

Dice Yolanda Saldivar que fue un Accidente Caso de Asesinato de Selena Empieza en La Ciudad de Houston

Dos días después de ser acusada de robar dinero como presidenta de el club de aficionados de Selena, Yolanda Saldivar aplico para comprar una pistola que asesino la cantante Tejana, según dije-

ron testigos en el juicio. Miles de personas se juntaron en frente de la Casa de Corte en Houston para escuchar lo que se ha descrito como el Juicio de el Ciglo en Tejas. Esto comparando lo con el recién juicio de O.J. Simpson.

Cuando compro la pistola Saldivar le dijo a los empleados de la tienda de armas que necesitaba la pistola porque unos parientes de gente mentalmente enfermos con cual ellas trabajaba la estaban amenazando.

Su abogado, Douglas Tinker dijo en sus argumentos para empear ante el jurado que durante la junta con Selena en el un hotel de Corpus Christi, saldivar estaba blandiendo la pistola cuando accidentalmente desparo.

El procurador sin embargo, les dijo a los miembros de jurado que el tireteo que se llevo acabo el dia 31 de Marzo fue "un acto de violencia de cobardia y sin razon."

Saldiva logro ser presidenta de el club de aficionados y despues

de la gerente de los boutiques de Selena. En el dia de el asesinato Selena habia ido a el hotel para terminar el empleo de Saldivar ya que se pensaba que habia robado mas de \$30,000.

Si es condenada por la muerte, Saldiva pudiera recibir vida en prision. Tinker dijo que su cliente compro la



pistola para protegerse de Abraham Quintanilla Jr., el papa de selena quien la estaba intimidando.

Quintanilla niego intimidirla y testifico que solamente la confronto cuando recibio varas quejas que Saldivar habia recojido dinero de aficionados y no habian recibido los beneficios de el club.

El caso continúa y se espera que se lleve mas de dos semanas. See English Translation Page 4



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NAFTA Causes Loss of Jobs

Twenty-one months after the North American Free Trade Agreement was passed, Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo is in Washington today to discuss with President Clinton the agreement's effect on both countries, reports The New York Times.

When NAFTA was enacted by Congress in November 1993, President Clinton labeled it "a defining moment for our nation." His economists said it would create 170,000 jobs in the first year.

However, the Department of Labor, has documented the loss of 42,221 jobs because of NAFTA as of Sept. 30. Even that is regarded as a low count, since it includes only those workers who have applied and qualified for a government program to assist them in job training and in finding new jobs.

In addition, the peso crisis, which caused the Mexican currency to plummet by nearly 50 percent and has sent the economy into a paralyzing recession, has made it ever more difficult to assess just how the lowering of tariffs and other barriers under NAFTA has affected U.S.



companies and workers.

Even so, many businessmen and economists say jobs was the wrong way to measure NAFTA's effects: NAFTA is all about investment and corporate efficiency.

For instance, one of the big pluses for Chrysler Corp. is not just the potential increase in the sale of its cars and trucks in Mexico - sales are down considerably this year because of the recession, after a jump in sales last year - but it can now sharply increase the efficiency of its Mexican

plants. "The main point was not that tariffs were lowered under NAFTA; they were already pretty low," said Edward Leamers, a professor at Yale and the University of California at Los Angeles. "More important was that NAFTA guarantees the tariffs won't suddenly be raised. It is a major risk reduction document for investors."

Then there are workers like Manuel Lepe. Lepe, a mechanic who works on apparel-cutting machines, lost his job last year at a Los Angeles factory after 20 years with the company.

The blow was softened by the fact that the company helped Lepe find a new job with another apparel contractor. But there was one problem: his new job came with a pay cut to \$6.25 an hour from \$8.50.

And California farmers' exports of many agricultural products, like lettuce and peaches, have risen - ironically, to Mexico - since NAFTA lowered tariffs on many of those commodities.

"It turned out that it was cheaper to produce lettuce here using Mexican labor than in

Mexico," said Philip L. Martin, an agricultural economist at the University of California at Davis.

"But the effect of that is that it has increased the demand here for Mexican workers," who are willing to do this tough, low-wage work, Martin added. "We're still sucking in workers to export these commodities."

That, of course, contradicts the Clinton administration's claims that NAFTA would reduce the floodtide of undocumented immigrants by creating more opportunities in Mexico. It also counters the argument of Ross Perot that jobs would flow one-way under NAFTA - to Mexico - creating "a giant sucking sound."

Even Jagdish Bhagwati, an economics professor at Columbia University and a strong proponent of free trade, said that the NAFTA experience had left him with some reservations. He said NAFTA does appear to be putting downward pressure on U.S. wages and is causing some net reduction in jobs without providing sufficient help for displaced workers.

Selena Special to Air On VH1 Friday

VH1 will premier "SELENA: MUSIC, TRAGEDY & TRIAL" on Friday, October 13 at 11 PM.

