

THE TORTILLA CURTAIN

by Alberto Avendaño

Everyday at 5 p.m. a bus leaves downtown Lubbock, beginning a slow journey through the West Texas Plains. The passengers on the bus have no choice in their destination. They are Mexican illegal immigrants, en route to their homeland to be deported. The bus comes from Amarillo, it stops in Lubbock, it goes down to Midland, then to Pecos and finally to El Paso where the passengers are laid off at the border.

The United States now admits over 800 thousand legal immigrants a year, and at least 200 thousand illegal aliens manage to evade the Border Patrol and settle in the U.S. permanently. Arrests of illegal immigrants at Texas border crossings increased almost 20 percent in January 1995 as opposed to 1994. The recent devaluation of the peso and current economic woes in Mexico may contribute to the most recent influx of immigrants.

Experts such as Texas Tech Law professor Bill Piatt cite the declining peso as the catalyst for the increase.

"Any time that there is economic pressure in Mexico, people will do what people around the world have done and what our ancestors have done and that is they would move to an area where they think there is

more economic opportunity for them," Piatt says. "Clearly, continuous economic strife puts more pressure on the borders."

Piatt, who is the author of the textbook Immigration Law - Cases and Materials, discusses some of the myths of illegal immigration in the United States.

"One of the myths we have right now is that the country is being overwhelmed by immigrants," Piatt says.

"Actually, in just pure number terms around the end of the 19 century and the beginning of this century there were more immigrants in absolute numbers than there are now in the United States. There was a much higher percentage of immigrants in the United States at that point in time. Another myth is that immigrants that came to this country in the 1800s and 1900s came here to work and they didn't

fill on welfare whereas now people are coming across just to get on welfare.

That's simply not true, historical studies indicate that perhaps as many as

two-thirds of the immigrants that came here in the 1800s and early 1900s were on welfare, whereas only about 9 percent of immigrants now are on wel-

fare."

"Everybody wants dollars," says Luis Villareal, a native of Puebla, Mexico, who explains the desperation

and poverty that leads Mexicans to flee their homeland. "There is like 63 percent of the population living below the poverty level and the living conditions of the majority are pretty miserable. They have no bathrooms and all the members of the family live in the same one-room, shabby hut."

THE AMERICAN DREAM.

Manuel Mendoza, owner of Ramon's Texaco in Lubbock is an example of the immigrant who entered and invested in the next generation.

"When I came here my dream was to stay and live here and give my kids an education and things I didn't have when I was living in Mexico," Mendoza says. "So far I think we have accomplished that."

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EL EDITOR

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Lubbock, Texas

Frontera De Tortillas

Por Alberto Avendaño.

Cada día, a las 5 de la tarde, un autobús parte del centro de Lubbock dando comienzo a un lento viaje a través de las llanuras del Oeste de Texas. Los pasajeros no pueden elegir su destino. Son inmigrantes ilegales mejicanos, en ruta hacia su tierra para ser deportados. El autobús procede de

Amarillo, se detiene en Lubbock, baja hacia Midland, luego va a Pecos y finalmente a la frontera de El Paso donde los pasajeros deben apearse.

Estados Unidos admite más de 800 mil inmigrantes legales cada año, y por lo menos 200 mil ilegales consiguen evadir la Patrulla Fronteriza y asentarse permanentemente en el país. Los arrestos de inmigrantes ilegales en la frontera con Texas aumentaron un 20 por ciento en Enero de 1995 respecto a 1994. La reciente devaluación del peso y la actual crisis económica de Méjico han contribuido a una nueva afluencia de inmigrantes.

Expertos como el profesor Bill Piatt de la Facultad de Derecho de Texas Tech, citan la caída del peso como catalizadora de esta aumento.

"Siempre que hay presión económica en Méjico, la gente hará lo que siempre ha hecho en todas partes del mundo, y lo que nuestros antepasados han hecho, esto es, se trasladarán a una zona donde creen que hay más oportunidades para ellos," dice Piatt. "Es evidente que una continua lucha económica pone más presión en las fronteras."

Piatt, que es autor del libro de texto Immigration Law - Cases and Materials (Ley de Inmigración-Casos y Materiales), plantea alguno de los mitos que circulan en Estados Unidos sobre la inmigración ilegal.

"Uno de los mitos que existen actualmente es que este país está siendo invadido por los inmigrantes," dice Piatt. "Lo cierto es que, en puras cifras, entre finales del siglo 19 y comienzos de este siglo había más inmigrantes en números absolutos de los que hay ahora. Había un mayor porcentaje de inmigrantes en Estados Unidos en aquella época. Otro mito es que los inmigrantes que venían a este país entre 1800 y 1900 venían a trabajar y no a engrosar las filas de los servicios de asistencia pública (welfare), mientras que hoy en día los que cruzan la frontera vienen



para aprovecharse del 'welfare'. Esto no es cierto. Estudios históricos indican que por lo menos dos tercios de los inmigrantes que llegaron entre 1800 y 1900 se acogieron a algún programa de asistencia pública, mientras que hoy solo el 9 por ciento de los inmigrantes están en welfare."

"Todo el mundo quiere dólares," dice Luis Villareal, un nativo de Puebla, Méjico, quien explica la desesperación y pobreza que lleva a los mejicanos a abandonar su tierra. "El 63 por ciento de la población vive bajo el nivel de la pobreza y las condiciones de vida de la mayoría son miserables. No tienen cuartos de aseo y todos los miembros de la familia viven en una choza de una sola habitación."

EL SUEÑO AMERICANO.

Manuel Mendoza, propietario de Ramon's Texaco en Lubbock es un ejemplo del inmigrante que creó empresa e invirtió en la siguiente generación.

"Cuando yo llegué, mi sueño era establecerme y vivir aquí y darle a mis hijos una educación y las cosas que yo no pude tener cuando vivía en Méjico," dice Mendoza. "Hoy puedo decir que hemos realizado nuestro sueño."

Mendoza admite que necesitó de coraje, constancia y determinación para arrancar sus raíces, decirle adiós a todo lo que le era querido y familiar y emprender el largo y

difícil camino de El Norte. Sin embargo, Mendoza indica que es una historia diferente la del inmigrante cruzando la frontera con Méjico hace 30 ó 40 años y los inmigrantes que hoy llegan al Oeste de Texas.

"Hay mucha diferencia porque, en mis tiempos, no se metía a la gente en un autobús para devolverlos a Méjico," dice. "No, en aquel entonces nos dejaban tranquilos. No era difícil quedarse por aquí y trabajar y ganarse la vida."

La Patrulla Fronteriza de Lubbock detiene aproximadamente 200 ilegales por mes.

"Se mueven constantemente porque la mayoría vienen a Estados Unidos para ayudar a sus familias en Méjico," dice Ashley Houston que trabaja de Interna en la Patrulla Fronteriza. "De manera que es el hombre el que viaja en busca de oportunidades y llevando una vida nómada."

Según Houston, con frecuencia a la Patrulla Fronteriza le resulta fácil localizar ilegales.

"La Patrulla Fronteriza detiene mucha gente a través de llamadas telefónicas," dice. "Llamadas de novios o novias o familiares enfadados o gente que piensa que los ilegales les están robando sus trabajos; pero la mayoría de las denuncias ocurren dentro del círculo doméstico del inmigrante ilegal."

"Estoy aquí desde 1966 y desde entonces muchas leyes han cambiado," dice Roberto

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News Briefs

Senate Measure on Immigrants Draws Protests

The Washington Post reports that the Senate welfare reform bill would make it more difficult for legal immigrants to receive benefits even after they become citizens. Immigrant groups claim this would create two classes of citizens.

Josh Bernstein, a policy analyst with the National Immigration Law Center said, "It means that a naturalized citizen doesn't have all the rights of a citizen who was born here. We're asking people to pledge allegiance to the country, take on the full responsibilities of citizenship, but we're withholding some of the benefits of citizens."

Under the welfare bill, they would bar most legal immigrants who have not become citizens from receiving benefits under the major welfare programs -- including Aid to Families with Dependent Children, food stamps, Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for the elderly and disabled.

Immigrant groups and others protested the House provisions affecting legal immigrants, arguing they are living in this country legally and paying taxes and should be eligible for the same programs as other Americans.

"To create this distinction between naturalized citizens and other citizens is a huge departure from a couple hundred years' worth of tradition in this country," said Cecilia Munoz, deputy vice president at the National Council of La Raza.

Clinton's Budget Plan Unveiled

The New York Times reports that President Clinton provided his own blueprint for balancing the federal budget over the next decade.

Clinton proposed to save \$124 billion in Medicare costs over the next seven years, about half what the Republicans want. This would be done by expanding coverage and overhauling insurance laws. His plan also calls for trimming the same \$25 billion in corporate tax subsidies as proposed by Rep. John R. Kasich of Ohio, the chairperson of the House Budget Committee.

Clinton said he would:

- continue his promised expansion of the earned income tax credit.
- crack down on fraud by illegal aliens, not authorized to work in this country.
- hold to his proposals for a new \$500-per-child tax credit for middle class families and new tax deductions for education.
- cut welfare costs by \$35 billion.
- maintain his proposed \$267 billion budget for defense.

The Times says the political goals of Clinton, the House and the Senate differ:

Clinton - Defend Medicare and make business pay larger shares. Tax cut would be \$111 billion and Medicare/Medicaid savings would be \$178 billion over ten years.

