# Menudazo 1997

# FEATURING STEPHANIE AT T-TOWN SUNDAY

# ¡Ya llego El Menudazo!

El Editor in conjunction with the celebration of 20 years of publishing will stage it's biggest Menudazo ever this weekend when over 5000 persons are expected to attend the Festival.

A highlight of the Festival will be the traditional softball tournament which this year will host over 60 teams that will qualify for the Texas State and Hispanic State tournaments. Men and women's teams will begin play on Saturday and continued until Sunday at Mackenzie, Mose Hood and Slaton ball-

Admission to spectators is free and concesstands sion serving hamburgers, fajitas, mexican food, snowcones, chocolate cucarachos and much more.

parks.



SINGING HER LATEST HIT "PORQUE SOY MUJER"

On Sunday El Editor will celebrate it's birthday with a big party. The Sunday Music Festival will feature THE ALL AMERICAN SWEET-HEART STEPHANIE.

A Battle of the Bands will proceed the presentation by Stephanie with Destyno, Johnny G y El Momento, Mescal, Dezeo, Arena, and a special rap presentation by LBK Mafia and Asylum. Winners of the Battle of the Bands will win a 5 hour recording session at Brazos Studio. The music festival is being produced with sound provided by Dinamitte Production.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Lubbock Centro Aztlan. The Official Sponsors of the Menudazo are El Editor and Southwest Coca Cola.

port for Democrats in the past

flect future support," Yza-

guirre said. "We're talking

about a people who's much

more politically conscious,

more sophisticated and who

are clearly saying, 'Hey,

we're not afraid anymore to

speak up.' We intend to make

sure there is a cost of going

against our interest and there

is a reward for those who sup-

nic children live in poverty,

compared with 29.3 percent for

African Americans and 11.2

percent for whites, according

several initiatives to help im-

prove the situation. Among

them, he called for innovative

approaches such as communi-

ty-based charter schools to

help address the quality of

schooling for Hispanic stud-

ents and better housing op-

tions for poor working His-

Yzaguirre called for a

to the Urban Institute.

About 30 percent of Hispa-

port us.

panics.

"Our past support won't re-

has almost been automatic.

"The differences between people are so deep and so ingrained, it is so easy to scratch the surface and have something go wrong," Clinton said. "We really have not only an opportunity but an obligation to address and to better resolve the vexing, perplexing, often painful issues surrounding our racial

history and our future."

Thursday.

ended.

rection."

Clinton said he believes voters who approved ending affirmative action through California's Proposition 209 last year never intended to cause lower minority enrollments.

News Briefs

Clinton Defends

Affirmative Action

President Clinton is mounting a strong defense of affirma-

tive action, calling recent cuts in minority graduate enroll-

ment "shocking" and a sign American is moving "in exactly

The decline in minority students at law schools in Califor-

nia and Texas next year shows what can happen when Ameri-

cans fail to talk out and resolve racial problems, Clinton told

the National Association of Black Journalists in Chicago on

ciliation in a Pittsburgh speech to the NAACP. But there was no

mention of the recent controversy over whether the government

should officially apologize for slavery, although he mentioned

He said he is "a little stumped" by the "shocking conse-

quences" of plunging minority graduate school enrollments in

California and Texas where affirmative action programs were

to me. I think it is moving the country in exactly the wrong di-

"I don't understand that," Clinton said. "It's a great concern

"our long history of black-white issues rooted in slavery."

Earlier in the day, the president appealed for racial recon-

the wrong direction," reports Associated Press.

# Conference Committee: No Labor Protections for Workfare

Associated Press reports that Republican leaders in Congress agreed Friday to try to exempt welfare recipients on work assignments from minimum wage and other workplace protections.

The agreement came during a daylong House-Senate meeting to resolve differences between their budget bills and present a unified GOP position for bargaining with the Clinton administration.

Clinton, backed by labor unions, supports labor protections for workfare workers.

Governors want to exempt workfare workers to make it easier and less expensive to meet work requirements imposed by federal welfare reform. The governors argued that recipients in community service jobs are being trained, not officially working.

If welfare recipients were considered "workers," states might have to pay Social Security taxes on their wages, plus workers' compensation and unemployment insurance payments. Welfare recipients also might be entitled to the earnedincome tax credit, which aids the working poor

Many high-profile issues remained unresolved Friday, including differences on Medicare, proposals to charge wealthier seniors higher premiums and raise the eligibility age. Negotiators said they had agreed on food stamps and student loans and were close to agreement on a new children's health program and most welfare issues.

# Reno: Close Gap in Drug Sentencing

Attorney General Janet Reno and the nation's drug policy director have recommended closing, but not eliminating, the disparity in mandatory sentences for possession of crack cocaine vs. powder cocaine, reports The New York Times.

The recommendation was issued in a letter that Reno and Gen. Barry McCaffrey sent to President Clinton on July 3.

The officials said federal judges should be required to impose a minimum prison term of five years for possession of 25 grams of crack or 250 grams of powder cocaine, the newspaper reported.

Federal law now requires a five-year minimum sentence for possession of 5 or more grams of crack. For powder cocaine, the threshold for a five-year sentence is 500 grams or more.

The recommendation would narrow the sentencing dispari-

ty from the current 100 to 1 down to 10 to 1. In 1995, the Federal Sentencing Commission recommended equalizing the penalties for possession and sale of the two varieties, partly because of complaints of racial bias. More than 90 percent of defendants in the more heavily penalized crack cases are black, compared with only 25 percent of powder de-

fendants. The proposal could find resistance among some congressmen, but judges have been looking for more flexibility in sentencing for crack cocaine cases.

"Those who sell crack ought to be punished more," Reno told black police executives in Miami Monday, noting the violence and havoc it wreaks on inner cities. But she said the disparity was far too extreme, and was perceived as unfair in the black community.

The Supreme Court in April rejected an appeal challenging as racially discriminatory the federal sentencing laws that punish crack cocaine offenders more harshly than those caught with powdered cocaine.

# Senate Bars Abortion Coverage

Most abortions for federal employees would remain uncovered by worker health insurance under a measure the Senate approved today as part of a \$25.2 billion spending bill, reports Associated Press.

The vote was 54-45 in favor of the amendment.

