

# Siete Nuevos Representantes Hispanos

Siete nuevos representantes estatales hispanos ingresarán a las filas crecientes de representantes estatales hispanos. El número de hispanos en la Cámara de Representantes de Texas ha crecido constantemente durante las pasadas dos décadas. En 1975 sólo catorce hispanos representaban votantes en la legislatura. En el año 1985 el número de representantes había aumentado a diez y nueve. Diez años después en 1995 había veinte y seis representantes hispanos. Actualmente veintiocho de los 150 representantes estatales son hispanos, exactamente el doble del número en 1975.

Entre los representantes estatales nuevos se encuentran Nonna Chávez (D - El Paso), Kino Flores (D - La Joya), Domingo García (D - Dallas), Juan Hinojosa (D - McAllen), Dora Olivo (D Rosenberg), Arthur Reyna (D - San Antonio) y Miguel Wise (D - Weslaco). Aunque la mayor parte de los nuevos representantes están reemplazando a otros legisladores hispanos, dos representantes -- Norma Chávez y Dora Olivo -- ganaron sedes que anterior-



Rep. Domingo Garcia  
Dallas



Rep. Miguel Wise  
Weslaco



Rep. Norma Chavez  
El Paso



Rep. Kino Flores  
La Joya



**Nuevos Líderes  
Hispanos En El  
Gobierno Estatal**



Rep. Dora Olivo  
Rosenberg

mente no habían sido ocupadas por hispanos. Norma Chávez, 36, elegida para representar el Distrito 76 de la Cámara de Texas, abarcando mucho de El Paso, nunca ha tenido un cargo electivo antes de su lanzamiento acertado para representante estatal, aunque ha sido muy activa en la política local.

Chávez fue activa en el esfuerzo acertado de cabildeo que produjo legislación sencilla del aire limpio y ha sido por mucho tiempo una defensora de la justicia social para los trabajadores del campo migratorios y por la intervención efectiva para la juventud a riesgo.

"Yo soy una legisladora basada en la comunidad," comentó Chávez. "La comunidad me eligió y ante todo representaré a mis constituyentes, aunque los asuntos que yo traigo a la mesa afectan a la mayoría de los tejanos, así como a la gente de El

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Derecho Ajeno  
Es La Paz"**  
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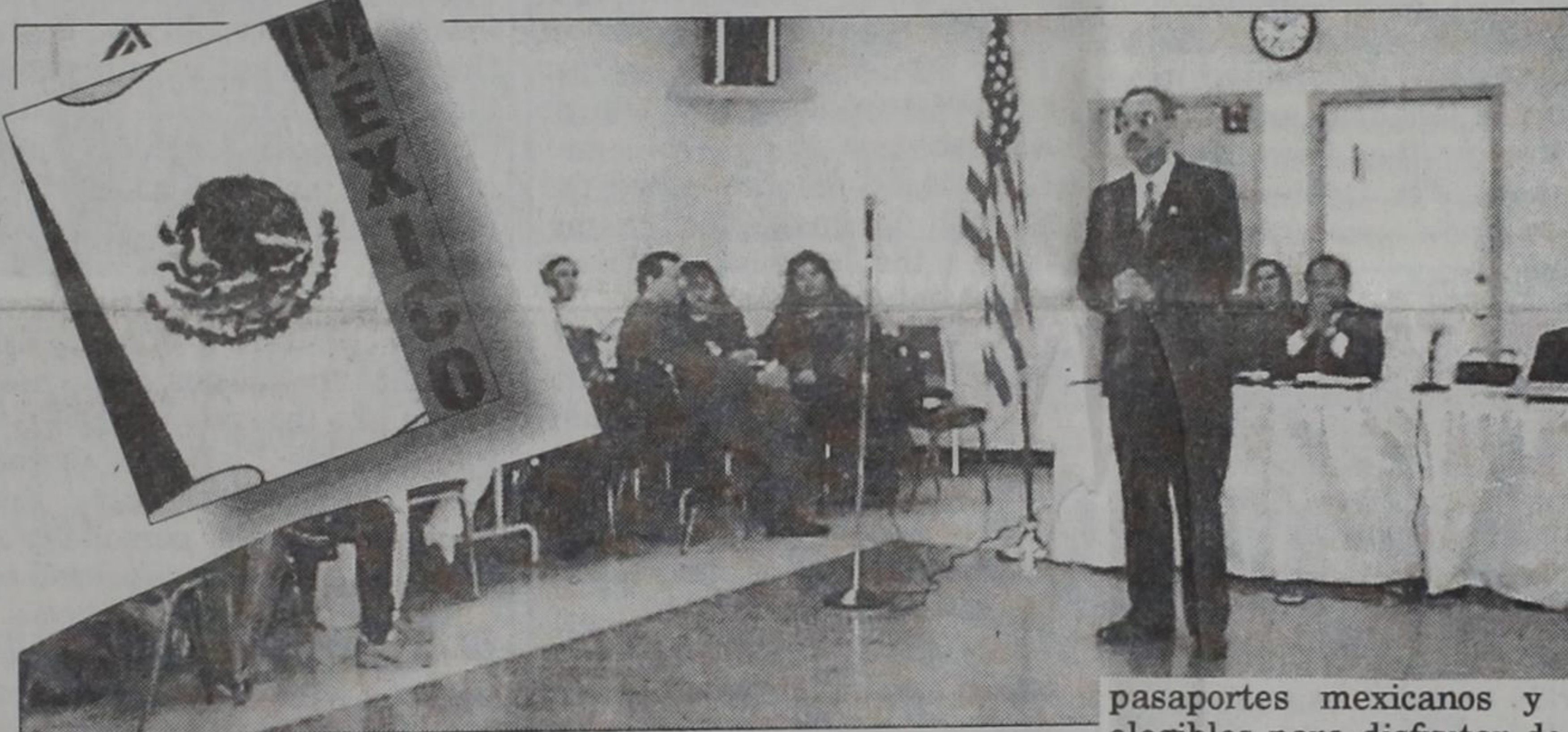
Week of January 23 to January 29, 1997

Lubbock, Texas

## La Doble Nacionalidad Mexicana Podría Agregar Nueva Carga

Por RAY RODRIGUEZ

El Congreso de México ha aprobado cambios a su Constitución que permitirían a mexicanos que viven en el extranjero -- incluyendo a los cerca de 6 millones que residen en los



### Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero

It was interesting to see that Senator Robert Duncan joined the Hispanic Caucus this past week. Reasons given were that a large amount of his constituents are Hispanics.



It's surprising to me because during the campaign no effort was made to communicate to Hispanic and asking for their vote and support be it through this newspaper or any other Hispanic media.

I would hope that by joining the Hispanic Caucus Senator Duncan would not think that he has appeased voices within our community asking how we will fit into the Duncan administration.

During Senator Montford's administration, one staff member, Bubba Sedeño was there as a liaison between our community and the Senate office. To date we have no information that any Hispanics are on Duncan's staff.

One person who comes to mind and who should probably come to mind if Duncan is looking for a republican Hispanic, would be Frank Gutierrez who ran as a republican for the County Commissioner's seat.

Beyond the fact that he is a republican, our knowledge of Gutierrez' education, background and community involvement would certainly show a step in the right direction for Senator Duncan.

That is Duncan is truly concerned about our community and wants to go beyond just joining the Hispanic Caucus.

Estados Unidos -- mantener una doble nacionalidad.

Es un concepto que está produciendo sentimientos encontrados a ambos lados de la frontera. Pero no es una nueva idea. Se remonta a la década del 1930, cuando los ciudadanos mexicanos que vivían en los Estados Unidos estaban siendo cazados y enviados de regreso a su país con la idea de que su partida crearía empleos para los "estadounidenses verdaderos" y pondría fin a nuestra depresión.

La histeria de la década del '30 fue muy semejante a lo que vemos desarrollándose hoy. Y entonces, como ahora, el gobierno mexicano trató de proteger a sus ciudadanos del sentimiento anti-mexicano rampante y del hostigamiento aquí.

Aunque se le dió una consideración seria durante la presidencia de Lázaro Cárdenas, entre 1934 y 1940, la iniciativa nunca se materializó. En parte, ello se debió al hecho de que las peores expresiones de la deportación desde Estados Unidos y del terror a la repatriación habían pasado.

En gran medida, una actitud más conciliatoria por parte del gobierno demócrata de Franklin Delano Roosevelt fue lo que produjo un ambiente menos amenazador. Su predecesor republicano, Herbert Hoover, había comenzado la campaña de deportación en masa para cortejar el favor de la Federación Estadounidense del Trabajo, librándose de trabajadores mexicanos no unionados que ganaban jornales bajos.

Medio siglo después, el Congreso de México ha aprobado por fin una enmienda constitucional que permitiría a los mexicanos que hayan adoptado o cualifiquen para la ciu-

dadanía de los Estados Unidos, el conservar su nacionalidad mexicana. La enmienda aún debe ser ratificada por dos tercios de los 31 estados de México.

Francamente, aunque el gesto viene con buenas intenciones, muchas personas de origen mexicano aquí creen que no podría haber llegado en peor momento.

