

Days of the Dead Enliven Spirits

By John Rosales

We all need to escape from our personal realities once in a while. That may explain why the Indo-Hispanic celebration of Days of the Dead is becoming increasingly popular in the United States.

The rituals offer an outlet. As they bring together elements of Catholicism and Aztec ritual, they give me an annual breather unlike any other.

Between Oct. 27 and Nov. 2 each year, the living invite the spirits of dead relatives and others to return home again to eat gallina en mole (chicken in a dark, spicy sauce) and pan de muerto (bread of the dead) and to drink a chocolate concoction with cinammon and corn paste.

Part of the idea is to mock death, because, after all, there is no escaping it. When I lived briefly in Mexico, I was privileged to enter into the myth and festivities surrounding this ancient ceremony.

With the Spanish conquest in 1521, new mourning rituals were introduced into Mexico. Catholic funeral rites came to coexist with the Aztec notion of the afterlife. Saints joined the hierarchy of Aztec gods. All Souls and All

Saints Days merged with Aztec harvest rites.

As such, the Days of the Dead begin on Oct. 27 when the spirits of those with no survivors are received by kind-hearted families with bread

and jugs of water. The offerings are meager, but at least the orphaned souls find something.

On Oct. 28, those who instigated an accident, murder or other violent act are offered bread and water, placed outside houses or in the corner of a church to keep them away, as they are unpardonable.

Bakeries and candy stores sell a high volume of edible skulls, crosses and cadavers on Oct. 29 and 30 in preparation for next day, All Hallows Eve. This is when the spirits of dead children return home.

In a variation on Halloween as celebrated in the United States, people dressed in masks dance from house to

house, performing comic skits in exchange for treats. They represent mischievous ghosts who have not yet come home.

Or they assume the role of Death or the Devil, coming to deprive spirits from living again. They too can be bribed away with a treat.

By midday on Nov. 1 (All Saints Day), child spirits must be gone. Bells ring through the afternoon as the adults (called the faithful dead)

begin to arrive. While the spirits of children are hosted only at home, adults can also be greeted at their graves. Families formally host the adult who died most recently, and through him or her other ancestors are acknowledged. In some villages, people visit the homes of families who have lost a relative within the past year.

At sundown, families move to the graveyard for an all-night vigil of communion with the dead. Tombs and gravestones have been scrubbed clean and painted. Candles are lit

throughout the cemetery -- one for each lost soul. People will pray, talk, eat and drink until sunrise. Some bring radios and TVs to pass the time. A priest might celebrate a Mass in the cemetery. In most cities, food stands are set up outside the grounds. At sunrise, people start to depart.

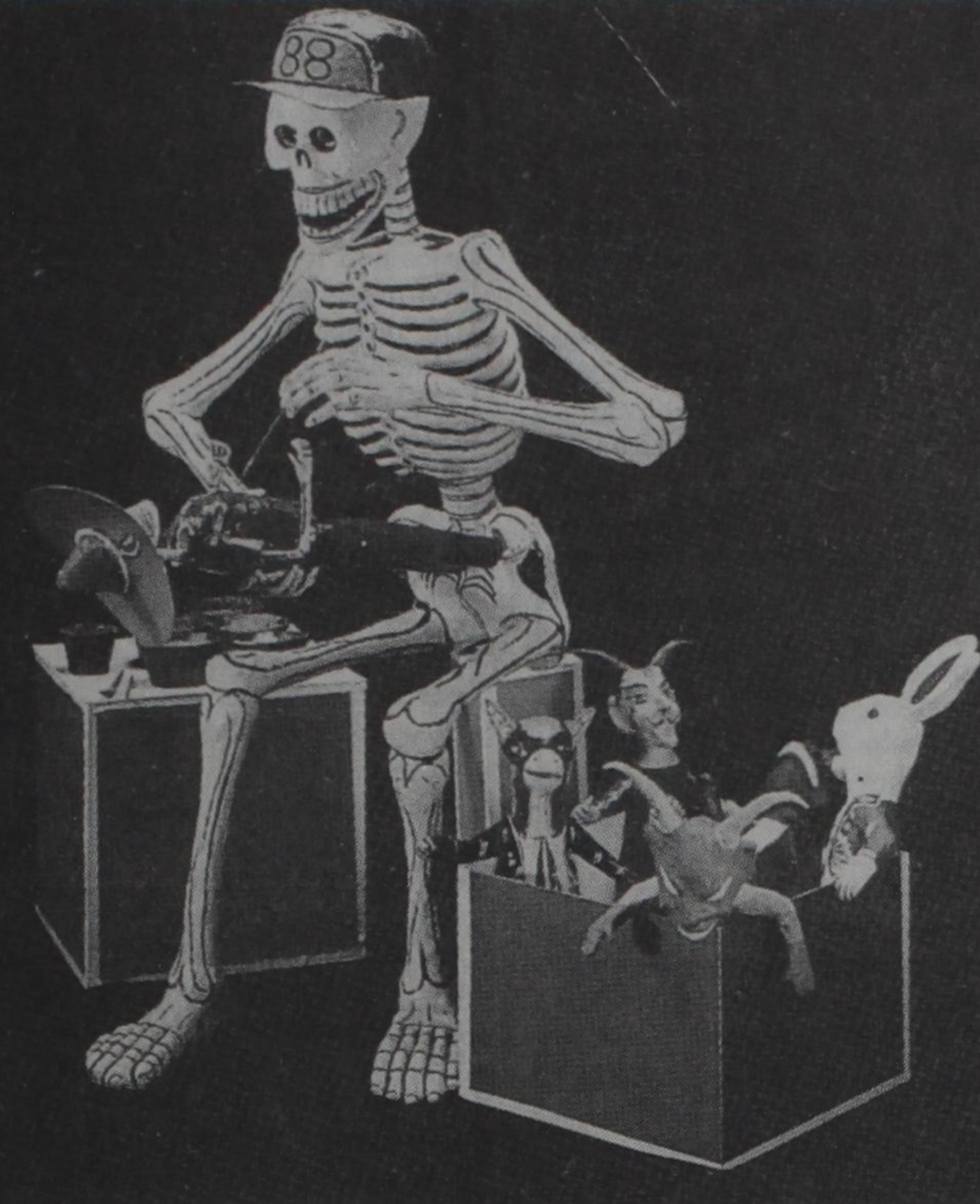
On Nov. 2 (All Souls Day), visitors continue to crowd the cemetery. Strolling musicians play favorite songs of the departed. By evening, the party is over. The ghosts return to the world of the dead. Only a few are reluctant to leave. These stubborn souls must be scared away by villagers wearing skull masks.

In the United States, the family altar is the most visible symbol of the Days of the Dead ritual. Sometimes during October, an altar is set up on a table with baby's breath flowers,

fruit and drink. Each soul being honored is represented on the altar by a candle. A photograph of the deceased may be placed there along with the right brand of cigarette or symbols of other earthly pleasures. For the spirits of children, a favorite toy might be set out.

A path of marigold petals -- with their powerful scent -- is set out from the altar to the front door to help spirits find their home.

While those of us on earth are escaping into the world of the dead, those who are dead are taking much pleasure among the living. Ironic, isn't it?



Calacas made by Don Pedro Linares and his sons.

"El Respeto Al Derecho Ajeno Es La Paz"
Lic Benito Juarez
ESTABLECIDO 1977
ESTABLISHED 1977



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Week of October 26 thru November 1, 1995

Lubbock, Texas

El Editor, NAHP Offer Scholarships, Chance for Trip for Journalism Students

In order to recognize and further develop the abilities of Latino journalists, El Editor, Lubbock and Midland/Odessa, the National Association of Hispanic Publications (NAHP), in conjunction with its major sponsor RJ Reynolds, proudly announces its 1995 Journalism Scholarship Awards program for eligible Latino high school students.