House - Fulfill Tax cut pledge and balance budget. Tax cut would be \$353 billion and Medicare/Medicaid savings would be \$475 billion over seven years.

Senate - Put balancing budget ahead of tax cut. Tax cut would be \$170 billion and Medicare/Medicaid savings would be \$431 billion over seven years.

The Times said the speech left the president's top advisers - who just weeks ago had gone to great lengths to stress the dangers of trying to balance the budget too quickly - scrambling to explain Clinton's new proposal. Their basic argument was that by stretching the balancing act over ten years instead of seven, and persisting with tax cuts only about a third the size of the Republicans' proposals, Clinton would lessen the pain while preserving his top spending priorities.

Clinton's Health Care Proposal Changes

An editorial in the New York Times said that the health care proposals unveiled by the Clinton administration last night are far from the restructuring proposed in 1993.

The editorial said that the proposals gave only the broadest clues about the kind of restructuring the administration had in mind for the 30-year-old insurance program for the elder-

Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero

I said last week that we would start reporting on what the Texas Legislature did to us in the last

session but something very important happened in Washington at the Supreme Court that begs some attention by our

readers and I have decided to put off reporting on the legislature til next week. After all, the damage in Austin has already been done.

The recent Supreme court decision on the Adaran v. Pena case signals the end of an era in affirmative action... or at least the beginning of the end.

Conservatives... better known as the rich and big business... are saying that the ruling against minorities signalled the fact that America is saying "Enough is enough." "Federal racial classifications, like those of a state, must serve a compelling governmental interest and must be narrowly tailored to further that interest," Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote for the court.

Although the court stopped short of striking down a federal program that offered special help to small businesses owned by racial and ethnic minorities it did send the case back to federal appeals court for further study of whether a federal program to help minority businesses unlawfully discriminates against white-owned companies.

The ruling will jeopardize affirmative action programs under which federal agencies award more than \$10 billion a year to minority owned firms.

And to think... it's only been How many days Rush?

Strolling Through The Garden

By Margarita Contín

There's nothing like going home to Mom and Papi's in Gilroy, Calif., the garlic capital of the world, to remind me how much my life has been nothing more -- and nothing less -- than the ultimate experiment in hybridization that my botanist-father could concoct after years of inventing better ways to hybridize sugar cane and squash.

I suppose I always knew I belonged to two worlds: that of the North with its products, its properness, its potato chips; and that of the South with its mulatos, its mangú, its merengue.

I learned my alphabet from El Caribe newspaper in the Dominican Republic, where we lived until I was 2-1/2. I learned my numbers at Forest Home preschool in New York when I was 3. My mother taught me to cook tuna noodle casserole when I was 8. My father taught me to dance to Johnny Ventura when I was 11. I heard about the pride of being a true Dominicana from my abuelita. I heard about the joys of being Irish from my grandma.

But was I a joyous Irish lassie? Was I a true Dominicana? The answers depend upon

which side of the family you talk to. "My parents named me Juanita, so I always knew I was destined to marry a Latino," my mother says, half-joking, as she recalls their initial horror at losing her to a "foreigner."

And Papi, well, it never crossed his mind that he would even live in the United States, much less marry a gringa. But history and politics have a crazy way of uniting people. The U.S. military helped forge my parents' union by invading the island in 1965 to "calm down" the chaos that ensued after dictator Rafael Trujillo's assassination.

Frequent riots led the military to shut the universities down indefinitely. My father, a medical student at that time, saw his career plans teetering on the brink of impossibility until his high school exchange family in California invited him back to the United States to attend college.

There, he worked as a window washer for a corner store in Berkeley. The store's owners, an elderly Chinese couple, decided to play Cupid. They introduced him to their cashier.

Time after time I have gazed into my mirror of self-reflection, wondering about that fateful meeting that eventually led to my existence. Once, deep in procrastination during a Latin American Studies midterm, I wrote a poem that was published in our campus literary magazine, *Revistas Mujeres*. It was the first time I attempted to decipher the hieroglyphics of my mongrel past:

"...Como huérfanos y almas perdidas/ We wander aimlessly/

Vacillating between dos culturas/ Alien to both/ Y aceptados by ni la una or the other..." But the ubiquitous "Who am I?" continued to loom over my head.

In high school, I wouldn't answer myself. I desperately

tried but couldn't in college. Now, as an adult always determined to find answers to cryptic puzzles, I must.

To quote an old adage, home is where the heart is. Lo and behold, it was there, at home, as I ate Christmas Eve dinner with my family last year, where the pieces began to fit together: I can be both, and I am.

I am my father's Ron Brugal and my mother's Coca-Cola that I drink mixed together, over a dinner of lechón asado and black beans and rice, followed by apple pie and vanilla ice cream for dessert.

I am the Beny Moré of my abuelos and the Benny Goodman of my grandparents.

I am the Caribbean títère político and the imperialist Uncle Sam. I am the North's fair skin and the South's swaying hips.

Rather than cracks in my mirror threatening to divide and conquer me, I am finding a rich bicultural café con leche.

The "cultural conflicts" identified and analyzed by modern-day sociologists, psychologists and activists have not persuaded me to wage my own cultural battles against myself.

Quite the contrary.

Two years out of college, I have been able to resuscitate the aura of my alma mater, the University of California at Santa Cruz, to help me locate my Dominican-California ying-yang, at peace with myself -- living proof of bicultural understanding.

Or then again, I could just be another one of Papi's flourishing hybrids!

(Margarita Contín is a reporter for the national news-weekly *Hispanic Link Weekly Report* in Washington, D.C.)

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CHILDREN NEED YOUR HELP -- NOW! CALL PRESIDENT CLINTON AND YOUR SENATORS

The full U.S. Senate is expected to begin debate on welfare block grant legislation on Wednesday, June 14.

This legislation will shred the federal guaranteed safety net, cut tens of billions of dollars from children's programs, and break forever the promise that all eligible children will get help in times of need.

In the United States alone, the Senate block grant bill could mean:

- \$33.461 billion in federal money lost over 5 years.
- 4.0 million low-income children made ineligible for AFDC cash assistance when the bill is fully phased in.
- 82,500 children cut from child care in the year 2000 due to funding cuts.
- 157,400 disabled children made ineligible for SSI cash assistance immediately.

This assault on children must be stopped. President Clinton and your Senators need to hear this message NOW from as many callers as possible.

CALL PRESIDENT CLINTON:
(202) 456-1111 (tel.), (202) 456-2461 (fax)

CALL YOUR SENATORS:
US Capitol Switchboard: 202/224-3121

THE MESSAGE:

Tell your Senators to vote "NO" on the Packwood welfare bill and:

- Vote "YES" on the Hatch child care amendment;
- Vote "YES" on the Breaux maintenance of effort amendment;
- Vote "NO" on any amendment that block grants foster care & adoption programs.

Tell the President to VETO any welfare bill that block grants key welfare programs.

Details on the amendments to call about appear below.

Selected Key Amendments and Recommended Votes

The Senate Version of H.R. 4:

Senator Packwood's Welfare Bill

Tell your Senators to:

(1) Vote "NO" on final passage of the Senate version of H.R. 4, Senator Packwood's welfare block grant bill.

(2) Vote "YES" on Senator Breaux's maintenance of effort amendment to ensure that states receiving federal funds under the welfare block grant continue to contribute state funds to support their programs:

State funds currently represent 45% of total funding in the AFDC program. Without this amendment, states will no longer have to spend any of their own money on poor children or work programs. This amendment would still allow a state to lower its spending but the federal funding would be reduced correspondingly.

(3) Vote "YES" on Senator Hatch's child care amendment:

Access to supportive child care arrangements is essential if welfare reform is to be successful. Yet the welfare block grant repeals several child care programs to help families on welfare become self-sufficient and to help low-income working families pay for child care. Senator Hatch plans to offer an amendment to restore these programs by moving the child care funds that had been included in the welfare block grant into a separate, identifiable child care program.

(4) Vote "NO" on any amendment which seeks to block grant foster care and adoption assistance programs:

Reforms of programs serving abused and neglected children don't belong in a welfare bill. The Senate Finance Committee's decision to retain current law for the foster care, adoption assistance, and other federal child protection programs recognizes the dangers of rewriting foster care and adoption assistance programs as part of welfare reform and gives the child protection reforms enacted in the last Congress a chance to work.

Proposals to block grant foster care and adoption assistance will endanger children by eliminating the guarantee of a safe haven to abused and neglected children who cannot remain safely with their parents:

States will no longer be assured of sufficient funds to provide foster care placements for children in abusive families and adoption assistance payments for children who cannot safely return home.

States will not be able to count on increased federal funds to care for vulnerable children when crises strike and caseloads grow. Caseloads rose significantly in almost half the states between 1990 and 1993, and reports of abuse and neglect continue to climb -- reaching 3.1 million in 1994. And the demand for foster care and other child abuse prevention services is expected to increase as a result of other changes in the welfare bill. Block grants provide no mechanism for responding to these changes over time.

NOTE: This is by no means an all-inclusive list of expected amendments. This is simply a sampling of three important amendments which CDF wished to describe briefly for interested advocates.