"It would permit federal employee health plans to cover abortion only in the cases of rape, incest and threats to the life of the mother," said Sen. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, who sponsored the measure. He said the ban, in force since 1984 except for 1994 and 1995, outlaws "taxpayer subsidy of abortions for federal workers.

Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., said the measure unfairly "singles out female federal employees and denies them a medical benefit available to all other working women. It is wrong."

"Time and again, members come to the floor to talk about how they support women's health," said Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., another opponent who said it would "take reproductive health of women away from women."

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

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Week of July 24 thru July 30, 1997

Lubbock, Texas

# Despite Gains, Hispanics Still Poorest, Least-Educated

According to a report released Monday by the National Council of La Raza, , Hispanics are making key economic gains, opening more businesses and finding jobs faster than ever, reports The Dallas Morning News.

# Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Aguero Members of the Hispanic Agenda met this past week with Mayor Windy Sitton, unfortunately, because of our

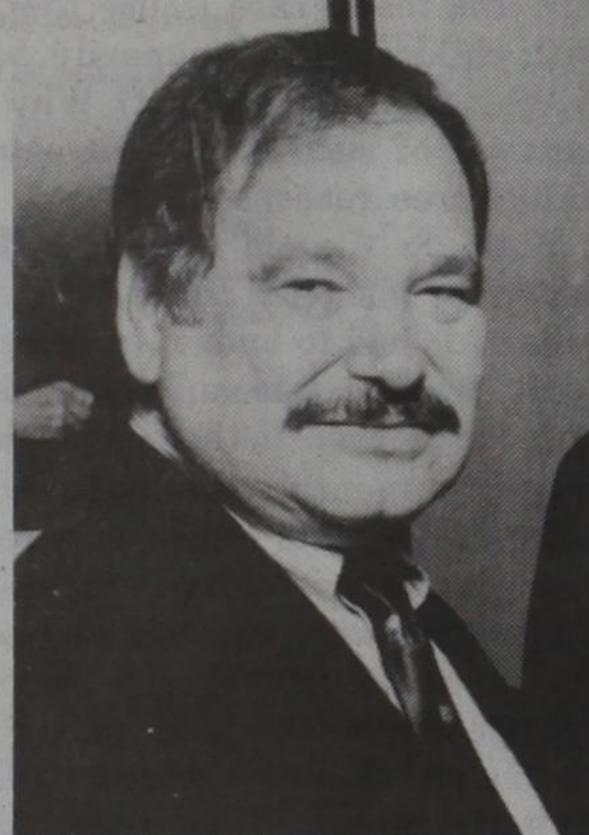
hectic week of trying to organize El Menudazo, I was unable to attend. From what I hear the session was a little bit heated with members of the Agenda questioning the Mayor's Hispanic

first of all the appointment of Advisory Committee and then going on to question hiring of minorities at the City and representation on the City Boards. Agenda members called the the Mayor's Advisory

Committe a "one-sided group" because it didn't accurately reflect the Hispanic community, organizations and neighborhood. The Mayor admitted that the Committee was simply a group appoint to give he additional input in her decisions. "It's alwayw been important to me to reach out to as many segments of the community as possible." She added that the Committee really wasn't official and that it didn't have a missionor regular meeting times. More on the meeting next week. Gotta go eat some Menudo!

\*\*\*Pico de Gallo\*\*\* What's the use of having something if it doesn't do anything?

Happy Birthday Bidal July 23th from All Your Family, Friends and Staff



But the upbeat report had bleak news overall: Hispanics, the fastest-growing U.S. minority group, remain the poorest and least-educated group in the United States.

The study found that only 53.4 percent of Hispanics had graduated from high school, compared with 83 percent of whites and 73.8 percent for African Americans. Similarly, Hispanic median family income was \$24,570, com-

pared with \$42,646 for whites African and \$25,970 for Americans.

The numbers pose critical challenges not just for the 32 million Hispanics nationwide but for the country in general, many at the convention said.

Currently, about one out of every 10 Americans is of Hispanic origin, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The bureau projects that by 2035, that number will double.

"What happens to the Hispanic community is important to what happens to America." said Raul Yzaguirre, president of group, the nation's largest Hispanic advocacy organization. "This is not a question of altruism, or about doing the right thing. This is about the future prosperity of this nation."

Yzaguirre also issued a stern warning to all politicians, particularly Democrats, looking to court Hispanics and their growing political influence. Their sup-

# Rodgers Mural Dedication

Lubbock-The Lubbock Fine Arts Center announces a reception and the dedication of a mural completed by artists and youth from the Center's ArtCorps program. The reception will be held at the Rodgers & Arnett Benson Center, 3200 Amherst Street from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Monday, July 28. The didication and special recognition will begin at 5:45 p.m.

On A Wing and A Prayer was created over a six-week period by professional artists John Chinn and javier Martinez, who worked with the following ArtCorps students: David Acebedo-age 14, Robby Castillo-age 15, Derrick Cooper-age 16, Eddie Diaz-age 15, Rebecca Gonzales-age 16, Elvin hardeman-age 17, Wayland Lonza-age 16, and Valentin Madrid-age 16.

Over four weeks the artists and students worked

collaboratively to design and Arnett-Benson area.

ArtCorps, is a component of SMART (Summer ARt Mission Texas), and employs youth through JobSource+ to work hoods. Funded through a Community members of the Arnett-Benson neighborhoos.

paint the 14'x44' mural. The finished product is a result of their efforts to work together to develop ideas that represent a combination of cross cultural concepts. The mural is a blending of the cultures of the United States and Mexico, and reflects the heritage of the

Reaching with professional artists in art projects that benefit the community and neighbor-Development Block Grant, the mural project was a collaborative effort between the Fine Arts Center, the Parks & Recreation Department and community

The report had some good news. It states that Hispanic women, who traditionally had lower-paying jobs, are now employed in more professional jobs. The percentage of Hispanic women classified as managers increased from 14.7 percent to 17.5 percent between 1990 and 1996. By comparison, 12.1 per-

cent of Hispanic men hold professional jobs. And businesses owned by Hispanic women represent one of the fastest-growing sectors in the economy.

Overall, the number of Hispanic-owned businesses 862,605 - has risen by 76.1 percent over the last decade. The firms generated more than \$76.8 billion in gross receipts in 1992, compared with \$32.8 billion in 1987.