This year more than \$8,500.00 will be awarded to all entry students who will be high school juniors or seniors in 1996. There is much more! Each regional winner will spend a week in Washington, D.C. participating in the Presidential Classroom Program! This program invites high school juniors and seniors in the top 25 percent of their class to participate in a one-week program in Washington. NAHP scholarship recipients will have all expenses paid -- lodging costs, meals and transportation. Students will also be given an opportunity to visit Washington's historical landmarks and to participate in a series of seminars on government-related topics. The recipients will be honored at the Friday, January 26, 1996 NAHP luncheon.

Winners/Awards:

Scholarships will be awarded on a regional basis, for a total of seven scholarships of \$1,000 each, plus \$1,500 to the overall winner. Scholarship recipients will receive an opportunity of a lifetime to participate with 300 other high school students in the Presidential Classroom Program in Washington, D.C.

Rules & Requirements

Applicants must be a high school junior or senior in 1996; have a grade point average above 3.0 and be in the top 25% of their class; students selected as scholarship recipients must agree to spend one week in Washington, D.C., Jan. 27-Feb. 3, 1996; plan to attend college and pursue a major in journalism. Note: relatives or employees of NAHP

publications are ineligible to participate in this contest.

Entry requirements:

A cover letter with the student's name, name of high school, student's home address and telephone number. The letter should explain why the student is interested in pursuing a career in journalism, describe the student's plan for college and future goals, and list past achievements, particularly as they relate to a career in journalism. The letter should be no longer than one page.

A letter of recommendation from a high school journalism teacher, counselor or other school official.

A copy of the student's high school transcript.

Three (3) samples of writing in Spanish or English. Published clips should be photocopies on 8 1/2" x 11" paper and include the name of the publication and date published.

Essay Competition

Applicants may submit their essay in English or Spanish. The 1995 essays should focus on current topics affecting Latinos or their communities, such as: citizenship, affirmative action, California Civil Rights Initiative or initiatives such as Prop. 187. All re-

gional applicants will adhere to the same essay competition and rules, no exceptions.

Lubbock, Midland/Odessa and area entries can be sent to El Editor Newspapers, P.O. Box 11250, Lubbock, TX 79408, attn: scholarship entry. Deadline for entry is November 22, 1995.

¿Que Pasa?

Lubbock Hispanic Chamber Holds Banquet

The Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will celebrate its Annual Installation and Awards Banquet this on Friday November 3rd at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center in Lubbock. A reception and silent auction will precede the banquet starting at 6:30 pm. The dinner and program will begin at 7:30 pm. For ticket information call 762-5059.

Gala for the Hispanic Arts

The Gala for the Hispanic Arts to be held by Lubbock Centro Aztlan will be held on November 9th at the White Knight Banquet Hall located at 15th and Texas. The event will feature nationally renowned singer and guitarist, Jesus "Chuy" Martinez from Albuquerque, New Mexico and Artist and Woodcarver Miguel Martinez from Hobbs, New Mexico as well as Lubbock Photo Artist Omar Rodriguez. See page for further information.

House Panel Approves Immigration Cuts

A House panel approved legislation Tuesday that would crack down on undocumented immigration to this country, cut the numbers of legal immigrants and deny payment of benefits to undocumented aliens even if their children are legal immigrants with the exception of subsidized school lunches.

The bill would cut legal immigration to this country by about 25 percent, from the 800,000 who came in 1994 to 595,000 by 2001. Under current law, countries are not specified for the 55,000 annual immigrants and the attorney general has the discretion to set totals from various regions. The program was established to aid prospective immigrants with ties to the United States, such as families, who do not qualify under other programs because they are not members of immediate families or first cousins.

The bill also would establish a pilot computerized program for employers to verify job applicants' Social Security numbers, a proposal that has been assailed by civil libertarians and ethnic groups. The panel voted 18-11 to adopt a bipartisan proposal that would cut the number of immigrants under the program from 55,000 annually to 27,000 from specific countries. They would have to secure jobs in the United States before being admitted.

The committee also approved, 16-11, an amendment by Rep. Elton Gallegly, R-

Europe, 12,000, to be divided among Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Turkey, Germany, Ireland, Bulgaria, Armenia and Albania.

Africa, 10,000: Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia, Egypt, South Africa, Somalia, Kenya, Sudan, Senegal and Liberia.

North America, 100: Mexico and the Bahamas.

Asia, 2,700: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Hong Kong, Iran, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Japan, Burma, Afghanistan and Indonesia.

Oceania, 900: Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, Tonga, Western Samoa, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

South and Central America and the Caribbean, 1,400: Peru, Ecuador, Honduras, Guatemala, Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago, Cuba, Nicaragua, Brazil and Haiti.

The regions and their annual immigrant quotas specified under the amendment are:

El Editor

News Briefs

Gingrich Supports Immigrants' Health Care

House Speaker Newt Gingrich promised in a speech Saturday to send \$400 million to California for undocumented immigrants' emergency health care, reports United Press International.

Speaking at a fund-raiser for U.S. Rep. Andrea Seastrand, R-Calif., Gingrich said the federal government would be assigned the responsibility of paying for emergency medical care to undocumented aliens. Seastrand worked with Calif. Gov. Pete Wilson to develop the first state-level task force on how to pay for services to undocumented immigrants.

The House Republican leader said the funding would be a provision in the Medi-Grant proposal that is up for a House vote next week.

California has an estimated half of the nation's undocumented immigrants. If Gingrich's plan is successful, the state's reimbursement would double. Presently, state and county governments pay for undocumented immigrants' health bills. Los Angeles County would gain up to \$100 million in federal help for the emergency health care of undocumented immigrants.

Gingrich has said his proposal could add up to \$6 billion over a seven-year period to reimburse California, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Texas and other states.

\$23 Billion Went to Violators

Congressional investigators said Monday the U.S. government awarded \$23 billion in contracts in fiscal 1993 to 80 businesses that had violated federal labor law, reports Associated Press.

The violations included interference with workers' right to organize, refusal to bargain collectively with employee representatives and hiring discrimination.

Six of the largest companies were awarded 90 percent, or \$21 billion, of the contracts, the General Accounting Office said. Among those with the largest contracts were aircraft and missile manufacturers.

Most of the contracts awarded in the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 1993, came from the Defense Department. The six corporations with the largest contracts were McDonnell Douglas, \$7.7 billion for Navy and Air Force aircraft; Westinghouse Electric, \$4.9 billion to operate Energy Department industrial buildings; Raytheon Co., \$3.5 billion for Army guided missile equipment.

The report comes at a time when Congress hopes to approve \$243 billion for the Pentagon -- \$7 billion more than the branch requested for 1996.

Nearly 1,000 individual workers and thousands of additional employees various bargaining units were directly affected by the 88 violations. Some companies were found guilty of more than one, the report said.

Although contract payments can be withheld from contractors who have failed to comply with National Labor Relations Board orders, the board said it often is hampered by its inability to identify violators receiving federal contracts.

The GAO recommended that the NLRB and the General Services Administration, which administered federal contracts, develop an information system that would facilitate identification of violators.

The investigation was requested by Sen. Paul Simon, D-Ill., who released the report.

House May Tinker With Earned-Income & Per-Child Tax Cuts

House Republicans are pondering changes in their tax plan to make sure families gain more from a \$500-per-child tax credit than they lose from cutbacks in a credit for the working poor, reports Associated Press.