Por buenas razones, se preocupan sobre las repercusiones.

Los latinos en general y los mexicanos en particular, ya se sienten bajo asedio como resultado del alboroto referente a la inmigración, la legislación de acción afirmativa, las medidas tocantes al inglés solamente, la denegación de beneficios a los residentes legales y la oposición cada vez mayor a la enseñanza bilingüe, para mencionar sólo algunos. Ahora, se suma otro asunto a motivar preocupación entre los de ancestro mexicano.

La intención de la medida es doble: Proteger a ciudadanos mexicanos y a sus hijos de la actual histeria anti-mexicana que el Gobernador de California, Pete Wilson y otros han nutrido. Se espera que proporcione una válvula de escape para los ciudadanos mexicanos que se sienten rechazados por nuestra sociedad. Y que, junto a la ciudadanía de los Estados Unidos, asegure una protección más plena de sus derechos. El sentirse protegidos disminuye la probabilidad de que se desilusionen y regresen a México.

Segundo, la medida del Congreso de México permitirá a los que asuman la doble ciudadanía el retener ciertos privilegios en México. Estos son básicamente de naturaleza civil. Incluyen sus derechos a tener propiedades en cualquier parte de México, reclamar su herencia legítima, conservar

pasaportes mexicanos y ser elegibles para disfrutar de las oportunidades sociales y económicas disponibles para los ciudadanos mexicanos. Pero no tendrán derecho a votar, ni a desempeñar cargos federales, ostentar grados militares o ejercer derechos políticos semejantes.

La ciudadanía doble propuesta está suministrando combustible a la Federación por la Reforma de Inmigración en los Estados Unidos (FAIR en inglés) y a otros grupos y personas, para justificar su postura anti-latina prejuiciada (léase anti-mexicana). En California, por ejemplo, el moderador de una estación de radio abanica las llamas del temor, la sospecha y el odio al referirse a México como un país maligno que se propone la conquista insidiosa de los Estados Unidos usando la maniobra de la doble ciudadanía.

Los detalles de la propuesta ley tienen aún que ser establecidos. Los comentarios intolerantes y no sustanciados del moderador de la estación de radio y sus partidarios, que lo llaman para manifestar sus puntos de vista son prueba del adagio que dice: "No hay nada tan atemorizador como la ignorancia en acción!"

Se espera que los estados de México ratifiquen la enmienda. Después de eso, llevará más tiempo antes de que se pongan en práctica cualesquiera cambios. Estados Unidos está preocupado con razón acerca de qué efecto surtirá la nueva ley sobre los mexicanos que sean ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos.

Y, ¿qué presagia para el futuro, cuando los ciudadanos mexicanos soliciten la ciudadanía estadounidense? ¿Podría haber un conflicto de interés?

Si ése fuera el caso, ¿no estarían mejor servidos los ciudadanos mexicanos y sus hijos

# News Briefs

## Clinton Plans \$100B Medicare Cut

President Clinton said today he was proposing \$100 billion in Medicare restraints over five years, reports Associated Press.

But Republicans have already dismissed reports that Clinton wants to trim \$100 billion from the projected growth of the huge program for the elderly, saying the plan to shift costs of home health care spending is a gimmick.

Clinton did not specify where he would cut the \$100 billion, but administration officials also have said Clinton would reduce payments to health maintenance organizations, hospitals, doctors and other providers.

The president said the cuts would amount to \$138 billion over six years. He had proposed cutting \$124 billion over seven years.

## Experts Seek Consensus on Mammography

Breast cancer experts will seek this week to put to rest a long-running controversy about whether women in their 40s need regular mammograms, reports Reuters.

For several years, medical groups and women's advocacy organizations have put out different recommendations, leaving women and their doctors uncertain about when they should have the breast cancer screening X-ray.

Hoping to clear up the confusion, the National Institute of Health is convening a three-day conference to see if independent experts can reach a consensus on screening for women in their 40s. Experts on the NIH panel will review 32 new studies from around the world.

"There's a lot of fear out there for women in their 40s," said Michelle Melin, director of patient services at the Y-Me women's health advocacy group.

The National Cancer Institute recommends mammograms every one or two years for women age 50 to 69. But in 1993, reversing its own previous advice, it did not recommend mammograms for most women in their 40s.

But the American Cancer Society and some major medical groups recommend mammograms for women in their 40s every year or two. After 50, the cancer society recommends annual checks.

About 20 to 25 percent of the 185,000 new cases of breast cancer that will be diagnosed in the United States this year will be in women under 50.

Experts agree that mammograms for women in their 50s and 60s can save lives. Many studies have shown that regular mammograms could lower by about one-third the breast cancer death rate in that age group, but the evidence for women in their 40s has been unclear.

There are various theories about why the data so far have not shown a clear benefit to women under 50, ranging from the possibility that the studies have been too small to detect a significant advantage to the theory that many cancers that strike younger women are aggressive and hard to treat so that even mammogram detection does not always improve the odds.

Women have a one-in-eight chance of developing the disease sometime in their lives. About 44,500 U.S. women die from breast cancer each year.

## Family and Medical Leave Act Hotline

The Labor Department, which has received more than 6,300 complaints of Family and Medical Leave Act violations, is using the telephone to make the 3 1/2-year-old law more understandable, reports Associated Press.

The department announced a toll-free number - 1-800-959-FMLA - that callers can use to get a brief explanation of the law and learn how to get more detailed information through the mail. It will be available beginning Tuesday.

The law provides up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave within a 12-month period and job protection and continued health care coverage to workers under certain conditions.

These include caring for newborn or adopted children within 12 months of birth or adoption, coping with serious illness of family members or inability to perform one's job because of serious health problems.

The Labor Department said that as of last Sept. 30, it had resolved 90 percent of the 6,346 complaints against employers for alleged failure to comply with the law.

It found that 58 percent of the complaints involved apparent violations, more than half of which included employer refusal to reinstate an employee to the same or equivalent position held before taking leave. 18 percent of the violations involved employers refusing to grant leave when required.

## FDA OKs In-Home Drug Test

An over-the-counter test that lets parents check their children for drug use won Food and Drug Administration approval Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Dr. Brown's Home Drug Testing System can detect cocaine, heroin, marijuana, PCP, amphetamines and other drugs in a mail-in urine sample.

The approval comes four months after the Clinton administration battled congressional charges that, in the face of escalating teen-age drug use, the FDA was blocking parents' efforts to test their children.

But use of the test is not restricted to parents, leaving it open for anyone to use. Test creator J. Theodore Brown Jr., a Silver Spring, Md., psychologist, expects it to be widely used by relatives of people fresh out of drug treatment, who are ripe for relapse without the deterrent of daily testing.

Every drug test can miss abuse, when, for example, the urine is sampled too late. It also can falsely signal abuse if, say, the person ate certain foods that mimic the metabolites drug tests measure.

Brown's Personal Health and Hygiene Inc. will explain those limitations before giving callers their test results, and will offer referrals for drug abuse counseling or medical care.

Brown said his kits will reach drugstores within six weeks and will cost less than \$30.

## GAO Proposes Health Needs Ranking System

In the last Congress, retiring Sen. Nancy Landon Kassebaum (R-Kan.) proposed developing some sort of rating system to rank states by the general health status of their populations, reports The Washington Post.

The ranking would index the impact of various diseases and other health indicators. But Kassebaum wanted a quick, easy way to determine which states needed the money the most -- which had the least healthy populations?

Although Kassebaum's proposal didn't pass during her tenure, the General Accounting Office (GAO) has now concluded that determining each state's rate of "premature mortality" is the simplest way to compare the overall health of one state's population with another's.

Premature death means an individual dies before reaching full life expectancy. The GAO said "premature mortality is the best single proxy for reflecting differences in the health status of

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**News Always  
In El Editor**

# La 'Plaga Ebonica' Azota A Los Hispanos Tambien

Por FELIPE DE ORTEGA Y GASCA

La prensa perdió poco tiempo en apoderarse de una decisión de la Junta Escolar de Oakland, California, para usar Ebonics (contracción de "ebony" y "phonics") como instrumento para enseñar a los estudiantes afroamericanos el inglés formal. Ni tampoco tuvo dificultad para encontrar líderes y académicos negros en polos opuestos del argumento.

Por que leí el artículo sobre el "murmullo de Ebonics", redactado por el columnista sindicado conservador Roger Hernández, me gustaría aclarar que todos los latinos tampoco piensan igual sobre el asunto.

El artículo de Hernández revela exactamente cuán lejos están dispuestas a llegar las personas tergiversando la realidad por sus ideologías. Mientras leo sus columnas ocasionales en un periódico de El Paso, me maravillo pensando acerca de cuántas cosas él ha llegado a convertirse en un experto. Y ahora de lingüística!

En cualquier idioma, cada persona habla una "idiología", es decir, cada uno de nosotros desarrolla un modo singular de hablar el idioma de la conversación pública, del discurso público. En los Estados Unidos, el idioma del discurso público es el inglés.

Lo que está haciendo la Junta Escolar de Oakland con Ebonics es enfrentarse a la naturaleza ideológica del inglés

como idioma público y como lo conforman adicionalmente las dinámicas de grupo.