This all new VH1 News special examines the life and tragic death of the singer Selena, and includes a rare interview with Tejano star's husband and guitar player, Chris Perez. Perez sat down with VH1 in Corpus Christ, Texas, where he spoke openly about the tragedy, as well as about the impending trial of Yolanda Saldivar, Selena's alleged murderer, in Houston. Below are some excerpts from that interview.

Chris Perez on Selena's down-to-earth approach to fame:

"When you open yourself up like that, you're so vulnerable to the people you're trying to help or you're being cool with. And, it's just... look what happened to her."

Perez on Yolanda Saldivar:



"I'll just end it right here. I know what happened. And it shouldn't have happened. And I want her to pay for what she did. My wife didn't deserve it."

Perez on "Dreaming of You," Selena's English-language debut:

"When it comes on the radio - one of the song's from that Album, the English album - I

have to change it. I just kinda - it's a pain. When I go home, though - that's the funny thing about it - I could pop in a tape of it ... or a CD, and just sit back. Sometimes it's harder than others, but at least I can do it, you know?"

Perez on his relationship with Selena's family:

"Just to have somebody there who's missing her, you know, who's going through what I'm going through. They're missing the same person I am. They're in the same situation, as far as they can't pick up the phone and call her either. They can't go and pick her up from somewhere and bring her home. Or if I need just to talk, I know they're there. If they need to talk they know I'm here."

Perez on the loss of his wife:

"I literally feel like a big half of me died with her. I feel like nothing has filled up that half. I'm just there, empty."

News Briefs Panel Snubs Immigration Reform

A Democratic effort to soften a Republican plan to reduce legal immigration by as much as 25 percent was rejected Wednesday by the House Judiciary Committee, reports Associated Press.

Twenty members - 18 Republicans and two Democrats - voted down an amendment that would have split the complex 364-page bill in two, separating most new restrictions on legal immigration from provisions designed to crack down on illegal aliens.

Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, who authored the bill, said the bill would reduce the number of legal immigrants from the 800,000 who came to the United States in 1994 to 595,000 by 2001.

More than 2.5 million foreigners now are waiting for permission to enter the United States, and some have been on wait lists for as long as 10 years, Smith said. The high backlog destroys the credibility and integrity of the system, possibly contributing to illegal immigration, he said.

Smith's bill would eliminate visas now available for immigrants without jobs skills. This will help preserve jobs for U.S. workers, he said. The bill would also increase the number of visas handed out to immediate relatives of U.S. residents. Siblings and most adult children of U.S. residents would no longer be able to immigrate based on their family relationships, however.

The Clinton administration has expressed support for reducing legal immigration, Smith said.

Smith said he did not expect the bill to reach the House floor until early next year.

Study Discounts Role of Drug Users in Gun-Related Crimes

A university study shows drug users are not likely to carry guns and are not responsible for the rapid rise in violent crime committed with guns, according to a new nationwide study of why criminals carry guns, reports The New York Times.

Instead, the criminals most likely to use guns are drug dealers and gang members, as well as young men who have themselves been threatened with a gun or shot at.

"This is an important study because it suggests we should rethink the presumption that the pharmacological effect of drugs makes people violent and do crazy things," said Alfred Blumstein, a criminologist at Carnegie Mellon University.

The study was conducted by Scott Decker, a professor of criminal justice at the University of Missouri at St. Louis, using data about 4,000 people arrested in 11 cities earlier this year. The survey drew on the Justice Department's Drug Use Forecasting program, a regular quarterly analysis of arrests that has produced widely accepted evidence that from one-half to three-quarters of people arrested have drugs in their systems.

Robert Silberman, the chief narcotics prosecutor in New York City, said he agreed with the study's findings. "People have a common misperception, that drug users use guns to support their habits," Silberman said. "That is true in some cases," Silberman said. "But law enforcement has found it is usually the dealers who have the guns."

Clinton Pushes Education

President Clinton Tuesday awarded \$9.5 million in grants to school districts aggressively buying computers, and said he hoped to protect the program from Republican budget-cutters, reports Associated Press.

The Challenge Grants for Technology in Education go to partnerships of school districts, businesses, museums, states, colleges and other local institutions to help buy computers and software.

The federal money is matched 3-1 by local private or public money.

The grants, which were funded with \$27 million from Congress in fiscal year 1995, face cutbacks. Clinton wanted \$70 million for the 1996 fiscal year; the House approved \$25 million and a Senate committee recommended just \$15 million.

Clinton's political team has chosen education as a battle ground in his budget fight with Congress. Most Americans want federal support of local schools, and polls show that parents are worried that schools aren't doing enough to teach their children new technologies.

Medicare Plan Clears Hurdle

Over vociferous Democratic opposition, House Republicans muscled through committee on Wednesday legislation that would squeeze \$270 billion from Medicare over seven years, reports Associated Press.

The vote in the House Ways and Means Committee was 22-14, with all GOP members of the panel embracing the bill and all Democrats opposed.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich is expected to bring the measure to a vote in the full House next week. A similar measure is pending in the Senate. President Clinton has threatened a veto.