"There are definitely some good signs," Yzaguirre said. "But there is a lot more that needs to be done."

The NCLR can be reached on the internet at HN2263@ handsnet.org

# The Holiday Nobody Celebrates

By Antonio M. Stevens-Arroyo

July 25 came and went this year without hoopla. It's a legal holiday in Puerto Rico, but almost no one in the United States would recognize July 25 as different from any other day of the year. It's the holiday nobody celebrates because of changing times.

For a while, the Puerto Rican government tried to pass off this date as Constitution Day, commemorating the event that, in 1952, created the present commonwealth status for the island. But it is actually the anniversary of the landing by U.S. troops in 1898 to invade and annex Puerto Rico as a territorial colony. Nearly 100 years later, this power grab is scarcely something to be celebrated in a world where all other empires have faded.

Why should anybody in the United States be happy that Uncle Sam still plays the role of Darth Vader on the international scene?

Certainly, neither the prostatehood nor pro-independence advocates in Puerto Rico are happy. Nor are supporters of commonwealth, at least since 1978. I was part of a negotiating team that finally brought the centrist Popular Democratic Party to admit before the United Nations that Puerto Rico was a colony.

Nearly 20 years later, Washington still hasn't understood the way Puerto Ricans think about this issue.

Unable to get Congress to take action, Puerto Ricans voted in 1993 to reject statehood and to amend the commonwealth status so that it included Puerto Rican sovereignty.

Presented with the argument that unless the island was formally exempt from the clause in the U.S. Constitution that gives Congress the right to rule a "territory," Puerto Ricans voted to remove that country from this territorial clause.

Instead of listening to the democratic choice of a majority of Puerto Ricans, however, Republican-dominated Congress of 1994 drafted new legislation that not only rejected the results of the vote, but drafted its own formula, specifically omitting what Puerto Ricans had just cho-

This objectionable legislation is now reincarnated as the Young Project and is taking up space on a congressional agenda crowded with items as crucial as the federal budget, educational benefits and welfare reforms. The ever-aggressive Don Young (R-Alaska) already has a reputation for riding roughshod over environmental concerns, and there is great fear that his heavy-handed approach to the Puerto Rican question will result in legislation that will prolong the ineffectiveness of Washington.

For anyone interested, besides the 1993 vote, there was a so-called Rican Puerto "plebiscite" in 1967. That year, the voters also chose commonwealth. When Luis Ferré, founder of the prostatehood New Progressive Party, was asked in 1968 how he could continue to promote statehood when the people had

just finished choosing commonwealth status the year before, he answered: "That was valid for 1967. This is 1968."

Because he didn't like the verdict of the voters, Ferré and his followers simply rejected the voice of the people, just as Washington did in 1993. The Young Project offers no guarantees that the sad experience of 1967 and 1993 won't be repeated, adding to. rather than alleviating, the grief of Puerto Ricans.

There is a solution to this problem, and I think that ending 100 years of colonialism is a noble enough goal to merit the boldness of action that the solution requires. The answer for the dilemma is to conduct a true and fair plebiscite under rules established by the United Nations.

That might have been a problem in the days of the Cold War, but this is a new era for international cooperation. Besides, there is a Latino, Bill Richardson, who is now our U.N. ambassador, and he has more insight than any of his processors in how to resolve the problem.

The steps outlined by international law are clear:

1. All foreign troops must be withdrawn before any election. This is common sense. How can you have a free election if the country is occupied by U.S. troops and espionage agencies, such as the FBI?

2. The colonials must be allowed to spell out their choices without interference from the foreign power. Why should Don Young from Alaska tell Puerto Ricans what they are allowed or not allowed to do? Nobody elected him to that,

and Puerto Ricans need to be free to choose for themselves by convoking a plebiscite convention.

3. The election results must be monitored by impartial third countries. Counting the votes needs to be done fairly, so all sides are sure there were no shenanigans.

4. The foreign power has to renounce beforehand any claim of sovereignty over the colony, so that the vote of the people really decides the issue. This is the clause that brings real self-determination. Anything else is equivalent to allowing the United States the last word and making the vote a referendum that does not observe the rules of international law.

These four steps are the best way to insure that the stain of imperialism is removed from the United States. Only by following the basic outlines of this formula can Puerto Rico avoid the impasse that allows a losing side in any vote to deny that the verdict is bind-

It would be a historic achievement if a Latino ambassador for the United States would report to the United Nations that international law will be followed in the case of Puerto Rico. The day that happens, there will be a holiday everybody will be able to celebrate.

(Dr. Antonio M. Stevens-Arroyo, formerly vice-chairman of the New York State Committee for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, is professor of Puerto Rican Studies at Brooklyn College, City University of New York, and president of the Program for the Analysis of Religion, or PARAL.)

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# Sittin' Here Thinkin'

# Shift and Shaft by Ira Cutler

The news is that in New York and California, home to 3.5 million out of the nation's 11 million welfare recipients, the Republican Governors and Democratic State Legislatures are locked in a struggle over welfare reform. In part, the battle comes because there are still some Democrats in these states who remember what being a Democrat used to mean and they are stubbornly holding forth on behalf of poor people. But the real problem is that in these states, with their large numbers of recipients, the "just go to work" welfare reform plan is simply never going to work.

Consequently, the states are carrying on the debate that the federal government told us was over - issues like benefits levels, how long recipients can stay on, and how to provide training, child care and supportive services are alive and kicking and still not decided on the coasts.

All of this is like coming home for me. In the 1970's and 80's, I worked as a County Welfare Director and I danced and tiptoed through thorny political issues. I learned that no one liked the welfare system and everyone knew what I ought to be doing to fix it. Their advice, boiled down, always came out to be some version of "kick the bums off, but take good care of the good people." The "good people", the deserving poor, were very young children, the elderly and the disabled. The "bad people", the bums, were, by and large, the parents of the children.

Whenever I could, I avoided these discussions. I did not want to talk welfare with the plumber, or at the supermarket or at a party. I found that there was no winning these debates and, in truth, I had little to say about who actually received welfare. In those days, people received public assistance because they were needy. The conventional wisdom then was that it was a good thing to help the needy - this was a long time ago and America had not yet been sold the bill of goods that helping people destroys their moral fiber.