Democrats have been hammering at the fairness of the GOP package, citing a Treasury Department analysis indicating

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Stop English-Only Proposals in Congress

From National Council of La Raza (NCLR)

BACKGROUND:

For the first time in many years, the English-Only movement is getting attention from policymakers on Capitol Hill. The second of two English-Only hearings will be held on Wednesday, November 1, and it is imperative that you communicate your opposition to these proposals immediately. The first hearing was held on Wednesday, October 18, before the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Youth and Families. Speaking in support of English-Only bills were some of the sponsors of those bills, including Senator Dick Shelby (R-

AL), Representatives Bill Emerson (R-MO), Peter King (R-NY), Toby Roth (R-WI), and Sonny Bono (R-CA). On the opposing side, the panel heard testimony from Representatives Jose Serrano (D-NY), who introduced the English Plus Resolution, H.Con.Res. 83, as an alternative to English-Only legislation; Ed Pastor (D-AZ), Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Ron Underwood (D-Guam), Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), Sam Farr (D-CA), and Xavier Becerra (D-CA) also testified against English-Only proposals. The leading English-Only bill, H.R. 123, currently has 188 co-sponsors, and cannot be underestimated.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

The second Congressional hearing also will take place before the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Youth and Families, chaired by Rep.

Duke Cunningham (R-CA), and will most likely include the leading organizations who support English-Only proposals: U.S. English and English First.

Members of Congress need to hear strong opposition to these proposals.

** Call and write to your Representative and Senator. Ask to meet with them directly, if possible, or with their staff person assigned to that issue. Tell them why you oppose English-Only proposals, and urge them to oppose those proposals. If you need additional information -- talking points, sample letters, etc. -- call NCLR. Aim to set up a meeting with your Representative during the Congressional recess.

** Set up a meeting with your local paper's editorial board. Newspapers and their editorial boards can be important in shaping the debate. Again, if you need information, call NCLR for materials.

** Keep in touch with NCLR. Let us know if you are successful in getting responses from Members of Congress or your editorial board. Send us copies of any letters you write or receive in return.

EFFECTIVE ARGUMENTS TO USE:

** English-Only laws are unnecessary: Over 95% of all U.S. residents already speak English, according to the U.S. Census. In addition, a recent GAO study showed that the federal government does NOT print excessive documents in languages other than English. This study showed that 99.94% of federal documents surveyed over a five year

period were printed in English! Only 265 out of 400,000 were in languages other than English. Making English the official language to deal with this non-existent problem is legislative overkill and wholly UNNECESSARY.

** English-Only laws are divisive: What truly unites us is our shared values system and traditions of freedom, democracy, and tolerance. English is already our common language; legislating it as our official language would only serve to disconnect U.S. residents from their government and give rise to discriminatory treatment to those who look or sound "foreign."

** English-Only laws will not help anyone learn English: Hispanics, like all Americans, agree that it is important to speak English well. Immigrants are desperate to learn English; in fact, in some cities there are English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) classes that operate 24 hours a day to facilitate the acquisition of English. None of these English-Only proposals would help people learn English. They would punish those who are in the process of learning English, and could pose a significant public health and safety risk.

Good luck and thanks for your support! For additional information, please call Karen Hanson or Lisa Bedolla at NCLR at (202) 785-1670. Contact: Karen Hanson or Lisa Bedolla
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)
1111 19th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036
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Los Medios de Informativos Como Mensajeros Multiculturales

Por Margarita Contín

En cuestión de semanas, dos acontecimientos -- el veredicto del juicio contra O.J. Simpson y la Marcha del Millón de Hombres -- han enfocado la atención de montaña rusa de la nación de regreso hacia los asuntos raciales.

Los dos acontecimientos, muy distintos, han planteado una pregunta tras otra sobre la capacidad de nuestra nación para tratar de la raza y la etnicidad sin antagonizarnos ni censurarnos recíprocamente.

Rodney King hizo la apelación hace tres años: ¿No podemos sólo llevarnos bien todos?

Es ingenuo el pensar que esto tiene probabilidad de ocurrir pronto en nuestra sociedad polarizada, pero insisto: ¿No podemos todos sólo tratar de comunicarnos? ¿No podemos ir más allá de la retórica banal y desestimada que se rumia y prostituye en partículas de sonido insensatas de ocho segundos de duración?

Es más fácil decirlo que hacerlo. Pero lo que me molesta, como estudiante graduada de periodismo que se prepara a trabajar en el terreno el año próximo, es que veo a la prensa como un culpable importante en mantener nuestra ignorancia sobre los asuntos raciales.

El circo que rodeó al juicio de O.J. Simpson se convirtió en el colmo de la farsa de los medios informativos. Siguiendo la definición de las noticias dada por el "National Enquirer", los reporteros de la corriente principal produjeron nimiedades.

Si la fiscal Marcia Clark cambiaba el estilo de su peinado, los diarios "respetables" le daban tanta tinta como lo habría hecho una revista de modas femenina.

Me declaro culpable de ser una de las personas que se congelaron en anticipación del día en que el veredicto fué publicado. Estuve entre docenas de estudiantes y profesores delante del televisor puesto en el vestíbulo de un edificio académico de la Universidad de Syracuse.

Ahora me pregunto: ¿Por qué no fué llevado el mismo televisor al vestíbulo dos semanas después, para darnos la cobertura de todo el día de CNN o C-Span sobre la Marcha del Millón de Hombres?

Anque puede que yo no esté de acuerdo con algunos de los principios básicos del acon-

tecimiento -- especialmente con la exclusión de las mujeres -- es imposible dejar de reconocer y apreciar el mensaje que la marcha debería haber enviado por todo el país. Tal reunión habla volúmenes más acerca de las relaciones entre las razas y las dicotomías raciales que lo que un juicio por asesinato de una celebridad afroamericana podría haber hecho alguna vez.

Cuando esa cantidad de personas de un sólo grupo étnico o racial se unen para entregar un mensaje político, social o económico ensordecedor, es hora que el resto de la nación preste atención.

Los medios informativos dejaron caer la pelota ... en un momento importante. Al dejar de comprender temprano la magnitud del acontecimiento, se vieron obligados a efectuar una pelea confusa para darse cuenta de lo que había estado sucediendo en todos los meses que llevaron a esa fecha. Y aún cuando su enormidad no podía ser pasada por alto, los reporteros perdieron la oportunidad o desearon su importancia.

Sí, las declaraciones intolerantes de Louis Farrakhan contra los judíos, las mujeres y los afeminados son de interés periodístico. Pero al centrarse sobre ese asunto, la prensa perdió el cuadro

mayor: La declaración impresionante de unidad y orgullo raciales que todos esos hombres hicieron.

Lo que eso probó nuevamente a las personas de color es cuán fuera de contacto se hallan los editores y reporteros, en gran medida angloamericanos y de clase media, con lo que ellos han venido descartando como asuntos étnicos o marginales que no son de importancia para su público.

Esta falta de información producida por nuestras fuentes de noticias ha llevado, a su vez, a un público mal informado, desinformado y aborado.

El día siguiente a la marcha, nuestra clase graduada sobre el periódico estadounidense pasó tres horas analizando minuciosamente y debatiendo los asuntos de las razas y los medios informativos.

A pesar de ser una clase pequeña, está no obstante balanceada étnicamente: Cinco angloamericanos, cuatro afroamericanos, tres latinos, un estudiante extranjero polaco y un profesor de antecedentes judíos.

Sólo uno de nosotros -- un afroamericano que asistió a la marcha -- pudo decir sinceramente que él tenía información sobre el acontecimiento meses antes del mismo.

