



Charriada Mexicana

Buffalo Springs Lake

Días 6 y 7 de Mayo

Competiendo:
Los Bigotones de El Paso
La Asociación de Charros de Dallas
La Asociación de Charros de Midland

Los Guadalupeños de Plainview
Los Ajilladores del Río Bravo
Los Centenarios de Sunland Park, N.M.

Musica Por Nick Villarreal
de San Antonio

"El Not to Worry - Nicky Snic"
El Ballet Folklórico Tenochtitlan
Sabado - Gratis, Domingo \$3.
Admisión de el Centro conal en la entrada del lago.
Esta porgrame fue aprobado por una comision del consejo de la ciudad
de Lubbock, con la recomendación de el Lubbock Area Alliance.



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"El respeto al
derecho ajeno
es la paz".
Lic. Benito Juarez



EL EDITOR

West Texas' Oldest Weekly Bilingual Newspaper

Vol. XVIII No. 31

Week of April 27, 1995 to May 3, 1995

Lubbock, Texas

Chavez's Death, Nativist Attacks Renovate Farmworker Drives

By Margarita Contín

In the two years since United Farm Workers of America founder César Chávez died, farmworker organizations across the nation have improved workers' wages and benefits through contract negotiations, built up membership and increased their visibility.

To keep the momentum building, the National Council of La Raza and several of its affiliates will stage the first Congress on American Agricultural Labor in Washington, D.C. May 17-19.

The event will bring together some 300 farmworker advocates and experts to share concerns among themselves and with members of Congress and the Clinton administration.

Conference coordinator Lillian Hiraes sees a national policy agenda developing from it. "Our three main concerns are immigration-related issues such as guest-worker proposals, maintaining national farmworker programs rather than putting them into block grants for the states, and enforcing labor standards," she says.

Initiated in the 1940s, the U.S. guest-worker -- or brace-ro -- program was used to import thousands of temporary farm laborers from Mexico and other countries to harvest specific crops.

Program critics, like Balde-mar Velásquez, president of the Toledo, Ohio-based Farm Labor Organizing Committee, charge that it bypasses unemployed domestic workers in favor of cheaper foreign labor. Now there are about 2.5 million farmworkers living in the United States. "We have a system of peonage in American agriculture...The growers create these arrangements so they can use the most exploitable workers," Velásquez says.

The California-based UFW, which currently claims 24,000 members and 10,000 associate members, won nine elections in the last year, adding 3,000 new members. It negotiated or renegotiated several contracts.

All of the farmworker leaders interviewed by Hispanic Link agree that the increases stem in part from nativist legislation such as California's Proposition 187 and politicians' hard line against legal immigrants.

A hearing was held in the California legislature April

19 on a bill introduced by Assemblyman Peter Frusetta (R-Monterey) that would remove growers' responsibility to bargain collectively with labor organizations such as the UFW, even after the majority of workers voted to unionize.

In Texas, UFW state director Rebecca Flores Harrington notes also, "We have seen a renewed interest in organizing...because people feel like they're being hit over the head." UFW President Arturo Rodriguez credits the revitalization also to people's sense of responsibility to a man who has been memorialized in school, library and street dedications, through marches and with the Presidential Medal of Freedom since his death on April 23, 1993. "Nobody will ever diminish the role or take away the spirit and emotion the farmworkers feel towards César. The growers are beginning to realize that," he says.

On April 4, the UFW won its ninth election in Watsonville, Calif., at the Monterey Mushroom Company, covering 300 workers. Two weeks before, it negotiated a major contract with the Bear Creek Production Company, giving 1,400 rose workers a comprehensive medical plan, pension program and grievance procedures. It came only three months after the election was held. The UFW's Marc Grossman calls the company "a model of progressive management."

In the Midwest, FLOC's Velásquez achieved a new collective bargaining agreement in early April with the Vlasic Pickle Growers Association in Ohio, raising wages and upgrading benefits. It included, for the first time, a clause prohibiting permanent strike replacements. His organization now boasts more than 5,000 workers under union contracts.

Tirso Moreno, founder/director of the 6,000-member Florida Association of Farmworkers, and Victoria Martinez, director of the North Carolina Farmworkers Project, say their organizations focus particularly on improving working conditions and living standards.

Says Martinez, "We have created a network of organizations that support farmworkers so that they can contact the proper authorities for problems with health, discrimination or working con-

ditions."

Adequate health coverage is a principal concern of several groups. Velásquez has created a health and safety committee, relying on a collaborative effort between growers and the union. "We hope eventually to build a full-fledged health clinic in northwest Ohio, while still retaining the mobile units to go around to the camps."

While some, like Martínez and UFW Vice President Dolores Huerta, express concerns about congressional budget cuts to public assistance health and nutrition programs used by migrant farmworkers, Velásquez and Moreno dismiss them as subsidies for agribusiness. "The only reason farmworkers are so poor is because their employers don't provide them with reasonable salaries," argues Moreno. "The government should force them to pay

better wages instead of handing out subsidies."

Velásquez concludes that the powerful agriculture lobby on Capitol Hill makes the scenario unlikely. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says about \$10 billion was given out in agribusiness subsidies last year.

It is this absence of a strong farmworker voice in Washington, D.C., that propelled NCLR and others to organize the upcoming farmworker "congress."

Thirty-five years after Edward R. Murrow jolted the nation with his "Harvest of Shame" television documentary, we still need to educate the nation about our farmworkers' plight, says Hiraes.

(Margarita Contín is a reporter with the national newsweekly Hispanic Link Weekly Report in Washington, D.C.)

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La Muerte de Chavez y Los Ataques de los Nacionalistas Revigorizan a las Campañas

Por Margarita Contín

En los dos años desde que murió César Chávez, el fundador de los Trabajadores Agrícolas Unidos Estadounidenses (UFW en inglés), las organizaciones de trabajadores agrícolas por toda la nación han mejorado los salarios y beneficios de los obreros mediante negociaciones de contratos, han aumentado la membresía y también su representación.

Para mantener al movimiento activo, el Consejo Nacional de La Raza (NCLR en inglés) y varias de sus afiliadas efectuarán el primer Congreso de Mano de Obra Agrícola en Washington, D.C., del 17 al 19 de mayo. El acontecimiento reunirá cerca de 300 defensores de los trabajadores agrícolas y expertos, para compartir sus preocupaciones con los miembros del Congreso y del gobierno de Clinton.

Una de las coordinadoras de la conferencia, Lillian Hiraes, cree que se desarrollará un curso de acción nacional a partir del mismo. "Nuestras tres preocupaciones principales son los asuntos relacionados con la inmigración, tales como las propuestas sobre trabajadores temporales, el mantener los

programas nacionales para los trabajadores agrícolas en vez de ponerlos en subvenciones para los estados, y el cumplimiento de las normas de trabajo", dice ella.

El programa de trabajadores temporales en los Estados Unidos -- o "braceros" -- comenzó en los años 40, se usó para importar a millones de trabajadores agrícolas temporeros desde México y otras naciones para realizar cosechas específicas.

Los críticos del programa, como Baldemar Velásquez, presidente del Comité de Organización de los Trabajadores Agrícolas (FLOC en inglés), con sede en Toledo, Ohio, acusan que soslaya a los trabajadores nacionales desempleados en favor de la mano de obra extranjera más barata. Ahora hay 2.5 millones de trabajadores que viven en los Estados Unidos. "Tenemos un sistema de peonaje en la agricultura estadounidense... Los cultivadores crean estos arreglos para poder usar a los trabajadores que sean más fáciles de explotar", dice Velásquez.

La UFW, con sede en California, que alega tener actualmente 24,000 miembros y 10,000 miembros asociados, ganó nueve elecciones el año

Continúa Pagina 2

WILL SELENA'S LEGACY INCLUDE HOWARD STERN'S DEMISE?

By Antonio Mejías-Rentas

First came the pain of losing Selena, a talented performer approaching the height of her career; then, the demeaning, ghettoizing coverage of the tragedy by mainstream media.

As if that weren't enough, Howard Stern had to go on the air and mock our grief with his trademark sick humor, all for the sake of radio ratings.

Stern's callous jokes on the day of Selena's funeral were infuriating but not surprising. It was not the first time he had insulted Hispanics, but this time he went way too far.

When he heard about our anger, he lacked the dignity to do anything but offer a backhanded apology -- cloaked in Spanish -- a few days after his tirades. Afterwards, he continued to joke on air about the whole thing.

As an entertainment journalist covering the Stern story for Los Angeles' Spanish-language daily, La Opinión, I called Stern and his people the day he first made his comments. My calls weren't returned. The general manager of the Infinity Broadcasting station where the Stern show originates in New York refused to comment.

