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#### COUTINEET COLLECTION Bulk Rate Texas Toch University U.S. Postage De Concern - Infighting **Between Mayor, City Council, Attorneys vs. Hernandez**

Lubbock city officials found out this week that Texas-size apology sometimes isn't enough. Although Mayor Windy Sitton and an entourage composed of Councilman T.J. Patterson, City Manager Bob Cass and City Attorney Anita Burgess recently visited Hampton, Virginia on a good will mission after two Hampton University coaches were mistakenly accused of being con artist, it seems their efforts were not enough to calm the ire of the persons involved as they have now hired famed attorney Johnnie Cochran to represent them in a possible lawsuit against the City and other yet to be named defendants.

"We have, of course, talked to our clients at length," Cochran said at a recent press conference in Hampton. ""I should emphasize that these are some remarkable people who have a great amount of integrity and have gone forward. What happened to them shouldn't have happened.

After Monday's announcement, City officials issued a gag order on all information about the case that was announced by the Mayor.

In the statement the Mayor stated that she "had full confidence in the legal representation of the City, both by the City Attorney's office and our outside counsel. In their representation of the City and the

individual police officers, our attorneys have the latitude to determine what is in the best interests of their clients. I respect and support their judgement. I also take strong exception to any statement degrading the Human Relations Commission. This commission will continue to address human

rights and concerns, perceived or real, in this community."

The statement directly addressed criticism by Councilman Victor Hernandez who had said earlier in the week that City officials were withholding information to allow him to make an informed decision in order to adequately represent the City of Lubbock. Hernandez also called for an independent group to be formed to investigate the order citing that the Human Relations Department lack the support of many citizens.

In a later statement Hernandez demanded an apology from outside counsel George Hampton III who had said that any information given to Hernandez "would end up in the hands of Johnnie Cochran."

"The statements made by Mr. Thompson reflect the ignorance of those who represent the City on issues of importance. Specifically, Mr. Thompson's statements reflect an attitude of perceived collusion based incorrectly, on the assumption that all minorities conspire against non-minorities. This paranoia is not helpful in delicate situations such as these," responded Hernandez.

Attacks by the Mayor on Hernandez has caused concern in the Hispanic community. "It City Cochran said, "You live in a society, you're seems that the City Council is trying to ostracize north and east Lubbock," said Bidal Aguero during a recent interview on radio. "It brings memories of what the School Board did to Linda DeLeon when we were fighting to keep Thompson school or build Cavazos. This possible lawsuit is going to affect all the citizens of

Lubbock not only those that live in West Lubbock."

Cochran said it was "premature" to discuss how much he might seek in monetary damages in a lawsuit.

"It would be more unspecified, because the law says you're entitled to be made whole," Cochran said. "What do you say to Patricia Bibbs? What do you say to Venetta Kelso? What do you say to these two husbands to place them in a position they were in before they were falsely arrested, falsely detained? Their reputations were somewhat tarnished. All our law allows is some kind of a compensation."

In justifying the possible suit against the a law-abiding person, you've been strong and you've played by all the rules. To have something like this happen sets even the strongest person back. That's not right.

A final decision from Cochran on whether to sue the City is expected within 30 to 60 days.

### Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero With the controversy surrounding relations between Lubbock and El Paso swelling,

and the incident at which two Hampton University coaches were accused of trying to con a Wal-Mart shopper and

thereby arrested by Lubbock police, questions have been raised throughout West Texas whether Lubbock is a racist town.

Lubbock leaders are saying no. They point a finger at what they call El Paso's greed to obtain their part of the massive tobacco settlement to explain allegations made against Chancellor John Montford's allegedly saying that "El Pasoans are interested in spending border health funds on welfare and ballet follklorico".

Leaders claim that the arrests of the Hampton coaches was justified because a witness positively identified the coaches as the con artists. The witness later claimed that in actuality she was never given a good look at the coaches. The Lubbock daily newspaper has been bombarded by letters saying that police did exactly what they are supposed to do and that Johnnie Cochran, who has been hired to represent the Hampton coaches, has no business in Lubbock. The newspaper's editorials are saying that although racism might exist, the problem needs to be addressed locally and not tried on national TV. I have real doubts that the problems would be even addressed locally looking at Lubbock's record. So is Lubbock a racist town? When asked by Dixon Platt this week to rate Lubbock's race relations. I stated that it was pretty close to an F. My answer was based on the lack of effort put forth by local leaders. I realize that our City's race relations are far better than problems in major cities and I realize that no, we do not see the KKK marching in the streets. Nor do we see bombs being thrown into buildings or churches. But we do see -- as reported in the AJ this week that minorities are paying more for insurance, we do see that school leaders are trying to close schools and move magnet programs out of our neighborhoods, we do see that over 70% of those in jail are minorities, we do see that if a person has the money they can get deferred adjudication for violations of the law, we do hear radio listeners referring to us as boys while at the same time talking about everyone being equal in Lubbock. We do not see Lubbock having any type of affirmative action policy, we do not see land developers working toward building more homes in our neighborhoods, we do not see race relations training for police officers or city officials, we do not see any minorities on any local Bank Boards. We did see that it took 20 years of court battles to change the method in which the City Council and School Trustees are selected in order to allow minorities representation. When Mayor Sitton referred to the efforts of the City to help one Afro American family to overcome tragedy after their home burned as evidence that the people of Lubbock care about everyone equally, can we really say this act is enough once we look at all the things that could be done to really improve the lives of all the citizens of Lubbock?



### Pancho Clos Is Coming **Dec. 20 Rodger's** Park

#### Por Feliciano García

Cerca de tres decenios después de la promulgación de la Ley de Igualdad de Vivienda, la cual prohibe la discriminación basada en la raza, el color, el sexo y el origen nacional, los solicitantes de color para hipotecas están enfrentándose a la discriminación en cifras cada vez mayores, según los informes del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano (HUD en inglés) y otros recientes estudios.

HUD está lanzando una nueva investigación que se enfocará sobre la discriminación en las hipotecas de vivenda. La gestión, anunciada el mes pasado por el Secretario Andrew Cuomo, estudiará entre 3,000 y 5,000 casos a un costo estimado de \$7.5 millones. Otro estudio, efectuado este año por la Asociación de Organizaciones Comunitarias para la Reforma Ahora (ACORN en inglés), halló que las tasas de rechazo para solicitantes de color aumentaron, a pesar de una economía sólida y tasas bajas de interés, que permitieron a muchas familias llegar a ser aprobación disminuyeron compradores de casas por primera vez. Kimberly Olson, organizadora del capítulo de ACORN en Dallas, señala que aunque los solicitantes de color son excluídos a menudo en el trámite de los préstamos para vivienda debido a la discriminación, otros factores claves para la denegación son la carencia de historial de crédito y los niveles de ingresos bajos. "Si uno no está el marco de crédito que fué diseñado originalmente para el anglosajón típico de la clase media, va a ser rechazado al solicitar un préstamo", afirma ella.

35 ciudades. Las instituciones financieras fueron vigiladas en busca de pautas de disparidades raciales en los préstamos hipotecarios para compras de casas. Los prestamistas habían examinado 4,910,000 solicitudes y aprobaron 3,480,000 préstamos durante ese espacio de tres años.

El estudio, titulado "No Dando Crédito donde se Debe Dar", halló que las tasas de

#### Negros Hispanos 5% 6%

ACORN afirma que si hubiera habido la misma proporción de prestatarios convencionales en 1997 como en 1995, habría habido más de 14,000 adicionales afroamericanos propietarios de casas y 20,000 propietarios latinos adicionales. Judith Knight, directora para seguridad

y desarrollo comunitario en la Asociación



Año

1997

discriminatorias en los préstamos es cuando se comparan a los solicitantes anglosajones y minoritarios de un grupo económico semejante", dice él.

Pero un nuevo informe dada a concer bajo la Ley de Divulgación de Hipotecas sobre Vivienda para 1997, halla prácticas discriminatorias de préstamos aún después de tomar en cuenta los niveles de ingresos. El mismo dice que los solicitantes afroamericanos y latinos de ingresos altos fueron rechazados para obtener préstamos hipotecarios convencionales más de dos veces tan a menudo como los anglosajones de niveles semejantes de ingresos.

El Dr. Edward Rincón, presidente de Rincón and Associates, una firma de investigación de mercado en Dallas, alega que "los prestamistas prejuiciados y un sistema de comunicación discriminatorio" se combinan para crear tasas de rechazo más altas para los posibles propietarios de casas que sean de color. "No creo que los banqueros estén muy animados sobre aumentar sus inversiones en las comunidades hispanas o de bajos ingresos", comenta él. "Se necesita de una gestión agresiva para hacer que las instituciones financieras sean responsables de hacer que los préstamos estén accesibles para la comunidad hispana". El Secretario Cuomo de HUD alega que la discriminación en la vi6zN+/\_l es "más insidiosa" que nunca antes. "Las personas minoritarias no sólo se enfrentan a las puertas que se les cierran, sino también a las puertas giratorias", dice él. "Si estamos serios acerca de poner fin a la discriminación en la vivienda, entonces debemos comprender y reconocer sus complejidades y sutilezas".

ACORN estudió la información presentada a HUD entre 1995 y 1997. Examinó a más de 9,000 prestamistas de

considerablemente para los solicitantes de color entre 1995 y 1997. Las tasas de aprobación para las solicitudes de los latinos disminuyeron del 78% al 72%. Casi uno de cada tres solicitantes afroamericanos fueron rechazados en 1997, un aumento desde uno de cada cuatro en 1995.

El informe concluyó que los prestamistas dirigen a los solicitantes afroamericanos y latinos hacia los préstamos de alto interés respaldados por el gobierno.

Los préstamos convencionales de interés bajo fueron como sigue: Negros Año Hispanos 8% 7% 1995

Estadounidense de Banqueros, sugiere que las tasas mayores de rechazos para los solicitantes de color se deben a un aumento en el nivel económico de los prestatarios en potencia antes que al prejuicio.

"Si se tiene a un mayor número de personas que ingresan al sistema que no están listas para comprar, parecerá como que se están rechazando más solicitudes", dice ella. "No creo que ésa sea evidencia de trato discriminatorio".

Michael Carliner, economista de la Asociación Nacional de Constructores de Casas, concuerda al concluir que el aumento de las tasas de rechazo puede atribuirse a un aumento del volumen. "Un modo mejor de medir las prácticas

#### **After 30 Years of Enforcement Efforts Housing Discrimination Persists** By Feliciano Garcia crease in volume. Nearly three decades after the adoption **Conventional Home Mortgage Loan Rate Results** of the Fair Housing Act, which bars Filed Approved discrimination on the basis of race, color, 1995

"A better way to measure discriminatory lending practices is when testers compare white and minority applicants in a similar economic bracket," he says. But a new report available under the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act for 1997 finds discriminatory lending practices even after income levels are accounted for. It reports that upper-income African-American and Latino applicants were denied conventional mortgage loans more than twice as often as whites at similar income levels. Dr. Edward Rincon, president of Rincon and Associates, a market research firm in Dallas, claims that "prejudiced lenders and a discriminatory outreach system" combine to create higher denial rates for potential homeowners of color. "I don't think bankers are all that excited about increasing their investment in Hispanic or low-income communities," he said. "There needs to be an aggressive effort to make financial institutions responsible for making loans accessible to the Hispanic community." HUD's Cuomo claims that housing discrimination is "more insidious" than ever. "Minorities not only face slammed doors, but revolving doors as well," he says. "If we are serious about ending housing discrimination, then we must understand and recognize its complexities and subtleties." (Feliciano Garcia is a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C.)

applicants of color are facing discrimination at increasing rates, according to reports from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and other recent studies.

sex and national origin, home mortgage

HUD is launching a new investigation that will focus on home mortgage discrimination in urban, suburban and rural communities. The year-long effort, announced last month by Secretary Andrew Cuomo, will study 3,000-5,000 cases at an expected cost of \$7.5 million. Another study, conducted this year by the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), found rejection rates for applicants of color rose in spite of a strong economy and low interest rates which allowed many families to become first-time homebuyers.

Dallas ACORN chapter organizer Kimberly Olson points out that while applicants of color are often excluded in the housing loan process because of discrimination, other key factors for denial are a lack of substantial credit history and lower income levels.

"If you don't fit into the credit box that was originally designed for the typical middle-class Anglo, you are going to get turned down for a loan," she said.