(Margarita Contín es una estudiante de periodismo graduada de la Universidad de Syracuse, estado de Nueva York.) Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 1995. Distribuido por The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Nuestro profesor compartió la sorpresa que él sintió la noche antes cuando le preguntó a su hija de 14 años de edad lo que había dicho su maestro(a) acerca del asunto.

El fué recibido con un "¿qué cosa, papá?" El acontecimiento histórico había sido pasado por alto completamente por la escuela. Un artículo del "New York Times" miró a la reacción en un suburbio de Houston primordialmente blanco.

El reportero describió a sus residentes como tan alejados de la marcha que era algo semejante a un alunizaje para ellos.

¿Cuántos otros maestros, familias y comunidades de nuestro país multicultural reaccionaron de ese modo? Si no se habla de ello, es porque no existe.

La lección que yo, como alguien que está edificando una carrera en periodismo, saco de esto es que las redacciones étnicamente diversas son más críticas que nunca si realmente queremos comunicarnos los unos con los otros. Y me pregunto por qué la industria no está moviéndose con mayor rapidez para hacer algo sobre el particular.

(Margarita Contín es una estudiante de periodismo graduada de la Universidad de Syracuse, estado de Nueva York.) Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 1995. Distribuido por The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Media: a Multicultural Messenger

By Margarita Contín

In a matter of weeks, two events -- the O.J. Simpson verdict and the Million Man March -- have focused the nation's roller-coaster attention back up again to issues of race. The two very distinct events have raised question after question about our society's ability to discuss race and ethnicity without antagonizing and censoring one another.

Rodney King made the plea three years ago: can't we all just get along?

It's naive to think that this is likely soon in our polarized society, but I insist, can't we all just try to communicate? Can't we get past the banal, washed-out rhetoric that gets regurgitated and prostituted into nonsensical, eight-second sound bites?

Easier said than done. But what bothers me, as a graduate student of journalism preparing to work in the field next year, is that I see the

press as a major culprit in sustaining our ignorance on racial issues.

The circus surrounding the O.J. Simpson trial became the ultimate media farce. Following the National Enquirer's definition of news, mainstream reporters churned out minutiae. If prosecutor Marcia Clark changed her hairstyle, "respectable" dailies gave it as much ink as a women's fashion magazine would.

I stand guilty of being one of those who froze in anticipation the day the verdict was handed down. I stood among dozens of students and faculty in front of the television set up in the lobby of a Syracuse University academic building.

Now I wonder why the same TV wasn't rolled into the lobby two weeks later to provide us with CNN's or C-Span's all-day coverage of the Million Man March?

While I may not agree with some of the basic tenets of the

event -- mainly the exclusion of women -- it's impossible not to recognize and appreciate the message the march should have sent throughout the country. Such a gathering speaks volumes more about race relations and racial dichotomies than an African-American celebrity's murder trial ever could.

When that many people of a single ethnic or racial background unite to deliver a deafening political, social and economic message, it's time for the rest of the nation to pay attention.

The media dropped the ball...big time. In failing to understand early on the magnitude of the event, it was forced to scramble to figure out what had been going on in all the months leading up to that date.

And even when its enormity couldn't be ignored, reporters missed or disregarded its significance. Yes, Louis Farrakhan

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Sittin' Here Thinkin'

THE Verdict

By Ira Cutler

The verdict is in, the OJ trial is over, and television commentators and just plain people in homes and diners are talking about what it all meant.

It was, the attorneys assure us, not representative of normal trials -- overly long, often far out and irrelevant, and containing frequent lapses in professional decorum and ethics. It was far too much of a media event and that in turn influenced what went on inside the courtroom despite the jury being locked up for nine months. It was too much about race and too little about simple justice. It was, certainly, far too much about money -- the money for the defense and for the prosecution, the money made by the media, the book and film money that dozens of people will make before it is over.

It was not the only trial of the century but was instead the fifth or sixth trial to be so designated. Nor was it the first time that the country stopped its normal business and followed a trial like it was a serial novel -- the Leopold and Loeb, Rosenberg, Chicago Seven and Sam Shepherd trials all share that distinction. It was not the first time that a rich person got away with something, although it was the first prominent instance of the rich person being black. Most importantly, it was not the clearest lens through which either race relations or the criminal justice system should be viewed.

Oddly, despite the widespread hand wringing, the system worked. The people who founded this country were escaping an environment in which even a suspicion of wrongdoing could and did result in imprisonment and/or execution. In reaction to that history they purposely established a system that stacks the deck against the government, against the prosecution. They developed a system that featured reasonable doubt, double jeopardy, protection against self-incrimination and the jury trial, fully understanding that such a system is far more likely to acquit the guilty than to convict the innocent. The OJ verdict is the price of the trade-off.

The OJ trial and its aftermath are, in my view, an example of Americans of all colors once again mistaking a class issue for a race issue. That rich black Americans can now afford the kind of defense that helps you beat the rap, just as rich white Americans always could, is actually a perverse sign of progress in race relations. But it demonstrates all the more that class divisions are the longer term and deeper divide. White or black, a poor man facing these charges against the available evidence would have long since been convicted and probably executed.

At the diner, where I eavesdrop on America, the OJ discussion is waning. The verdict affected no one's personal opinion -- those who thought him guilty or innocent still do. Arthur Bupkiss, the forcibly retired executive whose constant OJ watching has earned him the reputation of being both well informed and fair, now believes what he calls the "double worst case scenario". He believes that it is true that OJ committed the murders and also true that the LAPD framed him. This view is rapidly gaining general support.

Connie, who is the sole black waitress in an otherwise all white diner, is caught in the middle of a lot of conflicting thoughts and feelings. She thinks it is tragic that OJ is getting away with murder but she is incensed that white people are so upset about this particular criminal going free. She does not remember the same level of angst when Klaus Von Buelow, the Menendez Brothers, Ollie North and the cops that beat Rodney King got off. She resents the notion that in reaching the verdict the jury frivolously set the evidence aside. In her view there was in fact reasonable doubt and the prosecution and the police just did a lousy job.

Vinnie now sees it all as a peculiar California story. He visited once and is therefore an expert and he talks about this kind of behavior being what you can expect from those people out there where it is always sunny. Larry seems to be the only one who is unable to give the OJ trial up. He keeps trying to talk about the civil trial but no one else seems to care. Information about the civil trial is too hard to come by, and no one really gets it about how you could be found innocent of doing something and yet be sued for doing it.

Life goes on and the discussion is shifting slowly to the old things. I am starting to hear discussions about Ken Griffey, Jr. and whether or not he is or will be one of the greatest ballplayers of all time. This, of course, leads to discussions about old time ballplayers being better, the new ones being overpaid, and how they are all show-offs today and do not respect baseball tradition. I heard the first Presidential election discussion yesterday, a brief one about Newt Gingrich and whether he will throw his hat in the ring and about General Powell's influence on the whole scene.

I fully expect that in a couple of months the OJ trial will be rarely mentioned in the diner and in America. The OJ related television talk shows will fade and, unless something extraordinary happens in the civil trials, we will all get bored and go on to other things.

Two people are dead, their families still grieve, their killer or killers remain unpunished. But if one of the characters had not been a great football player we would never have heard the story, much less made it a part of our lives for so many months. I am not at all sure that there is any lasting truth or lesson that can be drawn from the OJ story but, if there is one, it may be about our appetite for drama and our culture's seemingly endless interest in turning things into spectator events. The TV stations are full of real life courtroom and police dramas, stories of medical danger, war and politics. The OJ trial may be over but the World Series, the Presidential race and the new television season are all just beginning.

Pass the popcorn.

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'.