Una persona clasista diría que quienes hablan Ebonics están faltos de instrucción, y que lo que hablan es inglés inferior -- inglés no gramatical. Hernández le llama "inglés malo".

Acto seguido, él llama al Spanglish inglés malo mezclado con español malo.

Como profesor de inglés e hispano-parlante nativo, yo hablo Spanglish -- y esa no es una señal de inglés malo y español malo mezclados. El Spanglish es un ejemplo de lo que ocurre cuando los idiomas entran en contacto unos con otros. Los idiomas son como adultos que consienten. Sus mezclas enriquecen el discurso de la expresión. La mezcla no empobrece a ninguno de los idiomas.

La Junta Escolar de Oakland no está validando al Ebonics como idioma, sino que sencillamente procura hacer frente al fenómeno idiomático que Ebonics representa, exigiendo que los maestros se familiaricen con ese fenómeno; desde esta familiaridad ellos pueden ayudar mejor a los que hablan Ebonics a captar los detalles lingüísticos del inglés de la corriente principal.

Con respecto a esto, ése enfoque es sorprendentemente paralelo al modo en que enseñamos inglés a los que hablan otros idiomas. Comenzamos donde los estudiantes se hallan idiomáticamente. Un/a maestro/a de inglés como

segundo idioma (ESL en inglés) no tiene necesariamente que hablar todos los idiomas de los estudiantes, pero lo que sí ayuda es que el/la maestro/a comprenda la naturaleza del idioma y su centralidad en las vidas de quienes lo hablan. El que los maestros de Oakland sepan algo sobre Ebonics les habilita en su enseñanza.

En mis clases sobre Chaucer, señalo que Chaucer hablaba más francés que inglés y discutimos cuánto francés hay dentro de los Cuentos de Canterbury, especialmente en "El Relato de la Esposa de Bath". Cuando hablamos del idioma de Chaucer, no lo llamamos Frenghish. Tampoco llamamos el uso de "axe" en lugar de "ask" o "na moe" for "no more" como solía hacer Chaucer Ingles deficiente.

El inglés no llegó a ser tal sino hasta después de ser fertilizado por 400 años de francés. Y el español no llegó a ser español sino hasta después de ser fertilizado por 700 años de árabe.

De igual manera, el latín se convirtió en francés después de su consorcio con los idiomas galeses de las Galias; y en Iberia, el latín se transformó en español después de su consorcio con los idiomas ibéricos de Hispania (el nombre que daban los romanos a la Península Ibérica).

La situación de Oakland se trata de una batalla referente a símbolos. Los valores simbó-

licos del inglés están cambiando en el caldero de la diversidad. El idioma inglés de hoy no es el de hace 100 años. Y los que hablaban inglés en 1797 tendrían aún más dificultades para entender al inglés de hoy.

Ossie Davis calificó una vez al idioma inglés como su enemigo. ¿Es éste el idioma que queremos que aprendan los niños negros?

Me siento divertido por los que miran al idioma (inglés solamente) como el pegamento de la unidad social. Sin importar cuán bien hablen el inglés algunos negros, esa facilidad no los ha pegado a la corriente principal de la oportunidad en los Estados Unidos.

Pero lo más falto de bondad de todo lo que habla Hernández ocurre cuando dice que "Jesse Jackson, por ejemplo, suena claramente como negro cuando habla."

¿En verdad? Y, ¿sueno yo como hispano cuando hablo?

Jesse Jackson suena como sureño cuando habla. La fonología no está atada con la raza. Pero, ¿qué podemos esperar de Roger Hernández, quien debería quedarse callado y dejar que se pensara de él como tonto, en vez de abrir la boca y eliminar toda y cualquier duda?

(Felipe de Ortega y Gasca es Profesor de Enseñanza para la adquisición de idiomas, lingüística y estudios multi-culturales en Texas State University-Sul Ross.)

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# Sittin' Here Thinkin'

## Trophy Children

by Ira Cutler

This week everyone who writes a column -- whether it is in a national newspaper or on HandsNet -- is writing about JonBenet Ramsey. If you have been on the space station and missed the story, she is the 6 year old beauty contest winner who was found murdered and sexually assaulted in the basement of her parents' home in Colorado. Her parents, a billionaire businessman and a former Miss West Virginia, were on CNN giving interviews before JonBenet was even buried and they have hired both lawyers and media consultants. As of today, the murderer is unknown but there are lots of theories.

The story the media has focused on is the sleazy, creepy world of child beauty pageants. Television news has shown videos of little girls, four or five year olds, heavily made up, prancing about in sexually suggestive outfits and looking like the lead-in to a kiddie porn movie. These videos are a pedophile's dream. The films are frequently accompanied by interviews with pageant officials who deny the obvious sexuality, mothers who swoon at their daughters' successes and child psychologists who frown, cluck their tongues and express concern about the long term ramifications of all this hard work, competitiveness and stress on such young children.

I am an old child welfare worker and, as I see it, JonBenet was a victim of child abuse long before she was a victim of murder.

She was the victim of a form of child abuse, usually found in the middle class, in which parents steal a child's individuality, identity and ultimately their childhood itself. These parents use their child to recapture their own faded glory or in the hope of achieving a level of recognition they never themselves received. Their lives, they say proudly in interviews, are indistinguishable from their children's lives and that, it seems to me, is the very essence of the abuse. No child should be made to be fully responsible for their parents' happiness and fulfillment it is too big a load to carry and children, like the rest of us, have a right to a life that is their very own.

This form of abuse is more widespread than just the very bizarre and well publicized cases. We have heard about JonBenet and about the mother who contracted to murder her daughter's cheerleading rival. We see what childhood fame did for Michael Jackson. We have seen television and movie dramas about "stage parents" and, if we stop and think about it, we cringe a little when we see junior high school age swimmers, gymnasts and tennis players who were training and competing years before as small children.

The bizarre and outlandish cases are easy to spot and easy to criticize. But, in addition, anyone who has ever had a child in organized sports has seen and endured the parents whose weekends depend on how many points their child scores, who argue with coaches over whether their seven year old gets to start or what position they play, and who yell from the stands at the decisions of referees. Every team seems to have one parent, at least, who does not get it that this is children's athletics, not the NBA. What is important, that the kids have fun, learn to play as a team and get some exercise, is lost in the hoopla about winning, trophies, championships and individual stars.

It does not stop at sports, either. There are school play parents, spelling bee parents, best dressed and most popular child parents -- all sorts of parents who are utterly consumed by the events in their children's lives. These are the people who have trophy children, who make little Susie sing you a song when you go there for dinner, and then another song, and then another. These are the grown women who think of themselves, first and foremost, as "Jeffrey's mother". And the fathers who spend their weekends teaching their sons to become major league pitchers and who personally make those wooden race cars that the cub scouts are supposed to make.

In terms of being pathetic, these people are only one step up from the people who dress their pets in human clothes -- were they not so destructive, so abusive, so smothering of their children's potential, they would be pitiable.

This is not the kind of abuse that gets prosecuted. In our society, frequently described as "child centered", we intervene when parents pay too little attention to their children, not too much. Yet I am convinced that the long term damage to over-parented kids, although perhaps more subtle, may sometimes be no less severe. How does a child develop personal strength, individuality and confidence if they do not have the room to make choices, make mistakes and own some significant portion of their lives? How can they freely decide who they are and who they want to be when their decision threatens to break a parent's heart or destroy a parent's dreams?

It used to be that the son of a farmer automatically became a farmer, that your future was inexorably defined by your parent's past. Today we offer our children the opportunity to develop their own interests, which may well be very different from ours. We do not own our kids -- they are not our property and not a project for us to work on. Rather, they are separate, independent, individual human beings -- important to us as parents but not, in healthy families, our sole reason for living.

I would not advocate, except in the most severe cases, that "career abuse", or over-parenting, be the target of some child protective service task force. I do not want to politicize the issue -- certainly JonBenet's death will springboard enough political careers as it is. But I do want to say, loudly and rudely, to parents whose life goals depend on the performance of their children:

Get a life, folks. Get a hobby. Somehow you need to get up the courage to live your own life and to let your children lead theirs.

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. More recently Ira has become involved in communicating in another way, through speeches which he calls Standin' Here Talkin'.

# Hispanics And 'The Ebonics Plague'

By FELIPE DE ORTEGA Y GASCA

The press wasted little time in seizing on an Oakland, Calif., Board of Education decision to use Ebonics as a tool for teaching African-American students standard English. Nor did it have difficulty in finding black leaders and academics at opposite poles of the argument.

Having read a piece about the "Ebonics buzz" by syndicated conservative columnist Roger Hernandez, I would like it known that all Latinos don't think alike on the issue, either.

Hernandez's piece reveals just how far folks are willing to go in distorting reality for their own ideology. Reading his occasional columns in an El Paso newspaper, I marvel at how many things he has become an expert on. Linguistics now!

In any language, every individual speaks an idiolect; that is, each of us develops a unique way of speaking the language of public discourse. In the United States, that's English.

