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Lubbock, TX USA

Disenfranchisement" Laws Hurt Latinos Politically

By *Fresia Rodriguez Cadavid*

Four decades after the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, felony disenfranchisement laws continue to deny millions of U.S. citizens the most fundamental right of democracy -- the right to vote.

Generally, Latinos are disproportionately affected by these laws, both measured by their representation among persons of voting age and the general population.

A study released Feb. 18 looks at how these laws affect the Latino community. Compiled by the Mexican

American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, "Diminished Voting Power in the Latino Community: The Impact of Felony Disenfranchisement Laws in Ten Targeted States" is the first comprehensive political analysis of the impact of felony disenfranchisement among Latinos.

While Latinos make up 13 percent of the U.S. population, they constitute 16 percent of the state and federal prison and jail population, according to The Sentencing Project, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank on criminal justice policy issues.

Specifically the MALDEF survey

looks at the ramifications in 10 states: Arizona, California, Florida, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Texas, Virginia and Washington. In six of the 10, Hispanics constitute more than 10 percent of persons who cannot vote due to felony disenfranchisement laws.

In California alone, 103,325 disenfranchised Hispanics represent 37 percent of those adults who cannot vote. In New York, they make up 34 percent, Texas 30 percent, Arizona 28 percent, Florida 12 percent and Nevada



11 percent. MALDEF staff attorney Katherine Culliton says the survey shows another form of "disempowerment of the political participation of Latinos." MALDEF views the study as a tool to work in coalition with other civil rights organizations to humanize the issue in order to change the laws, which it labels unfair. Its next step will be an analysis of the impact of these laws on Hispanics in all 50 states.

Nationwide, state felony disenfranchisement legislation excludes 4.7 million adult citizens from voting. Nearly 2 million of them are black.

A remnant of Greek and Roman times that made its way to Europe, disenfranchisement was a historic part of "civil death" punishment. It

Race for Lubbock County Commissioner Heats Up

County Commissioner Candidate Ysidro Gutierrez today described incumbent commissioner Gilbert Flores as a "non-visionary old-fashioned politician content in his old ways."

Gutierrez was responding to Flores' statements during a radio interview in which Flores accused Gutierrez of "making promises that he couldn't keep."

"I don't see how Flores can categorically say that I'm making promises if he hasn't even seen my plan. He continues to live in his archaic world and refuses to change and accept that in a modern world everything can be accomplished if one tries hard enough.

Flores claimed during the interview that it was impossible to improve county roads because of cost. "Nothing more can be done, doing more is impossible," said Flores. He continued saying that Gutierrez was "making promises that he couldn't keep."

Gutierrez stated that his plan is "a 10-year plan to systematically pave the

first mile of all the county roads that intersect IH-27 and HWY 62/82. In order to achieve this goal, Precinct 3 needs about \$750,000 over 10 years."

He followed up by explaining that the money will be available from current revenues over the next 10 years.

"I think in reality Gilbert just doesn't want to make the effort," said Gutierrez. "Spending a little money is worth it when it comes to making life easier and safer for the residents of Precinct three. I am sure this money can be found without touching reserves, the tax base or even the recent commissioner's raises," said Gutierrez.

Gutierrez contends that his education and experience will bring needed leadership to the commissioner's post.

"To date the job has been relegated to a hit and miss method of doing business. It's time for a change toward having an efficient county government that will work toward providing a better way of life for the residents of precinct three," stated Gutierrez.

Early voting for the Democratic primary will continue through March 5th at area United Supermarkets and at the City and County Courthouses.



Flores



Y. Gutierrez

Comentarios by Bidal Agüero



This week voters in County precinct three began to go to the polls to select a democratic nominee for county commissioner. Voters will either decide to keep Commissioner Gilbert Flores or select a new one. That will either be Ysidro Gutierrez or Isabel Luna. The candidate selected will face the Republican nominee, Frank Gutierrez in the November general election.

Those that read last week's paper know that my endorsement has been given to Ysidro Gutierrez simply because I think he is the best candidate and will be the first step toward filling a void in leadership in the Hispanic community. That to me is very important.

It is important when considering this position because of the long history of how this position came to be and how it has developed throughout the years.

I had intended here to share with you a long story about the history of Commissioner's precinct three but have instead decided to simply say that it took many years to develop this position into a position that could create change in how and who represents our people.

For the past twelve years that has been no change and our people have had a void in leadership. The progress within our community that had been accomplished throughout those years of struggle to achieve parity has come to a stand still because the activism that is needed to move people to action is no longer happening. It is order to change this a person is needed who realizes the needs politically of our people. Ysidro Gutierrez should be that person.

An in order to elect Ysidro voters must take the initiative to go to the polls today through March 5th at early voting locations located throughout the City and on election day to your designated voting box. We invite our readers to call us at 749-0109 if they do not know where to go to vote or if they need a ride.

Contact Bidal at eleditor@lano.net

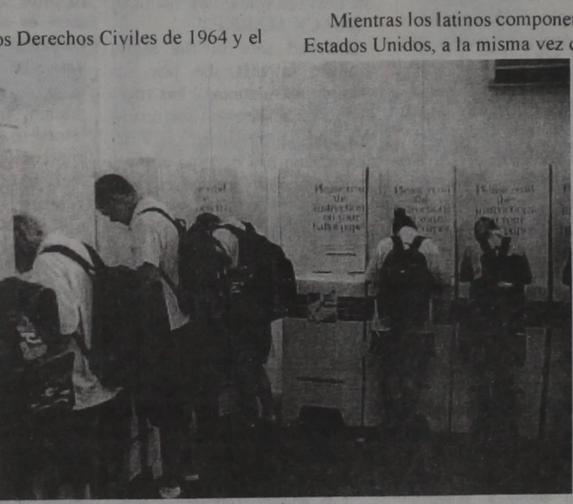
Las Leyes de Privación de Derecho al Voto Afectan Politicamente a los Latinos

Por *Fresia Rodriguez Cadavid*

Cuatro décadas después del Acta de los Derechos Civiles de 1964 y el Acta de Los Derechos del Voto de 1965, las leyes de privación de derecho al voto por delito continúan denegando a millones de ciudadanos estadounidenses el derecho más fundamental de la democracia: el derecho al voto.

Por lo general, los latinos son afectados desigualmente por estas leyes tanto por su representación entre las personas con edad para votar como en la población en general.

Un estudio emitido el 18 de febrero analiza cómo estas leyes afectan la comunidad latina. Este estudio, recopilado por el Fondo México-Americano para la Defensa Legal y la Educación (MALDEF por sus siglas en inglés) que lleva como título "Diminished Voting Power in the Latino Community: The Impact of Felony Disenfranchisement Laws in Ten Targeted States" (Potencial disminuido del voto entre la comunidad latina: El impacto de las leyes de privación de voto por delito en diez estados escogidos) es el primer análisis político comprensivo sobre el impacto de la privación de derechos por delito entre los latinos.



