

Innocence Doesn't Matter

BY MICHAEL A. KROLL,
PACIFIC NEWS SERVICE

Nobody cares much about Henry Lee Lucas. He is, after all, a child molester, a thief, and a murderer.

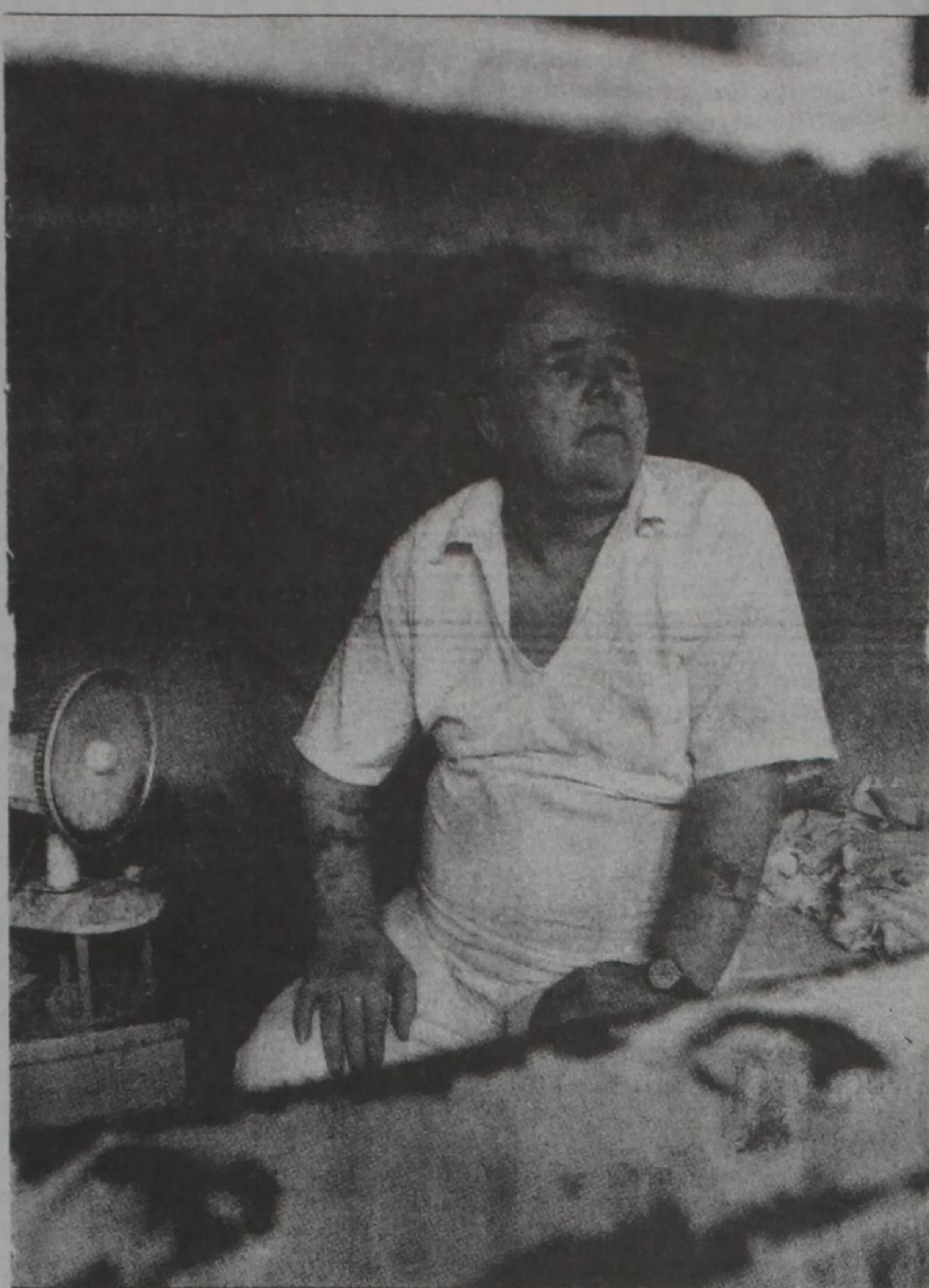
And on June 30, unless the U.S. Supreme Court or Texas Governor George Bush stops it, Lucas will be the 155th person executed in Texas since the mid 1970s.

There is a problem. Lucas is almost certainly innocent of the murder for which he was convicted and sentenced.

No physical evidence connects Lucas to the murder of the still unidentified woman who was wearing only orange socks when her body was discovered more than twenty years ago. Prosecutors relied entirely on Lucas' confession to the crime -- which he rescinded before trial.

Henry Lee Lucas is a legend of sorts. He confessed to over 600 killings--including the murders of Jimmy Hoffa and of fictitious characters invented by his interrogators. At that point, the state's attorney general from 1983 to 1991, Jim Mattox, put a stop to it. Mattox, who is again running for that office, says "Lucas is not the greatest serial killer of all time. He's the greatest liar of all time."

In 1986, Mattox issued the "Lucas Report," covering Lucas's actual whereabouts during each of the murders he confessed to. With respect to the murder of "orange socks" the report concluded, "in all



probability, Henry Lee Lucas did not commit this crime." Mattox, who favors the death penalty, later asserted that "no rational juror could have found Lucas guilty."

Mattox's successor, Attorney General Dan Morales set out to debunk the Lucas Report. Instead, he found evidence to reinforce it, concluding that it was "highly

unlikely" that Lucas had committed the murder for which he is scheduled to be executed.

However, Morales' office is now arguing that it has no further role to play -- whether or not Lucas is guilty as charged. They cite a Texas case, *Herrera v. Collins*, in which the Supreme Court found that executing the innocent is not prohibited as long as the judicial process followed the rules.

"The courts have uniformly determined that Lucas was convicted in a constitutionally valid proceeding," Morales has written. "Any decision to second-guess the verdict must be undertaken as part of the clemency process."

In the *Herrera* case, the Court said that miscarriages of justice could be remedied because the governor had the power to grant executive clemency.

In Texas, that power can be exercised with a recommendation from the state's Board of Pardons and Parole -- but that board has never recommended clemency.

Some believe the Lucas case will be a first. Governor Bush has taken the unprecedented step of asking the board to scrutinize the case carefully.

Moreover, when Bush refused to grant clemency earlier this year in the celebrated case of Karla Faye Tucker, he said that actual innocence is the only grounds on which he would consider clemency.

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News Briefs

Govs: Child Care, Job Training Replacing Welfare

Columbus Dispatch-- State welfare spending belies fears of a "race to the bottom," the National Governors' Association said yesterday.

While cash assistance has declined with caseloads since the 1996 welfare law placed time limits on benefits, states such as Ohio are spending more on job training and child care to move people from welfare to work, the association says.

"Governors are making the long-term investments in support services," said Raymond C. Scheppach, association executive director, releasing the group's semi-annual fiscal survey of the states.

Ohio's total federal and state cash welfare assistance fell to \$611.6 million this year from \$782.5 million in 1996. That's because the number of recipients has fallen to 378,803 as of April, from the 1992 peak of nearly 915,000.

However, Ohio is spending \$292.7 million in state and federal money on child care this year, up from \$150 million two years ago. The state's share has increased to \$127 million from \$47.6 million.

Nationally, about \$16.3 billion in cash payments were made this year, down from \$19.5 billion in 1996. But total state and federal child-care spending has increased to \$6.3 billion, up from \$3.5 billion.

Ohio recently turned down a three-year, \$88 million federal job training grant from the Department of Labor.

Gov. George V. Voinovich, governors' association chairman, said the money had too many strings attached and he is choosing instead to use savings from the declining cash assistance programs to beef up the welfare program's Ohio Works First initiative.

However, advocates have criticized the decision.

They say recipients left on the rolls, including about 115,000 adults who in less than three years will be ineligible for welfare payments, will be the hardest to place in the work force, requiring even more spending.

However, Mike Dawson, Voinovich's spokesman, recalled that the Clinton administration predicted before welfare reform passed that states would "race to the bottom" and cut all welfare spending. There will be adequate money for welfare- to-work efforts, Dawson said.

"The governor said three years ago . . . there would be no race to the bottom and in fact there hasn't been," Dawson said.

HHS Taps Homeless Fund for 2000 Fix

The Year 2000 computer glitch, which will eat up billions of dollars before it is solved, will take a bite out of money meant for homeless young people.

Hoping to fix major problems in computers that run Medicare, the Department of Health and Human Services is transferring \$7 million from a program aiding teen runaways and other young people living on the street.

That's nearly half of the \$15 million designated this year for the program, created by the 1994 crime law. Last year, it got \$8 million, meaning all of the extra funding provided for 1998 will be diverted to the computer problem.

In total, HHS has told Congress it will move \$40.5 million from various programs to reprogram Medicare's computers. That also includes \$3.5 million from community economic development grants, which are used to help low-income people get jobs and job training. About half the money comes from across-the-board cuts at the National Institutes of Health.

During difficult deliberations, the department decided to move money from grants that had not yet been awarded, rather than money that communities are already counting on, said Michael Kharfen, an HHS spokesman.

The department is allowed to redirect up to 1 percent of its budget to handle the massive computer problem. It must inform Congress, but it does not need permission.

Kharfen contends that the transfer from the homeless program won't really affect the program. The department is now evaluating grant applications for 1998 and had planned to hand out the money in September, just before the end of the fiscal year.

Instead, HHS will use money from next year's budget to fund this year's projects. In 1999, he said, they'll do the same thing, using money from the 2000 budget.

The homeless projects funded send outreach workers to the streets to find homeless young people, offer shelters, health care and counseling.

Advocates for the homeless were disturbed by the news. "It's a classic case of robbing Peter to pay Paul," said Michael Ferrell, executive director of the Coalition for the Homeless, HN0055@handsnet.org. "Surely they can find some other ways to fix the problem aside from taking money from youth initiatives."

