

"Disaster kills 9,000 in Central America"

By Larry Rohter

Managua, Nicaragua: As rescue workers throughout Central America struggled to reach scores of remote settlements left battered and isolated by Hurricane Mitch, authorities in Nicaragua and Honduras said the combined death toll from the storm and its aftermath was likely to surpass 7,000.

"There are corpses every-where - victims of landslides or of the waters," said Carlos Flores Facusse, the president of Honduras, in a grim television address after a thorough inspection tour of his stunned and beleaguered nation of 4 million people.

"We have before us a panorama of death, desolation and ruin throughout the entire country," said Flores.

There also were reports of numerous deaths and widespread damage to property and crops in El Salvador and Guatemala from the storm and the torrential rains and region-wide flooding that followed.

The unusual late-season storm was being classified as one of the worst natural disasters to strike the region in modern times, perhaps even eclipsing the devastating earthquakes that leveled this city in 1972 and flattened parts of Guatemala in 1976.

"I have seen earthquakes, droughts, two wars, cyclones and tidal waves," said Cardinal Miguel Obando y Brava, the Roman Catholic archbishop of Managua and the nation's senior religious figure. "But this is undoubtedly the worst thing that I have ever seen."

At its peak, Hurricane Mitch packed 180 mph winds, making it a deadly category five storm, the most powerful on



the Saffir-Simpson scale. But it had a compact eye and was on a course that kept it out over the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Honduras, far away from population and agricultural centers.

The hurricane turned deadly as it disintegrated, though. It was blocked from moving northward by a powerful front over the Gulf of Mexico and was stalled for six days, a pattern that Max Mayfield of the National Hurricane Center in Miami called "extremely unusual."

It dumped as much as two feet of rain per day throughout the region, inundating not just coastal and mountain areas, but also large cities bisected by rivers whose flow was swollen far beyond their normal capacity.

In Honduras alone, "the number of dead could surpass 5,000," estimated Lt. Col. Saul Castillo, a member of that country's Civil Defense Commission. But another relief official, Dimas Alonzo of the Honduran National Emergency Committee, acknowledged in a radio interview: "We will probably never know how many people died."

Here in Nicaragua, the focal point of rescue efforts was the region of Posoltega, at the foot of the Casitas Volcano, about 50 miles northwest of the capital, in the province of Chinandega. At least 800 people have been confirmed dead in a series of mud slides over the weekend there, and another 2,000 people are reported missing and feared dead.

"We could hear people buried in the debris imploring us to help them," said one shaken resident-turned-rescue worker, who would give his name only as Nicolas. "But there was nothing we could do for them. It was the most impotent I have ever felt in my life."

Relief workers said that perhaps as much as 30 square miles had been affected by the mudslides, which entombed at least five peasant villages. "It's like a wilderness there now," said Rosa Caballero, a survivor who was evacuated to a nearby hospital. "You don't see anything."

On Monday, soldiers, relief workers and evacuees, many of whom were visibly disturbed by what they had seen, used phrases like "a vision out of Dante" or "a deluge of Biblical proportions" to describe the destruction. Somber news reports on Nicaraguan television showed bodies half-buried in mud or pinned against tree trunks or tiny limbs protruding stiffly from piles of debris.

"There are lots of children dead," said Graciela Saenz, a relief worker who has been in the area. "It's horrible."

The devastation is so extensive that Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, the country's minister of defense, said that it may be impossible ever to obtain an accurate count of fatalities. For that reason, he recommended in a report made public Monday that "it would be appropriate to declare the area a 'national cemetery'" and seal it off.

Even as they struggled to mobilize military and Red Cross units, government officials and disaster relief experts throughout the region warned that more problems were on the way. The difficulty

in recovering the bodies of human victims and the widespread destruction of livestock was rapidly creating the danger of epidemics of cholera, dengue fever and other diseases, they said.

The growing shortage of food and water in rural areas cut off from the rest of the country was equally alarming. Many warehouses where foodstuffs were stored have been destroyed, roads that would normally bring goods from commercial centers are impassable, and crops of beans, bananas, vegetables and coffee have been largely washed away.

In both Nicaragua and Honduras, nearly every bridge was reported to have suffered damage of some sort, with perhaps a majority left unusable. On both sides of the border between the two countries, traffic is backed up for miles, with some truck drivers reporting that they have been stuck in one spot for six days, sleeping in their cabs and depending on the generosity of local people for food.

In Washington, the U.S. Agency for International Development announced that it was providing \$3.5 million in emergency assistance as a first step in recovery efforts. "We'll be looking at what else we can do," President Clinton said.

Flores, the Honduran leader, has estimated that 70 percent of the infrastructure in his country, already the poorest in the Western Hemisphere beside Haiti, has been destroyed. Bridges, roads, communications, ports, hospitals and schools have all been so seriously affected that it will take years for the economy to recover, he said.

"There's practically no place or region that has not been affected," he said.

News Briefs

US Hispanics Emerging as Political Force to Recon With

By Carmen Alicia Fernandez

Washington, Nov 11 (EFE).- Encouraged by the results of last week's state elections, the Hispanic community basked in the lime-light of U.S. political life after nearly 20 years of being ignored. Hispanics wielded their influence in California, powering the election of Cruz Bustamante as vice governor and Ron Gonzales as mayor of San Jose, a major city in the state. Gonzales has become the first Hispanic to become mayor of a major city in California since Mexico lost this territory to the United States in 1848.

In the state assembly, Rod Pacheco won to represent the Republican Party. Although the number of Hispanics in the House of Representatives did not increase, the resounding victory of Democrat Loretta Sanchez over her archrival Robert Dornan is evidence of the growing influence of the Hispanic vote.

In the state assemblies, Hispanics gained one more senate seat in Arizona, three in California and one in Nevada. They won three more in California's lower house, two in New Mexico, one in Arizona and one in Colorado.

"We have changed the political scene in the United States and we will continue to do so," said Arturo Vargas, head of the National Association of Latin Elected Officials. The advisers of Vice President Al Gore and reelected Texas Governor George W. Bush, the two most likely contenders for the next presidential elections, see the thrust of their campaign directed to cornering Hispanic support.

The son of ex-president George Bush is selling himself to the Republicans as the only candidate who can win the votes of the minorities, particularly the Hispanics, Gore's adviser told EFE.

"We hope that the Hispanic community will not forget who was with them from the start," the aide added.

Even before it became evident that the Hispanic vote could spell the difference in tight races, like the Barbara Boxer-Matt Fong fight for the Senate in California, and the Alphonse D'Amato-Charles Schumer rivalry in New York, Gore and Bush were already courting this ever growing community.

"I think it is time. It's a debt owed to us for a very long time," said Antonio Gonzalez of Southwest Voter Registration Project, an organization that has been working to expand the Latin vote for the past 20 years.

For Harry Pachon, president of Tomas Rivera Policy Institute, last week's elections "represent the end of an epoch in which the term 'Latin politics' was reserved for certain isolated issues."

"Now candidates with names like Pacheco, Ortiz, Sanchez and Gonzalez are being elected all over the country," said Pachon, who heads one of the most important Latin centers of study in the United States.

While Bush insists that he is closest to the Hispanic heart, there are rumors Gore will have a Hispanic as a running mate in the year 2000 - Energy Secretary Bill Richardson.

Cuban Poet to Live in Exile in Brazil

Rio de Janeiro, Nov 10 (EFE).- Cuban poet Ricardo Alberto Perez, considered by the International Parliament of Writers to be a victim of political persecution under the government of President Fidel Castro, is set to arrive Wednesday in Brazil as a refugee.

"Perez will leave Havana today and will arrive Wednesday night in Passo Fundo, the city where we will offer him refugee status thanks to an accord signed with the International Parliament of Writers, the United Nations and the Brazilian government," Passo Fundo Culture Secretary Lourdes Canelles told EFE.

According to Canelles, the accord turns Passo Fundo, a small city in the southern state of Rio Grande do Sul, into the first city of refuge in Latin America and Perez into the first writer to obtain this status in Brazil.

Canelles said Perez, 36, is not a political prisoner, because he moved around freely in Havana, but is considered to be suffering political persecution for his dissident opinions.

The writer's books are censored and banned by Castro's government. According to the Passo Fundo mayor's office, Perez, who began writing at 20 and has published 10 books of poetry, chronicles and essays, has been imprisoned several times for his political views, as have some members of his family.

The International Parliament of Writers, which has already converted several European cities into havens for persecuted writers, opted to convert Passo Fundo into the first city of refuge in Latin America because the National Literature Conference has been held there for the past nine years.

Writers who obtain refugee status in Passo Fundo will receive a stipend of 1,000 dollars a month and will be able to work as lecturers in different seminars.

Under the accord, writers will be able to live in Passo Fundo for one year, at the end of which they may opt to remain in Brazil. However, the writers will no longer benefit from refugee status and will have to find their own means of support.

Read It 1st In EL EDITOR

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

Vol XXII No. 7

Established 1977 - Texas' Oldest Hispanic Owned Newspapers

Comentarios
de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero

The talk continues throughout the U.S. about the victories of Hispanics in the political realm. I was even asked last week if Jesse Ventura was a Chicano. Well I didn't look up his biography but just looking at him kind of tends to make me think that he's definitely not of Hispanic origin.



Here in Lubbock we can also be proud of the Gutierrez election to become Lubbock first Hispanic sheriff.

Gutierrez becomes the second Hispanic to be elected countywide in Lubbock, Sam Medina being the first when he was elected to County Court at Law Judge and this year being elected to District Judge.