For state-specific alerts which detail the impact of the Senate welfare bill on your state; list your Senators' phone numbers in DC and at home; and list three key amendments to call your Senator about -- send requests to John Aravosis at the Children's Defense Fund, e-mail HN3208, fax 202/662-3540.

Paseando Por El Jardin Un Híbrido Cultural

Por Margarita Contín

No hay nada como ir a casa de "Mom" y Papi en Gilroy, California, la capital mundial del ajo, para recordarme cuánto mi vida no ha sido nada más -- y nada menos -- que el mejor experimento de hibridación que mi padre botánico pudo preparar después de años de inventar mejores modos de crear injertos de la caña de azúcar y de la calabaza.

Supongo que siempre supe que pertenecía a dos mundos: El del norte con sus productos, su parsimonia, sus papitas fritas; y el del sur con sus mulatos, su mangú, su merengue.

Aprendí el alfabeto del periódico "El Caribe" de la República Dominicana, donde vivíamos hasta que tuve dos años y medio. Aprendí los números en la pre-escolar Forest Home de Nueva York, cuando tenía tres años. Mi madre me enseñó a cocinar casero de atún cuando tenía ocho años. Mi padre me enseñó a bailar al ritmo de Johnny Ventura cuando tenía 11 años. Escuché del orgullo de ser una verdadera dominicana de mi abuelita. Y escuché del gozo de ser irlandesa de mi "grandma". Pero, ¿era yo una alegre "lassie" irlandesa?

¿Era yo una verdadera dominicanita?

Las respuestas dependen de a qué lado de la familia se hable. "Mis padres me nombraron Juanita, de modo que supe siempre que estaba destinada a casarme con un latino", dice mi madre, medio en broma, a medida que ella recuerda el horror inicial de los suyos de perderla a manos de un "extranjero".

Y Papi, bueno, nunca cruzó

por su mente que él siquiera viviría en los Estados Unidos, mucho menos que se casaría con una gringa.

Pero la historia y la política tienen una manera inesperada de unir a las personas. El Ejército de los Estados Unidos ayudó a forjar la unión de mis padres al invadir la isla en 1965 para "calmar" el caos que siguió al asesinato del dictador Rafael Leónidas Trujillo. Los motines frecuentes llevaron a los militares a cerrar indefinidamente las universidades.

Mi padre, que era estudiante de medicina en aquella época, vio tambalearse sus planes de carrera sobre el borde de la imposibilidad hasta que su familia de intercambio de secundaria en California lo invitó a regresar a los Estados Unidos para asistir a la universidad.

Allí él trabajó como lavador de ventanas en una tienda en Berkeley. Los propietarios de la tienda, una pareja de ancianos chinos, decidieron jugar a Cupido. Lo presentaron con su cajera.

Más de una vez he mirado al espejo de auto-reflexión, preguntándome sobre aquella reunión irrevocable que con el tiempo llevó a que yo existiera.

Una vez, sumida en el retraso durante un examen de Estudios Latinoamericanos, escribí un poema que fue publicado en una revista literaria de nuestra universidad, "Revista Mujeres". Fue la primera vez que traté de descifrar los jeroglíficos de mi pasado híbrido:

"...Como huérfanos y almas perdidas / We wander aimlessly / Vacillating between dos culturas / Alien to both / Y

Continua Pagina 6



Sittin' Here
Thinkin'

Mickey Mantle

By Ira Cutler

They said on the news tonight that Mickey Mantle is dying of liver cancer and for boys who grew up as Yankee fans in the 1950's this is a tragic moment. Mickey Mantle was the one hero I have had in my life. As a boy I adored him without reservation. He was a pure hero for me and I either failed to see his flaws or wholly discounted them. I not only totally admired Mickey Mantle -- I wanted to be him.

Mantle started with the Yankees in 1951 when I was five years old. I do not remember a time before Mantle, which is to say that I do not remember Joe DiMaggio as the Yankee center fielder. He came from a small town in Oklahoma and I remember as a boy hearing stories in New York about what a dumb hick he was, and how the sharpies who managed him had taken his money. He was booed in New York in those first years, booed simply for not being the flawless DiMaggio. None of that mattered to the young boys -- DiMaggio was someone our fathers talked about while Mantle was ours. And then, in 1956, he won the Triple Crown, leading the American League in home runs, runs batted in, and batting average, and the New York fans finally saw him as a worthy successor to DiMaggio, Gehrig and Ruth.

I can see him now, on a black and white television set, with my eight or ten year old eyes. He is hitting left handed and his broad back is corkscrewed as he waits for the pitch that he will positively murder. He has arms and forearms and wrists like a blacksmith and the bat looks light and thin as he holds it steady behind his ear. I remember most of all how his neck looked when he twisted around like that, a corded muscular neck unlike any I had ever seen. Young boys in those days imitated the batting stance of their favorite hitters. "Look", we would say, "this is how Musial or Williams or Mays stands in." I used to practice Mantle's stance, complete with twisting my neck and I was sure that it bulged just like his.

One day I turned on our TV and immediately saw an enormous Mantle home run. (I have come to believe that it was the famous one that hit near the top of the right field facade, coming closer than any other to going out of Yankee Stadium in fair territory.) I believed, for quite awhile, that there was something magical in this -- that if I could once again turn on the television set just as Mantle was coming up, he would once again hit a home run. I believed this completely but knew enough not to speak of it to others. Instead I sat, maybe for weeks or months or years, and flicked the television on and off when the Yankee game was on and hoped to recreate the magic moment. I loved him and wanted to help him.

My dream, of course, was to play center field when Mickey retired. Remembering the stories of DiMaggio I did some math and found that our ages worked out fine. Mantle would be 36 and ready to retire when I was 22 and ready to replace him. I would not have to push him out. I have a commemorative button on my shelf (right next to the autographed Mickey Mantle baseball) from the Mickey Mantle Day celebration in his final year. It says "A Day To Remember", has his picture and uniform number (7), and is dated June 8, 1969 -- which was my 23 birthday. I had the dates right but lacked the enormous talent that the dream required.

I drifted away from baseball for years. The Yankees fired Casey Stengel. Mantle and Mays and Berra and everyone familiar disappeared. I had a brief fling with the Mets but lost interest when they stopped being ridiculously bad. And I forgot about Mantle as well. In my adulthood I came to realize his flaws. I saw the alcoholism, saw that some of the unfortunate injuries that wrecked his body came from neglect and unprofessional behavior. I came to admire different things in people -- intellect, political skills, writing. I realized that Mickey Mantle was just a human being, just a guy.

I learned, too, that in many ways Willie Mays was a better ballplayer and certainly a more dependable one. I have come to believe that Mays was the greatest ballplayer I have ever seen and I know now that the only thing keeping me from idolizing Mays as a boy was his color.

I came back to baseball in my forties and over a three year period I visited every major league baseball park on an odyssey that I still do not understand. Along the way I started to remember Mickey Mantle fondly and to realize how much he had meant to me. I watch baseball games now and marvel at the skills of Bonds, Griffey, Ripkin and other great contemporary players but I am no longer ten years old and I do not see a Mantle out there for me. There are players I can admire and respect but not one that I can idolize.

A year or so ago Mantle came out publicly to discuss his alcoholism, a brave thing for a man never comfortable in the off-field spotlight. He was a hard drinker in a time when that was a manly thing to be and he wanted to tell others how it had hurt his life, his family, and his career. I was proud of him again, proud that my hero become a hero of a different sort.

They said on the news tonight that Mickey Mantle is dying of liver cancer and tomorrow I will be 49 years old. I fear that his passing will end something for me, that it will destroy a link with my fading boyhood, and I do not want him to go. I want him to hang tough, to gut it out, to somehow live against all the odds. I want to turn on the television at just the right moment, catch his picture, and make him well.

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

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Una Frontera Hecha De Tortillas

De Luna. "La ley es ahora más dura que en el pasado."

De Luna es mecánico de profesión y residente de Lubbock. El dice que llegó a Estados Unidos hace 29 años, con su familia, en busca del sueño americano.

"El sueño que mi padre tenía era hacerse ciudadano," dice De Luna que es un veterano de Vietnam. "Por eso cuando se presentó la oportunidad de servir en las Fuerzas Armadas de Estados Unidos, me alisté encantado porque mi padre me había enseñado a respetar a este país y a realizar mi sueño siendo un buen ciudadano de este estado. De manera que nunca me sentí ilegal en este país."

Según De Luna, los buenos tiempos de la inmigración mejicana se terminaron. Las leyes son más duras, las condiciones más arriesgadas y la frontera parece una tortilla que se vuelve más grande e cada día.

"Ahora a los inmigrantes ilegales les pagan el salario mínimo," dice. "Muchas veces por debajo del mínimo y muchos ilegales sufren a manos de la gente que los emplea."

MANO DE OBRA BARATA, TRABAJO DURO.

Hoy en día siguen existiendo oportunidades de empleo para los ilegales, pero tienen un precio. Brooks Elliott explica las ventajas y desventajas de contratar inmigrantes ilegales para la compañía de pintura de su padre en Houston.