Robert Moore, a kinder general manager at Los Angeles' KLSX -- which carries Stern but is not owned by Infinity -- said he could not justify the smears, but explained that he was contractually obligated to carry the show uncut.

He wasn't surprised by Stern's comments. After all, when Stern lost his top rating in the Los Angeles market to newcomer Spanish-language outlet KLAX, the shock jock claimed there had to be a mistake because of the similarity of the two stations' call letters.

"He's an equal opportunity offender," Moore assured me.

That only makes the matters worse. That a man

(I use the term loosely) can get on the air and indiscriminately hurt the group of his choice is a price we pay for living in a democracy; it's also a



Durante la próxima entrega de los premios "Lo Nuestro", Selena Quintanilla será objeto de un homenaje póstumo, además de que figurará como candidata a cuatro galardones.

sad commentary on our society.

In reaction, Latinos are saying they're not going to take it anymore. An organized boycott of Stern's advertisers -- coupled with a strategy to challenge the federal licenses of those stations that carry his program -- has been called for in South Texas, the home of Selena's most fervent admirers, as well as Houston, Los Angeles, Chicago and other cities.

License challenges are lengthy, complicated processes that may have little effect, given the climate of deregulation that now governs the Federal Communications Commission and its overseer, (Continued Page 4)

News Briefs

Gang Violence Hits Indian Reservations

The Associated Press reports that gangs are being blamed for an increase in beatings, stabblings, drug trafficking and killings on reservations in the Navajo Nation.

Navajo police said gang activity among the reservation's 160,000 residents has escalated far beyond vandalism since the problem surfaced five years ago.

The violence contradicts the traditions of the Navajo, who long ago were warriors before turning to the peaceful pursuits of sheepherding, silver smithing and weaving learned from their Pueblo neighbors.

The gang culture now threatens to overshadow the family loyalty prized by traditional Navajo, said Bill Smith, principal of Window Rock High School in Fort Defiance.

Leaders are also concerned that young people are spreading their inner city mentality to smaller, rural communities scattered across the reservation's 24,000 square miles in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

Generation Gap Is Causing Fear

The San Jose Mercury News reports that some adults are fearful that any group of teens hanging out is up to no good. This fear is creating a stigma that plagues young people of all races who hang out together in groups on the streets, in parks or at the mall.

The report says that adults and teens have long had uneasy relations. Today's teens look far different than those of the past, many dressing in loose "gangster" garb and some sporting tattoos and pierced noses, ears, lips and other body parts. In addition, while violent crimes by teens are relatively few, the numbers are rising more rapidly than for similar crimes by adults.

In Santa Clara County, CA in 1984, there were 309 arrests for violent crimes among the 169,000 juveniles between ages 10 and 17. There were no homicides, but nine rapes, 211 assaults and 79 robberies.

In 1993, there were 756 arrests for violent crimes among the same age group, including seven homicides, 39 rapes and 520 assaults.

Authorities said that even if each of those crimes was committed by a different person, which is not the case, the numbers would equate to about 0.5 percent of that part of the youth population. And the victims are overwhelmingly other teens, not adults or the elderly.

Beryl Schwartz, development director of a drop-in center and shelter for homeless and runaway teens concedes that teens "sometimes like it when you're scared of them. That's part of the deal. It makes them feel grown up and powerful in a world where they have no power at all."

The report says that there's really nowhere for teens to go. People fault them because they're on the streets and in the malls. Maybe people should start asking, What other choices do we give them?

ACLU Concerned Over Increases in FBI Power

The New York Times reports that civil liberties advocates worry that the government may seize the opportunity to combat terrorism to also expand its powers.

White House officials said that new legislative proposals would be aimed at making it easier for FBI agents to gather information about people and groups suspected of plotting terrorist acts. Example included lowering the threshold necessary for FBI agents to gather information from banks and telephone companies.

The most notorious efforts of the FBI were the Counter Intelligence Programs, known as COINTELPRO, of the late 1960s and early 1970s in which J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI's longtime director, turned the agency's resources first against black political organizations and then against the New Left. Under the program, the bureau not only infiltrated the groups on which they kept extensive records, but also planted false information against their leaders to discredit them.

In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson persuaded Hoover to use the same tactics against the Ku Klux Klan. As the Vietnam War heated up, Johnson and Hoover joined together to find what they thought was a conspiracy behind the urban riots and protests against the war.

Philip Gutis, a spokesman for the American Civil Liberties Union, said the organization feared that events like the Oklahoma bombing might make people more agreeable to having their civil liberties eroded. "The FBI now has all the power it needs to investigate wrongdoing," he said. "It doesn't need any additional power. It may need additional resources."

Interracial Adoption Rules Eased

The Associated Press reports that the Department of Health and Human Services has announced policies on interracial adoptions that will pressure states to reverse racially based practices that have delayed or prevented the placement of minority children into permanent homes.

The rules implement the Multiethnic Placement Act of 1994, which prohibits states, or any private or public adoption agencies that receive federal funds, from delaying or denying the placement of a child solely on the basis of race, color or national origin.

The law which is effective Oct. 21, also requires states to step up efforts to recruit potential foster and adoptive parents who reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children needing homes.

The new policies are designed to help the growing numbers of children in foster care who are awaiting adoption. As of 1990, the most recent year for which figures are available, 20,000 children were legally available for adoption, and an additional 49,000 were in the process of becoming available.

Many of those free for adoption have special needs that make them difficult to place. Two out of three have a medical, developmental, behavioral or a psychological problem, or have one or more (Continued Page 5)

Employer Sanctions and One Senators's Unfinished Homework

By Miguel Pérez

When he says that at a time of growing economic uncertainty, people make immigrants their scapegoats, and when he notes that the anti-immigrant backlash threatens to take the country "down a dangerous road," Senator Bill Bradley (D-N.J.) sounds scary, but correct.

Witness the premature conclusions and comments by politicians, the public, and the press following the Oklahoma City terrorist attack.

When he speaks of making "the common-sense and clear distinction between legal immigration and illegal immigration," the senator makes a lot of sense.

When Bradley says that "52 percent of illegal immigrants are not Mexicans coming across in the dead of night or Chinese ships that run up on the Jersey shore," when he says most illegals are visitors who overstay their welcome, it's refreshing to see a politician who doesn't get carried away by border myths.

When he proposes, as he did on April 11, legislation to track down visitors who stay illegally and to force them to

go back to their country of origin before they can apply for legal residency, he shows wisdom.

But when he says that in order to protect legal immigrants, sanctions must be reinforced against employers who hire undocumented workers, the senator shows he didn't finish his homework.

Bradley argues that employer sanctions are poorly enforced and required a separate unit of investigation with a \$100 million budget. But countless studies have found that employer sanctions caused a "widespread pattern of discrimination" against legal immigrants and even native-born citizens who look or sound foreign.

Shortly after the employer sanctions law took effect in 1986, immigrant-rights advocates and Congress's own General Accounting Office documented numerous cases proving the law had institutionalized employment bias.

Fear of fines and imprisonment made many employers discriminate against legal workers. Some did it out of ignorance of the law and others were "intentionally engag-

ing in discriminatory practices," according to a study by the New York City Human Rights Commission.

In 1989, the GAO reported that a half-million employers may have violated the law by demanding work papers only from "foreign-looking" job applicants. It estimated that 528,000, or about 16 percent of 3.3 million employers, "reported beginning or enforcing policies or practices that may not be permitted under the law." Several other studies not only show persuasive statistical evidence but heartbreaking details on how sanctions cause discrimination in hiring, promotions and firing, wage disparities, unsafe working conditions, and harassment of undocumented workers.

They vividly illustrate how some employers use employer sanctions to withhold wages, deny overtime pay, coerce illegal workers into granting sexual favors, force them to work excessively long hours, and reduce seniority and employee benefits. The law gives unscrupulous employers an excuse to operate sweatshops by telling undocumented

workers they are taking a risk by hiring them.

Legislation seeking to repeal employer sanctions has been ignored by lawmakers. But now Bradley proposes to reinforce it without safeguards against further discrimination, which could result, as it did in the late 1980s, if employers are again scared of hiring foreign-looking persons and if sweatshop operators are given another excuse to exploit undocumented workers.

Yet confronted with this scenario, Bradley gives a simplistic explanation, like a student who didn't complete his homework but wants to fake having done it. "There is nothing in the legislation per se that relates to discrimination," he says, "but if you have a better system that is more transparent and understood by people, I think you're less likely to have discrimination."

Finish the homework, Sen. Bradley -- read the studies on employer sanctions and discrimination.