The computer glitch is causing havoc across the government and private sector, which is spending billions to reprogram machines that use two digits to represent a year. This means these systems will see the year 2000 and believe it is 1900. After Jan. 1, 2000, computers that have not been fixed may generate incorrect data or simply shut down.

Across the federal government, about a third of the 8,000 critical systems have been fixed. The total cost is estimated at more than \$4.7 billion.

But HHS has fixed only 40 percent of its 491 vital systems. And almost one-fourth of Medicare's external contractors have yet to even assess their systems.

Tax-Favored School Savings Expanded

House and Senate negotiators agreed Wednesday on a bill to expand tax-favored savings accounts for educational expenses, including tuition at private and religious schools.

They added several provisions that could thwart a presidential veto.

The measure would expand college savings accounts that Congress permitted last year for families. The maximum savings allowed would grow from \$500 to \$2,000. Tax-free interest buildup and withdrawals would be allowed for most kinds of public and private school expenses, starting with kindergarten, in addition to college.

Clinton has threatened to veto the measure on grounds the tuition break would route public money to private education. Supporters stress that the money could also be used for books, tutors and other expenses for public-school families.

Negotiators deleted Senate-passed amendments that would have driven away seven Democrats who signed a letter last week backing the underlying bill and saying they would vote to override a veto. Those amendments banned national, standards-based tests in reading and math and converted some Education Department programs into block grants.

If all seven Democrats joined the 55 Republicans, the Senate could override a veto.

The negotiators also tacked on a reading bill, supported by Clinton, that must be signed in order for \$210 million to be spent starting July 1 for research, teacher training and grants to help improve reading instruction.

Besides expanding the savings accounts, the bill expands popular exemption for employer-provided education assistance, makes savings for state prepaid tuition plans tax free and contains a modest school construction plan for areas with surging enrollments.

The Democratic senators who signed the letter are Robert Torricelli of New Jersey, a co-sponsor; Joe Biden of Delaware; John Breaux of Louisiana; Max Cleland of Georgia; Dianne Feinstein of California; Bob Graham of Florida; and Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut. Robert Byrd of West Virginia has voted for the bill.

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U.S. Officials Struggle With Multiracial Heritage

By STEVEN A. HOLMES

WASHINGTON -- After years of study, the Clinton administration decided last October that people could, for the first time, identify themselves as members of more than one racial group when they fill out federal forms.

That was the easy part.

In the months since the announcement, the administration has struggled with a few basic questions: Now that people may describe their multiracial heritage in full detail, what will the government consider them? If people start to list themselves on census forms or passport applications as, say, black and white, or white and Asian, or black and white and American Indian, in which category should the federal government place them?

Given how much of American society is described in racial terms, these are hardly arcane questions. How does one describe a neighborhood that, based on census data today, is considered 20 percent black, or a town that has an Indian population of 4 percent, when, as they can on the 2000 Census, people begin listing themselves as members of more than one race?

Important legal decisions in discrimination suits, and some

government policies such as the enforcement of the Voting Rights Act, are also highly dependent on racial statistics.

"Thousands of dollars and political power depend on this," said Prof. Robert Hill, director of the Institute for Urban Research at Morgan State University in Baltimore, and a member of a citizens' board that is advising the Census Bureau.

The Census Bureau produced an options paper that highlighted the complexity -- and, some have said, the absurdity -- of the possible solutions to this conundrum. In dry bureaucratic language, the memo set forth suggestions that have sparked debate among statisticians and representatives of racial groups, and could easily provide fodder for late-night comedians.

One option is the "full distribution" approach. Under this, people would be placed in a racial category that corresponds to a combination of races they list. A man who describes himself as white and also as Asian would be placed in the race category of "white and Asian."

The advantage of such a method, according to the Census Bureau paper, is to fully describe the rich mosaic of American society. The disadvantage? When the category of "some other races" on the census

form is also thrown in, the various combinations would give the United States 63 officially recognized races.

Another option put forth in the paper is called the "all inclusive" approach. Here, the government would assign one person to one or more categories, depending on the combination of races listed by that person. The problem with this, as the paper states, is that "the resulting distribution adds up to more than 100 percent of the population."

Still another possibility, according to the Census Bureau, is the "collapsing" approach, in which a person of mixed race is placed into one of the six racial groups that will be recognized by the government for the 2000 census -- American Indian, Asian, black, native Hawaiian and other Pacific islander, white and other. Hispanic origin is considered an ethnic category and not a racial category. A person who lists American Indian and white would be placed in either one of these categories.

But which one? And on what basis would the decision be made?

In its paper, the Census Bureau lays out options. Such people could be randomly assigned to a racial category. They could be assigned a

country, where surveys show that their share of the government's business is smaller than could be expected, but not in other parts of the country.

All told, affirmative action will be employed in industries representing about three-quarters of all the money the government spends on procurement contracts with small businesses, the White House said.

The policy was devised to meet the terms of a Supreme Court decision in 1995 that strictly limited the justification and scope of government programs that grant preferences based on race or sex.

In a statement issued Wednesday by the White House shortly after he

left for China, President Clinton said that the new rules "continue my promise to mend, not end affirmative action." The approach, he added, "satisfies constitutional requirements while targeting our efforts in areas where disparities still exist."

Opponents of affirmative action challenged the new policy. Abigail Thernstrom, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute for Public Policy Research and one of the most outspoken academic critics of racial preferences, called the policy "old wine in new bottles."

"Counting heads is a bad way of measuring discrimination," Ms. Thernstrom said.

White House Unveils Market-Based Affirmative Action Policy

By DAVID E. ROSENBAUM

WASHINGTON -- The White House on Wednesday announced a new affirmative action policy under which minority-owned businesses will be given an advantage when they compete for government contracts, but only in industries where surveys show they do not seem to have a fair share of the market.

What this means, for example, is that companies controlled by blacks will get a leg up in trucking contracts with the government but not in food manufacturing.

In the case of construction, a preference will be given to minority contractors in some regions of the

Rep. John Canady, R-Fla., who is the sponsor of legislation to end racial preferences in government programs, said that under the new policy "decisions will still be made on the basis of ethnic background" and that "classifications based on race are inherently harmful."

Many supporters of affirmative action were pleased. Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., who is chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, said that the new policy would "provide opportunities for qualified minority businesses to compete openly and fairly for federal government contracting opportunities."

But Wade Henderson, executive director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, which lobbies for the interests of members of minority groups, called the

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An Issue of Space As Well As Skin Color: U.S. Prisons Incubators of Racism

EDITOR'S NOTE: The brutal murder of a black man in Jasper, Texas has drawn particular attention as a "hate crime" -- Jessie Jackson has called on the President to get there on the anniversary of the "conversation on race" and talks of a deep seed of racism. But the bigotry that inspired the crime grew out of a prison culture Americans need to address if they are to take an inclusive approach to eradicating racism. PNS Associate

Editor Joe Loya is a California writer currently writing an autobiography.

BY JOE LOYA, PACIFIC NEWS SERVICE

In Texas, three white men allegedly came out of jail with a plan to kill a black man. Prison air does that. The density of the confined space puts pressure on the angry imagination. And we all know enough pressure will bust any pipe.

When I was in prison I once antagonized a black man because I didn't like him and he didn't like me. We both understood that no logic had to inform our hate. We simply could not stand the other's presence in our space.

He cracked open my skull. I stabbed him in the face.

In maximum security prisons, white or brown prisoners will often designate two or three of the loudest black men on their tier to stab first in case of a riot. I'm sure the plotting goes both

ways. Many Americans think of prisoners as one big homogenous criminal family, but that is not the case. For example, different racial groups see the world quite differently. The black prison population exploded with raucous jubilee when the O.J. verdict was announced.

White supremacists just shrugged their shoulders. Their faces revealed an inner conflict. They hated thinking that O.J. got away with murdering a white woman. But because O.J.'s enemies were the cops, they were compelled to congratulate him -- at least in prison company -- for beating the justice system.

Being a racist in prison is a rather muddled business. In federal prison, I knew one member of the Aryan Brotherhood who had a Jewish mother.

In California, the Aryan Brotherhood has for years teamed up with the southern Mexican Mafia for wars against blacks or northern Mexicans. In California prisons, southern California Mexicans war with Northern California Mexicans for myriad reasons, not least being that the nortenos (northerners) are accused, by sureños (southerners), of being infatuated with all things black.

Rap music. Black lingo. Black mannerisms.

My own awareness of race came when I attended a predominantly white private school in grades one through six. I'd sometimes rub my dark brown Mexican skin and think, damn, if it weren't for this, I'd be one of them -- my white schoolmates.

But it was in prison that white and brown achieved a sort of parity for me. There a South Boston Irishman told me he used to assault black students bused into his school. He liked me, he said, because when he was in the Marines he admired the way Chicanos were fastidious and respectful of other peoples space.

Cramped cellblocks accelerate a man's bigotries. Once when I was locked in my cell I asked a guard for a roll of toilet paper. He said I'd have to wait for two days. I wanted to lash out for being reduced to begging for tissue so I fantasized about violence -- not directed at the guard but at shutting up the inmate at the end of the tier who played his music too loud or yelled to his friend at night when everyone slept. He happened to be black.

The Aryan Brotherhood was the last major prison gang to form in California prisons --

Latino Reality Still Evades Mainstream Media

By Fernando Quintero

In an April profile by ESPN magazine on top-ranked tennis player Marcelo Rios, the Chilean-born athlete is described as a "glowering, nasty-mannered, pony-tailed greaser" and "a dark hot chili pepper" who is a "dead ringer for those friendly neighborhood heroin dealers who starred on Miami Vice."

