

Yankees, Braves in World Series - Debate Begins

By Scott Miller
ATLANTA -- They lost their slugging first baseman, Andres Galarraga, this spring when he was diagnosed with cancer. They lost their closer, Kerry Ligtenberg, this spring when he shredded his elbow. They lost their all-star catcher, Javier Lopez, to a knee injury in late July.

There is no way these Atlanta Braves should be preparing for the opening of the World Series on Saturday night.

And yet, here they are. You're going to hear a lot of talk over the next few days about whether or not the Atlanta Braves are the "Team of the Decade." Gerald Williams had barely touched the plate with the winning run in Game 6 of the National League Championship Series on Tuesday night before that debate began.

In a juicy twist, the Braves will open their fifth World Series of the 1990s against the New York Yankees here on Saturday and, if the Braves aren't the Team of the Decade, people say, then the Yankees are. After all, the Yankees have won two World Series since 1996 and could win a third in four years this spring.

So that makes them the Team of the Decade, right?

Well, it certainly would be difficult to argue with that -- especially if the Yankees prevail over the next 10 days. But before we get too deep into this week, we should simply take a few moments and appreciate exactly what the Braves have accomplished in the 1990s.

It's easy to dismiss them as the team that went to the World Series in 1991 ... and lost. And as the team that went to the World Series in 1992 ... and lost. And as the team that went to the World Series in 1996 ... and lost.

Yet, World Series rings or no, the Braves -- whose only Series win came in 1995 against Cleveland -- have been the model organization in the 1990s, hands down.

"We're one of only four teams in history to win 100 games for three straight years," John Schuerholz, Atlanta's general manager, said late Tuesday night as the champagne flowed. "We've had the highest win percentage in the '90s, eight division championships and now five pennants. I think all of that is a much more meaningful criteria than any other statistic."

"I mean, we're frustrated and disappointed not to have won

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Chipper Jones (left) and Brian Jordan have helped the Braves become possibly the team of the 1990's

News Briefs

Hispanics Criticize Court's Decision in Drunk Driving Case

El Paso, Texas, - Lawyers and immigrant's rights groups criticized the decision of an appeals court that ruled that legal immigrants who are convicted three times of drunk driving in the State of Texas are subject to deportation.

"It is not fair that legal immigrants who drive drunk be compared to killers or robbers," said Luisa Rodriguez, of Family Unity, a group founded in 1998 to support families of immigrants detained by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

On Sept. 30 the Fifth Federal Court of Appeals in New Orleans authorized the INS to categorize multiple arrests for drunk driving in Texas as a "violent crime."

Fernando Garcia, a director for an organization that acts as a watchdog over federal agencies, warned that the appeals court's ruling "reinforces anti-immigrant conduct that is growing ever stronger in border states."

The court's ruling will allow the INS to use federal laws to deport legal residents who have been convicted of a serious crime, similar to new immigration laws.

The decision was handed down in relation to the case of Mexican citizen Oscar Camacho Marroquin, whose attorneys appealed lower court rulings arguing that driving under the influence is not a violent crime, because it does not involve the risk of using force.

Nevertheless, the three judges unanimously agreed that "driving under the influence, by nature, represents a serious risk of physical harm."

The judges ordered that Camacho, who has been a legal resident of the United States since 1984, be deported to Mexico.

Immigration attorney Carlos Spector of El Paso, warned that the decision "will affect thousands of legal residents over the long term, including people who have lived in the United States for 20 or 30 years and have families that depend on them."

"There is no doubt that driving drunk is dangerous and that people should be punished for that, but the court's decision indicates that a non-intentional crime is a violent crime," Spector said.

Hispanics Are Immigrant Sector With Lowest Level of Education

Washington, - Latin American immigrants comprise the U.S. immigrant group with the lowest educational level, according to a study discussing data from 1997 released on Friday by the Bureau of the Census.

The study is entitled "Profile of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States: 1997," coauthored by Diane Schmidley.

Forty-seven percent of the Latin American immigrants older than 25 have finished secondary or higher educational work, compared to 83.9 percent of Asians, 78.9 percent of Europeans and 84.4 percent of the U.S.-born.

Asian immigrants are those with the best economic position in the United States and their average income is higher even than that of people born in the United States, said the Bureau's report.

The average annual income for the Asian population in 1997 was 42,900 dollars, markedly superior to that of those born in the United States, which was 36,100 dollars.

Immigrants from Europe had annual median incomes of 31,300 dollars, and those from Latin America had average annual incomes of 24,100 dollars.

The Bureau of the Census added that the annual average income per family was 30,000 dollars for the immigrant population as a whole.

Latin American immigrants were also the immigrant group with the highest incidence of poverty, some 15.1 percent, compared to 12.9 percent among the native-born population.

The poverty incidence was 14.7 percent among Asians. Only 38 percent of families from Latin America were owners of their own home in 1997, compared with 67.8 percent of the families of the U.S.-born, 62.6 percent of Europeans and 50.5 percent of Asians.

Immigrants and Lawmakers Call for Changes to 1996 Immigration Law

By Santiago Tavera
Washington, - More than 1,000 immigrants, with the support of Democratic and Republican lawmakers, protested in front of the Capitol Thursday, calling for changes in immigration laws approved by Congress in 1996.

The laws, which cover immigration, social assistance and the fight against terrorism affect thousands of immigrants by denying them a series of rights and opportunities which were previously available to them, activists claimed.

Several immigrant groups from California, Florida, New York, Illinois and other parts of the country, bearing flags and signs, participated in the so-called "Fix-96" demonstration whose slogan was, "Correct the mistakes, re-establish the balance."

The activists criticized the 1996 laws because they gave low-ranking immigration officials the authority to deport immigrants, impede family unity by making illegal immigrants wait 10 years in their home countries before receiving permanent residence and keep thousands of Central Americans in migratory limbo.

Activists also said that many legal immigrants were denied social assistance, even though they pay taxes, while still others are arrested for misdemeanors they committed in the past and for which they served time, but which are now considered as serious crimes according to the laws.

Thursday's demonstration brought Congressional Republicans such as Connie Morella of Maryland, and Lincoln Diaz-Balart and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida together with Democrats Luis Guterrez of Illinois and Xavier Becerra and Lucille Roybal-Allard of California, among others.

Ros-Lehtinen, a Cuban-American, admitted that Republicans made a mistake in passing the 1996 legislation but said they are now willing to "reverse and rectify" the laws "which penalize immigrants who pay taxes, support their families and believe in the values of this country." Ros-Lehtinen told EFE that it would be difficult to achieve changes in the laws this year, and admitted they could also come up against resistance by the president of the House subcommittee on Immigration, Lamar Smith (Rep.-TX), the main proponent of the 1996 Immigration Law.

Roybal-Allard said that, because Republicans hold a majority in Congress, it would be very unlikely that Republican leaders pay attention to colleagues Ros-Lehtinen and Diaz-Balart.

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Democratic Senators Commit to Promote Hispanic Agenda

By Rosendo Majano
Washington, - A group of Democratic senators committed themselves Thursday to resolutely promoting the agenda of Hispanics - the fastest-growing minority in the United States - in a "historic meeting" held with the

House Hispanic Caucus. The meeting took place less than 24 hours after Hispanic legislators in the House of Representatives made clear to U.S. President Bill Clinton the urgent needs and desires of the almost 30 million members of this

minority. Regarding what was said Thursday, Congressman Bob Menendez (Dem.-NJ) explained that "the significance of the date lies in the fact that Hispanics have no representation in the Senate, where important decisions are made that cannot be ex-

pressed in the House of Representatives, like the approval of nominations for judges."

It is the first time that groups of Hispanic congressmen and Democratic senators have gotten together in order to act on Hispanic issues in the Senate, where this minority does not have a single seat.

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Compromiso de Senadores Demócratas Para Impulsar Agenda Hispana

Por Rosendo Majano

Washington, - Un grupo de senadores demócratas se comprometió hoy a impulsar decididamente la agenda de los hispanos - la minoría de mayor y más rápido crecimiento de EEUU., en una "reunión histórica" mantenida con el "Caucus" hispano de la Cámara Baja.

Esta reunión se llevó a cabo menos de 24 horas después de que los legisladores hispanos de la Cámara de Representantes expusieran al presidente de EEUU, Bill Clinton, las urgentes necesidades y aspiraciones de los casi 30 millones de miembros de esta minoría estadounidense.

Sobre el diálogo de hoy, jueves, el legislador demócrata por Nueva Jersey, Bob Menéndez, explicó que "la trascendencia de esta cita radica en el hecho de que los hispanos no tienen representación en el Senado, donde se adoptan decisiones importantes que no pueden plasmarse en la Cámara de Representantes, como la aprobación del nombramiento de los jueces".

Es la primera vez que grupos de representantes hispanos y senadores demócratas se reúnen para tomar acción sobre los asuntos hispanos en el Senado, donde esta minoría no tiene ningún escaño.

Menéndez dijo que "desafortunadamente, antes no se había tenido la visión de promover esta unión muy poderosa entre la Cámara Baja y el Senado para sacar adelante a la comunidad hispana en sus necesidades de mejor educación, salud, oportunidades de trabajo, inmigración, en fin, de un nivel de vida superior".

En una rueda de prensa, agregó que la comunidad hispana "está creciendo en fuerza y número" y que este poder obliga a que se le tome más en cuenta en todas las decisiones de beneficio general.

Toda esta actividad va a ser de mucho beneficio para los hispanos de EEUU, según dijo Menéndez, luego de afirmar que en el diálogo mantenido "hubo una interacción muy positiva entre los representantes hispanos y los senadores demócratas".

Por su lado, el líder de la minoría demócrata del Senado, Tom Daschle, de Dakota del Sur, dijo que respalda plenamente "las aspiraciones, inquietudes y anhelos de los hispanos de EEUU" y declaró que esta minoría ha permanecido relegada por la Cámara

Alta.

"Todas las familias estadounidenses han sido afectadas por los fallos del Congreso de no atender sus necesidades reales, pero las familias hispanas han sido las más dañadas", aseguró Daschle.

Criticó a los políticos que en las épocas electorales muestran su habilidad de hablar español pero que siempre su mensaje de ayuda "es para mañana, para el futuro. Necesitamos actuar desde ya", reafirmó el líder demócrata del Senado.

"Las familias hispanas necesitan el auxilio hoy mismo. Ellas necesitan productos, escuelas seguras para sus hijos, una ley real de derechos del paciente y buenos trabajos. No mañana, hoy", enfatizó Tom Daschle.