(Miguel Pérez is a columnist and editorial board member of the Bergen Record in New Jersey.)



Laugh 'Em Out of Town

By Ira Cutler

Let's face it, we live in a time made for satire. Much of what is going on fits neatly into the narrow space between tragedy and comedy, and the distinction between what is real and what is ridiculous is very blurred. The cliché is that it is a time to laugh -- as a way to keep from crying.

For example, a friend who can usually be found hanging around in the Child Welfare Forum, proposes that the federal government create a Defense Block Grant, in effect giving the duties of the Defense Department to the states. His arguments are as cogent as most. States have diverse needs -- California and Florida may need to have a Navy but Kansas surely can do without one. And freed of the burden of federal rules and regulation, states could cut costs by as much as 20%. Mark doesn't say so but perhaps states could privatize their military business and send it overseas. It is an old custom; the British hired Germans to fight the Revolutionary War for them. Perhaps we could get the Germans, Japanese or Koreans to do our military work on a subcontract.

This is satire, so far. I do not think anyone has seriously proposed a military block grant, but maybe I missed it in the paper. It is hard today to know what is a joke.

I heard a proposal on the radio yesterday for a national income tax lottery. On a voluntary basis taxpayers could check-off and have \$20 of their refund go into a lottery. If 50 million people put in \$20 it would produce a \$1 billion lottery -- half to reduce the deficit, half to pay out the biggest ticket ever or to have several winners, each freed from paying taxes for the rest of their lives.

This is not satire. It is a serious thing discussed on National Public Radio. But 20 years ago saying that the states should fund public schools by competing with the Mafia to run the numbers racket would have been satire, and probably pretty funny. Today it is true.

Today, I will propose (satire) that states should sub-contract the lotteries back to the Mafia who, after all, have greater experience, lower wage scales, less voluntary turnover among their employees and very low retirement costs. But instead of calling them the Mafia, or gamblers, which are politically incorrect terms, we should call them Probability Entrepreneurs. And in tomorrow's paper I expect to read that it is true.

That's the scary thing -- when yesterday's satire becomes today's truth.

The states and the federal government are run by people who lack the courage to raise the taxes needed to pay for the programs they point to as the reason that they ought to be retained in office. Read that sentence again. It is true and made for satire. Instead, they annually increase the taxes

on cigarettes, liquor, and gasoline and use some of the money to fund programs designed to get people to use less cigarettes, liquor and gasoline. If any of those programs ever worked the whole house of cards would tumble down. Satire. A former Secretary of Defense says darn I made a mistake after tens of thousands die, a Senator kisses 23 women who do not want to be kissed and never once finds a willing woman, a black former general whose every political position is unknown is hyped for President, while a Texas billionaire who is clearly nuts is a political force.

A political party, a dismal failure in getting elected to Congress for 40 years, proposes to change the rules so that the winners can only be members for a limited time. They ask to be elected so that they can put in a rule that will cost them their jobs in a few years. They get elected and do not do it. The electorate does not seem to care and there is a big celebration on Capitol Hill, with real live elephants, to celebrate a new American revolution. Maybe beyond satire, maybe farce?

The best use of satire today is to ridicule, an extremely powerful weapon, and the mass media makes it even more so. When Chevy Chase was done with Gerald Ford it was hard to think of the man except as falling down, dropping things, and being unable to walk and chew gum at the same time. We do not even remember Gerald Ford. We remember Chevy Chase doing Gerald Ford.

So my solution to the political problems facing our nation today is to laugh at the bores in charge, across the political spectrum. Let's laugh 'em out of town. The issues are serious, make no mistake, but the characters are not. Let's not treat Newt Gingrich with respect and listen carefully to his ideas. Let's play it the way Rush Limbaugh plays it; ridicule and disrespect are the order of the day, not a careful, mature consideration of the issues and an attempt to find middle ground.

I think the strategy is right but we face a severe talent problem. Satire and ridicule are tricky tools, best used only by master craftsman, or they will lash back and blow up in your face. Push too hard and you will create sympathy, attack on some issues and the satirist will become a target. Nothing written on a page will have the needed impact today. The jokes have to be on the air for immediate impact and to reach enough people.

The Not Ready for Prime Time Players are really not ready this time. We have no obvious current analog to Mark Twain, Will Rogers, Mort Sahl, Dick Gregory or George Carlin. The best comedy minds seem to be talking other things -- sex, relationships, family issues, jobs -- or maybe I just cannot figure out who they are or how to get to listen to them.

If anyone sees the next comedic prophet some night on an obscure cable channel at 5 AM, let me know.

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.

Las Sanciones a los Patrones y la Tarea Incompleta de un Senador

Por Miguel Pérez

Cuando él dice que en época de incertidumbre económica cada vez mayor, la gente hace de los inmigrantes sus "chivos expiatorios", y cuando él hace notar que la resaca contra los inmigrantes amenaza llevar al país "por un camino peligroso", el Senador Bill Bradley (demócrata por Nueva Jersey) suena de modo alarmante, pero correcto.

Fíjense en las conclusiones y los comentarios prematuros de los políticos, del público y de la prensa, a continuación del ataque terrorista de Oklahoma.

Cuando él habla de hacer "la distinción de sentido común y clara entre la inmigración legal y la ilegal", el Senador lleva mucha sensatez.

Cuando Bradley dice que "el 52 por ciento de los inmigrantes ilegales no son mexicanos que atraviesan el río durante la oscuridad de la noche, ni barcos chinos que encallan en la costa de Nueva Jersey", cuando él dice que la mayoría de los ilegales son visitantes que permanecen aquí después que sus visas han caducado, es refrescante ver a un político que no se deja llevar por los mitos de la frontera.

Cuando él propone, como lo hizo en este mes (el 11 de abril) legislación para rastrear a los visitantes que se quedan ilegalmente y obligarlos a regresar a sus países de origen antes de que puedan solicitar la residencia legal, él muestra sabiduría.

Pero cuando él dice que a fin de proteger a los inmigrantes legales, deben reforzarse las sanciones contra los patrones que contratan a trabajadores indocumentados, el senador muestra que no terminó su tarea.

Bradley argumenta que las sanciones contra los patrones se cumplen defectuosamente y exigió una unidad de investigación aparte con un presupuesto de \$100 millones. Pero incontables estudios han determinado que las sanciones contra los empleadores ocasionaron una "pauta muy extendida de discriminación" contra los inmigrantes legales y hasta los ciudadanos nativos que lucen o suenan como extranjeros.

Poco después de entrar en vigor la ley de las sanciones contra los empleadores en 1986, los defensores de los derechos de los inmigrantes y la propia Oficina General de Contabilidad del Congreso (GAO en inglés) substanciaron numerosos casos que pro-

baban que la ley había institucionalizado los prejuicios en el empleo.

El temor a las multas y al encarcelamiento hizo que muchos patrones discriminaran contra los trabajadores legales. Algunos lo hicieron por ignorancia de la ley y otros estaban "dedicándose intencionalmente a prácticas de discriminación", según dijo un estudio efectuado por la Comisión de los Derechos Humanos de la Ciudad de Nueva York.

En 1989, la GAO informó que medio millón de empleadores pueden haber infringido la ley al exigir documentos para trabajar sólo de los solicitantes de empleo que "lucían como extranjeros". La misma estimó que 528,000, o sea el 16% de 3,300,000 empleadores, "informaron haber comenzado o aumentado los cursos de acción o las prácticas que pueden no estar permitidas bajo la ley".

Algunos otros estudios no sólo muestran evidencia estadística persuasiva, sino detalles descorazonadores sobre cómo las sanciones ocasionan discriminación en el reclutamiento, los ascensos y los despidos, disparidades en los jornales, circunstancias inseguras en el trabajo y hostigamiento contra los trabajadores indocumentados.

Ellos ilustran vividamente cómo algunos patrones usan de las sanciones contra ellos para retener los jornales, negar el pago del tiempo extra, coaccionar a las trabajadoras ilegales para conceder favores sexuales, obligarlos a trabajar horas excesivamente largas y disminuir los beneficios por antigüedad y marginales.

La ley da a los empleadores faltos de escrúpulos una excusa para administrar talleres de explotación al decir a los trabajadores indocumentados que los primeros están corriendo riesgos al reclutarlos.

La legislación que procura revocar las sanciones contra los patrones ha sido pasada por alto por los legisladores. Pero ahora Bradley propone reforzarla sin salvaguardas contra la discriminación ulterior, la que podría resultar, como ocurrió a fines del decenio de 1980, si los empleadores son atomizados de nuevo para reclutar a personas de aspecto extranjero y si los administradores de los talleres de explotación obtienen otra excusa para explotar a los trabajadores indocumentados.

