans are still trying to ease concerns of more than 100 Republicans who favor limiting the \$500-per-child tax credit to families earning up to \$95,000, instead of the \$200,000 limit in the legislation.

They are also trying to prevent the defections of Reps. Constance A. Morella (R-Md.), Frank R. Wolf (R-Va.) and Thomas M. Davis III (R-Va.). The three oppose a provision that would require federal employees to make greater contributions to their pension plans as a way of offsetting the cost of the tax cuts.

GOP Working on Medicaid Package

The New York Times reports that Republican governors and congressional leaders are working on a proposal that would give states new authority over the care of 36 million Medicaid recipients.

The proposal would provide new state authority in decisions on eligibility and benefits for the indigent and methods of payment to doctors and hospitals.

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Established
Establecido
1977

"El respeto al
derecho ajeno
es la paz"

Lic. Benito Juarez



EL EDITOR

West Texas' Oldest Weekly Bilingual Newspaper

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Sterns Comments Anger Fans

DALLAS (Reuter) - Radio personality Howard Stern created a stir when he made fun of slain Tejano music star Selena by playing her music accompanied by gunfire noise on the day of her funeral, a Fort Worth newspaper said Wednesday.

Senate Approves Resolution in Memory of Selena

AUSTIN (AP) — Slain Tejano singer Selena was remembered as a talented artist and wholesome role model in a resolution adopted unanimously by the Texas Senate.

"We're going to think about her as the years go by, and Selena will be eternally young in the hearts and souls of all of us," said Sen. Eddie Lucio, D-Brownsville, speaking in favor of the resolution.

Senators also stood for a moment of silent prayer Monday in memory of the singer, as mourners gathered at her funeral 175 miles away in Corpus Christi. Police believe the 23-year-old Grammy winner was shot to death by an assistant she was about to fire.

"A cowardly and violent act brought to an end a brilliant career of a true role model for the Hispanic community of our country," Lucio said.

Sen. Carlos Truan, D-Corpus Christi, lauded the singer's message to young people to stay in school and stay away from drugs, and her devotion to her family. He said the depth of emotion she stirred was demonstrated by those who spoke at a Friday vigil in Corpus Christi.

"I have never in my life witnessed so many people, young people, who idolized her," he said.

Sen. Mario Gallegos, D-Galena Park, said it wasn't only youngsters who admired her and enjoyed her music.

"When I grapple with tort reform and concealed handgun (legislation), I like to sit down and listen to my disc, my disc of Selena," he said. "That's how I enjoy my weekends."

"The Hispanic community has really lost a star."



An article in Wednesday's Fort Worth Star-Telegram said callers jammed the switchboards at Dallas radio station KEGF, which carries Stern's show, after the Monday broadcast in which Stern also parodied weeping mourners and made disparaging remarks about Mexico and Mexican-Americans.

Stern's agent, Don Buchwald, told the newspaper he had no comment beyond saying, "In so far as his philosophy is concerned, I know him as a terrifically kind and

concerned person." Stern is based in New York.

With a song by slain Tejano music star Selena playing softly in the background, radio "shock jock" Howard Stern said Thursday his satire of her on the day of her funeral was not intended to cause more anguish to her family and friends.

The controversial Stern, whose daily show is heard across the United States, also said in a statement he read on the air in Spanish that he was "furious" about the murder and that the woman accused of shooting her outside a Corpus Christi, Texas, motel last Friday should be dealt with firmly.

Joe Guerrero, vice president of League of United Latin American Citizens Council 601 in Fort Worth, told the newspaper the organization is considering filing an official complaint with the Federal Communications Commission.

"As you know, I'm a satiri-

cal person. My remarks on Selena's tragic death were certainly not made with the aim of causing even more anguish to her family, friends and those who loved her," said Stern, who played her music Monday along with sounds of gunfire, parodied weeping mourners and made disparaging remarks about Mexico and Mexican-Americans.

"I'm furious that the life of this young woman was lost senselessly. Her killer must be treated firmly by judicial authorities," Stern said in Spanish. He repeated his statement after co-host Robin Quivers teased him about whether someone had written it phonetically for him to read on air and whether he knew what he had said.

Meanwhile, radio station KEGF distanced itself from Stern's show, saying in the article that his viewpoints do not reflect those of the management and staff at the station.

Attitudes, Federal Actions Endanger Civil Rights Agencies

By Margarita Contín

Growing public resentment toward affirmative action programs could lead to the dismantling of federal agencies vital to promoting and enforcing equal opportunity, civil rights advocates and Latino members of Congress fear.

Two independent commissions that may come under particular scrutiny are the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, created under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, to prohibit employment discrimination, and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established under the 1957 Civil Rights Act as an independent, bipartisan, fact-finding agency. Both deal with issues of discrimination based on national origin and race, among other categories.

Already, Republican presidential contenders such as

Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole (Kan.), Sen. Phil Gramm (Texas) and California Gov. Pete Wilson have publicly stated their strong opposition to affirmative action. Wilson has endorsed his state's anti-affirmative action citizens referendum, the first proposal to thrust the issue into the national spotlight.

House Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee Chairman Bill Goodling (R-Pa.) held a hearing on affirmative action in the workplace March 24 in the subcommittee on employer-employee relations, while House Judiciary Committee Chair Henry Hyde (R-Ill.) held one in the constitutional subcommittee to examine group preference issues in the U.S. Department of Justice's civil rights office.

The Clinton administration, which had planned to complete its review of 168 federal affirmative action programs

by the end of March, has postponed any pronouncements until late April. An internal review team is soliciting the input of Democratic members of Congress and presidential appointees, including Transportation Secretary Federico Peña and U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Chair Gilbert Casellas.

U.S. Civil Rights Commission member Arthur Fletcher harbors no doubts about what is occurring in Washington. "The right wing element that didn't want the civil rights law or the voting rights act on the books are taking this opportunity to kill it all," he told Hispanic Link. "If they succeed in wiping out affirmative action, they will succeed in wiping out all legislation that deals with civil rights... (because) the affirmative action approach sets the standard for all of it."

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Contrato Republicano Corta Bastante Y Necesitados Llevaran el Dolor

Por el Rep. Esteban Torres

Esta semana señala el fin de los celebrados 100 días del "Contrato con los Estados Unidos" del Partido Republicano, y los republicanos de la Cámara de Representantes han usado ese tiempo para atacar con mandarina a los programas que benefician a los estadounidenses más necesitados y más merecedores.

Aunque apoyo algunas partes del Contrato y creo que muchas de las reformas congresionales se necesitaban desde hace mucho tiempo, me molestan los motivos cínicos y partidaristas que dieron lugar al documento.

En la superficie, el mismo apela a los deseos básicos de la mayoría de los residentes de los Estados Unidos. Pero visto más de cerca, quedan revelados muchos defectos.

El Contrato ofrece una esperanza falsa a través de promesas faltas de realismo que sencillamente no pueden funcionar. En especial me preocupa el efecto de prometer un presupuesto equilibrado, la disminución de los impuestos y las rebajas no especificadas en los gastos federales, mientras se promete un regreso a la política vacía y gastada del decenio de 1980.

Durante los dos primeros años de la presidencia de Clinton, nuestro gobierno ha adoptado un enfoque razonado a la política económica. Se están haciendo rebajas a la burocracia. El déficit está disminuyendo.