The measure would slow the growth of the giant health program from an estimated 10 percent a year to roughly 6.4 percent. Most of the savings would come from curtailing planned increases in fees for doctors and hospitals, although seniors would pay higher premiums, as well, with the wealthy paying much more.

At the same time, the legislation, drafted under Gingrich's personal direction, would let senior citizens choose alternatives to the current fee-for-service Medicare, such as health maintenance organizations. Senior citizens wouldn't get breaks on their premiums for joining HMOs or other managed-care plans, but they might get better benefits, such as prescription drugs and eyeglasses.

The \$270 billion in seven-year savings also was dictated by the balanced-budget blueprint congressional Republicans passed earlier in the year. Democrats charged repeatedly that the figure was roughly three times the size necessary to guarantee Medicare's financial stability.

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Se Critica a las Redadas del INS en Centros de Trabajo Como Injustas

Por Joseph Torres

La intensificación de las redadas del Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización (INS en inglés) en los centros de trabajo está provocando críticas cada vez mayores por parte de las organizaciones hispanas y las de servicios a los inmigrantes.

Las barridas de costa a costa, incluyendo a una operación llamada "SouthPAW," realizadas en seis estados del sur, infringen los derechos de los trabajadores legales así como de los indocumentados, dicen ellos.

Algunos contunden que las redadas están motivadas políticamente para aumentar el apoyo del público a los programas del INS para el cumplimiento de la ley, y preguntan por qué el INS singulariza a los trabajadores y no presta atención a las personas que hacen fila en las oficinas de la asistencia económica pública ni a las que están encarceladas.

En septiembre, una serie de redadas que produjeron 630 arrestos en Austin, Texas, coincidió con las festividades del Día de la Independencia de México en la ciudad. Muchos funcionarios de México se hallaban allí en visitas oficiales, ocasionando que el Alcalde Interino de Austin, Gus García, y algunos concejales de la ciudad, se sintieran ofendidos personalmente.

El Concejal Eric Mitchell condenó la oportunidad y las tácticas, alegando que a varios ciudadanos mexicanos que fueron detenidos en sus empleos ni siquiera se les permitió despedirse de sus familias antes de ser transportados al

otro lado de la frontera.

Por todo el país, los hispanos parecen ser los objetivos principales. En un artículo sobre una redada en una planta de elaboración de aves de corral de Maryland, que detuvo a 27 latinos, un reportero del "Washington Post" escribió: "Seis agentes establecieron una barricada a pocos cientos de yardas fuera de la entrada de la fábrica y detuvieron a todos los trabajadores de aspecto extranjero que entraban en automóvil o autobús..."

¿De aspecto extranjero? "Vemos una infracción de la igualdad en los derechos civiles," dice Penny Schwab, directora ejecutiva de los Ministerios de la Iglesia Metodista Unida Occidental de Kansas entre los mexicano-americanos en Garden City, un ministerio religioso y médico de servicios sociales. "Aunque dicen que tienen mucho cuidado de recoger a personas de todos los colores, no creemos que eso sea verdad."

Schwab disputa igualmente el alegato de que las redadas restablecerán empleos para trabajadores estadounidenses desplazados, haciendo notar el trabajo enérgico y la paga reducida que reciben los trabajadores indocumentados.

El portavoz del INS, Russ Bergeron, refuta las acusaciones de que los agentes se enfocan sobre los hispanos, diciendo que ellos usan información y otras dependencias federales para verificar su información.

"No efectuamos una operación de ejecución de la ley sencillamente porque alguien llame anónimamente y diga

que parece haber muchos mexicanos trabajando en un cierto lugar," dice él. "Esa no es causa probable suficiente."

A medida que el INS se enfoca sobre el cumplimiento de la ley interior en comunidades tales como Austin, Texas; Oakland, California y Garden City, Kansas, muchos defensores de los inmigrantes alegan que esa dependencia se ha convertido en una fuerza nacional de policía que puede actuar con impunidad.

"Si se presentara un proyecto de ley para crear una fuerza de policía nacional, la gente se enfurecería por eso," comenta Suzan Kern, directora de la Coalición de los Derechos Fronterizos en El Paso. "El hecho es que los agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza están actuando cada vez en mayor medida como una fuerza nacional de policía -- y eso se está escapando de la atención de la gente... El peligro es de infracciones contra los derechos civiles al por mayor -- y eso está ocurriendo ahora."

En una conferencia de prensa el 26 de septiembre en Washington, DC., la Comisión del INS, Doris Meissner, alegó que las operaciones tales como SouthPAW (Protegiendo a los Trabajadores Estadounidenses), son medidas eficaces. Efectuada en junio y repetida en septiembre durante un total de 31 días, SouthPAW sacó a un total de 4,000 inmigrantes ilegales de la fuerza de trabajo en Mississippi, Arkansas, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama y la Florida. Cerca de 3,400 fueron devueltos

rápida a sus países de origen. De los arrestados, 3,522 eran mexicanos.