What the Oakland school board is doing with Ebonics is coming to grips with the idiolectic nature of English as a public language and how it's

shaped further by group dynamics.

An elitist will say that speakers of Ebonics are uneducated and that what they speak is substandard English -- ungrammatical English. Hernandez calls it "bad English."

Then he calls "Spanglish" bad English and bad Spanish mixed together.

As a professor of English and a native speaker of Spanish, I speak Spanglish -- and that's not a sign of bad English and bad Spanish mixed together. It's what happens with languages in contact with each other. Languages are like consenting adults. Their mixtures enrich the discourse of expression. That mixture does not impoverish either language.

The Oakland school board is not validating Ebonics as a language, but simply seeking to deal with the linguistic phenomenon that is Ebonics by requiring teachers to become familiar with that phenomenon; from this familiarity they can better help speakers of Ebonics to grasp the linguistic wherewithal of mainstream English.

In this regard, that approach is surprisingly parallel to the way we teach English to speakers of other languages. We start where the

students are linguistically. An English-as-a-second-language (ESL) teacher need not necessarily speak all of the languages of the students, but what does help is for the teacher to understand the nature of language and its centrality in the lives of the speakers. For Oakland teachers to know something about Ebonics empowers their teaching.

In my Chaucer classes, I point out that Chaucer spoke more French than English and we discuss how much French there is in The Canterbury Tales, especially in "The Wife of Bath's Tale." When we speak of Chaucer's language, we do not call it "Frenghish." Nor do we call Chaucer's use of "axe" for "ask" or "na moe" for "no more" bad English.

English did not become English until after it was fertilized by 400 years of French. And Spanish did not become Spanish until after it was fertilized by 700 years of Arabic.

In like fashion, Latin became French after consorting with the Gallic languages of Gaul; and in Iberia, Latin transmogrified into Spanish after consorting with the Iberian languages of Hispania.

The situation in Oakland is a battle over symbols. The

symbolic values of English are changing in the cauldron of diversity. The English language of today is not the English language of 100 years ago. And the speakers of English in 1797 would be even harder pressed to understand today's English.

Ossie Davis once called the English language his enemy. Is this the language we want black children to learn?

I'm amused by those who look at language (English-Only) as the glue of social unity. No matter how well some blacks speak English, that facility has not glued them to the mainstream of opportunity in the United States.

But the unkindest cut of all comes when Hernandez says that "Jesse Jackson, for instance, clearly sounds like a black man when he speaks."

Really? And do I sound like a Hispanic man when I speak?

Jesse Jackson sounds "Southern" when he speaks. Phonology is not race-bound. But what can we expect from Roger Hernandez, who ought to remain silent and be thought a fool than to open his mouth and dispel all doubt?

(Felipe de Ortega y Gasca is Professor of Education in language acquisition, linguistics and multi-cultural studies at Texas State University-Sul Ross.)

# Guatemala's Peace Accords--A Fragile Dream

By J.C. MALONE

Slowly but steadily, political and economic reforms were being implemented. As many people became landowners, capitalism and democracy flourished nationwide. But a giant U.S. banana company disliked the process, and a coup resulted in the ouster of the civilian government fostering reforms.

The CIA wasn't behind the coup; it was in front, executing it. And in June 1954, Guatemala's "ten years of springtime" came to an abrupt end. Six years later, the country burst into violence, as supporters of the progressive reforms took up arms against the U.S.-backed military regime that had ousted their government.

Since then, Guatemala has been through much turmoil, with military commanders promising to turn it into a cemetery in order to pacify it, and elections, coups and counter-coups punctuating the decades.

When Gen. Efraim Rios Montt seized power in the early '80s, fear took over this country of 10.9 million inhabitants. His scorched-earth policies uniquely advanced the

cemetery industry. In just two years, Death Squads and a reinvigorated Army wiped out more than half of the 150,000 people who would be killed or would disappear during the 36-year conflict. Hundreds of villages were burned to the ground and at least a million people were displaced.

To defend themselves, guerrilla groups unified under the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Union (UNRG). They fought the government and then began to negotiate peace in 1990. The final accord was signed on Sunday, Dec. 29, 1996.

Like other Latin American countries, Guatemala is trying to get rid of its guerrillas without facing the challenges that initiated the conflicts: a grossly unequal distribution of wealth and power. Guatemalans distrust the peace accords, but pray for them to work. The promise of peace is better than the terror that has torn the country apart.

They know, however, that the accords are a national show for international foreign investment consumption. They hope to attract foreign investors to jump-start Guatemala's

depressed economy, promising economic growth, new low-wage jobs and relative social peace.

If they look toward Peru, they will see the shadow of their possible future. There is another country with an indigenous majority drowned in poverty, a neo-liberal economic system, and a suppressed guerrilla movement. In Peru, the government tried to build peace on a military victory over the guerrillas, rather than on social reforms, and the guerrillas re-emerged conducting the seizure of the Japanese ambassador's residence.

The majority of Guatemala's huge Maya population live in squalor. They speak 25 different dialects rather than Spanish, and have traditionally been ignored or discriminated against. Facing this problem in the peace accords, it was agreed to amend the constitution to describe Guatemala as a "multiethnic, pluricultural and multilingual" country.

"This does not necessarily fulfill all our aspirations, but it's the minimum fruit of five centuries of resistance and three decades of armed internal conflict," said a Maya

statement.

The final peace accord pardoned the military and the guerrillas for crimes against the Maya. They were pardoned for killing homeless children sleeping on the sidewalks, raping teenagers, killing their grieving parents and torturing nuns. The armed groups gave equal treatment to everyone, killing Guatemalan Indians and American citizens with the same disregard. They became equal opportunity human rights violators. But the "national reconciliation" law was approved without comment from Maya lawmakers.

Now, the peace accord promises recognition of Indian rights and land distribution as well as a downsized Army. Job training for former guerrilla and army members is also proposed. The promise of land distribution makes land owners nervous. The people are nervous about the possibility of turning the Death Squads into "peace process monitors" -- asking the fox to guard the chicken coop. Job training and employment for the former fighters poses an enormous challenge for a coun-

try with a high unemployment rate.

Guatemala's government estimates that more than \$2 billion will be needed to finance the peace process. Guatemala doesn't have the money, but expects international help.

In the '60s, the CIA said Guatemala was a Soviet "beachhead," and the U.S. invested hundreds of millions of dollars to fight communism. When the Soviet Union crashed, U.S. aid disappeared. Today, the Clinton administration is asking Congress for only \$27 million in support of the country's peace process.

The White House says "full implementation of the peace accord" will help Guatemala "take advantage of new oppor-

tunities for hemispheric trade and development." Without money, a balance of power and real negotiation, "full implementation" is just a fragile dream. Guatemalans may soon awaken to a nightmare reality of renewed political violence and human rights abuses.

(J.C. Malone, a native of the Dominican Republic now residing in Grand Rapids, Mich., writes on Latin American and U.S. Hispanic issues.)

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## News Briefs

states' populations."

Such an index has been available since 1989 from a private group, the ReliaStar Financial Corporation. But that system is costly and cumbersome to use, the GAO said, requiring the crunching of very large numbers of statistics on 17 different subjects -- everything from the number of incidents of specific diseases to smoking rates, violent crime, rates of occupational safety and other causes of death -- in order to come up with a ranking.

ReliaStar's latest ratings contained in the GAO report show virtually all the states along the nation's northern tier on the Canadian border, and in parts of the Midwest and Rocky Mountain area, with low index numbers, which means they have better health status.

Earl Fox, HHS deputy assistant secretary for disease prevention and health promotion, said differences in health rankings normally are the result of differences in lifestyle, access to health care and the size of the minority and ethnic populations. Fox and Robert Mullen, health science analyst for the American Public Health Association, said the poorer health of minorities appears to be based on lower incomes and limited access to care.

### Governors Ask Clinton for Welfare Flexibility

Governors and state legislators Tuesday asked the Clinton administration to give them flexibility in implementing a new welfare law, warning any effort to set tight rules for state spending could undermine their efforts, reports Reuters.

The warning from the executive directors of the National Governors' Association, National Conference of State Legislatures and American Public Welfare Association came as the Department of Health and Human Services was preparing rules to implement the law.

But the federal government is looking at a tighter interpretation of the law than states expected that would apply federal requirements, including work requirements, to state spending.

"We strongly believe that any effort to apply all federal...prohibitions and requirements to state maintenance-of-effort spending is unacceptable and would be a misinterpretation of the law," the groups said in a letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala.

For related information, see: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families within Family Economic Security in the Children, Youth and Families Forum.

### Reich to Establish Jobs Center at Brandeis

Robert Reich, the outgoing labor secretary, will be joining the faculty of Brandeis University next fall as a professor of social and economic policy, reports The New York Times.

Reich will establish a Center on Jobs, the Economy and Society based at the university's Heller Graduate School for Advanced Studies in Social Welfare, HN0835@handsnet.org continuing the work that has filled his career, first at Harvard University and later in the Cabinet.

"I have dedicated my life to ensuring that the economy works for everyone," Reich said. "A central tenet of my writings and the policies I put into place as labor secretary is that our ability to thrive as a nation depends on the capacities of our people who work productively together -- both as participants in an economy and as members of a society."