Both newly elected officials have much in common. Besides being member of the same Baptist congregation, both are considered conservatives and both were heavily supported by Republicans. More importantly and despite their Republicans ties, both enjoyed strong support from the Hispanic community.

With their election we can expect that both will have a strong voice in the Republican party politics, that is if Gutierrez decides to officially become republican.

So where does that leave the Hispanic community. We are fairly certain that they personally will take into consideration the needs of Hispanic and how their office can help but more is needed. In having a strong voice can we expect that Republicans will listen.

In the past few years we have seen that local elected officials, especially those elected to law making positions such as state and national representative, totally ignore the needs of Hispanics and disenfranchised have-nots. We have continually seen that our representatives have scored in the lowest percentile when it comes to laws that favor minorities and consumers.

Now we can only hope that the strong voice of both our Hispanic elected officials will be heard and become effective to the benefit of our community.

****Pico de Gallo****

Each week as we prepare our newspaper, we get hungry. Our cook on Thursdays in the good people at Montelongo's Restaurant located at 3021 Clovis Road. Our thanks to them.

EL EDITOR

Week of November 12 thru November 18, 1998 Lubbock, Texas

Denuncia Aumento Del Acoso Militar En Chiapas



El subcomandante Marcos comunicados en los que repitió su negativa a negociar con el Gobierno federal y acusó al gobernador interino de Chiapas, Ro-

berto Albores Guillén -del oficialista PRI-, de perturbar el proceso al exigir plazos para acordar la paz.

En la capital mexicana, la Comisión de Concordia y Pacificación (COCOPA) -mediadora en el conflicto-, integrada por senadores y diputados de los cinco partidos políticos con escaño en el Congreso, se comprometió a investigar las denuncias del Ejército Zapatista. Además, los legisladores reiteraron su llamamiento a los insurgentes para que fijen una fecha y un escenario para sostener un encuentro directo, e intercambiar ideas sobre las condiciones del reinicio del proceso de paz, interrumpido en 1996.

Los legisladores anunciaron continua en la pagina 6

Political Firsts' Move Latinos Forward

By Patricia Guadalupe

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- For the nation's 32 million Hispanics, this month's election gushed a fountain of firsts. In most analyses that followed Nov. 3, Latino gains were lost like raindrops in the gale of national GOP misfortunes and a resurgence of African-American voter influence.

But they were there nonetheless.

They could well presage a critical Hispanic influence in political races from president on down in the year 2000, suggests

former New Mexico governor Toney Anaya. "We are seeing the Latino vote becoming more and more significant all across the country," says Anaya, now a political consultant in Santa Fe, N.M.

What happened this month to inspire such optimism?

Let's start with California, where 10 million Latinos now comprise a quarter of the state's population.

Cruz Bustamante, who became the first Latino speaker of the state Assembly in 1997, was voted in as lieutenant governor.

Patricia Madrid, attorney general; Domingo Martinez, state auditor; and Rebecca Vigil-Giron, secretary of state. State treasurer Michael Montoya retained his post.

In New Mexico, the state with the nation's highest percentage -- 37 percent -- of Hispanic population, four Hispanics were elected to statewide office --

-- Patricia Madrid, attorney general; Domingo Martinez, state auditor; and Rebecca Vigil-Giron, secretary of state. State treasurer Michael Montoya retained his post.

In Texas, former secretary of state Tony Garza was elected to the powerful position of Railroad Commissioner, overseeing the state's oil and gas industry. Garza, an attorney, becomes the first Hispanic in history to win statewide elective office in Texas.

In Colorado, attorney Ken Lazar became the state's first Hispanic Attorney General.

Latino candidates also broke new ground in other places.

In Wisconsin, Pedro Colon continued on page 6

Voter Mandate: Protect Social Security

Social Security was a top issue this election for voters of every age in all competitive House and Senate races. Both parties, and every candidate, pledged that protecting Social Security tops their agenda.

"Every politician is for 'saving' Social Security, but many are just playing word games," said 2030 Center Director Hans Riemer. "Many, in fact, support privatized accounts instead of Social Security. But replacing Social Security with privatized accounts would create huge cuts to guaranteed benefits and a higher retirement age. That would hurt present and future retirees, the disabled, and survivors. Privatization is not what voters meant when they said 'protect Social Security.'

In July, Hart Research conducted a national poll on Social Security, with an oversample of 18-34 year-olds for the 2030 Center. The poll analyzed different plans for reform and the costs associated with enacting them. The poll included a series of "dos" and "don'ts" for Congress.

Presumably in response to the Social Security mandate, Speaker Gingrich proposed to put one-half of the Federal Budget's Social Security Trust Fund surplus into privatized accounts. The other half would go for a tax cut. This proposal, however, would do nothing to improve the fiscal condition of Social Security. President Clinton maintains that the surplus should not be touched until a plan to save Social Security is in place.

The 2030 Center is a public policy organization focused on economic issues and young adults.

The full poll is available on the internet at the 2030 Center homepage, <http://www.2030.org/>

El Candidato Bush Pasa Con Exito El Primer Gran Examen Hispano

Por Victor Landa

De modo que ahora él tiene calculados a los hispanos de Texas. Por lo menos de eso era que trataba la sonrisa de la noche de las elecciones. El Gobernador George W. Bush ganó una cantidad de votos hispanos sin precedentes, y eso lo ayudó a ganar la re-elección.

Según la Prensa Asociada, el republicano Bush ganó el 46 por ciento de los votos hispanos. Según otros estimados de la noche de las elecciones, ese porcentaje puede haber llegado a ser tan alto como el 52 por ciento.

Eso es impresionante al compararse con 1994, cuando el gobernador ganó sólo el 24 por ciento del voto hispano, o con 1986, cuando el republicano Roy Barrera Jr. se postuló para procurador general de Texas y se las arregló para reunir sólo el 36 por ciento del voto hispano.

Not Just Reaction:

Latino Turnout Confirms A New & Vigorous Presidency at Ballot Box

By Gregory Rodriguez, Pacific News Service

It is now crystal clear that California's burgeoning Latino electorate is hooked on voting.

To be sure, Latino voter participation increased tremendously over the last two election cycles. But both times there were hot-button issues that directly and viscerally affected the Latino community -- Proposition 187 in 1994, Proposition 209 in 1996.

Now they have come out in force after a benign campaign during normally subdued mid-term elections.

Post-election spin doctors notwithstanding, this year's strong Latino turnout is historic only insofar as it proves that recent upswings were not just a fluke. This year Latino voters, instead of feeling targeted as many did in the last two elections, could be excused for feeling positively desirable. More money and energy was spent this year than ever before to court Latino voters. And, instead of finding themselves on the losing side of controversial issues, Latino voters are part of a winning coalition of black, Asian and white voters who voted to send a Democrat to California's state house for the first time in 16 years.

Despite the heightened attention on the growing power of ethnic electorates this year, California's diversifying electorate also appears to be unifying. Many victorious Latino candidates could not have won without the significant support of non-Latino voters. An estimated 3 out of 4 votes for Cruz Bustamante, the lieutenant governor-elect, were cast by non-Latino voters, and several of the state's new Latino law-

makers -- including three Republicans -- will represent predominantly Anglo districts. Perhaps the real news this election year is that Californians are becoming more comfortable with their darker skin.

Despite claims by Democrats that the GOP may have alienated the Latino electorate for the next generation, two years from now both parties will only step up their efforts to court what will be an even larger Latino electorate. The lingering effects of Proposition 187 still have Latinos voting more overwhelmingly Democrat than usual, but as years pass and Pete Wilson becomes a bad memory, Latinos are likely to evolve into more than just a de facto Democratic constituency.

While most California political strategists now recognize the importance of the Latino electorate, few can predict how new voters will behave on any given issue. In the absence of Pete Wilson, Democrats will be forced to develop new strategies to court Latino voters. And the number of Latino Republicans in the Assembly jumped from 1 to 4, handing the GOP four new ambassadors to Latino voters.

If recognizing and winning the Latino vote is the first stage, then appealing a growing and diversifying electorate in practice and policy is the second. As the novelty of their heightened participation wears off, it will take more than co-ethnic candidates and Spanish-language advertising to garner Latino support.

In a few short years, California's Latino voters will have the strength to simply ask candidates: What have you done for us lately?

Parecería que el gobernador tiene calculada a la comunidad hispana de Texas. El sabe qué asuntos tocar, de cuáles alejarse y dónde gastar su dinero si se propone ganar a Texas en unas elecciones futuras.

Si usted se está frunciendo la frente en este momento, debería hacerlo. Puede que yo no debería ser tan circunspecto. Bush es un gobernador enormemente popular. El venció a su contrincante por tantos puntos de porcentaje que uno tenía que forzar la vista para ver al demócrata que iba bien a la zaga.

Fué la prueba perfecta para sus ambiciones nacionales. Pero la pieza que él tuvo que poner en su lugar fué el voto hispano. Muy bien hasta ahora.

Desde el comienzo, Bush hizo campaña enérgicamente por el apoyo hispano, reuniéndose con

dirigentes comunitarios, gastando grandes sumas de dinero en los anuncios por la televisión hispana -- esto, desde luego, en contraste con lo que gastó anteriormente. El contestó a las preguntas de los medios informativos hispanos en español y defendió ferozmente a la enseñanza bilingüe, rechazando la tendencia de su partido al hacer eso.

Aún en el controvertido asunto de Sierra Blanca, Bush se las arregló para guinar un ojo al auditorio hispano. El vertedero de desperdicios nucleares cerca de El Paso, que tenía mucha oposición, era muy impopular entre la comunidad hispana, pero Bush lo respaldó de todos modos hasta que la Comisión para la Conservación de los Recursos Naturales de Texas denegó una licencia para su construcción.

