

Texas Latinos Break New Ground In Testing Voting Alternatives

By Robert Brischetto

On May 4, when voters in at least 41 cities and school districts in Texas go to the polls to elect candidates using a method called cumulative voting, the nation will be watching.

In the wake of two recent Supreme Court decisions attacking congressional districts drawn chiefly on the basis of race, political scientists and voting rights advocates want to know whether cumulative voting is a viable alternative to single-member districts in guaranteeing Latino and African-American voters -- or any other group, for that matter -- a fair chance of electing candidates of their choice.

The concept is a simple one which applies only in the context of elections for more than one member of a governing body. Voters are given as many votes as there are positions to fill, just as they do in the more traditional multi-member system of election where voting takes place at large.

Under cumulative voting, however, voters may distribute their votes in any manner among the candidates of their choice. If they wish, they may cumulate their votes and cast up to as many votes as they have for a single candidate.

This method does not violate the principle of one person, one vote, because each voter has an equal number of votes to cast. It does allow groups that do not comprise a majority of the voters to be effectively represented.

The Texas jurisdictions employing cumulative voting are doing so in response to settlements of voting rights law suits, all but two of them from suits filed on behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens by San Antonio Attorney Rolando Ríos.

The settlements represent an agreement by small cities and school districts to adopt a solution to Latino and black vote dilution that also maintains voting at-large through-out the jurisdiction.

This semi-proportional voting method is not new. It has



been utilized for decades by corporate America to elect members of their boards of directors and in the Illinois state house for a hundred years after the Civil War.

Recent research by this writer and the Hispanic Research Center at the University of Texas at San Antonio has shown cumulative voting works effectively to

provide Latinos a fair chance of electing candidates of their choice -- when it is applied correctly. The key for any group to win under cumulative voting is to obtain a critical mass of voters who vote together for the candidate(s) of their choice.

The critical mass needed to

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News Briefs

Texas College Affirmative Action OK, for Now

Top officials at public universities across Texas said Saturday that they would resume using race as a factor in their admissions and scholarship decisions, at least temporarily, after a federal appeals court granted them a stay of a major ruling that banned the practice one month ago.

The New York Times reports the stay arose from the court's widely shared presumption that the case is likely to wind up in the United States Supreme Court as an essential test case for whether, and how, race-based preferences may be used in admissions decisions.

Signed by Judge Jerry E. Smith, the stay makes it clear that the appeals court expects its earlier ruling to be upheld, an outcome that could force Texas and indeed states across the nation to stop using race in any way as a factor in such decisions. The ruling is one of the broadest rejections of race-based affirmative action by a federal court.

Immigration Increasing Raids

The Immigration and Naturalization Service is increasing workplace raids to deter employers from hiring undocumented immigrants, reports Associated Press.

Sweeps in 19 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands over a four-week period since late March resulted in the arrest of 1,176 undocumented workers, most of whom have been deported, Justice Department officials announced Wednesday.

INS Deputy Commissioner Chris Sale said industries known for using undocumented labor were targeted, including the New York garment industry, food processors in Maryland and the South and furniture makers in Georgia.

The latest sweeps were conducted in Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont and Virginia.

Immigrant-rights groups have denounced the sweeps, saying they discriminate against people of different ethnic origins.

Abused-Kids Bill Signed

A bill that would make it easier for authorities to remove children from parents who abuse and neglect them was signed into law Monday by Gov. Tommy Thompson, reports the Chicago Tribune.

The law makes several changes in the state's Children's Code to put greater emphasis on protecting the child, rather than keeping them in abusive situations to preserve family unity, supporters say.

The bill provides for court intervention when a child is abandoned, neglected or abused, or at substantial risk of being abandoned, neglected or abused. It also allows involuntary termination of a parent's rights if the parent fails to visit or communicate with the child for at least six months while the youngster is left with someone else.

Blacks: Keep Welfare Federal

Poll results released Wednesday show a majority of blacks oppose turning federal welfare and Medicaid programs over to states, reports Associated Press.

But although blacks and whites agreed that too little money was being spent on public education, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies found slightly more black support for school voucher programs.

Eddie Williams, president of the center, a black think tank, said the findings show "how divided this country is about issues of critical concern to voters during this presidential election year."

One of those issues is devolution, or the transfer of control of programs from federal to state and local governments. The survey found a majority of blacks say Washington should continue to set standards and guarantee eligibility for welfare (58 percent) and Medicaid (57 percent).

In contrast, most whites surveyed believe states should have unfettered power to run welfare (61 percent) and Medicaid (55 percent).

Nationwide, one-third of blacks are poor and likely to rely on welfare and Medicaid, which provides health care, according to the center. More than half of all black families earn \$25,000 or less annually.

Older blacks, who were most likely to have endured the civil rights struggles of the 1950s and 1960s, said they trust states the least, partly because of states' strong defense of segregation, Ms. McFate said.

On education, support for school vouchers was linked to individual satisfaction with public schools. More than half of blacks, 53.5 percent, said their schools were fair or poor, while 41 percent said they were excellent or good.

Meanwhile, 48 percent of blacks supported allowing public school pupils to pay for private educations with tax dollars; 44 percent were opposed. Among whites, 64 percent said their local schools were excellent or good. Half, or 50 percent, opposed vouchers for private schools, compared with 43 percent supporting them.

The survey was based on telephone interviews in January with 1,596 adults, half of them black.

Blacks Despair of Progress

A new poll says three out of five black Americans feel their conditions are worsening, and a similar number think the American dream has become impossible to achieve, reports Associated Press.

These pessimistic beliefs cut across social classes, according to the poll conducted by Yankelovich Partners Inc. for the April 29-May 6 issue of the New Yorker magazine.

Altogether, 58 percent say their conditions are getting worse, 59 percent agree that the American dream has become impossible for most to achieve and half believe that race relations will never be better than they are.