Los senadores demócratas están particularmente preocupados por el doble rasero que aplica el Senado en la aprobación del nombramiento de jueces federales de origen hispano y afroamericano o mujeres, dijo Daschle.

Advirtió a los republicanos - que controlan las dos cámaras del Congreso - que los senadores demócratas impulsarán el voto a favor del juez Richard Paéz, de origen hispano, cuya confirmación para un cargo federal ha sido postergada durante cuatro años por el Senado.

Entre los representantes hispanos que reiteraron su voluntad de dar un mayor impulso a la agenda de esta minoría figura la demócrata Grace Napolitano, de California, quien dijo a EFE que se está luchando por obtener más dinero para educación, salud, un mejor trato migratorio y trabajo.

Expresó su satisfacción porque numerosos senadores creen en la necesidad de que ambas cámaras legislativas deben trabajar juntas para lograr fondos para las clínicas que están siendo cerradas.

También trabajarán unidos para los programas de salud mental a los que se han recortado doce millones de dólares en el año fiscal 2000 que empezó el pasado 1 de octubre, a pesar de que cada día aumenta el suicidio de adolescentes y que la depresión está causando estragos entre los jóvenes.

Napolitano señaló que existe un alarmante 14,9 por ciento de suicidios entre los adolescentes hispanos, comparado con el 10,3 entre los blancos y nueve por ciento entre afroamericanos, y que este problema hay que afrontarlo con urgencia.

Hispanic Students Show Gains In National Attention

By Patricia Guadalupe

As the percentage of this nation's Hispanic school-age children grows -- it exploded from 9.9 percent in 1986 to 14.5 percent in 1997 -- so does the attention of educational and political leaders.

The Department of Education under Secretary Richard Riley has directed more focus and federal funding to programs that address the needs of the 7 million Latinos in our public schools than have any of his predecessors. Leading presidential candidates George W. Bush and Al Gore are also calling the dilemma of high Latin dropout rates a national crisis.

In school districts nationwide, warmed-over and occasionally fresh strategies to rectify our schools' failures are being tested. Poverty, language and unequal school resources are usually the major culprits zeroed in on.

But now comes a report by The College Board, the New York-based organization that administers the college-bound Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), highlight-

ing a different concern.

In releasing the report Oct. 17, College Board President Gaston Caperton pointed out this anomaly: "Even (Hispanic and black) students from relatively wealthy families with well-educated parents do not typically perform as well as white and Asian students from similar backgrounds." They still achieve lower scores on National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) tests, he said.

Hispanics and other students of color continue to be underrepresented in the ranks of high-achieving students, the report finds. Its recommendations suggest not only new efforts of unprecedented proportions, but new thought, too.

Using data from NAEP -- which has measured student progress in several subjects for close to three decades -- the two-year study was prepared by The College Board's 31-member National Task Force on Minority High Achievement, co-chaired by retired University of California-Santa Cruz professor Eugene Cota-

Robles.

The task force faults the usual suspects: lack of teacher training and low parental involvement, as well as high poverty and inadequate resources.

Nationally renowned educator Josué González, who now directs the Center for Bilingual Education and Research at Arizona State University in Tempe, suggests that we shouldn't discount cultural differences, either.

"It takes some time, even several generations, to ingrain into a person's mind not just the importance of an education, but the significance of high achievement versus regular performance," he said. "It's part of the culture among white students in general that more education leads to a better life. Even among minority college-educated people, that notion is still not part of the culture as much because many are still 'firsts' -- the first to graduate, the first to get a good job. It takes a while."

The report also finds a lack of Hispanics and other students of color in ad-

vanced placement programs, which the task force identified as a major avenue to academic high achievement.

Cecilia Burciaga, assistant vice president for student affairs at California State University at Monterey Bay, said, "Many Hispanics and other minority students go to high schools that offer few, if any, advanced placement classes. It's not that they can't do it. They just aren't offered the opportunity."

The task force recommended, among other things, forming collaborations with community organizations and associations of color to provide supplemental educational opportunities, and an increase in teacher training. Inner-city districts generally get the newest, most inexperienced teachers.

An Oct. 12 report by the Council of the Great City Schools surveyed 48 urban school districts and found that in areas where administrators were implementing recommendations along the lines of those suggested in The College Board report, achievement among students of color has

improved.

CGCS researchers found that Houston and Fort Worth -- where the Latino student population is 53 percent and 40 percent respectively -- were the most successful of the districts surveyed to "significantly narrow the achievement gap between white and Hispanic students."

Not so sure that such system-directed reform efforts will ever level the playing field for Hispanics is Philip Mántez, director of the Western Regional Office of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

An educational psychologist by training, Mántez contends, "To the detriment of Hispanics and others who don't fit the mold, the U.S. educational system is geared to the white, urban, English-speaking, middle-class student. It's not interested in educating Hispanic kids and never has been. That's a threat to the system's ethnocentric mentality -- to administrators, to teachers. Unless this societal mind-set changes dramatically, nothing else will, either."

When Many Races Become One ...

By Victor Landa

Somewhere between José Vasconcelos' Raza Cósmica and Virgil Elizondo's Mestizo Future is an idea I feel comfortable with. Not that my comfort is an overwhelming universal priority. But I do have to live with myself.

José Vasconcelos was a Mexican writer who lived and worked 70 years ago. His idea was that the eventual mixture of all the races in humanity was to produce an all-inclusive race that took the best traits from every culture.

Virgil Elizondo is a friend who observes life, writes books, teaches and poses the most challenging questions. Virgil's idea is that the answers to our society's most pressing problems can be found in the Latino community -- in our most time-honored customs and traditions, and in our deeply held beliefs.

Sandwiched between Vasconcelos and Elizondo is a place of solemn responsibility, and of joy and life. Their belief is radically positive and desperately needed.

The Latinos they celebrate have nothing to do with beer-sponsored street festivals or parade floats festooned in green, white and red ribbons like those that dotted the country during Hispanic Heritage Month.

Their vision has more to do with the steadfast serenity of the Latino work ethic. It has to do with the belief that work is sacred and that what measures life is what you leave behind, not what you accumulate. It has to do with the fact that power is personal and not abusive.

Their brand of Hispanidad is a radical departure from what, by default, has come to be known as Latino. There is so much talk of Latin music and food, of overwhelming waves of population, of language issues and political battles. And yet what these men talk about is much deeper and more practical.

In the face of the most disheartening statistics, the challenge is to find hope. And the place to look for that hope is within.

When our jails are filled with the empty souls of men whose lives seem adrift in an endless stream of pointless days, the place to look is to our tradition of personal strength and faith.

When our children seem weakened by the pressures of culture and media, they should be shown the way of unassuming inner strength that has been the hallmark of generations. When families fall apart because of abuse or divorce, we must remember that the bonds of family have always given us strength.

But, mostly, we must remember that we are not.

Both Elizondo and Vasconcelos agree on this point. The Latino ethnicity, this hodgepodge of native and European and Asian and African and Middle Eastern race and culture, has enormous gifts to offer the world. But before we are able to share them, we must stop assimilating the worst traits of the society we live in. We must turn our backs on the scourge of drug abuse, on

the violence that we take from popular culture and bring into our homes.

We need to move away from the victim mentality that stifles our creativity, saps our natural energies and keeps us trapped in welfare and reactionary politics.

We must be able to look at our own idiosyncrasies and reject what have become easy stereotypes -- reject the cycle of poverty, reject a lack of education, reject the violence that turns us against ourselves.

Elizondo once wrote that the future is mestizo, but I would add to that and say that the future is mestizo-cósmico. We would do well to remember that we never stop being who we are, and that what we have to offer our country could very well be the answers it needs. All we need to do is remember.

(Victor Landa is news director of Telemundo's KVDA-TV60 in San Antonio, Texas.)

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Poverty May be Easier than Misery to Solve

BY FRANZ SCHURMANN

Experts on poverty face a conundrum at the close of the 20th century: poverty rates have been dropping worldwide, even as unhappiness is a rampant social disease that is spreading everywhere, including in the richest countries.

The French have long made a distinction between poverty and misery. They see poverty as the lack of wealth and income. Solving it means putting more money in people's pockets. Misery is trickier since it combines wretched external conditions of life with deep internal unhappiness. Victor Hugo entitled his great novel about France's 19th century underclass not "Les Pauvres" but "Les Misérables".

Until the Asian financial epidemic broke out in July 1997, international institutions like the World Bank were confident that global poverty could be wiped out by 2050. Two huge and poor countries, China and Indonesia, brought down poverty levels from 80 percent of the population to 20 percent in just two decades (1975-1995), both did it by putting money into the pockets of the poor.

After July 1997, poverty rates shot up again. But while a lot of financial suffering remains, most of East and Southeast Asian countries again have big caches of cash. And the World Bank -- albeit more gingerly -- is again emitting hope that the poverty curve will regain its downward slope.

The world is awash in money and no one really knows why. The classical business cycle appears to have vanished and inflation has been banished. Many stocks are now regarded the way gold coins were in earlier times.

Though the Asia-Pacific region has become the heartland of the global economy, Europe still has enormous quantities of money. The French in particular were big beneficiaries of the fabulous bull market that began in 1990. France's national wealth grew an average of 4 percent in the early 1990s, and shot up another 10 percent between 1995 and 1998. But as French wealth grew, so did the wealth gap.

Nowhere is the debate on poverty and misery more intense right now than in France. Socialists committed to equality control the government, as is the case in most West European countries. Yet the inequalities between richer and poorer are widening.

Even more disturbing is spreading misery. Sociologist Marc Manganot writes of the new poor and miserably cities in Europe with their "at-risk, impoverished and fragmented people abandoned, looked on with suspicion and often surrounded by a no man's land."

China, the world's most rapidly developing country, is not immune to the new misery. A recent study found that 400 people kill themselves each day in a country where traditionally suicide was rare. "Though a variety of mental illnesses are occurring during this transitional period of our socialist market economy," researchers conclude, "what's striking are the many suicide attempts. The causes are: loss of love, breakup of marriages, hatred of school, fallen role models, victims of violence."

The dominant development model of the last three decades has been American. Outside the U.S. it is called neo-liberalism. Here it is called capitalism or market economies. The core assumption of this model is that if people have wealth and income, they will become happy. The American Declaration of Independence calls the "pursuit of happiness" an inherent right bestowed by the Creator. For 200 years, Americans have believed that a prosperous economy will bring happiness to the greatest number.

Neo-liberalism holds that we now all live in a global economy. If a nation develops a growing export market, coupled with an expanding internal market, then general prosperity will follow. But sociologist Pierre Bourdieu, the intellectual leader of French anti-globalism, sees neo-liberalism as a force that wrecks "social collectivities" -- whatever bonds people have with each other and with all human and natural environments.