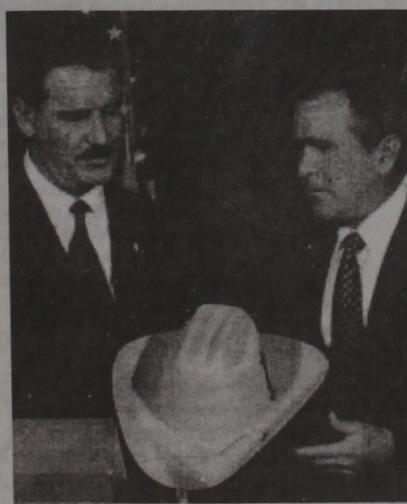
Mientras los latinos componen el 13 por ciento de la población total en Estados Unidos, a la misma vez componen el 16 por ciento de las poblaciones en las cárceles y prisiones estatales y federales, según el estudio de The Sentencing Project, un centro de investigación y análisis sobre asuntos de política pública en la justicia criminal, con base en Washington D.C.

Específicamente, el estudio realizado por MALDEF considera las ramificaciones en 10 estados: Arizona, California, Florida, Nebraska, Nevada, Nueva York, Carolina del Norte, Texas, Virginia y Washington. En seis de ellos, los hispanos componen más del 10 por ciento de personas que no pueden votar debido a las leyes de privación del voto por delito.

Sólo en California, 103,325 hispanos que han sido privados del voto representan un 37 por ciento de los adultos que no pueden votar. En Nueva York, son un 34 por ciento, en Texas un 30 por ciento, en Arizona un 28 por ciento, en Florida un 12 por ciento y en Nevada un 11 por ciento.

La abogada Katherine Culliton, del equipo de MALDEF, dice que el estudio señala otra forma de "despotenciar la participación política de los latinos".

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Bush and Fox to meet in Texas next week

President Vicente Fox will meet U.S. President George W. Bush next week at his ranch in Crawford, Texas, to go over bilateral issues, including immigration and border security, a top Mexican official said.

"The US-Mexican agenda is very extensive and it is always useful for both leaders to meet and make a general review of all the issues," deputy Foreign Minister Geronimo Gutierrez told reporters here Tuesday.

Bush and Fox will meet March 5 and 6 at Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas, Gutierrez said.

The two leaders last met mid-January in Monterrey, Mexico, for a two-day summit of American leaders.

Consejo de La Raza advierte a partidos

El Consejo Nacional de La Raza (NCLR), la organización hispana más grande de la nación, recordó ayer a los partidos políticos que los electores latinos podrían inclinar la balanza en noviembre a favor de cualquiera de los candidatos, por lo cual advirtió que era imperativo prestar atención a una serie de asuntos que van más allá de la inmigración y la educación bilingüe.

En rueda de prensa en el Capitolio, el grupo dio a conocer el reporte titulado El estado de Estados Unidos hispano: perspectivas latinas en la agenda estadounidense, que identifica y ofrece recomendaciones sobre cómo abordar ocho asuntos clave de interés para los latinos: educación, salud, empleos, políticas antiterroristas, justicia criminal, trabajadores agrícolas, vivienda e inmigración.

Raúl Yzaguirre, presidente del NCLR, indicó que la idea fue comparar las conclusiones de diversos sondeos que en los últimos años han elaborado ambos partidos políticos y grupos de tendencias liberales y conservadoras. "Lo que encontramos", dijo, "fue una enorme cantidad de coincidencias".

Es decir que a los latinos les importan los mismos temas que preocupan al resto de la población estadounidense y que, por consiguiente, es vital que los candidatos políticos los aborden dejando de lado los simbolismos que tanto se emplearon en la pasada campaña presidencial.

"Los simbolismos, los tamales, las piñatas y las frases en español, todo eso funcionó en 2000 porque estábamos hambrientos de atención. Pero [los votantes latinos] ya superaron eso", declaró Yzaguirre.

Ahora, dijo, los nueve millones de electores hispanos, como antes, están preocupados por temas como el acceso a la atención de salud o a la compra de vivienda, una educación preescolar adecuada para sus hijos, etc.

La organización, dijo Yzaguirre, aunque no se identifica con ningún partido político, "está dispuesta a reconocer a quienes apoyen nuestros temas públicamente, sean demócratas o republicanos".

"El voto latino se incrementará en una tercera parte en 2004

con respecto a 2000, así que será un elemento decisivo en determinar quién será el próximo presidente de Estados Unidos", agregó Yzaguirre.

Por lo tanto, el reporte sirve como guía, explicó, para que los candidatos sepan cómo abordar los asuntos que importan a los hispanos. "Si quieren atraer el voto latino, ésta es la forma de hacerlo. No sólo con frases en español, sino con substancia", indicó el veterano activista.

Otra agenda

Los hispanos, recordó, "no son un grupo consumido por el tema de la inmigración y la educación bilingüe". Hay otros asuntos de interés y lo más importante, dijo, es que son temas a los que pueden presentárseles soluciones inmediatas "con pasos concretos y pragmáticos".

Por ejemplo, puede lograrse mucho incrementando los fondos de la Ley de Reautorización del Programa Preescolar de Head Start para garantizar una mayor participación de niños hispanos. El estudio dice que en 2001 menos de cuatro de cada 10 niños hispanos pobres de entre 3 y 5 años de edad estaban participando del programa Head Start, comparado con 60% de los niños pobres afroamericanos y 46% de los niños pobres anglosajones. Se ha probado que la educación preescolar es eficaz en el desempeño académico que tenga el alumno en el futuro.

Sin embargo, aunque el grupo recordó que la inmigración es sólo uno de los temas que interesan a los latinos, pero no el central, el asunto surgió en la rueda de prensa y se le preguntó a Yzaguirre qué calificación le daría a la Administración Bush al abordar temas de interés para los latinos, particularmente el de la migración.

Yzaguirre indicó que "la propuesta [migratoria de Bush] no es equiparable a la retórica" del discurso de Bush. Es decir, que se queda corta. De hecho, el líder dijo que le daría a Bush una "D+" ó "C-" en el rubro migratorio.

El problema, explicó Cecilia Muñoz, vicepresidenta de política pública del NCLR, es que hay asuntos migratorios que pueden resolverse de inmediato en el Congreso si la Casa Blanca estuviera dispuesta a ejercer la presión política necesaria. Pero ello no ha sucedido.

Presidential Politics En Español

By Domenico Maceri

George W. Bush speaks passable Español. He used Spanish in the 2000 campaign and has continued to do so since becoming president. Now the Democratic presidential candidates are following suit. Most of them are using some Spanish in their speeches and some have bilingual web sites.

Must you speak Spanish to become president of the US?

The simple answer is "no," but as the Spanish-speaking population continues to increase, it's certainly a smart idea to embrace the language.

Showing awareness of the language means that the candidate is interested in its speakers. Language is an important part of people and even if Latinos hearing the message can understand English, using some Spanish can have a positive effect.