"La cuestión es que los ilegales son mano de obra mu-



Mojado tu

Unas mil personas marchaban el sábado pasado del distrito Misión a la corte federal en San Francisco para protestar la ley 187, adoptada en noviembre por los votantes de California. Una coalición de grupos comunitarios y activistas organizaron la marcha. El cartelón que va adelante dice: ¡Nosotros cruzamos un río. Tu cruzaste un océano mojado!

cho más barata," dice Elliott. "Se les paga por debajo del salario mínimo y hacen el mismo trabajo y muchas veces trabajan más duro. Sin embargo, existe una barrera idiomática; la mayoría no hablan inglés y a veces dejan el trabajo sin avisar y no los vuelves a ver."

Estados Unidos, a través de su historia, ha vivido ciclos de sentimientos anti-inmigrante. Hace un siglo, muchos políticos californi-

nos se justificaban diciendo que los mejicanos estaban biológicamente preparados para el trabajo de la agricultura. Decían que los mejicanos se sentían atraídos a este tipo de trabajo porque "poseen cierto espíritu gitano, les encanta viajar y cuando terminan su labor en un lugar, se van a otro."

Cuando terminamos nuestro siglo, muchos tejanos afirman sentirse asustados porque el número de inmi-

grantes parece fuera de control y creen que los mejicanos vienen a Estados Unidos para acogerse al "welfare." Por su parte, los familiares de muchos ilegales que son deportados a Méjico se quejan de la política de inmigración estadounidense diciendo que este país ha dejado de ser la "Tierra prometida," para convertirse en la "Tierra Prohibida."

"AFUERA CON TODOS!"
La aprobación de la Proposi-

ción 187 en California, ilustra los sentimientos de muchos norteamericanos en materia de inmigración. La ley estatal niega asistencia social, educación y servicios médicos básicos a los inmigrantes ilegales. Sin embargo, los californianos que parezcan o suenen extranjeros desde el punto de vista anglo, corren el riesgo de convertirse en víctimas de la 187.

"Es obvio que los californianos mantienen una postura muy firme," dice Lawrence Hoffman, natural de California y residente de Lubbock. "La preocupación es que le sucederá a un ciudadano americano de apariencia hispana, que sea considerado extranjero por su acento o aspecto físico, y que necesite asistencia médica. Si llega a un hospital y no puede hablar o no puede proporcionar identificación en el momento, por ley se le puede negar asistencia. Este es un tema a tener en cuenta."

Sin embargo, parece que los tejanos no se quieren sumar a la ola anti-inmigrante. Según un sondeo de opinión efectuado el pasado mes de febrero por la "Office of Survey Research" de la Universidad de Texas, el 52 por ciento de los tejanos se opone a negarle servicios de educación y de salud a los indocumentados.

"En Texas nos preocupa el aspecto ético," dice Hoffman. "Nos preocupan los niños que necesitan atención y no les queremos negar la asistencia a los que llegan a Texas."

"No debemos -y no lo haremos- rendir nuestras fronte-

ras a aquellos que quieren aprovecharse de nuestra historia de compasión y justicia," declaró Bill Clinton en Julio de 1993, al anunciar un plan de 172.5 millones de dólares, para reforzar la Patrulla Fronteriza y reducir el fraude en las visas y en las peticiones de asilo.

Dos años después, la Administración Clinton quiere emplear mil millones de dólares más en combatir la inmigración ilegal, añadiendo 700 nuevos agentes a la Patrulla Fronteriza de Texas. El profesor Bill Piatt expresa su escepticismo respecto al plan de Washington.

"Hace poco en El Paso impusieron un estrecho control de la frontera," dice. "Comprobaron que se redujo el número de cruce ilegal, pero no evitó que esas personas fueran a cruzar por otros puntos. Si es posible crear ese tipo de cortina a lo largo de la frontera sur de Estados Unidos, será posible reducir el número de personas que cruzan la frontera. Pero el problema es que un gran número de individuos que residen ilegalmente en este país no vienen corriendo a través de la frontera, sino que llegan legalmente en cualquier tipo de visa y cuando se les termina su permiso, se quedan."

Holly Hermon, Dana Neal, M. Travers & Paul Yarwood. contribuyeron a este artículo.

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THE TORTILLA CURTAIN

Mendoza admits that it took courage, stamina and determination to pull up his roots, say goodbye to all that was dear and familiar and hit the long and difficult trail to El Norte. However, Mendoza points out the different scenarios of immigrants crossing the border with Mexico 30 or 40 years ago and the immigrants we now see in the Lubbock area.

"There is a lot of difference because, in my time, there wasn't such a thing as fill up the bus everyday and take them back to Mexico," Mendoza says. "No, they used to give us a break back then. It wasn't that hard to stick around and work and make a living."

The Lubbock Border Patrol picks up approximately 200 illegals a month.

"They are quite mobile because a lot of them come to the United States to support their families back in Mexico," says Border Patrol Intern Ashley Houston. "So it is a male who can travel around looking for opportunities and living a nomadic life."

According to Houston, the Lubbock Border Patrol often has an easy job finding illegals.

"The Border Patrol catches a lot of people through telephone calls," Houston says. "Calls from angry boyfriends, girlfriends, relatives or people who think aliens are stealing their jobs, but the majority of the denunciations occur within the domestic circle of the illegal immigrant."

"I've been here since 1966 and since then a lot of the laws have changed," Roberto de Luna says. "The immigration is tougher than it was back then."

De Luna is a mechanic and a Lubbockite who arrived in the United States 29 years ago pursuing the American Dream.

"The dream that my father had was to become a citizen," says De Luna who is a Vietnam veteran. "That's why when the opportunity came to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States, I went glad-

ly because my father had taught me to respect this country and to fulfill my dream being a good citizen of this state. So I never felt illegal in this country."

According to De Luna, the good old times of Mexican immigration are over. The laws are tougher, the conditions riskier and the Tortilla fence is getting bigger and bigger.

"Now the illegal immigrants are paid the minimum wage," he says. "Sometimes the lowest of the minimum and a lot of illegals are hurt by the people who employ them."

CHEAP LABOR, HARD WORK.

Today, employment opportunities exist for illegals, but they have a price. Brooks Elliott explains the advantages and disadvantages of hiring illegal immigrants for his father's painting contracting business in Houston.

"The bottom line is that you can get labor for cheaper when you're hiring illegal aliens," Elliott says. "You can pay them underneath the minimum wage and they do the same amount of work and sometimes they work harder. However, there is a language barrier, most of them don't speak English and sometimes they can walk off the job and you'll never see them again because you don't have any paperwork for them."

Throughout history the U.S. has gone through cycles of anti-immigration sentiments. A century ago, California politicians argued that

Mexicans were biologically suited for agricultural labor. They used to say that Mexican laborers should be attracted to the work because they have "some sort of gypsy spirit, they love to travel and when they're done here, they'll leave."

When we are finishing the century, many Texans say they are frightened that immigration is reaching critical mass and share the belief that Mexicans come to the U.S. just to sit on the welfare doles. On the other hand, relatives of illegals sent back



to Mexico resent the U.S. policy on immigration saying that this country is not the promised land any more, but "the forbidden land."

"KEEP'EM OUT!"

California's passage of Proposition 187 illustrates the bold feelings of many Americans. The State law now denies welfare, education and non-emergency health care benefits to illegal immigrants. However, Californians who look and sound foreign according to Anglo standards risk becoming victims of 187.

"It's obvious that Californians have strong feelings about this," says transplanted Californian Lawrence Hoffman. "The concern is what happens to an American citizen who looks Hispanic, who seems foreign either by accent or appearance, and needs medical assistance. If they come into a hospital and cannot speak for themselves or perhaps cannot provide proper identification at the moment, they may be denied care. This is an area that we really need to address."

However, it appears that people in Texas aren't riding the wave of anti-immigration sentiments. According to a poll conducted last February by the University of Texas Office of Survey Research, 52

percent of Texans oppose denying public schooling and health care to undocumented aliens.

"Here in Texas we are concerned about the ethical issue," Hoffman says. "We are concerned about children that might need care, we don't want to deny care to someone who needs it if they come to Texas."

"We must not -we will not- surrender our borders to those who wish to exploit our history of compassion and justice,"

Bill Clinton said in July of 1993, announcing a \$172.5 million proposal to beef up the U.S. Border Patrol and crack down on visa fraud and phony asylum claims.

Today the Clinton Administration wants to spend one billion dollars more to combat illegal immigration, adding 700 new Border Patrol agents in Texas. Tech Law professor Bill Piatt expresses some skepticism toward the proposed plan.

"Recently in El Paso they

imposed a very tight control over that area," he says. "They noticed that the crossings dropped, but it's not certain whether those folks then went somewhere else to cross. If you were able to create that type of curtain along the southern border of the United States, you might be able to slow down people who were physically trying to run across the border. But the problem is that a good number of people who are in this country illegally are not people who run across the border, but people who come here legally on any type of visa and then overstay their visa."

Holly Hermon, Dana Neal, M. Travers & Paul Yarwood. contributed to this article

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News Briefs

ly. The original program was to "streamline regulation" of managed-care options, and offer Medicare beneficiaries' new choices like preferred provider organizations. The plan was to move toward health coverage for every American, including the thirty-nine million uninsured. It said that families that lost their health insurance when they lost a job would be eligible for subsidies to help pay their premiums for up to six months.

The administration's new health plan calls for protecting the solvency of the Medicare program, and providing a modest expansion of benefits. They would eliminate a 20 percent copayment by patients for mammograms, and provide new forms of managed care.