The European left generally believes that poverty and misery are closely linked. If you are poor, life will be wretched. If you are miserable, poverty will follow. On the other hand, several French scholars, notably Serge Latouche (author of "The Other Africa"), have noted crushing poverty going along with strong social structures, both old and new. Thus millions of immigrants are generally poor but their social structures strong.

French social thinkers like Bourdieu are now coming to believe misery is more threatening to survival than poverty. More and more they use words like isolation and exclusion for the causes of misery. And more and more they see the solution in creating new social collectivities. In America it's called "building community." But it's easier said than done.

Cuando Muchas Razas Se Convierten En Una

Por Victor Landa

En alguna parte entre la obra de José Vasconcelos, La Raza Cósmica y la de Virgil Elizondo, El Futuro Mestizo, hay una idea con la que me siento cómodo. No es que mi comodidad sea una prioridad universal abrumadora. Pero tengo que vivir conmigo mismo.

José Vasconcelos fué un escritor mexicano que vivió y trabajó hace 70 años. Su idea fué que la mezcla eventual de todas las razas de la humanidad habría de producir una raza que las incluyera a todas y que tomara los mejores rasgos de cada cultura.

Virgil Elizondo es un amigo que observa a la vida, escribe libros, enseña y plantea las preguntas más retadoras. La idea de Virgil es que las respuestas a los problemas más apremiantes de nuestra sociedad pueden hallarse en la comunidad latina -- en nuestras costumbres muy consagradas por el tiempo y en nuestras creencias profundamente arraigadas.

Emparedado entre Vasconcelos y Elizondo hay un lugar de responsabilidad solemne, así como de gozo y vida. Su creencia es radicalmente positiva y desesperadamente necesaria.

Los latinos a quienes celebra

no tienen nada que ver con los festivales de calle auspiciados por marcas de cerveza ni con las carrozas de los desfiles adornadas con cintas verdes, blancas y rojas, como las que aparecen por todo el país durante el mes de la herencia hispana.

Su visión tiene más que ver con la serenidad resultada de la ética latina del trabajo. Tiene que ver con la creencia de que el trabajo es sagrado y de que lo que mide a la vida es lo que uno deja atrás, no lo que uno acumula. Tiene que ver con el hecho de que el poder es personal y no abusivo.

Su clase de hispanidad es una separación radical de lo que por descuido ha llegado a conocerse como latino. Hay gran cantidad de charla sobre la música y la comida latina, sobre las olas de población abrumadoras, sobre los asuntos idiomáticos y las contiendas políticas. Y sin embargo, aquello de lo que estos hombres hablan es mucho más profundo y más práctico.

A la vista de las estadísticas más desalentadoras, el reto es hallar esperanza. Y el lugar donde mirar en busca de esa esperanza es el interior.

Cuando nuestras cárceles es-

tán llenas de las almas vacías de hombres cuyas vidas parecen estar al garete en una corriente interminable de días sin rumbo, el lugar donde mirar es nuestra tradición de fuerza y fe personales.

Cuando nuestros hijos parecen hallarse debilitados por las presiones de la cultura y los medios de comunicación, deberíamos enseñarles el camino de la fuerza interior discreta que ha sido la marca distintiva de generaciones. Cuando las familias se destruyen por el abuso o el divorcio, debemos recordar que los vínculos familiares nos han dado fuerza siempre.

Pero, primordialmente, debemos recordar lo que no somos.

Tanto Elizondo como Vasconcelos concuerdan sobre este punto. La etnicidad latina, esta mescolanza de razas y culturas nativas, europeas, asiáticas, africanas y del Oriente Medio, tiene dones enormes que ofrecer al mundo. Pero antes de que seamos capaces de compartirlas, tenemos que dejar de asimilar los peores rasgos de la sociedad en que vivimos. Debemos dar la espalda al azote del abuso de los narcóticos, a la violencia que tomamos de la cultura popular y que traemos al in-

terior de nuestros hogares.

Necesitamos alejarnos de la mentalidad de víctimas que paraliza a nuestra creatividad, socava a nuestras energías naturales y nos mantiene atrapados en la asistencia económica pública y en la política reaccionaria.

Debemos ser capaces de mirar a nuestras propias idiosincrasias y rechazar a los que se han convertido en estereotipos fáciles -- rechazar al ciclo de la pobreza, rechazar a la falta de instrucción, rechazar a la violencia que nos vuelve en contra de nosotros mismos.

Elizondo escribió una vez que el futuro es mestizo, pero yo le agregaría y diría que el futuro es mestizo-cósmico. Haríamos bien al recordar que nunca dejamos de ser quienes somos, y que lo que tenemos para ofrecer a nuestro país podría ser muy bien ser las respuestas que el mismo necesita. Todo lo que necesitamos hacer es recordar.

(Victor Landa es el director de noticias de KVDA-TV60, la estación afiliada de Telemundo en San Antonio, Texas.)

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A Warning To My GOP Colleagues:

More Deeds And Fewer Words

By José G. Roig

I have been a member of the Republican Party since the 1970s, when U.S. Rep. Joel T. Broyhill of Virginia organized "Heritage Councils" made up by people like me, who had vacated or been expelled from our native lands.

I have cooperated in all Republican campaigns in northern Virginia, at all levels, since then, translating literature into Spanish, distributing it among Hispanics and trying to recruit them as members of the GOP. I have also consistently voted for all Republican candidates, not missing even one election.

But all of that did not prevent me from resigning -- twice -- as a member of the Arlington County Republican Committee. The first time I quit because it preferred to invite a Democrat, instead of me, to a very important meeting convened by the governor of Virginia for people of color; thus I was precluded from defending Hispanic interests at that meeting. In the other instance, I felt discriminated against for reasons of national origin, and I decided to leave that organization permanently.

And now comes my warning.

I am out on the streets most of the day. I am a part of the grassroots of my community. Constantly, I hear unfavorable comments from fellow Hispanics regarding the Republican Party. They charge that it pays more attention to elitist groups than to grassroots persons.

When all things are considered, I believe they are right.

Now that demographics have begun to reveal that we Hispanics can "swing" elections -- as has already happened in Florida, Texas, California and New York -- GOP leaders are running around and trying to bring us into their fold as though we were sheep.

Democrats have done that for too long, with disastrous consequences -- such as welfare -- for our families.

Elections are not won through money and promises, but through votes. Even though our principles and values, including our strong work ethic, coincide with Republican tenets, it is essential that GOP leaders talk with, not at, us. It is essential that they listen as we tell them directly what we think.

There are many things they must learn about us. Here are some of them:

-- Answer our letters when we write to you. That's a common courtesy.

-- When you ask for contributions and we respond, give us an accounting of where the money goes. Let us know how our dollars help our community.

-- On those issues that affect us, such as immigration, employment, discrimination, education, housing and health care, ask our opinions. Invite us to congressional hearings and GOP meetings, rather than mail us surveys and requests for more money. That does not work well with us. We are used to personal and sincere communication.

-- Translate GOP literature into correct Spanish. Hire professional translators to do it, instead of the ignoramuses and amateurs who have been doing it thus far.

-- Arduously seek out and help qualified Hispanic candidates in all states, at all levels. We have them, but they have been overlooked. It has led us to lose elections that could have been easily won.

We are in accord with the Bushes, with our Republican congressional Representatives Lincoln Díaz-Balart and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen from Florida, and even with Rep. Robert Menéndez, the New Jersey Democrat who has placed the Cuban cause over any partisanship. He deserves credit for that.

But we are not in accord with the inept people who currently lead the GOP, who think they know everything about Hispanics but in truth know nothing, who do not speak our language and categorize all of us as "illegal aliens." They seem not to realize or care that many of us have been United States citizens for years and years, that we have done more for this country than many native-born citizens. In my own struggle to gain freedom from Castro's communist grip on my homeland, I know many who have died in defense of democracy.

We proudly call ourselves proletarians, using the word in its correct meaning. We are eager to continue working for the GOP.

So there you have the full warning from someone who has fought for the GOP for almost 30

years, without ambition to hold any party or government position. Our struggle is for principles and values.

So accept our idiosyncrasies, our way of dealing with people.

For Patricia Guadalupe

A medida que crece el porcentaje de los niños hispanos de edad escolar -- desde 1986 a 1997, del 9.9 por ciento al 14.5 por ciento -- también aumenta la atención de los líderes en el campo de la educación.

El departamento federal de Educación, bajo el Secretario Richard Riley, ha dirigido un enfoque mayor y más fondos federales hacia los programas que atienden a las necesidades de los latinos en las escuelas públicas -- que sobrepasan los 7 millones -- que cualquier otro secretario de educación. Los principales candidatos presidenciales, George W. Bush y Al Gore están calificando igualmente al dilema de las altas tasas de deserción de los latinos, como una preocupación nacional.

En los distritos escolares a través de todo el país, las estrategias recalentadas y ocasionalmente nuevas para rectificar las fallas de nuestras escuelas están siendo puestas a prueba. La pobreza, la falta del dominio del inglés y la desigualdad en el repartimiento de fondos para las escuelas son de costumbre las principales razones en el cual se enfocan los líderes al hablar sobre la educación.

Pero ahora llega un informe del College Board, la organización con sede en Nueva York que administra el Examen de Aptitudes Académicas (SAT en inglés), el cual destaca una preocupación distinta.

Al publicar el informe el 17 de octubre, el presidente de la Junta, Gaston Caperton, señaló esta anomalía: "Aún los estudiantes hispanos y afroamericanos de familias relativamente acomodadas, con padres graduados de universidad, no se desempeñan típicamente tan bien como los estudiantes anglosajones y asiáticos de los mismos niveles económicos." Los estudiantes minoritarios todavía logran puntajes más bajos en los exámenes de la Evaluación Nacional de Adelanto

Recognize our culture, instead of trying to suppress it.

Don't try to make us assimilate through force of legislation. That does not work, either. We are not going to exchange our birthright for a mess of pottage.

Estudiantes Hispanos Muestran Aumento De La Atencion Nacional

en la Educación (NAEP en inglés).

Los hispanos y otros estudiantes minoritarios continúan estando sub-representados en las filas de los estudiantes de altas calificaciones, según halla el informe. Sus recomendaciones sugieren no solamente nuevas gestiones sin precedentes, sino nuevas ideas también.