ACORN surveyed data filed with HUD between 1995 and 1997. It examined more than 9,000 lenders in 35 cities. Financial institutions were monitored for patterns

White	759,565	560,743
Black	83,146	50,190
Latino	91,869	58,243
1997	Filed	Approved
White	991,632	692,672
Black	104,071	52,580
Latino	101,853	57,683

of racial disparities in home-purchase mortgage lending. The lenders had examined 4.91 million applications and approved 3.48 million loans over that three-year period.

The study, "Giving No Credit Where Credit is Due," found that approval rates decreased significantly for applicants of color between 1995 and 1997. Approval ratings for applications from Latinos dropped from 78 percent to 72 percent. Nearly 1 in 3 African-American applicants were rejected in 1997, up from one in four in 1995.

The report concluded that lenders steer African-American and Latino applicants toward high-interest, government-backed loans.

Conventional lower-interest loans went to:

- Hispanics / Blacks

1995 - 8 percent / 7 percent

1997 - 6 percent / 5 percent

ACORN contends that if there had been the same share of conventional borrowers in 1997 as in 1995, there would have been more than 14,000 additional African-American homeowners and 20,000 additional Latino homeowners.

560 743

Judith Knight, director of community and security development at the American Bankers Association, suggests that higher rejection rates for applicants of color are due to an increase in the economic range of potential borrowers rather than prejudice.

"If you're getting more people into the system who aren't ready to purchase, it will look like you're declining more applications," she says. "I don't believe that it's evidence of discriminatory treatment."

Michael Carliner, economist at the National Association of Homebuilders, agrees, concluding that the rise in rejection rates may be attributed to an in-

## Los Logros Del Movimiento Progresista Latino Pasan Desapercibidos

Por Javier Rodriguez H.

La fiebre electoral se ha desvanecido y la calma después de las elecciones se ha asentado en el Estado Dorado. Indisputablemente, los latinos son hoy una fuerza política que madura. Los expertos de todos los campos están dándole vueltas a este desarrollo cuantitativo, incluyendo la elevación de un bloque conservador de poder.

Pero la especulación de que los latinos cambiarán al espectro político de California hacia el centro pasa por alto un detalle sutil pero importante: La elevación de un ala progresista influyente dentro del establecimiento latino. La dinámica es distinta y cualitativa. Tiene la posibilidad de cambiar la composición y la orientación de la política latina.

El poderoso presidente de la Asamblea, Antonio Villaraigosa, y su popular colega Gil Cedillo, se unirán en ese cuerpo el mes que viene con la psicóloga social Gloria Romero. Todos ellos del Este de los Angeles, fueron mencionados por el sindicalismo organizado durante todo este año de campaña como "tres de los nuestros". Esta afirmación es parcialmente correcta, aunque sus antecedentes están arraigados más profundamente en el ala progresista del movimiento latino de los derechos civiles y de la inmigración del decenio de 1970. Ellos parecen estar abriendo las puertas a otros no necesariamente vinculados con los círculos de la corriente principal. Para la elección especial en el 46x Distrito de la Asamblea, a principios de este año, Villaraigosa cabildeó árduamente para convencer al sindicalismo organizado de que apoyara a Cedillo contra Vickie Castro, miembro de la Junta Escolar de los Angeles -- y eso funcionó. Después, junto con el sindicalismo, ambos ayudaron a Romero en su contienda con éxito para la Asamblea.

Estos tres son parte de una cosecha influyente de líderes latirelativamente indepennos dientes en organizaciones claves del trabajo, la comunidad, ambientales y de los derechos humanos. Incluyen a abogados, profesores, autores, jueces, miembros de juntas escolares, políticos y estrategas de la política. Viven y trabajan en varias regiones del país y sus orígenes son primordialmente de la clase trabajadora y mexicanos.

Estos dirigentes bien sazonados recibieron su formación inicial, política e ideológica, a fines del decenio de 1960 y principios del de 1970. Fueron influenciados por las luchas de liberación nacional de la época. La Guerra de Vietnam, la revolución cubana, Che Guevara y la corta victoria democrática de Salvador Allende fueron solamente parte del mosaico de acontecimientos históricos y ejemplos que imbuyeron a esta generación de una perspectiva política internacionalista y más amplia. No fué distinta que la influencia mundial que ejercen hoy los Zapatistas en su lucha por la democracia en el México contemporáneo. Debido a las limitaciones ideológicas y a la perspectiva nacionalista algunas veces estrecha del movimiento chicano de los derechos civiles, muchos de esta generación en particular fundaron o se unieron a formaciones progresistas que surgieron vigorosamente de sus filas, mientras que otros se unieron a los partidos políticos multi-raciales existentes. Uno de tales movimientos fué el Centro Autónomo para la Acción Social (CASA, 1968-1978), que fué el precursor en la organización de los trabajadores indocumentados en este país. Este es el período en el que se

encontrarán las raíces del programa de amnistía (IRCA) de 1986 que creó después las condiciones para el electorado latino que germina ahora. Inexplicablemente, los historiadores latinos han omitido a esta expresión histórica importante y su aporte a la habilitación latina.

En verdad, Cedillo y Villaraigosa fueron parte de esta generación de activistas progresistas latinos, que criticaron a César Chávez y su sindicato de Trabajadores Agrícolas Unidos (UFW en inglés) por su postura regresiva sobre la inmigración. La política oficial del UFW entonces difería muy poco de la línea de la AFL-CIO, en el sentido de que los trabajadores indocumentados "no eran susceptibles de ser organizados".

La campaña de Cedillo para la Asamblea fué la primera en experimentar y concentrarse estratégicamednte sobre el nuevo epicentro del conservadorismo de California, en la contienda para seleccionar a la junta escolar en el distrito escolar de Santa Ana, los latinos, en coalición con otros, eliminaron por votación a los miembros latinos conservadores y los sustituyeron por una mayoría latina progresista.

El llamado "factor de introversión", que prevé al electorado latino estancándose en el ciclo de los asuntos más importantes, se halla todavía por aparecer. Sin embargo, ésta es una zona en la que los progresistas pueden dirigir al campo, animando a los latinos para enfrentarse a los asuntos sociales más complicados de la asistencia económica pública a las empresas, la reforma electoral y el medio ambiente, para citar sólo unos cuantos. Más de 100 organizaciones ambientales latinas están coordinadas por el Proyecto de Organización del Suroeste, que es progresista, con sede en Albu-

#### Kids and the Older Americans Act by Ira Cutler

Sittin' Here

Thinkin'

The first half of my career, more or less, I worked in human services with "human" meaning people of all ages and in all situations: child abuse, teen pregnancy, adoption, care of the elderly, assistance for the blind and disabled, the whole gamut. The second half, up to and including now, my focus has mostly been on families and children, not because my interest in the other populations lagged but rather because of various life accidents and the opportunities that have been there for me.

And then earlier this Fall, when I was minding my own business and doing my normal consulting work, I had an epiphany of sorts, or maybe it was a re-epiphany, because I was powerfully reminded of something that I have known well for over thirty years. Here's the story:

The background is that I was doing a paper that required me to interview top level state and local human service officials from seven different states, sometimes in person, sometimes on the phone, over about an eight week period. In the course of this inquiry, which focused on the progress made over the last several years in integrating and otherwise reforming public human services to families and children, I interviewed about forty people and probably read twenty-five or so reports. I was, so to speak, immersed in the subject.

In one state I visited, midway through the development of the paper, I was mistakenly scheduled to interview state staff whose work was focused not on families and children but on the elderly and physically handicapped. I thought at first about asking that the schedule be changed and having this interview cancelled, but then I got curious, and did not want to be impolite, so I went ahead with it although I believed that none of their work would have any bearing on mine. I could not have been more wrong. As it turned out my interview with the staff of the elderly and disabled bureau (or whatever it is called) was like being on another, much more enlightened, planet. The contrasts and parallels were everywhere: \* While those working with children and families struggle to find ways to include consumers in decision-making processes, those working with the elderly do so frequently, and see supporting consumer groups in getting what they want and need as central to what they do as professionals and state employees. While those working with children/families struggle to find the time away from their regular duties to develop partnerships with their clients, for those working with the elderly this is the job. These staff see recipients as partners in system improvement and treat them with genuine respect. \* Those working with the elderly are unabashedly advocates, and see themselves in an advocacy partnership with elderly consumers. I did not hear the word advocacy once in talking to state staff involved with children/families. \* Those working with children/families often see capacity building as a substantial barrier to working with families (essentially, they believe their clients do not or cannot "get it") while those working with the elderly see themselves learning as much as they teach. and water areas \* The role of the elderly in decision-making, input, and advocacy, has a long history, is supported by public funds, is codified in the Older Americans Act, and is essentially unquestioned. Comparable children/family activities are fledgling, supported by soft foundation funds, and rarely are expressed in statute. \* There are public funds available for organizing, public information, support for advocacy organizations and consumer groups for the elderly but not for children/family groups. The state in question was using its own money to organize groups of elderly citizens, and for study centers working on their issues. The federal Older Americans Act has supported planning, coordination, and

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elector latino, es decir, el anterior inmigrante indocumentado.

Nacionalmente, el principio de que la influencia latina futura descansa sobre la elevación paralela de los conservadores latinos es prematura. En noviembre, los demócratas latinos aumentaron sus filas en las legislaturas estatales en 16 para llegar a 165, mientras que los republicanos latinos descendieron de 25 a 21.

En California, los republicanos latinos tienen ahora cuatro escaños en la Asamblea y han dado nacimiento al primer grupo latino republicano, pero los lectores deberían saber que durante varios años de ataques virulentos contra los latinos, el Partido Republicano de California fué presidido por el Dr. Tirso del Junco, un cubano-americano de extrema derecha.

En el Condado de Orange, el

querque, Nuevo México.

Con excepciones, nuestra experiencia histórica sugiere que los adelantos sociales y políticos conjuntos que los latinos han hecho se han materializado debido a las visiones y acciones adelantadas por los líderes latinos con una perspectiva a la izquierda del centro. El que esta tendencia progresista continúe floreciendo dependerá de la capacidad de los líderes para enderezar el curso y, naturalmente, para las fuerzas progresistas el mantenerlos siendo responsables y evitar que el sistema se apodere de ellos.

(Javier Rodríguez H. es un escritor y, en el decenio de 1970, formaba parte del liderazgo de la organización CASA. Los extensos archivos de CASA pueden encontrarse en la Universidad de Stanford.)

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## Gains of Latino Progressive Movement Go Unnoticed

By Javier Rodriguez H.

Election fever has waned and the dust has settled in the Golden State. Indisputably, Latinos today are a maturing political force. Pundits from all quarters

These three are part of an influential crop of relatively independent Latino leaders in key labor, community, environmental and human rights organizations. They include attorneys, judges, professors, authors, school board members, politicians and political strategists. They live and work in several regions of the country and their origins are primarily working class and Mexican. These well-seasoned leaders received their initial political and ideological formation in the late '60s and the '70s. They were influenced by national liberation struggles of the epoch. The Vietnam War, the Cuban revolution, Che Guevara and the short-lived democratic victory of Salvador Allende were only part of the mosaic of historical events and role models that imbued this generation with an internationalist and broader political perspective. It was no different than the worldwide influence exerted today by the Zapatistas in their struggle for democracy in contemporary Mexico. Because of the ideological limitations and sometimes narrow nationalist outlook of the Chicano civil rights movement, many in this particular generation founded or joined progressive formations that vigorously sprung from its ranks, while others joined existing multiracial political parties.

documented workers in this country. This is the period where you will find the roots of the amnesty program (IRCA) of 1986 that subsequently created the conditions for the burgeoning Latino electorate of today. Inexplicably, Latino historians have omitted this important historical expression and its contribution to Latino empowerment. In fact, Cedillo and Villaraigosa were part of this generation of Latino progressive activists critical of Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers union for their regressive stand on immigration. The UFW's official policy then differed very little from the AFL-CIO's line that undocumented workers were "unorganizable."

In Orange County, the epicenter of California's conservatism, the race to select the school board in the Santa Ana Unified School District, Latinos, in coalition with others, voted out the Latino conservative members and replaced them with a Latino progressive majority. The so-called "inward factor," which foresees the Latino electorate stagnating in the cycle of bread-and-butter issues, is yet to be played out. However, this is an area where progressives can lead the field in encouraging Latinos to take on the more complex social issues of corporate welfare, electoral reform and the environment, to name a few. More than 100 grass-roots Latino environmental organizations are coordinated by the progressive Southwest Organizing Project, based in Albuquerque, N.M. With exceptions, our historical experience suggests that the overall social and political strides Latinos have made have materialized because of the visions and actions advanced by Latino leaders with a left-of-center perspective. Whether this progressive trend continues to flourish will depend on the ability of the leaders to stay the course and, naturally, for the progressive forces to keep them accountable and prevent their co-optation by the system. (Javier Rodriguez H. is a writer and, in the '70s, was a leading member of CASA. CASA's extensive archives can be found at Stanford University.) Copyright 1998, Hispanic Link News

are spinning this quantitative development, including the rise of a conservative power bloc.