If that's not enough, the author wrote that Rios' former coach, Larry Stefanki, escaped injury after allegedly calling Rios a midget: "Luckily for Stefanki, Rios did not go for his switchblade," he wrote.

Was the author paid "by the word" or "by the slur," wrote Newsday staff writer Michelle Salcedo for the News Watch Project Web site.

"Cliches can be particularly damaging because they convey commonly held ideas or messages," wrote John Garcia, senior producer at WNBC/NBC in New York.

In a faxed response to the story critiques, ESPN editors wrote: "(The author's) language in the article was meant to describe Mr. Rios' personality, temperament and hairstyle, not his culture or ethnicity. We regret that some readers were offended by the article..." Later one editor said: "Rios is a hot-blooded, tempestuous man and (the author) was just having fun with him, taking artistic license."

The story was clearly written with attitude, but when does artistic license cross the line?

Racist words and images are easy to put one's grasp around and hold up as tangible evidence of biased and stereotypical journalism. But what about stories that through nuance or tone or lack of context paint an unfair and inaccurate picture? What is the cumulative effect of seeing people of color only in crime, poverty and other stories of social pathology?

Sometimes, the choice of just one or two certain words can color an entire piece. Words like "barrio" conjure up stereotypes of Latino neighborhoods. "Spanish" describes a language or people from Spain, not people from Latin America. Other biased words and phrases: -- Reporters and headline writers frequently use the word "preferences" to report on affirmative action stories. "Preferences" is a loaded political term used by those who oppose affirmative action.

-- The term "illegal aliens" is not only deeply offensive to

many Latinos and members of other immigrant communities, it is a phrase used by federal officials to dehumanize undocumented immigrants for enforcement purposes. A person may do something illegal, but a person is not illegal.

-- The phrase "politically correct" without quotation marks or attribution is editorializing. The term was coined by conservatives to trivialize and undermine everything from affirmative action to gay rights. It is not up to a reporter to decide whether something is or isn't "politically correct."

Poor reporting can also result in skewed and inaccurate coverage. In a recent study of coverage of California's anti-bilingual education ballot initiative by the San Francisco-based Media Alliance, stories about the referendum in three major newspapers revealed that among other problems, not one reporter had visited a classroom where bilingual education was taught, very few reporters bothered to provide a reasonable explanation of bilingual education, and few provided information on the effectiveness of the proposed alternative, English immersion.

As a result, readers -- and mostly importantly, voters -- were provided with an inaccurate picture of the issue, and readers were left more of a conceptual idea of the issue.

On stories about the Taco Bell Chihuahua controversy, in which some Latino leaders complained the commercial resorted to stale stereotypes of Mexican culture, context was missing.

At face value, what's wrong with commercials featuring a cute Chihuahua dog talking like thees? Maybe little. But what are the other popular cultural references that Latinos can take pride in? Speedy Gonzalez? Frito Bandito, Rosarita and her refried beans? Charo?

If Latinos are going to gain the political credibility and clout we so badly need and deserve, we must rise above caricaturization and stereotype, both in the eyes of the media and of the national public.

(Fernando Quintero directs the national News Watch Project, which monitors news media coverage of communities of color and gays and lesbians. It is part of the Center for Integration and Improvement of Journalism at San Francisco State University.)

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Desde Texas Ricardo Flores Magón

"Pionero del periodismo hispano en los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica"

Juan Reynaldo Lucio Cázares
Durante la reciente XII Convención Nacional de Publicaciones Hispánicas (NAHP por sus siglas en inglés) en el discurso de bienvenida a los convencionistas en la ciudad de Austin, Texas, el Lic. Sergio Puerto Tesorero de la NAHP, Presidente de la Asociación de Publicaciones Hispánicas en Texas y Director General de "Novelades News", en calidad de uno de los principales anfitriones organizadores del evento nacional, mencionó a "Ricardo Flores Magón", periodista mexicano originario de Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón, municipio del estado de Oaxaca, de quien la historia de México lo tiene en triste memoria, por sus ideas de alto sentido revolucionario y a la vez inspiradoras de una de las etapas más aciagas y violentas en los últimos años de la dictadura del general Porfirio Díaz y que motivaron al movimiento de 1910, en una persistente campaña periodística dirigida en su mayor parte desde los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica.

La mención reciente de "Flores Magón", fue para citarlo como uno de los principales pioneros del periodismo mexicano en este país, y yo me atrevo a decir que el personaje es uno de los más claros y relevantes ejemplos del periodismo hispano.

Ricardo Flores Magón fue el segundo de tres hermanos. Jesús se dedicó a ejercer su profesión de abogado y Enrique el menor también periodista que acompañó hasta sus últimos días al hermano idealista y terminó en la vida privada, retirado de toda actividad política de su tiempo en México, hasta su muerte en 1954.

Los datos biográficos de Ricardo Flores Magón, señalan que nació en 1873 y murió en 1922 enfermo y abandonado a su suerte en la prisión federal de Leavenworth, Kansas, donde días antes de su muerte escribió: " Mis camaradas son generales, gobernadores, incluso presidentes...ricos, famosos, mientras yo estoy en la pobreza, en el anonimato, enfermo, calificado de rufián...Mis viejos camaradas fueron hombres prácticos."

Ricardo era niño cuando se trasladó a la ciudad de México, donde hizo sus estudios. En 1892 fue encarcelado por primera vez por tomar parte en manifestaciones antiprofristas. En 1893 ingresó en la Escuela Nacional de Jurisprudencia donde no pudo concluir sus estudios.

En el mismo año se inició como redactor de "El Demócrata." Fundó con sus hermanos "Regeneración" (1900), periódico que de la crítica del sistema judicial pasó a la impugnación global del Estado Porfirista. Asistió como delegado a la Convención de Clubes Liberales de San Luis Potosí (1901). En 1902 dirigió "El Hijo del Ahuizote". Encarcelado una y otra vez, en 1904 fue obligado a exiliarse en Estados Unidos, desde donde continuó publicando "Regeneración". En San Luis Missouri publicó el programa de Partido Liberal, organización de la que era presidente. Este programa marcó las diferencias de los militantes que habían evolucionado hacia el socialismo anarquista con el ala moderada del partido, en la que estaba Jesús Flores Magón. Perseguido por la policía de Díaz, los detectives de la agencia Pinkerton y las propias autoridades estadounidenses, Ricardo y dos de sus compañeros fueron detenidos en agosto de 1907. Desde la cárcel dirigió el levantamiento de junio de 1908 (acción de las

Vacas y Palomas). Luego de permanecer tres años en prisión volvió a sus actividades políticas. En 1911, don Francisco I. Madero, ya en la Presidencia, invitó a los magonistas a colaborar. Ricardo rechazó el ofrecimiento por considerar que Madero no se proponía llevar a cabo los cambios que requería el país. " La libertad política sin la libertad económica es un mentira", señaló en esa ocasión.

En el mismo año el Partido Liberal organizó una fuerza internacionalista para apoderarse de Baja California. Por su cortadad de vista y precaria salud Ricardo dirigió desde Los Angeles, la frustrada operación. Después los dirigentes del Partido Liberal entraron en contacto con las fuerzas del general Francisco Villa sin éxito. Con el zapatismo debieron vencerse desconfianzas mutuas antes de iniciar una larga colaboración, la que incluyó el ofrecimiento del general Emiliano Zapata de dar facilidades para la publicación del periódico magonista.

Consecuente con sus ideas, Flores Magón se opuso a los que deseaban la entrada de Estados Unidos en la primera guerra mundial. Advirtió que se trataba de una carnicería en la que los proletarios eran mera carne de cañón. Su pacifismo fue pretexto para que el gobierno de Estados Unidos lo encarcelara nuevamente.

El Congreso mexicano acordó concederle una pensión, la que el rechazó firmemente, recordando a los legisladores que su lucha era contra el Estado y que ellos lo representaban.

Trasladado a la prisión de Leavenworth, Kansas, fue sometido a un riguroso régimen para privarlo de sol y aire fresco. Se le negó atención médica y nada se hizo por impedir el agravamiento de sus males. Su compañero Librado Rivera acusó a los carceleros de asesinato. Su cadáver, fue llevado a México, dio ocasión para manifestaciones tumultuarias en cada estación del ferrocarril, por la que fue pasando, el pueblo salió a rendirle homenaje.

En su trabajo periodístico, altamente apreciado por prestigiosos periodistas, pensadores, literatos y escritores a nivel mundial, recurrió a diversos géneros para hacer llegar sus ideas a los lectores.

Ese fue el periodista revolucionario mexicano Ricardo Flores Magón, digno ejemplo de idealismo y lucha constante para el periodismo hispano de la época actual en los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica, poderoso país del cual su gobierno de los años 20's, por su amplia relación de oscuros y bastardos intereses económico: con el gobierno mexicano del dictador Porfirio Díaz, se encargó mediante su corrupto sistema carcelario, de cortar la existencia de un ilustre y revolucionario periodista mexicano, que lo mismo editó sus periódicos, en las ciudades de San Antonio y El Paso, Texas como Los Angeles, California y San Luis Missouri, para agitar e inducir al pueblo mexicano a defender su dignidad y rescatar su libertad, en el histórico movimiento, quizá el último y el más importante para México, como fue la "Revolución de 1910", sobre la cual Ricardo Flores Magón escribió desde su exilio en los Estados Unidos: "La Infame paz que los mexicanos hemos sufrido...pronto será truncada. La calma de hoy oculta la violencia insurrección de mañana. La Revolución es la consecuencia lógica de los miles de crímenes del despotismo..."

La Realidad Latina Todavía Queda Fuera De Los Principales Medios Informativos

Por Fernando Quintero

En un perfil sobre el tenista Marcelo Ríos publicado el pasado abril por la revista ESPN, se describe al atleta chileno como un "latino-americano ceñudo, de modales desagradables, con un peinado de cola de caballo" y "un chile picante caliente y oscuro" que es "muy parecido a esos traficantes de heroína" que aparecen en "Miami Vice".