Las redadas restablecieron \$55.7 millones de jornales anuales para los trabajadores legales, dice Meissner. "Junto con el realce de las Patrullas Fronterizas y el mejoramiento de las capacidades de detención y deportación, las operaciones como SouthPaw forman las bases de las gestiones futuras que pueden enfrentarse y se enfrentarán al reto de la inmigración ilegal."

Frank Sharry, director ejecutivo del Foro Nacional de la Inmigración, con sede en Washington, DC., alega que históricamente las redadas se ven como ineficaces porque llevan a quejas sobre los derechos civiles por parte de los trabajadores legales que son recogidos en las redadas. El agrega que los negocios también sufren porque los trabajadores que reemplazan a los ilegales por lo general no permanecen mucho tiempo en el empleo.

"El aterrorizar a unos cuantos millares de personas cuando hay cuatro millones de inmigrantes indocumentados en los Estados Unidos es más un asunto para los titulares de los periódicos que algo eficaz," alega él. "Pero esto parece ser parte de un nuevo empuje en la ejecución de la ley."

(Joseph Torres es reportero del semanario nacional *Hispanic Link Weekly Report* en Washington, DC.)
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INS Work-site Raids Attacked As Political, Cruel and Unjust

By Joseph Torres

Intensified work-site raids by U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) agents are drawing increasing criticism from Hispanic and immigrant service organizations. The coast-to-coast sweeps, including an operation called SouthPAW conducted in six Southern states, infringe on the rights of legal workers as well as undocumented ones, they say. Some contend the raids are politically motivated to increase public support for INS enforcement programs and question why the INS singles out workers rather than persons standing in welfare lines and sitting in jails.

In September, a series of raids netting 630 persons in Austin, Tex., coincided with the city's Mexico Independence Day celebrations. Many officials from Mexico were there on official visits, causing Austin Mayor Protem Gus García and some city council members to express personal offense.

Councilman Eric Mitchell condemned the timing and tactics, claiming several Mexican nationals who were apprehended on the job were not even allowed to say goodbye to their families before being transported across the border.

Nationwide, Hispanics appear to be the principal targets. In a story about a raid on a Maryland poultry plant that netted 27 Latinos, a Washington Post reporter wrote: "Six agents set up a roadblock a few hundred yards outside the factory entrance and stopped every foreign-looking worker who entered by car or bus..."

Foreign-looking? "We see a violation of equal civil rights," says Penny Schwab, executive director of United Methodist Western Kansas Mexican American Ministries in Garden City, a social service religious and medical ministry. "While they say they are very careful to pick people of all skin colors, we do not believe that to be true."

Schwab also disputes the premise that the raids will restore jobs for displaced U.S. workers, noting the hard work that undocumented workers do for low pay. INS spokesperson Russ Bergeron refutes charges that agents target Hispanics, saying they use tips and other federal agencies to verify their information.

"We do not conduct an enforcement operation simply because somebody calls us anonymously and says there seems to be a lot of Mexicans working in a certain place," he says. "That is not sufficient probable cause."

As the INS focuses on interior law enforcement in such communities as Austin, Tex.; Oakland, Calif., and Garden City, Kan., many advocates claim the agency has become a national police force that can act with impunity.

"If a bill were introduced to create a national police force, people would be up in arms about it," Suzan Kern, director of the Border Rights Coalition in El Paso, comments. "The fact is, Border Patrol agents are acting more and more like a national police force -- and it is escaping people's attention... The danger is wholesale civil rights violations. That's happening now."

At a Sept. 26 press conference in Washington, D.C., INS Commissioner Doris Meissner claimed that operations such as SouthPAW (Protecting America's Workers) are effective measures. Conducted in June and reinstated in September for a total of 31 days, SouthPAW removed a total of 4,000 illegal immigrants from the work force in Mississippi, Arkansas, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama and Florida. Some 3,400 were quickly returned to their countries of origin. Of those apprehended, 3,522 were Mexican.

The raids restored \$55.7 million in annual wages for legal workers, Meissner says. "Together with enhanced bor-

der patrols and improve detention and deportation capabilities, operations like SouthPAW form the basis of future efforts which can and will meet the challenge of illegal immigration."

Frank Sharry, executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based National Immigration Forum, claims that historically raids are viewed as ineffective because they lead to civil rights complaints from legal workers who are picked up in the sweeps. He adds that business also suf-

fers because workers who replace illegal workers generally do not remain on the job long.

"Terrorizing a few thousand people when there are four million undocumented immigrants in the United States is more for headlines than it is to be effective," he alleges. "But this seems to be part of a new thrust in enforcement."

(Joseph Torres is a reporter with the national newsweekly *Hispanic Link Weekly Report* in Washington, D.C.)
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Seniors Arrested In Protest

Police arrested more than a dozen senior citizens who were shouting questions Wednesday during a House Commerce Committee meeting on Medicare, reports Associated Press.

"What are you afraid of?" yelled Theresa McKenna of the Virginia branch of the National Council of Senior Citizens. "Why won't you let us speak?"

The elderly, some in wheelchairs or walking with canes, were protesting the Republican decision to start committee votes on their Medicare bill without formal hearings on it.