But the speculation that Latinos will shift California's political spectrum to the center ignores a subtle but important detail: the rise of an influential progressive wing within the Latino establishment. The dynamic is distinct and qualitative. It has the potential of changing the make-up and direction of Latino politics.

Powerful Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa and his popular colleague Gil Cedillo will be joined in that body next month by social psychologist Gloria Romero. All from East Los Angeles, they were highly touted by organized labor throughout this campaign year as "three of our own." This assertion is partially correct, although their backgrounds are rooted deeper in the progressive wing of the Latino civil and immigration rights movement of the '70s.

They appear to be opening the doors to others not necessarily linked to mainstream circles. For the special election in the 46th Assembly District early this year, Villaraigosa lobbied hard to convince labor to support Cedillo against Los Angeles School board member Vickie Castro -- and it paid off. Then, along with labor, both

One such movement was the Autonomous Center for Social Cedillo's assembly campaign was the first to experiment and strategically concentrate on the new Latino voter, i.e. the former undocumented immigrant.

Nationally, the premise that future Latino clout rests on the parallel rise of Latino conservatives is premature. In November, Latino Democrats actually increased their ranks in state legislatures by 16 to 165, while Latino Republicans went down from 25 to 21.

In California, Latino Republicans now hold four assembly seats and have given birth to the first Republican Latino caucus, but readers should know that for several years of virulent Latino bashing, the California Republican Party was presided over by Dr. Tirso del Junco, an citizen advocacy since the 1960's.

\* State staff working with the elderly would consider it unthinkable to make substantial program changes without conferring with elderly groups, yet no such processes exist for children/families. As a result elderly citizens feel ownership for and can help to sell the system changes to policy-makers.

Perhaps most importantly, the state staff I spoke with (and others I have known who work with the elderly and disabled) see themselves as on the same side as the elderly service recipients, and united against those who would reduce the level or quality of their services. Staff who work with the elderly would never have been silent accomplices, for example, while politicians destroyed the income floor that supported millions of their clients.

How can things be so different in the same department and the same state? Because the difference lies in one of the first things they teach you (or used to teach you) in social work school: public social policy in America is always about the perception and belief that there are Worthy Poor and Unworthy Poor out there. We cannot do enough for the Worthy Poor, while we spend enormous energy trying to rid ourselves of the Unworthy Poor. Old people, even poor old people, are nearly always thought to be Worthy, as are children below a certain age. But many of these children are the children of some very Unworthy parents and they nearly always inherit their parents' Unworthy status.

I have long thought that there would be much the children/family field could learn from our friends who work the elderly/disabled side of the street, but I had forgotten about this and put it aside in the rush of other work until I was so starkly reminded. So maybe what is needed is a Youngest Americans Act, an overarching piece of legislation that sets a generous, respectful tone for a service delivery system that is free of resentment and disrespect. Maybe that is something they can think about in Washington one of these days, and maybe it is something a Presidential candidate can talk about, if there is one that is running on substance.

Maybe people would think an idea like that was worth going to the polls and voting for.

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

assisted Romero in her successful assembly race. Action (CASA, 1968-1978), extreme which pioneered organizing un- American.

18), extreme right-wing Cuban un- American.

Service. Distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate

## The Age of World Law Is Not On Its Way-Its Here

By Walter Truett Anderson Pacific News Service

The recent arrest in England of Chilean General Augusto Pinochet and the coming celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights mark our entry into another world, a world with laws.

These laws apply to all people, presidents as well as migrant workers, and can be enforced by all governments.

This "new" world has been taking shape for many decades, beginning with the little-known Hague and Geneva war-crimes conventions in the first decade of this century, continuing in the post-World War II trials of war criminals, and most recently in a series of treaties which give the Human Rights Declaration the status of law.

Precedent counts for a lot in law, but there was no precedent available when the victorious Allies decided to convene an international tribunalto formally try German leaders instead of summarily executing orimprisoning them. The Nuremberg Tribunal seemed a daring innovation at the time but it is now cited as background to more recent tribunals, such as the one currently trying Yugoslavian cases in the Hague.

Genocide was not charged at Nuremberg -- it wasn't in the legal vocabulary yet -- but members of the United Nations remedied this deficit by negotiating the Genocide Convention of 1948, which specifically outlawed "acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group."

That same year -- just a halfcentury ago -- the U.N. General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, affirming that all people are entitled to security of person, freedom from slavery and from arbitrary arrest, freedom of association and religion, and the right to marry and own property. This was a declaration, not yet law. It took almost 30 years to 1996 to negotiate two major international covenants -- one on civil and political rights, one on economic, social and cultural rights -- and for the requisite 35 states to ratify them. At that point, the covenants' main provisions -- including rights to due process of law -- took on legal force.

And then, surprisingly, many nations actually began enforcing the new international laws. This happened in part because waves of migration began filling European and American countries with resident aliens whose rights were not always clear under domestic law, and because an exploding number of non governmental organizations made it their business to help people claim their rights.

So there has been a revolutionary change, both in theory and practice. The carrier of human rights now is the person, regardless of citizenship. Those rights are universal, not the privilege of any particular group. And the nation-states are taking on a new role as enforcers of international human rights.

In the process, national boundaries have become far less important -- especially in relation to major offenses. "International law says that any state can try perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes," Jerry Fowler of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights wrote recently. "There need not be consent from another nation or any connection of territory or nationality."

At the same time, another major edifice of international criminal law is being built. This summer in Rome, delegates from all over the world voted overwhelmingly to create a permanent International Criminal Court (ICC). It will go into effect when it is ratified by 60 nations.

U.S. approval is unlikely.

Jesse Helms, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, declared the treaty would be "dead on arrival" but, with or without U. S. participation, the ICC will probably open for business in a few years. It will have the power to deal with genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes and unlike the present International Court of Justice, will be able to deal with charges against individuals.

All this provides no guarantee of universal peace and justice, of course. Some nations are still outside the framework; some are far from enthusiastic about their roles as enforcers. There are political squabbles, ancient feuds, national jealou-

sies -- and often reservations from ordinary people who aren't sure they want it. Cambodian villagers reportedly have grave doubts about an international tribunal coming in to try leaders of the Khmer Rouge. Similar concerns are being expressed by many people in Chile, who see their country becoming bitterly polarized again by the Pinochet case just when it seemed that the old wounds were beginning to heal.

Obviously, progress into a world with universal war crimes laws and human rights guarantees won't be either easy or peaceful. But it will happen.

The strongest evidence for that is the fact that it's already happening.

## **El Editor Newspapers**

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News Briefs

### Project Unearths Wealth of Hispanic Literature

By Keefe Borden

Houston, Texas, Dec 8 (EFE).- Jovita Gonzalez de Mireles was a southern Texan folklorist who recorded some of the 20th Century's oldest oral traditions before she went on to write fiction that was never published in her lifetime and teach high school in Corpus Christi.

Her work is part of a large body of Hispanic literature in the United States that has been forgotten or neglected over time, said Nicolas Kanellos, a University of Houston professor of Hispanic literature. Gonzalez was born in Roma, Texas, a small town near the Mexican border, in 1906. She graduated from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio and later earned a doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin. She received a Rockefeller grant in 1934 to record folklore in southern Texas.

"There is a very strong social conscience that comes through her prose," said Sergio Reyna, a graduate student in Hispanic literature at the University of Houston, who addressed a recent conference on the subject. Gonzalez described the life and customs of cowboys, shepherds and other working-class people in the first half of the century, he said.

Kanellos is also the director of the Recovering the Hispanic Literary Heritage project, an ongoing program housed at the University fo Houston to record and index the written legacy of Hispanics in the United Sates from colonial times to 1960.

The program has funded the publication of two of Gonzalez's works: "Caballero" and "The Dew on the Thorn." Some of her short stories may be published as well. Kanellos recalled that Hispanics settled some areas of the United States before Anglo settlers arrived on the East Coast. "The literature and heritage of Hispanics in America predates the arrival of the Pilgrims," he said. Many papers were lost in part because of cultural biases - that is, many Anglos did not consider it important to preserve that heritage. As a result, many documents were lost over time or remain forgotten in attics or storage rooms.

## **Mexico Considers Extending Presidential** Vote To Immigrants in U.S.

#### By SAM DILLON

TIJUANA, Mexico - It is the year 2000. Millions of Mexican immigrants line up outside polling places, not only in Los Angeles, Brooklyn and other major locations in the United States where Mexicans have settled but in hundreds of towns across the country, preparing to vote in Mexico's presidential elections.

Thousands of Mexican election officials have fanned out across the United States to supervise the balloting, which caps a campaign in which candidates barnstormed through Mexican population centers in dozens of American states. They lambasted U.S. policies, unpopular in Mexico, on immigration, narcotics and other matters.

Fiction? No, this is the scenario that emerges from a recent Mexican government study, which, at the request of the Mexican Congress, offers detailed logistical options and budgetary estimates for extend-

academics joined Mexican leaders on both sides of the fray during a conference at Tijuana's Colegio de la Frontera Norte, a government-financed research organization.

"The implications of all this are frightening," said Rodolfo O. de la Garza, a professor of government at the University of Texas, contending that an extended display of Mexican politicking on U.S. soil would provoke a nativist fury in the United States directed not only at migrants but also at Mexican-Americans. "When the rocks start flying, xenophobic Americans are not going to ask for an ID card," he said.

Emilio Zebadua Gonzalez, the counselor in the Federal Electoral Institute who coordinated the study, shrugged off the criticisms. "We have to decide whether Mexicans who live in the United States have the rights of other Mexican citizens," he said.

The institute's voting study was set in motion in July 1996 when Mexico's Congress deleted a clause from the constitution requiring Mexicans to vote in their home districts and mandated the electoral institute to study ways of extending the presidential vote to Mexicans abroad. A number of other countries allow their citizens living in the United States to vote in their presidential elections, but none of the operations are on the scale that would be needed for voting by Mexicans. The institute impaneled 13 demographers and other social scientists, and on Nov. 12 they published a 14-volume study, one of the most detailed ever produced about Mexicans in the United States. Nearly 10 million potential Mexican voters live north of the border, including 7.1 million Mexican-born immigrants and 2.7 million adult children of Mexican-born parents, who could also exercise the right to vote under the Mexican Constitution, the report said. In addition, about 100,000 Mexicans live in the other countries, and voting rights could be extended LULAC Defiende Permanencia

#### to this group as well.

Three out of four Mexican immigrants live in 33 counties in California, Arizona, Colorado, Texas, Illinois, Georgia and New York, the report said. The other quarter are widely dispersed throughout the rest of the country, including Alaska and Hawaii, with only 11 American states having few or no Mexican residents, according to the report.

The report lists procedures that would allow Mexicans in the United States to receive credentials complying with the exacting electoral standards that have allowed Mexico to largely eliminate ballot fraud in recent years.

Six ways were suggested for Mexicans to cast ballots in the United States. Most would involve establishing polling places in consulates, churches, Mexican-owned businesses and immigrant homes. The report also outlines the possibility of voting by mail or telephone. Depending on the registration and ballot procedure chosen, extending Mexico's vote north would cost between \$76 million and \$356 million, the report said. The latter figure is roughly equivalent to the government's entire yearly antipoverty budget. Considerable debate at Friday's conference centered on how much interest Mexicans living in the United States might have in voting in Mexican elections. Citing opinion samplings collected among migrants passing through border cities and Mexican airports, the study reported that 83 percent of Mexicans living north of the border want to help choose the Mexican president, but that many said they could spare little time to register or to cast ballots. Wayne Cornelius, a political science professor at the University of California at San Diego, said an increasing number of migrants live permanently in the United States but remain interested in Mexican politics because they finance construction of churches and other public works in their Mexican home-

towns.

"I consider these voting proposals to be of fundamental importance for the democratic transition in Mexico," Cornelius said.

Jeffrey Passel, a demographer at the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C., also praised the report but questioned why Mexico would consider allowing the 2.7 million children of Mexican parents living in the United States to vote.

"Many don't speak Spanish and have never been in Mexico," he said.