Al preguntársele sobre la negación del permiso en un viaje reciente a San Antonio con su madre, la anterior primera dama de pie a su lado, Bush dijo enfáticamente en inglés: "Sierra Blanca está muerto". Entonces se volvió hacia los medios informativos en español y lo repitió en español: "Está muerto", dando su gesto patentado de barrida lateral con la mano.

De modo que él puede estar ahora confiado en su capacidad para conectar con el elector hispano -- pero enfatizó él del elector de Texas, con "T" mayúscula.

Si algo es cierto sobre los hispanos de los Estados Unidos, es que nuestros hábitos políticos pueden variar tanto como el ritmo de nuestro hablar y la presencia de las "eses" en las frases que decimos.

Los hábitos políticos de un cubano del sur de la Florida pueden estar a veces diametralmente opuestos a los de un mexicano de Texas, y aún entonces un mexicano recién llegado puede tener puntos de vista distintos que un

tejano hispano de séptima generación.

El concepto entero de ser latino llega a variar en gran medida entre los hispanos de Texas y los de California. Los tejanos son un poco más conservadores; los californianos parecen pensar de sí mismos como más "mexicanos". Es una consideración sutil que traza una línea muy distinta entre los dos grupos.

Entonces, desde luego, está el puertorriqueño de Nueva York y Nueva Jersey, preocupado por los asuntos laborales y de la isla que mas que por el futuro de Fidel Castro o la política fronteriza.

Tales sutilezas, tales diferencias podrían convertirse en una pesadilla para Bush cuando él lance su campaña presidencial (vuelven a fruncirse las frentes). Si hubo alguna vez duda de que George W. Bush se postularía para presidente en el año 2000, esa duda ha desaparecido ahora.

La fórmula funcionó aún mejor que lo esperado. Todos le dijeron que, para que él ganara en Texas, necesitaba ganar el voto hispano, y así fué. Una victoria para Bush, pero una victoria para los electores hispanos también. Ellos comprobaron que si votan, aún cuando los encuestadores se hayan olvidado de ellos, y que cuando votan lo hacen con sus cabezas y no necesariamente con el partido.

Eso es suficiente para hacer que un político se ponga de pie y escuche.

El cuadro mayor -- el del año 2000 -- se cierra ahora mas que nunca. Y si yo fuera un apostador, pondría mi dinero en algo seguro: Si él no lo ha hecho todavía, Al Gore estará reclutando pronto a un maestro de español.

(Victor Landa es director de noticias de la estación de Telemundo KVDA-TV60 en San Antonio, Texas.)

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Candidate Bush Aces His 'Hispanic' Test

By Victor Landa

So now he's got Texas Hispanics figured out. At least that's what the election night smile was mostly about. Gov. George W. Bush won a record number of Hispanic votes, and that helped him win re-election.

According to the Associated Press, the GOP's Bush won 46 percent of the Hispanic vote. By other election night estimates, that percentage may have been as high as 52 percent.

Impressive, when compared to 1994 when the governor won a mere 24 percent of the Hispanic vote, or to 1986 when Spanish-surnamed Republican Roy Barrera Jr. ran for Texas attorney general and managed to collect only 36 percent of the Hispanic vote.

It would seem that the governor has the Hispanic community in Texas figured out. He knows which issues to prod, which to stay away from, and where to spend his money if he intends to carry Texas in future election.

If you're raising an eyebrow at this moment, you should be. Maybe I shouldn't be so circumspect. Bush is an enormously popular governor. He beat his opponent by so many percentage points, he had to squint to see the Democrat lagging far behind. It was the perfect test for his national ambitions. But the one piece he had to put in place was the Hispanic vote.

So far so good.

From the beginning, Bush campaigned hard for Hispanic support, meeting with community leaders, spending lots -- lots -- of money on Spanish TV ads -- this, of course, in contrast to what was spent in the past. He answered Spanish media questions in Spanish, and fiercely defended bilingual education, bucking the trend of his party in so doing.

Even on the controversial Sierra Blanca issue Bush managed a wink at the Spanish-speaking audience. The much-posed nuclear waste dump near El Paso was very unpopular among the Hispanic community, but Bush backed it anyway until the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission denied a license for its construction.

When asked about the permission denial on a recent trip to San Antonio with his mother, the former first lady, standing beside him, Bush emphatically said, "Sierra Blanca is dead." Then he turned to the Spanish media and said "Esta muerto."

and gave his patented side-sweep hand gesture.

So now he may be confident in his ability to connect with the Hispanic voter -- but, I emphasize -- Texas Hispanic voter.

If anything is true about Hispanics in the United States, it's that our politics can vary as much as the rhythm of our speech and presence of S's in our spoken sentences.

The politics of a "cubano" in South Florida can be at times diametrically opposed to a "mexicano" from Texas, and even then a recently arrived "mexicano" may have views different from a seventh-generation Hispanic Texan.

The whole concept of being a Latino even varies greatly between Texas Hispanics and California Hispanics. Texans are a bit more conservative; Californians seem to think of themselves as more "Mexican." It's a subtle consideration that draws a very distinctive line between the two.

Then, of course, there is the New York-New Jersey Puerto Rican, concerned more with labor issues and island politics than with the future of Fidel Castro or the politics of the United States's southern border.

Such subtleties, such differences could become a nightmare for Bush when he launches his presidential campaign (again eyebrows raise). If ever there was a doubt that George W. Bush would run for president in the year 2000, that doubt is now quelled.

The formula worked even better than expected. Everyone told him that in order to win in Texas he needed to win the Hispanic vote, and so it was. A victory for Bush, but a victory for Hispanic voters as well. They proved that they do vote, even when the pollsters had given up on them, and that when they vote they vote their mind and not necessarily the party.

It's enough to make a politician stand up and listen.

The bigger picture -- the year 2000 picture -- now looks larger than ever. And if I were a betting man I would put my money on one sure thing: if he hasn't done it yet, Al Gore will soon be hiring a Spanish tutor.

(Victor Landa es director de noticias de la estación de Telemundo KVDA-TV60 en San Antonio, Texas.)

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Sittin' Here Thinkin'

The Old Neighborhood

by Ira Cutler

Over the last ten years or so a great many public and private funders have fallen in love with the idea of funding things "at the neighborhood level." To some extent this is a reaction to the considerable disappointment felt when considering the limited progress that has been made through numerous other approaches. Previous efforts - to furnish individual treatment and remediation, to reform systems, to create new models for the field, to develop enlightened policy - have all fallen short of their goals. Whatever progress may have been made, these approaches have not ended poverty, racism, or any of the assorted social demons of our time. Some would say that many of these efforts did not even make a noticeable dent.

On the other hand, organizing efforts around "neighborhoods" may offer new hope. If nothing else, focusing on neighborhoods - which most often means low income, inner city, minority neighborhoods - has the virtue of not having been tried recently. It seems new, even if somewhat reminiscent of the Model Cities efforts of a generation ago. Further, since most new neighborhood efforts call for the inclusion of poor people in decision making processes, and sometimes advocate for a transfer of power, these efforts may give a new set of neighborhood based players a turn at bat.

Certainly we should invest in improving the social, economic and physical vitality of low income neighborhoods, but we need to be clear about what we are after. I fear that some of the recent tug towards "neighborhoods" is based on notions about neighborhoods that are sentimental, naïve, and will ultimately not be helpful. For all the focus on the future of neighborhoods it is very hard to get a clear picture of what a healthy urban neighborhood would be like in that future. Instead, we all too frequently dwell on warmed over descriptions of how neighborhoods used to be, and a longing to return to the past.

Nearly everyone can describe what they do not want a neighborhood of the future to be. Neighborhoods characterized by crime, isolation, poverty, poor services, lack of economic opportunity are easy to envision and describe. Many are equally sure that the characteristics of a healthy urban neighborhood are quite different than those of a suburban neighborhood or a gentrified urban neighborhood. Gentrified neighborhoods are seen as unaffordable to poor or working class residents and their focus on restaurants, culture, and entertainment is very different than a focus on issues like personal safety and economic opportunity. Suburban neighborhoods have a different feel altogether, with lower levels of community engagement, often a population that is non-diverse and services that are a car ride, not a walk, away.

And so, when we talk about creating healthy urban neighborhoods, what are we really talking about?

Many people, especially in my generation, have a somewhat romanticized picture of how wonderful city neighborhoods used to be. This picture, for many, is at the heart of envisioning what they want for all neighborhoods, including the neighborhoods where they are now making grants. Our literature and common folklore is filled with stories of how urban neighborhoods were once a critical part of the support system that nurtured poor and immigrant families - whether from the rural South or from Europe - and provided the early social experiences for individuals who grew to national prominence. People who grew up in older urban neighborhoods all tell the same stories: how neighbors would tell their mothers if they misbehaved; how it was safe to sit outside on summer nights; how people knew each other and helped each other and how in later years they were never as connected to any community as they were to that old neighborhood.

In many of today's worst neighborhoods, older residents still remember when those neighborhoods were also places where neighbors looked out for each other, where the population was stable and extended families lived within blocks of each other for generations. Older residents speak of a time that was pre-drugs and pre-welfare, when anyone could walk the streets and play in the parks without fear.

Yet, despite the vivid pictures of today's negative neighborhoods and the positive neighborhoods of the past, is there a clear picture of a good neighborhood of the future? Are we driven by nostalgia and hoping to return to neighborhoods of the past?