En verdad, en dos años, el

Presidente Clinton y el Congreso dirigido por los demócratas disminuyeron el déficit por más miles de millones que lo disminuyó en los cuatro años anteriores de la Casa Blanca de Bush, mientras aumentaban los empleos en más millones.

La propuesta del vicepresidente Albert Gore para reformar al gobierno federal asegura rebajas adicionales en los gastos federales. Si la mayoría republicana ha de estar a la altura de su promesa de un presupuesto equilibrado dentro de ocho años, temo que tendrá que aprobar rebajas impresionantes en los programas que son vitales para millones de ciudadanos estadounidenses.

Ya hemos visto que, al revocar los programas comprobados para la prevención de la delincuencia, el Contrato hará más para aumentar la delincuencia que para evitarla. Podemos disminuir la delincuencia, especialmente en las zonas urbanas, si ofrecemos alternativas positivas para los niños de nuestra nación.

A medida que los republicanos desconectan a los programas de prevención de la delincuencia, harán de nuestros hijos los corderos sacrificados en el altar de las rebajas de impuestos para los ricos.

Más familias trabajadoras que están luchando sólo para arreglárselas serán castigadas indebidamente por el Contrato. Se pondrá fin a más de 100,000 becas para estudi-

antes que desean continuar a las escuelas superiores. Los programas de adiestramiento para el trabajo destinados a los jóvenes en riesgo y los fondos críticos que ayudan a nuestras escuelas a estar seguras y libres de narcóticos serán rebajados gravemente.

El Contrato va tan profundamente que dejará a los niños con hambre cuando vayan a la escuela.

Ahora sabemos que las familias que ganan \$200,000 anuales recibirían una rebaja de impuestos de más de \$11,000, mientras que las que ganan menos de \$30,000 recibirían sólo \$124. Si eso no es suficiente, el proyecto de ley republicano propone retener una laguna fiscal para los millonarios que renuncian a su ciudadanía estadounidense y salgan del país para evitar el pago de impuestos. Todas estas rebajas de impuestos les costarán a los contribuyentes \$700,000 millones durante diez años e inflarán el déficit aún más.

El peso del Contrato de diez puntos caerá sobre los más pobres, los más vulnerables, los más necesitados de entre nuestros ciudadanos. Y caerá con dureza especial sobre los ancianos, los incapacitados y los niños.

El Secretario de Viviendas y Desarrollo Urbano (HUD), Henry Cisneros, precisó el efecto sobre la vida real de las rebajas propuestas cuando dijo: "Estas son personas que van a ser puestas en la calle como resultado de las deci-

siones que se adoptaron".

Durante los seis años anteriores, los gobiernos anteriores y el actual han tomado muchas medidas positivas y correctivas para hacer regresar las prácticas sólidas de administración al gobierno. Por ejemplo, HUD anunció un plan nuevo para la reinvencción del Departamento. El nuevo plan consolidaría en último término a 60 programas de vivienda y desarrollo comunitario en tres subvenciones conjuntas que irían a los estados y las comunidades locales. En vez de efectuar audiencias y echar un vistazo al plan, los republicanos rebajaron ciegamente al presupuesto.

El público de los Estados Unidos está aprendiendo lo que el Contrato significa verdaderamente. Cien días de retórica para sentirse bien no harán disminuir al déficit, ni mejorarán nuestra economía ni crearán empleos. Los asuntos a que nos enfrentamos son ásperos.

Les insto a organizarse contra las propuestas perniciosas del presidente de la Cámara, Gingrich. Programen reuniones con sus Representantes, escriban cartas a los periódicos y llamen a las estaciones de radio.

Debemos ser oídos antes de que sea demasiado tarde.

(El Representante Federal Esteban Torres, demócrata de West Covina, California, representa al 34º Distrito Congresional de aquel estado.)

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GOP Contract Cuts Deep and Needy Bear the Brunt of the Pain

By U.S. Rep. Esteban Torres

This week marks the end of the vaunted 100 days of the GOP's "Contract With America," and Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives have used the time to take a sledgehammer to programs that benefit the neediest and most deserving Americans.

While I support parts of the Contract and believe that many of the congressional reforms were long overdue, I am bothered by the cynical and partisan motives that spawned the document. On the surface, it appeals to the basic desires of most U.S. residents. But upon closer view, many flaws are revealed.

The Contract offers false hope through unrealistic promises that simply cannot work. In particular, I am concerned about the effect of promising a balanced budget, reduced taxes, and unspecified cuts in federal spending while also promising a return of the empty, worn-out politics of the 1980s.

During the first two years of the Clinton presidency, our government has taken a reasoned approach to economic policy. Cuts are being made to the bureaucracy. The deficit is shrinking.

In fact, in two years, President Clinton and the Democratic-led Congress reduced the deficit by billions more than it was reduced in the previous four years of the Bush White House, while increasing employment by millions more.

Vice President Albert Gore's proposal to streamline the federal government assures additional cuts in federal spending. If members of the Republican majority are to live up to their pledge of a balanced budget within eight years, I fear they will have to approve massive cuts in programs that are vital to millions of U.S. citizens.

We have already seen that by repealing proven crime prevention programs, the Contract will do more to increase crime than to prevent it. We can reduce crime, particularly in urban areas, if we offer positive alternatives for our nation's children.

As Republicans pull the plug on crime prevention programs, they will make our children the sacrificial lambs on the altar of tax cuts for the wealthy.

More working families who are struggling just to get by will be unduly punished by the Contract. More than 100,000 scholarships for college-bound students will be terminated. Job training programs for at-risk youth and critical funds that help make our schools safe and drug-free will be severely cut. The Contract goes so deep that it will leave children hungry when they go to school.

Now we learn that households earning \$200,000 would receive a tax cut of more than \$11,000, while those under \$30,000 would receive only \$124. If that is not enough, the Republican bill proposes to retain a tax loophole for millionaires who renounce their U.S. citizenship and leave the

country to avoid paying taxes. All of these cuts will cost taxpayers \$700 billion over 10 years and balloon the deficit even more.

The weight of the 10-point Contract will fall on the poorest, the most vulnerable, the most needy of our citizens. It will fall especially hard on the elderly, the disabled and children.

Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros hit on the real-life effect of the proposed cuts when he stated, "These are people who are going to be put on the streets as a result of the decisions that were made."

During the past six years, the current and past administrations have taken many positive and corrective steps to return sound management practices to government. For example, HUD announced its blueprint for the reinvention of the department. The new plan would ultimately consol-

idate approximately 60 housing and community development programs into three block grants going to states and local communities. Instead of holding hearings and taking a look at the plan, the Republicans blindly slash the budget.

The U.S. public is learning what the Contract really means. One hundred days of feel-good rhetoric will not reduce the deficit, improve our economy or create jobs. The issues we face are tough.

I urge you to organize against the pernicious proposals of Speaker Newt Gingrich. Schedule meetings with your member of Congress, write letters to newspapers and call the radio stations.

We must be heard before it is too late.

(U.S. Rep. Esteban Torres, a Democrat from West Covina, Calif., represents that state's 34th Congressional District.)

Actitudes Publicas y las Acciones Federales Ponen en Peligro a las Agencias de Iso Derechos Civiles

El creciente resentimiento público hacia los programas de acción afirmativa podría llevar al desmantelamiento de las agencias federales claves para promover y hacer cumplir la igualdad de oportunidades, según temen los defensores de los derechos civiles y los congresistas latinos.