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Editor Publisher

Bidal Aguero

Castro y el Quincuagesimo Aniversario de las Naciones Unidas

Por Jorge Luis Romeu

Las Naciones Unidas celebraron su quincuagésimo aniversario en Nueva York la semana pasada. Dirigentes y jefes de estado de muchas de las naciones del mundo llegaron a la reunión, Fidel Castro, de Cuba, entre ellos. Y la semana anterior, en el lugar de turismo invernal de Bariloche, Argentina, otra vuelta de la cumbre Interamericana fué efectuada con la presencia de Castro también.

¿Se ha convertido Castro súbitamente en su edad madura en un turista ávido? ¿Por qué está gastando él tanto dinero y tiempo en estas visitas, cuando los cubanos están atravesando la crisis económica más terrible de su historia?

El hecho es que Castro se ha convertido en un vendedor viajero. El tiene dos productos que vender en todo el mundo: El levantamiento del embargo estadounidense y la promoción de Cuba como el paraíso de las inversiones de nuestros tiempos. Y él está haciendo todo lo mejor que puede, como lo haría cualquier buen vendedor, para promover su mercancía.

Durante 30 años, hasta 1989, a Castro le fué bien a pesar del embargo estadounidense. La economía cubana estaba subvencionada por los soviéticos a los niveles de ocho millones de dólares diarios. Por lo tanto, Castro podía pasar por alto a todas las demás alternativas económicas y cometer toda suerte de abusos contra los derechos humanos en Cuba. Lo único que él tenía que hacer para permanecer en el poder era continuar su alianza con el Bloque Oriental y dejar que los soviéticos usaran a Cuba como puesto de escucha y base militar.

Pero la Guerra Fría ha terminado y Rusia tiene actualmente más problemas económicos que los que puede manejar. Las subvenciones soviéticas se han secado. De modo que ahora, por primera vez, el embargo estadounidense viene ocasionando en realidad problemas graves a la economía cubana. Esto ha obligado a Castro, durante los cinco años últimos, a adoptar varias medidas políticas y económicas que le permitan mantenerse en el poder.

¿Por qué no había permitido Castro que estas mismas reformas políticas y económicas tuvieran lugar antes del derrumbe del Bloque Oriental? ¿Continuará él con el ritmo actual de sus reformas, una vez que pueda remediar el declinamiento económico de su gobierno (que ha disminuido su producción interior bruta en un 50% durante los cinco últimos años)? Retrocedamos y echemos un vistazo.

En el frente político, Castro ha suavizado sus ataques contra los movimientos internos de inconformes. Antes, aquéllos de nosotros que nos opusieramos pacíficamente a su gobierno dentro del país éramos enviados a las prisiones, a los campos de trabajos forzados, expulsados de las escuelas y del trabajo y aislados socialmente. Hoy, los movimientos interiores de disidentes se multiplican. Aún cuando sus dirigentes sean hostigados todavía y enviados selectivamente a la cárcel, y sus seguidores sean quitados todavía de sus empleos y mantenidos lejos del acceso a los medios informativos, pueden existir.

Con respecto a la economía, Castro ha permitido que las empresas extranjeras funcionen en Cuba. Por ejemplo, la mayor granja de productos cítricos de Cuba actualmente es de propiedad de israelíes y administrada por ellos. Los españoles poseen y administran la mayoría de los hoteles de turismo en la isla. Y recientemente una nueva ley "de empresas" fué aprobada unánimemente por la Asamblea Nacional de Cuba, que permite a los extranjeros

(incluyendo a los exiliados cubanos) poseer y administrar negocios que establezcan en Cuba, y retirar sus ganancias en divisas fuertes (dólares). A los cubanos que viven en Cuba, sin embargo, se les prohíbe aún poseer o administrar cualquier clase de negocio privado. La razón dada por el gobierno de Castro es que no tienen "divisas fuertes" (dólares), un reconocimiento de que la Peso este no es un acontecimiento nuevo. En 1980, más de 120,000 cubanos huyeron de la isla como protesta, durante el Puente Marítimo del Mariel. Como consecuencia política, Castro permitió algunas formas de empresas privadas pequeñas en Cuba: Los Mercados Campesinos y la contratación privada de servicios personales fueron permitidos. Como resultado, entre 1980 y 1985, la economía cubana creció realmente, a pesar del embargo estadounidense y con la ayuda de las subvenciones soviéticas. En 1986, no obstante, Castro lanzó su programa de "Rectificación", porque algunos cubanos estaban pasándola bastante bien y él estaba perdiendo el control político. Castro abolió todas las formas de empresa privada nuevamente (primero había prohibido toda clase de empresa privada y se había apoderado de todos los nego-

cios privados en Cuba, durante su campaña de "Ofensiva Revolucionaria" de 1967) demostrando que, para él, la conservación del poder político es la prioridad más esencial.

Castro ha venido ahora a las Naciones Unidas para procurar apoyo para el levantamiento del embargo y para invitar a los capitalistas de todo el mundo a que inviertan en Cuba, el nuevo paraíso económico.

Hay, sin embargo, dos preguntas grandes aquí. Una es ética: Si la tendencia actual del gobierno cubano de liberalización económica y política es una medida positiva, ¿quedará fortalecida o debilitada por el levantamiento del embargo estadounidense? La segunda es pragmática: ¿Deberían los intereses estadounidenses aprovecharse de la apertura económica cubana, como lo han hecho los europeos y canadienses, por razones puramente de negocios?

Si se levantara el embargo y los negocios estadounidenses pudieran también invertir libremente en Cuba (un mercado natural a 90 millas escasas al sur de Cayo Hueso) habrá en verdad una bonanza económica en la isla. Pero no para todos -- sólo para el gobierno y para aquellos trabajadores a quienes el gobierno permita trabajar en las em-

presas extranjeras. En Cuba hay tiendas "especiales" donde sólo pueden comprar los que tengan dólares. Los cubanos que cobran en pesos tienen que descansar solamente en las raciones del gobierno y el mercado negro. De modo que ésta no es la solución "ética" que algunas partes, interesadas en la continuación de la dictadura actual en Cuba, tratan de pintar.

Las empresas estadounidenses que invierten en Cuba compartirán la actual explotación de los trabajadores cubanos, que es lo que realmente proporciona los márgenes de ingresos importantes que Cuba puede ofrecer. Los cubanos que trabajan en las empresas extranjeras ganarán pesos sin valor, cambiados a las tasas oficiales -- el gobierno conservará los jornales en dólares para sí mismo. Pero estos cubanos empobrecidos todavía se sentirán felices de trabajar para los extranjeros -- porque es mucho mejor que trabajar para el gobierno. Y siempre hay el espectro de que Castro vuelva a cambiar de idea.

Por otra parte, con el levantamiento del embargo, Cuba ya no podrá hacer por más tiempo el juego del "pequeño David que combate al gigante Goliath". Castro tendrá, en última instancia, que enfrentarse a las consecuencias de

En cualquier caso, el pueblo cubano desgraciado continuará sufriendo hasta que Castro, con su gobierno gerontocrático, decida que 36 años de cursos de acción fracasados son más que su parte y que es hora de jubilarse. O que algunos de su comitiva hagan, y tengan la oportunidad de actuar -- como ocurrió en Portugal con la dictadura de Marcelo Caetano en 1973, o en Paraguay con la de Stroessner en 1989.