Como si eso no fuera suficiente, el autor escribió que el ex-entrenador de Ríos, Larry Stefanki, se libró de resultar lesionado después que presuntamente llamó a Ríos "enano". "Por suerte para Stefanki, Ríos no trató de sacar su navaja", escribió el autor.

¿Le pagaron al autor "por cada palabra" o por "cada insulto"? escribió la reportera Michelle Salcedo, de periódico Newsday, para el Proyecto de Observación de las Noticias" en el Internet.

"Los llamados clichés pueden ser especialmente dañinos porque transmiten ideas o mensajes comúnmente sostenidas", escribió John García, productor ejecutivo de WNBC/NBC en Nueva York.

En una respuesta transmitida por fax a los críticos del artículo, los editores de ESPN dijeron: "La fraseología del autor en el artículo se destinaba a describir la personalidad, el temperamento y el estilo de peinado del Sr. Ríos, no su cultura o su etnicidad. Lamentamos que algunos lectores se sintieran ofendidos por el artículo." Después, un editor dijo: "Ríos es un hombre de sangre caliente, tempestuoso, y (el autor) sólo estaba divirtiéndose con él, tomándose una licencia artística".

Claramente el artículo fue escrito con una actitud, pero ¿cuándo se pasa la licencia artística?

Las palabras e imágenes racistas son fáciles de poner en evidencia como periodismo prejuiciado y estereotípico. Pero, ¿qué hay de los artículos que

mediante los matices, el tono o la falta de contexto pintan un cuadro injusto e inexacto? ¿Cuál es el efecto acumulativo de ver a las personas de color sólo en la delincuencia, la pobreza y otras patologías sociales?

Algunas veces, la selección de sólo una o dos palabras puede dar color a todo un artículo. Las palabras como "barrio" conjuran estereotipos de los vecindarios latinos. "Español" describe a un idioma o a personas de España, no a las de América Latina.

Otras palabras y frases prejuiciadas:

-- Los reporteros y escritores de titulares usan frecuentemente la palabra "preferencias" para describir asuntos de acción afirmativa. "Preferencias" es una palabra cargada que usan aquellos que se oponen a la acción afirmativa.

-- La palabra "ilegal" no es solamente profundamente ofensiva para muchos latinos y miembros de otras comunidades de inmigrantes, es una palabra empleada por los funcionarios gubernamentales para deshumanizar a los inmigrantes indocumentados con el fin de seguir con la vigilancia de la ley. Una persona puede hacer algo que sea ilegal, pero una persona no es ilegal.

-- La frase "políticamente correcto" sin comillas ni asignación es una forma de editorializar. El término fue inventado por los conservadores para trivializar y socavar a todo, desde la acción afirmativa hasta los derechos de los homosexuales. No le toca a un reportero el decidir si algo es o no "políticamente correcto".

El reportaje defectuoso puede resultar igualmente en una información tergiversada e inexacta. En un reciente estudio sobre la cobertura de la iniciativa electoral en contra de la educación bilingüe de California, hecho por la Alianza de los Medios Informativos, con sede en San Francisco, los artículos en tres periódicos

importantes revelaron que, entre otros problemas, ni un sólo reportero había visitado un salón de clase donde se practicara la enseñanza bilingüe, muy pocos reporteros se molestaron por dar una explicación razonable de la educación bilingüe, y pocos reportaron sobre la eficacia de la alternativa propuesta, la inmersión en el inglés.

Como resultado, los lectores -- y lo que es más importante, los electores -- recibieron un cuadro inexacto del asunto, y a los lectores se les dejó con poco más que una idea conceptual sobre el asunto.

En los artículos sobre la controversia de Taco Bell, en la que algunos dirigentes latinos se quejaron que el comercial con el perro chihuahua recurría a estereotipos rancios de la cultura mexicana, el contexto estuvo faltante.

A su valor nominal, ¿qué hay de malo con los anuncios que destacan a un perro Chihuahua bonito "hablando" con acento? Puede que poco. Pero, ¿cuáles son las otras referencias culturales populares de las cuales puedan enorgullecerse los latinos? ¿Speedy González? ¿Frito Bandito, Rosarita y sus frijoles refritos? ¿Charo?

Si los latinos van a ganar credibilidad política junto con la influencia que tanto necesitamos y merecemos, debemos ponernos por encima de las caricaturas y de los estereotipos, tanto a los ojos de los medios informativos como del público en general.

(Fernando Quintero dirige el Proyecto Nacional de Observación de Noticias, que vigila la información sobre las comunidades de color y homosexual. Es parte del Centro para la Integración y el Mejoramiento del Periodismo, en la Universidad Estatal de San Francisco.)

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William Penn, Meet Montezuma

By Herman Sillas

Montezuma met Cortes in 1519. English Quaker William Penn came to this hemisphere a century or so later and settled in Pennsylvania.

Montezuma and Penn never met. But this year they will.

My daughter Debbie, her husband Craig Nell and their daughter Sophia have packed up and headed for Pennsylvania. It seems that William Penn gave a certain Henry Nell about 200 acres centuries ago. That land is still in the Nell family. Craig and Debbie are going there to live on it and start a church.

They had been living in Garden Grove, here in Southern California, and as part of their ministry, they worked with folks in a low-cost housing unit. Their initial efforts were OK, but Debbie and Craig felt they weren't truly reaching the residents.

They concluded they needed to live in the complex so as not to be considered outsiders, so they downsized and moved in. English was a foreign language. Their new neighbors were mostly Vietnamese, Cambodians and Latinos from Central and South America and Mexico, the land of our family's roots. Debbie tried to subscribe to The Los Angeles Times. The carrier said they wouldn't deliver -- too much crime in the area. She

wrote the circulation department and sent a copy of her letter to the mayor. The newspaper came, with an apology.

Debbie shared with me the political dynamics she and Craig encountered in the complex and their efforts to overcome them. They were armed only with their creativity, talents, skill and faith.

They were viewed with suspicion by the adults. The children were more trusting. When they started a Saturday morning pancake breakfast in their kitchen for any child who wanted to show up, only a few did at first. They liked pancakes. The kids tolerated the words about Christianity that followed. Their numbers increased. The landlord lowered their rent. He said Craig and Debbie were contributing significantly to the community and he wanted to help.

On their first Christmas, Debbie and Craig took 40 carolling children around the large complex. The following year they put on a Christmas play attended by 300 proud parents and children.

Craig took up Spanish and Debbie brushed up on hers. The Saturday pancake breakfast became so popular that it was moved from their one-bedroom

apartment to the new community room, which had a small kitchen.

Then, after two years, they decided to head to Pennsylvania and help start a church with Craig's sister and brother-in-law, who are returning from a ministry in the Dominican Republic.

My wife Cora and I helped them pack and clean out their apartment. So did about 20 kids from the neighborhood. All afternoon, parents came by to wish Debbie and Craig well and thank them. Most spoke little English, but the smiling, nodding faces and handshakes conveyed the meaning more than any words could. The children hung around, savoring the last time that Debbie, Craig and Sophia would be there.

We had a family going-away party. Our daughter Monica and her husband Oscar, a high school teacher who immigrated here from El Salvador, hosted it at their home. Aunts, uncles, cousins, brothers and sisters were all there. Mexican folkloric dancers performed. Mariachi music and forceful footwork on the brick floor brought *gritos* from us spectators.

I mentally removed myself from the crowd around me, studying the smiling faces. I checked Cora and saw her sadness. I felt it, too. Our first daughter was leaving, all the way across the country. No more calling up and saying, "Why don't you come on down to the beach." As the music filled the air, my thoughts wandered.

Here we are in 1998. More than 400 years ago Cortes met Montezuma. Out of that meeting, two cultures became one. Debbie carries with her many of the Mexican traditions of our family. I look at Sophia, our 5-year-old granddaughter with her blue eyes and dark hair. I can see both Craig and Debbie in her looks and manner.

Now my daughter and her family are going to Craig's roots, but he is carrying something back, too.

We take photos of Craig and Sophia surrounded by the young dancers. Craig is wearing a big sombrero and a bigger smile.

I'm smiling now, too. I understand. We set the course for future generations, and this country's greatness will be based upon our ability to live with and help each other. Craig and Debbie remind me of that. William Penn, meet Montezuma.

(Herman Sillas is a Los Angeles attorney.)

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William Penn, Le Presento A Montezuma

Por Herman Sillas

Moctezuma conoció a Cortés en 1519. El cuáquero inglés William Penn llegó a este hemisferio un siglo y medio después, y se quedó en Pennsylvania.

Moctezuma y Penn nunca se conocieron. Pero en este año sí.

Mi hija Debbie, su esposo Craig Nell y la hija de ellos, Sofia, han hecho sus maletas y se han mudado a Pennsylvania. Parece que William Penn hace siglos dió a un tal Henry Nell 200 acres de terreno. Esa tierra está todavía en la familia Nell. Craig y Debbie están allá para vivir en ella y dar comienzo a una iglesia.

Habían estado viviendo en Garden Grove, aquí en el sur de California, y como parte de su ministerio trabajaban con residentes de vivienda pública. Aunque sus gestiones iniciales fueron recibidas bien, Debbie y Craig sintieron que no estaban verdaderamente comunicándose con los residentes.

Llegaron a la conclusión que necesitaban vivir en el grupo de edificios para que no se les considerara como extraños, de modo que se deshicieron de unas cuantas cosas y se mudaron a uno de los apartamentos. Ahí el inglés era un idioma extranjero. Sus nuevos vecinos eran primordialmente vietnamitas, camboyanos y latinos de Centro y Sur América, y de México, la tierra de mis antepasados.