Dos comisiones independientes que pueden caer bajo un escrutinio especial son la Comisión Federal para la Igualdad de Empleo (EEOC en inglés), creada bajo el Título VII de la Ley de los Derechos Civiles de 1964 para prohibir la discriminación en el empleo, y la Comisión Federal de los Derechos Civiles, establecida bajo la Ley de los Derechos Civiles de 1957 como una agencia independiente, no partidaria. Ambas investigan asuntos de discriminación basados en el origen nacional y raza, entre otras categorías.

Ya los candidatos presidenciales republicanos, tales como el líder del Senado, Rob-

ert Dole (por Kansas), el Senador Phil Gramm (por Texas) y el Gobernador de California, Pete Wilson, han declarado públicamente su oposición a la acción afirmativa. Wilson ha respaldado al refrendo de su estado contra la acción afirmativa, la primera propuesta que forzó un debate nacional sobre el tema.

El presidente del Comité de Oportunidades Económicas y Educativas en la Cámara, Bill Goodling (republicano por Pennsylvania) efectuó una audiencia sobre la acción afirmativa en el trabajo el 24 de marzo en el subcomité de empleadores y empleados, mientras que el presidente del Comité Judicial en la Cámara, Henry Hyde (republicano por Illinois) realizó una el 3 de abril en el subcomité constitucional para examinar el tema de preferencia en la oficina de derechos civiles del Departamento Federal de Justicia.

La administración Clinton, que había planificado terminar su revisión de los 168 programas federales de acción

afirmativa para fines de marzo, lo ha postergado hasta fines de abril. Un equipo interno de revisión está solicitando la participación de los congresistas demócratas y de miembros del gabinete, incluyendo al Secretario de Transporte Federico Peña y al director de la Comisión Federal para la Igualdad de Empleo, Gilbert Casellas.

Un miembro de la Comisión Federal de Derechos Civiles Arthur Fletcher no tiene dudas de lo que está ocurriendo en Washington. "El elemento derechista que no quería tener las leyes de derechos civiles o de derechos electorales, se está aprovechando de esta oportunidad para revocarlas", dijo a Hispanic Link. "Si tienen éxito en eliminar la acción afirmativa, tendrán éxito en eliminar toda la legislación que trata de los derechos civiles... (porque) el enfoque de la acción afirmativa fija la norma para todas ellas".

La congresista Lucille Roybal-Allard (demócrata por

Continua Pagina 3



Sittin' Here Thinkin'

Funeral For An Idea

By Ira Cutler

We should all stop and take notice when a noble idea dies. Picture a moment standing at a curbside, hat over your heart, watching a funeral procession go by and noting that a way of thinking has passed on. It seems to me that a lot of ideas have died in recent years and I suggest that today we mourn the death of the idea of rehabilitation.

I am not referring to medically related physical rehabilitation, nor the rehabilitation of historic homes -- those ideas are alive and well. I am thinking of the death of rehabilitation in the sense of rehabilitating criminals. The idea that society can take people who do crimes, and punish them, or treat them, or both, and that they can then become valuable members of society. That idea is either dead or very, very ill and near death.

I formed my first childhood understanding of that concept of rehabilitation from old black and white 1930's prison movies with people like Bogart and George Raft and, I think, Joel McCrea. They used to say in those movies, and in those times, that when a criminal had been caught and convicted, and had done his time in prison, that he had "paid his debt to society". The old movies told us that it was hard to go straight, the odds were stacked against a guy coming out of the penitentiary, but the idea was that the ex con had a right to a second chance and a clean slate.

I never gave much thought to what rehabilitation meant, nor doubted that we as a society really believed it. I had been taught, probably in civics class, that our justice system was not based so much on punishment as it was on correction or rehabilitation. People, I was taught, could change, could get better. The words we used reflected this essentially religious view -- we sent young boys to reform school and grown men to penitentiaries. We named the departments that ran these facilities the department of corrections. Reform, Penance, Rehabilitation, Corrections -- all words grounded in the possibility of positive change.

Words mattered then and words matter now. Over the last couple of years the country has been swept by Three Strikes and You're Out, a charming phrase that suggests that crime and justice can be reduced to a sports metaphor in which one side wins and one side loses. This continues the quest for social policies that are so simplified that all the answers to all the questions can themselves be simple. A judge need not consider life circumstances, age, remorse or anything else before sentencing. How many previous felonies of any sort has this individual been convicted of? Three, you say?

And already we see cases of mandatory life imprisonment being imposed not on people who do three murders or two murders and a rape, but on clowns who went joy riding at eighteen, got caught with some dope the next year, and now at thirty five have been convicted of assault in a bar fight. Gone forever! Gotcha! Three strikes and you are gone, baby! The good guys win another one.

Three Strikes, Life Without Possibility of Parole, Multiple Consecutive Life Sentences, and, of course, the overwhelmingly popular and politically indispensable Death Penalty are all based on the idea that bad people cannot change, cannot become rehabilitated and cannot pay their debt to society, ever. Megan's Law, under which police warn neighbors that a convicted and now released child molester is in their midst may be the beginning of a trend, never mind that it flies in the very face of the idea of rehabilitation, of second chances, of a clean slate.

But all of these examples were, however discomforting to me, acceptable. I did not have to write this column, probably would not have written it, had I not read in the paper that the state of Alabama is bringing back chain gangs. The theory is that thousands of Alabama children, riding in cars with their parents on Alabama highways on pretty spring afternoons, will see men chained, perhaps in traditional striped suits, and breaking rocks on the sides of highways. And those children will know that crime does not pay and will not become criminals. Are stocks and pillories next? Public hangings? Perhaps burnings at the stake will stage a comeback as well.

Well, who cares? These are awful people we are talking about and nobody I know or care about is in prison. But it is a sign of our times that I feel compelled to say that I am against crime and have no sympathy for murderers or thieves or rapists, and certainly not for child molesters. The larger problem is that I feel I have to assure you that I am neither a felon nor a felon-lover. History teaches that a society cannot carefully target its meanness to just a few people. The meanness spreads, and we all become suspects, we all become diminished by the process.

Charles Rangel said recently, and caused waves doing it, that our times were becoming reminiscent of Germany in the 1930's. And by that he meant that as long as they personally were not the targets of oppression, no one said anything. It was the silence that he found reminiscent of the 1930's. As long as the knocks were on someone else's door the whole society looked the other way.

I worry about the death of the idea of rehabilitation but not because I care very much about criminals. My worry is about the rest of us who need periodic forgiveness from each other, need to believe that we and those we care about can change for the better, and need to believe that our past mistakes can be redeemed through penitence and future good works. If THEY cannot change for the better who is to say that WE can?

Ira Cutler, says he's seeking a semi-legitimate outlet for thoughts and ideas too irrelevant, too iconoclastic, or just too nasty for polite, serious, self-important company. He promises us a column most weeks.

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News Briefs

Medicaid pays for one out of every three births in the United States, finances care for more than a fourth of America's children and pays for two out of every three people in nursing homes on any given day.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that federal spending on Medicaid was \$82 billion in 1994. They predict that this will increase more than 10 percent a year in the next five years, reaching \$148 billion in 2000 without the states' shares.

The Associated Press reports that Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar, who chairs the Republican Governors Association's task force on Medicaid reform, has also proposed capping the growth of federal spending "significantly below" Medicaid's current 10 percent yearly growth. Michigan GOP Gov. John Engler, said discussions among the governors and Senate leaders have concentrated on ceilings of 4 percent to 6 percent.