This came at the same time the American Medical Association offered a ringing endorsement of House Speaker Newt Gingrich's Medicare reforms after winning a concession that would spare doctors \$300 million in fee cuts next year alone.

Dr. Daniel Johnson, the AMA president-elect, said the change Gingrich agreed to was worth \$300 million to doctors in 1996. "Beyond that, it's pure conjecture," he said, adding that it depends in part on how many elderly people move into managed care.

Both Ways and Means and the House Commerce Committee, which began work Tuesday on an identical Medicare bill, appeared certain to give their blessings to the Medicare overhaul today, setting the stage for a showdown on the floor of the House next week.

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Editor Publisher

Bidal Aguero



Sittin' Here Thinkin' Another Labor Day

By Ira Cutler

Another Labor Day has gone by and once again there is very little for American working people to celebrate. While corporate profits are at a record high, wages have barely risen and the share of national income that is devoted to wages has hit its lowest point since world War II. The largest 500 companies in the country employ 3 million fewer workers than they did ten years ago and many of those laid off can only find employment with less pay, less generous benefits, and very little job security. Two earner families seem unable to achieve a standard of living equivalent to their one earner parents.

We hear a lot of rhetoric these days extolling the genius of American capitalism and speaking with reverence about the entrepreneurial system that has produced our enormous national wealth. The core belief underlying this near-religious view of the marketplace is that economic forces, if left alone, will produce prosperity, freedom and justice.

That theory is about half right. There is no arguing that the remarkable creation of wealth in this country, from its earliest beginnings and especially since WWII, has come as a result of a free enterprise, capitalistic system. But it is also true, and rarely credited in the 1990's, that it took the presence of multiple social movements and a good deal of government intervention to keep those fast moving entrepreneurial geniuses from thoroughly and brutally exploiting working people.

The enormous growth of the middle class since the Depression came partly from the growth in corporate wealth and partly from social forces that forced corporations to share some of that wealth. The existence of labor unions with the power of collective bargaining; New Deal legislation that assured minimum wages, the right to strike, a limit to the work week, and protection from unsafe conditions; civil rights and women's movements assuring that blacks and women would have recourse against blatant discrimination; those social changes came about simultaneously with the economic growth and forced the haves to include some of the have-nots in the prosperity.

From those two forces, from the growth in wealth and the requirement to share it, came the explosive growth of the middle class that most of us have long enjoyed. In such a society truck drivers and teachers and steel workers could all own homes, drive new cars, take vacations and send their kids to college. It seemed, for a time, like everone was winning.

A lot has happened since then. Technology has replaced the low skilled jobs in heavy industry and the imagined new jobs, fixing and servicing the machines, turned out to be a myth. Workers in other countries who earn a fraction of American wages produce goods for the international branches of American companies who then turn around and import those products to sell to laid off American factory workers. Sweatshops are back, brutally exploiting immigrant labor in conditions that we thought had been long since left behind. The unions, which bargained on behalf of 22% of the workforce as recently as 15 years ago, now represent only 15%. Companies announce that they are firing tens of thousands of workers and their stock goes up.

The worst of it is that we all stand by and let it happen. When Reagan fired the air traffic controllers in the early 1980's, a powerful symbolic act by a federal government that had in earlier times been a friend of labor, no one protested and the corporations noticed. We all, including union members, kept on getting on planes just like nothing had happened. What would have happened had there been an air travel boycott? Chase Manhattan and Chemical banks announced a merger the other day and with it a plan to eliminate 12,000 employees. Has anyone threatened to take their money out of the bank in protest? I'll bet that there are even unions who continue to bank there.

We have been divided and conquered. What used to be good paying jobs have gone overseas and our kids, when they can afford to go to college at all, come out to find that the opportunities we enjoyed are gone. An economic trend study showed that the job opportunities of the future will be in home health care, food preparation and computer engineering. We will no longer make anything in America, it seems, but rather will be whatever they mean by a service economy. I recently read that while the employment class of "domestic servant" (butlers, maids, chauffers) has all but disappeared in America, the numbers of people who serve food, clean other people's houses, drive people around, and clean people's clothes has grown dramatically. The haves still have servants but do not employ them directly. Rather they get their service at restaurants, through maid services and car services, and they no longer need to have personal relationships with the help. The servant business is booming but it does not get you the standard of living that being a steelworker used to afford.

The richest 1% of Americans controlled a little less than 20% of all wealth in 1980 and nearly 40% today. 67% of the population believes that the American dream is harder to achieve than it was ten years ago. This is dismal stuff and, what with Newt and all, it is only going to get worse and worse.

What can we do about it? I still believe in the astonishing potential of unions and of collective bargaining and I am glad that the AFL-CIO has new leadership. The job of unions is harder than it used to be since employers can go overseas. It may be that unions will need to organize internationally as well and most likely they will. Corporate greed has traded wage givebacks for union representation on boards of directors and that may prove a good long term investment for the unions. Some unions, at AVIS and United Airlines for example, effectively own the company and I think that is a movement to watch.