Food Stamps Cut, but Entitlement Remains

AP reports that the Senate Agriculture Committee voted to keep the government's promise to provide food stamps to any low-income American who qualifies for help buying groceries, but agreed to curb spending on federal nutrition programs by \$19 billion over five years.

The legislation, approved by an 11-7 vote, will be tacked onto a larger welfare overhaul plan when the Senate takes up reform of anti-poverty programs. The legislation approved by the Agriculture Committee keeps food stamps a federal entitlement. Several Republicans, including Majority Leader Bob Dole of Kansas, had sought to turn the \$27 billion program over to the states as a block grant, but acknowledged that they did not have the votes to do so.

Lugar said the legislation gives states more flexibility to run the federally financed program, and promotes work and responsibility among recipients. But Democrats, including Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, said the bill cuts too deeply from a program that serves 27 million Americans, or one in 10.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, said the reductions in food stamps will reduce benefits to families of four by \$23 to \$29 a month by the year 2000.

Hillary Clinton Speaks on Child Welfare

The Associated Press reports that Hillary Clinton said that America has much of the knowledge but little of the political will to help boost children in poverty closer to a successful future. Mrs. Clinton was speaking at a University of Maryland seminar on child welfare.

She said programs such as Hawaii's Healthy Start - an early childhood intervention program in which at-risk children are targeted for social service - has shown strong success and should be replicated.

Clinton said that reform of the current welfare system would make a significant difference in improving the lives of impoverished families. She suggested privately run day-care centers should be allowed to operate in schools to accommodate parents better.

Reich Urges Businesses to Hire Youth

The Associated Press reports that Labor Secretary Robert Reich has asked businesses to supply jobs for economically disadvantaged youths aged fourteen to twenty-one, or to make financial contributions or in kind donations such as transportation, space or equipment for public-sector jobs.

Reich said that the federal government could offer only half the 1.5 million jobs needed by "SummerWorks," the program designed to stimulate private sector involvement in providing summer jobs. The Labor Department has \$867 million to provide 615,000 positions this summer. Reich said that for a second year in a row, there are two applicants for every available job.

Congress had eliminated the summer jobs program for 1995 and 1996, but President Clinton restored the money for this year when he vetoed a rescission bill earlier this month. Reich said he hoped Congress will reinstate the 1996 program.

Employers can obtain more information about the program by calling 1-800-787-2940, a hotline operated by the National Alliance of Business.

Research: America Gets a "D" on Violence

The Associated Press reports that the American Medical Association issued a "Report Card on Violence in America" that gave the nation a D on violence. The AMA gave America a C-minus for handling domestic violence, a D-minus on the subject of sexual assault, an F in public violence and a D on violence in entertainment.

They issued the report card along with new research on violence in America. A study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests that while firearms injuries and domestic violence may take less of a toll than previously estimated, the impact is still enormous.

More than 99,000 Americans were treated for gunshot wounds in emergency rooms in the year ending in mid-1993, one study found. That is roughly 2.6 times as high as the number of gun deaths - 38,317 - recorded in 1991, the most recent year for which figures on deaths were available.

Previous estimates of gun injuries - which have ranged as high as 236,000 for 1985 - were "imprecise, incomplete, or both," said researchers led by epidemiologist Joseph L. Anest of the Centers.

Ted Miller, an economist and associate director of the National Public Services Research Institute, a nonprofit group based in Landover, Md., said the CDC study was the best available.

Another study found the average charge for treatment of a nonfatal gunshot wound at a major medical center in California was \$52,271, of which \$5,809 was profit. Dr. Kenneth W. Kizer of the University of California at Davis, who led the study conducted at his hospital, projected the total cost to the nation this year for treating such injuries could be \$4 billion.

Both studies are in today's issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association, which focused on violence.

Latino Intermarriages On Rise, Produce 1.5 Million Children

By Lucy Hood

Fueled by Latino population gains, the number of Hispanics marrying non-Hispanics has more than doubled since 1970, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Such unions rose from 584,000 in 1970 to nearly 1.2 million in 1992. The 1990 Census identified 1.5 million children who have one Hispanic and one non-Hispanic parent.

The size of the Hispanic population, now estimated at 27.2 million on the mainland, up from 16 million in 1983, is a major reason behind the phenomenon. Demographers and sociologists cite education and employment as the two areas that most often draw Latinos and non-Latinos together.

As Latinos become more educated and find work in culturally diverse areas, they come into greater contact with people of other ethnicities and races and become more inclined to "marry out."

Their marriage pool is vastly different on college campuses and in the professional work environment, explains Ruth Berg, a demographer at the Futures Group in Washington, D.C. Berg is completing a dissertation on the fertility of Mexican Americans married to non-Hispanic whites.

Her research shows that multicultural couples are less likely to have children than couples of the same heritage. Mexican-American couples have an average of 2.9 children, white couples have an average of 2.0, and mixed couples 1.7 children, Berg said.

Juanita Tamayo Lott, a public policy consultant on population issues in Rockville, Md., also finds that mobility also has contributed to a general increase in cross-cultural marriages. More people are traveling and acquiring a more global outlook, which helps to overcome the lack of understanding and the prejudices inherent in keeping diverse cultures apart, she says.

Indeed, marriage is considered to be the single most important indicator of assimilation, according to sociologist Edward Murguía. In a book published 13 years ago, he projected: "Clearly, once large-scale intermarriage between two populations occurs, cultural and social differences have been largely bridged, and genetic differences between the two cannot long remain."

Murguía, a leading expert in the field of intermarriage, continues, "On the other hand, a low rate of intermarriage indicates ethnic cohesion and ethnic cultural maintenance."

The current trend coincides with Murguía's old, but not dated, observation. Those who tend to marry out have already assimilated to a great extent through their formal education, their jobs or simply their family's adaptation to the United States over time. A second- or third-generation Hispanic, for example, is more likely to marry out than one who migrated to the United States, Berg says.

According to the census, Hispanics who do "marry out" tend to wed Anglos instead of someone from another Hispanic subgroup. Berg suggests that geography also has a lot to do with this phenomenon.

Her observation coincides with research by demographer Leo Estrada, who says the number of cross-cultural marriages increases the farther one gets away from heavily Hispanic population centers such as the U.S./Mexico border, Miami or New York City.

Despite the existence of certain trends within the boom in intermarriages, it's an area

that's been greatly overlooked, says John Atinasi, a professor at California State University in Long Beach. Over the past five years he has observed a significant increase in the number of multicultural students, the children of inter-ethnic and interracial marriages.

"We call them the new world children," he says.

These children comprise a major unknown element in the intermarriage phenomenon. "One of the great mysteries is how many of the kids will rediscover their ethnicity," Estrada says. Studies reveal a tendency for children to identify with the ethnicity of

the father.

If the pattern holds true, then the size of the Hispanic population may not grow as much as projected, Estrada suggests, because the number of Hispanic women who "marry out" is slightly greater than the number of Hispanic men.

In 1993, the U.S. House subcommittee on the Census held four hearings on the issue of race and ethnic categories used in the 1990 Census. There was testimony that, in an increasingly diverse society, a multiracial category may become inevitable. That also would take numbers away from the already existing categories, such as His-

panic.

Many institutions still insist that people, including children of mixed-marriage couples, choose a single racial or ethnic identity. Carlos Fernández, director of the San Francisco-based Association of Multiethnic Americans, testified to the subcommittee, "No child should be forced to favor one parent over another."

(Next: The challenges and benefits of intermarriage, and how some Hispanic leaders married to non-Hispanics deal with their children on the question of ethnic and racial identity.) Copyright 1995, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Aumentan los Matrimonios de Latinos con Personas de Otras Razas y Producen 1.5 millones de Niños

Por Lucy Hood

Impulsados por el aumento de la población latina, la cantidad de hispanos que están casándose con no hispanos se ha duplicado con exceso desde 1970, según la Oficina del Censo de los Estados Unidos.

Dichas uniones se elevaron desde 584,000 en 1970 a cerca de 1.2 millones en 1992. El Censo de 1990 identificó a cerca de 1.5 millones de niños que tienen un padre o una madre hispano y otro que no lo es.

El tamaño de la población hispana, que se estima ahora en 27.2 millones en el territorio continental, desde 16 millones en 1983, es una razón principal del fenómeno.

Los demógrafos y sociólogos mencionan a la enseñanza y el empleo como los dos campos que reúnen más a menudo a los latinos y no latinos. A medida que los latinos llegan a tener más educación y hallan trabajo en campos culturalmente diversos, entran en mayor contacto con personas de otras procedencias étnicas y se inclinan más a "casarse fuera".

Su disponibilidad de personas para el matrimonio es muy diferente en los recintos universitarios y en el ambiente del trabajo profesional, explica Ruth Berg, demógrafa del Grupo Futures en Washington, DC. Ella está terminando una disertación sobre la fertilidad de los mexicano-americanos casados con blancos no hispanos.

Su investigación muestra que las parejas multiculturales tienen menores probabilidades de tener hijos que las parejas de la misma herencia. Las parejas méxico-americanas tienen un promedio de 2.9 niños; las blancas tienen un promedio de 2.0 y las mixtas 1.7, dijo Berg.

Juanita Tamayo Lott, consultora sobre asuntos de población, de Rockville, Maryland, halla que la movilidad ha contribuido también a un aumento general de los matrimonios culturalmente mixtos. Más personas están viajando y adquiriendo una perspectiva más global, lo cual ayuda a superar la falta de comprensión y los prejuici-

os inherentes en mantener aparte a diversas culturas, dice ella.