The plan includes:
 - enrolling more Medicaid recipients in health maintenance organizations.
 - cutting payments to hospitals with disproportionate numbers of low-income patients.
 - restricting or eliminating coverage of some services.

House Panel Votes on HMOs

The Associated Press reports that the House Commerce Committee wants to allow all 50 states to experiment with a Medicare program that allows seniors to save on premiums by enrolling in managed care plans. They approved a five-year extension of the Medicare Select program, now authorized for just 15 states.

The House Ways and Means Committee previously voted to expand Medicare Select to all 50 states permanently. Leaders of the two committees are expected to seek a compromise so the House can vote on the program before lawmakers head home Friday on their spring break.

About 450,000 seniors are enrolled in Medicare Select policies in 15 demonstration states. The states are Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin.

They save about 10 to 37 percent on Medicare premiums and deductibles by agreeing to go to physicians and facilities in their plan's network. They pay more if they choose to go outside the network. The plans also can raise members' premiums as they age.

Medicare Fund Going Bankrupt

The Washington Post reports that the Medicare hospital trust fund will go bankrupt early in the next decade unless changes are made.

The Medicare hospital trust fund "will be able to pay benefits for only about seven years and is severely out of financial balance in the long-range," said the trustees in their annual report on the status of Medicare and Social Security.

Medicare trustees warned that the program faces insolvency in the year 2002, and congressional Republicans seized on the report to argue for program cuts now to balance the federal budget and save the system.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Bob Packwood (R-Ore.) has estimated that about \$400 billion would have to be cut from the predicted growth of Medicare and Medicaid, which provides health care primarily for the poor, by 2002 to achieve a balanced budget.

A White House spokesman said yesterday that the administration feels strongly about taking action on Medicare, but that it should be done in the context of broader reforms. He further argued that the program should be cut or realigned only in ways designed to improve its operations and financing, not to balance the budget or finance tax cuts, which many believe is the major GOP aim.

About two-thirds of Medicare spending goes to pay hospital insurance and is funded by the Medicare portion of the Social Security payroll tax. The rest of Medicare, goes to pay doctor bills and is funded mostly by automatic withdrawals from Treasury general revenues.

The Associated Press reports that the trustees urged "prompt, effective and decisive action" to keep the insurance

PUBLIC ATTITUDES, FEDERAL ACTIONS

U.S. Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-Calif.), a co-chair of the congressional Democratic task force on affirmative action, added that she would not be surprised by Republican attempts to dissolve agencies like the EEOC. But she warned that they would use "devious" strategies. "They may not eliminate it completely, because they don't want to look like the ones responsible for destroying it, but rather, weaken it so that it's ineffective," she said.

Hispanic Caucus Chair Ed Pastor (D-Ariz.) said he doubted that Republicans want to repeal Title VII, but added, "In the cuts they're proposing, I doubt that agency is safe."

Hyde press secretary Sam Stratman denied that the congressman is suggesting elimination of any civil rights agencies. He dismissed a March 18 Congressional Quarterly article that said both Hyde and Goodling were considering such proposals in their review hearings as "unwarranted speculation...You won't be seeing legislation based on the testimonies until early June."

"It's speculation in the sense that they're just looking at it and haven't come out with anything concrete yet, but there's a difference between when review means review and when review means repeal, and that's the concern here," said Georgina Verdugo, Washington, D.C. regional counsel for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

U.S. Rep. Bill Richardson (D-N.M.), who joined Roybal-Allard and other congressional Hispanic Democrats in a mid-March affirmative action advisory session at the White House, ventured that while the agencies will suffer some cuts as the Republicans make "lots of bluster and noise" against civil rights, they will survive.

But Commissioner Fletcher, who under President Richard Nixon pioneered the first contract compliance program in construction unions, said blacks and Hispanics are being pitted against each other in psychological warfare where "every ill you can think of is laid at the doorstep of blacks and Hispanics...The ones they don't want in school, having contracts, having enough wealth to participate as equals, are Hispanics and blacks."

EEOC Chair Gilbert Casellas acknowledged, "I don't doubt there are people out there who want to weaken the agency...A lot of what they say is based on misinformation, and people believe it."

Tony Gallegos, former acting EEOC chair and a commissioner from 1982 to 1993, added that the rising number of cases the EEOC has to address each year is proof of its essential role. Attacks on affirmative action will negatively impact all civil rights agencies, he said, "and that would be disastrous for the country."

LAS ACTITUDES PUBLICAS Y LAS ACCIONES FEDERALES PONEN

EN PELIGRO A LAS AGENCIAS FEDERALES PONEN

EN PELIGRO A LAS AGENCIAS FEDERALES PONEN

El presidente de la bancada hispana, Ed Pastor (demócrata por Arizona) dijo que él dudaba que los republicanos quieran revocar al Título VII, pero agregó: "En los recortes que ellos proponen, dudo que esa agencia (la EEOC) esté segura."

El secretario de prensa del Representante Hyde, Sam Stratman, negó que el congresista esté recomendando la eliminación de las agencias de derechos civiles. El dismirtió un reportaje del 18 de marzo en el Congressional Quarterly que decía que tanto Hyde como Goodling estaban considerando tales propuestas en sus audiencias de revisión, calificándolo de "especulación injustificada...Ustedes no verán legislación basada en los testimonios sino hasta principios de junio próximo".

Georgina Verdugo, asesora legal y directora de la oficina en Washington, D.C. del Fondo Méxicoamericano para la Defensa Legal y Educativa (MALDEF en inglés) comentó, "Es especulativo en el sentido de que ellos sólo lo están examinando y no han sacado nada concreto aún, pero hay una diferencia cuando una revisión significa revisión y cuando significa revocación, y ésta es la preocupación aquí".