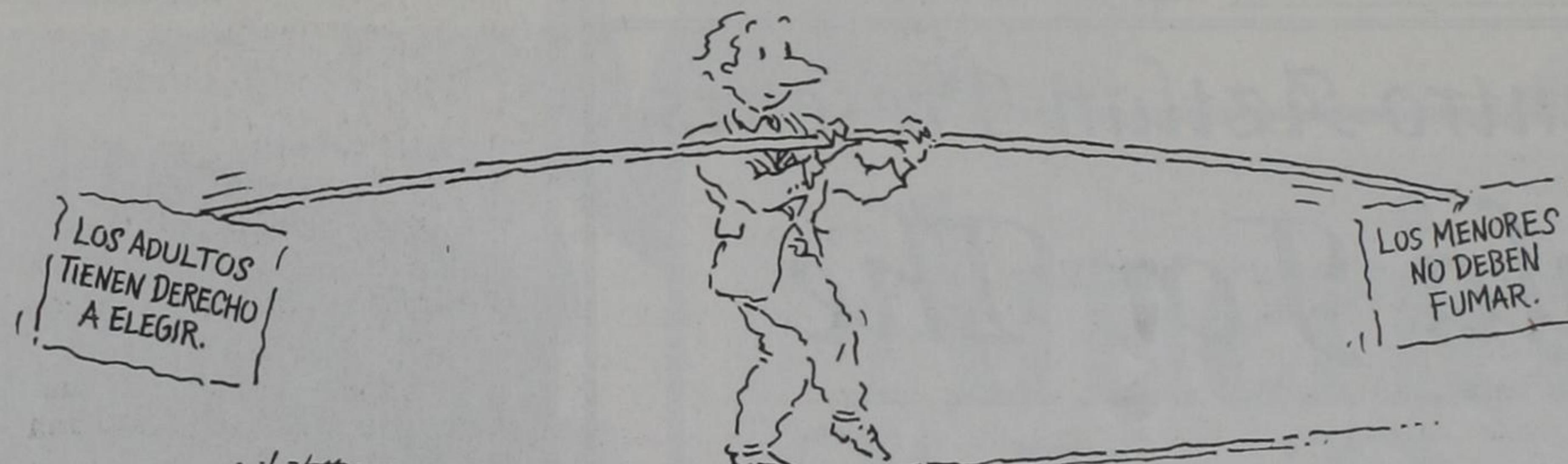
En todo caso, que Dios tenga misericordia del pueblo cubano. Porque después de la defunción de la Guerra Fría, Castro se ha convertido sólo en otro dictador tropical. Y a nadie le importa Cuba ya más.

(Jorge Luis Romeu redacta una columna semanal sobre asuntos hispanos para el "Post-Standard" de Rochester, Nueva York.) Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 1995. Distribuido por The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

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Equilibrio



En Philip Morris, creemos que los adultos tienen derecho a elegir si quieren fumar o no.

Pero también creemos que los menores no deben fumar. Es igualmente importante preservar el derecho de los adultos a elegir, así como prevenir el acceso de los menores al consumo de cigarrillos. Pero estos problemas deben tratarse por separado. Es importante mantener una perspectiva-equilibrada para que ambos obtengan la atención que merecen.

Por ejemplo, el reciente lanzamiento de nuestra iniciativa *Acción Contra el Acceso* es uno de los programas más comprensivos jamás introducidos para prevenir el acceso de los menores al consumo de cigarrillos. Confiamos en que este programa establecerá un cambio positivo.

Por otra parte, continuaremos apoyando enérgicamente el derecho de los adultos a tomar decisiones personales.

Nuestra posición es que el problema del consumo de cigarrillos entre la juventud no debe ser utilizado para restringir la libertad de aquellos adultos que eligen fumar.

Es importante prevenir el acceso de los menores al consumo de cigarrillos. Tan importante como respetar los derechos de los fumadores y los no fumadores adultos a tomar sus decisiones personales.



Queremos que sepa cuál es nuestra posición.

Los Días De Los Muertos Levantan El Animo

Por John Rosales

Todos necesitamos escapar de nuestras realidades personales de vez en cuando. Eso puede explicar por qué la celebración indo-hispánica de los Días de los Muertos está aumentando de popularidad en los Estados Unidos.

Los rituales brindan una salida. A medida que reúnen elementos del catolicismo y del ritual azteca, me dan un respiro anual como ningún otro.

Entre el 27 de octubre y el 2 de noviembre de cada año, los vivos invitan a los espíritus de los familiares muertos y a otros a volver a sus casas para comer gallina en mole y pan de muerto, así como a beber una preparación de chocolate con canela y pasta de maíz.

Una parte de la idea es burlarse de la muerte, porque después de todo, no hay forma de escaparse de ella. Cuando viví brevemente en México, tuve el privilegio de adentrarme en el mito y las festividades que rodean a esta antigua ceremonia.

Con la conquista española en 1521, se introdujeron nuevos rituales fúnebres en México. Los ritos tenebrosos católicos llegaron a existir junto con la noción azteca del más allá. Los santos se unieron a la jerarquía de los dioses aztecas. Los

Días de los Difuntos y de Todos los Santos se fundieron con los rituales aztecas de la cosecha.

Como tales, los Días de los Muertos empiezan el 27 de octubre, cuando los espíritus de aquéllos que no tienen sobrevivientes son recibidos por famili-



as de corazón bondadoso con pan y jarras de agua. Las ofertas son pobres, pero por lo menos las almas huérfanas encuentran algo.

El 28 de octubre, a los que instigaron un accidente, asesinato u otra acción violenta se les ofrecen pan y agua, colocados fuera de las casas o en la esquina de una iglesia, para mantenerlos alejados, porque no han sido perdonados.

Las panaderías y dulcerías venden una gran cantidad de calaveras, cruces y cadáveres comestibles los días 29 y 30 de octubre, en preparación para el día siguiente, la Víspera de Todos los Santos. En este día es cuando los espíritus de los niños muertos regresan a sus casas.

En una variación de Halloween, como se celebra en

los Estados Unidos, la gente vestida con máscaras bailan de casa en casa, realizando sainetes cómicos a cambio de obsequios. Ellos representan a fantasmas traviesos que no han regresado todavía a sus casas. O bien asumen los papeles de la Muerte o del Diablo, viniendo a evitar que los espíritus vuelvan a vivir. A éstos también se les puede sobornar con un obsequio.

Para el mediodía del 1x de noviembre

mente, y mediante él o ella se reconoce a otros antecesores. En algunas aldeas, las personas visitan los hogares de las familias que han perdido a un pariente durante el año anterior.

Al ponerse el sol, las familias van al cementerio para una vigilia de

la fiesta ha terminado. Los espíritus regresan al mundo de los muertos. Sólo unos cuantos se muestran renuentes a irse. Estas almas testarudas deben ser esparcidas por los aldeanos que llevan máscaras semejando calaveras.

En los Estados Unidos, el altar de



toda la noche, de comunión con los muertos. Las tumbas y las lápidas sepulcrales han sido limpiadas y pintadas. Se encienden velas por todo el cementerio -- una por cada alma perdida. La gente ora, habla, come y bebe hasta el amanecer. Algunos llevan radios y televisores para pasar el

tiempo. Un sacerdote podría celebrar Misa en el cementerio. En la mayoría de las ciudades, se levantan quioscos de alimentos fuera de los cementerios. Al amanecer, la gente empieza a marcharse.

El 2 de noviembre (Día de los Difuntos), los visitantes siguen congregándose en el cementerio. Músicos ambulantes tocan las canciones favoritas de los que se han marchado. Para la caída de la tarde,

(El escritor John Rosales, oriundo de San Antonio, vive en Washington, DC.)

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El Editor's LATEST Deportes - Sports LO MAS RECIEN

Tech Looks For Win Over Lobos

The No. 22-ranked (AP) Texas Tech Red Raiders (4-2), riding a three-game winning streak, begin a long road campaign Saturday with a 2:05 p.m. CDT non-conference contest against the dangerous New Mexico Lobos (4-3) at University Stadium in Albuquerque, NM. Four of the Raiders' last five games are on the road. The game will be televised in Lubbock on UPT Channel 22 (Cox Cable Channel 15) and on a pay-per-view basis in other parts of Texas through TCI Cable Company. A win would give Tech a 3-1 mark this year against non-conference foes -- its best since 1989.