Clark Reynolds, an economics professor at Stanford University, said the proposals would anger many Americans and undercut efforts to involve Mexican immigrants more fully in U.S. polit-108

"This will cause a political explosion, trust me," Reynolds said. "I know the United States, and we've not had a very happy 10 years in U.S.-Mexico relations. If you go forward with these plans, there will be a huge conflict." Much discussion centered on the 2.7 million potential voters who live in the United States with no immigration documents. The report suggests that Mexico might seek to negotiate guarantees from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service that undocumented Mexicans would not be arrested while waiting to vote. But Roger Diaz de Cossio, a Mexican diplomat who designed an array of foreign ministry assistance programs for migrants, scoffed. "The INS has laws to obey, and they're going to obey them regardless of whether Mexicans are going to the polls," Diaz said. Ernesto Ruffo Appel, whose 1989 to 1995 tenure in Baja California made him Mexico's first non-PRI governor in the modern era, accused the authorities of whipping up opposition to the voting proposals out of fear that migrants will vote against the PRI. "I think that fear is wellfounded," Ruffo said. "So for the good of Mexico, it's important to get going on this now."

Page 3

### Benifits of Maquiladoras to México Are Questioned

San Diego, California, Dec 8 (EFE).- Mexico only provides about 2 percent of the total supplies and services needed by about 4,000 foreign investment maquiladoras (cross-border assembly plants) along the border with the United States, according to a report provided by the Development Council of Suppliers.

The Mexican organization said in its report that the ratio must change substantially beginning on 2002, when a clause of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on taxing foreign products goes into effect.

But the Mexican industry that could provide the supplies and services lacks the funds to develop according to the needs of the huge maquiladoras, which are largely owned by multinational corporations, the report said.

According to the NAFTA clause, the U.S. companies on the border will have a geographic advantage, besides the financial backup to replace production that is now being imported from other countries by the maquiladoras, mainly Asian nations.

The study also criticized the fact that, apparently, the Mexican industry that might be able to provide supplies to the border maquiladoras is more interested in the market of Mexico City, that in establishing trade relations with the foreign companies on the border.

#### Trade Confeence Focuses on Advances and Challenges of FTAA Miami, Dec 9 (EFE).- The advances and challenges facing talks

ing the vote to the estimated 10 million Mexicans living in the United States.

"It is viable," the report concludes.

Millions of potential votes are at stake, perhaps 15 percent of the Mexican electorate, and the Mexican Congress must decide in coming months whether to approve any of the options the report outlines.

In the month since the report's publication, opposition leaders have praised its proposals as a long-overdue attempt to extend suffrage to migrant workers who have been disenfranchised both in Mexico and the United States. But President Ernesto Zedillo's allies in the governing Party of the Institutional Revolution, known as the PRI, have lampooned them as too costly and complicated.

For whom would Mexicans north of the border vote? The conventional wisdom holds that they would favor the opposition because many migrants are thought to blame the PRI for the economic problems that forced them to leave.

The debate gained volume on Friday, as prominent American

### **Mexicanos No Aprovechan** Ley De Doble Ciudadania

Los Angeles (California), 9 dic eliminar el problema la canciller-(EFE).- Sólamente 7.000 pería y los consulados de México en sonas de origen mexicano en Es-Estados Unidos lanzarán a partir tados Unidos han solicitado la de enero próximo una "campaña doble ciudadanía, que desde hace intensiva de difusión" sobre los nueve meses acepta el gobierno procedimientos y beneficios de la de México, informó hoy, miérdoble nacionalidad de los mexicacoles, el consulado de ese país en nos en el extranjero. Dijo que en una encuesta que El cónsul José Angel Pescador realizó su oficina, el 54 por ciento de los mexicanos carecía de suficiente información respecto a la ley de nacionalización de Méx-La misma encuesta del consulado determinó que, no obstante, que la mayoría de los mexicanos en Estados Unidos han mostrado interés en las elecciones presidenciales de México en el año 2000. grantes mexicanos. Y si el Congreso mexicano El diplomático atribuyó este aprueba la participación de los emigrantes, estos deberán primero tramitar la doble nacionalidad como requisito para ejercer su derecho al voto en ausencia. Pescador añadió que para

for the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) were the main focus of debate Wednesday on the opening day of the 22nd Annual Conference on the Caribbean and Latin America in Miami.

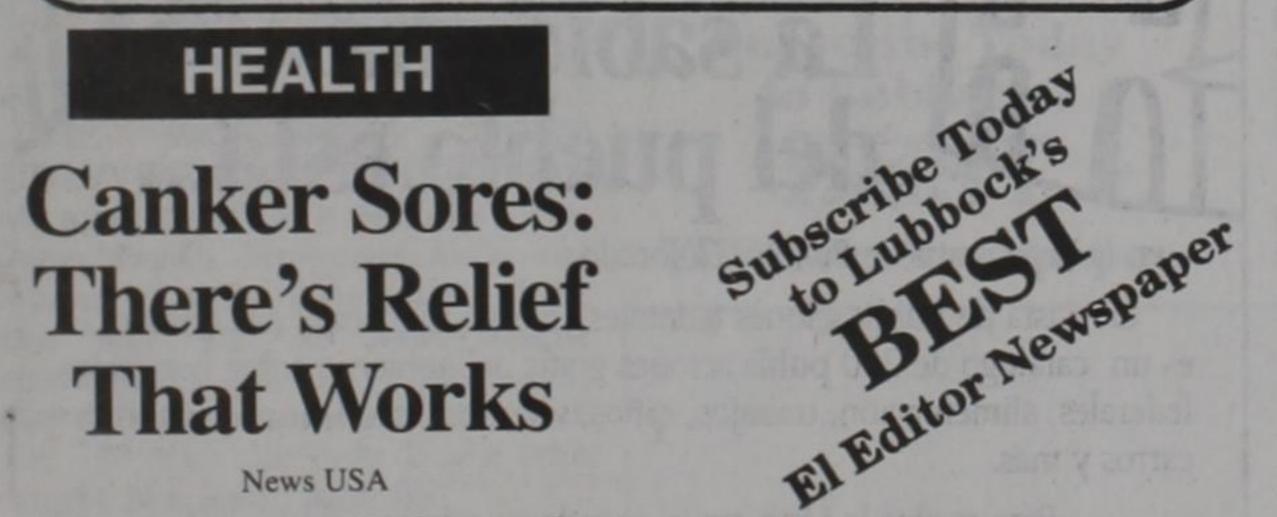
FTAA Negotiations Committee Chairman Sergio Marchi emphasized progress made in tariff areas during the meeting in Surinam last week, but warned of upcoming challenges. Organization of American States (OAS) Secretary-General Cesar Gaviria agreed that "the FTAA negotiations process is going well. This is a crucial moment for free trade."

"Business in the Hemisphere: From words to action," the title of the conference, focuses on the challenges to build the largest commercial block in the world, from Alaska to Tierra de Fuego. Fast-track authority, facilitated business proceedings, increased participation of the civil society, disparity among participants and the world financial crisis are, according to Marchi, some of the challenges.

But one of the most difficult challenges is the global financial crisis, he said, because some countries may have the urge to stem the process by imposing trade restrictions or other protective measures.

In times of crisis, countries should act with "strength and determination," like Brazil did fiimposing a recent austerity programí, Marchi said.

According to Colombian Foreign Relations Minister Marta Lucia Ramirez, countries should not be overly alarmed by the current crisis but instead should They should generate a long-term vision and work to reduce public deficits and competition against the private sector.



## Del Seguro Social

el Nuevo Siglo".

cial para subsistir.

dente de LULAC.

Según cifras de LULAC, actu-

almente el Seguro Social provee

el 85 por ciento de los ingresos

de hispanos de todas las edades.

El 23 por ciento de los enveje-

cientes dependen del seguro so-

antes si se toma en consideración

que la población de enveje-

cientes de hispanos triplicará sus

números llegado el año 2030",

manifesó Rick Dovalina, presi-

la "Alianza para el Nuevo Siglo",

porque, afirmó su Presidente, re-

conoce que el seguro social es vi-

tal para la comunidad latina y

federal incluir la participación de

los latinos en cualquier plan de

tina estará atenta y presta a ac-

tuar ante cualquier movida enca-

minada a la privatización o de

cualquier esfuerzo en minimizar

los beneficios que garantiza el

sistema de Seguro Social

Dovalina exhortó al gobierno

Aseguró que la comunidad la-

"vale la pena salvarla".

LULAC apoya los esfuerzos de

"Estas figuras son impresion-

Washington, 9 dic (EFE).- La Liga de Ciudadanos de Latinoamericanos Unidos (LULAC) abogó por que no se elimine el programa de Seguro Social, de cuyos ingresos depende un alto porcentaje de latinos en Estados Unidos.

El gobierno estadounidense ha vaticinado para el próximo milenio un colapso en el sistema del Seguro Social si no se realizan cambios urgentes.

El presidente Bill Clinton apeló recientemente al Congreso de Estados Unidos, para "dejar a un lado" diferencias partidistas y producir tan pronto como el próximo año una restructuración que evitaría la desaparición o privatización del Seguro Social.

"Debido a que la comunidad hispana es la más joven y está creciendo dramáticamente, la solvencia a largo plazo del sistema de Seguro Social es de vital importancia para nosotros", manifestó Brent Wilkes, director ejecutivo de LULAC.

Aunque Clinton ha evitado endosar planes específicos para corregir el fallo, aseguró que "está preparado para hacer lo que sea". Su meta es estabilizar el Seguro Social antes de que millones de los conocidos "baby boomers" se acojan al retiro.

pañó al reverendo Jesse Jackson y a los activistas Kweisi Mfume y John Sweeney en una demostración de apoyo del Seguro So-Los Angeles. cial, ofrecida por la "Alianza para

> informó que en el área de Los Angeles, donde se ha procesado el mayor número de solicitudes, su oficina recibió hasta esta semana 3.125 peticiones. Segun cálculos oficiales mexicanos, en Estados Unidos habría cerca de cuatro millones de personas que pueden reclamar ese derecho, además de 2,5 millones de niños nacidos en este país de inmi-

escaso entusiasmo sobre la doble ciudadanía a una falta de información entre el público que pudiera beneficiarse.



(NU) - If you suffer from canker sores, you know how frustrating it can be. Diets, special products and even your doctor's advice may not help.

Countless grateful toothpaste consumers have called Rembrandt Oral Care Products expressing thanks for Rembrandt Whitening Toothpaste With Fluoride for Canker Sore Prevention. They used words like "amazed" and "thrilled" to describe their response to the product.

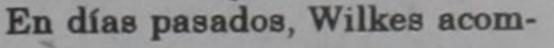
The demand has skyrocketed for this low-abrasion formula that not only fights aphthous ulcers - better known as canker sores - but combats plaque and tartar while whitening teeth with regular use.

Rembrandt Whitening Toothpaste With Fluoride for Canker Sore Prevention is the only oral care product backed by clinical testing that shows an 81 percent reduction in the occurrence of canker sores.

Rembrandt's Canker Prevention Hotline gets daily calls, along with letters and e-mail messages, from canker sore sufferers who say they have found relief in this unique formula. .

111000

"The response we received proves that it works as a strong measure for canker sore prevention," says Dr. Robert Ibsen, president of Den-Mat Corp., the manufacturer of Rembrandt Oral Care Products. For more information, call 1-800-548-3663 or visit www.rembrandt.com.



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**Exhibit Focuses on the History:** 

## Culture Of The Border

#### By PHILIP TRUE

MEXICO CITY, Nov. 27, 1998 - The war between the United States and Mexico ended more than 150 years ago, yet politicians, historians and hard-working Mexicans and Americans are still figuring out the ramifications of the accord that ended the territorial conflict.

Under the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Mexico ceded California and New Mexico to the United States and, recognizing the loss of Texas, agreed to use the Rio Grande as a boundary.

And the treaty turned a dry, hostile, abandoned country into what is now known as the Texas- Americans written about by the Mexico borderlands. It transformed the Rio Bravo (as the Rio Grande is known in Mexico) from a regional lifeline into a watery dividing line between two countries.

The region is now the focus of a museum exhibit - "Rio Bravo, Encounters and Disencounters" -- created by Jorge Bibriesca to give meaning to the history and culture along the southern portion of the international border. The exhibit opened Wednesday at the Reynosa Historical Museum and will open on Jan. 14 at the Piedras Negras Casa de Cultura. It recently closed in Nuevo Laredo and the Mexico City suburb of Coyoacan. Bibriesca, who is the curator of the Pape Museum and Library in Monclova, said that while the southern bank of the Rio Grande is home to millions of Mexicans, it is little known or understood by those who live there. "When I began collecting material along the border, I found out just how intellectually abandoned the border has been," Bibriesca said by telephone from Monclova. "I found that people along the border knew nothing about the history of the place where they lived," he said. "When ] asked people in Matamoros what they knew of the mighty river on whose banks their homes are built, they couldn't tell me anything." The idea for the exhibit grew out of a congress of Mexican historians who met here last year to plan for the 150th anniversary of the treaty signed on Feb. 2, 1848.