In his four years in Washington, Reich fought for pension-plan protections and a higher minimum wage, earning a reputation as an outspoken liberal voice in the Cabinet. The university hopes that he will attract other public officials and academics to the center to work on the problem of economic inequality, which Reich calls a dangerously growing trend.

### USDA Implements Food Rescue Info No.

The Department of Agriculture has set up a toll-free telephone line - 1-800-GLEAN IT - to help people find out how to rescue more food and find a local distribution network, reports Associated Press.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 13.8 billion pounds of food wind up in landfills each year, enough to feed 49 million people. Put another way, that would equal 46,000 Boeing 747s loaded to capacity with food discarded from hotels, restaurants and grocery stores.

President Clinton also signed into law the Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, passed by Congress to remove liability for anyone who donates food in good faith that harms someone, unless there is evidence of gross negligence.

These efforts have led major companies such as Southland Corp., which operates 5,400 7-Eleven stores, and Pizza Hut to donate more food for the hungry. American Express recently described the Good Samaritan law in a newsletter to restaurants, leading to heightened interest from them.

The nation's biggest distributor of perishable recovered food, Foodchain of Kansas City, Mo., collected more than 100 million pounds of food last year in 42 states.

## Los Acuerdos De Paz De Guatemala Un Sueño Frágil

Por J. C. MALONE

Lentas pero seguras, las reformas políticas estaban siendo llevadas a la práctica. A medida que muchas personas se convertían en terratenientes, el capitalismo y la democracia florecieron en toda la nación. Pero a una empresa bananera gigante de los Estados Unidos no le gustaba el proceso, y un golpe de estado resultó en la deposición del gobierno civil que fomentaba las reformas.

La CIA no estuvo detrás del golpe; estuvo al frente de éste, ejecutándolo. Y, en junio de 1954, los "diez años de primavera" de Guatemala llegaron a un fin abrupto.

Seis años después, el país explotó en violencia, cuando los partidarios de las reformas progresistas tomaron las armas contra el régimen militar respaldado por los Estados Unidos que había expulsado su gobierno.

Desde entonces, Guatemala ha pasado por muchos trastornos, con los comandantes militares prometiendo convertirla en un cementerio a fin de pacificarlo, elecciones, golpes y contra-golpes marcando las décadas. Cuando el General Efraín Ríos Montt se apoderó del gobierno a principios del decenio de 1980, el temor se apoderó de este país de 10.9 millones de habitantes, ligeramente mayor que el estado de Tennessee.

Sus cursos de acción de "tierra arrasada" sólo hicieron prosperar a la industria de los cementerios. En sólo dos años, los Escuadrones de la Muerte y un ejército revitalizado barrieron a más de la mitad de las 150,000 personas asesinadas o desaparecidas en el conflicto de 36 años. Cientos de aldeas fueron quemadas hasta la tierra y por lo menos un millón de personas fueron desplazadas.

Para defenderse, todos los grupos guerrilleros se unificaron bajo la Unión Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG). Combatieron al gob-

ierno y después comenzaron a negociar la paz en 1990. El acuerdo final se firmó el domingo 29 de diciembre de 1996.

Como otras naciones de la América Latina, Guatemala está tratando de deshacerse de sus guerrilleros sin enfrentarse a los retos que iniciaron los conflictos: Una distribución muy desigual de la riqueza y el poder. Los guatemaltecos desconfían de los acuerdos de paz, pero rezan para que funcionen. La promesa de paz es mejor que el terror que ha asolado al país.

Ellos saben, sin embargo, que los acuerdos son un programa nacional para el consumo de los inversionistas internacionales extranjeros. Esperan atraer a los inversionistas extranjeros para poner en marcha la economía deprimida de Guatemala, prometiéndole crecimiento económico, nuevos empleos de jornales bajos y relativa paz social.

Si miran hacia el Perú, verán la sombra de su posible futuro. Ese es otro país con una mayoría indígena ahogada en la pobreza, un sistema económico neo-liberal y un movimiento guerrillero suprimido. En el Perú, el gobierno trató de edificar la paz sobre una victoria militar sobre los guerrilleros, antes que sobre reformas sociales, y los guerrilleros surgieron otra vez, efectuando el apoderamiento de la residencia del embajador japonés.

La mayoría de la enorme población guatemalteca de origen maya vive en la pobreza absoluta. Hablan 25 dialectos diferentes mejor que el español, y tradicionalmente han sido pasados por alto o discriminados. Al enfrentarse a este problema en los acuerdos de paz, se acordó enmendar la Constitución para describir a Guatemala como un país "multi-étnico, pluricultural y multilingüe". "Esto no satisface necesariamente todas nuestras aspiraciones, pero es el fruto mínimo de cinco siglos



de resistencia y tres décadas de conflicto armado interno," dice una declaración de los indígenas de origen maya.

Como condición para firmar el acuerdo final de paz, los militares y los guerrilleros fueron perdonados por la ley de todos sus delitos contra la población de origen maya. Pero la ley de "reconciliación nacional" fue aprobada sin siquiera permitir que los legisladores de origen maya hicieran comentarios.

Militares y guerrilleros fueron perdonados por matar niños desamparados que dormían en las aceras, por violar niñas adolescentes, por matar a sus padres afligidos y por torturar monjas. Ellos trataron igual a todos, matando a indígenas guatemaltecos y ciudadanos estadounidenses con el mismo descuido. Se convirtieron en infractores de los derechos humanos con igualdad de oportunidades.

Ahora, el Acuerdo de Paz promete el reconocimiento de los derechos indígenas y la distribución de tierras, así como un ejército disminuido en tamaño. También se propone el adiestramiento laboral de ex-guerrilleros y ex-miembros del ejército. La promesa de la distribución de tierras hace que los terratenientes se sientan nerviosos. El pueblo está nervioso por la posibilidad de convertir a los Escuadrones de la Muerte en "observadores del trámite de paz" -- equivalente a pedir a la zorra que cuide el gallinero. La capacitación para

el empleo y el trabajo para los ex-combatientes plantea un reto enorme para un país que tiene una elevada tasa de desempleo.

El gobierno de Guatemala estima que se necesitarán más de \$2,000 millones para financiar todo el trámite de paz. Guatemala no tiene ese dinero, pero espera la ayuda internacional. En el decenio de 1960, la CIA dijo que Guatemala era una "cabeza de playa" soviética y los Estados Unidos invirtieron cientos de millones de dólares para combatir al comunismo. Cuando la Unión Soviética se derrumbó, la ayuda estadounidense desapareció. Hoy, el gobierno de Clinton está pidiendo al Congreso únicamente \$27 millones en apoyo del proceso de paz de Guatemala.

La Casa Blanca dice que "la implantación plena del acuerdo de paz" ayudará a Guatemala a "aprovechar las nuevas oportunidades para el comercio y el desarrollo hemisféricos." Sin dinero, un equilibrio de poder y una negociación verdadera, "la implantación plena", es sólo un sueño frágil. Los guatemaltecos pueden despertar pronto a una realidad de pesadilla en forma de violencia política renovada y abusos de los derechos humanos.

(J.C. Malone, oriundo de la República Dominicana que reside ahora en Grand Rapids, Michigan, escribe sobre los asuntos de la América Latina y los hispanos de los Estados Unidos.)

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# Llora Por Nos, Evita

Por CECILIO MORALES

Eva Perón suscitaba en mi fallecida madre, argentina e irónicamente beneficiaria del voto femenino gracias a la conocida primera dama, la actitud que los republicanos reservan, y que no comparto, hacia las figuras de Hillary Clinton o Eleanor Roosevelt.

Evita era "esa mujerD". Se tienen que empapar ambas palabras con profundo desdén para aproximar el sentimiento que expresaban. No se trataba de "aquella señora sino de "esa mujerD: una cortesana atrevida que jamás merecería al título de "damá".

Más o menos lo mismo hubiera dicho mi madre de Madonna Ciccone, la actriz que hoy asume el papel de Evita; estimo que Hillary Rodham Clinton, habría aprobado el infalible examen de sangre azul. Para tener una idea, imagínese lo que pensaban las damas Junker acerca de Eva Braun.

Por mi parte, carezco de ambos la experiencia y los aires. Para mí, Evita es sencillamente una figura enigmática del pasado. Su esposo me tuvo en brazos una vez, a la edad en que yo andaba en pañales. No obstante, Evita es una figura de mis orígenes y la promoción de la versión cinematográfica de una opereta que lleva su nombre evoca en mí sentimientos encontrados, especialmente perplejidad.

¿Cómo es posible, en un ámbito mundial dominado por el gran megáfono artístico estadounidense, que sea el filme "Evita" la suma total de lo conocido por doquier acerca de la cultura nacional de mis padres?

Para que entienda, haga de cuenta que en el siglo XVI la Armada española derrotó a Inglaterra y que las colonias inglesas en América de un siglo después derivaron en un país que jamás anexó el norte mexicano. Imagínese hoy a Estados Unidos políticamente independiente pero en lo demás apenas una dependencia neo-colonial del mundo hispano.