Empero, al enfrentarse a este escenario, Bradley da una explicación simplista,

como un estudiante que no terminó su tarea para la casa, pero quiere pretender que la hizo. "No hay nada en la legislación propuesta, por sí misma, que se refiera a la discriminación", dice él, "pero si se tiene un sistema mejor, que sea más transparente y mejor entendido por la gente, creo que hay menos probabilidades de que haya discriminación".

LA MUERTE DE CHAVEZ Y LOS ATAQUES DE LOS NACIONALISTAS anterior, agregando 3,000 nuevos miembros. También negoció o volvió a negociar varios contratos colectivos de trabajo.

Todos los dirigentes de los trabajadores agrícolas entrevistados por Hispanic Link concuerdan que los aumentos se derivan parcialmente de la legislación nacionalista, como la Proposición 187 de California, y la línea dura de los políticos en contra de los inmigrantes legales.

Se efectuaron audiencias en la legislatura de California el 19 de abril sobre un proyecto de ley presentado por el Asambleista Peter Frusetta (repblicano por Monterey) que eliminaría la responsabilidad de los cultivadores para negociar colectivamente con las organizaciones sindicales tales como la UFW, aún después que la mayoría de los trabajadores acordaran por votación el sindicalizarse.

En Texas, la directora estatal de la UFW, Rebecca Flores Harrington, hace notar igualmente: "Hemos visto un interés renovado por organizarse ... porque la gente cree que les están golpeando en sus cabezas".

Arturo Rodríguez, presidente de la UFW, acredita igualmente la revitalización al sentido de responsabilidad de las personas hacia un hombre que ha sido conmemorado desde su muerte, el 23 de abril de 1993, en las dedicaciones de escuelas, bibliotecas y calles, mediante desfiles y con la Medalla de Honor Presidencial.

"Nadie disminuirá nunca el papel, ni eliminará el espíritu y la emoción de los trabajadores agrícolas hacia César. Los cultivadores están comenzando a darse cuenta de eso", dice él.

El 4 de abril, la UFW ganó su novena elección en Watsonville, California, en la Compañía de Hongos de Monterey, que comprende a 300 trabajadores. Dos semanas antes, negociaron un contrato importante con la Compañía de Producción Bear Creek, dando a 1,400 trabajadores de

ción".

Termine su tarea, Senador Bradley -- lea los estudios sobre las sanciones a los empleadores y la discriminación.

(Miguel Pérez es columnista y miembro de la junta editorial del "Bergen Record", en Nueva Jersey.) Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 1995. Distribuido por The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

las rosas un plan médico completo, un programa de pensiones y procedimientos para quejas. Esto ocurrió sólo tres meses después de celebrarse las elecciones. Marc Grossman, vocero de la UFW, califica a la empresa de "un modelo de administración progresista".

En el Medio Oeste, Velásquez, del FLOC, logró un nuevo acuerdo de negociación colectiva a principios de abril con la Asociación de Cultivadores de Pepinos de Vlasic, en Ohio, que aumenta los salarios y mejora los beneficios. Incluía, por primera vez, una cláusula que prohíbe utilizar sustitutos permanentes en casos de huelga. Su organización cuenta ahora con más de 5,000 trabajadores sujetos a contratos colectivos con el sindicato.

Tirso Moreno, fundador y director de la Asociación de Trabajadores Agrícolas de la Florida, que tiene 6,000 miembros, y Victoria Martínez, directora del Proyecto de los Trabajadores Agrícolas de Carolina del Norte, dicen que sus organizaciones se enfocan especialmente sobre el mejoramiento de las circunstancias de trabajo y los niveles de vida de los trabajadores.

Martínez dice: "Hemos creado una red de organizaciones que apoyan a los trabajadores agrícolas de modo que ellos puedan comunicarse con las autoridades adecuadas en los casos de problemas de salud, discriminación o circunstancias de trabajo".

La cobertura sanitaria adecuada es una preocupación principal de varios grupos. Velásquez ha creado un comité de salud y seguridad, que depende de una colaboración entre los cultivadores y el sindicato. "Esperamos, con el tiempo, construir una clínica completa en el noroeste de Ohio, mientras que conservaremos aún las unidades móviles que recorren los campamentos".

Mientras que algunas personas como Martínez y la vicepresidenta de la UFW, Dolores Huerta, manifiestan sus

Continúa Pagina 4

Community Reinvestment Act In Jeopardy Next Few Weeks Critical to its Survival

From: Neighborhood Revitalization Project, Center for Community Change

SUMMARY: Bills have been introduced in both Houses of Congress that would so seriously undermine the Community Reinvestment Act that they amount to a virtual repeal of the law. The Bereuter bill in the House and the Shelby-Mack bill in the Senate (S.650) contain a laundry list of regulatory relief provisions for banks, including several that relate directly to CRA. These are described in more detail below.

THIS IS THE MOST SERIOUS THREAT TO CRA IN ITS ENTIRE HISTORY. Unlike past attacks on the act, under this Republican-controlled Congress, these bills could actually pass. What community groups do over the next few weeks is critical. A bill could move in the Senate as early as sometime in May.

ACTION NEEDED: Key members of Congress need to hear immediately from as many of their constituents as possible about the importance of CRA and the harm that would be done by the Bereuter and Shelby-Mack bills. You can do any and all of the following:

-- Seek a meeting with your Senator/Representative while Congress is in recess (the Senate is out until 4/24, the House until 5/1). If you can't meet with the Member of Congress him/herself, meet with staff.
-- Get as many phone calls and letters in to your Senator/Representative as possible, from community groups, CDCs, local and state public officials, church groups, labor unions, small business groups - anyone you know who has an interest in CRA.
Some materials to help you are posted in the Federal Legislation sub-folder of the Community Reinvestment & Credit Folder. These include a fact sheet with background on CRA and how it has worked and talking points on the bills, and a sample letter that you can send. We encourage you to share these materials with other groups and adapt them for your own use.

The key provisions of the Bereuter and Shelby-Mack bills are:

1. A small bank exemption (Shelby-Mack exempts banks under \$250 million in assets altogether; Bereuter exempts banks under \$100 million in towns under 30,000 in population and lets banks between \$100 and \$250 million self-certify their compliance with CRA).
2. A new form of safe harbor. Both bills would allow for public comment on a bank's CRA rating. Once finalized, the CRA rating would be conclusive, and no CRA-related comments could be considered when a bank files an application covered by CRA.
3. Removing most applications from CRA coverage. Both bills would allow banks that have satisfactory or better ratings to open new branches and acquire or merge with other institutions without filing an application if they meet certain other conditions (e.g., being well-capitalized and meeting safety and soundness requirements). They would simply have to notify their regulator that they were taking these actions.
4. Preventing collection of new data under CRA. This would override the provision in the proposed new CRA regs to collect information on small business lending activity.
5. Raising the threshold for reporting under the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) from \$10 million to \$50 million in assets.

KEY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ON CRA (All can be reached at 202-224-3121)

We cannot assume that the Democrats are with us on all of the CRA-related provisions of Shelby-Mack. It is extremely important to weigh in with all of them and urge them to hang tough. We would appreciate hearing about any contacts you have with Senators or their staff about their position on the provisions of the bill.

For more info, contact: Allen Fishbein or Debby Goldberg, Neighborhood Revitalization Project, Center for Community Change, 1000 Wisconsin Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20007, (202)342-0567