It seems to me that too much has changed in our culture and economy for a "Back To The Future" model of neighborhood development to succeed. This is a very different time than the 1950's and 1960's and the neighborhoods that many of us remember so fondly. In that world most mothers did not work outside their homes and, of course, could keep an eye out for each other's kids; single parent families were rare; home ownership was within the reach of unskilled workers; people often held down jobs for the same employer for a lifetime; many people in the neighborhood worked for a common employer, lived in the neighborhood all their lives, went to the same church as their neighbors, sent their children to a neighborhood school and walked to most shopping and services.

Today, the US Census Bureau reports that one sixth of the population - nearly 43,000,000 people - moves in any given year. For renters or those in their 20's, the figures jump to nearly one third of the population moving in the last year. Nor do workers spend their lives at a single factory or working for the same employer. Instead, studies show that the median tenure for American workers is less than four years, a fourth of all workers have been with their current employer for less than a year, and the length of service statistics are continuing to trend downward. With this much movement, is the vision of a stable urban neighborhood - the one we remember - a viable one?

Many today are envisioning neighborhoods that are economically and ethnically diverse, and hope to find neighborhood strength in that diversity. Yet the old urban neighborhoods of memory were highly segregated, often by choice, and residents were tied together ethnically, linguistically, and by their common isolation from the mainstream of society. In those days people moved out of the older urban neighborhoods upon achieving economic success. Often their destination was the now frequently despised suburban communities where they could get a driveway, a backyard, and the mixed blessings of home ownership. Yet the hope of many who are funding and planning in low income neighborhoods today is that, against all history, residents of those communities will become more prosperous and yet continue to stay in the neighborhood.

How many of the attributes of those older neighborhoods - segregated, single earner families, little social or geographic mobility - should we attempt to recreate in our quest for healthier neighborhoods in the future? We seem to want tomorrow's neighborhoods to be both a lot like and a lot different from the neighborhoods of years ago.

Some of what we valued about older neighborhoods - safety and a feeling of community - is not beyond the reach of current neighborhoods, no matter how mobile, diverse and modern they have become. But in the face of so many demographic, cultural and economic changes, we will only stand a chance of getting that old neighborhood feeling back if we first of all recognize that these are new times. One thing is certain: the good urban neighborhood of 2010 will not be very much like the neighborhoods of the 1950's. Time spent trying to turn back the clock will be wasted time and scarce resources could be much better spent.

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

EL EDITOR

Texas' Oldest Hispanic Owned Newspaper



Hispanic Health Conference Huge Success in Lubbock

Health Professionals from throughout Lubbock and West Texas attended the first annual Hispanic Health Conference this past week to hear about problems that exist within the Hispanic community. A highlight of the Conference was a presentation by Dr. Juan Antonio Chavira who spoke about "Curanderismo" and its influence on Hispanic health beliefs.

Por Que Los Angeles No Es Quebec

Por Domenico Maceri

El punto más alto del mercado radial de Los Angeles pertenece a la KLVE-FM, una estación que transmite en español. Y recientemente la KSCA-FM pasó de ser de música alternativa en inglés a la música regional mexicana, saltando así al tercer lugar.

¿Refleja la popularidad de la radio en español un apoderamiento pacífico de la ciudad por los hispano-parlantes?

Conforme más latinos lleguen a Los Angeles, ¿llegará el español a ser su idioma predominante? ¿Tendrán los angelinos de habla inglesa que aprender español para conseguir empleos?

Lo que es peor aún, ¿producirá el paisaje idiomático de la ciudad la clase de conflictos a que se enfrenta Quebec en el Canadá?

Hay semejanzas superficiales entre Quebec y Los Angeles. La más clara es la percepción local de que el inglés viene perdiendo terreno y de que otro idioma y otra cultura están llegando a prevalecer.

En Quebec, esto es real. Ya que el 80% de los residentes de Quebec hablan francés, el inglés es el idioma minoritario. Esto ha sido así durante siglos. Los franceses fueron los primeros europeos que se asentaron en el Canadá. Ellos "perdieron" al Canadá frente a los ingleses, pero no completamente; en la provincia de Quebec, los franco-parlantes son aún la mayoría.

En Los Angeles, la percepción de que el español está sepultando al inglés no está apoyada por los hechos. El Censo de los Estados Unidos cuenta sólo a un 14% (458,000) de los residentes de Los Angeles como que hablan solamente el español, o bien este idioma con una salpicadura de inglés defectuoso. El porcentaje de los que hablan el español con soltura sube hasta el 34% (1,100,000) si agregamos a los que también hablan inglés "muy bien".

"obien".

Estas cifras no son insignificantes, pero en verdad no sugieren que el inglés sea el idioma minoritario.

Más importante que las cifras, no obstante, es la realidad: La cultura, la política y el sistema económico están dominados por el idioma inglés, y no hay un desafío verdadero para eso.

Las diferencias entre Quebec y Los Angeles son casi tan evidentes como las semejanzas superficiales. Quebec tenía -- y continúa teniendo -- escuelas de habla francesa, escuelas superiores y universidades donde se puede llegar a ser médico, abogado, ingeniero o catedrático universitario en francés.

En algunas escuelas, la enseñanza primaria es en inglés, pero la mayoría enseñan en francés. El francés es el idioma del gobierno y de los negocios. Aunque es posible vivir en Quebec sin saber francés, no es muy práctico.

En Los Angeles no hay universidades donde la enseñanza sea en español. La escuela de derecho de la Universidad de California en Los Angeles no ofrece clases en español. Ni es posible obtener un grado en español de la escuela de medicina de la Universidad del Sur de California. Nadie puede llegar a ser ingeniero en español en Cal-Tech.

En esencia, el inglés es el idioma de la enseñanza, así como del gobierno y de los negocios. El sobrevivir en Los Angeles con sólo el español no es más práctico que el hacer negocios en Quebec con sólo el inglés.

Quizás si la mayor diferencia entre Quebec y Los Angeles sea el punto de vista de las personas acerca de sus idiomas. En Quebec, el francés es la razón de ser del pueblo, su identidad. De cierto modo, los residentes de habla francesa de Quebec, cuyo lema es "Je me souviens (Yo recuerdo)", todavía se ven a ellos mismos

combatiendo a los ingleses por el control del Canadá. Los "quebecois" (residentes de habla francesa de Quebec) están separados físicamente de Francia, su madre patria, a la que ven como que los ha abandonado y que hasta mira con desdén a la versión local del francés.

Además, los residentes de Quebec están rodeados por un espacio vasto de personas de habla inglesa, no sólo en el Canadá, sino también en los Estados Unidos. De modo que ellos se atrincheran y llegan a obsesionarse con su idioma. El francés no es solamente un instrumento de comunicación; el idioma los define como un pueblo. El predominio cada vez mayor del inglés y el poderío decreciente del francés en el mundo agregan a los sentimientos de inseguridad de los naturales de Quebec.

Los inmigrantes de Los Angeles de habla hispana no tienen esa obsesión con su idioma. Para ellos resulta mucho más importante el mejoramiento de su situación económica. Ellos vienen buscando trabajo y un salario razonable. En México, los trabajadores sin habilidades que encuentran empleo ganan de \$3 a \$4 por día. Aquí pueden ganar eso en una hora.

La seguridad económica es lo que les atrae. No tienen deseo alguno de convertir a Los Angeles en el país de cuya pobreza ellos escaparon, ni quieren regresar a un sistema político responsable por su emigración forzada.

Los hispano-parlantes pueden asimilarse con mayor lentitud que otros grupos de inmigrantes debido a la proximidad de los Estados Unidos a México. Muchos de ellos son migrantes mejor que inmigrantes. Los que se quedan comprenden sólo demasiado bien que el conocer solamente español es el boleto de entrada para los empleos de salario mínimo. Despues de trabajar largas horas, se apiñan en las

Latinos Hacen Adelantos En Recientes Elecciones

Por Patricia Guadalupe

WASHINGTON, DC. -- Para los 32 millones de hispanos en la nación, las recientes elecciones resultaron en un cuantioso número de logros. La mayoría de los análisis después del 3 de noviembre dejó fuera las ganancias latinas mientras cubrían el marasmo que la elección causaría dentro del partido republicano a nivel nacional, y la resurgencia de la influencia electoral afroamericana.

Pero los latinos estaban allí, no obstante.

Ellos bien podrían augurar una influencia hispana crítica en las contiendas políticas de la presidencia para abajo, en el año 2000, sugiere el ex gobernador de Nuevo México, Toney Anaya. "Estamos viendo que el voto latino llega a ser cada vez más importante a través de todo el país", dice Anaya, quien es ahora consultor político en Santa Fe, Nuevo México.

¿Qué sucedió en este mes para inspirar tal optimismo?

Comencemos por California, donde 10 millones de latinos forman ahora una cuarta parte de la población del estado.

Cruz Bustamante, quien llegara a ser el primer presidente latino de la Asamblea Estatal en 1997, esta vez fue electo vice gobernador, señalando la primera vez desde 1871 en que un latino haya sido electo para una plaza estatal. Bustamante, oriundo de Fresno, en la zona agrícola del valle de San Joaquín en California, ganó por un margen impresionante de 53 por ciento contra 39 por ciento sobre su principal contrincante, el republicano Tim Leslie.

En San José, Ron Gonzales fue electo alcalde, convirtiéndose en el primer hispano que haya presidido una ciudad principal en el estado -- y una de las de mayor crecimiento -- mientras

clases de inglés nocturnas.