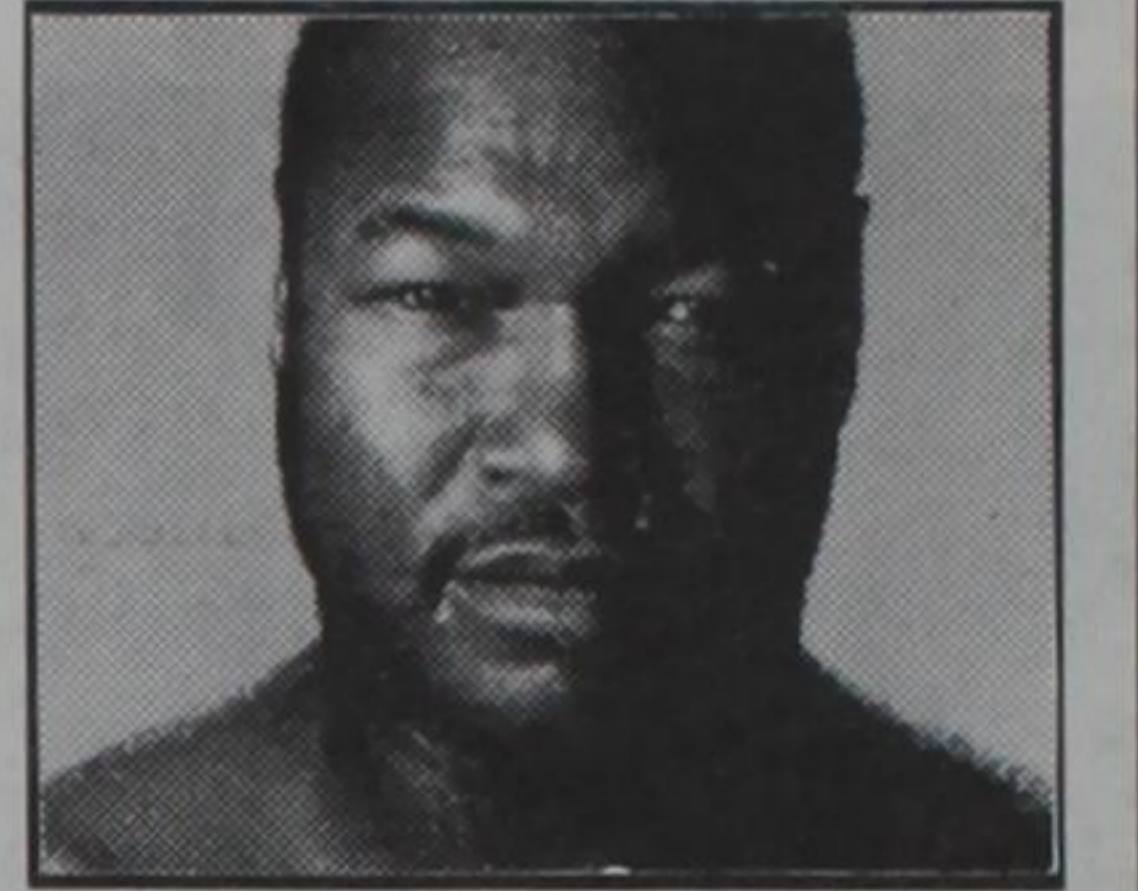
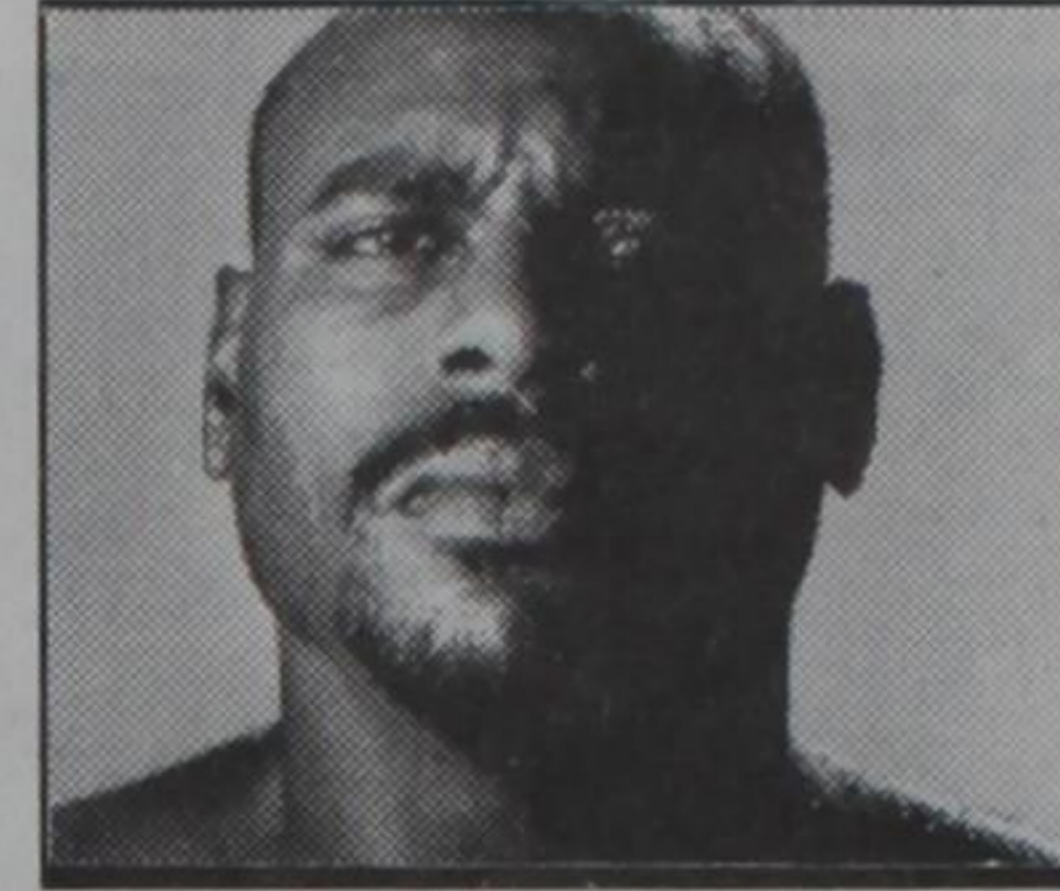
El congresista Bill Richardson

son (demócrata por Nuevo México), que estuvo con Roybal-Allard y otros demócratas hispanos en una sesión de asesoría sobre la acción afirmativa a mediados de marzo en la Casa Blanca, se aventuró a decir que, aunque las agencias sufrirán algunos recortes a medida que los republicanos hacen "mucho tumulto y ruido" contra los derechos civiles, éstos sobrevivirán al final.

Pero el Comisionado Fletcher, quien durante el gobierno del Presidente Richard Nixon fue el precursor del primer programa de cumplimiento de los contratos en los sindicatos de la construcción, dijo que los afroamericanos e hispanos se están confrontando en una guerra psicológica en la que "todos los males de que se pueda pensar se les ponen a