I was also a County employee and was often involved in discussions and negotiations with the State government. We County people did not like the State people one bit - we felt they were too far from the problems to really understand, that they thought they were better and smarter than we were, and that the State government created dumb programs and then made us implement them. Counties felt about the State, in other words, exactly as the States feel about the Federal Government and with just as much venom. When the State passed down to Counties what we felt was their problems, and gave us too little financial support, and crammed stupid regulations down our throats, we County people called that "Shifting The Shaft" and we fumed over it.

Recently, the States agreed to, and in some instances pleaded for, a transfer of responsibility for the welfare system from the Federal to the State level. In doing so, they committed one of the greatest examples of Self-Shafting ever on record. In this new deal, the states are expected to place unskilled, poorly educated, frequently borderline disabled people into jobs for which they are not suited, are expected to end teen pregnancy by preaching abstinence and are expected to deal with the massive child welfare and foster care issues that will surely arise when families with children are summarily cut off assistance.

Why would they do it? Why would the States embrace this hand-off of such a difficult set of problems? There are essentially three reasons.

First, in the old system Federal funds came to a State as match for budgeted State funds. If a State needed more Federal dollars, it had to budget at least some State dollars as its share. With "welfare reform," the Federal money will continue to go to a State, even if the State withdraws its support for welfare, lowers its monthly grants to recipients, reduces its caseload or otherwise cuts its costs. As a result, Governors everywhere are seeing the opportunity for short term windfalls that will allow them to reduce taxes, build schools and get endlessly re-elected. The matching formula, in the old system, was designed to encourage States to spend money on the poor. The elimination of the matching feature, on the other hand, is a blatant invitation to States to reduce State expenditures on welfare, without a reduction in Federal aid.

Second, the economy is booming and caseloads are going down whether the States are doing any effective programming or not. (Caseloads are also going down because "welfare reform" has a self-fulfilling prophecy built-in -- some percentage of recipients, hearing that they will have to go to work, will go to work.) The opportunity for a Governor, in this environment, to claim credit for shrinking welfare rolls, as the President is doing, is irresistible.

And third, Governors hunger for the autonomy to run their states as they see fit. Very big egos are at play here and some Governors think they can solve social problems by the force of their wills, if only they were freed of federal interference.

None of this would make any sense at all, except in an expanding, booming economy and job market. The real downside to welfare reform, from a State point of view, is that a State will receive a fixed number of dollars for welfare and that allocation will not increase as caseloads grow. Previously, States were assured that, as the numbers of recipients grew, in a recession for example, the Federal Government would keep contributing. The welfare "entitlement", the guarantee of aid for all who need it, was an entitlement and a cushion for States as well as for families. Welfare reform not only cuts off individual recipients, it cuts off States.

No County official I ever worked for would have been dumb enough, or politically cold blooded enough, to take this deal. The States should have looked beyond the short term advantages and opposed welfare reform and, if the political system had worked, their opposition would have forced a closer look at the underlying premises and problems that were built in from the start. Instead, short-term political advantage won out over long term policy soundness, not just in Washington but in the State capitals.

When the economy tanks - it always does eventually - the States will be sitting there with reduced income and sales tax revenues, no power to borrow for current operations, and angry, hungry people banging on the door of the State welfare agency. The States' ability to fund welfare, and still meet their responsibilities for schools, roads, health care and all the rest will be severely threatened.

And then, I suspect, they will re-invent the welfare system as we used to know it.

# El Feriado Que Nadie Celebra

Por Antonio M. Stevens-Ar-

Este año el 25 de julio llegó y sin alboroto. Legamente es un día festivo en Puerto Rico, pero casi nadie en los Estados Unidos reconocería al 25 de julio como diferente a cualquier otro día del año. Es el feriado que nadie celebra debido a los cambios del tiempo.

Aunque durante algún tiempo el gobierno de Puerto Rico trató de hacer pasar esta fecha como el Día de la Constitución conmemorando el acontecimiento de 1952 que creó la situación actual de Estado Libre Asociado para la isla, es realmente el aniversario del desembarco de las tropas estadounidenses en 1898 para invadir a Puerto Rico y anexarla como una colonia territorial. Casi 100 años después, este apoderamiento es difícilmente algo para celebrar en un mundo donde todos los demás imperios se han desvanecido.

¿Por qué debería alegrarse alguien en los Estados Unidos de que el Tío Sam desempeñe aun el papel de Darth Vader en la escena internacional?

En verdad, ni los estadiastas ni los independentistas de Puerto Rico se sienten felices y -- por lo menos desde 1978 -tampoco lo han estado los partidarios del Estado Libre Asociado. Fuí miembro de un grupo de negociadores que finalmente llevó al centrista Partido Popular Democrático a reconocer ante las Naciones Unidas que Puerto Rico era una colonia.

Casi 20 años después, Washington todavía no se ha enterado del modo en que los puertorriqueños piensan sobre este asunto. Incapaces de lograr que el Congreso actuara, en 1993 los puertorriqueños votaron para rechazar la estadidad y enmendar la situación de Estado Libre Asociado para que incluyera la soberanía de Puerto Rico. Argumentando que a menos que la isla estuviera formalmente exenta de la cláusula de la Constitución de los Estados

Unidos que da al Congreso el derecho de gobernar a un "territorio," los puertorriqueños votaron para sacar al país de esta cláusula territorial.

En vez de escuchar a la selección democrática de una mayoría de los puertorriqueños, sin embargo, el Congreso de 1994, controlado por los republicanos, redactó una legislación nueva que no sólo rechazaba los resultados de aquella votación, sino que esbozaba su propia fórmula, que específicamente omitía lo que los puertorriqueños acababan de seleccionar.

Este proyecto de legislación, totalmente objetable, ha reencarnado ahora como el Proyecto Young y está tomando espacio en un programa de trabajo congresional congestionado de asuntos tan críticos como un presupuesto federal, programas de assistencia pública económica y para educación. El siempre agresivo Representante Don Young Alaska), (republicano por quien ya tiene la reputación de pisotear los asuntos ambientales, y hay un gran jeras deben ser retiradas temor de que su enfoque de mano pesada a la cuestión de Puerto Rico resultará en legislación que prolongue la ineficacia de Washington.