Los incontables anuncios en las estaciones de radio y televisión que transmiten en español y que venden cintas y videos para aprender inglés, reflejan la necesidad de aprender este idioma. Muchos padres y madres de habla hispana no quieren que sus hijos asistan a los programas de enseñanza bilingüe por temor de que los niños no aprendan inglés y que, como los de las anteriores generaciones, quedaran sentenciados a empleos insignificantes.

Se separará Quebec del Canadá

que en Salinas, Anna Caballero llegó a ser la primera mujer hispana electa como alcaldesa.

En el Condado de Los Angeles, Lee Baca se convirtió en el funcionario público electo de mayor sueldo del país, a \$235,000 anuales, ganando la plaza de alguacil del condado después que el favorito titular de 73 años de edad muriera varios días antes de las elecciones.

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Se separará Quebec del Canadá

nadá?

Es posible. Si eso ocurre, será en parte debido a la situación geográfica de la provincia, pero primordialmente a los sentimientos de los nativos de Quebec sobre mantener vivo su idioma, al que ellos ven como la esencia de su cultura e identidad.

Se separará Los Angeles o se convertirá en una ciudad de habla hispana con una minoría de habla inglesa?

No hay oportunidad para eso. A medida que mejoren las economías de México y la América Central -- en parte

gracias a TLC -- y que disminuya la disparidad de jornales entre los Estados Unidos y México, la inmigración hacia el norte disminuirá también. A medida que los latinos de los Estados Unidos se asimilen, como lo han hecho otros grupos de inmigrantes, Los Angeles permanecerá siendo de habla inglesa, pero con un sabor latín.

(Domenico Maceri es catedrático en idiomas en Allan Hancock College de Santa María, California.)

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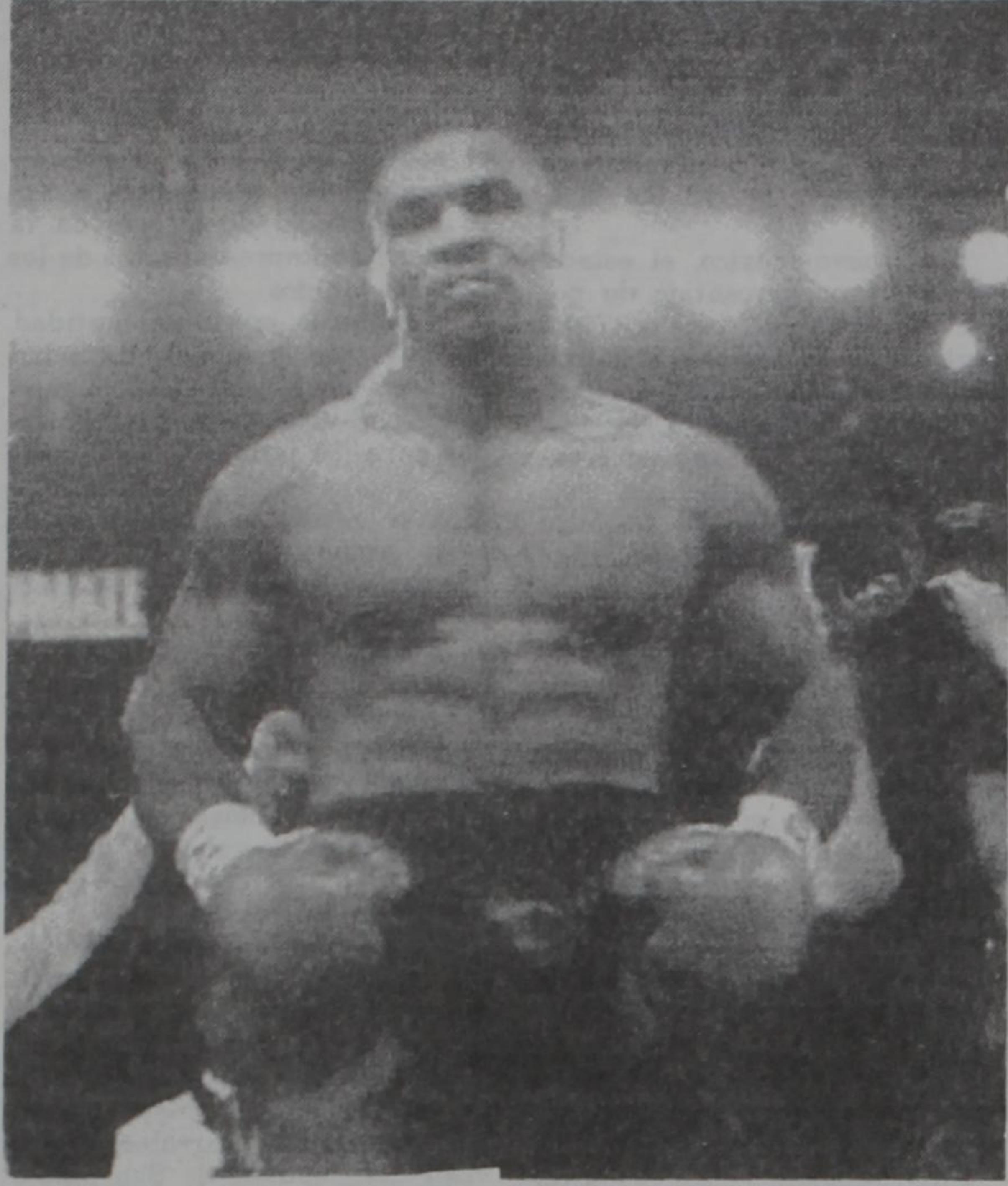
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Tyson Will Return To Ring In January



LAS VEGAS -- Mike Tyson is expected to make his return to the ring official next week.

A news conference has been tentatively set in New York for Tyson to announce he will fight Jan. 16 at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas.

The opponent still hasn't been signed, but South Africa's Francois Botha remains the front-runner. If Tyson's handlers

can't come to terms with Botha in the next few days, they will turn to either Vaughn Bean or Denmark's Brian Nielsen.

"It will probably be Botha, but that's not certain yet," Tyson's adviser Shelly Finkel said Monday.

Finkel said he expects to hold a news conference next Tuesday

in New York to formally announce the latest comeback by the former heavyweight champion.

Tyson, who won his boxing license back last month from Nevada boxing authorities, will make millions once again in what will be his first fight in 20 months. He had his license taken away for biting Evander Holyfield's ears in his last bout.

TYSON NEEDS THE MONEY, despite having made more than \$100 million in the ring since getting out of prison in 1995. He is in financial trouble and the IRS has a \$13 million lien on his property for failing to pay taxes.

Just how much Tyson will make for his first fight back since biting Holyfield is still a matter of speculation, but it is expected to easily exceed the amount he owes the IRS. Tyson's official purse for his prior comeback in August 1995 against Peter McNeeley was \$25 million, although the boxer ended up with only half of that.

The Jan. 16 fight will be shown on Showtime pay-per-view, and executive producer Jay Larkin expects it to do extremely well.

"He has lost his last two fights, yet he probably commands more focus and attention than any fighter in history," Larkin said. "This is an individual who, for better or ill, has surpassed his sport."

The fight is expected to be promoted by Dan Goosen, head of America Presents, who said last week he had signed to promote Tyson's comeback.

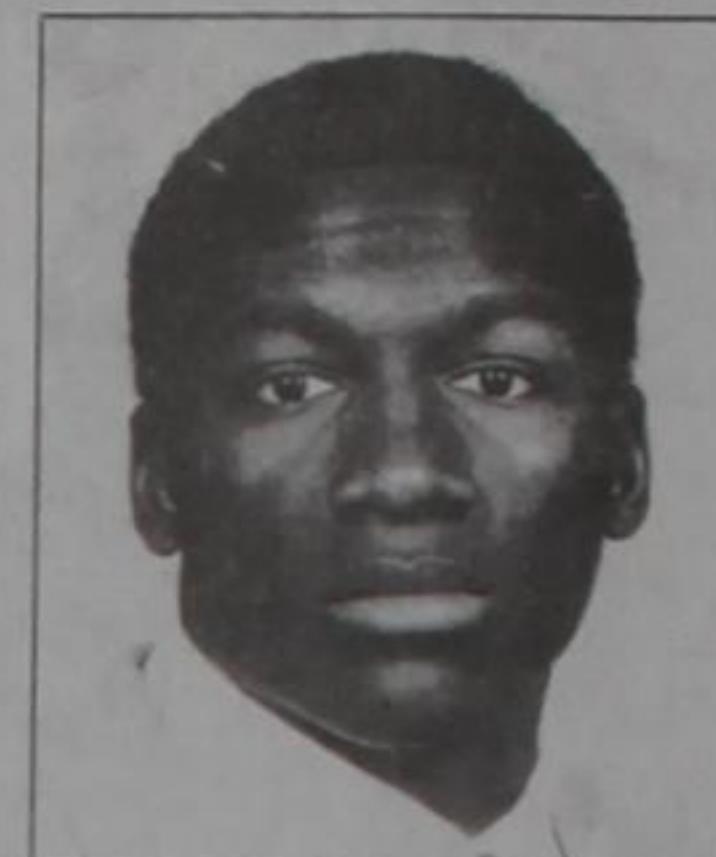
Texas Tech (6-3, 3-3 in the Big 12 South) will face its fourth-straight top-25 opponent when it hosts 21st-ranked Texas (7-2, 5-1 in the Big 12 South) Saturday at Jones Stadium. The game will be the final home game for 17 Red Raider seniors.

Texas Tech coach Spike Dykes is 11-4-1 following an open date and is 5-6 against Texas in his 12 years as a head coach.