So much good stuff, in fact, that the exhibit is actually two exhibits.

"The exhibit will take on a different focus in each of the cities in which it appears," Bibriesca said. "It is a living, changing portrait of border life."

For example, while the Nuevo Laredo exhibit took as its U.S.-Mexico theme customs traffic, in the Mexican interior Bibriesca found a lot of curiosity about the "cholos" from Ciudad Juarez.

Cholos are the modern descendants of pachucos, Mexican-Mexican writer Octavio Paz, Bibriesca said.

While originally a U.S. cultural phenomenon, cholo style has migrated south, returning to its Mexican cultural roots.

Fedora hats, big shirts and baggy pants have found a home in Mexican cities from Ciudad Juarez to the Mexico City suburb of Ciudad Nezahualcoyotl. The pachucos (and their latter-day counterparts) that Paz wrote about in the late 1940s were angry, culturally lost between a motherland only vaguely remembered and a homeland that relegated them to the bottom of the barrel, rejecting their ancestral language, their dark skins and their mythology while exploiting their labor. In the United States, that anger often finds expression in gangs and street violence, inwardly directed within their own community. But in Mexico, the cholo edge softens, becoming a symbol of rebellion more against increasing materialism and individualism. "I think that it is very important to include the cholos, because it brings something that is otherwise very 'historical' up to date," said Fabiola Alejandra Solas, 21, a student at the Autonomous University of Mexico in Mexico City. Many in Mexico think of cholos with positive imagery, said Liliana Cabrera Aguilar, 21, a fellow student.

legends.

Border food started out traditionally Mexican, but the border region was the first in Mexico to embrace hamburgers and hot dogs in the 1950s.

In the 1970s, McDonald's and Kentucky Fried Chicken crossed the Rio Grande, bringing fast food to northern Mexico to stay.

But then the Mexico City earthquake of 1985 drove many displaced residents northward. and the flavors of southern Mexico reasserted themselves along the border.

The exhibit is like the border itself, constantly changing, awash in influences from north and south.

With a wry laugh, many have union of the two called the countries along the Rio Bravo/Rio Grande a shotgun marriage with no possibility of divorce.

Jorge Bustamante, director of the Tijuana-based Colegio de la

### 'Las Christmas' **Will Ignite Your Holiday Spirit**

#### By Lavonne Luquis © 1998 LatinoLink

If you'd like to jump-start your holiday season with true cheer, consider spending a couple of hours curled up with "Las Christmas:

Latino Authors Favorite Share Their Holiday Memories," a delightful anthology edited by Esmeralda Santiago and Joie Davidow. The book is lovingly filled with the recollections of writers such as Julia Alvarez, Aurora Levins Morales, Junot Diaz, Gustavo Pérez Firmat, Judith Ortiz Cofer and Gary Soto. (\$15.40, hardcover; a Spanishlanguage paperback is available for \$9.60. Both prices from Amazon.Com.)

Their memories span Christmases spent in Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Colombia, Cuba, Argentina, Nicaragua, New Mexico and California -- among other places.

Here's an excerpt from Mayra Santos Febles' "Little Bit of Bliss": "In Puerto Rico, the Christmas holidays are a long and intense season of greetings and celebrations. They start the night of Thanksgiving and end January 18, after the San Sebastian festival in Old San Juan. Since Puerto Rico has always been a colony, first of Spain and then of the United States, we take the hand-me-down traditions we inherited from both 'mother countries' and turn them inside out, transform them into customs that barely resemble what they originally were ... "

ed contributions from other writers over the following year.

"As the stories arrived," Davidow adds, "we felt as though each writer had sent us a Christmas gift. As we read each one, it was like unwrapping an unexpected present, and we marveled that we were given the privilege of sharing something so intensely personal. The stories were like secrets told to a close friend. 'This is what it was like when I was little. This is what my family was like. This is how it seemed to me as a child."

The memories shared in "Las Christmas" are an excellent antidote to the commercialism that always threatens to permeate the holiday season.

In what I considered a stroke of genius, almost every entry is followed by a recipe -- which will likely make you want to head for the kitchen.

A Saturday morning with "Las Christmas" was enough to inspire a dinner of savory asopao de pollo, a dish I hadn't made in ages. And I'm planning to make a Coconut Flan (see. the recipe below) for a potluck holiday dinner next week:

"They contracted me to put together an exhibit that would celebrate Mexico's northern border," Bibriesca said. He set out looking for material, combing museums, city archives and dusty warehouses on both sides of the border. "It amazed me that I often found more material about Mexican life on the Texas side of the border than our own," he said. "The recently established 'Los Caminos del Rio' historical program between Texas and Tamaulipas was a wealth of information, and I got a lot of good stuff from museums in San Antonio."

"There are cholo types here in Ciudad Nezahualcoyotl that are very committed to building the community," Cabrera said.

The Coyoacan exhibit was a three-room montage of artifacts, photographs, life-sized reinforced cardboard cutout characters and short historical monographs. Food and music occupied the center of the exhibit. "Northern music expresses the character of the northern spirit: strong, brusque and explosive," a description reads. Since the 19th century, accordions, tarolas, bejo sextos and 12-stringed guitars have banged out and crooned European-flavored polkas and trademark ranchera music along the river. With the arrival of the 20th century, haunting corridos brought narrative life to border

## Frontera Norte, observes that in Un Censo Al Rojo Vivo

2656.

Nunca una cuestión técnica ha merecido tan intensa politización.

Nos referimos al debate sobre la modalidad que deberá tener el próximo censo poblacional de los EE.UU.

La discusión con respecto al método más eficaz para contar a los habitantes de una nación suele ser cuestión de especialistas en estadística y sociología.

mento en que los resultados del ticos. censo influyen en el mapa electoral, el debate sale del campo técnico, para entrar en el resbaloso terreno de las conveniencias políticas.

Los demócratas, y en primer lugar el presidente Clinton, la política bien entendida. sostienen que solamente el adecuada precisión a las minor- por delante cuestiones formales, ías nacionales, particularmente técnicas o constitucionales, a los hispanos. Un concepto que comparte la mayor parte de los líderes comunitarios.

parte, insisten en que la Constitución exige el conteo "uno por uno", un método que ha de- conteo. mostrado ser bastante cuestionable, por obsoleto, cuando se trata de medir a cientos de millones de personas, muchas de las cuales no están en las condiciones ideales para ser contabilizadas. El margen de error para este procedimiento, entre los que no como los republicanos siguen se encuentren en sus casas, los pensando con cabeza tradicional domicilios de difícil acceso, y aún los que por falta de información o interés o temor, no faciliten sus datos a los encuestadores, o les digan mentiras, es enorme. Tanto que deja serias dudas sobre su legitimidad. Tan al rojo se ha puesto el tema, que algunos de los jueces llamados a entender en este

asunto no las tienen todas consigo.

most respects people have more

in common with residents of

Buenos Aires, Argentina, than

But at the same time, he not-

San Diego, only 15 miles away.

ed, there are nearly a million

border crossings between the

United States and Mexico daily,

and the North American Free

Trade Agreement rapidly is knit-

ting the countries' economies

is about a culture that is neither

here nor there," Cabrera said.

Disencounters," or "Rio Bravo,

Encuentros y Desencuentros," is

now open at the Reynosa His-

torical Museum in Reynosa,

Mexico, across the border from

McAllen, Texas; telephone: 011-

528-922-0138. It will open Jan.

14 at the Piedras Negras Casa de

Cultura, across the border from

Eagle Pass, Texas, 011-528-782-

"It is two places at once."

"What the exhibit teaches me

"Rio Bravo, Encounters and

ever closer together.

Como en otros casos, la Corte Suprema debe sacar las castañas del fuego por los políticos, pero su decisión no va a conformar a todos. Y luego vendrán los cuestionamientos... políticos. De ahí la incomodidad de los jueces.

En la gestión de una sociedad moderna hay un amplio espectro de temas que tienen al-Sin embargo, desde el mo- cances técnicos, jurídicos y polí-

> No hay nada extraño en ello, ni espurio, a condición de que se reconozcan esas implicancias.

Uno de los peores errores que se puede cometer en una democracia es el miedo a la política, a

Otro error, o vicio, muy fremuestreo científico, de tipo es- cuente, es eludir el costo polítitadístico, permitirá medir con co de una situación, poniendo como en este caso.

Evidentemente, lo que es vital para el futuro de esta nación Los republicanos, por su en general, y de nuestra comunidad, es determinar cuál es el método más eficaz para hacer el

#### And here's another from Denise Chávez' "Big Calzones":

"It was a tradition in our family that each year one of us was presented with an unusual gift: an enormous pair of the biggest, whitest, stretchiest polyester panties you have ever seen, size queen-ultra-mega-4X, clown-

ish, enormous drawers. Just to look at them made you laugh out loud... Each year [Mother] wrapped this huge pair of calzones in the loveliest paper, tied with an elaborate bow, and gave them to some unsuspecting but delighted soul in our immediate family..."

The book blossomed from a magazine project -- Davidow was editor of the now defunct Sí magazine. "We realized," she writes in the introduction, "that the scope of emotions engendered by remembering Christmas past was far more than we could begin to explore in a magazine feature. Esmeralda Santiago and I had become friends through the evolution of Sí magazine, and her story led the section that appeared in that [final] holiday issue."

Coconut Flan

Recipe by Ada T. Rosaly of Ponce, Puerto Rico

#### 1 cup granulated sugar 6 eggs

1 can (12 ounces) evaporated milk

can (14 ounces) coconut milk

1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk

l tablespoon vanilla extract or 1 shot of rum or brandy

To caramelize the pan

Pour the sugar into a square or round flan mold or cake pan about 9 inches in diameter to 3 to 4 inches deep, and cook over low heat, agitating constantly to prevent scorching. When the sugar begins to bubble, remove the pan from the heat and turn it so the caramel glaze covers the bottom of the mold evenly. Set aside to cool.

#### To prepare the custard

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly beat the eggs, then continue to beat the mixture as the remaining ingredients are added. Beat until well blended. Pour the mixture through a strainer into the prepared mold.

Place the mold into a larger pan filled with 1/2 to 1 inch of hot water, so that the water comes about half way up the side of the mold. Bake 45 to 50 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Remove from the oven and allow the mold to cool on a rack. To unmold, dip the mold in warm water before inverting it onto a serving platter.

Y eso parece que está claro. Lo demás son demoras, excusas, para evitar que el voto de las minorías tenga la representatividad que merece, por un lado.

Por otro lado, parece probar que pese a los ejemplos de Texas y Florida, tanto los demócratas en el comportamiento electoral de las minorías.

Los del burro todavía sienten que un voto inmigrante más fuerte los va a favorecer.

Los del elefante creen todo lo contrario. Así que amontonan en el camino todas las piedras que pueden.

Evidentemente, no todos se llaman Bush.