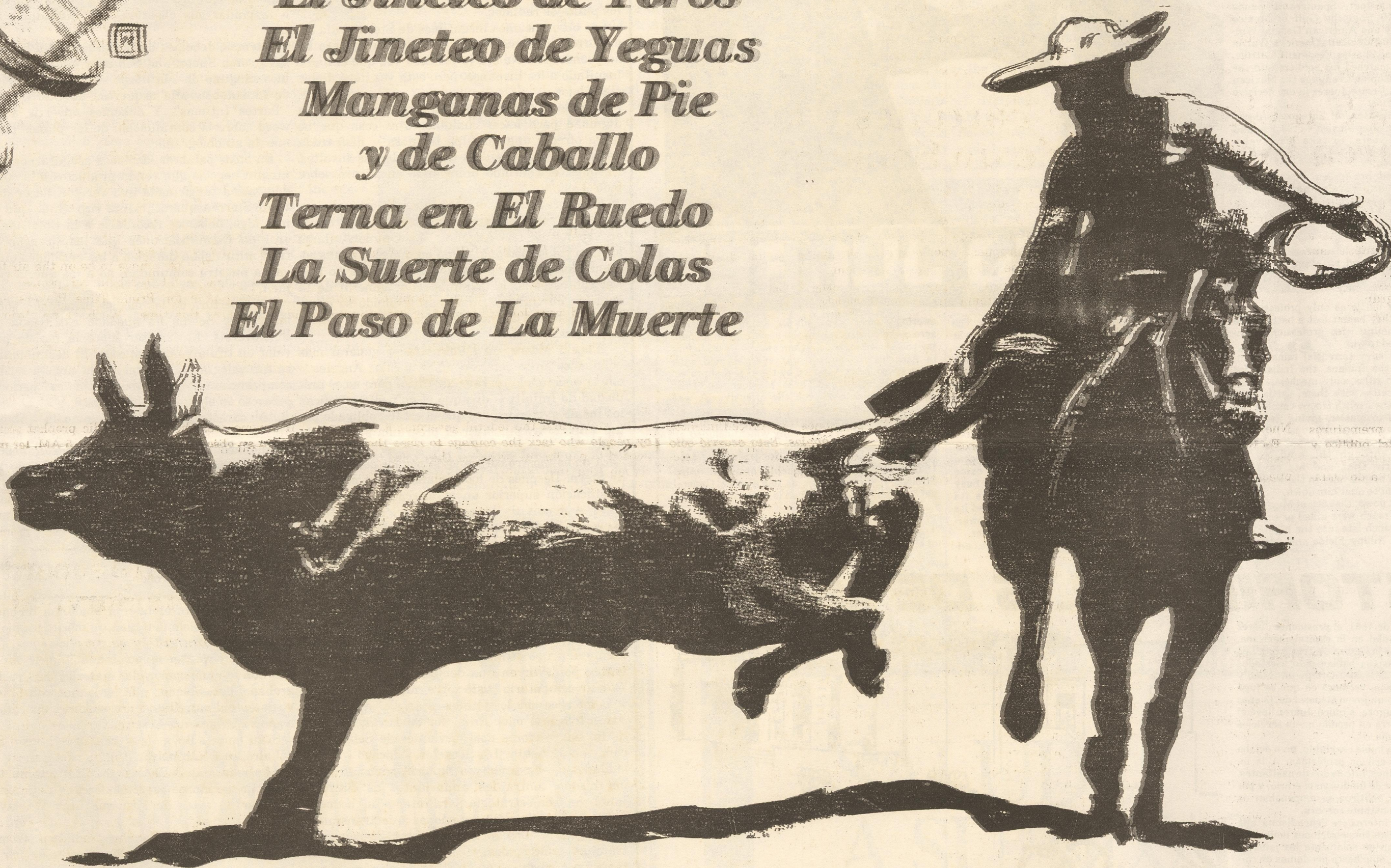
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ES
*El Floreo de Reata
El Jineteo de Toros
El Jineteo de Yeguas
Manganas de Pie
y de Caballo
Terna en El Ruedo
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Buffalo Springs Lake Días 6 y 7 de Mayo

Musica Por Nick Villarreal
de San Antonio
"El Not to Worry - Nicky Snic"
El Ballet Folklórico Tenochtitlan

Sábado - Gratis, Domingo - \$3,
Además de el Costo normal en la entrada del lago.



THE FIFTH OF MAY

Por Raul L. Contreras

A great deal of blood drenched Mexico's soil to uphold a political principle of the United States of America on the 5th of May, Cinco de Mayo, 1862, and none of it was American. It was mostly French, and it was the first defeat of the French Army in 50 years.

The victors? Mexicans armed with half-century old rifles; and, Mexicans armed with machetes. Mexicans who had thrown out their Spanish masters forty years before in a decade-long War of Independence.

The beneficiaries? Mexican self-determination; Latin American self-determination; and American pride, dignity and position in world affairs. When American Secretary of State James Monroe bravely proclaimed that European powers could not re-impose their monarchical or other systems on any country in the Americas, neither he nor the thirty-year-old United States could do anything to back up his "MONROE DOCTRINE".

Nevertheless, the Doctrine was respected by European powers until Communists took over Cuba in 1959, with one glaring exception, the 1862 French invasion of Mexico.

More beneficiaries? Abraham Lincoln and his struggle to keep the Union whole as the great Mexican victory prevented European royalty from flooding the American Civil War with munitions for the Confederacy. And, American soldiers who swiftly made their way to Mexico when the Confederacy had been defeated to join the Mexican Army; as well as every American who savors freedom today.

Freedom won, in part, by Mexican teenaged soldiers in the mountains 100 miles east of Mexico City 138 years ago on the 5th of May, Cinco de Mayo.

Cinco de Mayo does not celebrate Mexican Independence Day; it commemorates the Battle of Puebla between 6,000 French soldiers and 2,000 Mexican allies and 4,850 Mexican soldiers under the command of Texas-born General Ignacio Zaragoza.

Following the same route Spaniard Hernando Cortes took in 1519 from the Gulf of Mexico towards Mexico City and American General Winfield Scott took in the Mexican American War in 1848, French General Charles Ferdinand Latrille, Count of Lorencez, marched his soldiers into the Mexican mountains hoping to engage the Mexican soldiers of President Benito Juarez in one decisive battle. He did and he lost.

On the 4th of May, General Zaragoza ordered Colonel Porfirio Diaz, later Mexico's President and dictator for thirty years, to take his cavalry several miles away from the city of Puebla to be used as a battle reserve.

The Count divided his forces and sent one column to chase Diaz's cavalry and his main column to attack two forts guarding the city of Puebla. The evening of May 4th was used by both sides to prepare for battle.

Confessions were heard, letters written, rifles cleaned and prayers uttered by Mexican citizen-soldiers who knew the army they faced hadn't lost a battle since Waterloo, fifty years before. The French prepared for battle as only professionals can, for they knew they hadn't lost a battle since Waterloo and, brimming with professional confidence, they prepared to win.

The rains came. Heavy torrential rains. Then, before dawn, came the Indians, the Indians for whom there were no rifles, only machetes. They also brought their cattle with them, cattle they stampeaded through the French troops causing the professional soldiers to scatter, giving Zaragoza time to reposition his cannon and troops.

The Mexicans waited. Dawn came. Onward came the French through the mud, to be slaughtered. Porfirio Diaz and his cavalry, probably some of the best cavalry in the world, attacked the French sent to hunt him down.

When the sun went down, that 5th of May, 1862, almost a thousand French were killed or wounded. Diaz was chasing French late into the night. The Indians scoured the Killing Fields and retrieved



BENITO JUAREZ

French rifles, then melted back into the hills. The Hills from which they would wage a guerrilla war for the next five years.

With tails between their legs, the French retreated to the coast to await 30,000 More men; to wait for a year. They would return, and they would win the second battle of Puebla. They would chase Benito Juarez to within yards of the American Border. They would bring Prince Maximilian from Austria and crown him Emperor of Mexico. They would occupy most of Mexico.

They came, they told the world, to collect legal debts. The reality was, however, they came because the United States of America was busy disembodying itself and couldn't enforce its Monroe Doctrine. But when America defeated its domestic enemies it turned a jaundiced eye towards the French interlopers on its southern border.

Thousands of combat-veteran Americans, an-

swering Juarez' 1864 call for volunteers, rushed across the border to help the very army and country they had fought less than twenty years before in America's bloodiest war ever. Armed with weapons covertly supplied by the U.S. and protected by U.S. soldiers in Texas, Mexicans and their American volunteers took the offensive. It was now only a matter of time.

When the war ended in 1867, Juarez led his Army into Mexico City, an Army which included an American Legion of Honor. Though long and bloody, the war's end began on the 5th of May 1862 at the Battle of Puebla and continued through victory because, as one French General put it, "Bah! Every Mexican is a guerrillero, either he has been or he will be".

True, General. Every Mexican...every American...is a "guerrillero" for freedom. The 5th of May, like the 4th of July, is proof.