Agregue a la fantasía una película-opereta producida por el cine de una gran potencia de habla castellana. En la obra, Mamie Eisenhower canta a

contrapunto con Abbie Hoffman: la promoción los convierte en los únicos personajes estadounidenses de reconocida fama mundial.

¿Suena absurdo? Estamos de acuerdo. Comienza a entender mis sentimientos.

Admito que los paralelos no son perfectos. La Sra. Eisenhower apenas legó el recuerdo de sus sombreros distintivos, mientras que Evita superó la caricatura de coquette elaborada por sus opositores. Por su parte, el Ché Guevara fue una figura izquierdista de mayor envergadura que Abbie Hoffman, aunque este último se redimió de la banalidad con la lucha por el medio ambiente.

Obviamente Evita fue una mujer de talento, sedienta de venganza hacia la clase hol-

gada y asimismo atenta al clamor de los necesitados. En términos políticos, Evita fue la brújula en la carrera del General Juan Domingo Perón. Fue ella quien le enseñó a quitarse la corbata y a declararse a lo campechano "un descamisado más", ganándose la adoración popular.

Evita perdura como una especie de santa en los corazones de muchos argentinos, especialmente aquellos de orígenes humildes. Fue ella quien trajo pobres dulces y juguetes a los barrios durante las fiestas de Navidad, y quien atendió a diario múltiples peticiones de caridad. Ninguna primera dama argentina lo había hecho y con esos

gestos Evita se aseguró un noble recuerdo. Me pregunto, sin embargo, si a medio siglo de todo aquello se justifica el mito.

A diferencia de Ernesto "Ché" Guevara, que aparece como coro griego en la película actual, Evita no dió a entender, como declaraba el Ché con cierto bochorno masculino, que toda revolución social se basa en el amor al prójimo. En los discursos de Evita priman la ira y el odio.

Asimismo, mientras que en la vida del Ché se entrelaza el sacrificio con la aventura, la de Evita combina la caridad fotogénica con la acaparación

material desmesurada. De hecho, Evita misma facilitó la propaganda de sus adversarios: en 1956, ya derrocado su marido, les fue fácil montar una exposición de los lujos de Eva Perón, con un despliegue de pieles y joyas superada sólo recientemente por la colección de Imelda Marcos.

En definitiva, Evita parece de talle perfecto para convertirse en protagonista de una opereta moderna. Sin el mito, la historia de su vida es un incansable ascenso social. Tiene en común poco más que años compartidos con los innegables logros sociales de la era peronista de 1946-55, errores y excesos aparte.

Quizás éso explica cómo la vida de una actriz radial de segunda categoría que llegó a primera dama, se ha convertido hoy en una imagen manipulada por los políticos para fines electorales y por cineastas de Hollywood en pos de recaudos de cartelera.

Las ideas "justicialistas" del peronismo carecen de vigencia en el país de Evita. El actual mandatario argentino, Carlos Saúl Menem, peronista, propone la idea de "peronismo sin Perón" como lema de una política al servicio de la oligarquía que Eva Perón odiaba y cuyo poder su marido limitó.

Que no lllore Argentina por Evita. Un lamento más idóneo se merece su país, por sus mitos perennes que impidieron lo que pudo ser y no fue.

(Cecilio Morales dirige MII Publications en Washington, D.C.)

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Re. Juan Hinojosa McAllen

Paso". Sus metas legislativas incluyen promover justas soluciones de buen sentido a la justicia juvenil, la reforma de impuestos, la salud y servicios sociales, la educación y el medio ambiente.



Re. Art Reyna San Antonio.

El representante electo estatal Kino Flores representará el Distrito 36, que incluye McAllen Y areas circunvecinas. Como uno de los miembros más jóvenes de la Cámara de Representantes de Texas, Flores, 28, espera desarrollar oportunidades económicas y educacionales por medio de iniciativas colaborativas para su distrito en el Sur de Texas. Flores ha tenido cargo público en su pueblo, La Joya, donde fue miembro del Consejo Educativo local. El considera que lo que mejor ha logrado es estar desarrollando programas que dan oportunidades a los niños desvalados y resume sus metas diciendo "¡Quiero trabajar para una mañana mejor hoy!"



## Un Rayito De Luz

Por Sofia Martinez

En el español encontramos la palabra "Usura", que significa un robo disimulado que cometen los que exigen un interés exagerado e injusto, por los préstamos. Lo que se presta hoy sí es principalmente dinero: la cantidad prestada se llama "capital", la cantidad que se cobra se llama "interés" o "rédito". Para que el dinero prestado con interés sea lícito, se necesita una razón legítima que justifique el rédito que se pide.

Pedir un "rédito exagerado", no autorizado por las costumbres y la leyes, eso es un pecado de "usura" muy grave que está en relación con el perjuicio causado a la persona a quien se le presta. el tipo de interés permitido depende de varias razones, como de la escasez del dinero, de la falta de créditos, etc.

En cuanto a los accionistas de grandes Compañías, pueden aceptar intereses más grandes, porque están expuestos, en ciertos casos, a sufrir grandes pérdidas.

El empeño de prendas es una forma de préstamo autorizada; pero son culpables de usura los que prestan dinero por prendas, dando una pequeña cantidad de dinero por una cosa de mucho valor, con la intención o la esperanza de apropiársela, o sacar de su venta un exagerado beneficio, si no es rescatado.

(San Lucas 4,35).

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Nueva Orleans, Lou.- Evitar salir de madrugada, ingresar a bares y salones de juego, así como impedir ser seducidos por prostitutas, son las advertencias que la NFL lanzó ayer a los jugadores que participarán en el Supertazón XXXI.

Altos directivos de la NFL, se reunieron con los integrantes de los equipos Empacadores de Green Bay y Patriotas de Nueva Inglaterra, a quienes les "leyeron la cartilla".

"Nos reunimos con los jugadores de los dos escuadras y temas como las tentaciones nocturnas de Nueva Orleans son cubiertos", dijo a la prensa el director de comunicaciones de la NFL, Greg Aiello.

Y es que Bourbon Street y el French Quarter ofrecen todo tipo de seducciones para los jugadores y los turistas que, en general, visitan Nueva Orleans, una de las ciudades más cosmopolitas del sur de Estados Unidos.

En algunas esquinas de Bourbon Street hay mujeres en las puertas de sitios de burlesque, en otras hay prostitutas, sin faltar los travestis y los casinos flotantes en el río Mississippi.

A los jugadores se les advirtió permanecer alejados de centros de apuestas en general.

Al respecto, la directiva de Empacadores impuso un estricto "toque de queda" a sus jugadores, quienes deberán reportarse en el hotel a más tardar a las 1:30 horas de la madrugada, además de que se les pidió evitar circular en Bourbon Street.

El problema es que el hotel en el que se hospedan los campeones de la Conferencia Nacional (NFC) se encuentra a sólo tres cuadras de Bourbon Street, lo que se convierte en toda una tentación.

Cuando el equipo llegó a Nueva Orleans, el domingo por la noche, fueron más de uno los jugadores que se escaparon para darse una vuelta por la afamada calle del placer, la bebida y el juego.

Por si fuera poco, los jugadores de Patriotas también están alojados en las inmediaciones de Bourbon Street, lo que hace casi imposible las escapadas de media noche.

La experiencia del Supertazón en Nueva Orleans es totalmente distinto a otras en ciudades diferentes.

En contraste con otras urbes estadounidenses, en Nueva Orleans todo es céntrico, incluida Bourbon Street y el Superdome de Louisiana, sede este domingo del partido por el trofeo Vince Lombardi de la NFL.



By JIM CHILSEN

GREEN BAY, Wis. - Todd Edlebeck spent long hours trying to tame a muddy, snowy Lambeau Field for his Green Bay Packers, but that work is done for now and his thoughts are on the Big Easy and the big game.

"I've been waiting for this for a long time," Edlebeck, the grounds supervisor for Lambeau and a lifelong Packers fan, said Wednesday. "It makes the work rewarding ... after all the years, for everyone."

Residents in this northeastern Wisconsin city once known as Titledown are gearing up for their first Super Bowl in nearly 30 years. Edlebeck - who has been with the Packers since 1983, when a Super Bowl trip seemed so distant - is on his way to New Orleans to do work for the team and watch the game. The man who became somewhat of a media celebrity when he led efforts to re-sod Lambeau in preparation for the NFC championship is one of the lucky ones.

"Unfortunately, we're stuck here," said Steve Bley, 30, of Appleton, as he and his friend, Bob Sykes, 25, nursed beers at the Stadium View sports bar near Lambeau Field.

Sykes said the Super Bowl should be played at Lambeau Field, because the Packers (15-3) have a better record than the New England Patriots (13-5).

"That's where the Super Bowl should be," Sykes said. "It's for the fans. In Green Bay, man."

Both cited the high cost of tickets and said the Super Bowl seems to be a game for the rich.

"The average guy's a more true football fan than the guy with the pocketbook," Sykes complained.

Edlebeck said it's the old story of overwhelming demand and limited supply.

"I'm sure that everyone in the state would love to be there," he said.