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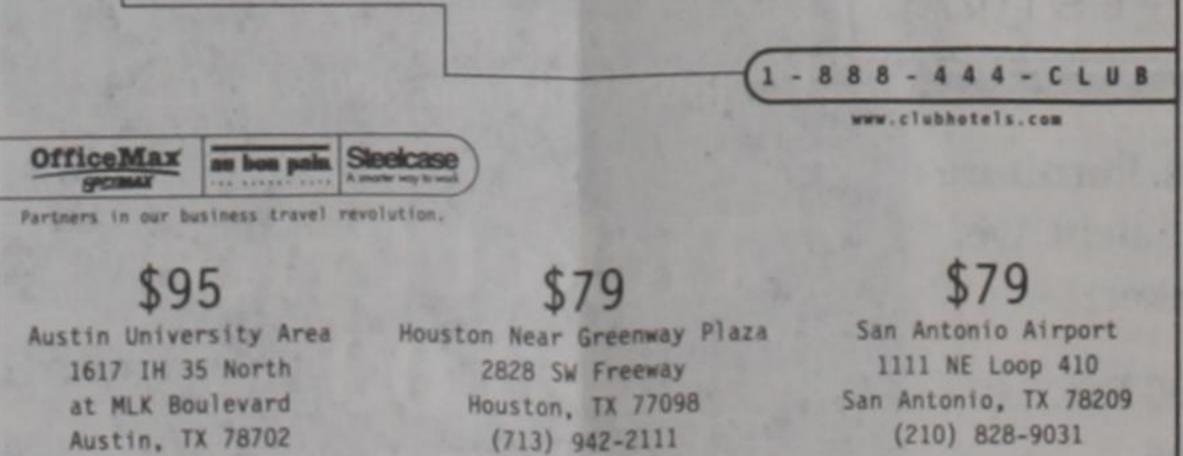
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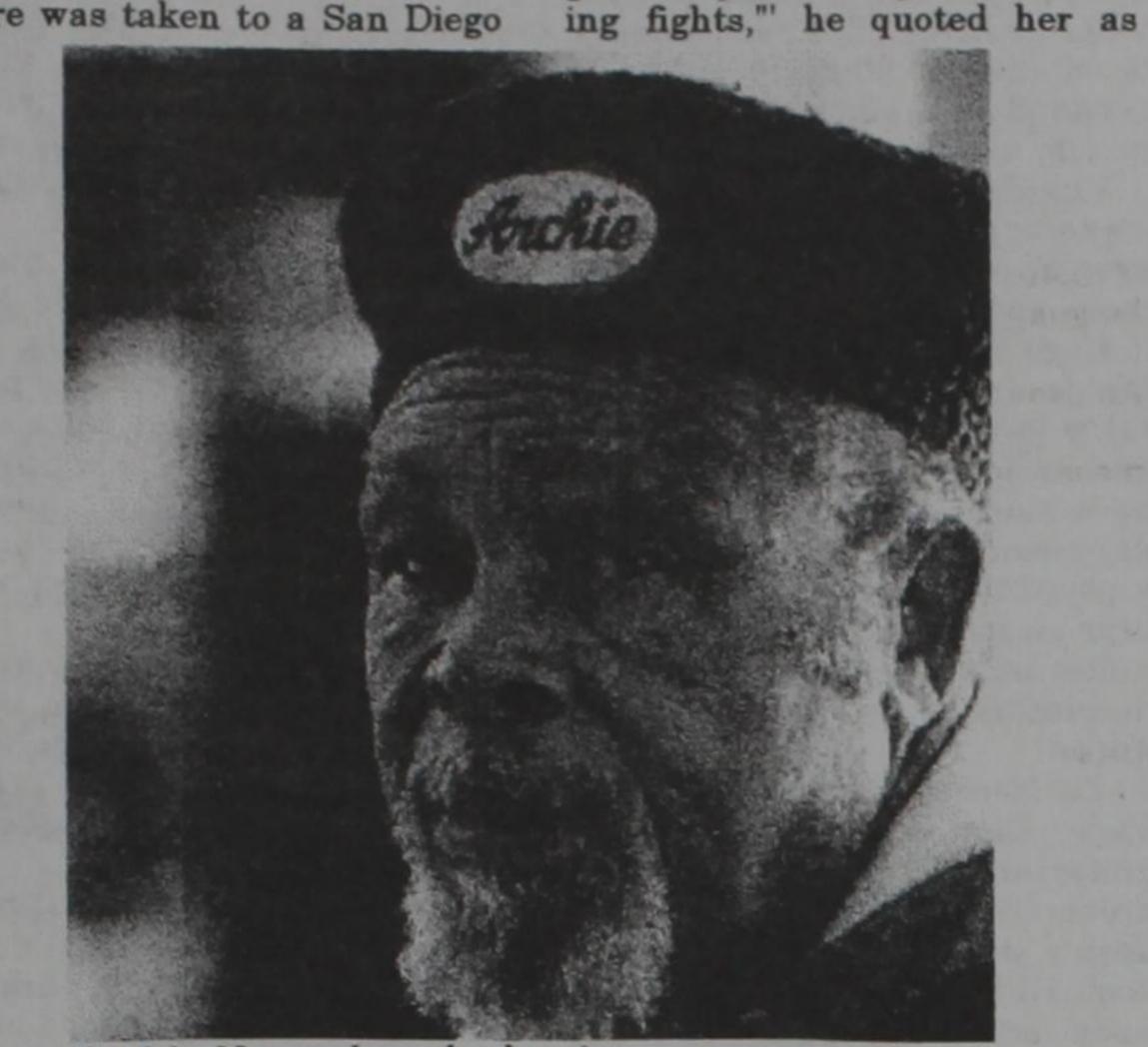
#### Page 5

El Editor, Lubbock, Tx, December 10, 1998

Archie Moore Dead At 84

SAN DIEGO -- Archie Moore, the light heavyweight champion who set the record for knockouts during his 27-year career and the only boxer to fight Marciano and Ali, died Wednesday at 84.

Moore had heart surgery a few years ago and his health had deteriorated in the past two weeks, his son, Billy, said. Moore was taken to a San Diego



## **Tyson-Botha Set For MGM Grand**

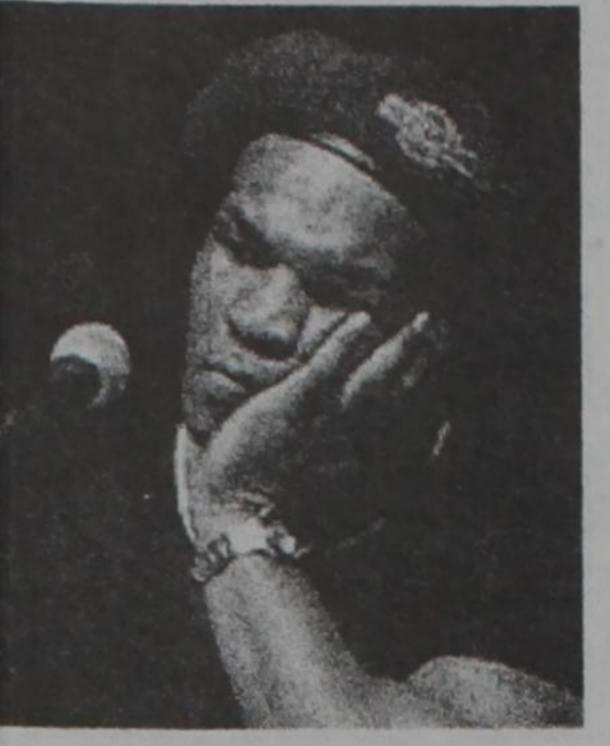
LOS ANGELES -- If Mike Tyson is concerned about a possible return to prison, he wasn't saying Tuesday.

Looking fit in a black muscle T-shirt and wearing a crimson beret, Tyson appeared for a news conference called to announce what promoter Dan Goossen called the worst-kept secret in boxing -- that Tyson will face Francois Botha on Jan. 16.

The 12-round bout at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, to be carried on Showtime Event Television Pay Per View, will be Tyson's first since June 28, 1997 when he bit Evander Holyfield's ears in their heavyweight championship bout and was disqualified in the third round.

Shortly thereafter, the Nevada Athletic Commission stripped Tyson of his boxing license and fined him \$3 million. The commission reinstated Tyson's license in October.

BEFORE TYSON EVEN SPOKE at the packed Hollywood Athletic Club news conference, adviser Shelly Finkel informed attending reporters and fans that questions wouldn't be answered regarding "any pending litigation." The first questioner asked Tyson how he felt about a possible return to prison, and was shouted down by others on the dais.



Mike Tyson isn't concerned about a possible return to prison. (AP)

glib than usual, Tyson then responded to questions --sometimes with flippant, sarcastic answers, other times with more thoughtful responses.

"I'm not much for talking," he said in a one-minute presentation before questions began. "You guys know what I do. I know no one believes that he (Botha) is going to beat me."

because I've been voted the nicest guy in the world. I'm just here to give good fights, be a good boy."

And about the 30-year-old Botha, Tyson said, "Let's be nice to this guy, let's all be nice."

Tyson has a 45-3 record with 39 knockouts, while Botha is 39-1 with 24 knockouts.

Botha's only loss came on anyone." Nov. 9, 1996 when he was stopped by Michael Moorer in the ninth round for the IBF heavyweight title. Botha has fought just twice this year, stopping two unheralded opponents entire life. in the first round.

polis, the judge who could re- "I come to fight, I don't come to turn Tyson to prison said she lay down, and that's what I inwill await his February sentenc- tend to do." ing on Maryland assault charges before making a decision.

Judge Patricia Gifford followed a recommendation from probation officer George Walker, who said in a probation report it "may be desirable to await the outcome" of misdemeanor assault charges against Tyson in Mary-

of his 1995 parole. Two motorists said he kicked and punched them after an automobile accident in Maryland in August.

"Everyone knows I'm on parole, I'm trying to be nice up here," Tyson said during the news conference. "I'm just here to fight, one fight at a time. I don't want no trouble from

Botha, pretty much shoved to the background, said he felt honored to have the opportunity to face Tyson, an opportunity he said he has been awaiting his

"He's in for a rude awakening, Earlier in the day in Indiana- that's all I can say," Botha said.

> FOLLOWING THE NEWS CONFERENCE, Goossen, president of America Presents, said it wasn't his job to concern himself with Tyson's possible legal problems.

"His lawyers are handling that," said Goosen, promoting a Tyson fight for the first time. "I'm a boxing promoter. My energies have to go strictly toward the promotion. "I'm working toward Jan. 16, that's it. I don't think about it one way or another. My answer is simply, we have to prepare for Jan. 16. Goossen also said, "Mike Tyrape in Indiana, and Gifford will son's the biggest act in show business."

Archie Moore knocked out more opponents than any other in boxing history. (AP)

hospice last week and several of his eight children had kept vigil at his bedside.

"My dad lived a good life and we're not sad," Billy Moore said. "We know he's gone home to be with the Lord and we rejoice in that."

Moore retired at 49 in 1963 after a career considered one of the most amazing examples of longevity in sports.

He held the light heavyweight title for 11 years, knocking out 141 opponents in 228 bouts, according to the Boxing Record Book. Other sources list his knockout total at 145, while others say it was 129. He ended his career with 194 victories, 26 losses and eight draws.

"IN MY VIEW, HE WAS GREATEST LIGHT THE HEAVYWEIGHT in the history of boxing and one of the greatest boxers in any division," said former light heavyweight champ Jose Torres, who never fought Moore.

"What he accomplished after he was 30 years of age was unbelievable. He became greater and greater the older he got." Moore, whose trademark was a ready smile and knee-length boxing trunks, traveled the world as an ambassador for the sport and spent much of his retirement telling young boys to stay away from drugs. President Eisenhower once sought his expertise on the issue. Moore, who lived in California most of his life and had a swimming pool shaped like a boxing glove, set up a mentoring program in San Diego to help disadvantaged kids. "Archie was a great champion, not just in the ring," said Gov. Pete Wilson, who knew Moore for many years. "He was the ultimate role model -- a great fighter, great teacher and a great friend." Moore was born Archibald Lee Wright in Benoit, Miss., on Dec. 13, 1913. He won his first professional fight 23 years later, with a decision over Murray Allen in Quincy, Ill. LIGHT THE WON HE HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE IN 1952 at age 39 with a victory over Joey Maxim. He successfully defended it nine times, but along the way lost to heavyweight champions Rocky Marciano, Floyd Patterson and Muhammad Ali. He was the only boxer who fought Marciano and Ali. "Archie, to me, was the forerunner of fighters who were appreciated outside the ring as well as in the ring," said Angelo Dundee, the longtime trainer who worked with many champions, including Ali. "He was slick, he was smart, he was his own PR man. The media loved him because he gave them something, plus he could fight like hell. "He fought everybody. He did a lot for boxing." Moore trained some fighters after he retired from the ring, including George Foreman for the famous "Rumble in the Jungle" against Ali in Zaire in 1974. Moore had some of his greatest battles in the ring with Harold Johnson, who held a portion of the crown. They fought five times from 1949 to 1954 with Moore the winner all but once. They met only once with the title at stake. Moore won that bout in New York on Aug. 11, 1954, retaining his crown with a 14th-round knockout. He also defended the title against Bobo Olson, Yolande Pompey, Tony Anthony, Guilio Rinaldi and twice against Maxim and Yvon Durelle. IN 1961, THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION BOXING STRIPPED HIM of his title be-

saying. Moore fought Marciano on Sept. 21, 1955, losing on a ninth-round knockout. Nevertheless, it did nothing to diminish his image as one of the most courageous boxers ever.

cause of politics. Fighting in an

era where fixed bouts were not

uncommon, Moore said he never

took a dive. In a 1989 interview

with Sports Illustrated, Moore

recalled valuable advice he re-

your trainer and bring no dis-

grace to your family, like throw-

"Archie, take your rest, mind

ceived from an aunt.

undefeated Fighting an heavyweight king 10 years his junior, Moore - also known as the Mongoose -- floored Marciano in the second round. Marciano eventually wore Moore down, to the point where the referee wanted to stop the fight after eight rounds.