A large majority - 78 percent - believe that government programs do not go far enough to relieve the problems of blacks. However, 48 percent say blacks' failure to take advantage of opportunities available to them is a greater problem than white discrimination.

sigue en la pagina 6

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West Texas' Oldest Weekly Bilingual Newspaper

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Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Aguero

This past week I was a guest on the Dixon Platt Show on KKAM.

We were discussing various issues among them the issue of immigration and affirmative action.



As we talked listeners called in a commented on our topics. One that stands out was a caller that spoke about "Illegal Aliens". No I'm not talking about Superman but about undocumented workers that cross the border in order to look for work. The caller was insistent that all those "aliens" should be punished because they were breaking the law. He compared them to drug dealers and murderers.

My opinion and response to the caller was that undocumented workers are not breaking the law but rather exercising their right to make a living.

How can we compare selling drugs to people who come to the United States to people that just want to make a living and work hard? And how can we justify crossing the border for getting a beating at the hands of police officers?

Why are there borders between the U.S. and Mexico that are strictly enforced only to punish the workers and ignore the big corporations that exploit the workers by paying the below minimum wage?

The call accused me of being a foreign agent. I brought back memories of the 70's when gringo establishment types were calling me communist. This especially after I visited Beirut to educate myself as to the plight of the Palestinians.

We feature various articles this week on the beating of the undocumented workers but all we have to say is they were certainly unjustified.

Los Latinos De Texas Estan Abriendo Terreno Nuevo Al Poner A Prueba Alternativas De Derechos Electorales

Por Robert Brischetto

El 4 de mayo, cuando los electores de por lo menos 41 ciudades y distritos escolares de Texas vayan a las casillas electorales para elegir candidatos usando un método llamado votación acumulativa, la nación estará observando. En la estela de dos decisiones recientes del Tribunal Supremo que atacan a los distritos congresionales delineados primordialmente sobre la base de la raza, los científicos políticos y los defensores de los derechos electorales quieren saber si la votación acumulativa es una alternativa viable para los distritos de un solo miembro al garantizar a los electores latinos y afroamericanos -- o a cualquier otro grupo, en cuanto a eso -- una posibilidad equitativa de elegir a los candidatos de su selección.

El concepto es algo sencillo que se aplica sólo en el contexto de las elecciones para más de un miembro de un cuerpo gobernante. A los electores se les da tantos votos como plazas haya para cubrir, de igual modo que se hace en el sistema tradicional de miembros múltiples donde las elecciones son de representación general. Bajo la votación acumulativa, sin embargo, los electores pueden distribuir sus votos de cualquier modo entre los candidatos de su elección. Si lo desean, pueden "acumular" sus votos y depositar tantos votos como tengan por un sólo candidato. Este método no infringe el principio de una persona, un voto, porque cada elector tiene una cantidad igual de votos que depositar. Si permite que los grupos que no forman una mayoría de los electores puedan estar representados eficazmente.

Las jurisdicciones de Texas que emplean la votación acumulativa están haciéndolo en respuesta a los arreglos de las demandas judiciales referentes a los derechos electorales, todos menos dos presentados a nombre de la Liga de Ciudadanos Latino-Americanos Unidos (LULAC en inglés) por el Abogado Rolando Ríos. Los arreglos

representan un acuerdo por parte de las ciudades y los distritos escolares pequeños para adoptar una solución para la dilución de los votos latinos y negros, que también mantiene el sistema de votación para representación general en toda la jurisdicción. Este método semi-proportional de votar no es nuevo, habiendo sido empleado durante decenios por las empresas de los Estados Unidos para elegir a los miembros de sus juntas de directores, y en la legislatura estatal de Illinois durante cien años después de la Guerra Civil.

La investigación reciente efectuada por este redactor y el centro hispano de investigación en la universidad de Texas, recinto de san antonio, ha indicado que la votación acumulativa funciona eficazmente para proporcionar a los latinos una posibilidad justa de elegir a candidatos de su elección -- cuando se le aplica correctamente. La clave para que cualquier grupo gane bajo la votación acumulativa es obtener una masa crítica de electores que voten juntos por el (los) candidato(s) de su elección.

La masa crítica necesaria para asegurar la elección de un candidato en particular -- lo que los científicos políticos llaman el umbral de la exclusión -- se calcula fácilmente como un dividido por uno más que la cantidad de plazas a cubrir. De aquí que, mientras más plazas haya en juego en unas elecciones, será más bajo el umbral que deba ser cumplido. Por ejemplo, si hay siete plazas en una junta escolar para elección de una vez, el porcentaje hispano de electores necesario para ganar una plaza es de 1/8, o sea el 12.5%. Si hay sólo dos plazas en contienda, el porcentaje hispano debe ser 1/3 o sea el 33-1/3%, para asegurar que puedan elegir a un representante.

Durante las elecciones locales de 1995 en Texas, cuando la mayoría de estos sistemas de votación acumulativa estaban siendo sometidos a prueba por primera vez, ocho de las 15 contiendas que

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Can Rangers Win At Home?

NEW YORK - The New York Rangers regained the home-ice advantage in their playoff series with the Montreal Canadiens. Now all they have to do is figure out how to win at home.

The Rangers have lost four straight playoff games at Madison Square Garden, including the first two of this Eastern Conference series, to tie a club record set in 1956-57.

Ironically, the Rangers were knocked out in the first round that season by the Canadiens - longtime rivals and members with New York in the NHL's "Original Six." The Canadiens and Rangers have met in 13 previous playoff series, with Montreal winning seven and holding a 33-24-2 edge in games.