Empleando la información de la NAEP -- que ha medido durante cerca de tres décadas el adelanto de los estudiantes en varias asignaturas -- el estudio de dos años de duración fué preparado por el Grupo de Trabajo Nacional de 31 miembros de la Junta Universitaria para el Exito de las Minorías, co-presidido por el ex-profesor de la Universidad de California en Santa Cruz, Eugene Cota-Robles.

El grupo de trabajo culpa a la falta de capacitación de los maestros y a la involucración insuficiente de los padres en la educación de sus hijos, así como el alto índice de pobreza y la falta de recursos.

El profesor Josué González, quien dirige ahora el Centro para la Educación Bilingüe y la Investigación en Arizona State University en Tempe, sugiere que no deberíamos descontar a las diferencias culturales tampoco.

"Se necesita algún tiempo, hasta varias generaciones, para inculcar no sólo la importancia de la educación, sino la importancia de las calificaciones y adiestramiento más allá de lo meramente necesario," dice. "Es parte de la cultura entre los estudiantes anglosajones en general, el que un nivel más alto de educación resulta en un mejor porvenir. Aún entre las personas minoritarias graduadas de universidades, esa noción no es aún parte de la cultura en tan gran medida, porque muchos son todavía 'los primeros' que se han graduado, los primeros que hayan obtenido un buen empleo. Se necesita más

Estudiantes Hispanos Muestran Aumento De La Atencion Nacional

El informe halla también una falta de hispanos y otros estudiantes minoritarios en los llamados programas avanzados placement, donde estudiantes toman clases avanzadas en las escuelas superiores para estar mejor preparados al entrar a la universidad. El comité de trabajo identifica el tomar estas clases como una oportunidad primordial para llegar a altos logros académicos.

Cecilia Burciaga, vice-presidenta auxiliar para asuntos estudiantiles en California State University en Monterey Bay, sugiere: "Muchos hispanos y otros estudiantes minoritarios van a escuelas secundarias que ofrecen pocas, si es que algunas, de estas clases. No es que no puedan hacerlo Es que no se les ofrece la oportunidad."

El comité de trabajo recomienda, entre otras cosas, formar convenios con organizaciones y asociaciones comunitarias para ayudar a suministrar oportunidades de educación, y un aumento en la capacitación de los maestros. Los distritos escolares de las ciudades urbanas por lo general reciben los maestros más nuevos y más carentes de experiencia.

Un informe del 12 de octubre, preparado por el Consejo de las Escuelas de la Gran Ciudad (CGCS en inglés), estudió a 48 distritos escolares urbanos a través de todo el país y halló que en las zonas donde los administradores estaban poniendo en práctica las recomendaciones iguales a la del comité del trabajo, los logros entre los estudiantes minoritarios aumentaron.

Los investigadores del CGCS hallaron que Houston y Fort Worth -- donde la población escolar latina es del 53 por ciento y el 40 por ciento respectivamente -- fueron los distritos de mayor éxito en el estudio para disminuir considerablemente la brecha de los logros académicos entre los estudiantes anglosajones e hispanos.

Philip Múntez, director de la oficina regional de la Comisión Estadounidense sobre los Derechos Civiles (USCRC, en inglés), no está muy seguro de que dichas gestiones de reforma dirigidas por el sistema llegarán alguna vez a igualarlo para los hispanos.

Múntez, preparado en psicólogo especializado en la educación, alega que: "Para perjuicio de los hispanos y otros, el sistema de educación de Estados Unidos está enfocado hacia el estudiante anglosajón, urbano, de habla inglesa y de clase media. No está interesado por enseñar a los estudiantes hispanos, ni lo ha estado nunca. Esa es una amenaza a la mentalidad etnocéntrica del sistema -- para los administradores y para los maestros. A menos que esta mentalidad social cambie dramáticamente, ninguna otra cosa cambiará tampoco."

(Patricia Guadalupe es la editora del semanario nacional Hispanic Link Weekly Report en Washington, D.C. Se pueden comunicar con ella por el 1-202-234-0280, o por el indicativo de correo electrónico zapotec@AT SIGN@aol.com)

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El Editor, Lubbock, Tx, October 21, 1999

Carlos Fuentes Afirma Educación Sera Prioridad Numero Uno Milenio

Por Rosendo Majano
WASHINGTON, 20 de octubre de 1999

El escritor mexicano Carlos Fuentes predijo anoche que la educación será la prioridad número uno en todos los países del mundo en el nuevo milenio, en el que habrá que superar las desigualdades y la pobreza que agobian a las mayorías desposeídas.

"La base de la desigualdad es la exclusión del sistema educativo" dijo Fuentes, con cuya disertación sobre "Latinoamérica en el umbral del nuevo milenio", el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID) inauguró la noche del martes su "Cátedra Siglo XXI" con motivo del cuadragésimo aniversario de su fundación.

Esta cátedra pretende contribuir al entendimiento de todos los cambios sociales, culturales, económicos y políticos de la época actual, manifestó el presidente del BID, Enrique Iglesias, al presentar a Fuentes.

El autor de obras como "La Frontera de Cristal", "Aura" y su más reciente "Los Años con Laura Díaz", señaló que en la nueva era que está por venir las relaciones entre EEUU y Latinoamérica deben partir de una página nueva y limpia "sin someterlos a medidas tan injustas como el embargo contra Cuba y la más ilegal de las leyes, la Helms Burton".

Fuentes propugna porque las crisis sobresalientes entre América Latina y Estados Unidos, como el comercio, los problemas migratorios, el narcotráfico y otros, se resuelvan por conductos diplomáticos "y no por la falta de imaginación que es la fuerza".

Fuentes considera que en el próximo milenio se debe hacer más por educar a los latinoamericanos para ejercer el poder "no para ellos sino con los demás y eliminar la discriminación, la injusticia social y la corrupción que es la forma más brutal de robar a los pobres".

El escritor de México cree que persisten los retrasos, la pobreza, las desigualdades y la "disparidad creciente entre los pocos que tienen mucho, y los muchos que tienen poco o nada".

Señaló que ha terminado la era de las justificaciones e indicó que uno de los propósitos intelectuales y morales de América Latina en el nuevo milenio debería ser el de no ocupar a nadie "más que a nosotros mismos en la solución de nuestros males".

Negó validez al pretexto, como forma para no hacer nada a favor de la justicia social, de los marginados, la salud y el desarrollo, y explicó, que después de dos siglos de independencia de España, Latinoamérica no puede atribuir sus males a la contrarreforma, "sobre todo cuando la propia España es un modelo de democracia".

Carlos Fuentes opina que esta región es el continente del presagio a la que ahora corresponde poner al día su agenda social y dejar de usar la salida fácil de culpar a otros de sus problemas, "como a la conquista española la crisis mundial, y otros".

En la actualidad se está viviendo un tiempo de responsabilidades compartidas, manifestó el autor de "La Región Más Transparente", en la que la agenda de todos es latinoamericana, pero al mismo tiempo mundial.

También pidió a todos los sectores dedicar esfuerzos a la conservación de la naturaleza, porque a finales del Siglo XX conservar y crear se han convertido en enemigos, y propuso una sociedad más justa para la mujer en el siglo que viene.

Advirtió que la globalización - que despierta esperanzas y temores-, no será posible sin la corresponsabilidad, en la que habrá que compartir las acciones contra la pobreza, a favor del desarrollo económico y social, la seguridad ciudadana, la salud, la educación y contra el narcotráfico que no reconoce fronteras nacionales o jurisdicciones internacionales.

Para Fuentes, en el nuevo milenio habrá que reformar el sistema internacional a fin de crear una nueva legalidad para una nueva realidad, la que no se ha tenido la capacidad de impulsar hasta hoy.

El escritor opina que se está viviendo una globalización dominada por la lógica especulativa, que deja atrás a los grandes sectores marginados y de cuyas filas mueren de hambre 40 millones de personas cada año.

"En el próximo milenio nos espera la globalización de los pobres, que no evitará la inmigración porque todos los países industrializados necesitan esa mano de obra", precisó Fuentes.

Añadió que el fenómeno de la globalización puede instalarnos a todos en un mundo indeseable, porque sobrevaloró la inversión y subvaluó a los pobres y los más necesitados.

Fuentes considera que si se destina a la educación el uno por ciento de los 800.000 millones de dólares que se invierten anual-

mente a las armas en el mundo, se podría dar educación a millones de niños a nivel internacional.

Propuso que no se faciliten créditos a "la corruptela" e instó al sector privado mundial a contribuir en mayor medida al desarrollo, especialmente en Latinoamérica, "una zona que posee una cultura vigorosa donde se tiene que pasar de la identidad ganada a la identidad por zanar".

Natural Healers In Mexico Request Laws To Protect Medicinal Plants

MEXICO CITY, Traditional physicians in the northern state of Sonora asked the authorities on Sunday to draft a law that will give indigenous people ownership of the medicinal plants in their region.

Natural healers made the petition at the meeting this weekend in Hermosillo, capital of Sonora, that brought together members of five of the existing eight ethnic groups in the state for the first time to share their knowledge and protest the vanishing of medicinal plants.

Traditional physicians denounced the activities of the pharmaceutical industry, which uses area plants for producing medications.

In order to keep the medicinal herbs from progressively disappearing, the folk healers proposed creating botanical gardens to which only they would have access. They also suggested drawing up a catalogue with the endangered species of the area to see if they can still be found in other places.

The event was part of the celebration surrounding the second anniversary of the Museum of Popular Cultures in Hermosillo. It brought together for the first time 16 folk healers of the Pima, Yaqui, Mayo, O'otham and Conca'ac ethnic groups.

Besides denouncing the extinction of medicinal plants, the faith healers who usually live in small isolated communities performed cures among the attendees as well as spiritual cleansing and cures for the evil eye.

Traditional medicine has a strong following among indigenous Mexican communities, where the majority of the population would rather see a faith healer than go to a hospital.

Obesidad, Una Epidemia Silenciosa Que Afecta Mas A Hispanos

Por Juan Ramón Romero

Washington. - La obesidad y el sobrepeso, que están considerados como una "epidemia silenciosa", afecta a todos los países desarrollados, pero es aún más dramática entre la población hispana estadounidense, que registra cifras superiores a la media.

La mitad de las mujeres hispanas, al igual que las de raza negra, son obesas o tienen problemas de sobrepeso, según los datos del Centro Nacional de Estadísticas de Salud.

Entre los niños, el problema es igualmente grave y, si cabe, más preocupante.

Las estadísticas indican que en la población infantil que va de los 6 a los 11 años, los niños mexicanoamericanos rondan cifras de sobrepeso en torno al 17,4 por ciento, muy por encima del 10,3 por ciento que se reconoce entre niños blancos no hispanos.