Last week for the Red Raiders/Texas Tech enjoyed its first off-week of the season following a disappointing 28-26 loss to 18th-ranked Missouri on Nov. 7 in Jones Stadium. For the second time in three games the Red Raider offense outgained its opponent but key turnovers determined the outcome. Texas Tech's three-straight losses have been by a mere 11 points and all three opponents were ranked in the top-25 in the nation. Down 28-12, the Red Raiders scored twice in the fourth quarter and mounted a strong defensive effort but a failed two-point attempt sealed the game for the Tigers with just 1:05 left. For the Raiders, leading rusher Ricky Williams sat out the second half with an ankle injury, leading receiver Donnie Hart missed the fourth quarter due to ankle and knee injuries and leading passer Rob Peters missed most of the final quarter due to a bruised chest. Rickey Hunter rushed for a career-high 121 yards on 25 carries in relief of Williams. Tim Baker, Derek Dorris and Kyle Allmon combined for nine catches for 84 yards to pick-up the receiving effort. Matt Little came-on in relief of Peters and completed the potential game-tying TD.

The Texas at Texas Tech contest will feature a national cable telecast by Fox Sports Net as part of the Big 12 television

Texas Tech Battles Fourth Straight Top-25 Opponent



35
Ricky
WILLIAMS

34 Ricky Williams

Packer...
Texas Is...

The Longhorns enter the game with a 7-2 overall record and 5-1 Big 12 mark as well as a No. 18 national ranking. Senior tailback Ricky Williams enters the game as the nation's leading rusher, averaging 191.6 yards per game on 287 carries, the second-most in the country. He is 204 yards shy of Tony Dorsett's all-time NCAA career rushing record (FYI).

The last time a rusher surpassed 200 yards rushing against Texas Tech was Darren Lewis in a 28-24 Texas A&M win in 1990. Quarterback Major Applewhite is rated 15th in the nation with a 148.7 efficiency rating and 219.9 yards per game through the air.

**Texas Tech vs. Texas:
The Series**

Texas Tech and Texas have

played 46 times in history with the Longhorns enjoying a 34-12 edge since the first meeting in 1928. The two teams are 6-6 over the last 12 meetings. Texas Tech won last year's game 24-10 in Austin, while Texas won the last game in Lubbock by a slim 38-32 margin.

For Those Living Under A Rock

If you've been residing on another planet over the two seasons, this may come as news to you. Both Texas Tech and Texas have tailbacks named Ricky Williams. No, they aren't related. No, their mothers didn't name their children with the other in mind. No, the two players haven't formed a club only for persons named "Ricky Williams." Yes. The two players have met each other following last season's game in Austin.

Dallas Cowboys Have Trouble With Giants But Pull It Out

ing the Giants had success running on the Cowboys.

The Dallas offense has shown vast improvement over the past two seasons and had excellent field position the entire game. But third-down woes and red-zone problems forced the sellout crowd to stay until the final minutes. Yet, the bottom line was it was a win.

"Our guys made a point to really win the game," said Coach Chan Gailey. "Instead of letting the game come to them, they went out and won the game. That's what you have to do. To be a good football team, you have to go win tight games. I thought our team took a step in that direction, but there's a lot of football left."

The Cowboys won because

quarterback Troy Aikman, playing with a gashed index finger on his throwing hand, completed six consecutive passes on the game's only touchdown drive to build a double-digit lead.

The Cowboys won because the defense didn't allow a touchdown for the second consecutive game. The pivotal play occurred when strong safety Darren Woodson sacked Danny Kanell on second and goal at the Dallas 1 late in the first half.

"I don't think you can ever underestimate the importance of winning a division game at home," Gailey said. "Trying to beat this team twice in one year has been difficult through the years. I'm proud of the way guys hung in there and fought. And it was a fight."

With seven games to play, the Cowboys have matched last year's win total. Dallas (6-3) has won four of its last five.

"You seldom become a championship team without hitting at least one good, solid streak somewhere," Gailey said. "We've got a chance right now. I don't know if we will but we've got a chance. That's something we're building on."

Smith has been building on something his entire career. By rushing for 163 yards, he surpassed Tony Dorsett's club record. Told repeatedly this past off-season that his better days were in his rearview mirror, Smith has rushed for 871 yards and is on pace for 1,548 yards.

"Emmitt's been unduly criticized over the years," Aikman said. "For all athletes, everybody's always quick to say, 'He's lost it. He's not this, he's not that.' Certainly, a lot of people were saying that about Emmitt. He's a great football player and still is."

Criticism motivates Smith and he admits Gailey's new offense has revitalized the Dallas offense.

**Lubbock's
BEST
El Editor**

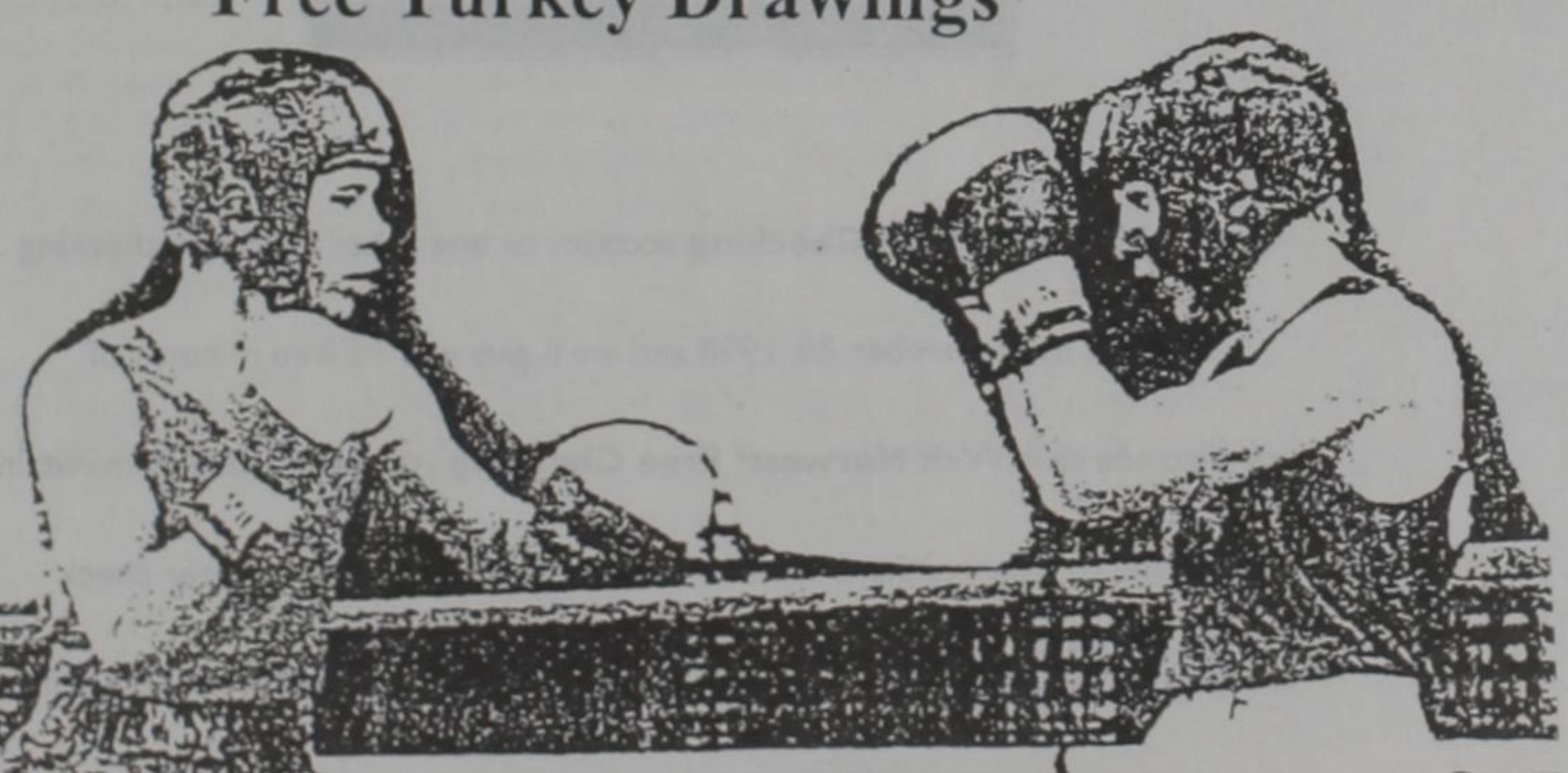
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Dos Mundos Son Mejores Que Uno

Por Joe Rodriguez

Darrell Cortez no repetirá el error de su padre. Me senté con Darrell y Alicia Cortez en su sala, en el suburbio de Willow Glen, en San José, California, a poca distancia de una escuela popular que fué pasada por alto en la desagradable guerra idiomática de California. Ellos tienen dos hijos en la escuela de River Glen, donde los alumnos aprenden en dos idiomas -- inglés y español -- y se gradúan siendo bilingües.

Darrell empieza con la enseñanza de su padre. El viejo nació en el sur de California de inmigrantes mexicanos, "pero cuando él fué a la escuela", dijo Darrell, "lo disciplinaron por hablar español".

"Lo golpeaban con una regla, o le daban nalgadas. De modo que él decidió que no permitiría que sus hijos sufrieran la misma humillación ni el mismo dolor. Esa es la razón de que él nunca nos hablara en español en casa. Por eso perdi el idioma y he luchado desde entonces para dominarlo".

En California, la boleta electoral ha sustituido a la paleta del aula de clase como instrumento ejecutor de la cultura.