"Oh, no," an exhausted Moore protested. "I want to be counted out. I'm a champion, too."

BUT MOORE'S BLOODIEST FIGHT WAS NOT HIS LOSS to Marciano, or his wars with Johnson and Maxim. It came in 1958, in the first of his title defenses against the Canadian Durelle.

Moore, who was to win on an knockout, was 11th-round floored four times.

"The first time he put me down ... I thought Wow, this

Appearing more relaxed and

Asked what round he'd stop Botha, he replied, "Come to the fight, brother."

ANOTHER QUESTIONER ASKED about a possible future opponent, to which Tyson replied, "If the price is right, I'll fight a lion."

He also said, "I'm not here

land.

TYSON PLEADED NO CON-TEST there last week. The Montgomery County District Court in Maryland has set Feb. 5 for sentencing, said James Voyles, Tyson's Indianapolis lawyer.

Tyson served three years for decide whether he violated terms

## Dallas Cowgirls Are Back!

Rudely reminded that they're nowhere near as talented as the teams that won three Super Bowls earlier this decade, the Dallas Cowboys looked like a team Sunday that had spent the previous night on Bourbon Street.

There were no cute answers to explain away a lackluster loss in which they were dominated by the Saints, 22-3, in the Superdome. Sure, the Cowboys played without their starting cornerbacks. But defense wasn't the problem.

Reminded repeatedly that they haven't beaten a team with a winning record, the Cowboys have maintained that they can be a legitimate playoff contender because they were averaging 30.2 points per game since Troy Aikman returned to the starting lineup. Once Deion Sanders returns from a sprained toe injury, the defense will be much improved. That line of thinking was swept away like Mardi Gras confetti Sunday. For the first time this season, the Cowboys' confidence took a major hit. Now what do they do to convince themselves they're a legitimate playoff threat? "If we're a good team, we'll respond," said coach Chan Gailey. "But if you use the word confidence, then you say, You can't get it back.' Do I think our pride and our ego were bruised and hurt? Yeah. Now, was it damaged? I don't know. I don't think so." The offensive collapse came out of left field. Dallas was coming off 513- and 465-yard outings and had scored 30 or more points in four of its previous five games. Against the Saints, the Cowboys managed only 182 yards and 10 first downs. Even those figures were padded since half of those totals came in the fourth quarter.



"It's time to go back to work and try to make things happen," said guard Nate Newton. "Nothing is a gimme. We probably came in not thinking the way we should be thinking. We should be saying, 'We're just a decent team trying to get better.' We realize that now."

Newton wasn't the only player who suggested the Cowboys may have taken the Saints lightly. Wide receiver Michael Irvin was the most adamant in the locker room.

"I don't ever want to put this out of my mind," Irvin said. "It's a horrible feeling. Why would you want to put that out of your mind? Why would you want to put that out of your body? You want to feel that. You want to know what it feels like, so you say to yourself, 'I've got to do what I've got to do to make sure this doesn't happen again.' And that 24-hour rule, I don't buy into that (crap), either.

upcoming game. But this loss will fester.

Even though they didn't resemble a team worthy of playing in January, the Cowboys will be in the playoffs. Dallas (8-5) needs only one win to clinch the NFC East. But playoff positioning is the least of the Cowboys' concerns after Sunday's debacle in the Superdome.

"We're still a good ballclub, one that can rebound," said running back Emmitt Smith. "But this is a tough one, it really is."

It's a tough one because they were embarrassed by a team that had won only two of its previous nine games. The Cowboys haven't beaten a team that has a winning record and are 2-5 outside the NFC East. They have proved that last year's 6-10 record was an aberration. But all they've really proved, thus far, is that they're the best team in a bad division.

guy can hit,"' Moore recalled. "They said Marciano was a house wrecker, and he was, but it took him a volley to get the job done. This guy -- one punch."

Moore was elected to the Boxing Hall of Fame in 1966, three years after his final bout, a three-round knockout of Mike DiBiase.

The champion had a soft spot for youth, having spent 22 months in a reformatory. Eisenhower invited Moore to the White House to join a group fighting juvenile delinquency.

Eisenhower aides quoted the president as saying Moore should be a congressman. "Are you a Republican or a Democrat?" he said.

"Neither," Moore said with a laugh. ``I'm a diplomat." Miore's survivors include his

wife, Joan, and his eight children.

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**El Editor Newspaper** 

pened in weeks prior," Aikman Cowboys are still a team to be said. "As soon as you get com- reckoned with in the playoffs.

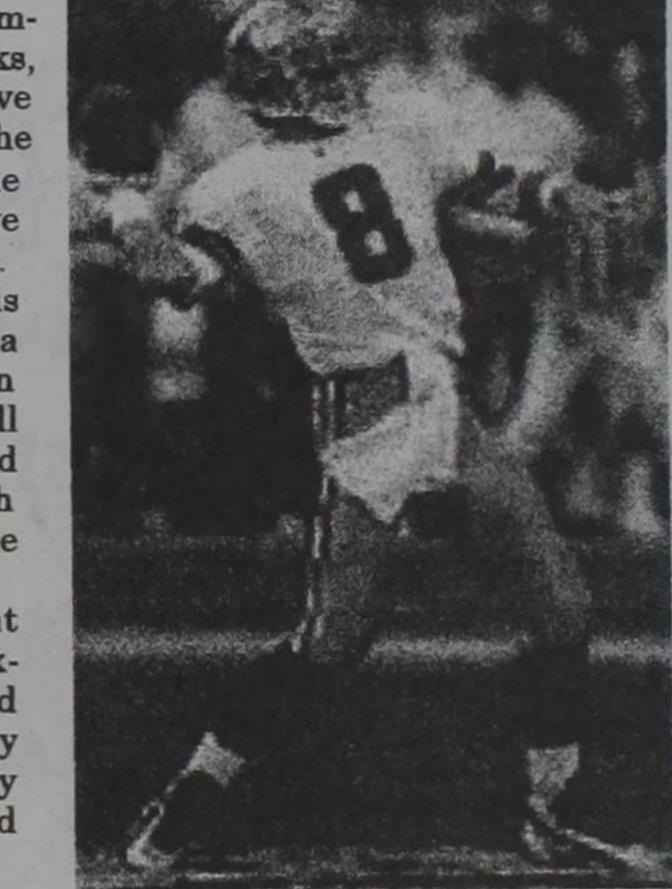
placent, as soon as you start resting on your laurels, you're going to get beat and that's what happened to us."

The Cowboys entered the game with the NFL's thirdranked rushing offense. Combined with a league-low 11 sacks, there was talk that the offensive line was once again among the league's elite units. Then came Sunday's debacle. The offensive line was pushed around all day.

Even Gailey admitted at his Monday press conference that a lack of emotion was evident on tape, a tape he believes will convince players that there had better not be any more sluggish efforts the remainder of the season.

"I saw a football team that went out there and was not expecting an all-out war and that's what we got," Gailey said. "That's my responsibility to make sure they're prepared for war every week."

They weren't prepared for war on Sunday. But if they play with emotion the remainder of "You can't rest on what hap- the season, Gailey believes the Irvin was referring to the



policy most NFL teams have in which players and coaches believe it's beneficial to look ahead and not let Sunday's results -- good or bad -- affect the

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## Must All Christmases Be White?

#### By Patricia Duarte

A few years ago, in a Key West shop for tourists, I bought the most extraordinary Christmas card: a line-drawing of three crooked palm trees connected by one ragged strand of festive light bulbs. It was a defiant, jaunty message about Christmas in warm weather (look ma, no snow!).

I kept that card because in its own, tropical manner, it manages to capture the joy of the season. Key West is only 90 miles away from my native Cuba, and the card somehow reminded me of long-ago Nochebuenas in Havana, when swarms of friends and relatives gathered to celebrate in my house and we children were allowed to stay up until all hours.

Nochebuena in old Havana. Guitar sing-alongs. Spanish nougat. The aroma of roast suckling and moros. El Son de la Loma blaring from the record player while grownups taught kids to dance. Doors flung wide open and neighbors rushing in and out with gift bottles of rum - and suddenly, at the stroke of midnight, assuming pious stances to attend Mass. Back then, Christmas felt real despite the lack of snow. But it

seems that when you come to in Miami, on one of those rare this country, you learn that Christmas must be "white" to be authentic. Even those of us who live in warm places -- Texas, Florida, California, Arizona -assimilate this message early on.

Throughout the United States, children grow up seeing cotton snow on storefront displays, spray-can snow on neighborhood windows, glitter snow on cards. In Miami, where I grew up, children are sometimes even treated to mounds of manmade snow, fabricated in freezers and dumped by the truckload on the scorched grass surfaces of sub-tropical playgrounds.

Many who have never laid eyes on the real thing feel kind of cheated during the holidays, as though something really wonderful were missing from the picture.

Those of us who live in cold climates and have already been through a few blizzards should But better. know alas, sometimes we don't. As I write this in New York, where I'm living now, people actually lament that they haven't seen any signs of snow yet. Strangely, the first time I witnessed anything like snow was

mornings when temperatures dipped and a thin coat of frost covered the lawns for about five minutes before melting under the Florida sun. I was totally thrilled by the sight.

Years later, having endured several tough winters in New York, I'm still fascinated by the stuff. I love to see it fall. I like to go walking in it.

I seldom remember that soon enough, it will harden into slippery ice on urban sidewalks, or that city fumes and traffic will quickly turn it into an ugly gray mush

if only for a few minutes, I can enjoy living inside a lively Yankee postcard. Shame on me.

Admittedly, it's hard for most Latinos not to be seduced by somebody else's idea of Christmas, the Norman Rockwell/ Robert Frost perspective that suggests the season is only for people who wear Scotch plaid and live in cold weather, inside log cabins within pine forests blanketed in white. It's hard not to long for fireplaces, lap robes and rides on horse-drawn sleighs around this time of the year.

how beautiful our own Christmas traditions are: the posada processions in Mexico which commemorate the night Mary and Joseph sought shelter in Nazareth, the asaltos in Puerto Rico when groups of neighbors go serenading and visiting from house to house, the celebration of the coming of the Tree Kings throughout Latin America, the widespread custom of attending La Misa Del Gallo (midnight Mass), which brings home the religious significance of the occasion as a spiritual anchor to all of the festivities.

We sometimes forget that we None of that matters, because do know how to make Christmas our own. That for us, it's OK to celebrate without snow, or fireplaces, or even Santa Claus. That it's OK to turn our backs on all the Norman Rockwell hype.

> I, for one, remember how it was done, so many years ago, in old Havana. And if I ever start to forget it, I think I'll just frame and hang that brave little postcard I bought a few years ago in Key West. (Patricia Duarte is a New Yorkbased media consultant and the founding editor of Latina Magazine.)

## ¿Deben Ser Blancas **Todas Nuestras** Navidades?

Por Patricia Duarte

Hace pocos años, en una tienda de Cayo Hueso para turistas, compré la tarjeta de Navidad más extraordinaria: Un dibujo lineal de tres palmas torcidas conectadas por una tira gastada de bombillos festivos. Era un mensaje desafiante y elegante sobre la Navidad en el clima cálido (imira, mamá, no hay nieve!).

Guardé esa tarjeta porque a su manera propia y tropical, se las arregló para captar el gozo de la temporada.

Cayo Hueso está a sólo 90 millas de distancia de mi Cuba natal, y la tarjeta me recordó de algún modo de las Nochebuenas de hace mucho tiempo en La Habana, cuando enjambres de amigos y parientes se reunían para celebrar en mi casa, y a nosotros, los niños, se nos permitía continuar despiertos hasta las tantas de la noche. La Nochebuena en la Habana Vieja. Cantos acompañados por guitarras, turrones españoles. El aroma de los lechoncitos asándose y de los "moros con cristianos". El Son de la Loma (una tonada oriental popularizada por sus autores, el Trío Matamoros) sonando en el tocadiscos, mientras los adultos enseñaban a los niños a bailar. Las puertas abiertas de par en par y los vecinos entrando y saliendo con regalos de botellas de ron - y de pronto, al toque de la medianoche,

adoptando posturas piadosas

para asistir a la "Misa del

tía real a pesar de la falta de

uno viene a este país, se

aprende que la Navidad debe ser

"blanca" para que sea auténtica.