El estudio sitúa a las niñas mexicanoamericanas de esa misma edad en un 13,7 por ciento de tasas de sobrepeso, una cifra menor a la de los chicos, pero también por encima del 9,2 por ciento que se atribuye a las niñas de raza blanca no hispana.

El desequilibrio se mantiene en las capas infantiles y juveniles que van de los 12 a los 17 años, aunque la desproporción entre hispanos y no hispanos es algo menor.

Los científicos y especialistas en salud reconocen que acabar con este problema es difícil, incluso en lo que respecta a mantener rebajas de peso a largo plazo.

Francisco Xavier Pi-Sunyer, director de la Universidad del Saint Luke's Hospital de Nueva York ha llegado a afirmar que resulta "más fácil curar a una persona de un cáncer que de obesidad".

Pese al dramatismo de estas palabras, los últimos informes científicos señalan que los estadounidenses fallan en su intento de perder peso porque no siguen las directrices de los especialistas, que recomiendan comer menos y hacer más ejercicio.

Un refrán popular denominaba a esta recomendación "más suela y menos cazuela", en el sentido de que debe incrementarse el ejercicio diario (hasta 30 minutos al día) y consumir menos cantidades.

No se trata, han dicho recientemente expertos en nutrición, de que simplemente se reduzcan las calorías procedentes de las grasas, sino que se coman menos calorías en total.

Indican que muchas personas rechazan los artículos que contienen grasa, pero se olvidan de

comprobar el número de calorías que tiene cada alimento.

Así las cosas, dos terceras partes de los estadounidenses, incluidos los de origen hispano, están a dieta, pero las cifras de éxitos son en general muy bajas porque no se toma en cuenta la combinación de la reducción de las calorías con el ejercicio.

Lo cierto es que cualquier persona que siga "a pies juntillas" una dieta baja en calorías recetada por un médico y camine a paso vivo media hora cada día, bajará de peso, y de modo considerable.

El peso del cuerpo es una relación matemática entre las calorías que se ingieren con los alimentos, bebidas y "picoteos" y el número de calorías que se consumen tanto en el metabolismo cotidiano como en la actividad física.

Ello sin contar casos especiales en los que la acumulación de grasas obedece a un mal funcionamiento del sistema endocrino.

La revista New England Journal of Medicine destacaba recientemente una investigación en la que, por primera vez, se relaciona de modo riguroso y comprobado la obesidad con el riesgo de muerte.

Es sabido por todo el mundo que la obesidad es uno de los

principales causantes de las enfermedades cardiovasculares y de cáncer.

"Somos demasiado gordos y eso nos está matando", ha señalado la autora del informe sobre la

Obesity Is Harder On Hispanics Than On Others

Washington. - The "silent epidemic" of obesity and overweight affect people in all developed countries, but especially the Hispanic population in the United States.

Half the Hispanic women, the same as African American women, are either obese or have excess weight problems, according to data from the National Health Statistics Center.

Among children, the problem is equally serious and even more worthy of concern.

Statistics show that within the 5-11-year-old population, some 17.4 percent of Mexican American boys are overweight, well above the 10.3 percent recorded for non-Hispanic white children.

The study shows that 13.7 percent of Mexican American girls in the same age bracket are overweight, a figure lower than that recorded for boys but also

obesidad, que revela que los hombres obesos tiene un 158 por ciento más de posibilidades de morir que los hombres sin problemas de peso.

Lo dramático de las estadísticas llena de pesimismo a muchas personas sobre sus posibilidades de adelgazar, pero las recomendaciones médicas son infalibles si se aplican con fuerza de voluntad.

above the 9.2 percent attributed to non-Hispanic white girls.

The imbalance persists among children of different ages and youths ranging from 12-17 years of age, although the lack of proportion between Hispanics and non-Hispanics is somewhat lower.

Scientists and health experts acknowledge that putting an end to the problem is difficult, even as regards long-term maintenance of weight loss.

Francisco Xavier Pi-Sunyer, director of St. Luke's University Hospital in New York, remarked that "it is easier to cure a person of cancer than of obesity."

Despite the tragedy implied by these words, recent scientific reports show that Americans fail to successfully lose weight because they do not follow the instructions of their doctors, namely, to eat less and exercise more.

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(Community Health Center of Lubbock, City Health Department, Highland Medical Center, American Diabetes Assn., United Pharmacies and more).

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Hispanic Businesses Targeted for New Export Program

New Orleans, - The U.S. Commerce Department initiated a new program in New Orleans, designed to increase minority business participation in exports and the international marketplace.

The "Global Diversity Initiative" will run through Nov. 19 and is designed to stimulate exports among businesses at least 51 percent ownership by ethnic minorities such as African Americans, Asians, American Indians or Hispanics.

So far, the Commerce Department has obtained optimum results in nine U.S. cities where it has implemented the program. The second group of nine cities includes New Orleans, Detroit, Minneapolis, Newark, Dallas, Denver, Orange County, San Francisco and Charlotte.

Recent studies have shown that businesses with an ethnic minority makeup are growing in number and sales volume at far higher rates - nearly double - than other U.S. businesses.

But although these minority businesses have the perfect profiles to act as exporters, their export volumes lag behind at less than half of other businesses with similar characteristics.

The Delta U.S. Export Assistance Center, a division of the Department of Commerce office in New Orleans, is in the process of selecting 15 companies for the program. The companies selected will have had little export experience but will have great potential for success in future exports to foreign markets.

"At this time we have eight companies ready to begin the program," the New Orleans program coordinator said. Two of the eight comprise Hispanic minorities.

In addition to being minority owned, companies must also meet other requirements to qualify for the program. They must have at least two years of activity in the market, they must offer products or services that would perform well in foreign markets and they must have positive balance sheets.

The program, which does not involve any added cost for participating businesses, will be centered around opportunities with Mexico and Canada.

The U.S. trade partners' proximity and the high export potential forecast by industry experts have made the neighbors the primary objectives of the Global Diversity Initiative.

The Central American country of Belize is another possible target market, the trade official noted.

"We have decided to start with these countries because of the great advantages they offer. But if the participating businesses have interests in other markets, we will take that into account and offer them all the support we can," the official said.

hoping to hire Hispanic professionals in the areas of space, automotive and environmental engineering.

"We Hispanics need to create a national network to obtain better opportunities at the larger corporations," Font said.

The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the conference organizer, will offer a series of seminars for high school students to show them the benefits of seeking careers in engineering, which according to recent figures, offer starting annual salaries of 45,000 dollars.

According to the U.S. Technology Association, approximately 346,000 positions were available in the United States last year in the areas of science and engineering, and Hispanics filled only 6.2 percent of the slots.

Cindy Ramos, vice president of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, expressed hope that more than 1,000 students from around the United States would attend the job fair.

Ramos also said the organization would offer awards to leading Hispanic professionals in the areas of science and technology.

Mariana Guereque, an engineering student at the University of Texas in El Paso summed up the conference, saying, "The message offered at this type of conference is that if we work hard, we can reach our goals."

Hispanic Groups Continue Fighting U.S. Television Networks

By Maria Peña

Washington, - The National Council of La Raza (NCLR), one of the oldest Hispanic organizations in the United States, said Thursday that the Hispanic community will continue fighting for better representation on U.S. television.

Lisa Navarrete, vice president of the NCLR, told EFE that although the main U.S. television networks have added Hispanic characters to their programs this season, "there is still a lot to be done."

"They grasped the unequivocal message from our recent boycott - that although Hispanics are talented, they remain invisible on TV - but they have not addressed the fundamental problem of their low representation at all levels, in front of and behind the cameras," said Navarrete.

"These companies must employ Hispanics not only as production talent - actors, producers and directors - but also at the executive level where the most important decisions are made," he added.

NCLR was one of the 19 members of the National Latin Media Coalition (NLMC) that called for a boycott of the ABC, NBC, CBS and Fox television networks in protest because only one of the 26 new programs this season has a minority actor in a leading role.

During the boycott, the coalition asked viewers to unplug their television sets and find entertainment alternatives like reading Hispanic writers or renting foreign movies in reprisal for the "insensitivity of television networks in this country."

The "brownout" of the NLMC started a multi-racial campaign without precedent that made headlines in the main media of the United States.

Navarrete said that thanks to the two-week boycott - Sept. 12-25 at the beginning of the Hispanic Heritage Month - "these networks have now added 10 or 11 Latin and African-American actors as special guests to their new programs."

Specifically, three programs on NBC ("West Wing," "ER" and "Third Watch"), two on ABC ("Wasteland" and "Sabrina the Teenage Witch"), one on WB ("Felicity"), and one on CBS ("Family Law"), have planned to include Hispanic actors as special guests in some episodes.

The popular "NYPD Blue" signed a Puerto Rican actress, also for a secondary role on one of their upcoming episodes, said Navarrete.



Picture of the Week with John Cervantez

Bishop Placido Rodriguez blessed the site for a the new Holy Spirit Catholic Church which is presently being built on 98th and Franford. The Church will serve Catholics in the Southwest portion of Lubbock. Photo by John Cervantez

Caucus Hispano Llevo Agenda Latina A La Casa Blanca

Washington, - Los miembros del Caucus Hispano del Congreso de Estados Unidos llevaron hoy al presidente Bill Clinton una serie de propuestas centradas en la educación, salud, inmigración y el desarrollo económico de las comunidades latinas.

"Tenemos que invertir en las comunidades latinas y asegurar que también disfruten de los beneficios, prosperidad y oportunidades que existen en nuestro país", dijo la presidenta del Caucus Hispano, la congresista demócrata Lucille Roybal Allard.

La legisladora, elegida por California, encabezó esta noche una reunión de cerca de una hora entre los representantes demócratas hispanos y el presidente Clinton.

"Los latinos siguen rezagados en comparación con otros grupos étnicos, en asuntos como salud, educación y desarrollo económico", afirmó Roybal Allard.

Estos mismos temas fueron presentados en julio pasado en un encuentro en el Capitolio con el vicepresidente Al Gore, uno de dos aspirantes a la candidatura presidencial demócrata.

La congresista Roybal Allard afirmó que los legisladores reclamaron a Clinton que se destinen fondos para mejorar la situación de las escuelas primarias y secundarias en las comunidades pobres de Estados Unidos.

La desventaja económica de las comunidades cercanas a la frontera con México ha sido otro asunto que el Caucus ha solicitado en el pasado a la Casa Blanca.

También han reclamado beneficios contributivos para que los empresarios, principalmente las mujeres, puedan invertir en comunidades que se enfrentan a graves problemas económicos.