Debbie trató de suscribirse al "Times" de Los Angeles. El distribuidor dijo que no se lo entregarían -- había demasiada delincuencia en la zona. Ella le escribió al departamento de circulación del periódico y envió una copia de su carta al alcalde. El periódico llegó, con una disculpa.

Debbie me hablaba sobre la dinámica política que ella y Craig encontraban en el grupo de edificios y sus gestiones para superarla. Estaban armados solamente con su creatividad, sus talentos, su habilidad y su fe.

Los adultos los miraban con

despecha. Los niños les tenían más confianza. Cuando ellos comenzaron en su cocina un desayuno de "pancakes" los sábados por la mañana para cualquier niño que quisiera llegar, al principio sólo llegaron unos pocos. Toleraban las palabras sobre el cristianismo que seguían. La cantidad de jóvenes aumentaba.

El propietario de los edificios les rebajó el alquiler. Dijo que Craig y Debbie estaban aportando considerablemente a la comunidad y que él quería ayudar.

En su primera Navidad como residentes del edificio, Debbie y Craig llevaron a 40 niños a cantar villancicos por todos los edificios. Al año siguiente montaron una obra de Navidad, a la que asistieron orgullosamente 300 niños y padres de familia.

Craig comenzó clases de español y Debbie refrescó el de ella. El desayuno sabatino de "pancakes" llegó a ser tan popular que hubo que mudarlo del apartamento de una habitación al nuevo salón comunitario, que tenía una cocina pequeña.

Después, al cabo de dos años, decidieron mudarse a Pennsylvania y ayudar a construir una iglesia con la hermana y el cuñado de Craig, que estaban regresando de un ministerio en la República Dominicana.

Mi esposa Cora y yo les ayudamos a empacar y limpiar su apartamento. También lo hicieron 20 chicos del vecindario. Toda la tarde, los padres llegaban para deseales suerte y para darles las gracias. La mayoría hablaban poco inglés, pero las caras sonrientes que les hacían señas y los apretones de manos trasladaron el significado más de lo que habrían podido hacerlo cualesquiera palabras. Los niños se quedaron por allí, saboreando la última vez que Debbie, Craig y Sophia estarían ahí.

Tuvimos una fiesta de

despedida en familia. Nuestra hija Mónica y su esposo Oscar, un maestro de escuela secundaria que inmigró desde El Salvador, fueron los anfitriones. Tías, tíos, primos, hermanos y hermanas fueron. Un grupo folklórico mexicano nos deleitó con sus bailes. Llevaban un atuendo de colores. La música del mariachi y el baile zapateado sobre el piso de ladrillos produjo mucha gritería de nosotros.

Me saqué mentalmente de la multitud que me rodeaba, y me puse a estudiar las caras sonrientes. Miré a Cora y ví su tristeza. La sentí también. Nuestra hija mayor se iba para el otro lado del país. No más llamadas para decir: "¿Por qué no vienes a la playa?" Mientras que la música llenaba el aire, mis pensamientos divagaban.

Aquí estamos en 1998. Hace más de 400 años, Hernán Cortés se encontró con Moctezuma. A partir de esa reunión, dos culturas se convirtieron en una. Debbie lleva con ella muchas de las tradiciones mexicanas de nuestra familia. Miro a Sophia, nuestra nieta de cinco años de edad, con sus ojos azules y su cabello oscuro. Puedo ver tanto a Craig como a Debbie en su aspecto y sus modales.

Ahora mi hija y su familia se van hacia las raíces de Craig, pero él se lleva algo también.

Tomamos fotos de Craig y Sophia rodeados por los jóvenes bailarines. Craig llevaba un gran sombrero y una sonrisa aún mayor.

Yo estoy sonriendo también ahora. Entiendo. Nosotros fijamos el curso para las generaciones futuras, y la grandeza de este país se basará en nuestra capacidad para vivir juntos y ayudarnos mutuamente. Craig y Debbie me recuerdan eso. William Penn, le presento a Moctezuma.

(Herman Sillas es un abogado en Los Angeles.)

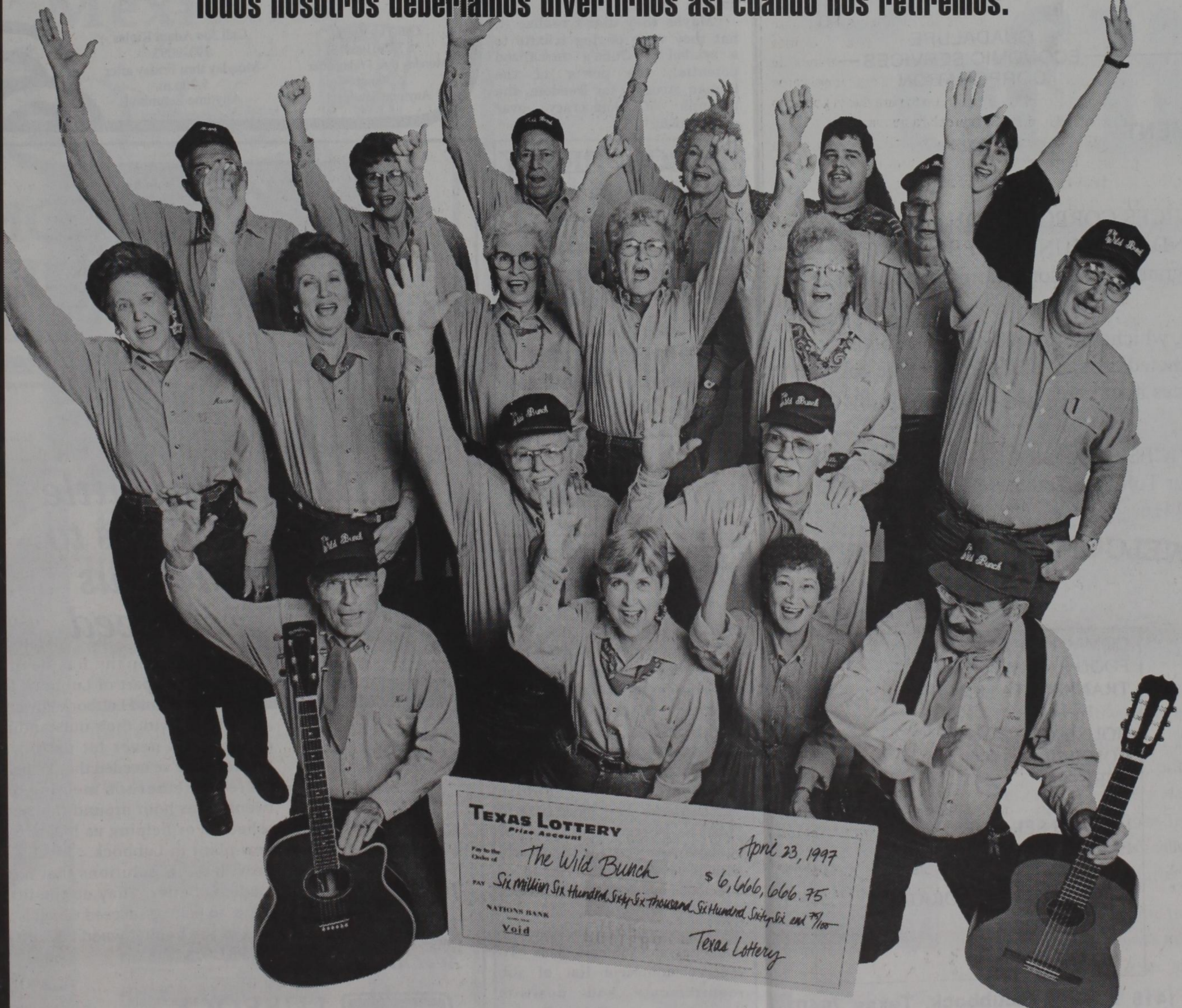
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Ya Viene El '98 Menudazo July 18 & 19, 1998

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La Noche En Que Un Lanzador Cubano Cambio El Significado De 'Yanqui'

Por Miguel Pérez

Llámenlo obsesión con mi país de origen -- no me importa.

Lo único que sé es que me sentí orgulloso de estar allí, en la noche de este mes en que se hizo historia cubana en el Estadio de los Yankees.

Estaba esperando en fila en un quiosco de ventas cuando el anunciador Bob Sheppard leyó las alineaciones para el juego contra los "Tampa Bay Devil Rays". Corrí a las gradas exactamente a tiempo para ser testigo de un momento histórico.

"Y lanzando para los "YankeesD", gritó Sheppard, "El Duque, Orlando Hernández". El Duque.

Quise gritar, pero no había palabras que describieran la emoción que sentí. Mientras que algunos de mis compatriotas hacían ondear banderas cubanas, yo me quedé de pie allí y observé a un símbolo del valor y el poder de la voluntad cubana hacer realidad un sueño imposible.

La palabra adecuada para que yo la gritara habría sido "Libertad", aunque pocos de los otros fanáticos hubieran comprendido. Gritaban "El Duque" y eso era suficientemente para mí.

Puede que ellos no se dieran cuenta, pero le estaban rindiendo tributo a un símbolo de las posibilidades sin realizar de Cuba, al poder de la lucha humana por la libertad, al triunfo de la democracia sobre el comunismo.

Para mí, como para la mayoría de los cubano-americanos, esto fue mucho más que un juego de béisbol. Fue una reivindicación.

Antes de que me fuera al estadio, un amigo cuestionó mi emoción por ir a ver el debut de "El Duque". "¿Por qué eres tan nacionalista? Te emociona demasiado. Este era alguien que debería haber reconocido que el orgullo étnico, racial y nacionalista siempre ha predominado en los deportes.

Yo podría haberle dado un discurso, nombrando a los muchos italianos importantes que han enorgullecido a su pueblo, o de los pioneros como Jackie Robinson, quien abrió las puertas para otros, o del frenesí evocado entre los irlandeses y los italiano-americanos durante la Copa Mundial. Pero yo no tenía tiempo para discutir.