According to a New York Times/CBS survey, 1/3 of Latinos would be more likely to vote for a candidate who speaks Spanish.

Candidates who speak Spanish can gain by demonstrating their bilingual skills.

A recent Gallup poll found that a majority of Americans support bilingual education. That reflects a change consider-

ing that in three states bilingual education has been virtually eliminated through the initiative process.

However, attempts to eliminate bilingual education in Colorado failed a few years ago. Voters rejected an initiative out of concern that Colorado's children should not be denied the opportunity to become bilingual.

In all likelihood, Americans are becoming more sensitive about languages and are beginning to realize that bilingualism can be a plus. Although English is the world's lingua franca, our ability to survive as an economic and political power depends to a certain extent on our ability to understand those who speak different languages.

So if a presidential candidate speaks even a smattering of Spanish, it can be beneficial since it suggests to Latinos that their language is important and as a result so are they. It also suggests that the candidate is part of the listeners' familia. At the same time, when the leader of the country or those wishing to become president speak more than one language even if they are not fully bilingual, they send a positive message about the value of bilin-

gualism.

In this respect, Democratic frontrunner John Kerry has a definite edge. He speaks Italian, French, and some Spanish.

Of course, politicians can easily be accused of being interested in just getting votes. Yet, using two languages generates positive side effects.

To be sure, elections are determined not by whether a candidate speaks Spanish or not. Latinos, like all voters, cast ballots because of issues and because of how they feel about a candidate. George W. Bush got only 35% of the Latino vote in the 2000 presidential election in spite of his passable Spanish. Al Gore got 65% of the Latino vote not because of his Spanish, which was significantly worse, but rather because Latinos saw the Democratic candidate as doing more for them. Issues, not palabras, eventually determine how people cast their ballots.

Language, however, is itself an issue. So when political leaders use Spanish in their campaign, they distance themselves from English-only extremists and give the impression of being moderates and inclusives.

George Bush has certainly used language issues in this

fashion. He has not supported the elimination of bilingual education. He also has not rescinded former president Bill Clinton's Executive Order 13166, which requires that any organization that receives federal funding provide services in languages other than English. An English-only group even sued him because of it.

In issues of language, Democrats don't have to show that they are moderates. In general, Democrats support bilingual education and bilingualism as well as basic issues dear to Latinos. That is why they usually receive the lion's share of the Latino vote.

George W. Bush began his presidency with promises of dealing with "substantive" Latino issues, such as immigration. Almost three years have gone by and no progress has been made. If Bush and the GOP find solutions to the immigration problem, they'll be able to point to something substantive to attract Latino votes. If not, they'll have nothing but empty palabras to show. Latinos will therefore keep voting for Democrats by large numbers. With the likelihood of a razor-thin election in 2004, Latinos could make the difference as to who will occupy the White House in 2005.

How Dare Him! We Should be Outraged!

By Abel Cruz

Don't you just hate it when out of the clear blue, you, or something you did, become your own worst nightmare? Your past suddenly rises up from the burning ashes where you buried it and you just wait for that hammer to drop or in this case, the phone to ring. Imagine how city councilman Frank Morrison felt last week when he got the call from the local television station asking him for his comments surrounding his DUI arrest in 2002. Ouch!

I must admit that I was very surprised when I saw the reports that detailed his DUI adventure while driving back from visiting his mother. My surprise came not from the fact that Morrison had been involved, but that it had been kept a secret from Lubbock citizens for close to 17 months. Guess that's what you call the good ole boy network.

As a publicly elected official, it seems to me that the public had a right to know. I wonder if the rest of the city council knew? In the very least, the councilman should have brought it to the attention of the city council, although it's still not very clear that he didn't. The reports I saw did not make reference to whether the rest of the council knew. If they did and purposely kept this quiet, then there's a lot more story here.

Among the many troubling things surrounding this situation, one is how Morrison attributes the anonymous phone call made to the media to a political dirty trick. Seems to me the dirty trick has been the one played on the citizens of Lubbock by Morrison.

If you'll recall, it was he who was outraged when members of Lubbock's Hispanic community dared to show up at a council meeting to voice their displeasure with city council action on the city manager search process. "I am outraged" he said, "how dare you", and promptly walked out of the council chambers!

Imagine that, citizens exercising their rights bring out the outrage in Morrison, but his failure to follow state driving laws doesn't. Talk about misplaced priorities and misplaced anger?

And to top it off, Morrison says that a lot of other people do it, drive under the influence that is; they just don't get caught, as if that's supposed to make his getting caught ok. Talk about not taking responsibility for your actions.

Councilman Morrison cannot have his cake and eat it too. He cannot divert attention from breaking a law by simply saying that it was motivated by someone trying to get him out of office.

Whether it is or it isn't, the fact that he took it upon himself to drive under the influence and jeopardized other people's lives by his decision to drive remains very clear. In other words, he made the decision; he should own it and not try to blame others for bringing it to light.

We have all been guilty at one time or another of making the wrong decision or not exercising proper judgment. After all, we've all heard the old saying, "there but for the Grace of God, go I". And most of the time, people confess to using wrong judgment, apologize for their actions and move on. The difference in this case is that Mr. Morrison is an elected public official and has an obligation to answer to his constituency.

Let's hope that the voters, of which I am one, who will vote on Mr. Morrison's political fate will base their vote not on the fact that he got caught breaking the law, but based on his honesty and credibility.

In those 2 categories, Mr. Morrison has failed his district miserably.

(c)acruz2004

Email: acruzts@aol.com

Si...! Undocumented folks are between a rock and a HARD PLACE!

By Ricardo Castañon

The majority of undocumented immigrants in the land, are uneducated farmers and crop-growers. Their hopes for opportunity are as big as their hearts. However, the rather sudden change from their warm southern villages to these latitudes often takes a toll on their health. Here, they find themselves unprotected for the bitter winter and before a very different variety of foods (not in vain called "junk-foods"). This combination of facts aggravates their overall uncertain future.

PARTIAL SOLUTION

Because of ever-increasing demand, some of today's supermarkets are beginning to import food products from Latin-American countries. Even the "corner" grocery store in predominantly Hispanic neighborhoods now has some recognizable brands. Hispanic women master the ability to make the most with very little. They know quite well, that the way to their men's hearts is through their palates. There-

fore the first aspect of their problem is in good hands.

LEGAL OBSTACLES

However, the Drug and Food Administration and the multimillion-dollar pharmaceutical industry in this country are not about to let private enterprises import Latin-American brand drugs. Nor will the Surgeon General allow medical doctors to prescribe them. The current sky-high cost of medications, fees and overall medical treatment, make it impossible for the average laborer to provide these necessary commodities for his family. Even over-the-counter -and to them unknown remedies- are out of their reach. Health insurance companies require data undocumented people don't have, or would not provide for fear of deportation. What are they to do?