Ultimately, though, all this exploitation will keep going on until working people see themselves as a brotherhood, to borrow a union term, and see their common interests. If you lay off one of us then you make an enemy of us all and we will go to your competitor. The power is in organizing, in the boycott, in the strike as a means of withholding labor, and in using purchasing power as a political tool. These will be devastating weapons if we can ever again figure out how to organize their use and get smart about where to point them.

Ira Cutler, says he's seeking a semi-legitimate outlet for thoughts and ideas too irreverent, too iconoclastic, or just too nasty for polite, serious, self-important company. He promises us a Monday column most weeks. More recently Ira has become involved in communicating in another way, through speeches which he calls Standin' Here Talkin'.

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La Historia de Una Familia

Por Ray Rodriguez

Cuando John Ortega crecía en el Medio Oeste, los términos tales como "hispanos" o "latinos" eran inusitados. En verdad, todo el mundo pensaba que los mexicanos estaban dándose importancia si se referían a ellos mismos en un lenguaje tan elevado. Cualquiera que tuviera una complejidad rojiza, o que hablara español, era considerado como "mexicano."

Ortega, que ahora es abogado en práctica privada en Compton, California, creció en un barrio llamado Boxtown junto al río, en las afueras de Des Moines, Iowa. Su padre aprovechó la tierra fértil para cultivar vegetales y venderlos a

los comerciantes locales.

El también hacía viajes al matadero y recogía la tripa, que en aquellos días se tiraba. Después de lavarlo cuidadosamente, lo vendía a las familias del barrio.

La tripa es el ingrediente básico del célebre manjar que se conoce por "menudo," una sopa nutritiva (y según algunos, poderosa), fortificada con una diversidad de condimentos y especias.

Tiene fama de curar las "crudas" y otras afecciones.

Los padres de Ortega, María y Blas, instilaron a sus hijos un espíritu de "sí, se puede." Su madre les infundió el deseo de aprender y los valores de la enseñanza; su padre les dio la ética del trabajo enérgico y de ayudarse a ellos mismos.

Los esfuerzos de ambos surtieron efecto. Además de John, la familia incluye a un planificador aero-especial, una hija que trabaja para obtener un doctorado, un supervisor de carreteras para el estado de Iowa y una Enfermera Registrada que es también practicante de medicina. La historia de ellos es clásica de éxito, los hijos de inmigrantes pobres que realizaron el sueño estadounidense.

Pero el sueño no terminó ahí. En 1985, Ramona Ortega Liston estaba trabajando como auxiliar del vicepresidente para asuntos académicos de la Universidad Estatal de Arizona, en Tempe. Cuando la Administración Nacional de Aeronáutica y el Espacio (NASA en inglés) designó a dicha universidad como uno de siete lugares para emplazar telescopios a fin de estudiar el regreso del Cometa Halley, se pidió a Ramona que se comunicara con los dirigentes comunitarios y solicitara donativos para permitir que la universidad adquiriera un telescopio de 18 pulgadas.

Ese habría sido el camino fácil para la mayoría de nosotros, pero ésa no es la forma de que los niños de los Ortega habían sido criados.

Ramona decidió pedir a sus hermanos que aportaran el dinero para comprar e instalar el telescopio. Ella les convenció de que sería no solamente un homenaje maravilloso a sus padres el hacer que el telescopio fuera nombrado en honor de ellos, sino también un modo de recompensar al sistema de enseñanza que les había dado la oportunidad de tener éxito en sus carreras seleccionadas.

Al tratar de proporcionar a otros la oportunidad de adelantar su enseñanza, los Ortega insistieron en una estipulación: El telescopio no estaría limitado a los científicos y astrónomos. Durante el decenio último, otros estudiosos han tenido acceso al mismo también.

Fué en verdad un momento de orgullo cuando María Ortega, que entonces tenía 72 años de edad, subió las escaleras hasta el techo del edificio de matemáticas, donde está alojado el telescopio, para la ceremonia de la dedicación. Allí, rodeada de sus hijos, ella pudo sentir orgullo del instrumento brillante que se disponía a escudriñar el firmamento.

Lo que es más importante, ella debe haber sentido el brillo interior que experimenta una madre al saber que los ideales que ella sembró en las mentes de sus hijos habían fructificado.

Comparto este relato inspirador con ustedes porque ilustra lo que puede lograrse si tomamos la decisión de recurrir a nosotros mismos, antes que depender de otros para que actúen por nosotros.

Sí, Ramona podría haber pedido donativos, pero su madre no habría sabido nunca cuánto la aman sus hijos verdaderamente. La expresión de estimación y devoción vale cualquier precio.

Su hazaña ejemplifica los muchos aportes excelentes hechos a nuestra sociedad por los inmigrantes y sus hijos.

Ray Rodriguez, de Long Beach, California, es catedrático universitario jubilado. Los lectores pueden enviarse sus comentarios, a cargo de Hispanic Link News Service, 1420 "N" St. NW., Washington, DC.