Roybal Allard señaló que los

hispanos tienen limitado acceso a los seguros médicos y aseguró al presidente Clinton que esa será una de las áreas de mayor énfasis para los legisladores latinos durante el próximo año electoral.

"No podemos permitir que algunas personas queden excluidas de los servicios básicos de salud y educación", sostuvo la congresista californiana.

Según los legisladores hispanos, un ejemplo claro es el problema del sida en la comunidad latina. Aunque los hispanos representan el 10.7 por ciento de la población en EEUU, tienen el 20 por ciento de los casos de esa enfermedad.

En 1997, el sida fue la principal causa de muerte de latinos entre 25 y 44 años.

El Caucus Hispano ha tenido también en su agenda la necesidad de que se establezca un método certero que permita contar a los hispanos en el próximo censo nacional.

"Si se cuenta incorrectamente el resultado será menos fondos para escuelas, obras públicas y servicios sociales comunitarios", dijo la congresista Roybal Allard.

Los delegados de Puerto Rico, Carlos Romero Barceló, y Guam, Robert Underwood, por su parte, han reclamado consecuentemente que la desigualdad en los beneficios de la red del sistema de Medicaid (asistencia médica para familias pobres) se acentúa en sus territorios.

El Departamento de Salud de EEUU ha establecido un plan para atender la desproporción que sufren los hispanos en el área de salud, pero los congresistas han dicho que es necesario asignar más recursos a los programas sanitarios.

"El Congreso y la administración (Clinton) tienen la responsabilidad de implantar legislación que ayude a todos los estadounidenses, independientemente de su trasfondo económico, geográfico y racial", afirmó la congresista.

Hispanic Engineers to Help Each Other Join Larger Corporations

El Paso, Texas, - Hispanic engineers from across the United States at an engineering conference in El Paso, Texas, have announced plans to join forces to ensure that a larger number of Hispanic professionals occupy leading positions in the nation's largest corporations.

For that reason, the organizers of the Annual Hispanic Engineers' Conference, held through Saturday, have included a job fair designed to bring the engineers in contact with nearly 80 leading U.S. corporations and federal agencies.

Among them are Lockheed Martin, Delphi Automotive Systems, Raytheon, NASA, Ford, Boeing, Chevron, Hewlett-Packard, IBM and Motorola.

"We are hoping that a large number of the positions offered here will be filled by Hispanic professionals," said Jose Font, a Puerto Rican engineer for Boeing.

Font noted that the companies participating in the job fair are

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why you live in Lubbock, Texas.

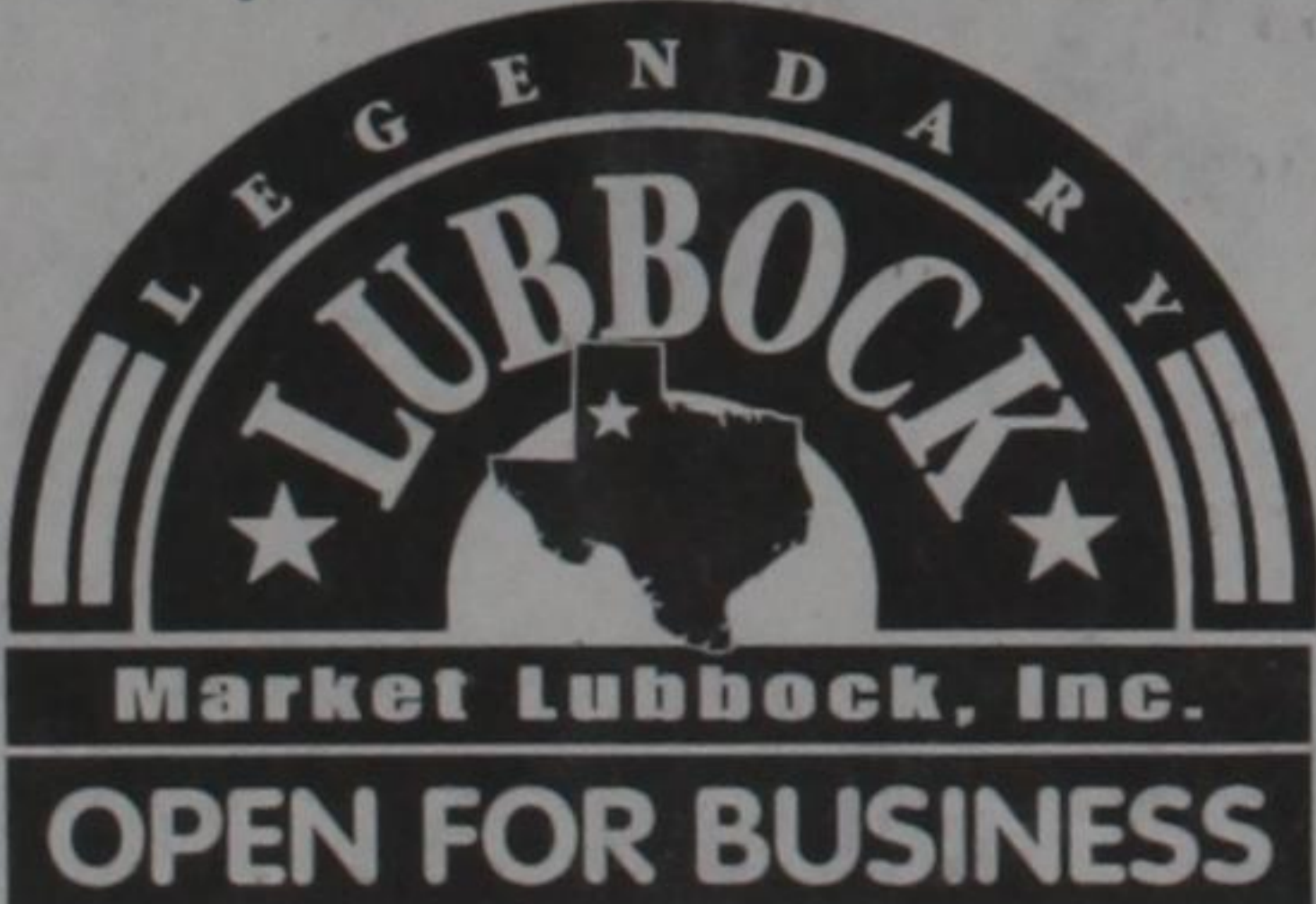
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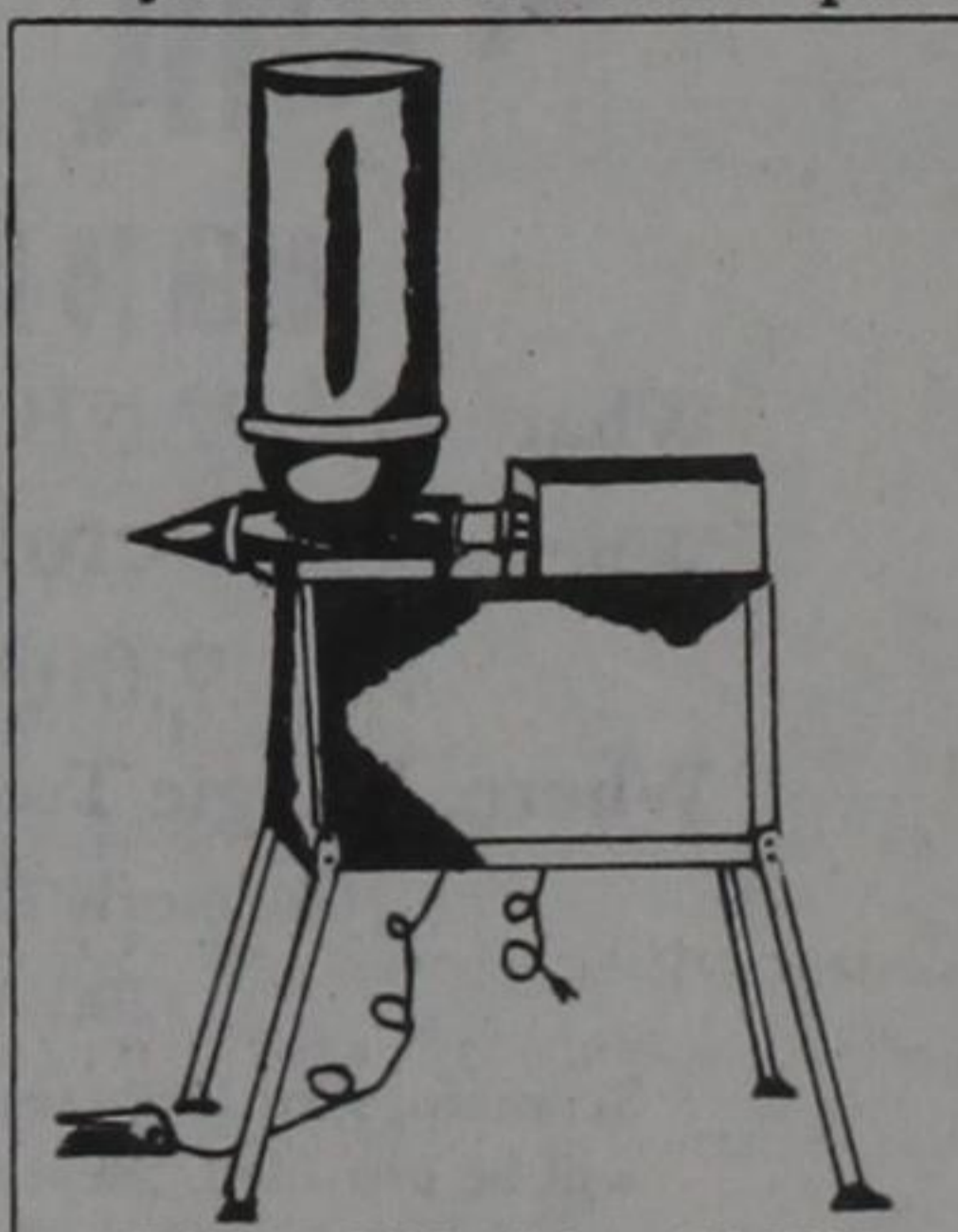
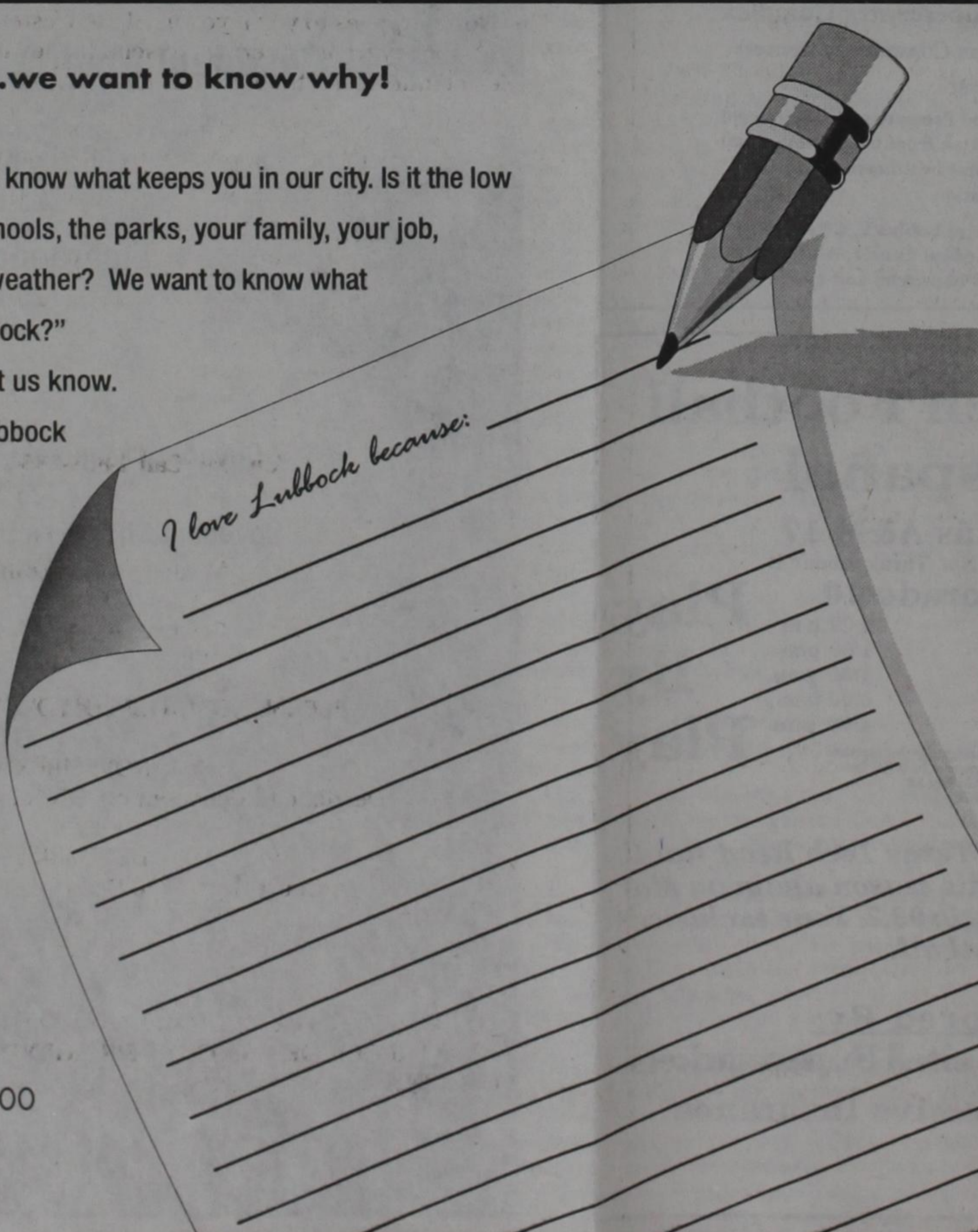
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Write a few lines about why you love Lubbock and Fax it in, mail it in, or drop us a line via e-mail.