Continúa Page 5

TRIUMFO DECISIVO



OLIVER McCALL v. LARRY HOLMES

CAMPEONATO DE PESO COMPLETO DEL CMB



JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ v. GIOVANNI PARISI

CAMPEONATO SUPERLIGERO DEL CMB

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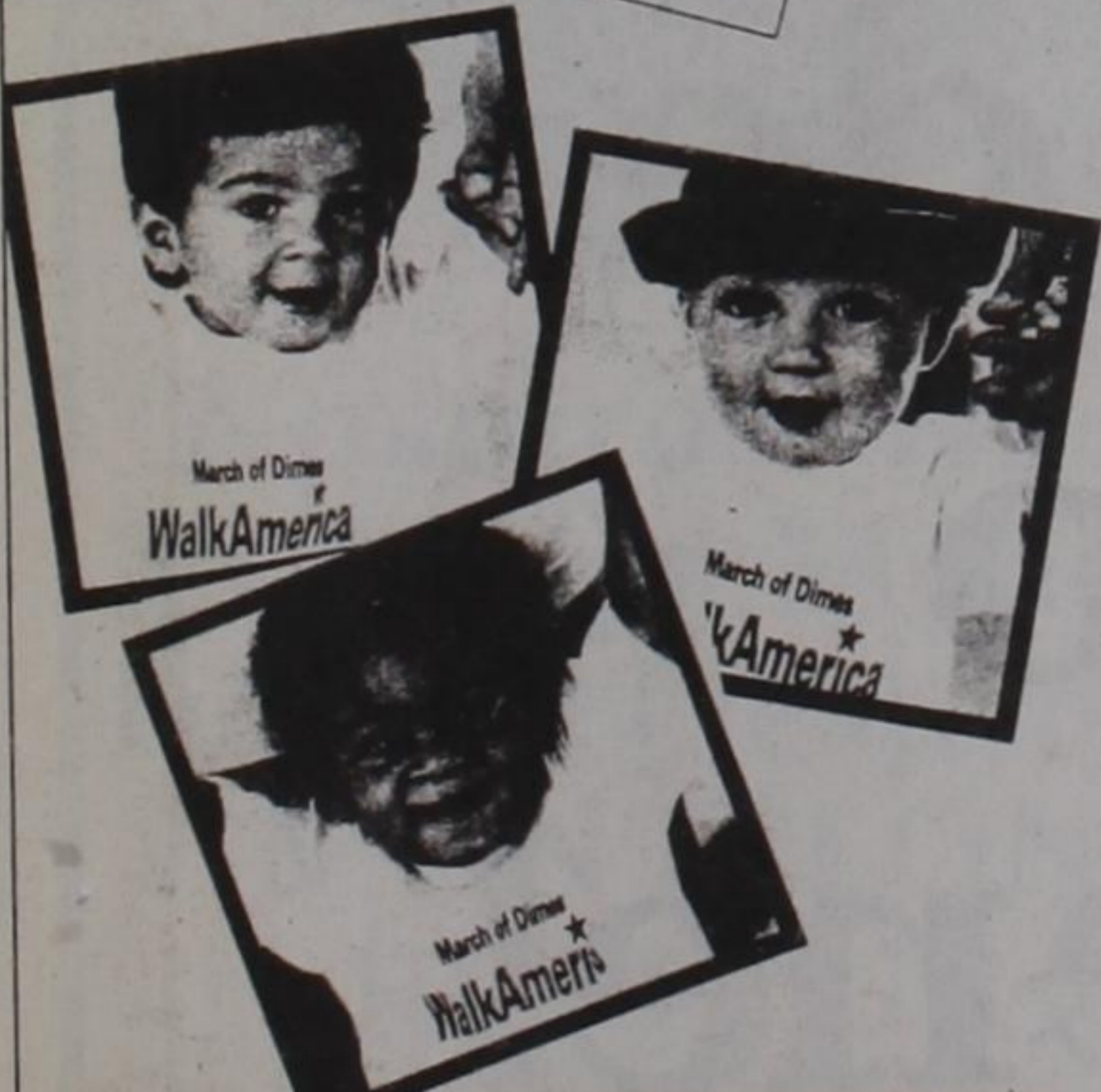
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SELENA: A pioneer of new form of pop music

N.Y. Times News Service

In death, Selena Quintanilla Perez joins a tragic duo of Texas legends cut down in their prime just as they were pioneering a new form of pop music.

Like Buddy Holly, who was one of rock's original voices, and Stevie Ray Vaughan, who brought the blues screaming and kicking from out of nightclubs into basketball arenas, Selena was the beloved star of a homegrown sound.

In her case, it was Tejano, a burgeoning Southwestern form of dance-pop that melds the bright,

catchy melodies of Top 40 music with the lovely, bittersweet rhythms of traditional South Texas "conjunto" and the earthy flair of northern Mexico "ranchera."

Selena was born April 16, 1971, in Lake Jackson, Texas, where her father, Abraham Quintanilla, owned a restaurant. After it went out of business, the family moved to Corpus Christi, Texas, where Selena launched her singing career under the guidance of her father.

She made her public performing debut at age 8 with Los Dinos, the Quintanilla family band. She



(TOP) Selena performs in the Alamodome in San Antonio. (L) Performing in a scene from New Line Cinema's most recent release "Don Juan DeMarco," which opens nationwide April 7, 1995. She appears in a cameo role. Selena, who would have turned 24 on Easter Sunday, can only become a legend years before her time.



cut her first album on a small independent label while still in her early teens. As her popularity grew, the band became known as Selena y los Dinos.

In an interview with the Houston Chronicle last summer, Selena said it wasn't difficult to make the transition from teen star to acceptance as an adult artist.

"I've been doing love songs since I was little girl," she said. "It's different in the Spanish market. Spanish is a romantic language, and we are a romantic people. It's accepted for 15-year-old kids to sing love songs. It's not shocking to people, because I've been doing it all these years."

She garnered her first serious recognition in 1987, when she was named female vocalist of the year and performer of the year at the annual Tejano Music Awards in San Antonio.

By 1994, Tejano had exploded, with Selena joining La Mafia and such Texans as Ram Herrera, Bob Gallarza and Emilio Navaira among the music's top-selling artists. Her band included her husband, guitarist Chris Perez. They married in 1992.

This year her outstanding showing of six wins in 15 categories of the Tejano Music Awards almost seemed pre-ordained. Selena won prestigious female entertainer of the year, plus female vocalist of the year and best album of the year for "Amor Prohibido."

Her song "Fotos y Recuerdos (Photographs and Memories)" is

No. 4 on Billboard's Latin chart this week.

As an indication of Selena's crossover appeal, she won a Grammy in 1994 for best Mexican-American album ("Selena Live"), was nominated for another Grammy this year, and her "Amor Prohibido" album sold more than 500,000 copies.

Selena's four previous albums for the EMI Latin label have sold nearly 1 million copies combined — an impressive figure for the U.S. Latin market, where sales of 50,000 are considered a "gold" album and sales of 100,000 are "platinum."

Those are not huge numbers by superstar standards. But for a 23-year-old, up-and-coming star who could charm the laser lights off a stage with a youthful exuberance that knew no bounds, those sales figures seemed like merely the start.

The album she was working on at the time of her death, her first in English, could have been her crossover breakthrough. It was to be released this summer, but only three tracks were recorded.

"I would love to see Tejano music become popular in the English world," she told the Chronicle. "I hope the people who buy my (English) album will want to find out more about what Tejano music is all about."

Selena's style was alternately sweet and sultry. Her graceful, stunning beauty added to her vivacious concert presentation. Skintight pants and a sequined

bra were her trademark, which brought comparisons to Madonna.

"I don't carry myself in a vulgar way, and our songs are not suggestive in any way," she said in the summer. "I just don't feel that I have to go that route."

"With Madonna, that's her marketing strategy. ... I mean, I want to sell my music. I wear the bra and tight pants onstage. But I don't think it will go any further than that."

She designed her concert wardrobe and parlayed it into a clothing line, which she sold in her boutique-salons in Corpus Christi and San Antonio. Hispanic Business magazine estimated her financial interests at \$5 million.

"Selena was a superstar on the rise," said Jose Bahar, president of her record label, EMI Latin. "But more importantly, she was a beautiful and wonderful human being. This is a total tragedy for all of us."

Perhaps no event was more indicative of her drawing power than the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, where Selena set an all-time Sunday attendance record this year of 61,041.

"She was a tremendous inspiration for female singers, not necessarily just in Tejano but also in Latin music," said John Lantern, Billboard Magazine's Latin American-Caribbean bureau chief. "She was out front and in control of her career. She called her own shots."

Selena flattered but kinda' scared at prospect of stardom

By Rick Mitchell

Corpus Christi - On March 7, a crowd of family and friends gathered in the Q Productions studio in hushed anticipation Selena Quintanilla, Tejano music's most popular singer, had been working all afternoon on a vocal track for what was to be her debut album in English.

Producer Guy Roche, who had flown in from Los Angeles, rolled the tape back. Mellow keyboards implied a romantic mood, and then Selena's sweet voice entered, sounding at once sultry and innocent. "Dreaming of you, I'm dreaming of you..."

The crowd listened intently.

ing baby in her arms. Surrounded by her family and friends, Selena looked serene.

Suddenly, everyone snapped to attention. Over her English background vocals, Selena was whispering in Spanish, "Mi corazon, my love..."

After the tape ended, Roche glanced anxiously at Nancy Brennan, the SBK Records vice president supervising Selena's English-language album.

"You like it?" Roche asked, referring to the whispered ending.