COMMON PROBLEM

This is a very real and a very human problem. We have to admit that society at large benefit from the presence of these people. In their very si-

lent way, they contribute to our economy in many ways. Can't we, in turn, through our local communities, provide a solution to this health and socioeconomic problem?

DEMAGOGY

There is talk about a Three-year (non-renewable) Guest-worker program that will allow the wage earner to pay into a retirement system. If lawmakers are talking about the Social Security Administration (SSA), --I seriously doubt they mean any 401(k) program-- then, they are making false promises because we know it takes at least TEN YEARS of coverage (forty quarters) to become insured. Then again, the SSA might go broke within the next ten years...ha, ha, ha!

BLACK MARKET

The sad side of the story though, is that the law of "supply and demand" has triggered a black-market for unauthorized medications. This contraband has become among undocumented immigrants, a necessary evil. Those merchants, who sell it under-the-

counter, do not have the knowledge or training to recommend a given product. All they have in mind is to profit from the people in need. They issue no receipt, they report no such sales, and take no responsibility for the use of the product sold. I cannot think of a worse way to make a profit --to benefit from human pain and suffering.

WAKE-UP CALL

Bringing the issue to the attention of the general public in print, may be the first step into a solution for the problem. We are funny creatures, we talk about these things, but the topic is soon gone with the wind! We see it in print though, and someone is bound to come up with a constructive idea, or more likely to offer a counterpoint denying the whole thing! In either case, we need to "put the finger on the wound" literally, to get legislators to work on a positive approach to the problem. It affects us all, citizens and non-citizens, legal residents or not.

Verdad que... Si?

Bush busca cambiar la Constitución

El presidente George W. Bush instó ayer al Congreso a aprobar una enmienda constitucional prohibiendo el matrimonio entre personas del mismo sexo porque es la única forma, dijo, de proteger "la institución más fundamental de la civilización" de las decisiones "arbitrarias" tomadas por gobiernos locales y jueces "activistas".

El Presidente se refirió a la decisión del alcalde de San Francisco de permitir la emisión de licencias de matrimonio a personas del mismo sexo y a la decisión de un tribunal de Massachusetts que

permitirá, a partir de mayo, los matrimonios entre homosexuales.

"Si queremos prevenir que el significado del matrimonio cambie para siempre, nuestra nación debe adoptar una enmienda constitucional para proteger al matrimonio en Estados Unidos. Es necesaria una acción decisiva y democrática porque los intentos de redefinir el matrimonio en un estado o en una ciudad pueden tener serias consecuencias a través del país", declaró Bush en la Casa Blanca.

Los demócratas de inmediato criticaron la decisión de

Bush argumentando que se trata de un asunto que deben decidir los estados y en el cual el gobierno federal debe mantenerse al margen.

Los dos contendientes a la candidatura demócrata, los senadores John Kerry y John Edwards, de Massachusetts y Carolina del Norte, respectivamente, coincidieron en que el gobierno federal debe mantenerse al margen porque la propuesta de la Casa Blanca legitimaría la discriminación en la Constitución del país.

En año electoral y tras los desarrollos en San Francisco y Massachusetts se ha intensifi-

cado la presión política sobre Bush de los grupos religiosos y conservadores para que expresara su oposición a los matrimonios homosexuales a través de acciones concretas.

Firme

"Tras más de dos siglos de jurisprudencia estadounidense y milenios de experiencia humana, unos pocos jueces y autoridades locales se atreven a cambiar la institución más fundamental de la civilización", dijo Bush en la Casa Blanca.

"A menos que tomemos medidas, podemos esperar más decisiones arbitrarias", agregó

el Presidente.

Por eso dijo que era necesario enmendar la Constitución, porque la ley federal de 1996 que para efectos legales definió el matrimonio como la unión entre un hombre y una mujer está bajo ataque. Esa ley fue promulgada por un presidente demócrata, Bill Clinton, y Bush recordó que 38 estados han aprobado leyes similares.

El senador Kerry votó en contra de la medida en 1996. Kerry apoya las uniones civiles que garantizan derechos, pero no el matrimonio entre homosexuales y ayer indicó que la Casa Blanca sólo está tratando de buscar un tema de año electoral con el cual dividir a los estadounidenses y agregó que si la enmienda llega al pleno del Senado, votará en contra.

Edwards, por su parte, dijo: "No apoyo el matrimonio entre homosexuales, pero mi postura siempre ha sido que ése es un asunto que debe ser decidido por los estados".

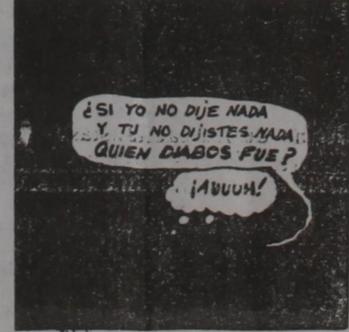
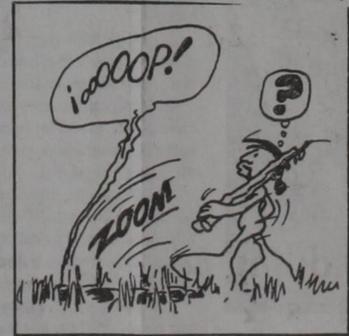
Una enmienda constitucional es un proceso largo y complicado que puede tomar meses y hasta años. En primer lugar la medida debe ser aprobada por dos terceras partes de ambas cámaras del Congreso y luego debe ser ratificada por tres cuartas partes de las legislaturas estatales, es decir, de 38 estados.

"El proceso de enmiendas [constitucionales] ha abordado muchos asuntos serios de interés nacional y la preservación del matrimonio es un tema de importancia nacional", declaró Bush.

El Presidente, empero, no cerró la puerta a las uniones civiles e indicó que la enmienda constitucional "debe proteger al matrimonio dando libertad a las legislaturas estatales de tomar sus propias decisiones al definir arreglos legales diferentes al matrimonio".

El grupo The Log Cabin Republicans, que agrupa a homosexuales republicanos, acusó a Bush de "hacerle el juego a la derecha extremista" y de "incorporar la discriminación a la Constitución" poniendo en riesgo el apoyo de más de un millón de lesbianas y homosexuales que votaron por él en los comicios de 2000.

Por su parte, Martín Ornelas Quintero, director ejecutivo de la Organización Nacional de Lesbianas, Gays, Bisexuales y Transgéneros Latinos, en esta capital, dijo a La Opinión, que la propuesta del Presidente "es vergonzosa" porque perpetúa el tratamiento de homosexuales como "ciudadanos de segunda clase" cuando es cada estado, dijo, el que debe decidir y definir cómo abordar el asunto.



Frank Del Olmo:

A Voice Heard Far Beyond Los Angeles

By Raymond Rodriguez

I was devastated when I read that Los Angeles Times associate editor Frank del Olmo. Frank was felled by a heart attack in the Times newsroom Feb. 19, at the young age of 55.