Después de todo, hace sólo siete meses, mientras que su medio hermano Liván Hernández estaba ganando \$4.5 millones y nombrado el Jugador Más Valioso de la Serie

Mundial, "El Duque" estaba en Cuba ganando 206 pesos al mes - \$10 -- como terapeuta físico.

Liván había desertado del equipo nacional de Cuba un par de años antes mientras jugaba en México. A la vez que llevaba a los Marlins de la Florida a un campeonato, Orlando estaba excluido del béisbol cubano porque el gobierno sospechaba que él quería desertar.

Para los cubano-americanos, esto era mucho más que el típico ángulo nacionalista explotado tan a menudo por los que cubren deportes. Era una victoria sobre el régimen de Fidel Castro. Hijo de la revolución de Castro, criado escuchando la retórica sobre el "Imperialismo Yanqui", él estaba empezando a ganar los \$6.6 millones que recibió por convertirse en un Yanqui de Nueva York.

En Navidades del año pasado, "El Duque", su esposa y otras seis personas escaparon del infierno de Castro y estuvieron flotando durante varios días hacia las Bahamas, en una balsa de 19 pies de largo.

Ahora lo estaba viendo lanzar para los Yanquis hacia una victoria de 7 carreras por 1 sobre los "Devil Rays". Pero nadie que estuviera en el estadio podría apreciar el debut de "El Duque" más que un lanzador estrella del equipo contrario. Hace casi dos años, el lanzador Rolando Arrojo, de los "Devil Rays", desertó desde Cuba.

En vez de debatir sobre el trabajo extraordinario de siete entradas de "El Duque", con sólo una carrera, cinco batazos de una o más bases y siete "ponchados", Arrojo habló sobre un logro mayor. "Lo más precioso que él haya logrado", dijo Arrojo. "Es estar libre de Cuba".

Aunque Arrojo desertó mientras su equipo estaba de visita en los Estados Unidos, después sufrió la agonía de esperar por su esposa y sus dos hijos cuando escaparon de Cuba en un bote.

Ellos desembarcaron en la Florida y se pudieron quedar. Cientos de otros cubanos, que han huído de la Isla en botes y balsas pequeñas, incluyendo a seis de los compañeros de "El Duque", fueron regresados a Cuba para enfrentarse a castigos indefinidos bajo el acuerdo de repatriación entre el gobierno de las Bahamas y el régimen de Castro.

Los cubanos repatriados, o ahogados en el mar, no obtienen de costumbre mucha atención por parte de los medios informativos. Pero "El Duque" y

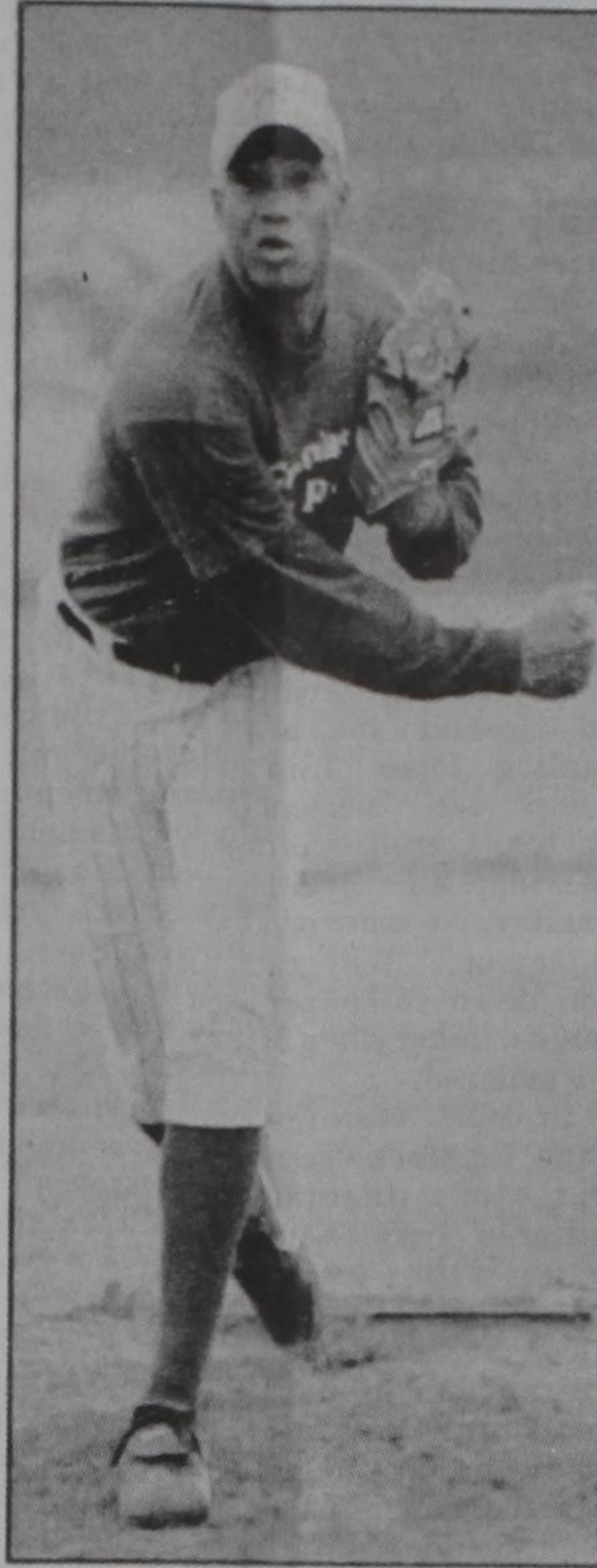
su familia fueron salvados por la notoriedad de su hermano -- de la clase que Arrojo está obteniendo en este año.

Aunque su equipo perdió un juego mientras él estaba sentado en el banco, Arrojo pareció estar

By Miguel Perez

Call it an obsession with my homeland -- I don't care.

All I know is I was proud to be there, goose bumps all over my body, on the night this month that Cuban history was made at



Orlando Hernandez

más impulsado por el nacionalismo que por el espíritu de equipo.

"El necesita continuar adelantando como yo", comentó Arrojo, "en nombre de aquéllos que quedaron atrás en medio del océano".

La próxima vez que yo vaya a ver a "El Duque" lanzar, y que otros fanáticos de los "Yanquis" estén gritando su nombre, me propongo comenzar un nuevo coro que grite: "Libertad!"

(Miguel Pérez es columnista del "Bergen Record" en Bergen, Nueva Jersey.)

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Ya Viene '98 Menudazo

Yankee Stadium.

I was waiting in line at a concession stand when announcer Bob Sheppard read the lineups for the game against the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. I ran out to the grandstand just in time to catch the historic moment.

"And pitching for the Yankees," Sheppard boomed. "El Duque, Orlando Hernandez." The Duke.

I wanted to shout, but there were no words to describe the exuberance that rushed through me. So, while some of my countrymen waved Cuban flags, I just stood there and watched a symbol of Cuban bravery and willpower realize an impossible dream.

The appropriate word for me to shout would have been *libertad* -- freedom -- although few of the other fans would have understood. They shouted "El Duque" and that was good enough for me.

Maybe they didn't realize it, but they were paying tribute to a symbol of Cuba's unrealized potential, the power of the human struggle for freedom, the triumph of democracy over communism.

The Night A Cuban Pitcher Redefined The Meaning of 'Yankee'

For me, as for most Cuban Americans, this was much more than baseball game. It was vindication.

Before I headed to the stadium, a friend had questioned my excitement for going to see El Duque's debut. "Why are you so nationalistic? You get too emotional." This was someone who should have recognized that ethnic, racial and nationalistic pride have always been prevalent in sports.

I could have given him a speech, naming the many "Italian stallions" who have made their people proud, or the pioneers like Jackie Robinson, who opened doors for others, or the frenzy evoked among Irish and Italian Americans during the World Cup. But I didn't have time to argue.

After all, only seven months ago, as his half-brother Liván Hernández was earning \$4.5 million and being crowned as the World Series' Most Valuable Player, El Duque was back in Cuba earning 206 pesos a month -- about \$10 -- as a physical therapist.

Liván had defected from the Cuba national team while playing in Mexico a couple of years earlier. While he was leading the Florida Marlins to a championship, Orlando was banned from Cuban baseball because the government suspected he wanted to defect.

For Cuban Americans, this was much more than the typical nationalistic angle often exploited in sportswriting. It was a victory over the Fidel Castro regime. A child of Castro's revolution, brought up listening to rhetoric about "Yankee imperialism," he was beginning to earn the \$6.6 million he received for becoming a New York Yankee.

Last Christmas, El Duque, his wife, and six others escaped from Castro's hellhole and drifted in the Florida Straits for several days toward the Bahamas in a flimsy 19-foot sailboat. Now I was witnessing him pitch the

Yankees to a 7-1 victory over the Devil Rays. But no one in the stadium could appreciate El Duque's debut more than a star pitcher on the opposing team. Almost two years ago, Devil Rays pitcher Rolando Arrojo also defected from Cuba.

Instead of discussing El Duque's sterling seven-inning, one-run, five-hit, seven-strikeout performance, Arrojo talked about a greater accomplishment. "It's the most precious thing he ever accomplished," Arrojo said. "To be free of Cuba."

Although Arrojo defected while his team was visiting the United States, later he suffered the agony of waiting for his wife and two children when they escaped from Cuba on a boat. They landed in Florida and were allowed to stay. Hundreds of other Cubans who have fled the island on small boats and rafts, including six of El Duque's companions on the boat, were sent back to Cuba to face untold punishment under a repatriation agreement between the Bahamian government and the Castro regime.