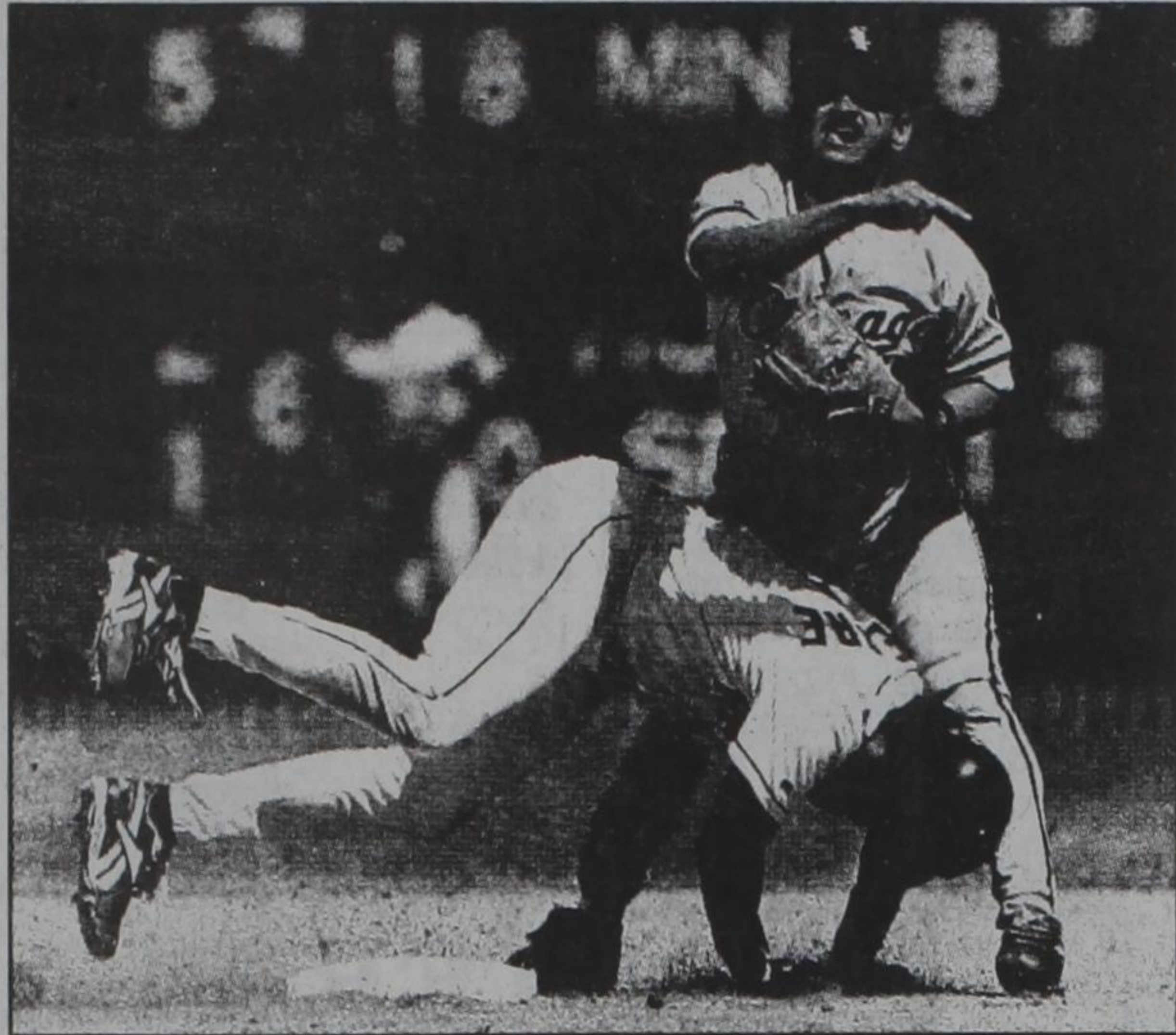
The hallmark of their current series has been the competitiveness of the first four games, including Tuesday night's 4-3 victory by the Rangers in Montreal to tie the best-of-7 series at 2-2.

That completed a two-game sweep in Montreal for the Rangers, who have two of the next three games scheduled for the Garden beginning with Game 5 on Friday night.

The Canadiens hope to return to the fast-skating type of game in their first two appearances in the Garden that got them off to a quick 2-0 lead in the series.

"We weren't as opportunistic as we've been," said Montreal center Vincent Damphousse of the Canadiens' two losses at home. "There's not much to change. We outplayed them, but that second period killed us. But whether we play better or not, we still have to bother Richter more."

Goalie Mike Richter, who gave up four goals to Damphousse in the first two games, had his best outing of the series so far as the Cana-



Texas second baseman Mark McLemore bowls into Chicago's Jose Munoz on Tuesday while trying to break up a double play. McLemore did his job on the play, but the Rangers still lost 6-5.

diens outshot New York 35-19 in Game 4.

"Sometimes, they had pressure in our end, but we have a pretty good defense," Richter said. "They didn't give up a lot of rebound shots. You need to make the save every now and then and I'm glad I was able to help out tonight."

Richter seems to be rounding into playoff form after coming back from a groin injury that kept him out of action for more than two months.

"I'm close (to 100 per cent healthy)," he said. "I feel stronger every time I'm out there. It helps to go into playoff

time when the intensity level is high."

One of the most relieved players in this series has to be Montreal captain Pierre Turgeon, who scored his first goal of this post-season in Game 4. Turgeon had been the object of scorn in Montreal for shooting blanks in the first three games.

"Even if he hadn't scored, I would have said he played a good game," said Montreal coach Mario Tremblay.

Added Turgeon: "It certainly was a confidence builder. It's only one goal. If I could trade it for a win, I would."

Extreme Fight Gets OK

NEW YORK--Pay-per-view broadcast of Battlecade Extreme Fighting 2(TM), the controversial championship matches of a rugged combination of martial arts and freestyle fighting, will take place at the Kahnawake Sports Complex in Kahnawake near Montreal, Quebec on Friday,

April 26th despite opposition from the Quebec government.

Donald Zuckerman, Executive Producer of the controversial fighting program, said he had received written assurance from the grand chief of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake that the Quebec

Baseball Owners Lost

Big Time

NEW YORK - Baseball owners lost more than \$700 million during the 1994 and 1995 seasons, according to financial data obtained by The Associated Press.