Along with fellow Timesman Rubén Salazar, who was killed by a police tear-gas projectile 24 years ago at age 42, he was a giant among those who have written about Latino issues. Few Latino writers have had the influence that Frank exercised throughout the Latino community, and the community at large. His was a voice that extended far beyond the newspaper's circulation.

Del Olmo was recognized nationally for his insightful and incisive style of writing. It set a standard for others. A warm, kind-hearted individual, he could also deftly turn a vitriolic phrase if his ire was aroused. This usually happened when he felt an injustice was being perpetrated upon those least able to speak for themselves.

An example was his opposition in 1994 to California's Proposition 187, which he believed was racially motivated and cruel in its intent. He believed that the power of the press should be used to cover the news fairly in order to promote unity and understanding rather than divisiveness and mistrust. His columns in The Times reflected the passion that he felt about his subject matter. He wrote from the heart, a heart that is now stilled.

Frank's talent was recognized when he shared in a Pulitzer Prize in 1984 for a series he co-authored with a dozen other Times Latino writers, titled "Southern California's Latino Community."

However, to me his real masterpieces were the columns he wrote about his autistic son, Frankie, now 13 years old. That was the first thing I thought of when I read the devastating news. They were extremely close. Frank spared no effort to do everything he could to promote his son's development.

May God be gentle with Frankie. In many ways, the loss of his father is our loss, too. Even those of us who

knew the boy merely from reading his father's columns were enriched. The highest compliments I have received in my years as a columnist were those occasional ones when someone would compare my writing with del Olmo's.

As a Times associate editor, del Olmo never hesitated to speak his mind; nor was he afraid to differ with his superiors or the newspaper's editorial policy. Such behavior can lead to termination, but because of the respect and credibility Frank had earned in a variety of assignments, his insights and opinions were highly valued. He was not afraid to be a minority of one if he felt he was right.

Frank won many awards for his outstanding contributions to the journalism profession. Yet he was never one to blow his own horn. He let his work and persona speak in his behalf.

At this point, it is extremely difficult even to begin to ascertain what impact his passing will have on Latino journalism and the coverage of our community. Del Olmo always championed fair and impartial news coverage. In so many ways he served as the conscience of the newsroom. Along with Salazar, del Olmo deserves credit for helping to make Latino journalism respectable and accountable.

Given the surge in the Latino population and Latinos' growing prominence and influence in all fields of endeavor, there is a need to continue to articulate the Latino presence in our society.

There is no greater honor that could be bestowed in memory of Frank del Olmo than for all Latino journalists and columnists to keep the spirit of his life alive. Like Frank, they must speak loudly and clearly on all of the issues that impact our Latino community.

We grieve his loss, and our heartfelt sympathy and prayers go out to his loving wife, Magdalena, his daughter, Valentina Marisol, and son Frankie. May they find solace in the fact that Frank lived a life that made a difference.

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"A WORD" (What Purpose)

When the universe and the Earth was being "Bara", created; the Mighty Elohim made everything with a purpose in mind, just like making shoes for some one's fit. He completed all his work that was Genesis, all was natural and true. All by His seventh day. Today the words "everything has a purpose" or "there is a purpose for everything" are true but only back to during the short time that man lived in "Paradise."

*(Genesis 1:28-30)

In the day that is called "Today", at another place outside this universe, way beyond the "great expanse", where the other water or "Heaven"-exist, which was separated from the waters in the second day of creation, a great battle took place between the Father of Truth and the Father of Lies. That fight ended where the Liar and one third of Heaven's Angels got cast out from there to a holy planet called earth. From one universe to another or from one Kingdom to another, as aliens; foreign things of uncommon wits, unnatural to all that was true.

*(Isaiah 14:12-15; Revelation 12:7-9) God had made Man

ruler over everything on planet earth. And man in all his ways pleased his God, man-both male and female, being amoral and perfect beings, without the knowledge of good and evil, mading them not aware of the great enemy that lurk in their midst. An angel, once the Angel of Light, Lucifer, renamed the Prince of Darkness with a evil heart, an entity of pure evil, full of deception and well known today as the Devil!

*(Genesis 3:4-5; Isash 14:12-13; Revelation 20:2) Some time back as I

watched TV; heard a well known actor saying that a female purpose is to change a man's mind and that a man's purpose is to change it right back. The Bible use of feminine nouns in referring to his chosen people sinning and in disobedience, all is influenced by what happened to the first female, Eve in the Garden of Eden. She was the first victim to the "Liar." In the New Testament, Paul mentions Eve's incident, noting that Eve was the first to have been deceived and later her mate the male, but referring

to, how the Devil uses their defer weakness to cause a breakage in their oneness nature, causing a domino effects. From the first lie on earth to today, the human race all have fallen to it and are liars, sons of the father of lies the Devil. But God's love for the whole world, while still sinners, gave his one and only son to bring them the truth. Anything today that is consider as a purpose for man is not the original purpose, but is a lie of Satan without Christ.

*(Genesis 3:11-14a; 2 Corinthians 11:3) a friend

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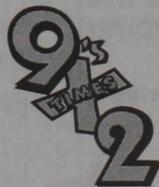
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Miller's Camping Trip

It was the frostiest 80-degree day ever. Nomar Garciaparra is angry and hurt. Pedro Martinez feels disrespected by certain members of the Boston media.

Do icicles form when the sun is shining?

Pedro Martinez feels the Red Sox have at least a trio of aces in their starting rotation.

Welcome to spring, Boston Red Sox -style. You knew it was going to be tense. You knew it was going to be wild. After last week, finally, for certain, you knew it was going to be A-Rod-less.

Did you bring a wool hat and mittens?

"Am I pissed? Am I still mad?" Garciaparra asked, repeating a question on his first day at spring training. "I don't know if I'm all those things.

"I'm definitely hurt by a lot of it. You spend your whole career with one team, you do what you do, and you find out on television that you're almost traded. How would you feel?"

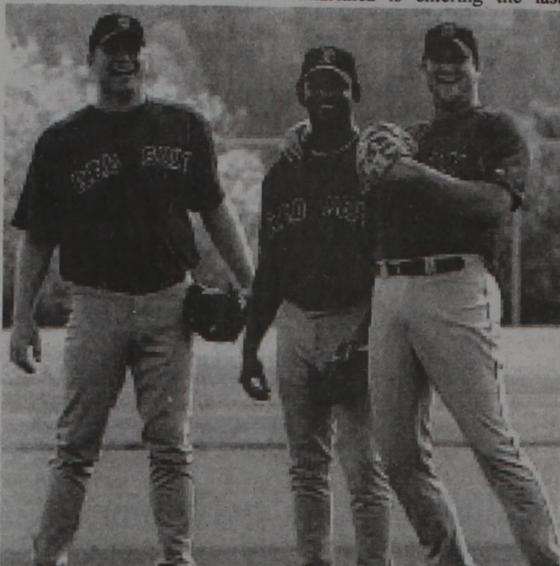
"That's how I found out. The great thing is, I'm here. The chair is familiar, and it's still warm."