Cubans repatriated or drowned at sea don't usually get much media attention. But El Duque and his wife were saved by his brother's notoriety -- the kind that Arrojo is getting this year.

Although his team lost a game while he sat on the bench, Arrojo seemed to be more driven by nationalism than team spirit.

"He needs to keep advancing like me," Arrojo said, "in the name of those who were left behind in the middle of the ocean."

The next time I go to watch El Duque pitch, and other Yankee fans are shouting his nickname, I intend to start a new chorus for *libertad*.

(Miguel Perez is a columnist with the Bergen Record in Bergen, N.J.)

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Con frecuencia, investigadores y científicos analizan diferentes hábitos de la población para asegurarse que no tengan efectos nocivos para la salud. Estudios recientes hallaron que el consumo frecuente de bebidas para atletas (sports drinks) puede dañar los dientes. Sheri Zidenberg-Cherr, nutricionista de Extensión Cooperativa de la Universidad de California en Davis, explica que estas bebidas son ácidas; la cantidad de ácido que contienen es suficiente para desgastar el esmalte de los dientes, ya que contribuyen a una pérdida muy importante de los minerales que conforman el esmalte.

Según la especialista, el daño a los dientes se puede reducir de varias formas:

- 1.- Enfriando muy bien estas bebidas, ya que las reacciones químicas son más lentas a temperaturas bajas.
 - 2.- Usando un popote o pitillo para reducir el contacto que los dientes puedan tener con la bebida.
 - 3.- Mezclando las bebidas para reducir su acidez; mezcle una parte de jugo de fruta con cuatro partes de agua.
- Por otra parte, Zidenberg-Cherr previene también que hay varias plantas medicinales que se venden como productos para perder peso, pero que actúan como laxantes o diuréticos que promueven la pérdida temporal de agua del cuerpo. El usar laxantes o diuréticos por mucho tiempo puede causar pérdida de potasio. Esto a su vez puede provocar irregularidades del corazón y hasta paro respiratorio.

Las plantas medicinales en cuestión son:

- Jugo de áloe o acibar y un tipo de trigo sarraceno (conocido como yellow dock en inglés) que

son laxantes y estimulantes.
- Bardana o lampazo (burdock), buchú, presera o amor de cortelano (cleavers) y cola de caballo o equiceto (horsetail), que tiene propiedades diuréticas.
- Alcino o pampina (chickweed) para la cual no hay evidencia aceptable de que tenga algún efecto terapéutico.
- Dandelión, o diente de león (dandelion) cuyas hojas tienen un ligero efecto diurético y cuya raíz es laxante.
- Semilla de lino o linaza (flax) que es un laxante.

La evaluación hecha en la Universidad de Perdue indica que no se ha comprobado que tales plantas medicinales tengan efecto alguno en la pérdida de peso.

Por último, la especialista en nutrición apunta que la Academia Nacional de las Ciencias ha cambiado las cantidades de calcio que recomienda para personas de diferentes edades. Quienes tengan entre 9 y 18 años de edad deben consumir 1,300 mg de calcio diariamente para suplir las necesidades de sus huesos en crecimiento. Entre los 19 y 50 años de edad, es necesario consumir 1,000 miligramos de calcio. Pasados los 51 años de edad, es necesario consumir 1,200 mg. de calcio. Pasados los 51 años de edad, las nuevas recomendaciones son de consumir 1,200 mg. para disminuir la pérdida de masa de los huesos al envejecer. En cuanto a las mujeres embarazadas y lactantes, investigaciones recientes demuestran que la habilidad de las mujeres de absorber calcio aumenta mientras están embarazadas y lactando. Por eso, las nuevas recomendaciones son que sigan las cantidades establecidas para su edad. O sea, si tienen menos de 18 años, que consuman 1,300 mg. de calcio diariamente. Si son mayores de 18, que consuman 1,000 miligramos cada día.

SIDA en América Latina: Un llamado a la acción

(HU) - En Latinoamérica, en las escuelas no hay maestros, las carreteras están sin reparar y los servicios eléctricos y de agua son esporádicos debido a la pobreza y a que el SIDA esta ocasionado una falta de trabajadores entrenados.

No hay país en la tierra que sea inmune al SIDA. Más de 28 millones de personas son VIH positivo (Virus de Inmunodeficiencia Humana) y aproximadamente un 90 por ciento de los mismos desarrollara el SIDA.

El virus se esta esparciendo más rápidamente por el Sureste Asiático y América. La explosión del SIDA en Asia ha sido alimentada por su numerosa población, así como el negocio del turismo del sexo y el uso de drogas intravenosas.

El Caribe, México, Honduras y Brasil son los epicentros de la epidemia en Latinoamérica.

La epidemia de cada país es definida por aspectos económicos y culturales. Brasil reporta mas SIDA contraído a través del contacto homosexual o bisexual, frecuentemente ocasionado porque los trabajadores migratorios y mineros practican sexo homosexual "entre amigos" mientras se encuentran lejos de sus familias por largas temporadas.

Honduras, con sus actividades deportivas, ciudades portuarias y bases militares, tiene una explosiva epidemia de SIDA heterosexual.

La sociedad "machista" de El Salvador reporta un 77 por ciento de casos de SIDA ocasionados por transmisión heterosexual. Una creencia ampliamente diseminada en Latinoamérica es que el SIDA es una enfermedad de homosexuales y prostitutas, ocasionado que los hombres "machos" sientan que son invulnerables a el virus, o que las narconaciones de los efectos de la enfermedad son invenciones de los sacerdotes dirigidas a alejar a los jóvenes de tener una variedad de



News USA

La Doctora Hermana Mary Annell es la coordinadora del programa de educación del SIDA en El Salvador donde un 77 por ciento de los casos de SIDA provienen de transmisión heterosexual.

parejas sexuales.

En El Salvador, el mayor numero de casos de infecciones de VIH son reportados entre los trabajadores manuales construcción, seguido por amas de casa.

De acuerdo a los misioneros de Maryknoll, se requieren grandes esfuerzos preventivos para cambiar la aceptación cultural de múltiples parejas sexuales y el tratamiento de las mujeres como objetos sexuales. Sin que haya tal cambio, hay un potencial para que se presente una interrupción social y económica, a medida que los jóvenes y personas mas productivas están muriendo en grandes numeros. La mayoría de las personas con SIDA clínico son de 20 a 30 años de edad.

Los misioneros Maryknoll han respondido al cuidar de las personas con SIDA, orando con ellos y durante sus velorios, enterrándolos y cuidado de los huérfanos que ocasiona el SIDA.

El programa de prevención de Maryknoll busca ayudar a las personas jóvenes en un cambio cultural de costumbres sexuales. Mayor información puede ser obtenida llamando al (503) 276-3126.

From Page 1

Others think Bush will allow Lucas to be executed rather than be branded as "soft on crime" by political opponents -- an attitude which virtually assures an end to executive clemency in capital cases.

The execution of Karla Faye Tucker, who pick-axed her victim to death, drew protests from around the world, an unusual alliance ranging from Amnesty International to the Reverend Jerry Falwell and presidential candidate Pat Robertson.

The difference is that Tucker was attractive, female, and born again. Lucas, though not guilty, is a wretchedly unattractive man who simply cannot command the sympathy heaped on Tucker.

"We used that creation to focus attention on the inequities of the death penalty--and support for the death penalty in Texas fell substantially," says Sam Jordan who directs Amnesty International's U.S. program to abolish the death penalty. Amnesty International has sent "Urgent Action" requests to its members to contact Governor Bush and the Board of Pardons and Parole seeking to stop the Lucas' execution, "but the media are not involved as they were in the Tucker case."

No matter what the governor does, Henry Lee Lucas will never go free, as he is also serving multiple life sentences including one without the possibility of parole.

If the courts do not prevent Lucas' lethal injection, and clemency is denied, then we have reached a new plateau, or perhaps, a new valley, in the annals of American justice -- the execution of a man for a crime that even the state's prosecutors agree he did not commit.