The 28 teams had an operating loss of \$376 million in 1994, when the players' strike wiped out the final 52 days of the regular season, the playoffs and the World Series. The teams lost \$326 million last year according to preliminary estimates compiled by the commissioner's office.

Baseball's 232-day strike, the longest ever in U.S. pro sports, appears to have cost owners more than \$900 million in revenue and cost players about \$350 million in pay.

Teams combined for an operating profit of \$36 million in 1993, the last year before the strike, the industry's eighth consecutive profitable year.

Losses the last two years dwarfed those in 1981, when a 50-day strike canceled a large part of the season. Owners sustained a \$105 million loss that year, not including \$47 million in strike insurance payments. Owners did not have insurance during the latest strike.

As a result of the strike and a decrease in national TV money, operating revenue dropped 35 percent in 1994 from a record \$1.87 billion to \$1.21 billion.

government will not try to halt the matches even though they are not sanctioned by its boxing authority. The matches had generated biting opposition among some Canadian newspapers and politicians because of their alleged violence.

Battlecade was invited by a Mohawk sports promotion firm to stage the championships at Kahnawake and the Quebec government maintained the fights would be illegal anywhere in Canada.

"The Mohawk Council of Kahnawake has received assurances that there will be no intervention by the Government of Quebec or its agencies in the staging of the 'Extreme Fighting' event," chief Joseph Tokwirot Norton said in a letter to Zuckerman. "The Mohawk government of Kahnawake has the jurisdiction to recognize this event and the Kahnawake Peacekeepers, as the primary police force in the Kahnawake Territory, will be responsible for peace and security," he said.

Press opinion generally has been opposed to the matches at Kahnawake but on Saturday Montreal Gazette writer Doug Camilli said of attempts to bar Extreme Fighting: "No doubt the government will show equal courage in banning, at once and totally, the almost equally primitive blood sport known as hockey, in which large muscular men with clubs ('sticks') frequently try to injure each other while an arena full of barbarians roars approval."

Meanwhile, as the Quebec controversy raged, New York State Senator Roy Goodman began hearings on one of several bills that would ban the sport altogether in New York.

Zuckerman and Battlecade chairman Anthony Guccione testified before Goodman's committee last week, and requested that Extreme Fighting be regulated but not banned. An Extreme Fighting match was withdrawn from New York State last November after a legal battle. Zuckerman and Guccione claim that new "grappling gloves" to be worn by all fighters along with other safety and health precautions make the sport as safe as professional football or boxing.

Recorta Distancias, Pero Chavez Sigue Abajo En Apuestas de Ganar



Cuidad de Mexico - Luego de estar abajo por 3-1 en las apuestas en Las Vegas, Julio César Chávez recortó terreno en una proporción de 1.5 por 1 para la pelea que sostendrá el 7 de junio ante el estadounidense Oscar de la Hoya.

Los principales hoteles de la capital del juego, según los últimos reportes, tienen a De la Hoya 8-5 sobre el campeón superligero del Consejo Mundial de Boxeo, lo que significa aproximadamente un 1.5-1.

Se estima que conforme vaya acercándose el día de la pelea, Chávez va a emparejar los momentos una vez que los especialistas estén convencidos de que entrena en serio. Incluso se dice que no sería extraño que Julio César llegara a incrementar las apuestas a su favor una vez que demuestre que su estado físico es óptimo.

Para un buen número de aficionados era exagerado que el Golden Boy haya sido puesto 3-1 sobre Chávez, quien a pesar de otodo tiene muchas posibilidades de salir adelante.

A pesar de su juventud, de marchar invicto en su carrera y de haber logrado sonados triunfos sobre Jorge Maromero Paez, Genaro Chicanito Hernandez, John John Molina y Rafael Ruelas, Oscar es un peleador que tiene una quijada frágil.

Pueba de ello es que ha estado en la lona en varias ocasiones. Si eso lo aprovecha JC, no sería extraño que se alzara con una victoria por nocaut.

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La Patrulla Fronteriza Debe Obedecer Sus Propios Reglamentos Para La Persecucion



Por Claudia E. Smith

Cuando la patrulla fronteriza sigue de cerca a una camioneta "pickup" excesivamente cargada por espacio de varias millas en alta velocidad por un camino secundario tortuoso, el decir que los agentes "seguían" antes que "perseguían", porque no llevaban encendidas las luces de seguimiento ni las sirenas, es una distinción sin una diferencia.

Pregúntese a los sobrevivientes del choque del 6 de abril cerca de Temécula, California, que dejó a ocho pasajeros de una "pickup" muertos y a otros 12 lesionados gravemente, hasta paralizados. Los sobrevivientes dijeron que le suplicaron al conductor que se detuviera y después hicieron señales de mano frenéticamente a los agentes que iban en dos vehículos, siguiéndoles a 30 pies de distancia en algunos lugares, para que se retiraran porque la camioneta iba dando bandazos al dar vuelta a curvas cerradas a más de 60 millas por hora.

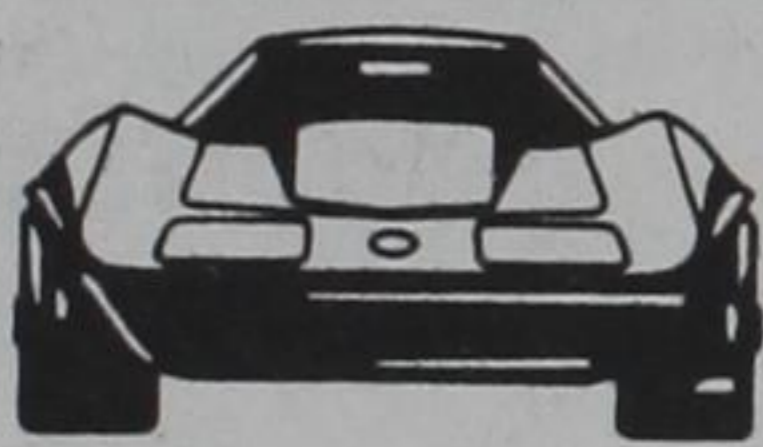
Sí, los contrabandistas toman riesgos asombrosos con su carga humana y deberían ser enjuiciados hasta el límite. Pero el choque mortífero más reciente pide algo más que las quejas acostumbradas sobre los mercaderes de la muerte. En verdad es aparente alguna reflexión sobre si la patrulla fronteriza se atuvo temerariamente a la persecución.