The chair, a picnic table bench outside of the clubhouse at the Red Sox's minor-league clubhouse, was still warm because 15 minutes earlier the Great Pedro was holding court from the same location on his first day in camp.

Martinez talked about, among other things, why he stopped

talking on most days last year - and why he intends to keep the same policy this year. He says he has been less appreci-

a team that darn well could win the World Series this year ... or burst like a poisoned appendix. Martinez is entering the last



ated in Boston, by certain segments of the population, than in other cities in which he has played.

"Last year, yeah," Martinez said. "Not by the fans. Not by people on the team. By people in the media. Some people have disrespect for Pedro Martinez the person -- not only the player, but the person. That's the reason Pedro stopped talking a little bit."

Welcome to camp, new manager Terry Francona. You have

year of his contract and has no idea whether he will be back with Boston next year. Garciaparra remains wounded over the Red Sox openly courting Alex Rodriguez while they were still married to Nomar.

Both Martinez and Garciaparra vow they will play their little red socks off this summer. Of all the junk floating through the air here, that's the one thing you can pretty much grab onto with confidence.

The rest, who knows how it will turn out?

All that's missing in this circus is the elephants.

And just think: The wacky Manny Ramirez, who was in line just ahead of Garciaparra at the departures gate over the winter, isn't even here yet.

"Nomar is a true professional," Martinez said. "I know there was a lot of talk regarding Nomar Garciaparra and Manny

Ramirez. Manny Ramirez is in la-la land. I haven't talked to Manny in about a month-and-a-half, so I don't expect that to affect Manny.

"Manny doesn't know where he's standing. But one thing he does know is how to hit and how to play this game.

"Nomar is very professional. He understands the business part of it. I'd be upset as well if I wasn't told I was going to be in trade talks, because a player like Nomar deserves to at least know he's going to be talked about in trades. He's not going to snap because of it. I believe Nomar would never be the kind of guy to open bad things in the clubhouse."

Garciaparra, dressed in a white New England Patriots Super Bowl champions T-shirt, shorts and designer shades, left no doubt that he feels Red Sox management stuck him out on a deserted island this winter. The only thing he didn't do Tuesday during an open and honest discussion with reporters was name the 10 compact discs he would take to that deserted island.

"I pretty much got all of my information off of television," Garciaparra said. "That's what I based things on. What you guys were writing, I stopped reading it after awhile."

The assumption here is that he stopped reading not because of mangled participles and poor metaphors, but because the burning question of whether he would wind up with the Chicago White Sox or Los Angeles Dodgers was causing him to do a fast burn.

"A couple of times, I didn't know whether I'd have to rent a place in Tucson (where the White Sox train) or Vero Beach (spring home of the Dodgers)," Garciaparra said. "I'm glad I still had my connections in Fort Myers so I could get a place here."

Notice, he didn't say he's glad "the Red Sox set me up

with a fabulous house on Sanibel Island." Or, "the Red Sox asked whether I preferred beach or golf-course living for six weeks."

Someone asked whether it would make things better if the Red Sox sent Garciaparra's new wife, Mia Hamm, roses every day. That elicited a laugh from Garciaparra, who remained good-natured throughout the session, though a better question might have been whether the Red Sox sent him his own personal copy of Ray Charles' Hit the Road, Jack over the winter.

Garciaparra said he wasn't going to discuss the situation anymore after Tuesday and, for his own sanity, that's probably his best decision since picking up a baseball glove for the first time as a kid. Simply because there is so much material here.

Such as, the Red Sox lowering their offer over the winter from the \$16 million a year over four years that Garciaparra declined last spring. When it looked like Miguel Tejada was going to sign with Baltimore for \$9 million a year in December, as the A-Rod talks swirled, the Sox offered Garciaparra \$48 million over four years -- \$12 million a year.

That was an insult, too, Garciaparra said.

"When it came out and how I found out and how it was done ... it was kind of interesting," he said. "When I found out was when all of the talks were going on with Alex. That's when I found out."

"We asked, 'Is this true? Is this happening? What's going on?' That's when the offer came. That was pretty much how it came about."

"I was thinking that (Boston's) priorities obviously are not for me, they're for someone else. That was pretty

evident the whole winter."

With Curt Schilling aboard - fresh from signing a two-year, \$25.5 million contract extension with Boston that begins in 2005 -- Martinez, who is scheduled to earn \$17.5 million in the last year of his deal in 2004, undoubtedly will be carefully assessing the organization's priorities as well. He says he is not placing a deadline on Boston to sign him to a contract extension by opening day, and even said he will give the Sox every opportunity to work a deal with him after the season if he's headed for free agency.

"I'm just going to go out and compete like I have to, like a professional," Martinez said. "If they don't want to sign me, I'm pretty sure someone else will give me an opportunity. If they do, I'll be happy to take it."

Just for the record, we're pretty sure someone might want to give a free-agent Pedro Martinez an opportunity, too. Someone such as ... the Yankees? You can feel all of New England shuddering from here.

Both Martinez and Garciaparra said they would like to finish their careers in Boston. Both say they worked out like madmen over the winter and are in excellent shape. Both think that the team assembled here this spring is the Boston club that could become the first since 1918 to cover itself in glory in the World Series.

Martinez thinks this is the best pitching staff Boston has assembled since he arrived in 1998. Certainly, he said, the best rotation since then -- when Pedro won 19 games, Tim Wakefield 17, Bret Saberhagen 15 and Steve Avery 10.

"Right now (with Schilling) we have two Pedro Marti-

continued on page 5

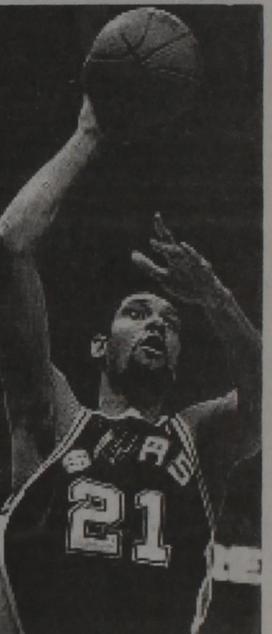
Power Rankings: Spurs, Duncan quietly defending title

Why is it when people talk about the greatest players of all time, nobody seems to say much about Tim Duncan?

Maybe it's the same reason why people don't seem to notice Duncan and the San Antonio Spurs go through peaks and valleys but never drift too far from the top.

In another one of their elongated road trips, the Spurs won the first five games, stumbled in Cleveland when Duncan had his worst shooting night of the season, then went into Minnesota and tripped up the white-hot Timberwolves.

Tim Duncan's still the NBA's best player and his Spurs might still be the best team. (Getty Images)



And Duncan just keeps doing everything well. And elegantly. "Tim is just Tim," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "He just does everything. He's working really hard out there and nobody seems to notice because he does everything so well."