Empero, no argumentaré aquí y ahora en favor de la desobediencia civil. Los electores de California aprobaron decidida-

mente la Propuesta 227 para poner fin a la enseñanza bilingüe. Más que unos pocos latinos y asiáticos votaron por ella. La nueva ley primero merece ser puesta a prueba equitativamente en las aulas de clase y los tribunales. Además, parece que la misma tiene suficiente escapatorias legales como para permitir que la enseñanza bilingüe sobreviva hasta cierto punto.

Aún así, no deberíamos sólo conservar la enseñanza bilingüe tal como esta.

Necesitamos más escuelas como la de River Glen. Fuí allí hace poco y encontré una comunidad de alumnos, maestros, padres y madres que saben que el tiempo, las cifras y la razón están de parte de ellos.

Cuando los hijos Cortez, Ricardo y Emilio, cambian de idioma, se escucha como si fueran intérpretes de las Naciones Unidas en ciernes.

Me senté por un rato con dos de sus compañeros de escuela, Xochitl Martínez y Todd Anderson. Estos "casi mejores amigos" me regalaron con un programa, mudándose entre el inglés y el español a medida que hablaban sobre las ventajas de hablar dos idiomas.

Un tercio de la gente joven de River Glen son como Xochitl, ni-

ños mexicanos que llegan hablando solamente español. Un tercio son mexicanoamericanos, como los Cortez, que recorran el idioma que sus padres perdieron. Otro tercio son chicos anglosajones, como Todd, que han aprendido el español por primera vez.

A través del valle, en la Meca de alta tecnología de Cupertino, los padres asiáticos están aprendiendo por una escuela que enseñe en mandarín (el chino que se habla en la parte norte de la China) e inglés. Si California odia a la enseñanza bilingüe, ¿por qué hay tantos que desean el bilingüismo? Escuchen a dos padres más de River Glen:

"Porque quiero que mis hijos puedan hablar con su abuela en México, que permanezcan conectados al país de sus antepasados", dijo Marisa Brennan, una inmigrante mexicana casada con un estadounidense de descendencia irlandesa. "Esta es una parte diversa del mundo", dijo Marilyn Dion. Ella no quiere hablar español, pero quiere que sus dos hijos lo aprendan. "Me gustaría que se llevaran bien con otras personas y se aprovecharan del mundo globalizado".

Durante 30 años, el objetivo primordial de la enseñanza bilingüe fué hacer "latranción" de los chicos inmigrantes al in-

glés y al diablo con sus idiomas "nativos Transición". ¡Qué palabra tan insultante y coercitiva! Les dice al niño mexicano y a la niña asiática que, si desean ser aceptados, se olviden de hablar con sus padres. Que se olviden de quiénes son.

Durante tres decenios, les sacamos el español y otros idiomas a estos niños, cuando todo lo que ellos necesitaban era una mejor ayuda para agregar el inglés. Por dejar de ver el valor del bilingüismo, les negamos a todos ellos un mundo mayor, un futuro más brillante. Esa fué la tragedia más grande.

En lo profundo de sus seres, los latinos inmigrantes y los estadounidenses han sabido siempre que ellos pueden abrazar la ciudadanía estadounidense y continuar siendo bilingües. Hablen con ellos en sus casas, cerca de sus fotografías de familia y de sus obras de arte culturales, y ellos manifiestan sus deseos. Quieren que sus hijos dominen el inglés y continúen siendo hábiles en sus idiomas nativos. En resumen, que sean verdaderamente bilingües. Es hora de ponerse de pie y decirlo así.

(Joe Rodriguez es columnista del "San José Mercury News", en California.)

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Preventing Youth Violence: What Works, What Doesn't

An article from the Benton Foundation KidsCampaigns reports on three resources that track youth violence prevention programs:

The vast majority of young people do not carry weapons, do not deal drugs, do not join gangs and do not victimize their friends or neighborhoods. Still, youth violence does occur with disturbing frequency, and the causes of this violence are many. Youth violence will not be overcome with quick fixes, but with careful attention to what works, and what doesn't. Preventing Youth Violence summarizes evaluations of prevention programs addressing youth violence conducted by America's Promise for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Based on its review of the evaluation literature, Preventing Youth Violence describes the kinds of programs that work—prevention of unintended pregnancy, home visitation to support family strengths and address family needs, parent education programs, early childhood education leading to school success, teaching social problem-solving skills to children and youth, marital and family therapy, innovative teaching and consistent discipline, supervised after-school recreation, and innovative policing which emphasizes proactive approaches. The full report is available from America's Promise, c/o Lisa Smith, Communications Director, 206-522-1592 or smlt@u.washington.edu.

Concluding that much of the funding for crime prevention is driven more by rhetoric than by careful evaluation, Preventing Crime: What Works, What Doesn't, What's Promising, commissioned by Congress to summarize evaluations of crime prevention efforts, recommends a greater proportion of federal funding in crime prevention to be targeted for high-crime areas and for cost-effectiveness evaluation. It also evaluates the effectiveness of crime prevention approaches in community settings, schools, families, labor markets, and police initiatives.

"We'll win the war on crime when we invest in America's most vulnerable children before they become America's most wanted," declared Sanford A. Newman, President of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, announcing a joint release with the Child Welfare League of America of a new report documenting the links between child abuse and neglect and juvenile crime, and pointing the way to effective preventive measures that can save kids' lives and taxpayers' dollars. For a copy of this report, contact Child Welfare League of America at 202-638-2952.

Two Worlds Are Better Than One

By Joe Rodriguez

Darrell Cortez will not repeat his father's mistake.

I sat with Darrell and Alicia Cortez in their living room in the San Jose suburb of Willow Glen, a short walk from a popular school that was overlooked in California's nasty language war. They have two sons at River Glen school, where students learn in two languages -- English and Spanish -- and graduate bilingual.

Darrell begins with the education of his father. The old man was born in Southern California to Mexican immigrants. "But when he went to school," Darrell said, "he was disciplined for speaking Spanish."

"They'd slap him with a ruler, or spank him. So he decided he wouldn't let his children suffer the same humiliation and pain. That's why he never spoke Spanish to us at home. That's why I lost the language and have struggled since to master it."

In California, the ballot has replaced the classroom paddle as cultural enforcer.

Still, I won't argue here and now for civil disobedience. Voters decidedly passed Proposition 227 to end bilingual education. More than a few Latinos and Asians voted for it. The new law deserves a fair trial by classroom and court first. Besides, it looks like 227 has enough wiggle room and loopholes to allow bilingual to survive to some degree.

Even so, we shouldn't merely preserve bilingual ed as we knew it.

We need more River Glen schools. I went there recently and found a community of students, teachers and parents who

know that time, numbers and reason are on their side.

When the Cortez boys, Ricardo and Emilio, switch languages, your ears tell you they're United Nations translators in the making.

I sat for a while with two of their schoolmates, Xochitl Martinez and Todd Anderson. These "almost best friends" put on quite a show for me, moving between English and Spanish as they talked about the advantages of speaking two languages.

One-third of the kids at River Glen are like Xochitl, Mexican kids who arrive speaking only Spanish. One-third are Mexican-Americans, like the Cortez boys, recapturing the language their parents lost. Another third are white kids like Todd learning Spanish for the first time.

Across the valley, in the high-tech mecca of Cupertino, Chinese-American parents are pressing for a Mandarin-English school. If California hates bilingual ed, why do so many desire bilingualism? Listen to two more River Glen parents:

"Because I want my kids to be able to speak with their grandmother in Mexico, to stay connected to the country of their ancestors," said Marisa Brennan, a Mexican immigrant married to an Irish-American.

"This is a diverse part of the world," Marilyn Dion said. She doesn't speak Spanish but wants her two kids to learn the language. "I'd like for them to get along with other people and take advantage of the globalized world."

For 30 years, the primary goal of bilingual ed was to "transition" immigrant kids into English and hell with their native languages. Transition. What an insulting, coercive word. It tells the Mexican boy and the Asian girl, if you desire American acceptance, forget how to speak with your mother and father. Forget who you are.

Deep down inside, immigrants and U.S. Latinos have always

known they can embrace American citizenship and remain bilingual. Talk with them at home, next to their family photos and cultural artworks, and they speak their desire. They want their children to master English and remain fluent in their native languages. In short, to be truly bilingual. It's time to stand up and say so.

(Joe Rodriguez is a columnist with the San Jose Mercury News in San Jose, Calif.)

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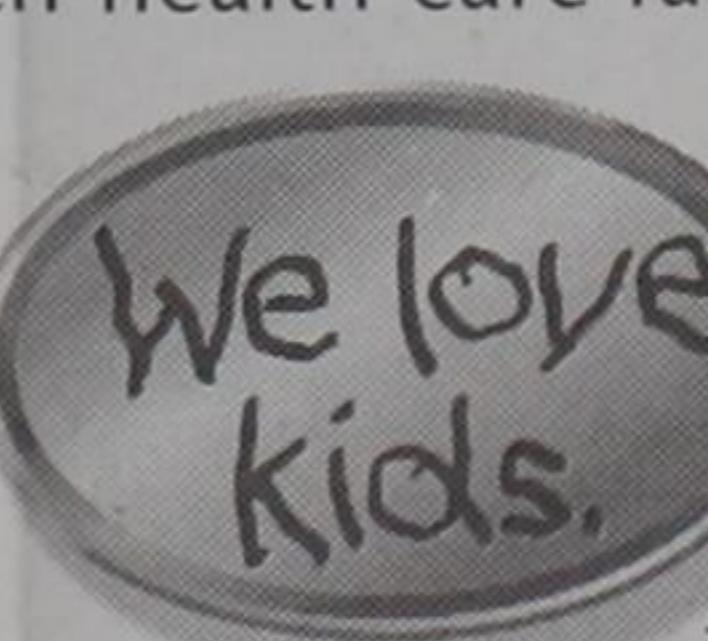
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Cuba Announced That It Will Cancel Nicaragua's Debt

Havana, Nov 10 (EFE).- Cuba, which has been experiencing a difficult economic situation since the beginning of the decade, on Tuesday "completely" wrote off Nicaragua's 50.1 million dollar debt to the island, the government announced.