HISTORIA DEL 5 DE MAYO

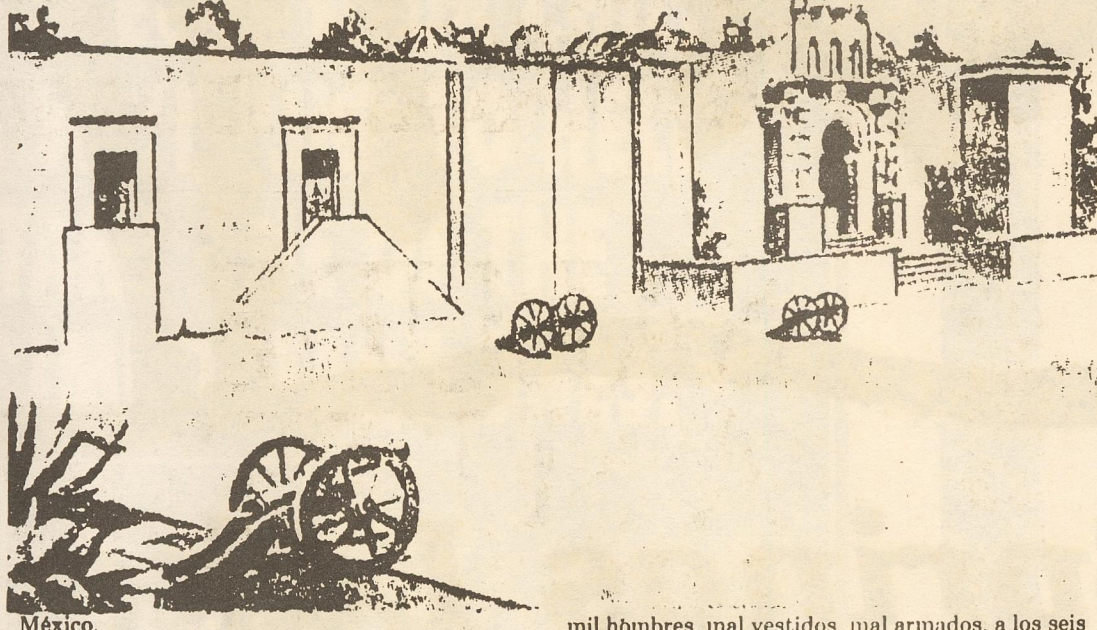
El día 11 de enero de 1861, el presidente Juárez hizo su entrada triunfal en la capital mexicana, poniendo punto final a la Guerra de Tres Años. Los golpes militares decisivos habían sido asestados por el general Jesús González Ortega en Silao, y después en Calpulalpan, acciones en que se jugó papel importantísimo un joven General de 33 años de edad, Ignacio Zaragoza, a quien Juárez llevó al Ministerio de la Guerra en premio a sus servicios en los campos de batalla.

La guerra fratricida había concluido, pero dejaba tras sí una serie de arduos problemas. A la inseguridad de los caminos, infestados de asaltantes, se agregaba la escasez de fondos en el erario, y por su parte los grupos políticos se empeñaban en mantener al país en constante zozobra.

Pero si la situación interna era delicadísima, allá en Europa se fraguaban conspiraciones ominosas, en las que intervenían no solamente los jefes de Estado de Inglaterra, sino hasta las damas de cortes imperiales, y algunos mexicanos conservadores de renombre (como Gutiérrez Estrada y Manuel José Hidalgo, sin parentesco con el Cura de Dolores, que movían todos los recursos diplomáticos para darle a México un gobierno monárquico, encabezado por un príncipe europeo).

De conformidad con el Acuerdo de Londres, firmado por las tres potencias citadas, desembarcaron en Veracruz, sin pretexto de cobrar intereses de una deuda que el Presidente Benito Juárez se veía imposibilitado para cumplir, fuertes contingentes de tropas británicas, francesas y españolas.

Deseando extremar todas las medidas posibles para llegar a un acuerdo pacífico, un delegado de Juárez se reunió con los jefes aliados europeos en la Soledad, Veracruz, y allí mismo el General Juan Prim anunció que su gobierno "trataba únicamente de obtener un acuerdo satisfactorio de sus reclamaciones y no tiene la intención de perjudicar la independencia, la soberanía y la integridad de



México. En las reuniones subsiguientes de La Soledad, los diplomáticos británicos y españoles le descubrieron el juego a los franceses, que no era otra que establecer una monarquía en México, con príncipe escogido por Napoleón III y su esposa Eugenia de Montijo.

Hasta aquí, a grandes rasgos, el marco general, interno e internacional, sobre el cual destaca la Batalla de Puebla. El Presidente Juárez, alentado por las naves británicas y españolas, que se esfumaron en las lejanías del Atlántico, empezó a hacer acopio de todos los escasos elementos con que podía contar, enviando al General Zaragoza a Puebla, encajada a medio camino de la capital mexicana, para que se enfrentara con sus cuatro

mil hombres, mal vestidos, mal armados, a los seis mil que enviaba sobre él el General Lorencez, uno de los más aguerridos soldados de Francia, y héroe de Magenta y Solferino. Lo que siguió al primer encontronazo entre mexicanos y franceses lo saben hasta los alumnos de primeras letras en las escuelas mexicanas. Tres veces lanzó Lorencez sus huestes disciplinadas sobre los cerros de Loreto y Guadalupe y otras tantas fueron rechazadas. Ya cala la tarde de aquel histórico 5 de mayo de 1862. Los franceses, derrotados y humillados, emprendieron la retirada, seguidos muy de cerca por las caballerías de Porfirio Díaz. Ya en su puesto de campaña, pudo enviar Zaragoza al Presidente Juárez su lacónico e histórico mensaje: "Las armas Nacionales se han cubierto de Gloria".

Anti-Gang and Drug Rally
Sponsored by The Arnett Benson Neighborhood Assoc.
Saturday - May 13 8 am to 7 pm
RODGERS COMMUNITY PARK
Featuring Music by: Second Generation, Eddie Moreno and Texas Posse, Cervantez & Co., Peligro, Ralph Dominguez y Calidad, Fantazia
GUEST SPEAKERS - GAMES FOR KIDS
FREE FOOD AND SOFT DRINKS
EVERYONE WELCOME - BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS AND UMBRELLAS

Chavez from Pg. 1

preocupaciones sobre las rebajas presupuestarias congresionales en los programas de asistencia pública, salud y nutrición que usan los trabajadores agrícolas migratorios, Velásquez y Moreno los descartan como subvenciones para los negociantes agrícolas. "La única razón de que los trabajadores agrícolas sean tan pobres se debe a que sus empleadores no les pagan salarios justos", argumenta Moreno. "El gobierno debería obligarles a pagar mejores salarios, en vez de darles subvenciones".

Velásquez concluye que el poderoso cabildo agrícola en

el Capitolio hace que ese escenario sea improbable. El Departamento de Agricultura de los EE.UU. dice que el año pasado se dieron \$10,000 millones de subvenciones a los negociantes agrícolas.

Esta ausencia de una voz sólida de los trabajadores agrícolas en Washington, D.C., fué lo que impulsó al NCLR y a otras entidades a organizar el próximo "congreso" de los trabajadores agrícolas.

Read El Editor

¿INCLUIRA EL LEGADO DE SELENA A LA SALIDA DE STERN?



Selena, con sus Dinos, impuso un nuevo vigor a la música tejana y con su trágica muerte la está impulsando a otros niveles.

Por Antonio Mejías-Rentas

Primero fué el dolor de perder a Selena, una artista talentosa que se aproximaba al clímax de su carrera; después, la cobertura despreciativa y etnocéntrica, de la tragedia por parte de los medios informativos principales.

Como si eso fuera poco, Howard Stern tuvo que salir al aire y burlarse de nuestro dolor con su humor enfermizo característico, todo por la causa de los puntajes radiales.

Las observaciones insensibles de Stern el día del entierro de Selena fueron enfurecedoras, pero no sorprendentes. No era la primera vez que él había insultado a los hispanos, pero esta vez llegó demasiado lejos.

Cuando se enteró de nuestra furia, careció de la dignidad para hacer cualquier otra cosa que no fuera ofrecer una disculpa tortuosa -- disfrazada de español -- pocos días después de sus insultos. Después, él continuó bromeando en el aire sobre todo el asunto.

En mi calidad de periodista de espectáculos informando sobre el asunto de Stern para el diario en español de Los Angeles, "La Opinión", llamé a Stern y a su personal el día en que él hizo sus comentarios por primera vez. Mis llamadas no fueron contestadas. El administrador general de la estación de Infinity Broadcasting donde se origina el programa de Stern en Nueva York se negó a hacer comentarios.

Robert Moore, un administrador general más bondadoso en la estación KLSX de Los Angeles -- que transmite el programa de Stern pero no es propiedad de Infinity -- dijo que él no podía justificar los insultos, pero explicó que él estaba obligado por un contrato a transmitir el programa sin hacerle cortes.

El no se mostró sorprendido por los comentarios de Stern. Después de todo, cuando Stern perdió su clasificación superior en el mercado de Los Angeles a manos de la estación recién llegada en español, KLAX, el locutor indecente alegó que tenía que ser un error debido a la semejanza de las letras de identificación de las dos estaciones.

"El es un ofensor con igualdad de oportunidades", me aseguró Moore.

Eso hace solamente que empeoren las cosas. El que un hombre (titubeo al emplear este término) pueda salir al aire y lastimar indiscriminadamente al grupo de su elección es un precio que pagamos por vivir en una democracia; pero es también un comentario triste sobre nuestra sociedad.