En verdad, se considera que el matrimonio es el indicador singular más importante de la asimilación, según el sociólogo Edward Murguía. En un libro publicado hace 13 años, él proyectó: "Claramente, una vez que los matrimonios mixtos en gran escala entre dos grupos de la población ocurren, se han establecido puentes en gran medida sobre las diferencias culturales y sociales, y las diferencias genéticas entre los dos grupos no pueden subsistir durante mucho tiempo".

Murguía, un experto principal en el campo de los matrimonios entre personas de distintos grupos, continúa diciendo: "Por otra parte, una tasa baja de matrimonios mixtos indica cohesión étnica y mantenimiento cultural étnico".

La tendencia actual coincide con la antigua pero no caduca observación de Murguía. Los que tienden a casarse fuera de

Continúa Pagina 6



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Grove Ready to Rumble with Brown at Ceasars

ATLANTIC CITY, Former featherweight champion Calvin Grove and rising prospect Johnny Brown square off in Caesars Circus Maximus Theater, Thursday, June 22.

The Grove-Brown card is the first in a four fight series of Thursday Night Thunder to be held in Caesars Circus Maximus. The fights are being promoted in association with Peltz Boxing Promotions Inc. All four cards, June 22, July 13, August 17 and September 28, will be televised live by PRISM. All PRISM telecasts run from 9-11 p.m. -- with the live card beginning at 8 p.m.

Brown, the 26-year-old from Atlantic City, has beaten seven fighters who were undefeated at fight time. He has a 12-1 record with five knockouts and is ranked No. 8 by

the United States Boxing Association. Brown is managed by Atlantic City businessmen Pat Doran and Butch Mitchell. Brown has not been in the ring for a match since March 29, 1994 when he knocked out Ricardo Rivera in Mississippi in nine rounds. Rivera was 12-0 until he met Brown.

Brown has also defeated the highly rated Juan Negron and Fred Liberatore. Actually Brown's only loss came by a split decision to Lamar Murphy on June 29, 1993. Murphy was then 15-0. Prior to his layoff, which was incurred due to problems with former management, Brown was ranked No. 9 by all three major sanctioning bodies, the International Boxing Federation (IBF), World Boxing Council (WBC), and the World Boxing Association

(WBA).

Grove, 32, of Coatesville, Pa., is 46-7 with 17 knockouts and rated number 12 by the International Boxing Federation (IBF). Grove was the IBF featherweight champion in 1988, winning the title against Antonio Rivera in France. He lost it in his second defense to Jorge Paez in Mexico.

His bids for the WBC junior lightweight and lightweight titles were lost against Azumah Nelson and Miguel Angel Gonzalez, respectively. Grove has beaten Myron Tay-

lor, Regilio Tuur, Troy Dorsey and Jeff Fenech.

Four additional fights complete the card on June 22. Information on the other Thursday Night Thunder fights to follow. Tickets for these Thursday Night Thunder Fights are priced at \$25 and \$40. To charge, call TicketMaster at 1/800-736-1420. For fight information, call Caesars Box Office at 1/800-677-SHOW. -0- BROWN VS. GROVE CAESARS ATLANTIC CITY June 22, 1995

De la Hoya Acepta Pelear Contra Chavez

Los Angeles, California -- Oscar de la Hoya, doble monarca ligero de la Organización Mundial de Boxeo y Federación internacional de

Boxeo, dijo que está dispuesto a enfrentarse a Julio César Chávez para el año entrante en lo que sería una pelea multimillonaria para ambos.

"Le voy a dar gusto", dijo el "Golden Boy" al referirse que existe un proyecto para que se enfrente a Chavez en lo que sería supe-riamente la última contienda de Chávez.

"Tengo muchos planes para mi carrera pero poco a poco los voy a definir", agregó De la Hoya.

Con marca de 18-0, el doble campeón ligero expresó que su siguiente paso "es acabar de callar a Miguel Angel González para después dar el salto a superligero, donde quiero conquistar otro título".

De la Hoya indicó que para el 16 de septiembre en Las Vegas, está considerado que se mida con González.

Las palabras del exolímpico estadounidense iban encaminadas a que con un tropiezo de González automáticamente se caería esa contienda por razones obvias.

Interrogado sobre si antes de ese combate estaría dispuesto a medirse contra Gabriel Ruelas, campeón superpluma del CMB o a Genaro Chicanito Hernández, indicó que "posiblemente" aunque no sería forzoso que fuera antes de la pelea con Miguel Angel González.

Oscar dijo que la base de su éxito ha sido que para cada uno de sus combates se ha preparado exhaustivamente y eso le ha redituado victorias ante adversarios de la calidad de Jorge Maromero Páez, John John Molina y recientemente Rafael Ruelas.

Indicó que después de su último triunfo ante Ruelas se siente muy satisfecho pues ha demostrado a los escépticos que puede vencer a los mejores del mundo.

Oscar indicó que está avanzando a pasos agigantados pues entre sus metas está el retirarse muy pronto del boxeo, una vez que hay asegurado su futuro económico.

"Y una manera de asegurar mi futuro económico rápidamente sería enfrentando el próximo a Julio César Chávez", dijo.

El Golden Boy aseguró que tiene las facultades y los recursos necesarios para acabar con la carrera de Chávez, campeón superligero del CMB.



Oscar de la Hoya no se mide en sus planes: Desea enfrentar a Julio César Chávez, en lo que sería la última pelea del campeón superligero mexicano.

The Softball FANATIC

by Mike "M&M" Medrano

Que Pasa Softball fans. It's M&M again, the softball fanatic talking at you directly from Billy's Auto Sales on 19th and Q. Softball is in high gear and all teams are getting ready for this year's Big Menudazo. More about the Menudazo later in this column.

This past week's big tournament was held in Slaton with ole Peter Lara. You should have seen those big trophies the top teams won. Winding up first was good ole Wille Bell with Members Only. No surprise since all the teams were Class D and even though Wille says he's a class D team, this softball fanatic has his doubts. Second was Team Elite and Third was won by Team Texas. I really think all three teams need to graduate to class C. Peter had 7 co-rec teams also participate.

Tournaments coming up include the Hispanic Chamber's First annual Independence Day tournament for Class D teams at Burl Huffman. Prizes include team trophies for 1st through 3rd, travel bags and T-Shirts for first and T-Shirts for 2nd and 3rd. Call Robert at 763-5059 or J.R. at 792-2660 to enter. Entry fee is \$110.

Peter's next tournament will be on July 8th and 9th at Burl Huffman for Men's class B/C, D, E mens teams and Co-ed teams. Call Peter at 763-6707 to enter.

Now let's talk about THE BIG ONE! El Menudazo will be held this year at Burl Huffman, MacKenzie and Mose Hood parks. Bidal is even talking to Tom at Dusty Diamonds about using his parks in Slaton if more than 100 teams come in to compete. And be sure that there will be more than 100 teams since the Menudazo will be both a Hispanic State Qualifier and a USSSA qualifier. The fun starts July 21st with receptions and parties for the teams and going through the 23rd. Divisions will include an open division with no limit, yes I said NO LIMIT HOMERUNS, There will also be a competitive division with 3 homeruns and a recreational division with no home runs for men. Rest assured that the tournament director will not let competitive teams enter the recreational division. We all know who you are. There will also be recreational divisions for both women and co-ed. For those teams that enter by July 14th, they can get their romms for the discount price of \$58 at Lubbock's Best Western Regency. That pretty cheap for a hotel with jacuzzi, work out room and an indoor pool. Call 763-3841 today for more information on El Menudazo which will include all kinds of other tournaments plus a Music festival.

That's all for this week sports fans. Hope to talk to you agains next week. Come by and buy a car from me, I need the money. This column is updated every Tuesday for sure from now on. See you at the ball park..... Take me out to the ball game.

Dream Sweep



Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal shoots over Hakeem Olajuwon in the first quarter of the NBA Finals Game 6. Olajuwon and the Rockets would come out the victors, winning the game (113-101) and series 4-0.