Para cualquier persona que esté interesada, además de la votación de 1993, hubo un llamado "plebiscito" en Puerto Rico en 1967. En aquel año, electores seleccionaron también al Estado Libre Asociado. Cuando a Luis Ferré, fundador del estadista Nuevo Partido Progresista se le preguntó en 1968 cómo podía continuar apoyando a la estadidad cuando el pueblo acababa de seleccionar la situación de Estado Libre Asociado el año anterior contestó: "Eso era válido para 1967. Ahora estamos en 1968."

Puesto que a él no le gustaba el veredicto de los electores, Ferré y sus seguidores sencillamente rechazaron la voz del pueblo, tal como lo hizo Washington en 1993. El Proyecto Young no ofrece gar-

antías de que las tristes experiencias de 1967 y 1993 no serán repetidas, agregando al pesar de los puertorriqueños antes que mitigarlo.

Hay una solución para este problema, y creo que el poner fin a 100 años de colonialismo es un objetivo lo suficientemente noble como para merecer la intrepidez de la acción que la solución exige. La respuesta al dilema es la realización de un plebiscito verídico y justo bajo las normas establecidas por las Naciones Unidas.

Eso podría haber sido un problema en la época de la Guerra Fría, pero ésta es una época nueva para la cooperación internacional. Además, hay un latino, Bill Richardson, que es ahora nuestro embajador ante las Naciones Unidas, y que tiene más discernimiento que cualquiera de sus antecesores sobre el modo de resolver el problema.

Los criterios delineados por el derecho internacional son claros:

1. Todas las tropas extranantes de efectuar cualquier elección. ¿Cómo se puede celebrar elecciones libres si el país está ocupado por tropas estadounidenses y dependencias de espionaje, tales como la FBI?

2. A los residentes de la colonia se tiene derecho a elegir sin interferencia de una potencia extranjera. ¿Por qué debería Don Young, de Alaska, decir a los puertorriquenos qué se les permite hacer o no hacer? Nadie lo eligió a él para hacer esto, y los puertorriqueños necesitan ser libres para decidir por ellos mismos al convocar a una convención de plebiscito.

3. Los resultados de las elec-

ciones deben ser observados por terceras naciones imparciales. El conteo de los votos necesita hacerse equitativamente, para que todas las partes estén seguras de que no hubo triquiñuelas.

4. La potencia extranjera tiene que renunciar de antemano a cualquier alegato de soberanía sobre la colonia, para que la votación del pueblo verdaderamente decida el asunto. Esta es la cláusula que conlleva a la verdadera auto-determinación. Cualquier otra cosa es equivalente a permitir a los Estados Unidos tengan la última palabra y a hacer que la votación sea únicamente un referendo que no cumpla las normas del derecho internacional.

Estos cuatro pasos son el mejor modo de asegurar que se quite la mancha del imperialismo de los Estados Unidos. Sólo al seguir los lineamientos básicos de esta fórmula podrá Puerto Rico evitar la parálisis que permite a la parte perdedora de la votación negar que el veredicto sea de cumplimiento obligatorio.

Sería un logro histórico el que un embajador latino que representa a los Estados Unidos informara a las Naciones Unidas que se cumplirán las normas del derecho internacional en el caso de Puerto Rico. El día en que eso ocurra, habrá un día de fiesta que todos serán capaces de celebrar.

(El Dr. Antonio M. Stevens-Arroyo, anteriormente vice-presidente del Comité del Estado de Nueva York para la Comisión de los Estados Unidos sobre los Derechos Civiles, es catedrático de estudios puertorriqueños en la Escuela Superior de Brooklyn, Universidad Municipal de Nueva York, y presidente del Programa para el Análisis de la Religión, o PARAL).

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P.O. Box 11250, Lubbock, TX 79401. Bidal Aguero Editor/Publisher

EL EDITOR Celebrating 20 Years

# News Briefs From Page One

# States Lagging in Child Support Computerization

Some of the largest states won't have their child-support collection systems computerized by this fall's deadline, reports Associated Press.

Despite \$2.6 billion in federal and state money, just 15 states have working computer systems to track deadbeat parents since Congress agreed to pay most of the tab 17 years ago.

Meanwhile, 80 percent of all child support owed goes uncollected.

In 1980, Congress agreed to pay 90 percent of the cost of computerizing state systems, and in 1988, it required all states to automate. But states underestimated the complexity and cost of the computer project, according to a report by the General Accounting Office to be released today.

It blames the Health and Human Services Department for "ineffective federal leadership," saying the department failed to properly monitor state progress, punish states that fell behind or assure that tax money was properly spent.

HHS "allowed state systems with serious problems to proceed, thus escalating spending with no assurance that effective, efficient systems would result - and many indicators to the contrary," the GAO said in the report, which was obtained by The Associated Press.

Deadbeat parents owe \$34.5 billion to their families and to taxpayers, who pay billions in welfare to children whose fathers don't support them.

States were supposed to have systems in place by October 1995, but only one state met the deadline, and it was extended for two years.

Now, nine states - including the high-population states of California, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois and Pennsylvania - plus the District of Columbia have told HHS that they won't be ready.

# Editor

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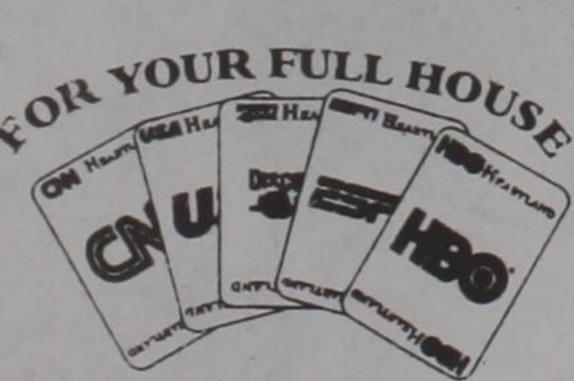
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# La Leccion Que Beethoven Me Ensenio

Por Victor Landa

Le llamábamos Beethoven. El era uno de entre la colección de mis maestros de la antigua escuela de Nuevo Laredo, del otro lado de la frontera frente a Laredo, Texas.

Eso no era una falta de respeto, le dábamos un apodo a cada profesor. En verdad, sólo aquéllos maestros que no nos gustaban eran los que resultaban víctimas de nuestra indiferencia.