Not quite everyone. Jerry Watson, 50, co-owner of the Stadium View sports bar, said fans don't have to go to New Orleans to enjoy the Super Bowl. In fact, he said he would rather be in Green Bay, because he doesn't like the seating arrangement at the Super Dome.

"We'll open at 10 o'clock. By 11, you won't be able to get in here," Watson said of his bar, which he said takes in thousands of people on game day. "This town is going to be nothing short of insane."

"My first call after the (Carolina) Panther game was a teacher from Canada," Watson said. "He's coming with his buddies to watch the game."

Watson said another caller identified himself only as the "Joker." He told Watson he was coming to Green Bay all the way from Idaho and "you'll be able to recognize me from the Cheesehead with potatoes hanging from it."

A big fan, Watson was hoping for a Packers win - but he also had financial reasons. He had ordered 1,800 leather Super Bowl baseball caps proclaiming his team as NFL champs. As the beer flowed and the food was served up, those plans hung in the air like the cigarette smoke that permeated the bar.

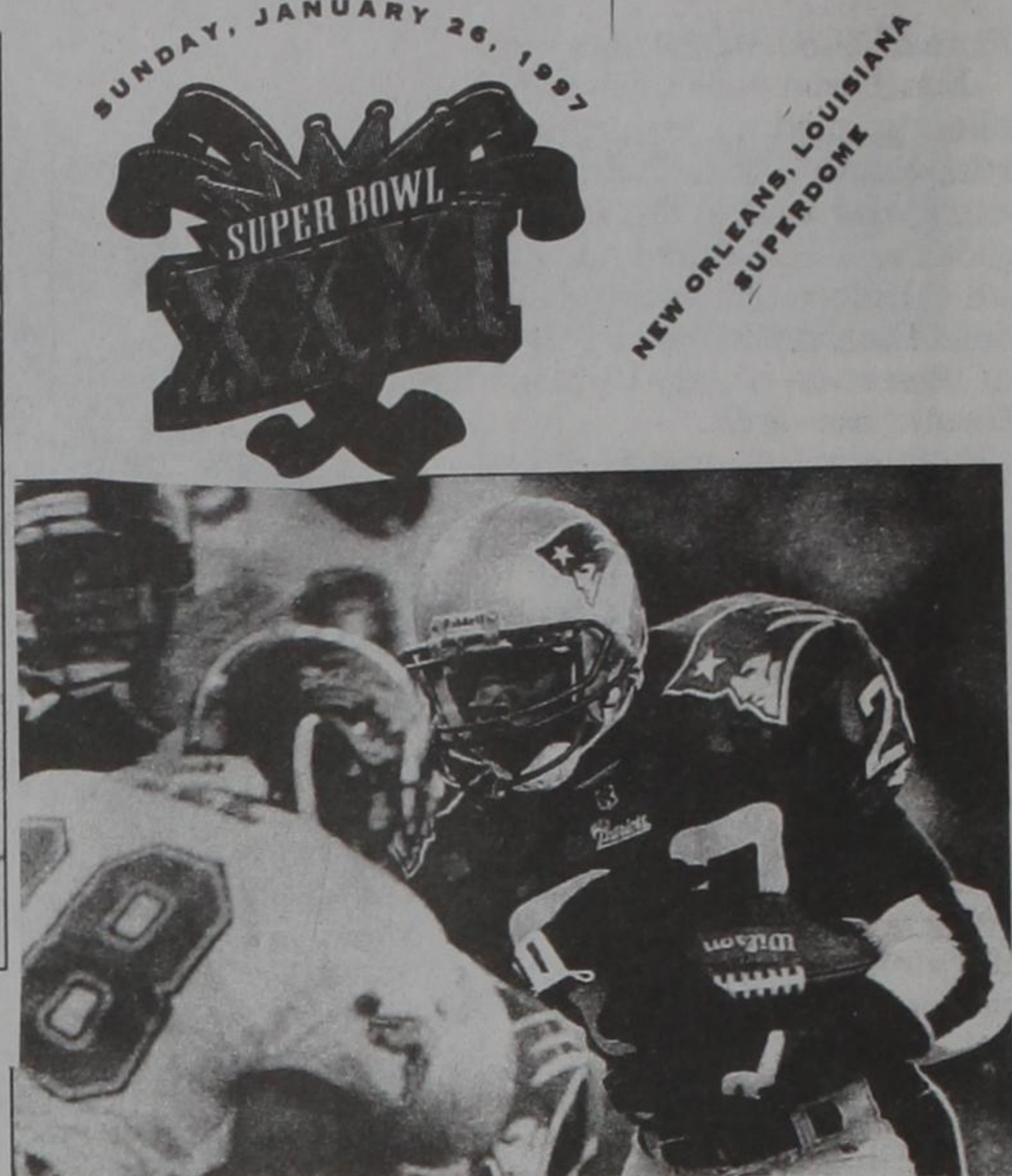
"If they don't win, I got big trouble," Watson said, laughing. "Me and my banker will be taking a large loan."

Watson is expecting a stampede into his bar Sunday, but he said that won't be the end of it. Remember, the Packers are coming home Monday.

"It will be just as nuts," he said. "I'll guarantee there'll be tailgaters in that lot by 10 o'clock. It will be just like a home Packer game."



Homeward bound: Favre was on the move from Lathon but now is headed for the bayou.



NEW ORLEANS-Two teams met yesterday in New Orleans to decide the NFL championship. The stands were filled to capacity with anxious fans, eagerly awaiting their favorite player's appearance. When it was over, one team was victorious, due entirely to the efforts of one man... and his video game skills.

In the Second Annual Game Before the Game, Edgar Bennett, running back for the Green Bay Packers led his team to a 22-6 victory over wide receiver Terry Glenn of the New England Patriots yesterday in New Orleans. The game was decided as the players tested their video game skills on the Sony PlayStation game console and NFL GameDay '97, in an interactive preview of Super Bowl XXXI. Fortunate fans packed the stands to cheer on the two NFL players, and their surprise guest teammates William Henderson from the Packers and Devin Wyman from the Patriots, at the specially constructed PlayStation Arena complete with a 9'x 12' Sony

Mobiltron.

"Seeing Terry and Edgar really get into the competitive spirit while playing NFL GameDay '97 shows just how real the PlayStation game is," said Jeffrey Fox, senior director, public relations and promotions, Sony Computer Entertainment America. "The players started out just having fun, then it turned into a game... a game to win. That speaks volumes about the realism of NFL GameDay '97."

The game was won by the single-minded determination of Bennett, who wanted nothing more than to prove his skills. That, combined with the plays of NFL GameDay '97, were enough to boost his team to victory over Glenn and the Patriots. With a kick-return that led to a fast touchdown, Bennett took the lead right from the start of the game. Glenn answered back on the very next possession, with a sustained drive down the field. Reverting to his wide open style of play, Glenn completed an exhilarating 45-yard pass. At the half, Green Bay had scored twice, successfully converting both two-point conversions, putting the Packers in charge 16-6.

In the second half, the Packers came out with a venge-

ance, capitalizing on their strong defense, putting a stop to Glenn on two fourth-down conversion attempts. Bennett sealed his victory with a final "interactive" hand-off in the game to William Henderson, who also happened to be standing next to him on the stage at Game Before the Game. Throughout the second half, Glenn forced Bennett into many third and long situations, selecting defenses that adjusted to Green Bay's running game on the fly. Despite their fierce on-screen competitiveness, both players demonstrated great sportsmanship throughout the game with constant good-natured ribbing and rounds of high-fives. Even though the Packers were victorious, all four players left winners.

NFL GameDay '97 is the most realistic football video game available. Features include: more than 1,500 "real" NFL players; the most sophisticated artificial intelligence in a video game; real uniform designs - both home and away; actual player numbers on the uniforms; and, all 30 NFL teams. NFL GameDay '97 features the motion-capture animation of the Oakland Raider's All-Pro wide receiver, Tim Brown, for the most accurate movement in a video football game.

Read El Editor



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# Don't Cry For Evita

By CECILIO MORALES

Eva Peron evoked in my late mother, ironically an Argentine who gained the right to vote thanks to the deceased first lady, the attitude Republicans reserve -- and I do not share -- for Hillary Rodham Clinton and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Evita was "that woman," or (ital) "esa mujer." (unital) You have to say it in a tone dripping with disdain to come close to the feeling. Not "that matron," but "that woman" -- a daring courtesan who would never be deemed worthy of the rank of "lady."

My mother might have expressed similar contempt for Madonna, the actress now portraying Evita, although probably not for Hillary Rodham Clinton, who would have passed the infallible blue-blood test. Just imagine, to get an idea, what German Junker noblewomen thought of Eva Braun.

For my part, lacking the experience or the airs, Evita is merely an inscrutable figure of the past. Her husband once held me in his arms when I was in diapers. Nonetheless, Evita is an icon from my heritage; the ubiquitous promotion of the movie version of the operetta named after her evokes mixed feelings, chief among them perplexity.

How can it be, after all, that Evita is the sum of what worldwide culture, dominated by the great U.S. entertainment megaphone, is destined to know about the national culture of my parents and forebears?