1st Annual LHCC Independence Day Softball Tournament



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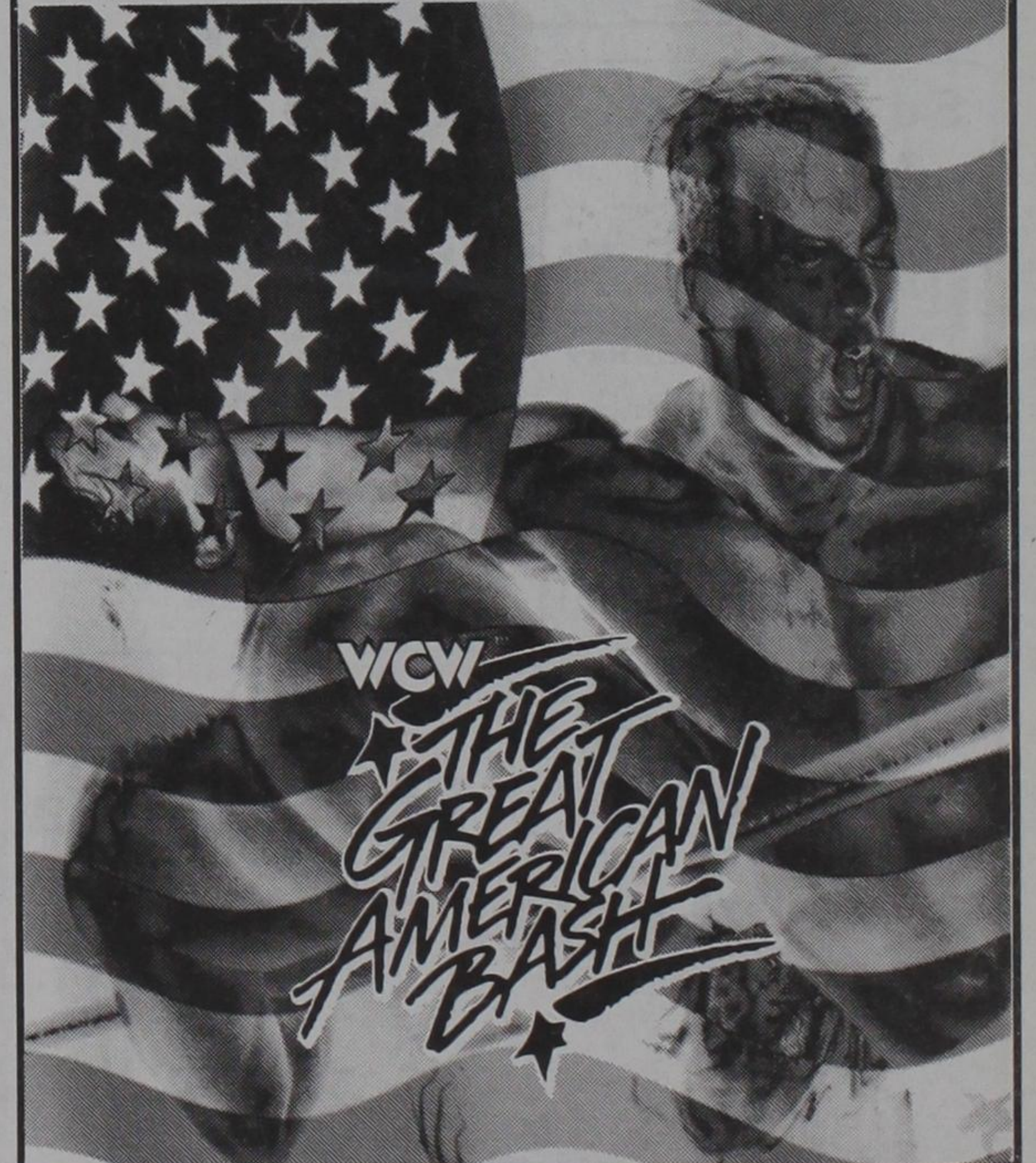
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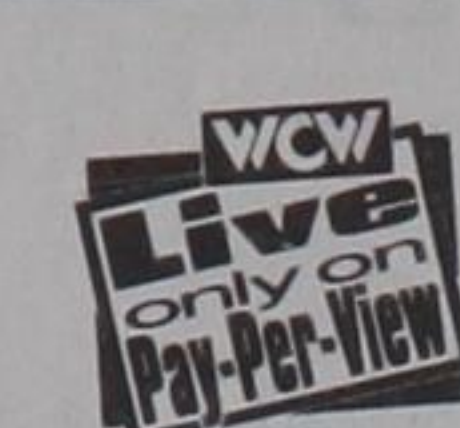
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Un Rayito De Luz

by Sofia Martinez

El matrimonio es un acuerdo que ha un hombre y una mujer con toda libertad y con toda responsabilidad. Los dos reciben los compromisos ante Dios, legales y de fe, que regulan los deberes y los deberes y los derechos de los esposos.

Hay parejas que se unen libremente. Así es el matrimonio de los que son "ni ciudadanos" "ni creyentes". Su compromiso es solo "entre el y ella". Si, la pareja, son miembros de una sociedad y actúan como buenos ciudadanos, se atienen a las leyes de su país. Ese se llama "matrimonio civil", casados ante un juez civil. Eso es lo que hacen los que no creen en el Matrimonio que instituyó Jesucristo.

Si, la pareja, son cristianos, viven su fe y obedecen las reglas de la Iglesia, representante de Jesucristo. Este es el Matrimonio cristiano se llama "sacramento": es sagrado, tiene en cuenta a Dios y es signo de la vida de Dios y del amor de Cristo a Su Iglesia. También es jurídico, es decir que, se rige por las leyes de la Iglesia. Los esposos que se casan por la Iglesia firma su compromiso matrimonial. La firma es señal del pronunciamiento personal y comunitario de los dos.

La pareja católica se compromete a vivir su sacramento. La Iglesia Católica le exige a cada pareja, antes de casarse, una serie de lecciones para prepararse porque quiere que los novios tengan conciencia de personas maduras y conozcan el gran valor del matrimonio. En realidad esas lecciones son muy poca cosa; no pueden darles la "capacidad" y la "madurez humana" y "madurez cristiana" que requiere el sacramento.

Nuestra fe dice que la familia fue creada a imagen de Dios. (Gen. 1, 27) A imagen de Dios los creo, hombre y mujer los creo. Dios es amor, los esposos deben de amarse, hacer comunidad de mor.

El amor de los esposos debe de ser como el amor de Cristo a la Iglesia. (Efe. 5, 32). Total, comprometido, definitivo. Cristo nunca abandona a la Iglesia.

La pareja debe de ser uente de vida y de amor para ellos mismos, y para sus hijos y para la Iglesia; como Dios, que es fuente de amor y de vida para todos: buenos y malos. amor universalmente abierto, no cerrado, ni restringido, ni discriminador.

El divorcio es una desgracia, es el derrumbe de una construcción mal hecha: sin cimientos de madurez; sin cemento y sin cadenas de amor adulto. La ley civil reconoce que hay errores y debilidades en los que se casan y abren las puertas del divorcio. La Iglesia Católica cree que las parejas de casados imitan a Jesucristo en su vida de amor conyugal. el amor no es solamente goce. Es "construir y madurar" siempre juntos y sin deafallecer. (Gen. 1,27. Marcos 10,9).

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Viene de la Segunda

su grupo ya se han asimilado en gran medida a través de su enseñanza formal, sus empleos o sencillamente la adaptación de su familia a los Estados Unidos durante los años. Un hispano de segunda o tercera generación, por ejemplo, tiene mayores probabilidades de casarse fuera del grupo que otro que haya emigrado a los Estados Unidos, dice Berg.

Según el Censo, los hispanos que "se casan fuera" tienden a hacerlo con personas angloamericanas en vez de otras procedentes de otro subgrupo hispano. Berg sugiere que la geografía tiene igualmente mucho que ver con este fenómeno.

Su observación coincide con la del demógrafo Leo Estrada, quien dice que la cantidad de matrimonios entre culturas aumenta mientras más se aleje uno de los centros de población con gran número de hispanos, tales como la frontera entre los Estados Unidos y México, Miami o la ciudad de Nueva York.

A pesar de la existencia de ciertas tendencias dentro del aumento de los matrimonios mixtos, es un campo que ha sido pasado por alto en gran medida, dice John Atinasi, catedrático de la Universidad Estatal de California en Long Beach. Durante los cinco últimos años, él ha observado un aumento importante de la cantidad de estudiantes multi-culturales, hijos de matrimonios inter-étnicos e inter-raciales.

"Los llamamos 'hijos del nuevo mundo', dice él.

Estos niños forman un elemento importante desconocido en el fenómeno de los matrimonios mixtos. "Uno de los grandes misterios es cuántos de los chicos volverán a descubrir su etnicidad", dice Estrada. Los estudios revelan una tendencia en los niños a identificarse con la etnicidad del padre.

Si esta pauta resulta ser cierta, entonces puede que el tamaño de la población hispana no aumente tanto como se proyecta, sugiere Estrada, porque la cantidad de mujeres hispanas que se casan fuera es ligeramente mayor que el número de hombres hispanos que hacen otro tanto.

En 1993, el sub-comité de la Cámara de Representantes sobre el Censo efectuó cuatro audiencias sobre el asunto de las clasificaciones de razas y étnicas que se usaron en el Censo de 1990. Hubo testimonio de que, en una sociedad cada vez más diversa, una categoría multi-racial puede llegar a ser inevitable. Eso también quitaría cantidades a las ya existentes, tales como la de hispano.

Muchas instituciones todavía insisten en que las personas, incluyendo a los hijos de parejas multi-raciales, seleccionen una identidad racial o étnica singular. Carlos Fernández, director de la Asociación de Estadounidenses Multiétnicos, declaró al sub-comité: "No debe obligarse a ningún niño a favorecer a uno de sus padres por sobre el otro".

(En el próximo artículo: Los retos y los beneficios del matrimonio mixto, y cómo algunos dirigentes hispanos casados con personas no hispanas tratan con sus hijos sobre el asunto de la identidad étnica y racial.)

Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 1995. Distribuido por The Los Angeles Times

Viene de la Primera

acceptados by ni la una or the other..."

Pero el ubicuo "¿Quién soy?" continuaba cerniéndose sobre mi cabeza.

En la escuela secundaria no pude contestarme a mí misma. Intenté hacerlo desesperadamente, pero no pude, en la universidad. Ahora, como una adulta determinada a hallar respuestas a rompecabezas crípticos, debo hacerlo.