Con cada nueva tentativa de llegar a Los Angeles sin ser descubiertos, cada vez más desesperada que la anterior, a fin de disminuir al mínimo las tragedias debemos responsabilizar a los agentes con lo que dice su propio manual acerca de las persecuciones. Al menos por escrito, el Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización hace que la seguridad

de los presuntos inmigrantes sea una consideración abrumadora. Se dice a los agentes que descontinúen las persecuciones antes que arriesgar sus propias vidas o las de aquéllos de quienes se sospecha que hayan atravesado la frontera ilegalmente. Es asunto de proporción. No estamos hablando de delinquentes peligrosos aquí. Probablemente lo único en que podamos concordar sea en que las personas a quienes la patrulla fronteriza trata de atrapar un día y otro, son típicamente hombres que sólo quieren ganar un jornal de supervivencia y mujeres y niños que sólo quieren reunirse con sus esposos y padres.

La misma lógica se aplica a las persecuciones a pie, donde se le ha pasado por alto también con las consecuencias mortales. El caso más reciente fué en enero último. Seis hombres indocumentados se despeñaron por un risco escarpado de 120 pies de alto cerca de la Represa de Otay Lake, después de haber sido seguidos de noche hasta una distancia de entre 8 y 10 pies del borde. Según todos los relatos, los agentes que los descubrieron se escondieron en los arbustos, los dejaron pasar y los siguieron durante una buena distancia antes de ordenarles que se detuvieran. Un portavoz de la patrulla fronteriza dijo sencillamente que los hombres corrieron en dirección equivocada. Uno de los seis murió; otro terminó en estado de coma. ¿Por qué razón se les dió caza en el mismo lugar donde un agente murió al caer hace un año?

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persecuciones no es tanto con el curso de acción, aunque el manual de la patrulla fronteriza pide ampliación sobre las persecuciones. El mayor problema es la tolerancia muy extendida en las filas de la patrulla fronteriza para las tácticas que infringen los reglamentos del Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización. Dadas las épocas poco hospitalarias, esta situación de libertinaje no debería ser difícil de ver.

En cualquier caso, la interdicción acelerada de la frontera distrae la atención del disuasivo verdadero: el ponerse duros con las industrias que recogen grandes beneficios de la mano de obra

indocumentada, como el turismo y los negocios agrícolas. Desde luego, esos tienen bastante influencia política.

Hasta que estemos dispuestos a reconocer al imán que atrae a la gente a cruzar la frontera, la promesa de empleo, la inmigración ilegal continuará siendo un accidente a punto de ocurrir.

Claudia E. Smith es abogada del Proyecto de los Trabajadores Agrícolas Migrantes de la Ayuda Legal Rural de California, en Oceanside, California. Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 1996.

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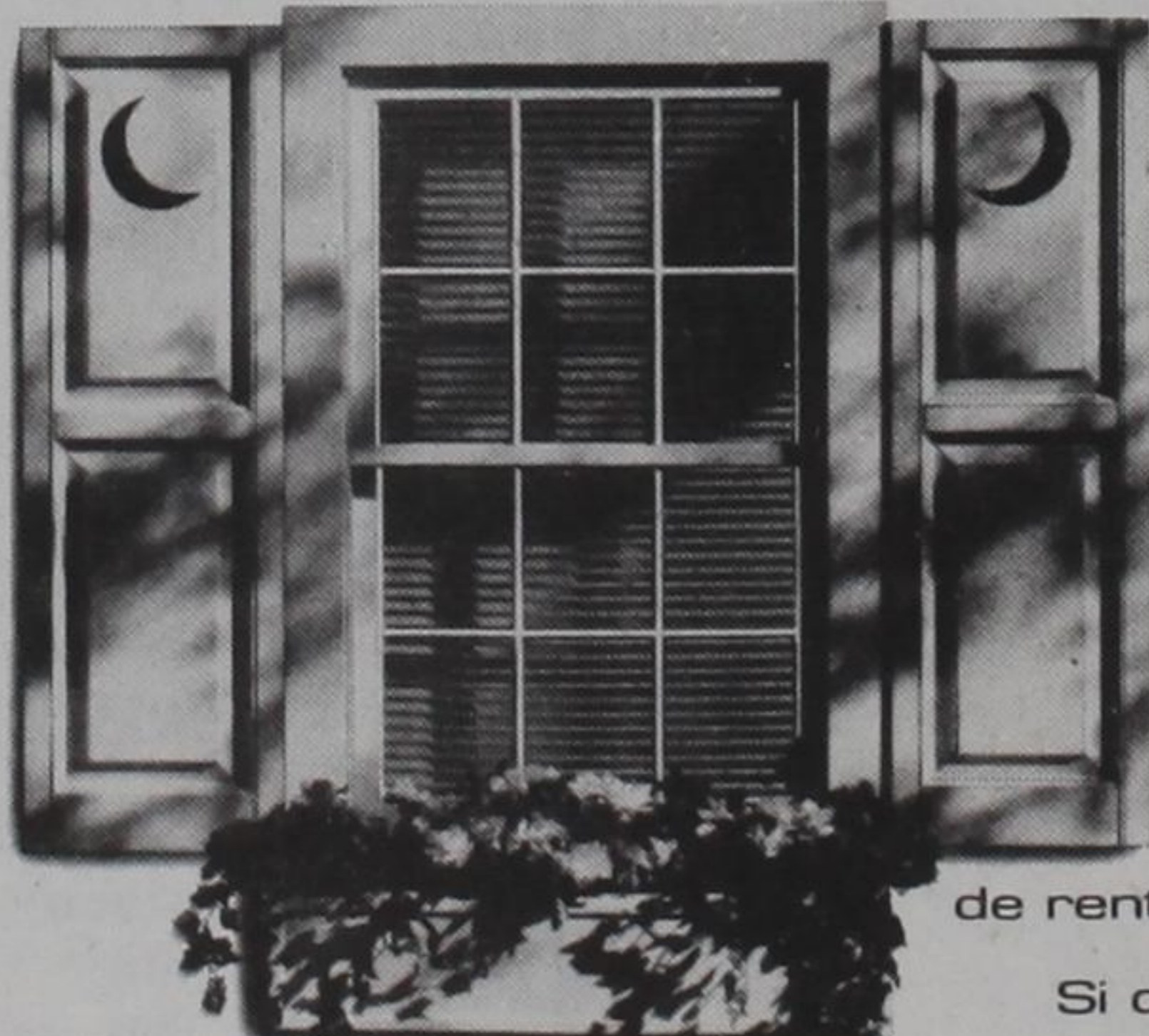
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News Brief