We look forward to hearing from you!



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After a failed attempt to destroy la Bruja Steel has concluded that her power comes from her necklace of dolls.



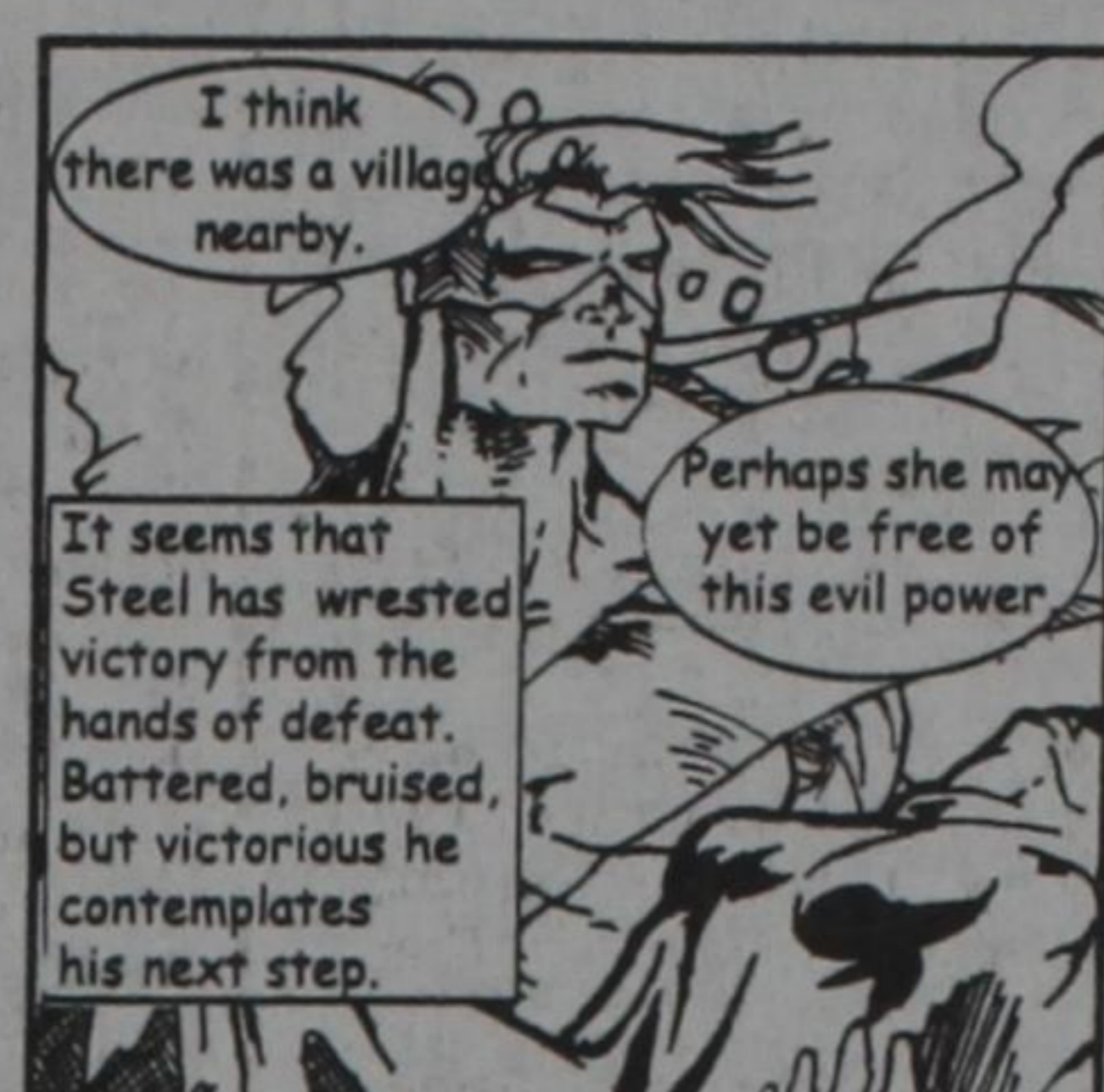
He now tries desperately to wrest this necklace from her.



Suddenly from the bruja's cave...



After several moments of silence slowly a figure emerges...



I think there was a village nearby.

It seems that Steel has wrested victory from the hands of defeat. Battered, bruised, but victorious he contemplates his next step.

Perhaps she may yet be free of this evil power



INMIGRANTES Y LEGISLADORES EEUU PIDEN CAMBIOS A LEYES DE 1996

Por Santiago Távara
Washington, 14 oct (EFE).- Más de un millar de inmigrantes, con el apoyo de legisladores demócratas y republicanos, realizaron hoy una manifestación frente al Capitolio para pedir cambios a las leyes de inmigración aprobadas en 1996 por el Congreso de Estados Unidos.

Estas leyes, que incluyen la de inmigración, asistencia social y lucha contra el terrorismo, afectan a miles de inmigrantes al negarles una serie de derechos y oportunidades con las que contaban anteriormente, dijeron los activistas.

Varias delegaciones de California, Florida, Nueva York, Illinois y otros puntos del país, con banderas y carteles, participaron en la manifestación llamada "Fix '96" -por las leyes de 1996-, y que tuvo como lema: "Corrige los errores, restablece el balance".

"No somos unos mantenidos, muchos de los alimentos que llegan a la mesa de los estadounidenses han sido obtenidos gracias a las manos de los trabajadores inmigrantes", dijo la hondureña Carminda Bonilla, que tiene tres hijos menores nacidos en este país y solamente cuenta con un permiso de trabajo.

Los activistas criticaron las leyes de 1996 porque permiten que un funcionario de inmigración de menor rango ordene la deportación de refugiados, impiden la unificación familiar al obligar al indocumentado que espera la residencia permanente a esperar diez años en su país el resultado de esta gestión y mantienen en un

limbo migratorio a miles de centroamericanos.

Dijeron también que a muchos inmigrantes legales, pese a que pagan impuestos, se les niega asistencia social, mientras que otros son detenidos por delitos menores que cometieron en el pasado y por los que cumplieron condena, pero que ahora son considerados graves por la nueva ley.

La actividad de hoy, por el cambio de las leyes de 1996, unió a congresistas republicanos como Connie Morella, de Maryland, y Lincoln Díaz Balart e Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, de Florida, y a los demócratas Luis Gutiérrez, de Illinois, y Xavier Becerra y Lucille Roybal-Allard, de California, entre otros.

La congresista cubanoamericana Ros-Lehtinen reconoció que los republicanos cometieron errores al aprobar las leyes de 1996 pero que ahora están dispuestos "a dar marcha atrás y rectificar" esas medidas "que penalizan a los inmigrantes que pagan impuestos, mantienen a sus familias y creen en los valores de este país".

La legisladora dijo a EFE que sería difícil que este año se logren cambios a las leyes, y reconoció también que podría encontrar la resistencia del presidente del subcomité de Inmigración de la Cámara de Representantes, Lamar Smith, el principal propulsor de la Ley de Inmigración de 1996.

La congresista Roybal-Allard dijo por su parte que como el control del Congreso está en manos de los republicanos, sería muy difícil que los líderes presten atención a colegas como Ros-Lehtinen y Díaz-Balart.