The 7-foot, 260-pound Duncan is ranked in the top seven in 21 categories. In the decisive Game 6 of last year's NBA Finals, he nearly had the first quadruple-double in playoff history with 21 points, 20 rebounds, 10 assists and eight blocks, but few even comment about it.

As the Spurs won their second title in five years, Duncan merely averaged 24.2 points, 17 rebounds, 5.3 assists and 5.3 blocks in the Finals, befuddling New Jersey's Kenyon Martin into a 3-for-23 shooting night in Game 6. Those are the kind of numbers that have frustrated Kevin Garnett's attempts at earning the MVP award and thwarted Garnett's T-Wolves, with Duncan winning the past two MVPs.

Maybe this year will be different. But right now, the Spurs are making their move on Minnesota, and Duncan is leading the way.

For them to win it again, it will require more than their always-rugged defense. The young and unproven international quartet of Tony Parker, Manu Ginobili, Hedo Turkoglu and Rasha Nesterovic must raise its level of play on a consistent basis.

As for Duncan ... there he stays, at a level all by himself. In other words, beware.

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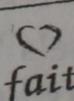
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Las Leyes

viene de la primera pagina

MALDEF ve el estudio como una herramienta para trabajar en conjunto con otras organizaciones de derechos civiles para humanizar el asunto y así poder cambiar las leyes, las cuales MALDEF clasifica como injustas. Su próximo paso será un análisis del impacto que surten estas leyes sobre los hispanos en cada uno de los 50 estados.

En toda la nación, la legislación estatal de la privación del derecho al voto por delito excluye a 4.7 millones de ciudadanos adultos del derecho al voto, de los cuales cerca de dos millones son de raza negra.

Como un vestigio de los tiempos greco-romanos que pasó por toda Europa, la privación del derecho al voto fue una parte histórica del castigo de "muerte civil." El castigo incluía la privación de todos los derechos y la confiscación de todos los bienes. Los colonos ingleses trajeron esta ideología a Estados Unidos donde el derecho al sufragio era al principio exclusivo para los hombres blancos y adinerados. Después de la guerra civil, aumentó la oposición al voto negro y muchos estados sureños modificaron sus leyes de privación al igual que los requisitos para votar con la idea de aumentar su impacto sobre los negros.

Marc Mauer, director asistente de The Sentencing Project, opina sobre los efectos de la privación al sufragio en las comunidades negras y latinas. "De hecho plantea la pregunta de si hay una motivación política detrás de la resistencia al cambio."

Hoy en día, Maine y Vermont son los únicos estados que les permiten el voto a los confinados.

Diecinueve estados, incluyendo Arizona, Nuevo México y Nueva York, han expandido el derecho al voto. Florida y Massachusetts, ambos con una gran población hispana, están entre los ocho estados que han restringido el derecho al voto.

Mauer plantea que las leyes

de privación de voto existen por la inercia para cambiarlas y porque han estado en los libros desde hace siglos sin que se conociera mucho de su existencia.

La explosión en tamaño de nuestros sistemas de prisiones y la controversia suscitada en las elecciones presidenciales del 2000 en Florida ahora están preocupando a los grupos reformistas. Desde 1970 hasta el 2002, la población de las prisiones estatales y federales se ha multiplicado de menos de 200,000 a 1.4 millones.

"Es un asunto de democracia pero también afecta las carreras políticas", dice Mauer. En el año 2000 a casi una tercera parte de los adultos negros en Florida le fue denegado el acceso a las urnas. Si les hubiesen permitido votar, quizás habrían cambiado el resultado de las elecciones a favor de Al Gore.

Existe un fuerte apoyo para la concesión de derechos de sufragio para algunos pero no para todos los criminales.

Una encuesta nacional efectuada en julio de 2002, reveló que ocho de cada diez personas entrevistadas consideran que los ofensores que han cumplido su sentencia y han retornado a la sociedad deberían tener derecho al voto. El 33 por ciento de los entrevistados opinó que los confinados deberían tener derecho al voto.

Nancy Ruhe, directora ejecutiva de la Organización Nacional de Padres de Niños Asesinados, con base en Cincinnati, opina diferente. "Creo que una vez una persona es convicta por un delito ya no debe tener ningún derecho mientras cumple su sentencia".

Cuando se le pregunta si le preocupa que las leyes de privación de derecho al voto puedan afectar desproporcionalmente a los grupos de color, ella dice que no ve el asunto en términos de la raza. "El dolor no tiene color", afirma.

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Millers Camping Trip

from page 4

nezes," he said. "Three with Derek Lowe."

Then he paused and reassessed.

"We probably have three-and-three-quarters with Wakefield,"

Disfranchisement

(from first page)

It included deprivation of all rights and confiscation of property. English colonists brought this ideology to the United States, where the right to vote was first limited to wealthy white men. After the Civil War, opposition to blacks voting grew, and many Southern states shaped their disenfranchisement laws along with voting qualifications to increase impact on blacks.

Marc Mauer, assistant director of The Sentencing Project, addresses the effects of disenfranchisement on black and Latino communities, "It certainly raises a question if there is political motivation behind resistance to change." Today, Maine and Vermont are the only states that permit inmates to vote.

Nineteen states, including Arizona, New Mexico and New York, have expanded voting rights. Florida and Massachusetts, both with large Hispanic populations, are among the eight states that have restricted voting rights. Mauer says disenfranchisement laws exist because they've been on the books for centuries with little knowledge of their existence, and inertia to change them.

The explosion in size of our prison systems and the Florida controversy in the 2000 presidential election are now raising concerns among reform

he teased. "I just say between Wake and Derek Lowe ... Wakey looked better than I did the last month (in 2003), so I have to say we have four or five. Everybody can carry the load."

Said Garcíaparra: "We have a phenomenal team. I'm excited about our team."

And in the end, on paper this spring, they do have a phenomenal team. You can lay odds on which superstar(s) will be gone in 2005 -- Martinez,

groups. From 1970 through 2002, the state and federal prison population has multiplied from less than 200,000 to 1.4 million.

"It is a question of democracy, but it also affects political races," Mauer says. In 2000, nearly a third of Florida's adult black males were denied access to polls. If allowed to vote, they could easily have swung the presidential election in Al Gore's favor.

There is high support for the enfranchisement of some, but not all, felons. A July 2002 national poll found that eight out of 10 respondents believe those who have completed their prison sentences and returned to society should have the right to vote. Thirty-three percent said that inmates should be allowed to vote.

Nancy Ruhe, executive director of the Cincinnati-based National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children, has a different view. "I believe that once you are convicted of a felony you should not have any rights while you are serving your sentence." Asked if she had any concerns that disenfranchisement laws may disproportionately affect groups of color, she says she doesn't see it as a racial issue. "Grief has no color," she contends.