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NUEVA YORK.- Simon & Schuster • Aguilar • Libros En Español, el sello editorial inaugurado a principios de año conjuntamente por la editorial estadounidense Simon & Schuster y Grupo Santillana de España y América Latina, sigue atendiendo a la comunidad hispanoparlante de Estados Unidos al ofrecerles un mayor acceso a la literatura en su propio idioma. Los dos títulos que están a punto de ser lanzados, son: *Muchas Vidas, Muchos Sabios* del doctor Brian L. Weiss, y *Querido Alberto* de Eduardo Magallanes.

En *Muchas Vidas, Muchos Sabios*, el autor cuenta, sesión por sesión, los encuentros de una mujer con vidas anteriores. El doctor Weiss comenta acerca del significado de las memorias que le revela su paciente Catherine respecto de traumas sufridos en vidas anteriores. Lo que comenzó como escepticismo sobre las afirmaciones de su paciente se transformó en fascinación y curiosidad para el doctor Weiss cuando Catherine comenzó a canalizar mensajes relacionados con la vida y la familia del médico mismo.



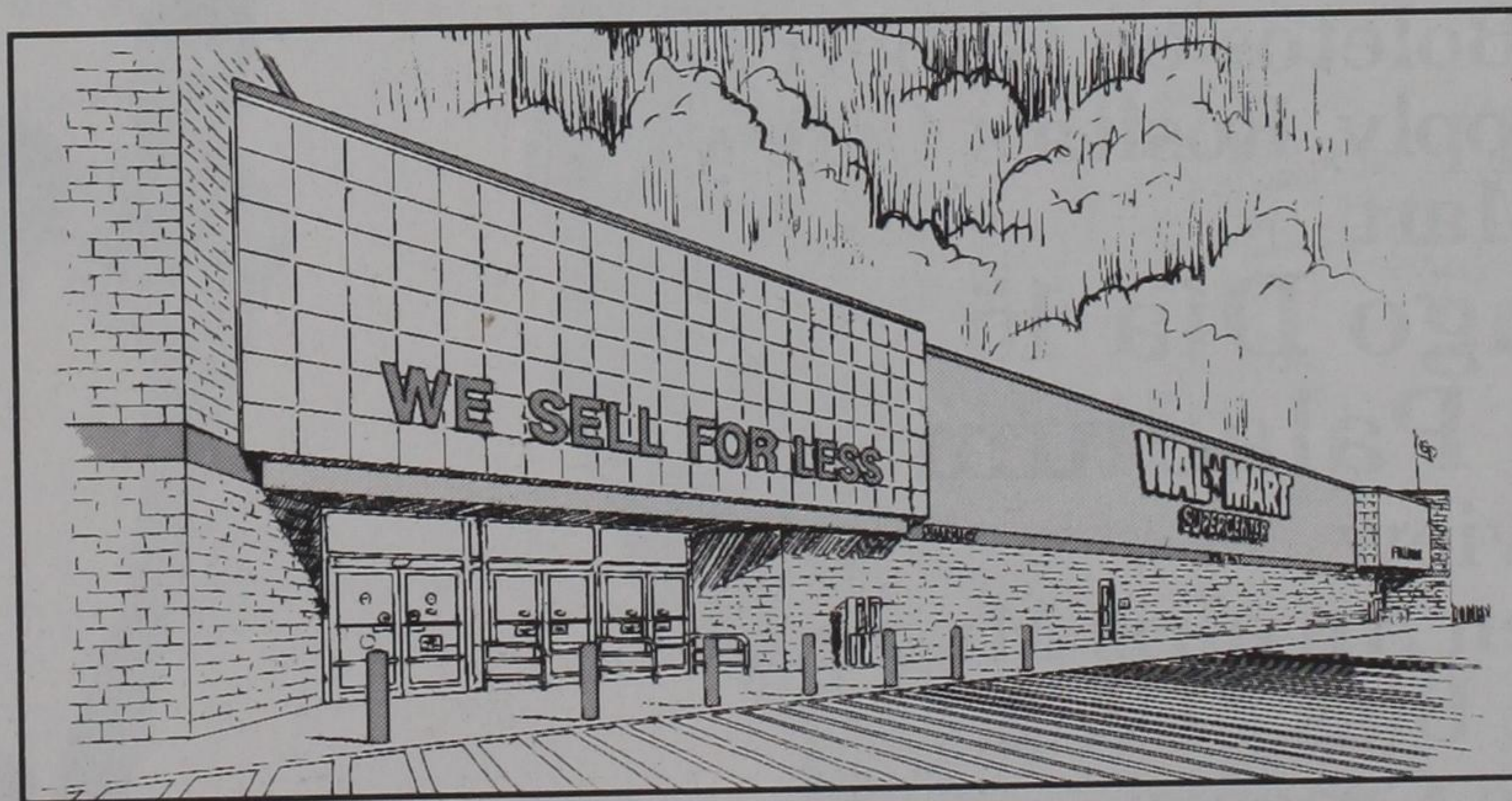
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Selena Accused Killer Bought Gun Day Before



Her attorney, Douglas Tinker, said in opening statements Wednesday that during a meeting with Selena at a Corpus Christi motel, Ms. Saldivar was waving the gun and it accidentally went off.