Clinton: I Goofed on Health Care

According to a new book, President Clinton admits that major mistakes in the scope and timing of his health-care reform plan doomed the program and led to the rout of the Democratic Party in the 1994 election, reports The Washington Post.

The confession is contained in "The System: The American Way of Politics at the Breaking Point," by Haynes Johnson and David Broder. Clinton said that when Democratic Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia blocked on procedural grounds the administration's plan to insert a national health care program into the broad budget package enacted by Congress in the summer of 1993, he should have changed his strategy and not tried to pass such a major overhaul of health care all at once.

"This is entirely my mistake," Clinton said. "No one else's. I probably made a mistake in not then going for a multiyear strategy."

That critical error led to a series of misjudgments that ended up isolating the White House, eroding public support, fueling the opposition, dividing the Democratic Party and leading directly to the Republican takeover of Congress in the midterm elections, according to the book.

"I set the Congress up for failure," Clinton told the authors. He had set himself up for failure, too, he said, but Congress "had to stand with it" sooner in the 1994 elections, "and I didn't, and I feel badly about that."

"In retrospect I think it would have been better to go before the American people (in late spring 1994) and just say: 'Listen. I know you're frustrated about this and we need to do it, but better to take another year and do it right.' I might have been able to say that to the American people, and it might have made a difference in the way the American people viewed the Democrats in the '94 election," he said.

Public Housing Ordered in Dallas

In the latest twist in an 11-year-old public housing desegregation suit, a federal judge has issued an order intended to force the mostly white suburbs of Dallas to accept public housing, reports The New York Times.

Should the suburbs resist, the ruling would require the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development to investigate whether the refusals violated civil rights laws.

The order, issued last Tuesday, is the latest attempt to remove inequities in public housing in response to a federal lawsuit filed in 1985 by poor black residents of such housing in Dallas. The order, by Judge Jerry Buchmeyer of Federal District Court, calls for the federal housing department to make it possible to place 3,200 public housing units in "predominantly white areas" of Dallas and its suburbs.

The Dallas lawsuit is one of a number around the nation filed against the federal housing department, local housing authorities and cities in an effort to reverse the decades-old practice of putting poor people and members of minorities in public housing in urban ghettos.

Buchmeyer noted that 92 percent of the black families in public housing lived in "predominantly black or minority" housing projects in "predominantly black or minority-concentrated areas where the poverty rate exceeds 40 percent."

In the 11 years since the Dallas suit was filed, elected officials and others in the Dallas area have opposed Judge Buchmeyer's rulings. Just last year, a major battle erupted after the Dallas Housing Authority bought a tract of land in the predominantly white suburb of North Dallas to build 75 of 474 new housing units ordered as a result of the lawsuit by poor black residents of public housing. Neighboring homeowners in North Dallas sued, and while they ultimately lost their effort to keep out the new site, local housing officials have yet to purchase the land for the additional 399 units.

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Border Patrol Must Heed Its Own Chase Regulations



By Claudia E. Smith

When the United States Border Patrol closely follows a heavily overloaded pickup truck for several miles at high speed on a winding back road, to say that the agents "tailed" rather than "chased" the vehicle because no pursuit lights or sirens were turned on is a distinction without a difference.

Just ask the survivors of the April 6 crash near Temecula, Calif., which left eight of the pickup truck passengers dead and 12 others badly hurt, even paralyzed. The survivors say they were pleading with the driver to stop and then frantically hand-signal agents in two vehicles to back off because the pickup was careening around sharp turns at 60-plus miles an hour. According to the passengers, the officers were only 30 feet away at various points during the chase.

Yes, smugglers take god-awful chances with their human cargo and should be prosecuted to the hilt. But the latest deadly crash calls for more than the stock railing about merchants of death. Some reflection on whether the Border Patrol stuck needlessly to the chase is certainly seemly.

Each new attempt by undocumented immigrants to reach Los Angeles undetected is more desperate than the preceding one. In order to minimize tragedies like the Temecula crash, we must hold agents to what their own handbook says about the conduct of high-speed pursuits.

At least in writing, the Immigration and Naturalization Service makes the safety of would-be immigrants an overriding consid-

eration. Agents are told to drop pursuits rather than risk either their own lives or those of suspected illegal border crossers.

This policy shows a sense of proportion. After all, we are not talking about aggravated felons here. Probably the only thing on which we can all agree is that the people the Border Patrol tries to catch day in and day out are typically men who just want to earn a living wage, and women and children who just want to reunite with husbands and fathers.

The logic of the INS policy applies equally well to foot chases. Unfortunately, it has been disregarded there as well -- with equally fatal consequences. One night in January, six undocumented men ran off a sheer 120-foot cliff near Chula Vista's Otay Lake Dam after being tailed to within 8 to 10 feet of the edge.