Los manifestantes incluyeron en sus reclamos que el Congreso extienda a hondureños, guatemaltecos, haitianos y salvadoreños la amnistía bajo la Ley de Ajuste a Nicaragüenses y Alivio a Centroamericanos (NACARA) de 1997, de la que gozan actualmente nicaragüenses y cubanos que llegaron a EEUU an-

tes del 1 de diciembre de 1995.

Actualmente hay una propuesta de ley presentada por el presidente Bill Clinton, que pide esa extensión, y otra del legislador republicano de Florida, Lincoln Díaz Balart, que solicita los mismos beneficios para peruanos y colombianos.

Un grupo de ecuatorianos, presentes en la manifestación de hoy, también solicitaron su

From Page 1

Menendez said that "unfortunately, previously the view had not been to promote this very powerful meeting between the Lower House and Senate and so help out the Hispanic community in its needs for better education, health, employment opportunities, immigration - in conclusion, an improved lifestyle."

All this activity will be very beneficial to U.S. Hispanics, according to Menendez, who also said that in the conversation "there was a very positive interaction among Hispanic representatives and Democratic senators."

Senate Democratic minority leader, Tom Daschle (SD) said he completely backs "the aspirations, worries and desires of U.S. Hispanics" and declared that this minority has been left out by the Upper House.

"All U.S. families have been affected by Congress's decisions not to solve their real needs, but Hispanic families have been the hardest hit," said Daschle.

He criticized politicians who display their ability to speak Spanish during electoral periods but their message for help "is for tomorrow, for the future. We need to act as of now," said the Democratic Senate leader.

"Hispanic families need the help this very day. They need products, safe schools for their children, a real law concerning patients' rights and good jobs. Not tomorrow, today," emphasized Daschle.

inclusión en la Ley de Ajuste Andino, conocida como Ley de la Triple A, por sus siglas en inglés, porque afirmaron que ellos también sufren el problema del narcotráfico y la violencia de sus vecinos Perú y Colombia.

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From Page One

more World Series titles because we have clubs that were good enough to do it, but how can you not be proud and satisfied with what we've accomplished?"

Granted, Schuerholz is biased. We're not. And when we look at what the Braves have accomplished in the 1990s, we have to tip our red, white and blue caps their way and say, if they're not the Team of the Decade, then they certainly reside within the same area code.

The most interesting thing is how the Braves have maintained their standard of High Society living as position players have come and gone throughout the 1990s. The Braves have turned over from Sid Bream to Fred McGriff to Ryan Klesko to Galarraga at first base. They've gone from Mark Lemke to Bret Boone at second, from Jeff Blauser to Walt Weiss at shortstop and from Terry Pendleton to Chipper Jones at third.

In the outfield, they've transformed from Lonnie Smith to Deion Sanders to Brian Hunter to Luis Polonia to Andruw Jones to Gerald Williams in left. They've effortlessly moved from Ron Gant to Otis Nixon to Marquis Grissom to Jones in center. And they've gone from David Justice to Jermaine Dye to Brian Jordan in right.

Of course, there are three reasons why the Braves have maintained their standing atop the NL East since 1991 despite the changing lineup, and their names are Greg Maddux, Tom Glavine and John Smoltz. Those three, more than anybody else, have allowed Schuerholz and manager Bobby Cox to make the other moves they've had to make without a fear of the unknown.

Thanks to those three, when the sun set on Steve Avery, the Braves added Denny Neagle and never missed a beat. And when Schuerholz decided his club needed to upgrade defensively last winter, the emergence of Kevin Millwood allowed him to deal Neagle to the Reds for Boone and reliever Mike Remlinger.

Schuerholz, who, along with Kansas City's Herk Robinson, is the longest-tenured general manager in major league baseball, is the best in the business. Other general managers look at the moves he's made, both major and subtle, and can only marvel. Year after year, the Braves are more consistent than a teenager's ear-shattering stereo.

"I know there are 99 percent of other people who would love to be in my shoes, given the opportunity to win every year," said Smoltz, who was acquired from Detroit when he was just a young prospect in 1987 for Doyle

Alexander. "Our organization has provided us a chance to win every year. It's easy to win when you're not supposed to. It's very difficult to win when you're supposed to. When you're predicted every year.

"Our manager will probably never win the manager of the year when you're predicted to win every year. And he's finally getting noticed for the great job he's done because of circumstances this year. I would say after the '96 season, those next two years were very difficult for us because of how we lost in '96 (leading the series vs. the Yankees 2-0, they lost the next four). And it became a sore thumb for some reason that we'd only won one championship.

"I don't care what we're called. They can put any tag on us in the '90s. Whatever happens this year, regardless, it's been an incredible run, one that seemingly doesn't look like it's ready to end yet.

"I don't think as players we can be so much focused about what we've got to prove, because we're enjoying this year, and we're still playing."

Which is one fact you can't escape each October. The Braves are still playing. They've checked out earlier in some Octobers than in others, but they always seem to show up.

Now, in the final season before the calendar turns and we begin looking for a new team of a new decade, here they come again for one final sloop at the title.

"There shouldn't be any pressure on us because we're going in as the underdog," third baseman Chipper Jones said in a clubhouse smelling of sticky champagne and expensive cigars Wednesday night. "They're the champs. They've got the crown. We're trying to take it from them. We've got our hands full.

"We've got nothing to lose. We'll go out and do what we can, and if it's enough, great. If not, we've come so far since spring training."

It will be impossible, Jones said, for 1999 to end in disappointment for the Braves. Not since losing such heavyweights as Galarraga, Lopez and Ligtnerberg. Not since surviving a scary scrum with a highly talented New York Mets team in the NLCS.

"It can't be disappointing," Jones said. "Win or lose, we're going to hold our heads high. I don't think a lot of guys in this clubhouse thought we'd be here two or three months ago, but here we are."

Team of the Decade? No matter what happens against the Yankees, these Braves certainly are on the same ballot.

The Harmon NFL Forecast: Week 7

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(Thursday) Kansas City 20, **Baltimore 16

Both the Chiefs and Ravens have solid running games, but K.C. has a more balanced attack, able to move the ball through the air as well. These two teams are squaring off for the first time.

**Dallas 33, Washington 28

In an Opening Day stunner, the Cowboys came back from 21 points down against the Redskins to win 41-35 in OT on Troy Aikman's fifth TD toss, 76 yards to Rocket Ismail. Lots more points here.

Detroit 26, **Carolina 13

Two more clubs with more offense than defense, though that's not saying a lot. They'll eventually fade, but for now the Lions are looking almost like contenders. Another first-time matchup.

Green Bay 32, **San Diego 14

The Packers have won five of their six games against the Chargers since 1970, most recently 42-10 in '96. This spread may be similar, with S.D. unable to stop G.B.'s powerful passing game.

**Indianapolis 35, Cincinnati 12

Speaking of passing, nobody's been better at it so far this season than the Colts, and nobody's been worse at defending against it than the Bengals. Last year Indy outslugged Cincy 39-26.

**Miami 28, Philadelphia 10

El Editor

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Losers of six of this series' nine games, the Eagles were the better team the last time they met the Dolphins, in '96, and won 35-28. But Philly has slumped since and is no threat to Miami.

**Minnesota 21, San Francisco 19

With the Vikings and 49ers struggling with running and passing, respectively, this no longer looks like a possible NFC title game matchup. S.F. won last, in a '97 divisional playoff, 38-22.

**New England 27, Denver 15

The Broncos' winning streak over the Patriots reached 11 in '98, a 27-21 Monday-nighter in which John Elway and Drew Bledsoe combined for 546 passing yards. But that was then; this is now.

**N.Y. Giants 17, New Orleans 13

Here's an evenly played series dating to '67 that the Giants lead 11-8, having won most recently, in '97, 14-9. Unless N.Y.'s defensive line steps up, the Saints can dominate on the ground.

**Oakland 24, N.Y. Jets 12

Just stepping up won't do: The Jets don't have the defensive line or backfield to slow the varied Raiders attack. After losing five straight in this series, N.Y. was a 23-22 winner in '97.

**St. Louis 29, Cleveland 7

Venturing outside the AFC for the first time, the Browns don't figure to do any better against NFC teams—especially not the Rams, who have way too much strength on both sides of the ball.

**Seattle 21, Buffalo 20

If we went by stats alone,

we'd go with the Bills, who should win if they keep the ball on the ground. But the Seahawks have been a surprise, and in the Kingdome they'll sneak by Buffalo.

**Tampa Bay 20, Chicago 13

The Buccaneers swept the Bears for the first time since '89 in '98, 27-15 and 31-17. T.B. has gone nowhere through the air, and that needs to change for them to stay in the NFC Central race.

(Monday) **Pittsburgh 22, Atlanta 16

Knowing what they now know about the Falcons, the league's schedulers would probably like a do-over. This will go the way of this series: The Steelers have won 10 of 11 and eight in a row.

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P215/75R14	69.95
P225/75R15	75.00
P235/75R15	78.00
LT235/75R15	87.00
31X1050R15	103.00

Off-White Letter. Other Sizes Available.

COMPUTERIZED ALIGNMENT

\$30.00 \$30.00 \$65.00

2 Wheel Thrust Angle (most vehicles) 4 Wheel (most front wheel drive vehicles)

Limited warranty - 6 months or 6,000 miles, whichever first. Additional parts & labor extra.

WITH THIS COUPON 10/31/99

McWhorter's

WINTERIZE MAINTENANCE PACKAGE

\$42.00

Pressure test cooling system. Pressure test radiator cap. inspect hoses and belts, water pump, fan and fan clutch, hot water heater valve (if equipped). Tighten clamp connections. Add up to two gallons anti-freeze. Limited warranty 90 days or 40,000 miles, whichever first.

10/31/99

McWhorter's

DISC BRAKE SERVICE

FREE brake inspection/estimate

Brake systems are complex. No one can estimate cost without an inspection. Call for appt. Brake reline limited warranty - 6 months or 60,000 miles, whichever first. Brake Overhaul limited warranty - 24 months or 24,000 miles, whichever first on brake overhaul. Most cars and light trucks.

10/31/99

McWhorter's

OIL, LUBE, FILTER & 4 Tire Rotation

(most cars & light trucks)

\$19.95 FREE preventive maintenance check (on request)

Lube (where applicable), new filter & up to 5 quarts major brand oil (brand vary). Most cars. Special diesel oil & filter extra. Environmental oil disposal fee may vary in some areas. Call for an appt. No other discounts apply. Additional charge for shop supplies, up to \$4, may be added.

10/31/99

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