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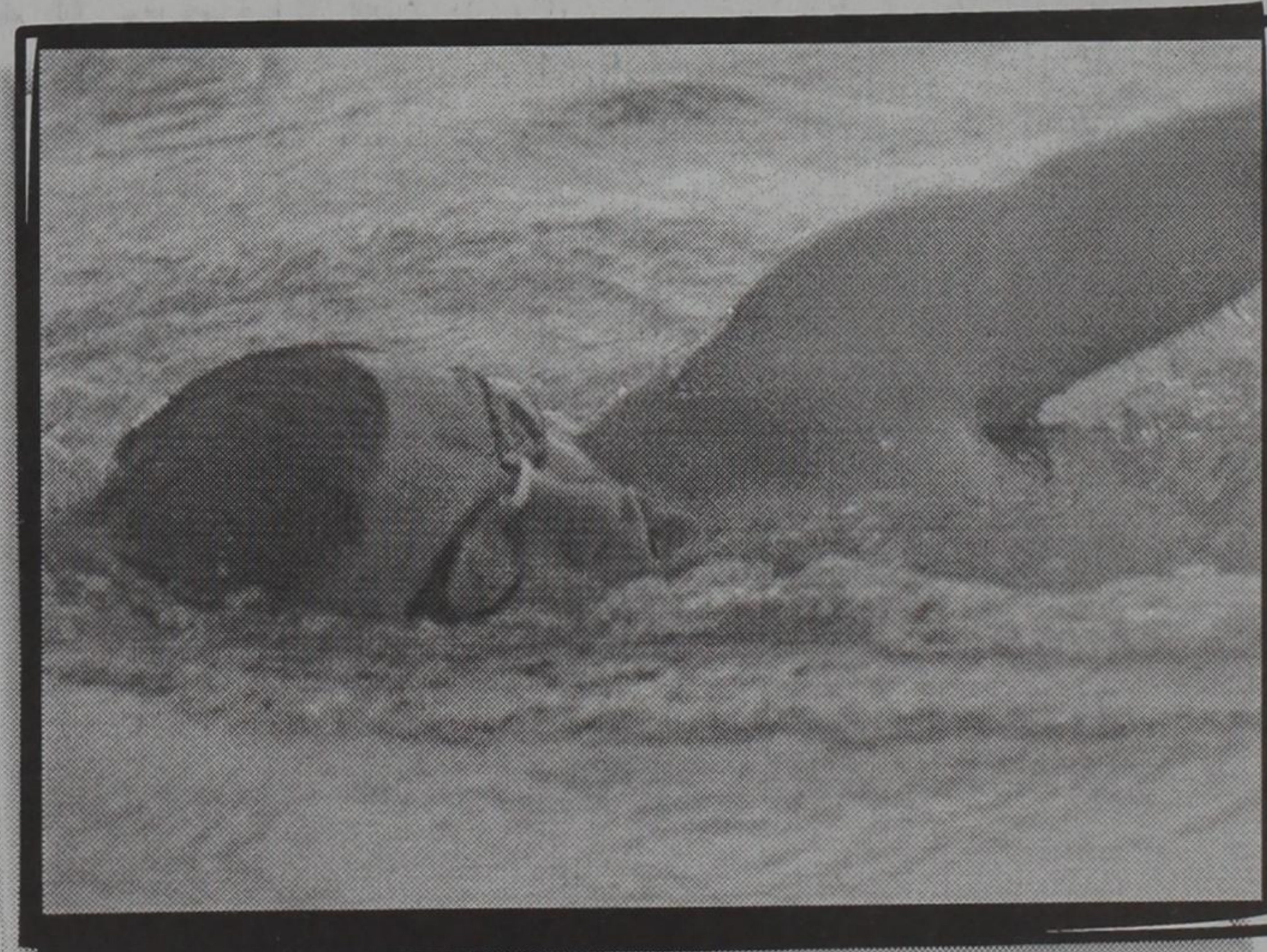
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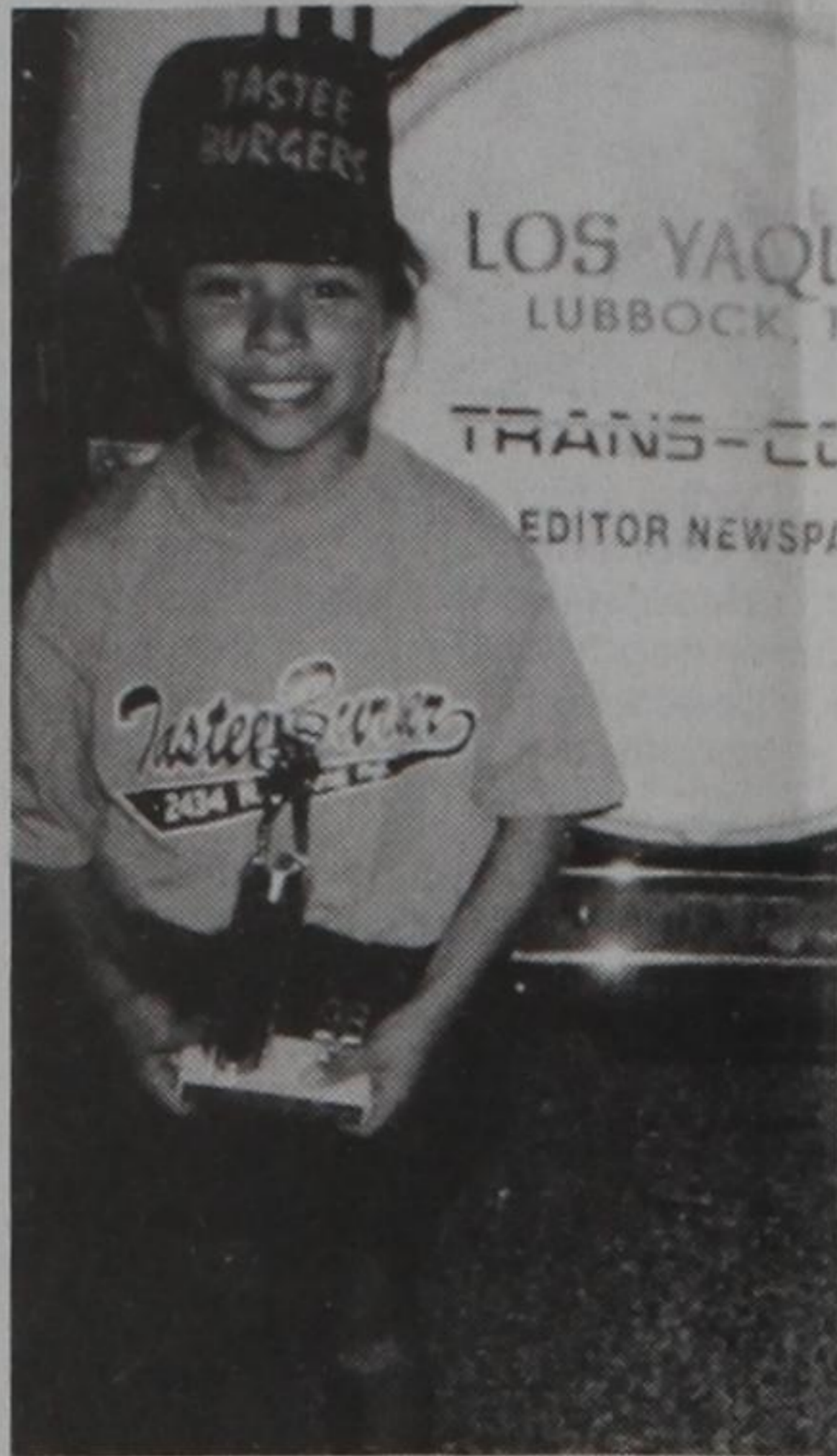
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Tastee Burgers Win



Marisol Agüero, a member of Tastee Burgers Under 8 Softball Teams displays her trophy won at the NIT held this past weekend in Hobbs. Congratulations from Mom, Dad and all the family. Marisol - a future Yaquis!



Hobbs, N.M. was full of energy and enthusiasm when the 'Tastee Burgers' arrived and played hard and good. Only a team with this type of effort takes 1st Place Champion -- yes you are right the 'Tastee Burgers' brought back to Lubbock the 1st Place. Coaches Tilo Garcia and Tina were very happy to have taken the team to Hobbs who participated in the USSSA National Invitational Tournament.

Team is now qualified for the World tournament to be held here in Lubbock next weekend at Burl Huffman. "We would like to invited the public to come and cheer with us as the teams try to win the world title.

FROM PAGE ONE

policy "at best a mixed bag."

He said that he was afraid it would "mean a loss of business for some women and minority-owned firms."

The Clinton administration has defended the principle of affirmative action programs in Congress and the courts. But since the 1995 Supreme Court ruling, the administration has curtailed or cut back many of the dozens of programs throughout the government involving racial preferences.

For example, all programs were ended in which a specific sum of money or percentage of contracts was set aside for minority-owned companies. In addition, programs designed to help members of minority groups and women win contracts from the Federal Highway Administration, NASA and the Environmental Protection Agency have been reduced in scale. So have programs to increase the number of minority teachers, scientists and Foreign Service officers.

But until now, there has not been a government-wide policy on how to handle procurement contracts.

In its 5-4 decision, in a case called Adarand Constructors vs. Pena, the Supreme Court held that government programs that extend advantages to members of minority groups must serve a "compelling national interest" and must be "narrowly tailored" to address the effects of discrimination.

The policy announced Wednesday applies to what the government calls "small disadvantaged businesses" and affects every

government procurement contract for which there is open bidding. It does not need to be approved by Congress. It will go into effect in stages between now and Jan. 1.

Businesses owned by blacks, Hispanics, American Indians and Asians are presumed to be disadvantaged. Those owned by whites, including women, fit the standard only if they can show through a "preponderance of the evidence" that they are socially and economically disadvantaged.

Businesses that are considered disadvantaged and bid for contracts in particular industries will be entitled to a 10 percent price break. That means that they will be the low bidder if their price is within 10 percent of the low bid filed by a business that is not disadvantaged.

To determine where discrimination exists, the government evaluated more than 70 different industries. The survey compared in the fiscal year 1996 the value of contracts in each industry that went to disadvantaged businesses, called utilization, with what it called the capacity of such companies to perform the contracts.

Capacity was based on factors like the age and size of the companies and was meant to show the value of contracts that would go to disadvantaged businesses if everything else was equal.

The methodology was called benchmarking.

Under the policy, the 10 percent price break will be allowed only in industries where the value of contracts let in the year studied was well below the capacity of

disadvantaged businesses.

For instance, affirmative action will be allowed in textile mill products, where 2.2 percent of the money went to disadvantaged businesses but the capacity was said to be 8.3 percent. It will also be allowed in oil and gas extraction, where utilization was 9.7 percent and capacity 13.8 percent, and in trucking, where utilization was 21.4 percent and capacity was 35.4 percent.

But affirmative action will not be allowed in food manufacturing, where 10.4 percent of the value of contracts went to disadvantaged businesses and the capacity was said to be 8.3 percent.

Other examples of industries where the price break will not be permitted are forestry and fishing (25.2 percent utilization and 18.6 percent capacity), and agriculture (41.5 percent utilization and 29.9 percent capacity).

The White House said that in most industries a nationwide survey was sufficient. But in the case of construction contracts, the country was broken down into nine regions.

Affirmative action will be practiced for general contractors in Middle Atlantic states, where the survey found that only 13.6 percent of government contract money went to disadvantaged contractors, while the capacity was 18 percent.

But affirmative action will not apply in construction contracts with general contractors in the Pacific states, where utilization was 29.4 percent, and capacity was 27.1 percent.

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