Como reacción, los latinos están diciendo que no van a tolerarlo más. En el sur de Texas, el hogar de los admiradores más fervientes de Selena, así como en Houston, Los Angeles, Chicago y otras ciudades, se ha hecho un llamado para un boicot organizado contra los anunciantes de Stern -- junto con una estrategia para retar a las licencias federales de aquellas estaciones que transmitan su programa. Los retos contra las licencias son trámites prolongados y complicados que pueden tener poco efecto, dado el clima de eliminación de

reglamentos que gobierna ahora a la Comisión Federal de Comunicaciones y a su supervisor, el Congreso de los Estados Unidos. El boicot, sin embargo, es una estrategia noble y necesaria que debe ponerse en movimiento en toda la nación. Nosotros, como una comunidad, debemos decir a los anunciantes que no los patrocinaremos si ponen un sólo centavo de sus presupuestos en el programa de Howard Stern, porque sería equivalente a respaldar sus observaciones insípidas y racistas.

Además, debemos decir claramente a las editoriales como Simon and Schuster que no compraremos ninguno de sus libros si continúan vendiendo la autobiografía asquerosa de Stern, titulada "Partes Íntimas". Y debemos advertir a Hollywood sobre la continuación de los planes para filmar la autobiografía.

En otras palabras, debemos asegurarnos de que ningún negocio que venda productos a la comunidad latina tenga nada que ver con hacer de Howard Stern asquerosamente rico. Si es que hacemos algo, debemos recordarle a la Comisión Federal de Comunicaciones que las licencias para transmitir deben dárseles a las entidades que sirvan a nuestra comunidad, no a las que la calumnien.

La cobertura de los medios principales sobre la muerte de Selena ha quedado extraviada en la controversia. El explotar sobre la noticia por su valor en titulares es una cosa. El deshumanizar y restar valor a los aportes de la artista mediante comparaciones sin importancia es periodismo perezoso en el mejor de los casos.

Al caracterizar a Selena como la "Madonna Mexicana", los reporteros exhibieron un etnocentrismo asombroso. ¿Tienen las estrellas latinas que ser equiparadas con los ejecutantes de habla inglesa para recibir su merecido?

Quienquiera haya acuñado la frase tiene una memoria muy corta. El "Wall Street Journal" calificó a Gloria Trevi, de México, de la misma cosa hace un par de años, cuando publicó un relato de primera plana sobre el atractivo de aquella cantante para el mercado.

Antes que todo, Selena no era mexicana; ella era una tejana. Y sin ofender a Madonna, la música y el talento de Selena tenían un mérito propio suficiente como para sostenerse por ellos solos. Como millones de personas pueden "desentenderse" en este año con la publicación del material más reciente grabado por Selena, ella era una cantante en vísperas del estrellato internacional, que dejó un legado enorme.

Si su muerte lleva a que saquen a Howard Stern del aire, será aún mayor.

(Antonio Mejías-Rentas es editor administrativo de la sección de espectáculos de "La Opinión", y editor de artes de Hispanic Link Weekly Report.)

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Selena From Page 1

the U.S. Congress.

The boycott, however, is a noble and necessary strategy that must be put into motion nationwide. We as a community must tell advertisers that we will not support them if they put one penny of their budgets on The Howard Stern Show because it would be tantamount to endorsing his insipid, racist remarks.

Further, we must make it clear to publishers like Simon & Schuster that we will not buy any of their books if they continue to sell Stern's trashy autobiography, "Private Parts."

And we must warn Hollywood about proceeding with plans to film the autobiography. In other words, we must make sure that no business sell

ing products to the Latino community has anything to do with making Howard Stern filthy rich.

We must remind the FCC that broadcast licenses should be given to entities that serve our community, not defame it.

Lost in the controversy has been mainstream media's coverage of Selena's death. To jump on the story for its headline value is one thing. To de-

humanize and deflate the artist's contributions by irrelevant comparisons is lazy journalism at best.

By characterizing Selena as the "Mexican Madonna," reporters displayed appalling ethnocentrism. Do Latino stars always have to be equated with English-language performers to get their due?

Whoever coined the phrase has a very short memory. The Wall Street Journal called Mexico's Gloria Trevi the same thing a couple of years ago when it ran a front page story on that singer's marketability.

Selena was not Mexican; she was a Tejana. And, no offense to Madonna, Selena's music and talent had enough merit to stand on its own. As millions may discover this year with the release of Selena's last recorded material, she was a singer at the brink of international stardom who left an enormous legacy.

If her death leads to getting Howard Stern off the air, it shall be even greater.

(Antonio Mejías-Rentas is a managing editor of the entertainment section of La Opinión and arts editor of Hispanic Link Weekly Report.)
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Read It First In EL EDITOR

The Softball Fanatic

By Mike "M&M" Medrano

It was cold, cold, cold but that didn't softball fanatics from playing some good hard softball this past weekend. M&M, the softball fanatic, here again talking to you directly from Billy's Auto Sale and 19th and Ave. Q, and bringing you all the inside scoop about softball happenings. The Raiders are number one. Took it away from A&M on Friday and Saturday. Those Raiders are playing some hard hard baseball now. Would'nt doubt it if we come up to the be rated in the top five in the nation. Orale Raiders!

Well one Lubbock team made it to 5th in the Hobbs tournament. TPS came back from forfeiting their first game all the way to fifth out of 29 teams. Way to go Johnny G. Jr. and TPS. Here in Lubbock the 3rd Annual great West Texas Shootout was a great tournament. Mike fell about 11 teams short of having his goal of 60 teams but the competition was still there.

In the Class C tournament, Budweiser has shown us that they have



Texas - Winners Class D, Coached by John Ramirez

915-573-4332. We'll see you in Snyder and let's kick butt Lubbock! Another reminder about the Budweiser Annual 5 de Mayo Tournament is looking to be a big one and will be held May 6 & 7 at McKenzie Ballfields. Two divisions, Class C and Class D&E teams. Remember they're giving Satin jackets or Dudley bat bags for first, Custom T-Shirts with team loco for second and third. First through third also get team trophies. A 5 de Mayo is going to be an exciting weekend for Lubbock. Activities include a Charriada to be held at Buffalo Lake with six Charro groups coming from El Paso, New Mexico, Midland, Dallas, and Plainview. There might be up to 100 charros in Lubbock that weekend.

Two more tournaments that you should put on your calendar are the Texas SuperCup qualifier to be held May 20 and 21 in Plainview. Call Texas SuperCup for information at 763-3841 and the 3rd annual Buffalo Lake Campout tournament to be held for all those teams those don't want to travel to Amarillo and on Memorial Day.

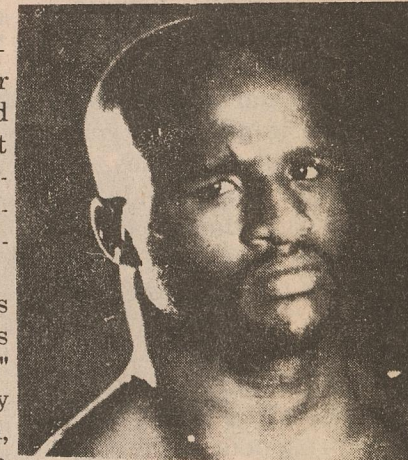
That's it for this week. I This is M&M. And hey softball fanatics, we still have a few of those Suburbans on sale at Billy Auto Sales on 19th. My manager says that he's going to give all you teams a special price on them. Again I invite you to come on by and talk about how you can take your team in style to your next ball game. Talk to you again next week. Til then, we encourage teams to call in their information on tournaments. This column is updated every Tuesday on the phone line. See you at the ball game.



Ballet Folkloricos to Perform at Arts Festival

The Ballet Foliorico San Patricio will perform at the Lubbock Arts Festival Saturday April 29 at 6 pm. The Ballet Folklorico Tenochtitlan will be performing on Sunday April 30 at 4 pm.

Holyfield Returns With Little Regard to Today's Champs



NEW YORK, (Reuter) - After a year's layoff former champion Evander Holyfield is returning to the ring next month with little regard for today's heavyweight champions, including George Foreman.

"He fought me three years ago and he was able to get his punches off a little quicker," Holyfield said on Wednesday of the 46-year-old Foreman, whom he beat in 1991 and who won a controversial majority decision victory over German Axel Schulz last Saturday in Las Vegas.

But he never thought that much of Foreman's ring skills, anyway.

Against Schulz, Holyfield said, "It was the same George Foreman. He got outboxed, but I never thought he outboxed anybody."

"He just didn't get out there and get on him."