Aún aquéllos de nosotros que

vivimos en lugares cálidos --

Texas, la Florida, California o

Arizona -- asimilamos este men-

los niños crecen viendo nieve de

algodón en las vitrinas de las

tiendas, nieve rociada de lata

en las ventanas de las vecin-

dades, nieve brillante en las

tarjetas de felicitación. En Mia-

mi, donde me crié, a veces hasta

se regala a los niños con mon-

tones de nieve artificial, fabri-

cada en congeladores y vertida

por camionadas sobre las super-

Por todos los Estados Unidos,

saje muy temprano.

Entonces, la Navidad se sen-

Gallo".

Extrañamente, la primera vez que presencié algo parecido a la nieve fué en Miami, en una de esas raras mañanas en que la temperatura bajó y una capa delgada de escarcha cubrió los jardines durante cinco minutos antes de derretirse bajo el sol de la Florida. Me sentí totalmente sorprendida por aquéllo.

Page 6

Años después, aún habiendo soportado varios inviernos duros en Nueva York, todavía me siento fascinada por la nieve. Me encanta verla caer. Me gusta salir a caminar sobre ella.

Pocas veces recuerdo que poco después se endurecerá para convertirse en hielo resbaladizo en las aceras de la ciudad, o que la ciudad humea y el tránsito la convertirá rápidamente en una papilla gris fea.

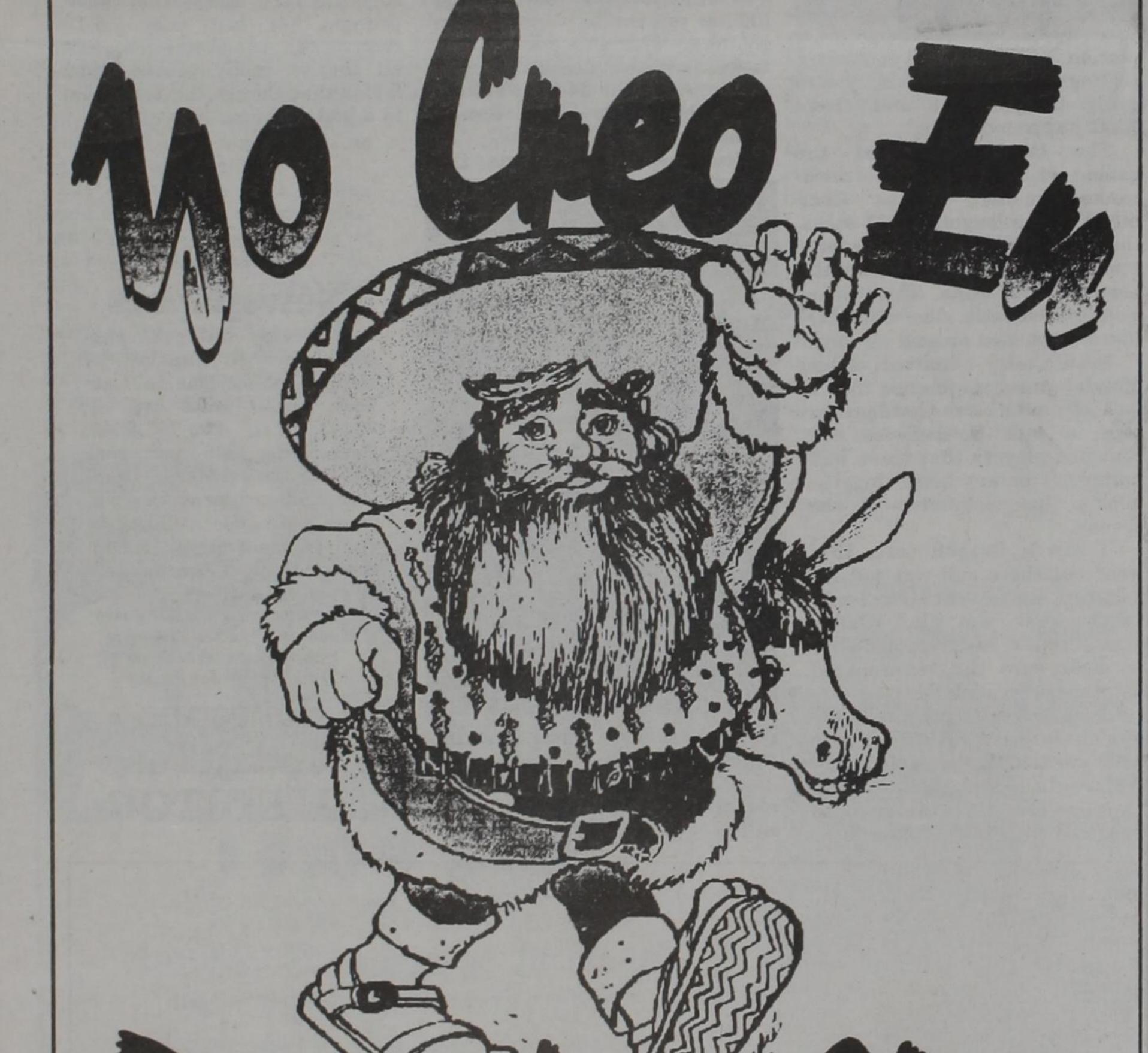
Nada de eso importa, porque aún cuando fuera sólo por unos minutos, puedo disfrutar de vivir. dentro de una tarjeta postal yanqui animada. ¡Verguenza para mí! Se reconoce que es difícil para la mayoría de los latinos el dejar de ser seducidos por la idea de otra persona sobre la Navidad, la perspectiva de Norman Rockwell y Robert Frost que sugiere que la estación es solamente para personas que llevan trajes escoceses y viven en el clima frío, dentro de cabañas hechas con troncos situadas en bosques de pinos cubiertos de nieve blanca. Es difícil no extrañar las chimeneas, las mantas de regazo y los paseos en trineos tirados por caballos, por esta época del año. Nosotros los latinos olvidamos algunas veces cuán bellas son nieve. Pero parece que, cuando nuestras tradiciones de Navidad: Las procesiones de las posadas en México y la América Central, que conmemoran la noche en que la Virgen María y San José procuraban albergue en Nazaret, los asaltos en Puerto Rico, en que grupos de vecinos van de casa en casa dando serenatas y visitando, la festividad de la llegada de los Tres Reyes por toda la América Latina, la costumbre muy extendida de asistir a La Misa del Gallo (a la medianoche), que recalca la importancia religiosa de la ocasión como un ancla espiritual para todas las festividades.

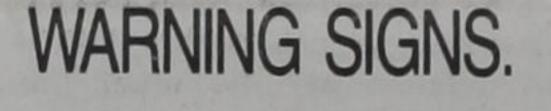
We Latinos sometimes forget

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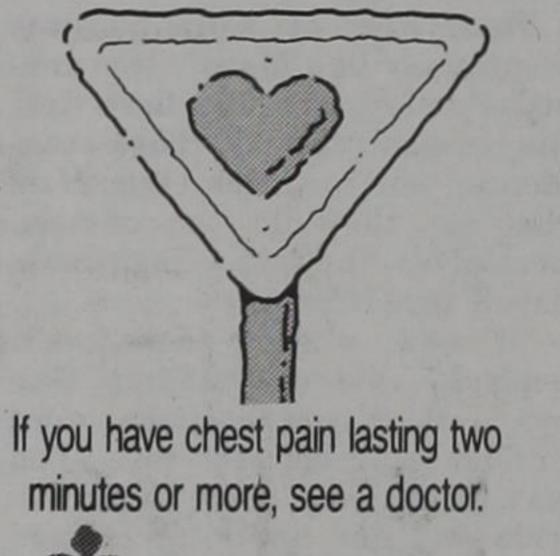
Holiday Casino Night Saturday Dec. 12, 7-10 R-33 Saloon--MLK & 3rd St. Play for Fun and Prizes Proceeds to Benefit Lubbock Centro Aztlan

> Algunas veces olvidamos que sabemos cómo hacer que la Navidad sea nuestra. Que para nosotros está bien el celebrar sin nieve, ni chimeneas, y hasta sin Santa Claus. Que está bien el dar la espalda a toda la excitación de Norman Rockwell. En cuanto a mí, recuerdo cómo se hacía, muchos años atrás, en la Habana Vieja. Y si alguna vez empiezo a olvidarlo, creo que pondré en un marco y colgaré de la pared a aquella tarjeta postal valerosa que compré hace algunos años en Cayo Hueso.





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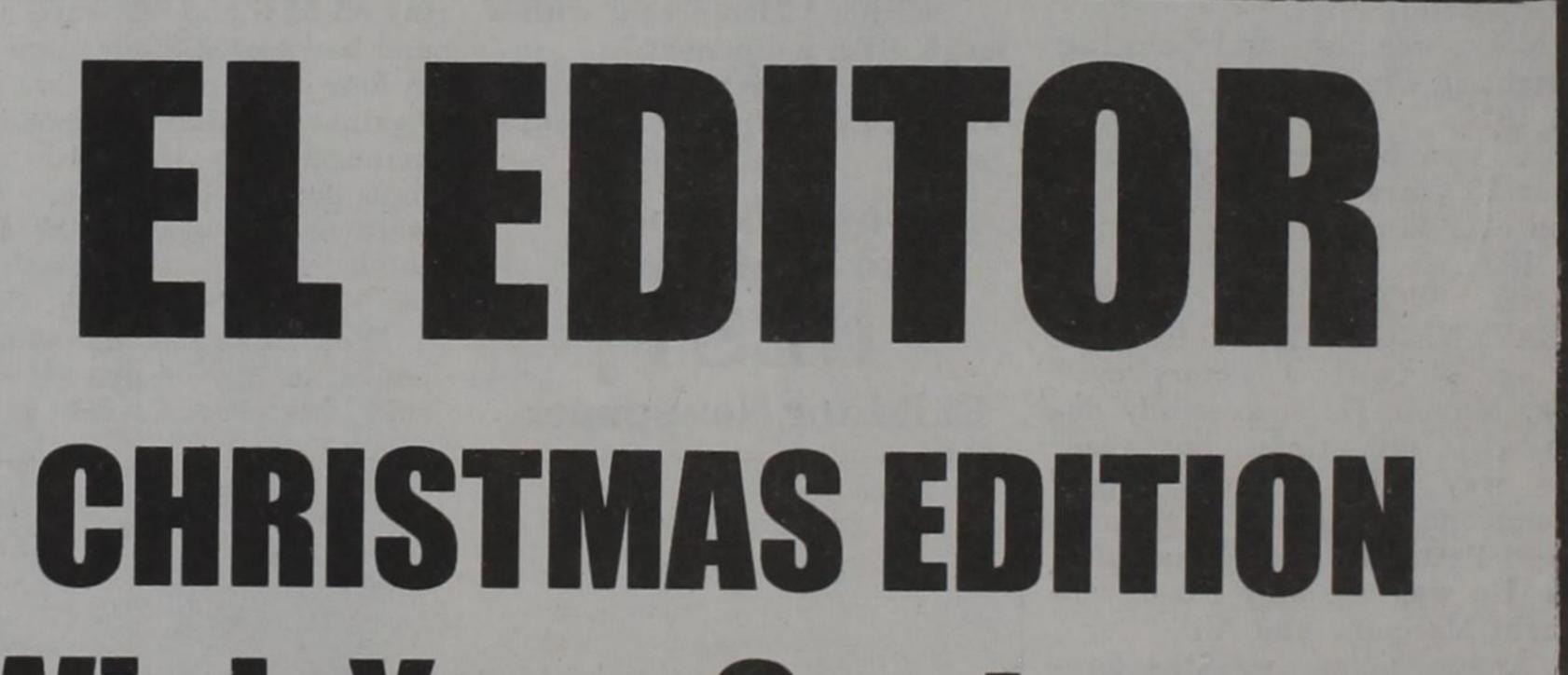
ficies de la hierba escaldada de los campos de juegos sub-tropicales.

Muchos que nunca han puesto sus ojos sobre la nieve real se sienten casi engañados durante los días festivos, como si algo verdaderamente maravilloso estuviera ausente del cuadro.

Aquéllos de nosotros que vivimos en climas fríos y que ya hemos atravesado unas cuantas tormentas de nieve deberíamos saber algo mejor. Pero, jcaramba! algunas veces no es así. Mientras escribo esto en Nueva York, donde actualmente vivo, la gente se lamenta realmente de no haber visto ninguna señal de nieve hasta ahora.

(Patricia Duarte es consultora de los medios informativos con sede en Nueva York y editora-fundadora de la revista Latina.)

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