Tagged as a slow starter for years, the Red Raiders are shedding that label this season. Tech has equaled its best start ever under Spike Dykes (Tech also was 4-2 in 1989) and is above .500 after six games for only the second time since 1977. And one also has to go back to 1977 to find the last Red Raider club nationally ranked this early in the season.

Zach Thomas, Marcus Cole-



pair of victories over Houston at San Antonio. Of course, the competition has had much to do with it. In order, the road foes have been Oklahoma, Texas A&M, Rice, TCU, Penn State and Baylor, with the largest margin of defeat only seven points.

In what for many years has

had to kick a last-second field goal for the Raiders to grab a 34-32 victory. In the Raiders' previous two trips to New Mexico, Tech lost 29-24 in 1984 and 14-0 in 1982. In games played in Albuquerque, Tech is 10-3-2, most of which were played when both schools were in the Border Conference.

Last year it was a slugfest deluxe when these two teams squared off in the season opener last year. The Red Raiders roared back from a 17-0 second-quarter deficit to claim a 37-31 victory. Jon Davis handed Tech momentum for good by nailing a 52-yard field goal on the final play of the first half to narrow the Lobos' advantage to 17-9. Linebacker Zach Thomas pulled Tech even by returning an interception 35 yards for a touchdown early in the third quarter and the offense went on to rack up 467 yards in total offense to secure the victory. Zebbie Lethridge and Tony Darden alternated at the quarterback position in their first college games, with Lethridge hitting 16 of 22 passes

for 340 yards.

man and Shawn Banks were just sophomores. Zebbie Lethridge was redshirted and Byron Hanspard was tearing 'em up in DeSoto. That was the status of Texas Tech's present captains the last time the Red Raiders won a game in an opponent's stadium. That was Nov. 13, 1993 when Tech beat SMU 41-24 in Dallas. Since then Tech has dropped six straight away from home, not including a

been a Battle Royal, the Red Raiders and Lobos hook up in what may be the final meeting between the two schools for many years. While Tech leads the series 28-5-2, it has been forced to narrowly escape more than once in recent years. Beginning in 1982, Tech is just 5-3 vs. the Lobos, and all five victories have come by a touchdown or less. In Tech's last visit to Albuquerque in 1990, Lin Elliott

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for 190 yards. Tech won despite five turnovers and 12 penalties for 100 yards.

Another option team is on the horizon in the form of the New Mexico Lobos, who are off to their best start since 1984. Winslow Oliver, who was hurt on his first carry last year against Tech, leads the team with 582 yards rushing but fullback Chris Shelton isn't far behind with 376 yards. Quarterback Donald Sellers, who is questionable with an ankle injury, has thrown for 986 yards. Senior cornerback Art Celestine was the hero in last week's big win over Colorado State. He caused and recovered one fumble while halting CSU's last drive with an interception.

Last week, the No. 25-ranked Raiders sprinted to a 24-0 lead early in the third quarter and then had to hang on to their hats as reserve quarterback Chad Nelson engineered a brilliant comeback with his elusive running. After the Owls scored 18 unanswered points, quarterback Zebbie Lethridge

guided the Raiders 80 yards in 10 plays for a TD, with Byron Hanspard going the last 18, early in the fourth quarter to virtually secure the 31-26 win. Lethridge passed for two TDs (both to Hanspard) and ran for one.

Spike on Rice game "We got out ahead and maybe relaxed a little bit. When you jump out in front 21-0, sometimes it's hard to convince people the game isn't over. We knew they would figure out a way to get back into it but our offense put on a great fourth-quarter drive to give us some breathing room. It's a good win for us."

Spike on New Mexico game "The two schools have been rivals for a long time (since 1931). It will be a different experience for us with the grass field and the altitude. New Mexico plays a wide open game and they have a great coaching staff. We are going to have to be ready to be at our best."

Sophomore quarterback Zebbie Lethridge broke a Southwest Conference record and earned tons of respect on the way in last week's win. Lethridge shattered one of the SWC's longest-standing records: most consecutive passes without an interception, set by Texas A&M Ed Hargett in 1968. Zebbie broke the old mark of 176 late in the second quarter and continues on with 187 straight going into the New Mexico game. You have to go back to his second pass in last year's season finale against TCU to find Lethridge's last pickoff. The NCAA record is 271 set by Trent Dilfer of Fresno St. in 1993. Zebbie has either run or passed for a TD in each one of his 15 career starts.

cating families earning \$30,000 and less would, on average, lose money under the combined effects of a Senate tax bill and reduction in the earned income credit.

Because families that pay no income tax can still receive the earned income credit, some of those families could lose part of their benefit under the GOP proposal without reaping any gain from the \$500-per-child credit.

Reps. Jim Talent, R-Mo., and Tim Hutchinson, R-Ark., have forwarded to the Ways and Means Committee a change in the House earned-income credit legislation they say "will leave the overwhelming majority of working families better off."

The House bill eliminates the earned-income credit for childless people and trims it for parents earning more than \$11,630.

Talent and Hutchinson's proposal would affect only the part of the bill applying to families with two or more children. It still would trim spending on the credit by roughly the same overall dollar amount. But it redistributes the impact of the cut so it falls more heavily on families benefiting from the \$500 per-child credit.

However, the changes still would not address the Treasury Department's larger point that families earning more than \$100,000 would get nearly half the \$245 billion tax cut.

Ways and Means Chairman Bill Archer, R-Texas, disputed Treasury's methodology and said it was more important to look at the tax cut's impact on jobs and economic growth. The House bill is effective sooner, Jan. 1 compared with Oct. 14 in the Senate version, and it would index gains for inflation, while the Senate version would not.

Budget Debate Shifting to Children

After weeks of attacking the Republican budget in the name of the elderly, the Democrats are shifting tactics and arguing that the country's children will suffer unduly if all the spending cuts become law, reports The New York Times.

In this argument, many economists side with the Democrats.

Economists from across the political spectrum do say that reducing the deficit now could lead to faster economic growth and, eventually, more jobs and a higher overall standard of living for today's children.

But most of these economists also say the specific spending cuts in the Republican plans would fall very heavily on poor and lower-middle-class children today, leaving them less able to hold jobs in the years ahead. These poor and lower-middle-class children are the net losers even when the effects of higher long-term growth and more jobs are included.

"It's very anti-family, anti-young family," said James D. Weill, the general counsel of the Children's Defense Fund. "If you cut the deficit by trashing the programs that you need to have children that are healthy and well nourished, the offsetting effects on the economy will hurt growth and in the long run hurt efforts to control government spending and deficits."

To present themselves as defenders of children, Republicans have emphasized their \$500-a-child tax credit. But the tax credit would do little to help children in low-income households.

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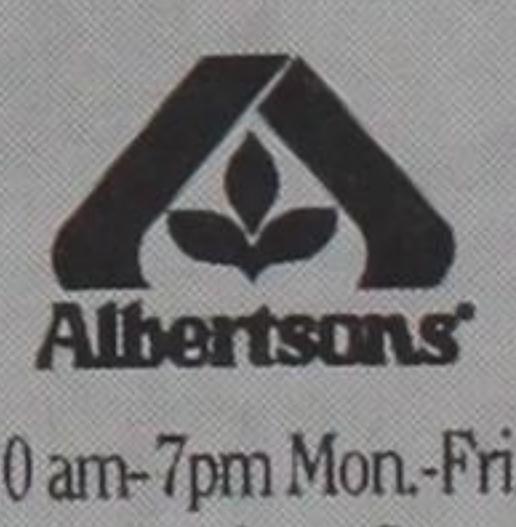
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El Editor, Lubbock, TX, October 26, 1995



Un Rayito De Luz

by Sofia Martinez

Los que aman a Jesús, cabeza del Cuerpo Místico, aman igualmente a todo el cuerpo. Los que reciben a Jesús reciben a los discípulos de Jesús.