Let's pretend that Spain's Armada defeated England in the 16th century and that the English colonies established here in the following century never conquered Mexico's northern territories. Imagine today a United States politically independent, but in every other sense a neo-colonial dependency of the Hispanic world.

Add to the fantasy a movie operetta produced by the entertainment industry of a Spanish-speaking superpower. The work features Mamie Eisenhower singing counterpoints with Abbie Hoffman: mass marketing transforms these figures into the only Americans of whom most people worldwide have ever heard.

Was that a gasp I heard? If so, you're close to my feeling.

To be sure, the parallels are imperfect. Mrs. Eisenhower left little public memory beyond her distinctive hats, while Evita transcended the role of coquette her opponents



have assigned her. Similarly, Che Guevara was a more substantive radical than Abbie Hoffman, although in the end Hoffman redeemed himself from banality with his environmental activism.

Obviously a talented woman, Evita thirsted for revenge on the wealthy and was also alert to the clamor of the downtrodden. Politically, she was undoubtedly the compass in the career of Gen. Juan Domingo Peron. She taught him to take off his tie and speak of himself as one more (ital) descamisado (unital) (shirtless) worker, to vast popular acclaim.

Evita remains a saint of sorts in the hearts of many Argentines, particularly those of humble origins. She was the one who brought sweets and toys to shantytowns at Christmastime, and also the one who sat through interminable sessions with impoverished supplicants.

No Argentine first lady had ever done what she did and for her gestures Evita secured a fond remembrance. I wonder, however, if half a century later the myth is still warranted.

Unlike Ernesto "Che" Guevara, who appears as a one-man Greek chorus in the movie, she did not seem to believe, as he proclaimed with some macho embarrassment, that underlying all social revolution lies love of neighbor. Evita's speeches bristle with rage and hatred.

While Che's life combined sacrifice with adventure, Evita's mixed photo-opportunity charity with unbridled acquisitiveness. In fact, Evita herself eased her adversaries' propaganda work: In 1956, her husband overthrown, they found it all too easy to put on display the artifacts of Eva Peron's

luxurious lifestyle, including a wardrobe and jewels surpassed only recently by the collection of Imelda Marcos.

In the end, Evita seems tailor-made to become the protagonist of a modern operetta. Stripped of her myth, her life story is a relentless social climb. It has in common little more than shared years with the undeniable social achievements of the 1946-55 Peronist era, its excesses and errors notwithstanding.

Perhaps this explains why the life of a second-rate radio soap-opera actress become first lady has been turned into an icon politicians can manipulate for electoral gain, and Hollywood moguls can turn into box office profits.

The "justicialist" ideas of Peronism is meaningless in her country. The current president of Argentina, Carlos Saul Menem, a Peronist, has adopted what he calls "Peronism without Peron" as a motto for policies that serve the interests of the very oligarchy Eva Peron loathed and whose power her husband curbed.

Argentina need not cry for Evita, indeed. A more fitting lament is for itself, for its undying myths that prevented what could have been and never was.

(Cecilio Morales is the publisher at MII Publications in Washington, D.C.) Copyright 1997, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by Los Angeles Times Syndicate

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# Dual Mexican Nationality Could Add New Burden For Those In U.S.A.

By RAY RODRIGUEZ

Mexico's Congress has approved changes in its constitution that would allow Mexicans living abroad -- including some 6 million residing in the United States -- to maintain dual nationality. It's a concept that is stirring mixed emotions on both sides of the border. But it's not a new idea. It dates back to the 1930s, when Mexican nationals living in the United States were being hounded and shipped home in the belief that their departure would create jobs for "real Americans" and end the Depression.

The hysteria of the 1930s is very similar to what we see going on today. Then, as now, the Mexican government sought to protect its citizens from rampant anti-Mexican sentiment and harassment in the U.S.

While given serious consideration during the 1934-1940 presidency of Lazaro Cardenas, the dual citizenship proposal never became law. This was due in part to the fact that the worst aspects of the U.S. deportation and repatriation terror were over. This was the result of a more conciliatory attitude by the Democratic administration of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. His Republican predecessor, Herbert Hoover, had started the mass deportation drive to curry favor with the American Federation of Labor by riding the country of non-union, low-wage Mexican workers.

Half a century later, Mexico's Congress has finally passed a constitutional amendment that would permit Mexicans who have adopted or qualify for U.S. citizenship to keep their Mexican nationality. The amendment must still be ratified by two-thirds of Mexico's 31 states. Frankly, while the gesture is well-intentioned, many individuals of Mexican ancestry in the U.S. believe it couldn't have come at a worse time. For good reason, they worry about its implications.

Latinos in general and Mexicans in particular already feel under siege as a result of the hue and cry regarding immigration, affirmative action legislation, English-only measures, denial of benefits to legal residents and the growing opposition to bilingual education, to mention just a few issues. Now here's another one for those of Mexican ancestry to worry about. The intent of the measure is twofold: To protect Mexican nationals and



their children from the current anti-Mexican hysteria that California Gov. Pete Wilson and others have inflamed. Hopefully, it will provide a safety valve for Mexican nationals who feel rejected by our society. U.S. citizenship will assure fuller protection of their rights. That lessens the chance of their becoming disenfranchised and returning to Mexico.

Secondly, it will enable those who assume dual citizenship to retain certain privileges in Mexico. These are basically civil in nature. They include the right to own property in Mexico, claim inheritances, retain Mexican passports and be eligible to enjoy the social and economic opportunities available to Mexican citizens. But they will not be entitled to vote, hold federal office, attain military rank or exercise similar political rights.

The dual citizenship proposal is providing fuel for the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) and other groups and individuals to justify their anti-Latino (read that as Mexican) stance. In California, for example, the host of one radio station fans the flames of fear, suspicion and hatred by referring to Mexico as an evil country bent on the insidious conquest of the United States, using the ploy of dual citizenship.

Details of the proposed law have yet to be established. The biased and unsubstantiated comments of the radio host and his supporters who call in to express their views is proof of the adage, "There is nothing as frightening as ignorance in action!"

Mexico's states are expected to ratify the amendment. After that, it will take more time before any changes are implemented. The United States is rightly concerned about what effect the new law will have on Mexicans who are U.S. citizens. And what does it fore-

bode for the future when Mexican nationals apply for U.S. citizenship? Could there be a conflict of interest?

That being the case, wouldn't Mexican nationals and their children be better served if Mexico and the United States resolved any potential problems first by conferring and agreeing on solutions, as they did regarding trade policies and the creation of the North American Free Trade Agreement? Isn't assuring the rights of human beings as important as regulating the exchange of manufactured goods? Constitutional amendments tend to be cast in stone, while treaties and laws can be altered to meet new or changing conditions. Why not try that approach first?

(Ray Rodriguez, a retired university professor residing in Long Beach, Calif., is a frequent opinion column contributor with Hispanic Link.)

## From Page 1

si México y los Estados Unidos resolvieran cualesquiera problemas en potencia primero, conferenciando y acordando sobre las soluciones, como lo hicieron en lo referente a los cursos de acción comerciales y la creación del Tratado de Libre Comercio del Atlántico Norte?

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(Ray Rodriguez, catedrático universitario jubilado que reside en Long Beach, California, es contribuyente frecuente de columnas de opinión a Hispanic Link.)

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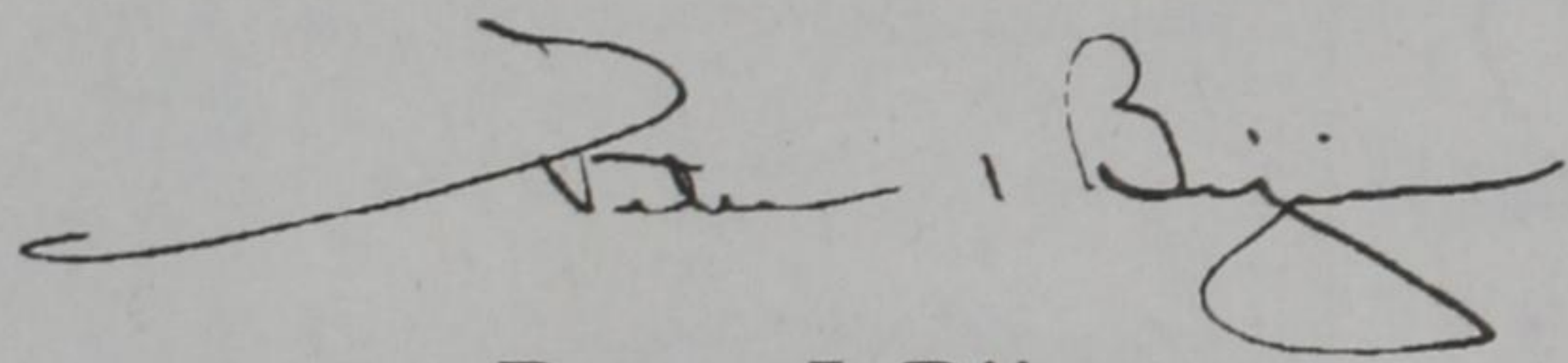
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