Havana announced its support for all Central American countries battered by Hurricane Mitch in an official statement. Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina read from a statement that his government will support all the initiatives proposed by the Central American countries on Monday.

The decision to cancel Honduras's and Nicaragua's foreign debt, which amount to 3.8 and six million dollars, respectively, is "absolutely just ... considering the magnitude of the disaster, the tens of thousands of lives lost and the fact that they are two of the poorest countries in the hemisphere," Robaina said.

Likewise, "Guatemala's and El Salvador's debt must also be alleviated as much as possible because they have also been affected by the hurricane," he added. Havana also offered those countries "all the necessary medical personnel for whatever time is required."

From Page One

will be the first Hispanic to take a seat in the state legislature. In Massachusetts, three Latinos -- Cheryl Rivera, Jose Santiago and Jarrett Barrios -- were voted into the state's House of Representatives. They will be the first to serve in more than a decade.

And in Florida, Latinos gained a first lady in the governor's mansion when John Ellis (Jeb) Bush won election. Bush's wife, Columba, is from Mexico. Bush, who has been responsive on immigration issues, drew 60 percent of the Hispanic vote.

While the number of Hispanic voting members in Congress remained at 18, one of the two newcomers replacing a retiring member is state Assemblywoman Grace Napolitano of Southern California. When she assumes Esteban Torres' seat in January, the number of Latinas in the U.S. House of Representatives will increase to a high of five.

While the increasing numbers of voting-age Hispanics certainly

brought new hopes and better results for Latinos and Latinas with political aspirations, by no means should it be read as a harbinger of an approaching era of polarized politics.

In California, issues prevailed over ethnicity. Hispanics who aligned themselves with the anti-Hispanic positions taken by Gov. Pete Wilson in education, immigration or civil rights fared poorly among the Hispanic electorate.

Governor-elect Gray Davis capitalized on the anti-Wilson sentiment in his campaign and polls show him garnering a whopping 74 percent to 80 percent of the Hispanic vote. Yet, Ruben Barrales, San Mateo County supervisor who was the Latino GOP candidate for state controller, found 58 percent of Hispanics voting against him.

(Patricia Guadalupe is editor of the national newsmagazine Hispanic Link Weekly Report in Washington, D.C. Next week she will measure the dimensions and significance of the Latino vote.)

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De La Pagina Una

que viajarán a La Realidad entre los días 6 y 8 de noviembre, en espera de que algún representante del EZLN entre en contacto con ellos y acelere el encuentro directo que demandan.

Las denuncias del EZLN coinciden con las manifestaciones de una comisión de 12 observadores españoles, entre ellos el diputado de la coalición Izquierda Unida Willy Meyer, que visitó la zona de conflicto la pasada semana. Los observadores recomendaron al Gobierno un cambio de actitud que ofrece muestras tangibles de cooperar para una solución pacífica, y criticaron el alto grado de militarización de Chiapas. El Ministerio del Interior de México rechazó las acusaciones formuladas por el subcomandante Marcos, en el sentido de que hay incursiones y provocaciones del Ejército federal en zonas de influencia zapatista.

A través de otro comunicado, la Coordinación para el Diálogo y la Negociación para Chiapas, organismo dependiente del Ministerio del Interior, rechazó "contundentemente que se trate

de operaciones de hostigamiento y mucho menos realizadas a raíz de la decisión del EZLN de retomar los contactos públicos con la Cocalpa".

Aseguró que dicha movilización castrense "se debe a los relevos periódicos de los elementos, abastecimiento, acciones de protección ecológica, seguridad de instalaciones vitales, destrucción de plantíos de enervantes y tareas para la aplicación de la Ley Federal de Armas de Fuego y Explosivos".

El subcomandante afirmó que los "movimientos y provocaciones militares se han intensificado a raíz de que se hizo pública la decisión del EZLN de retomar contactos públicos" con la Cocalpa y del anuncio de un diálogo con la sociedad civil del 20 al 22 de noviembre próximos.

La dependencia del Gobierno de Ernesto Zedillo señaló que el Ejecutivo "refrenda el ofrecimiento contenido en el paquete de distensión, en el

sentido de dar todas las facilidades de tránsito y seguridad al EZLN para su encuentro con la Cocalpa, la cual está en espera de la confirmación de la hora, lugar y fecha para éste".

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Algunos Pensamientos De Despedida De Henry B.

Por Michelle García

Fué en la noche fresca de octubre cuando el proyecto de ley presupuestaria fué aprobado por fin -- durante el centésimo quinto Congreso. El hombre a quienes todos conocen como Henry B. salió del pleno de la Cámara de Representantes durante el receso de la cena en respuesta a mi solicitud, entregada por un guardia del Capitolio, para hablar con él.

Después de 37 años representando al pueblo de su distrito de Texas, Henry B. González estaba pasando un día prolongado en el pleno, depositando su último voto. Una infeción y enfermedades graves le habían ocasionado que perdiera 14 meses de la sesión de dos años, manteniéndole en su casa de San Antonio. Pero él regresó para las pocas semanas finales, a fin de despedirse de una institución a la que él había electrificado muchas veces.

Durante toda su carrera política, González nunca cortó, ni contó con los reporteros para llevar sus mensajes. El nos pasó por alto cortésmente la mayor parte del tiempo.

Pero por alguna razón, este día era distinto. González, entre los últimos de los verdaderos políticos popularistas, caminó hacia mí en un traje negro, con aire de veterano.

Nos sentamos en una mesa antigua en la esquina del Salón de la Presidencia de la Cámara, fuera del pleno. Como si él conociera mis preguntas, empezó a reflexionar sobre los puntos más salientes de su carrera y sobre sus temores de que los políticos estén perdiendo el contacto y las personas estén perdiendo la fe.

Sus 81 años estaban esculpidos en las arrugas de su cara. Un halo blanco de cabello lo rodeaba la cabeza. Pero si es cierto que los ojos son ventanas hacia el interior del alma, estaba claro que Henry B. estaba teniendo una fiesta.

Sus ojos pardos color caoba lo llevaron rápidamente de regreso a 1961, a cuando él se postuló por primera vez al Congreso. "Descalzo", enfatizó él. "Me postulé como yo lo calificaba de 'descalzo'. No tenía respaldo financiero. Hasta tuve que tomar un préstamo para pagar mi primera candi-

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y los afroamericanos de los lados oeste y sur. A medida que llevó préstamos comerciales y oportunidades a sus electores, combatió el desamparo y a la tuberculosis rampante entre los pobres.

A veces, los activistas mexicanoamericanos más jóvenes le acusaron de funcionar demasiado en la corriente principal. El mantuvo a menudo su distancia del Grupo Congresional Hispano.

"Siempre he estado contra la auto-segregación", explicó él. "Nunca creí que el modo de ganar la igualdad fuera mediante la separación. Hay que tener aliados ... ir dentro de la corriente principal y combatir las cosas allí, no al margen".

A pesar de años de elaborar alianzas, González no temía seguir un sendero solitario.

El obtuvo notoriedad en 1991 como presidente del Comité de Banca de la Cámara cuando la crisis de las instituciones de ahorros y préstamos asombró a la nación y costó a los contribuyentes \$200,000 millones. Durante un espacio de cinco años, antes del derrumbe de esas instituciones, sus constantes advertencias habían caído en oídos sordos.

Durante nuestra conversación, la voz de González adoptó un tono profético a medida que él trataba de configurar sus experiencias en consejos para los dirigentes que surgen hoy.

"Al principio la lucha parece solitaria. Pero una vez que se levanta una voz y que esa voz es intrínsecamente correcta, no

pasa mucho tiempo de que se tengan aliados y se obtenga apoyo -- y se gana el día. No se puede mantener a una postura correcta subyugada durante mucho tiempo en una democracia electa libremente".

A mediados del decenio de 1980, González fué detrás del Vice-Presidente George Bush por haber ayudado a Iraq a obtener préstamos para comprar armamentos. En 1991, durante la presidencia de Bush, González presentó un proyecto de resolución para impugnar a Bush por comprometer a las fuerzas militares de los Estados Unidos en una acción de gran escala en el Golfo Pérsico sin obtener primer la aprobación del Congreso.

A medida que Henry B. se preparaba para depositar su último voto, sus pensamientos se volvieron hacia la democracia misma y los cambios que él había presenciado. "Hoy hay menos restricciones para limitar la participación plena del electorado. El único peligro es la apatía, la falta de participación. La libertad puede perderse de ese modo".

Conversamos durante cerca de una hora antes de que él tuviera que regresar al pleno. Eso es lo que fué -- una conversación con Henry B., recuerdos y pequeños sermones, algunas veces repetitivos pero nunca egoístas ni jactanciosos.

Mencioné a la placa de bronce que ha colgado fuera de la puerta de su oficina durante 37 años. El sonrió y la recitó de memoria: "Esta oficina pertenece al pueblo del Distrito 20 Congresional de Texas".

"No la puse ahí sólo porque luza bien", me dijo. "Nunca he descuidado a ningún grupo, sin importar cuál fuera".

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