From all accounts, the agents who spotted the men hid in the brush, let them pass and tailed them for a good distance before ordering them to stop. A Border Patrol spokesman said it was "unfortunate" that the men ran in the wrong direction. One of the six died; another is comatose. Why on earth did they chase anyone in the very

place where an agent fell to his death a year ago while pursuing other suspected undocumented border-crossers?

In that case, as in the Temecula crash, the Border Patrol was quick to put the entire blame on smugglers. The question of whether a desire for tactical advantage might have won out over good sense went unanswered.

Ten years ago, California Rural Legal Assistance joined forces with then-Stockton Bishop Roger Mahony in denouncing a patrol practice of rounding up undocumented farm workers in the fields by herding them toward rivers and irrigation ditches.

Before our appeals for restraint changed the way such sweeps were conducted in California's Central Valley, more than a dozen farm workers plunged into the deep, fast-running waters and drowned.

Should the Border Patrol ignore current appeals to weigh with more care the human costs of these perilous chases, the consequences will be appalling. But the immigration debate has become so poisonous that to propose a more measured approach is to be branded an advocate of

open borders.

Like so many aspects of Border Patrol wrongdoing, the problem with chases is not so much with policy, although the Border Patrol handbook's vague phrasing cries for amplification of what conditions justify chases. The larger problem is widespread tolerance for practices which violate INS regulations. Given the very inhospitable times for immigrants, this state of license within the Border Patrol should not be hard to imagine.

In any event, stepped-up border interdiction diverts attention from what would be a real deterrent to illegal immigration: getting tough with some of our key industries -- like tourism and agribusiness -- which reap such big benefits from undocumented labor. But these industries have plenty of political clout.

Until we are willing to deal head-on with the magnet, the promise of employment that draws people to cross the border, illegal immigration will continue to be another accident waiting to happen.

Claudia E. Smith is an attorney with the Migrant Farmworker Project of California Rural Legal Assistance in Oceanside, Calif.

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**The Community Development and Neighborhood
Initiatives Department
of the
City of Lubbock
is accepting**

Request for Proposals (RFP)

from all non-profit agencies, for-profit agencies, and City departments (within the city limit of the City of Lubbock) which are interested in applying for

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

HOME Investment Partnership Program, and

Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Funds

Technical Assistance Workshop will be held and Applications distributed on:

Date: May 1, 1996 (Wednesday)

Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location: Rodgers Community Center
3200 Amherst

Technical Assistance will also be provided on the following dates:

May 8 at 6:00 pm in City Hall, Training Room 1;

May 15 at 6:00 pm in City Hall, Room 103

May 22 at 6:00 pm in City Hall, Training Room 1.

If these dates are not convenient, appointments can be arranged by calling 767-2301



Un Rayito De Luz

por Sofia Martinez

Dios es el creador del cielo y de la tierra, esto quiere decir que Dios hizo de la nada el cielo y la tierra con todo lo que contienen. Nosotros no podemos crear, porque, parahacer alguna cosa de la nada, tendríamos que ser omnipotentes: Solamente Dios es todo poderoso y por eso nada mas El puede crear.

Dios no estaba obligado a crear el mundo, lo hizo porque quiso: Tan solo con Su Palabra, con un solo acto de su voluntad. Las creaturas mas perfectas de

Dios son los ángeles y nosotros los humanos.

Los ángeles son espíritus puros creados por Dios para adorarlo y cumplir las órdenes. Dios los creó en estado de gracia y de santidad, pero no todos perseveraron en dicho estado, algunos de ellos se rebelaron contra Dios y se vieron perdidos por su orgullo.

Dios recompensó la fidelidad de los Angeles buenos confirmandolos en la gracia. Ellos, tienen la misión de alabar a Dios y cumplir órdenes. Los ángeles de la guarda velan por nosotros y nos protegen. Debemos de Pedirles ayuda en nuestras tentaciones y peligros. Dios castigó a los ángeles malos arrojándolos del cielo y condenándolos al infierno. Ahora, ellos procuran tentarnos para que cometamos pecados, porque son enemigos de Dios y están envidiosos de la felicidad eterna que Dios nos ha prometido. (Gen. 3, 1-6).



PENSAMIENTOS DEL PREDICADOR

POR PASTOR FRANK GARCÍA
Lubbock, Texas

JUAN EL BAUTISTA Y SU MENSAJE

Y en aquellos días vino Juan el Bautista predicando en el desierto de Judea. Y diciendo arrepentidos; que el reino de los cielos se ha acercado Mateo 3:1,2.

Estos versículos describen el ministerio de Juan Bautista, el precursor de nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Y es un ministerio que merece atención detenida. Porque pocos predicadores han producido iguales resultados. "Salían hacia él" jerusalén y toda la Judea, y todo el país al rededor del Jordan." Y ninguno ha recibido igual alabanza de la Cabeza de la iglesia. Jesús le llamó "lámpara que arde y resplandece". Y el mismo Gran Obispo de las almas declara, "que no se ha levantado uno nacido de mujer mayor que Juan el Bautista.

JUAN BAUTISTA HABLÓ CLARAMENTE SOBRE EL PECADO. Y enseñó la absoluta necesidad del arrepentimiento; y predicó que el arrepentimiento se debía probar por los frutos. Y aconsejó a los hombres que no se apoyaran en privilegios externos, ni la unión visible con la iglesia.

ENSEÑANZA PRECISA: Esta es precisamente la enseñanza que todos necesitamos. Porque estamos muertos en pecado, y ciegos e indiferentes acerca de las cosas espirituales. Y parece que estamos propensos a contentarnos con una mera religión de formas, y alagarnos con la idea de que si vamos a la iglesia nos salvaremos. pero necesitamos que se nos doge que si no nos convertimos y nos arrepentimos, pereceremos.

LA OTRA COSA QUE JUAN HABLÓ

Juan el Bautista habló claramente sobre nuestro Señor Jesucristo, y enseñó al pueblo que uno muy mucho más poderoso que él estaba para venir. Que él no era más que un siervo; y que el que estaba para venir era Rey. Y dijo que él (Juan) solo podía bautizar con agua; el que estaba para venir bautizaría con el Espíritu Santo, salvaría a su pueblo del pecado, y que un día juzgaría al mundo.