"La Tijera" fué mi maestro de cuarto grado. El tenía piernas largas que parecían tijeras cuando caminaba por el pasillo. "El Daime" (la moneda de 10 centavos) era un hombre compacto que no media más de cinco pies y enseñaba historia en la escuela intermedia. "La Luna" enseñaba álgebra. "La Dona" enseñaba química, y Beethoven era el maestro de música de la escuela.

Era un hombre de poca estatura, redondo, de piel obscura, con el cabello delgado, y dedos regordetes. Siempre usaba guayaberas y tenía una voz que sonaba como si su garganta estuviera hecha de gra-

El comienzo de cada clase era el mismo. El nos hacía cantar unas cuantas estrofas de la "Oda a la Alegría" de

Beethoven (Ludwig van, en este caso). Golpeaba las cuerdas de un piano vertical con teclas amarillentas, levantando su mano izquierda de vez en cuando para marcar el tiempo con un movimiento ligero de la muñeca. Mientras más fuerte tocaba, más fuerte cantábamos nosotros, y mientras más fuerte cantáramos nosotros, más enérgicamente golpeaba las teclas.

Su voz grave tenía la gama de una puerta de rejilla -- estaba fija en una nota y era práctica. Sus clases terminaban siempre del mismo modo. Nos apresurábamos para salir y lo dejábamos solo con su desilusión. No podría haber sido fácil enseñar música a una banda de chicos alborotadores.

Pero Beethoven (el maestro, en este caso) tenía un amor profundo por la música, y fué Beethoven (el que fué tanto maestro como compositor) quien me enseñó la belleza del arte.

Sucedió de modo bastante accidental. Yo me había quedado en la escuela después de clases una tarde y estaba pasando por el salón de música cuando oí los sonidos más maravillosos que se filtraban hacia el pasillo. Dentro del salón, Beethoven estaba sentado al piano, tocando la música maravillosa, sin atender a nada que le rodeaba. Era casi como si las notas estuvieran sacándole de la guayabera. Sus ojos estaban cerrados, sus cejas alzadas, sus dedos regordetes bailaban sobre las teclas y la música llenaba el salón.

Había un poder en ella que transformaba al hombrecito redondo, lo elevaba y lo llevaba a algún otro lugar. Era un poder que hablaba en un idioma que no podía escucharse con los oídos. Era un idioma que se sentía, el idioma y la voz del arte.

Hay actualmente un movimiento en el Congreso para acallar esa voz. En el celo práctico para recortar el presupuesto federal, la Fondo Nacional para las Artes (NEA en inglés) ha sido señalado para su extinción.

Actualmente, el presupuesto de la NEA es poco más de \$99 millones, lo cual equivale a 38 centavos por cada hombre, mujer y niño de los Estados Unidos. Pero dada la publicidad negativa que el Fondo experimentó en el decenio de 1980, hasta estos centavos se ven como algo excesivo.

Cada vez que se menciona a la NEA, la gente piensa inmediatamente en Robert Maplethorpe, el fotógrafo que escenificó una controversial

exhibición en Nueva York hace un decenio. Sin embargo, la NEA ha existido durante 30 años y en ese tiempo ha otorgado más de 112,000 subvenciones. De todas éstas, no más de 45 han sido controvertidas. Ese no es un historial malo.

No debe pasarse por alto que la NEA es responsable de la conservación del arte folklórico y regional en todo el país; que apoya a pintores, escritores, músicos y compositores que dan una voz al alma de nuestro país, que da vida a los talentos de cientos de miles de jóvenes que tienen el don de sacarnos de nuestras guayaberas.

No debemos olvidar que las artes, y no la política, son la voz que mantienen a una nación civilizada. Pero la política tiene el poder de silenciar esa voz.

La escuché por primera vez hace muchos años, filtrándose por los pasillos de mi escuela. Sería una verguenza el pasarla por alto en un momento en que parece que la necesitamos en mayor medi-

(Víctor Landa es director de información de KVDA-TV Telemundo en San Antonio, Texas.)

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# Warriors Host Games Boxing

The Lubbock Warriors Boxing Club will be hosting the boxing portion of the Texas Games to take place this weekend here in Lubbock. The Texas Games are a series of games that provide incentive for athletes of all ages and skill levels to develop their physical talents and competitive abilities, the 1997 Games will present an opportunity foor amateur athletes to compete within their sports to win the prestigious Games title and statewide recognition.

The 1997 Games of Texas will be held in sports facilities located in Lubbock. there will be an estimated 6,500 athletes and 10,000 spectators in attendance.

The Games of Texas will kick off with an Opening Ceremony at the Lubbock Municipal coliseum on Friday. July 25th at 7 p.m. and continue throughout the following weekend, July 26th to 27th.

There will be 21 sports played in 1997 including softball, track and field, golf, horshoes, disc golf, soccer, boxing, baseball, paintball, Tae Kwon Do, tumbling/ trampoline, tennis swimming, fencing, karate, gymnastics, volleyball, duathion, bowling, roller hockey and judo.

The Boxing will take place at the Lubbock Municipal Costarting Saturday evening at 7 pm and continuing at 1 pm on Sunday.



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Total number of entries received for competition is currently 147. They come from all corners of the state. Among the biggest teams coming are from Houston, San Antonio, Ft. Worth, Dallas, El Paso, Austin and Waco.

Admission for the boxing is \$3 per person.

The Games were organized by the Lubbock Sports Authority and the City of Lubbock Parks and Recreation, with the assistance from the Office of Culture & Leisure Services the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce, the Convention and Tourism Bureau of Lubbock, Texas Tech University and other local organizations.