"Yeah, I like that," Brennan replied Selena and Roche slapped palms. "We were worried you wouldn't like it,"

Selena said.

"I wouldn't want it on every track," Brennan said, "But it's cool..."

Tragically -- unbelievably -- there won't be any more tracks, in English or Spanish. Selena is dead.

With her death, Tejano music lost its brightest hope for the future.

SBK had big plans for Selena, known professionally by her first name. SBK is a division of EMI, which released Selena's Spanish albums on its Latin division. EMI president Charles Koppelman has a signed photo of her hanging on his office wall.

"I think Selena can do anything she wants to do," Bren-

nan said in March.

"She can have a successful career in two languages. She's got the pipes. She's got the heart. She's got the look."

Brennan compared Selena's pop potential to Gloria Estefan, Janet Jackson and Madonna, all rolled into one.

"If I had to put my own money on the line, I would bet on this one," she said. "I would say that multi-platinum is to be expected, and the sky is the limit."

Now, it appears unlikely that a full album will come out on SBK. Selena had recorded only three vocals in English at the time of her death.

But while here crossover career was just getting started, Selena was already a super-

star in the Latin pop world.

And that world -- especially the regional Tejano audience that has followed her since she began performing and making hit records as a teenager -- mourns her loss as they would a member of the family.

"Selena was a superstar on the rise, but more importantly, she was a beautiful and wonderful human being," said EMI Latin president Jose Bahar. "This is a total tragedy for all of us."

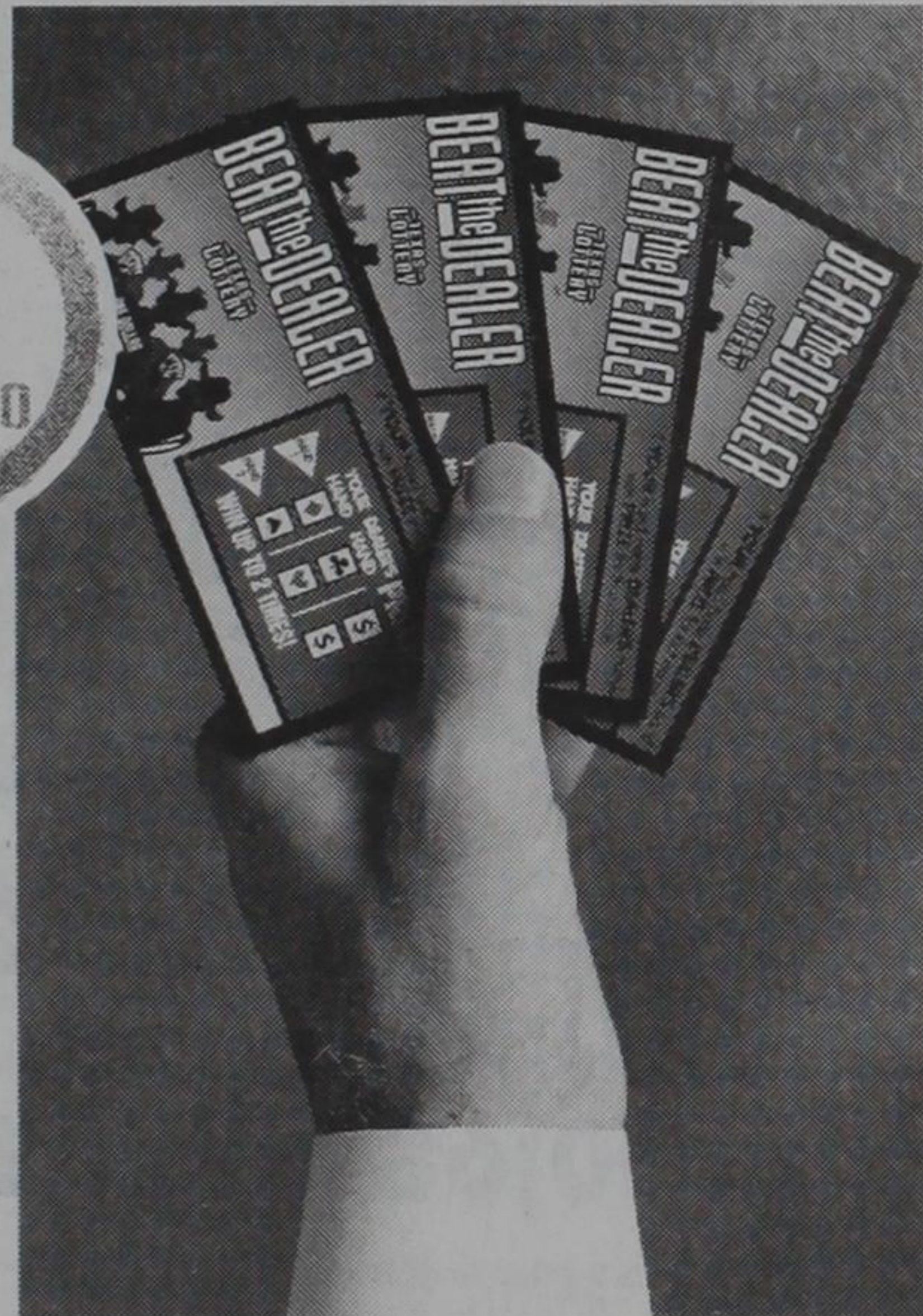
A week after a record-setting appearance in February at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Selena had spoken of her hopes and fears at the prospect of becoming the first Tejano artist to become a superstar in the mainstream pop world.

"It's very flattering. But it's kind of scary," she said. "All eyes are on you. If you fail, you're going to fall on your face. You don't want anything to go wrong."

At the same time, Selena was concerned that Tejano fans might think she was abandoning them. When her brother, bassist producer A.B. Quintanilla, she was planning a Spanish follow-up to the hugely successful "Amor Prohibido" for release later this year.

"We've always stated we will never abandon the audience that has been with us from the beginning," she said. The reason the English album was proceeding so slowly was that Selena was in constant demand in the Latin-pop world.

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Un Rayito De Luz

by Sofia Martinez

Puede ser que muchas veces hayamos quedado confundidos; al querer comprender con nuestro pobre entendimiento, el misterio de la Santísima Trinidad: Un solo Dios en tres personas distintas. Nuestra mente humana, por muy inteligente y sabia que sea, va a sufrir mucho cuando quiera entender muy bien este misterio, que solamente podemos creer por lo que creemos en un Dios que se nos ha mostrado como Padre, y como Hijo, y como Espíritu Santo. Tres personas que nos hablan de lo que realmente es Dios: Tres personas que tienen mucho que ver en nuestra vida.

San Pablo nos habla en la Segunda Carta a los Corintios, de "la gracia de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo, y del amor del Padre, y de la comunión del Espíritu Santo". En esa frase se ven, muy claras, las características mas importantes de las tres personas de la Santísima Trinidad. Hablamos del amor del Padre porque "Dios es amor"; un amor que se nos ha revelado de muchas maneras a lo largo de la historia; pero que se demuestra, mas perfectamente, en la persona de Su Hijo. Cristo le dijo a Nicodemo: "Tanto amo Dios al mundo, que le dio a Su Unico Hijo, para que todo el que crea en El no muera, sino que tenga vida eterna. Porque Dios es amor, no mando a Su Hijo al mundo para condenarnos, sino para salvarnos. Y por eso nos invita a seguir a Su Hijo: para que en El encontremos la salvación.