Esta es la verdadera enseñanza que requiere la naturaleza humana. Y necesitamos ser encaminados directamente hacia Cristo. Porque parece ser que todos estamos inclinados a detenernos ántes de llegar a ese punto. Porque todo necesitamos comunicarnos con El acerca de nuestras almas. ¿Qué sabemos acerca de Jesús? ¿Que hemos recibido de El?

OTRA COSA QUE JUAN HABLÓ

Juan el Bautista habló claramente tocante al Espíritu Santo, y predicaba que había bautismo del Espíritu Santo, y enseñaba que el administrarlo era función especial de nuestro Salvador. Así que preciso es que se nos inculque que el perdón de los pecados no es la única cosa necesaria; que también se necesita el bautismo del Espíritu Santo.

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queda con una sensación vacía de no estar representado del todo.

Texas ha llegado a ser el terreno de prueba para esta alternativa de la votación acumulativa, en gran medida debido a los litigios presentados a nombre de los latinos. Para evitar los costos de litigar estas demandas judiciales en materia de derechos electorales, la Legislatura de Texas -- con el respaldo de la Asociación de Miembros de las Juntas Escolares de Texas -- modificó el año pasado el código de enseñanza del estado para permitir que los distritos escolares adopten voluntariamente la votación acumulativa u otra alternativa, la votación limitada. Esta última, empleada sólo en un lugar de Texas (Grapeland),

es un sistema de votación semi-proporcional, en el cual la cantidad de votos a depositar es menor que la cantidad de plazas disponibles.

Ahora toca a la comunidad latina el tomar la iniciativa para hacer que estas alternativas funcionen eficazmente para los latinos, como nos dice la investigación que pueden hacerlo cuando se aplican correctamente. La victoria la ganan sólo aquellos que votan inteligentemente y movilizan a otros para que hagan lo mismo.

El Dr. Robert Brischetto es sociólogo de la Universidad de Texas en San Antonio. Su investigación sobre los sistemas de votación acumulativa puede obtenerse al escribirle a: HC4 Box 2108, Lakehills, TX 78063, o mediante el centro hispano de la universidad.

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ensure the election of a particular candidate -- which political scientists call the threshold of exclusion -- is easily calculated as one divided by one more than the number of positions to be filled. Hence, the more posts up in an election, the lower the threshold that has to be met.

For example, if seven school board positions are up at once, the percentage of Hispanic voters needed to win a position is one-eighth, or 12.5 percent. If only two positions are up, the percent of Hispanic must be one-third, or 33.3 percent to ensure they can elect one representative.

During the 1995 local elections in Texas, when most of these cumulative voting systems were being tried for the first time, eight of the 15 races involving Latino candidates resulted in victories for those Latinos. Latinos ranged from 2 percent to 43 percent of all voters in the 15 jurisdictions.

Exit polls in these jurisdictions reveal that the reason for these seven losses was either that Latinos did not constitute the critical mass needed to win, given the number of seats up in the election, or they did not come out to vote in large enough numbers. In each case where the threshold of exclusion was exceeded, Latinos won.

Clearly, cumulative voting cannot be labeled a "minority set-aside" program; for Latinos to get elected under cumulative voting, they had to work to get out the vote. In Rotan, Texas, where all five positions on the City Council were up in 1995, there were eight candidates, two of them Latinos. While Latinos were 24 percent of those registered, they were 32 percent of those coming out to vote. Both Latino candidates were elected.

Perhaps most significant, however, is the fact that these small Texas communities -- ranging in size from 200 to 1,800 total voters -- are breaking new legal ground in working out one alternative to the winner-take-all system that has prevailed and may be responsible for much voter alienation in this country.

The feeling -- expressed often in focus groups of voters -- is that elections don't provide much of a choice. In the traditional at-large system, 100 percent of the people are represented by a candidate who received a bare majority or even a plurality of the vote. The other 49.9 percent (or more) who voted for someone else are left with an empty feeling of not being represented at all.

To avoid the costs of fighting these voting rights lawsuits, the Texas Legislature -- with the backing of the Texas Association of School Board Members -- last year amended the state's education code to allow school districts to voluntarily adopt cumulative voting or another alternative, limited voting. Limited voting, employed in only one place in Texas (Grapeland), is a semi-proportional voting system in which the number of votes to be cast is fewer than the number of open seats.

It is now up to the Latino community to take the initiative to make these alternatives work effectively for Latinos as research tells us they can when applied correctly. Victory goes only to those who vote smart and mobilize others to do the same.

Robert Brischetto, Ph.D., is a sociologist at the University of Texas at San Antonio. His research on cumulative voting systems can be obtained by writing to him at HC4 Box 2108, Lakehills, TX 78063 or through the Hispanic Research Center at the University. Copyright 1996. Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate

De La Garza Named Secretary of the Year

Mrs. Gloria De La Garza, secretary at Bean Elementary, was honored as the 1996 Secretary of the Year at the second annual Secretary's Day dinner and style show sponsored by the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on April 23rd at McInturf Center.

Mrs. De La Garza has been the secretary for Bean Elementary for 12 years. She and her husband, Lauro, have two children - Stefanie and Justin.

Mrs. De La Garza started out as a parent volunteer, serving two terms as PTA president. In addition to her usual secretary duties, she handles minor discipline problems and sits with students who are waiting to

talk to the principal. She notifies LISD police of problems, sending officers to talk to missing or truant children. She serves as a mentor for under privileged students, advising them and taking them to recreational retreats and events. She is a true advocate for children, assisting them and administering to them when they are hurt.

Mrs. De La Garza received twenty nominations for this award. Her services have never before been recognized, but have always been valued and appreciated. Gloria De La Garza is very deserving of this award and the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is privileged to make this presentation.

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