Holyfield made his comments in a telephone news conference from his training camp in Houston in advance of his May 20 bout against Ray Mercer, 23-2-1, at the Atlantic City Convention Centre.

The 32-year-old Holyfield, 30-2, has not fought since losing the World Boxing Association (WBA) and International Boxing Federation

titles to Michael Moorer last April when he announced his retirement after being diagnosed with a heart ailment.

Subsequently given a clean bill of health clearing the way for his return, Holyfield was more than eager to comeback after seeing Oliver McCall, Bruce Seldon, Riddick Bowe and Foreman become champions in the fragmented division.

"The first one who can give me the opportunity to fight for the title, I would love to fight him," Holyfield said. "It's a wide-open division."

Holyfield contends that he feels better now than at any other time in his pro career, which began in 1984.

"I've had time to rejuvenate," said Holyfield, who was undisputed heavyweight champion from 1990-92 before

losing to Bowe. Holyfield regained the WBA and IBF titles from Bowe November 6, 1993.

"It's a mental thing. I've always kept my body in shape," said Holyfield.

"Mentally you can lose focus. I never really got time off and once I did get the time off, it allowed me to think about why I really wanted to fight and if I wanted to get back into it."

"The time off let me know that I'm getting back in for all the right reasons."

"I enjoy what I'm doing and I'm always going to push forward."

Softball Phone Line

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Un Rayito de Luz

by Sofia Martinez

Los Catolicos llamamos a Maria "Madre de Dios" porque es la madre de Jesus, quien a la vez es Hijo de Dios. Ningun otro ser humano puede reclamar jamas ese titulo. Esta es la razon por la cual, maria proclama con sus propias palabras: "Todas las generaciones me llaran dichosa. En verdad el Todopoderoso hizo grandes cosas para mi; reconozcan que Santo es Su Nombre". (Lucas 1, 48-49).

Llamamos a Maria "Madre de todos los pueblos" porque su Hijo Jesus es el nuevo Adan, o sea, la nueva cabeza de la raza humana. Maria es la Ma-

dre espiritual de todos los que profesan la fe de Jesucristo. La llamamos "Siempre Virgen" porque, segun la Tradición Sagrada, ella permanecio virgen despues del parto de Jesus. Pero mas importante que su virginidad fisica es el sentido espiritual de este titulo. La virginidad a la que se consagro Maria es señal de su amor total a Dios y su dedicación a cumplir Su voluntad.

Maria es llamada "Madre de la Iglesia" no solamente por su presencia maternal que inspiro a la primera comunidad Cristiana despues de la Resurrección y Ascension de Jesus, sino basicamente porque ella es la madre de Cristo, cabeza

de la Iglesia. Le damos el titulo de "Mediadora" porque ella ruega a favor de la humanidad. En la primera carta a Timoteo leemos la declaración de que no existe mas mediador entre Dios y la Humanidad que Cristo Jesus. Los Catolicos, cuando llamamos a Maria "Mediadora" no estamos negando, de ninguna manera, la importancia basica de la muerte salvadora y resurrección de Jesucristo. Pero, reconocemos que fue el "si" de Maria lo que hizo posible la Encarnación, y que sin la aceptación de Maria, no se hubiera hecho hombre. Por eso es apropiado reconocer el lugar clave de Maria en la historia de la salvación.

Ella es llamada "La Nueva Eva" porque, al igual que nuestro Primeros Padres, Maria es totalmente inocente, justa y santa...Por eso la llamamos "La Inmaculada Concepción", o sea que Maria fue preservada de toda mancha de pecado desde el momento de su concepción. A diferencia de la primera Eva, Maria, acepto colaborar con Dios y para Dios, en vez de actuar en contra de El. Hay un hermoso proverbio Cristiano antiguo que dice: "La muerte entro a traves de Eva. La vida entro a traves de Maria".

Maria es "Reina del Cielo" porque ya goza totalmente de la vida eterna en cuerpo y alma, con Cristo en el Cielo. El cuerpo de Maria no sufrio ninguna descomposición, sino que tuvo una transformación gloriosa. Este privilegio que le fue concedido por su mision especial en la historia de la salvación, es tambien promesa de nuestra propia resurrección. Maria es nuestro modelo de fe en Jesucristo. Ella siguio a Jesus hasta la cruz. Esa clase de obediencia a la cual todos estamos llamados.



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News Briefs

siblings. Most are school age; only 4 percent are under the age of one.

An HHS official said that although there are about equal numbers of black and white children awaiting adoption, HHS believes that there are fewer potential adoptive black families than white families. Bureaucratic red tape and certain financial requirements are among the factors believed to have prevented more black families from becoming potential adoptive parents.

States or agencies that violate the law risk being sued in court and losing federal funds.

Mrs. Clinton Pushes Immunizations

Reuters reports that Hillary Rodham Clinton kicked off this year's campaign to immunize children by urging Americans to make sure they do everything in their power to keep their children healthy, including getting their childhood vaccinations.

Dr. Martha Welman of Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care, said that about 75 percent of the 30 to 40 children who visit the center each day have no insurance although their parents work. But 95 percent of the young patients get their childhood immunizations, usually 11 shots by age two.

The Associated Press reports that Mrs. Clinton said, "Immunizations are one of the easiest ways we know how to protect our children. Yet just 67 percent of 2-year-olds are fully vaccinated, and only half in some cities. The government is trying to boost preschool immunization through education campaigns, free vaccine and other programs, but the efforts ultimately depend on parents."

"There are many things in our life that are out of our control," she said, noting the children killed in this week's Oklahoma City terrorist bombing. "But there are things in our control... and immunization and child health concerns are among these."

Study: Retirement Plans Tough on Women

The Associated Press reports that a study by the Older Women's League OWL found that about a quarter of the nation's elderly women live below or near the poverty line, and younger women aren't likely to do much better when they retire.

"The inadequacies of Social Security and pensions would not be so harsh for women if the third traditional source of retirement income - savings - were more available to women," said OWL President Johnetta Marshall. "But most women are not able to save because housing, food, health care and other everyday necessities of life consume most or all of their income."

The findings show that Social Security works best for the traditional family - a paid worker, an unpaid homemaker and children. However, most American families do not fit that description.

The number of women who work has increased, but their retirement benefits are substantially lower than men's because they often leave the work force temporarily to raise families or care for older relatives.

Only 13 percent of women age 65 and older re-

ceive a private pension and a woman is still more likely to receive pension benefits as a wife, divorced spouse or widow than she is from her own work years.

Supreme Court Throws Out Gun Law

The Associated Press reports that the Supreme Court threw out a federal law that bans possession of a gun within 1,000 feet of a school, saying Congress lacked the authority to enact it. The court said the law does not fall within Congress' authority to regulate interstate commerce.

The 1990 Gun-Free School Zones Act "is a criminal statute that by its terms has nothing to do with commerce or any sort of economic enterprise, however broadly one might define those terms," Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist wrote for the court.

The court rejected the Clinton administration's argument that gun possession near schools may result in violent crime, which in turn can harm the national economy. "If we were to accept the government's arguments, we are hard-pressed to posit any activity by an individual that Congress is without power to regulate," Rehnquist wrote.

The decision denied the government's attempt to reinstate a former San Antonio high school student's conviction for carrying a gun to school. Alfonso Lopez Jr. said he was given the gun to deliver to someone else for \$40 to use in what Lopez described as a "gang war."

Joining Rehnquist's opinion were Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia, Anthony M. Kennedy and Clarence Thomas.

Dissenting were Justices John Paul Stevens, David H. Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen G. Breyer. Breyer contended the school gun law, "falls well within the scope of the commerce power granted to Congress by the Constitution."

The Importance of Earth Day

A New York Times editorial says that as Earth Day celebrated its 25th birthday Saturday, it appears to be a bit frayed around the edges.

The Times says energy of the youthful volunteers who protested the degradation of America's environment in 1970 has been replaced by an increasingly bureaucratic and sclerotic environmental establishment who would destroy legislative achievements or make their enforcement impossible.

The editorial notes that there have been gains. In the last decade, the number of Americans living in areas that failed federal air quality standards has been cut in half. In 1970, only one-third of American rivers and lakes were safe for fishing and swimming; two-thirds are safe now. Ocean dumping of sludge is illegal. Landfills are safer. Certain endangered species have made spectacular comebacks. Industrial engineers took the lead out of gasoline, developed cleaner fuels, generated power more efficiently, constructed new forms of primary and secondary treatment of effluents.

The editorial concludes that although many voters are tired of government and the micro management it brings to their lives, they do not wish to dismantle the entire edifice of environmental regulation.

Read First In EL EDITOR Call: 763-3841

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