A prosecutor, however, told jurors that the March 31 shooting was a "senseless and cowardly act of violence."

Ms. Saldivar, 35, rose from fan club president to overseer of the Grammy-winning singer's clothing business. On the day of the slaying, 23-year-old Selena had gone to the motel to fire her for allegedly embezzling \$30,000.

If convicted of murder, Ms. Saldivar could get up to life in prison.

Tinker said his client went to A Place To Shoot, a gun store in San Antonio, on March 11 to buy a gun to protect herself from the harassment of Selena's father.

Two shop employees testified

that after a background check came up clean, Ms. Saldivar was allowed to purchase a .38-caliber handgun on March 13.

She returned it two days later, but bought it again on March 26, five days before Selena was shot.

While denying he threatened Ms. Saldivar, Abraham Quintanilla Jr., Selena's father and manager, testified that he confronted her in January with complaints from parents who said they bought their children \$22 memberships in the Selena Fan Club being run by Ms. Saldivar, but received nothing.

Quintanilla testified that Ms. Saldivar told him those parents were trying to get Selena items for free, but he said a review of club records made him believe she was stealing money.

The singer, whose full name was Selena Quintanilla Perez, was beloved by fellow Mexican-Americans who listened to Tejano, a spirited Spanish-language blend of country and polka.

More than 2.5 million copies of her albums have sold since her death.


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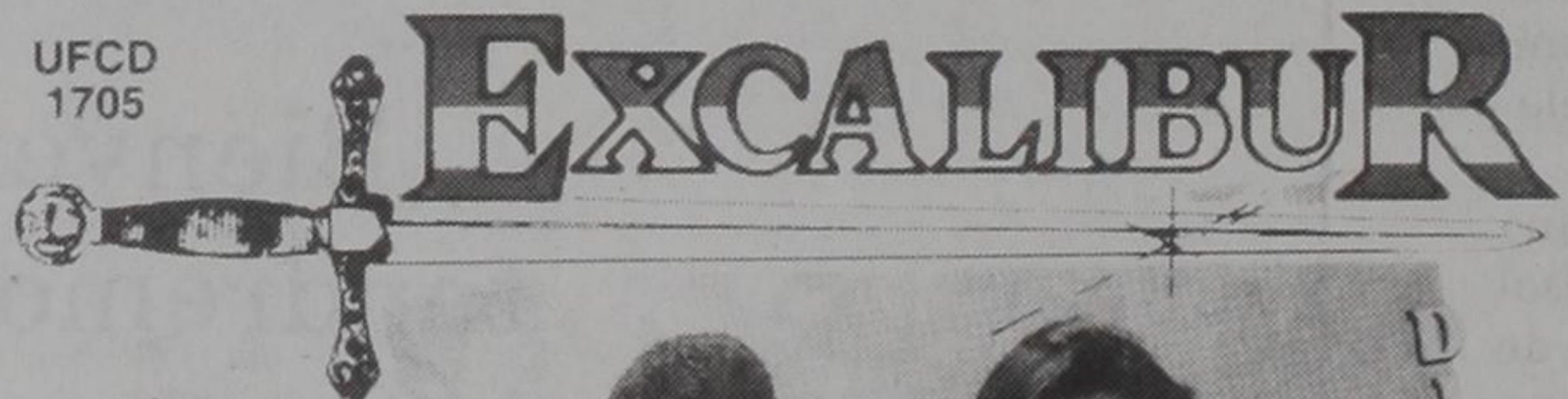
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San Juan nos presenta al Señor Jesus explicandonos la relación íntima que ebe de existir entre el amor y la fidelidad de Sus discipulos: "El que me ama, guardara mi Palabra y mi Padre lo amara, y

vendremos a el y viviremos en el. El que no me ama no guarda mis palabras". Para Jesucristo, "guardar Su Palabra" significa la prueba mas grande de que tu amor es sincero, porque te decides a luchar para vivir tu vida de acuerdo con el mensaje del Evangelio. Guardamos la Palabra cuando la hacemos presente en nuestra vida, dejando que dirija, y que le de sentido a nuestra existencia. Porque no se trata, nomas, de escuchar la Palabra de Dios, sino que, debemos de vivir de acuerdo con el mensaje, que hayamos escuchado en la Palabra de Dios. Tenemos que confesar que, a veces, es no escapa la Palabra porque no la guardamos como Norma que dirija y que le de sentido a nuestras vidas.

Cuando nuestro amor a Cristo es sincero, brota en nosotros con toda naturalidad el deseo de serle fieles y de cumplir Su Palabra, porque en ella encontraremos mejor sentido, y mejor sabor, y mejor color a nuestra vida, que, tal vez, la hemos estado viviendo aburridos, desorientados, emargados, o equivocados...

La palabra de Dios debe de ser nuestro Mapa y nuestra Brujula, que nos orienten por la Ruta Verdadera. (San Juan 14, 23-29).

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