Para citar un antiguo adagio, el hogar es donde está el corazón. No tuve que ir lejos. Fue allí, en casa, mientras cenaba en Nochebuena con mi familia el año pasado, donde las piezas empezaron a juntarse:

Puedo ser las dos cosas, y lo soy.

Soy el Ron Brugal de mi padre y la Coca-Cola de mi madre, que bebo mezclados, con una cena de lechón asado y habichuelas negras con arroz, seguida de pie de manzana y helado de vainilla para el postre.

Soy la Benny Moré de mis abuelos y el Benny Goodman de mis "grandparents".

Soy el títere político del Ca-

ribe y el Tío Sam imperialista.

Soy la piel clara del norte y las caderas ondulantes del sur.

En vez de hallar grietas en mi espejo que amenacen con dividirme y conquistarme, estoy encontrando un rico café con leche bicultural.

Los "conflictos culturales" identificados y analizados por los sociólogos, psicólogos y activistas modernos, no me han persuadido a librar mis propias batallas culturales contra mí misma.

Todo lo contrario.

A los dos años de haber salido de la universidad, he podido resucitar el aurea de mi "alma mater", la Universidad de California en Santa Cruz, para ayudarme a localizar mi "ying-yang" dominicano-californiano, en paz conmigo misma -- una prueba viviente de comprensión bicultural.

¡O, simplemente, podría ser otro de los híbridos florecientes de mi Papi!

(Margarita Contín es reportera del semanario nacional Hispanic Link Weekly Report en Washington, DC.)

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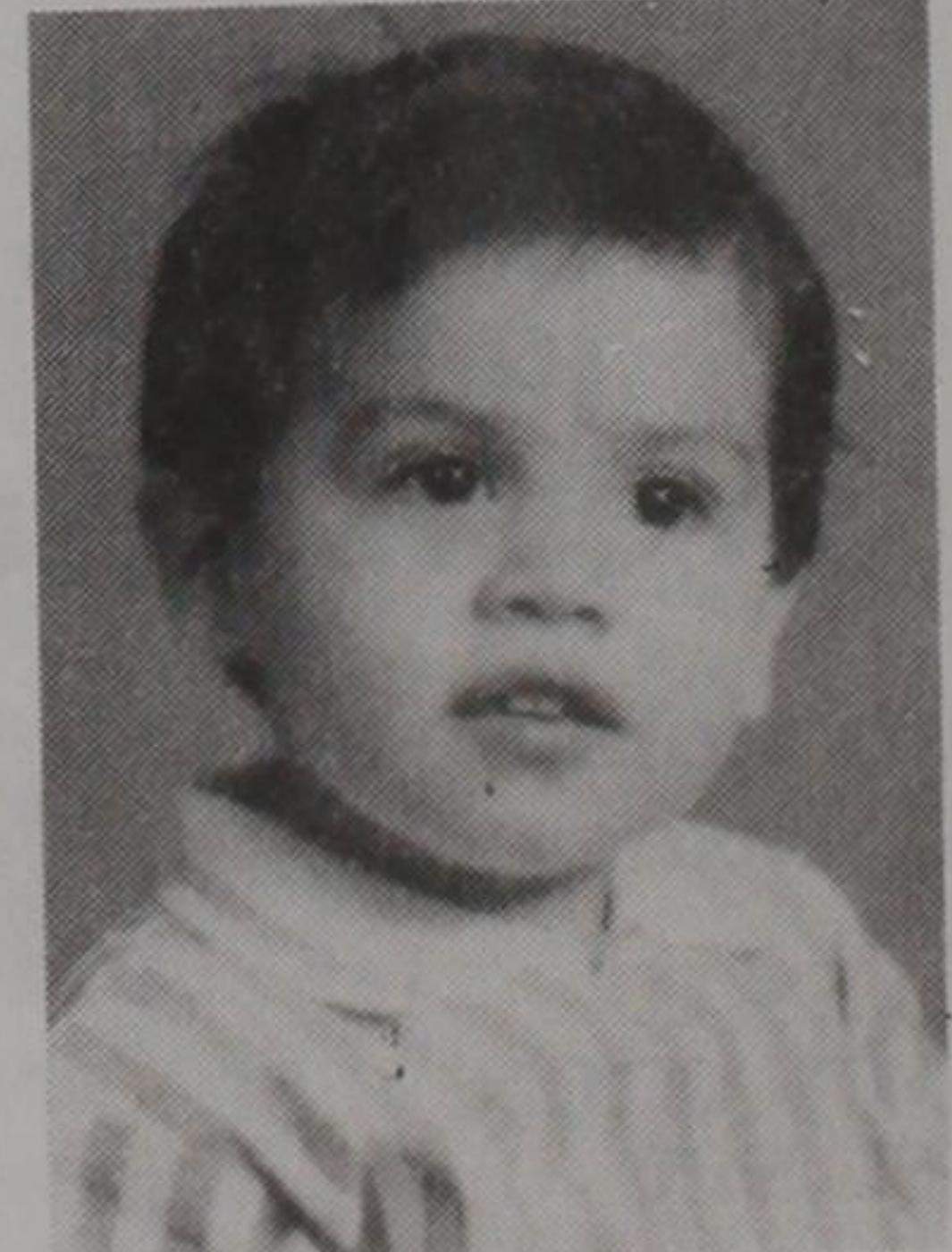
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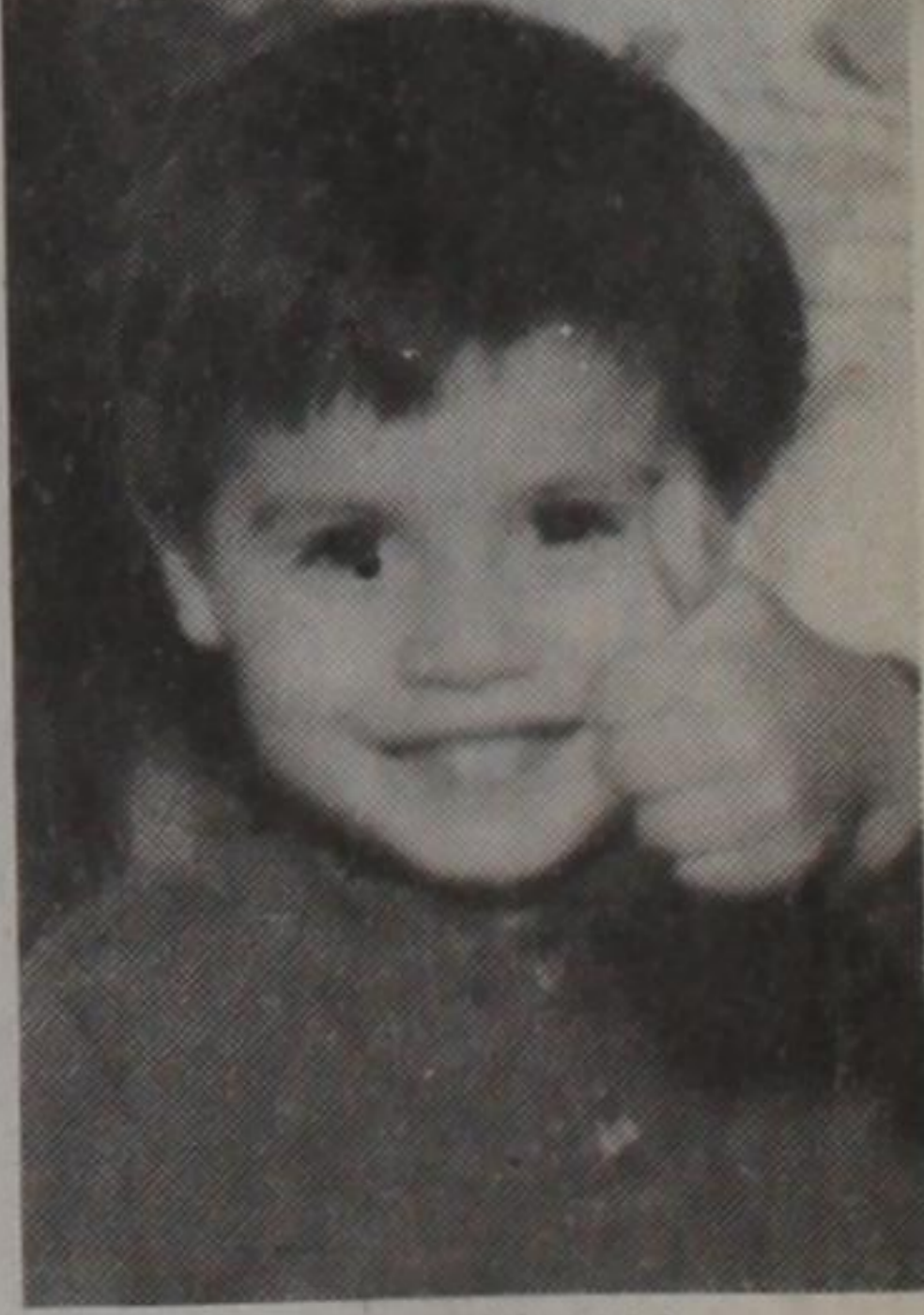
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2 years old, 1992

Stevie Ace Flores.

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