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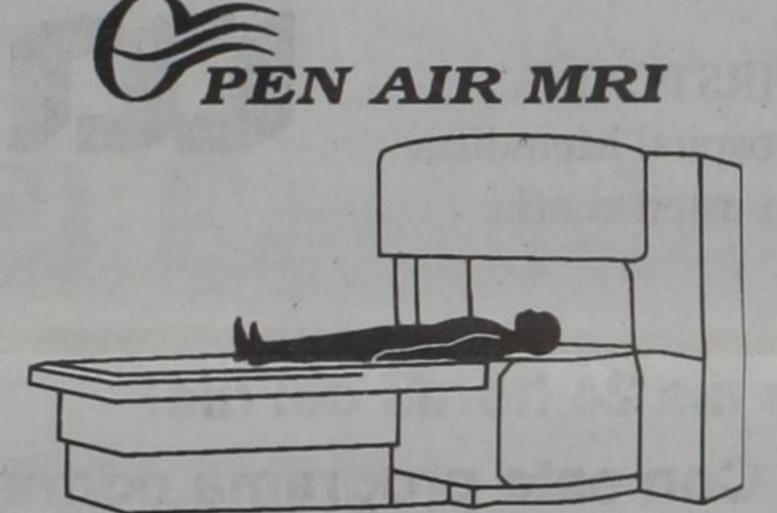
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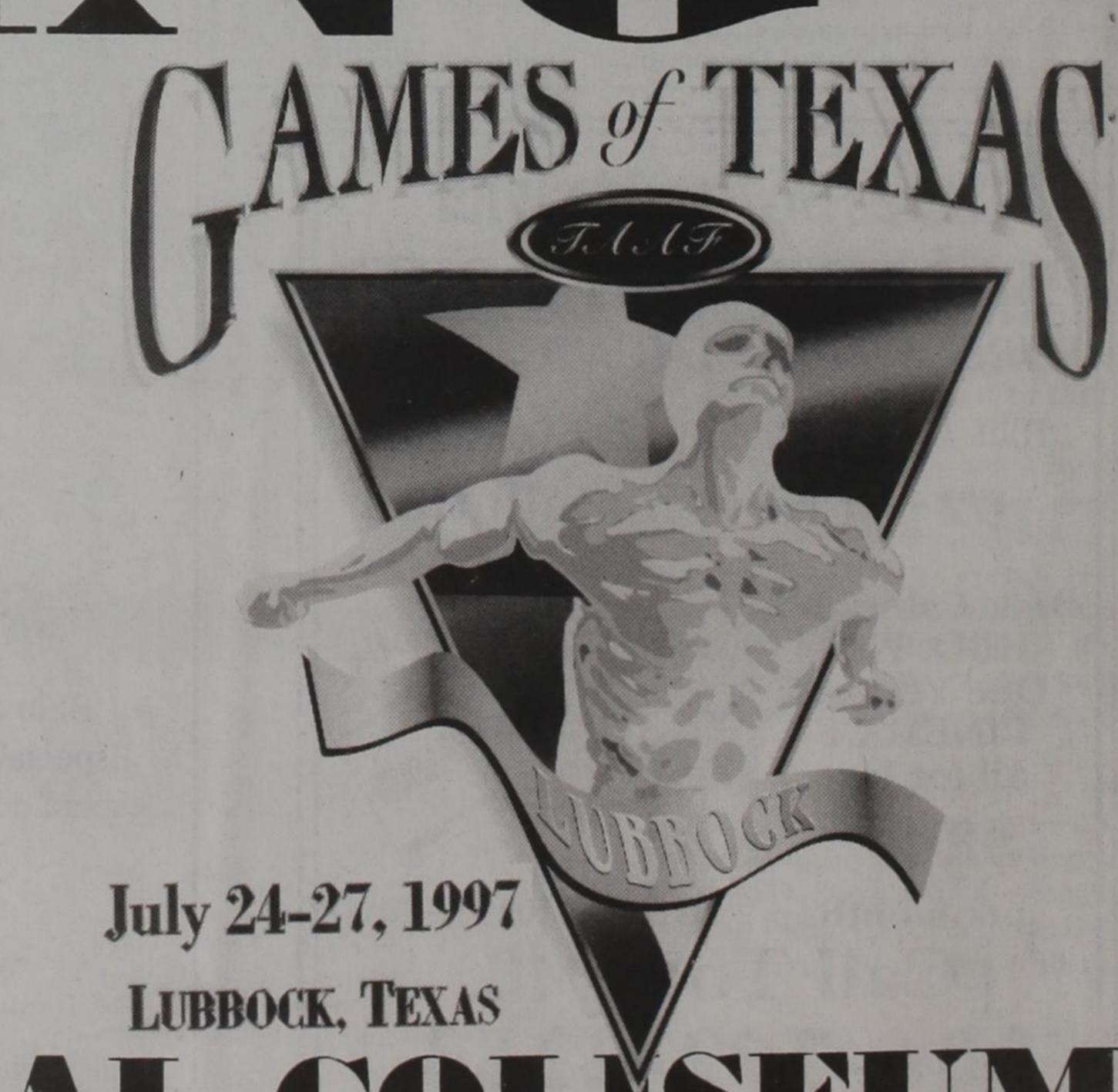
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Un Rayito De Luz

Por Sofia Martinez

"Conciencia" es un juicio práctico de la razón que nos dice lo que debemos de hacer y lo que debemos de evitar, en las circunstancias particulares en que nos encontremos. La conciencia puede ser: cierta o dudosa, o recta o erronea, o escrupulosa o laxa. La conciencia cierta y recta procede de un buen juicio y de un corazón puro, y es la que debemos de esforzarnos por adquirir. En la práctica acordémonos de lo siguiente: 1. - Jamás está permitido contrariar la conciencia, esto es, obrar seje. 2. - Nunca es correcto obrar con conciencia práctica-

mente dudosa, sino que hay que procurar quitar la duda y seguir su sentencia, su opinión o su consejo más seguro.

La conciencia erronea, escrupulosa o laxa no debe servirnos de guía en nuestros actos. para darnos cuenta del estado de nuestra conciencia. basta examinar cual es nuestro comportamiento al vernos solos, sin testigos de nuestros actos, o lejos de nuestros padres o demás superiores. Los que tienen conciencia re ga obran rectamente, estén solos o estén acompañados. Pero, los que tienen mala conciencia, al estar solos fácilmente cometen faltas, pecados y de-

Los que no saben que un acto está prohibido, no pecan al hacerlo, pero los que saben y lo hacen, sí cometen pecado. Los que obran dominados por la pasión o por el temor, no son tan culpables como los que obran tranquilamente. Cometer alguna acción mala sin darse cuenta, no es pecado; pero sí lo es, si se hace con contra la que ella nos acon- premeditación. (San Mateo 19, 16-30. Marcos 10, 17-31. Lucas 18, 18-30).