Pentecostés no terminó con la venida del Espíritu Santo. Eso fue, nomás, el comienzo. El final de la Obra del Espíritu Santo fue cuando aquel gentío convertido fue bautizado y de esa manera injertados en la comunidad presidida por los Apóstoles. Por eso, nadie puede hablar de su "pentecostés personal" si no está viviendo de alguna forma la vida comunitaria con los demás hermanos en la fe.

La comunidad cristiana no es producto de técnicas, sino, es la obra del Espíritu Santo que no se detiene

jamás. El lazo de unidad no puede ser otro sino el amor de Dios que ha sido derramado en nuestros corazones por el Espíritu Santo que nos ha sido dado: (Romanos 5:5). Un amor que es efectivo de tal manera que desde afuera se llega a deir como de nuestros primeros hermanos en la fe: "Miren como se aman". (Hechos 2, 42-47).

Este amor se manifiesta especialmente en la unidad de fe, criterios y valores que rigen el estilo de vida. En la comunidad existen diferentes dones y ministerios pero un único Espíritu Santo. (I Cor. 12).

Estas comunidades serán las que transformen el mundo y sus gobiernos injustos. Especialmente la primera comunidad que Dios quiere corregir desde lo mas profundo es la familia. El quiere no individuos convertidos sino familias convertidas; él busca familias evangelizadas. Jesús no convirtió a Zaqueo cuando estaba en el árbol, sino que lo llevó a su casa y junto con doña Zaquea y los Zaqueitos, entró la salvación a todo el hogar. (Lucas 19, 1-10).

Se Forma Grupo de Demócratas Tejanos

Alrededor de 75 líderes hispanos de diferentes localidades en Texas acudieron a la ciudad de Austin el pasado 30 de septiembre para formar una nueva organización política estatal denominada *Tejano Democrats*.

La organización *Tejano Democrats* o Demócratas Te-

dades y vecindades," agregó. La organización dará apoyo a los candidatos Demócratas que activamente promuevan estos temas. *Tejano Democrats* cuenta con la atención del liderazgo político estatal, la cual fue notoria gracias a la gran asistencia por parte de



janos reúne al liderazgo hispano para trabajar en pro de oportunidades económicas y educacionales para todos los hispanos de Texas. La misión del grupo es de organizar y movilizar la comunidad hispana estatal para obtener más oportunidades de empleo y educación de alta calidad, y para establecer programas locales que prevengan el crimen y el abuso de drogas.

"Queremos que cada hispano de Texas tenga la misma oportunidad de obtener una educación de alta calidad y un empleo satisfactorio," comentó el Senador Estatal Gonzalo Barrientos (D-Austin), presidente-electo de la organización *Tejano Democrats*. "El lugar más obvio para empezar este movimiento es en nuestras comuni-

mos oficiales de puesto público de todo el estado. Entre aquellos que acudieron a la primera junta estuvieron el Senador Estatal Gonzalo Barrientos, el Representante Estatal Paul Moreno (D-El Paso), el abogado Frumencio Reyes (Houston), y el Juez del Condado de Cameron Gilbert Hinjosa.

En su primera junta, *Tejano Democrats* formó una comitiva que resultó al Senador Barrientos como Presidente-Electo, a la Sra. Adelfa Callejo (Dallas) como Vice-Presidenta, al Juez Bob Perkins (Austin) como Parlamentario, al Sr. Richard Moya (Austin) como Sargento de Armas, y a la Sra. Rose Salas (Houston) como Secretaria. Dicha comitiva se reunirá con regularidad.

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Media Messenger

From Page 2

kan's bigoted statements against Jews, women and gays are newsworthy. But by harping on that issue, the press lost the bigger picture: the awesome statement of racial unity and pride all those men made.

What it proved again to people of color is how out of touch the largely Anglo, middle-class male editors and reporters are with what they have been dismissing as ethnic or fringe issues irrelevant to their public.

This lack of information generated by our sources of news in turn has led to a misinformed, uninformed, oblivious public.

The day after the march, our graduate class on the American newspaper spent three hours dissecting and debating issues of race and the media. A small class, it is nevertheless fairly balanced ethnically: five Anglos, four African Americans, three Latinos, a Polish foreign student and a professor of Jewish background. Only one of us -- an African American who attended the march -- could honestly say he had information about the event months before.

Our professor shared the shock he felt the night before when he asked his 14-year-old daughter what her teacher said about it.

He was met with a "Huh, Dad?" The historical happening had been completely ignored by the school. A New York Times article looked at reaction in a primarily white Houston suburb. The reporter described its residents as so far removed from the march that it was tantamount to a lunar landing for them.

How many other teachers, families and communities in our multicultural land reacted that way? If you don't talk about it, it doesn't exist.

The lesson that I, as one who is building a career in journalism, draw from this is that ethnically diverse newsrooms are more crucial than ever if we really want to communicate with one another. And I wonder why the industry isn't moving faster to do something about it.

(Margarita Contín is a graduate journalism student at Syracuse University in New York.) Copyright 1995. Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

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AVISO

Latinos en el estado de Tejas han sufrido, en creciente, hostilidades e intimidación por sus empleadores por el uso del Español en el trabajo. Muchos negocios también han adoptado reglas que prohíben a los empleados hablar en Español en el trabajo.

El Título VII de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964 protege a las personas contra la discriminación en el empleo por razón de que hablen Inglés exclusivamente durante horas de trabajo puede violar el Título VII, menos que el empleador demuestre que es necesario para el buen funcionamiento de su negocio. Segun las reglas de la Comisión Federal de Igualdad de Oportunidades de Empleo (EEOC), para mostrar una necesidad de negocio, un empleador debe establecer que la regla es necesaria para un seguro y eficiente cumplimiento del trabajo.

El Fondo Mexicoamericano para la Defensa Legal y La Educación (MALDEF, siglas en Ingles) y el Proyecto de Derechos para Inmigrantes Reguigidos del Comité de Abogados paa los Derechos Civiles, son organizaciones que promueven y protegen los derechos civiles de los latinos que viven en los Estados Unidos.

Si usted siente que sus derechos están siendo negados por las reglas de "solamente-ingles" en el trabajo, en violacion del Título VII de la ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, por favor llame al (210) 224-5476 o 1-800-646-1237. MALDEF y el comité de Abogados para los Derechos Civiles quieren su asistencia para identificar estos violadores.

NOTICE

Latinos in the state of Texas are increasingly experiencing hostilities and intimidation from their employers because of their use of Spanish in the workplace. Many businesses have also implemented policies prohibiting employees from speaking Spanish on the job.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of national origin. Rules requiring employees to speak only English at all times on the job may violate Title VII, unless an employer shows it is necessary for conducting business. According to Equal Employment Opportunity commission (EEOC) guidelines, in order for business necessity to be established, an employer must establish that the practice is necessary to safe and efficient job performance or to the safe and efficient operation of the business.

The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) and the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law of Texas, Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project are non-profit, public interest law firms that promote and protect the civil rights of Latinos in the United States.

If you feel that your rights are being denied by English-only rules and policies, in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, please contact (210) 224-5476 or 1-800-646-1237. MALDEF and the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights would like your assistance in identifying these violators.

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