Dios no nos condena; somos nosotros mismos los que nos condenamos, cuando no queremos aceptar la salvación que Cristo nos ofrece. No podemos hacer a Dios responsable de nuestro propio destino. El nos ha dado el precioso tesoro de la libertad para aceptar o rechazar la salvación que ofrece generosamente a los que creemos en Jesucristo, Su Hijo. Jesús dijo que Dios es Padre, en quien podemos confiar, y en quien podemos encontrar siempre el per-

don porque nos ama. Su amor sin condición y sin reservas; no espera a que nosotros lo amemos primero. Es el Padre quien nos ama siempre y por encima de todo. (I Juan 3,1).

San Pablo nos habla de la gracia de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo. En la Segunda Persona de la Santísima Trinidad encontramos la gracia porque en El esta nuestra salvación. el Padre nos demuestra Su amor reglándonos a Su Hijo. El Padre no pudo darnos otra prueba mas grande de Su amor. Y Cristo nos invita a seguirle para que compartamos con los demas la salvación que de El hemos recibido. Por ser sus seguidores, tenemos que hacer presente a Cristo en el mundo como la persona que debemos imitar en nuestra vida. (2. Cor. 13, 11-14).

El Espíritu Santo es la tercera Persona de la Santísima Trinidad. En El vemos presonificada la comunión, o la union comun, que señala a los verdaderos cristianos. Esa es al mision que el Espíritu Santo tiene que cumplir en el mundo: Unirnos a todos, (si nos dejamos unir), para que sintamos la que significa: sentirnos hermanos". Y esa es la mision que sigue realizando en cada uno de nosotros. El Espíritu Santo es "el dulce huésped del alma" que nos ilumina y nos ayuda, constantemente, a centrar nuestra vida en el amor, que es lo unico que puede darle sentido y santo sabor. (Juan 3, 16-18).

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sus pies... Aquellos a quienes no quieren en las escuelas, que tienen contratos y riqueza suficiente para participar como iguales, son los hispanos y los negros".

El presidente de la EEOC, Gilbert Casellas, reconoció que: "No dudo de que haya personas que quieran debilitar a la agencia... Mucho de lo que ellos dicen se basa en información errónea, y la gente lo cree".

Tony Gallegos, ex-presidente interino de la EEOC y comisionado de la misma desde 1982 hasta 1993, agregó que el creciente número de casos que la EEOC tiene que tramitar cada año es prueba de su papel indispensable. Los ataques contra la acción afirmativa surtirán un efecto negativo sobre todas las agencias de derechos civiles, dijo él, "y eso sería desastroso para el país".

Easter 1987, Age 5

Easter 1988, Age 6

Easter 1989, Age 7



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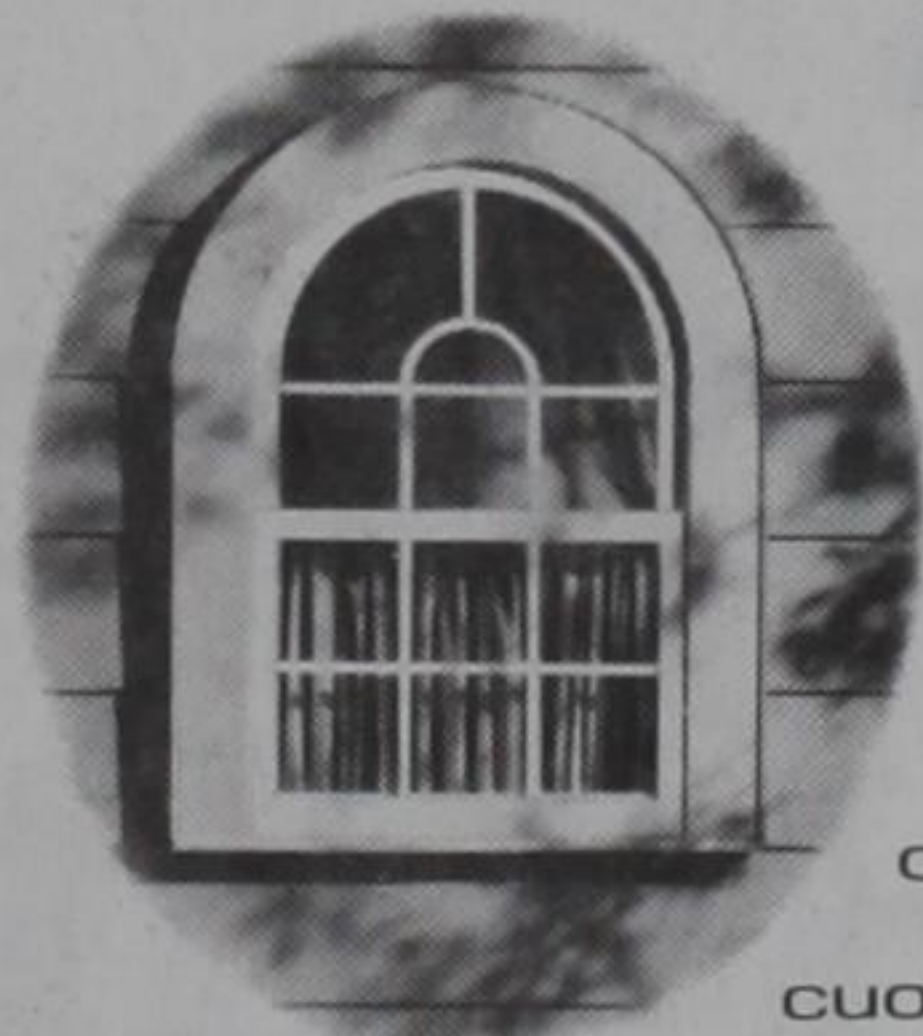
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Si está cansado de mirar por la pequeña ventana de su apartamento día tras día, es tiempo de pensar en comprar su propia casa con una cuota inicial muy pequeña. Una casa con toda clase de ventanas para que usted pueda empezar a ver la vida desde una nueva perspectiva.

VEA QUE TAN FÁCIL ES SER DUEÑO DE SU PROPIA CASA POR \$1,000 DE CUOTA INICIAL.

¿Cómo puede usted comprar la casa de sus sueños? Con la ayuda del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los Estados Unidos (HUD), personas trabajadoras como usted pueden comprar una



casa con solamente \$1,000 de cuota inicial, y sus pagos mensuales de hipoteca probablemente serán por casi lo mismo que paga de renta.

Si desea mayor información acerca de esta gran oportunidad, consulte con un agente local de bienes raíces o llame al 1-800-767-4HUD para solicitar un folleto gratis sobre como comprar una Casa HUD. Investigue como realizar el sueño de su vida.



NOSOTROS LE AYUDAREMOS A POSER UN PEDAZO DE ESTE PAÍS.



Para compradores que califiquen. Únicamente sobre casas con financiación asegurada por FHA. La cuota inicial y los pagos mensuales varían según el precio de la casa y los términos. Los costos de cierre y honorarios son adicionales.

Easter at the Lake.

**Chicano Music, Food
and Fun Festival**

April 15, 1 to 7 pm Featuring

Fantazia

**Second Generation
Cervantez & Co.**

Johnny G y El Momento

Easter Egg Hunt for Kids

Sack Races & More

2 Bicycles to be Given Away

Trompo Contest for Dads Cash Prizes

Buffalo Springs Lake

Easter Sunday 1 to 7 pm

¡No Falte!

\$3 Cover Charge, Kids Under 10 Free, No Coolers Allowed