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Garcíaparra, Lowe, Jason Varitek, David Ortiz and Scott Williamson all are without contracts for '05. You can debate the team chemistry and whether the rift between Garcíaparra and the front office will be fatal. And you can argue whether Ramirez really is from New York, or from Pluto.

But if these Red Sox stay healthy -- and here I mean mostly physically, partly mentally -- this season could be even more epic than last in this latest installment of Boston vs. the Yankees.

Things were icy around Ted Williams more often than not, too, and it didn't derail his Hall of Fame career. No matter

what you think of them personally, Pedro and Garcíaparra are special players with Hall of Fame talent and Hall of Fame work ethics.

Which is why, when Garcíaparra says that his loyalty toward the Red Sox uniform remains untouched despite his fractured relationship with the Red Sox front office, it's not difficult to believe him.

"That uniform represents so much more," Garcíaparra said. "All of those other great ones who have worn it. It's a tremendous honor and it's a tremendous thrill for me."

Miller's previous camp stops: Red Sox in Fort Myers | Yankees in Tampa | Astros in Kissimmee | Phillies in Clearwater



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"The Passion of the Christ": Apasionada polémica

The Passion of the Christ, el manifiesto religioso en celuloide del actor Mel Gibson, se estrena hoy en medio de una ardiente polémica sobre la lectura antisemita de los Evangelios.

El filme, que reconstruye las últimas 12 horas en la vida de Cristo según el Nuevo Testamento, fue aplaudido por el Vaticano y criticado por organizaciones judías que temen un rebrote de antisemitismo.

Gibson, un católico de línea ultraortodoxa, sostiene que la película es fiel a los Evangelios. Los críticos dicen que culpa a los judíos por la muerte de Cristo, una generalización rechazada en 1965 por el Concilio Vaticano II.

"Es una revisión de las enseñanzas de la Iglesia [Católica]. Al relatar la Pasión de la clásica forma medieval, esta película puede alimentar el antisemitismo", dijo a La Opinión el director del grupo judío Anti-Defamation League, Abraham Foxman.

El largometraje de Gibson separó las aguas incluso dentro del mundo católico. Mientras la Conferencia Episcopal de Estados Unidos prepara un vademécum con recomendaciones para aclarar las zonas oscuras del filme, grupos conservadores como los Legionarios de Cristo cabildan en Roma a favor de la película.

Foxman dice que The Passion of the Christ de Gibson retoma la tesis que alimentó el antisemitismo durante dos mil años: los judíos mataron a Cristo.

"La película muestra a los judíos sedientos de sangre, enojados y vengativos. Los romanos son por el contrario amorosos y gentiles, forzados a hacer algo que no querían", dijo la semana pasada durante una visita a Roma.

Recién en 1959 Juan XXIII eliminó de la liturgia del Viernes Santo la controvertida frase pro perfidis judaeis (perfidios judíos, en latín). En 1965 el Concilio Vaticano II emitió la declaración Nostra Etate, donde reconoció que si bien fueron "las autoridades judías y sus seguidores quienes presionaron por la muerte de Cristo (...), no pueden ser responsabilizados



indiscriminadamente los judíos de aquella época ni los de hoy".

Personas que leyeron el guión o vieron el filme dicen que incluye la polémica frase atribuida por San Mateo al sumo sacerdote judío Caifás: "Que su sangre caiga sobre nosotros y sobre nuestros hijos".

Según los Evangelios, la suprema corte judía —Sanedrín— temía la influencia de aquel predicador rebelde y pidió al procurador romano de Judea, Poncio Pilatos, que lo ejecutara.

Aplausos en el Vaticano
Juan Pablo II vio la película a comienzos de diciembre. Aunque el Vaticano negó que hubiera bendecido la cinta —por norma el Papa no opina sobre expresiones artísticas—, algunos de sus colaboradores fueron menos discretos.

El escritor religioso Vittorio Messori, un intelectual muy próximo a Juan Pablo II, dijo también que la película "complació" al Papa y a su corte.

"Es una obra de calidad altísima que parece reducir los filmes anteriores sobre Jesús a parientes pobres y arcaicos", dijo en un largo artículo publicado en el diario Corriere della Sera.

Tan o más entusiasmado está el cardenal colombiano Darío Castrillón Hoyos, prefecto de la Congregación para el Clero. Tras una proyección especial,

dijo que canjearía felizmente algunas de sus homilias por escenas de la película.

"Quisiera que todos los sacerdotes católicos del mundo la vieran", comentó.

En Estados Unidos, expertos católicos advirtieron que el largometraje se basa en peligrosas imprecisiones históricas.

Por ejemplo, el religioso

John Pawlikowski, director del Programa de Estudios Judeo Católicos del Catholic Theological Union de Chicago y asesor de la Conferencia Episcopal de Estados Unidos, sostiene que el prefecto romano Pilatos es presentado en el filme como un personaje débil manipulado por los judíos.

"Hoy el consenso entre los expertos bíblicos e históricos es que de ninguna forma, ni aun queriendo, los líderes judíos hubieran podido chantajear a Pilatos (...)."

"Pintarlo como una persona débil que sucumbe a la influencia de los judíos no sólo es históricamente incorrecto, sino que apela a viejos argumentos antisemitas", dijo a La Opinión.

Legionarios apasionados
Según el periódico The New York Times, el filme de Gibson apasionó a los Legionarios de Cristo.

Seminaristas de la congregación visitaron el set de la película cuyo rodaje terminaba todas las noches con la celebración de una misa tridentina, la antigua liturgia en latín con el

sacerdote de espaldas al público abolida por el Concilio Vaticano II.

Cuarenta que Gibson trabó amistad con los legionarios, en cuya sede de Roma se proyectó la película por adelantado a un puñado de cardenales y monseñores a fines del año pasado.

Según Pawlikowski, la congregación fundada por el mexicano Marcial Maciel asesoró a Gibson durante la fase de producción.

"No quiero atribuirle a Gibson una idea deliberada de producir una película antisemita. Creo que hasta cierto punto estaba desinformado sobre la historia del antisemitismo cristiano (...) y sobre cómo algunos de estos textos bíblicos que él usa fueron utilizados en el pasado para atacar y matar judíos", dijo.

La pregunta que todos se hacen es hasta qué punto el

filme dañará las relaciones entre católicos y judíos.

"Algunas personas dicen que será positivo porque reabrirá el diálogo. Sin embargo, la discusión sobre si los judíos mataron o no a Jesús no es el tipo de diálogo que necesitamos. Eso es algo que resolvimos hace 40 años", dijo Foxman.

Un funcionario israelí dijo que la película de Gibson tendrá consecuencias devastadoras.

"No excluiría un pronunciamiento de la Santa Sede incluso al máximo nivel", dijo la fuente.

Sin embargo, los críticos católicos no se hacen ilusiones. La posición del Vaticano, dicen, es que no hay posición.

"¿El lado positivo de todo esto? Que estamos dándonos cuenta de lo poco que las enseñanzas del Concilio Vaticano II calaron en ciertos ambientes.

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