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### Fiestas Del 16

Lubbock-Fiestas del llano Inc. is currently accepting applications for its annual Miss Fiesas del llano Scholarship Pageant which will take place during the fiestaas Patrias activities in September 1997. The qualifications to participate in the pageant include the following: contestant must be a sing female of ages 17-24, Hispanic, Mexican-American, or of Latin-American descent and a senior in hish school or a student enrolled in acollege or univeristy. The deadline for the pageant applications is August 9, 1997. For further information on the pageant application process, please contact maria Teresa Leos at (806) 763-4805.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Fiestas del Llano Booth Rentals: Fiestas del llano has craft, food, and information booths available for the fieast patrias celebration that is held on September 13th, thru the 16th. Booth rentals are for the four day event. If you need further information please call Antonio Hernandez at 806-799-6916.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Fiestas del Llano Pinata Contest: Fiestas del Llano is accepting entries for a pinata contest. The pinata has to be handmade, (not store bought). There will be two catagories to enter from, childrens and adults. There will be first, second, and third place in each categories and a best of show. The deadline is September 10, 1997. All enteries will be displayed for public viewing at the craft booths located at the civic center. The Fiestas patrias celebration will be held September 13 thru 16, 1997. For further information plase call (806) 799-6916.

The Lesson That Beethoven Taught Me

By Victor Landa We called him Beethoven.

He was one among the menagerie of my teachers at the old school in Nuevo Laredo, across the border from Laredo, Texas. We meant no disrespect; we gave every teacher a nickname. In fact, it was only the teachers we didn't like who were subjected to our indifference.

"La Tijera," or "the Scissor," was fourthmy grade teacher. He had long legs that looked like clippers when he walked down the hall. "El Daime," -- "the Dime" -- was a compact man no taller than 5 feet who taught history in junior high. "La Luna," taught algebra. "La

Come Out & Enjoy All Day Softball Games at McKenzie Park & Slaton Fields on Sat. & Sun. Good Food! Music Festival on Sunday Come Out!

Dona," or "the Doughnut," taught chemistry, and Beethoven was the school's music teacher.

He was a short, round, darkskinned man with thin hair and pudgy fingers. He always wore guayaberas -- those cool, dressy, tropical shirts -and had a voice that sounded as if his throat were made of gravel.

Every class began alike. He would have us sing a few Beethoven's (Ludwig van, in this case) "Ode to Joy." He pounded the chords on an old yellowkeyed upright piano, lifting his left hand every so often to mark the tempo with a slight wave of his wrist. The louder he played, the louder we sang, and the louder we sang, the harder he pounded the keys.

His gravely voice had the range of a screen door. It was hinged on one note and was practical. His classes always ended the same, too. We'd rush out the door and leave him alone with his frustrations. It couldn't have been easy to teach music to a bunch of rambunctious boys.

But Beethoven (the teacher, in this case) had a profound love for music, and it was Beethoven (both teacher and composer) who taught me the beauty of art.

It happened quite by accident. I had lingered after school one afternoon and was walking by the music room when I heard the most wondrous sounds seeping into the hall. Inside, Beethoven was sitting at the piano, making that wonderful music, oblivious to everything around him. It was almost as though the notes were lifting him out of his guayabera. His eyes were closed, his eyebrows raised. his pudgy fingers danced on the keys, and the music filled the room.

There was a power in it that transformed the little round man, lifted him and took him

someplace else. It was a power that spoke in a language that couldn't be heard with the ears. It was a language that was felt, the language, the voice, of art.

There is now a movement in Congress to quiet such a voice. In the practical zeal to trim the federal budget, the National Endowment for the Arts has been targeted for extinction.

The NEA's budget is a little over \$99 million, which is about 38 cents for every man, woman and child in the United States. But given the negative publicity that the Endowment suffered in the 1980s, even pocket change is seen as too much.

Any time you mention the NEA, people think of Robert Maplethorpe, the photographer who staged a controversial exhibition in New York a decade ago. Yet the NEA has been around for 30 years and, in that time, has awarded more than 112,000 grants. Of all of these, no more than 45 have been controversial, That's not a bad record.

It shouldn't be overlooked that the NEA is responsible for the preservation of folk and regional art throughout the country; that it promotes painters, writers, musicians and composers who give a voice to the soul of our country; that it gives life to the talents of hundreds of thousands of young people who have the gift to lift us out of our guaya-

We must not forget that art, not politics, is the voice that keeps a nation civilized. But politics has the power to silence that voice.

I heard it for the first time many years ago, seeping down the halls of my school. It would be a shame to ignore it at a time when its seems that we need it the most.

(Landa is news director of KVDA-TV Telemundo in San Antonio, Texas.) (c) 1997, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by the Los Angeles

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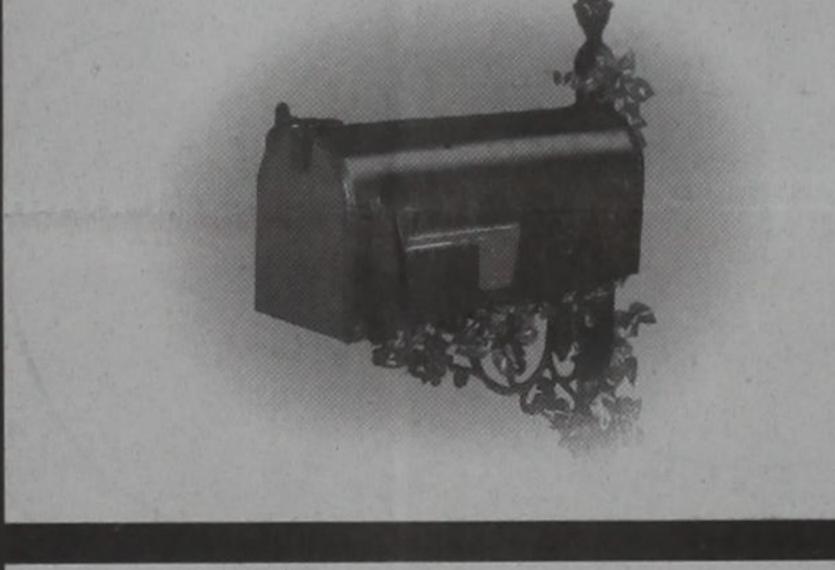
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