

# Día de los Muertos Drama Shows the Struggles of Young Alcoholic Man

**A**lthough it's a solemnization of the "Day of the Dead" celebrated in the Hispanic community as "El Día de los Muertos", Jerry Mondragón's presence on the stage speaking to the audience just doesn't seem normal for a person who is supposedly dead.

Sunday, November 1st., Albuquerque stage actor Mondragón will for the first time in Lubbock be performing a two act play of the bilingual one man drama "Destino". The drama will be presented by Lubbock Centro Aztlan in commemoration of the traditional holiday celebrated throughout Mexico, South America and most recently the Southwestern United States in order to honor those who have died.

The play "Destino" is the story of a young Hispanic who returns from the dead during the holiday to try to understand his actions during his life. The message of the story tries to relate to the audience the consequences of alcoholism.

"I am not relating a personal history but part of situations and personas whom I have known" said Mondragón. During the play, the unnamed young man tries to explain the situations that contributed to his death and five other innocent persons. The character tell of how he was influenced to drink when living with his single mother who is an alcoholic. He tells of several experiences throughout his life with illusions, love and misadventures



and how during a short time he was able to live without alcohol. His story continues until the young man cannot cope with his problems and seeks out his mother only to find her unconscious from drinking. In a rage of anger and pain the young man drives drunk and unfortunately has an accident in which five persons are killed including one of his best friends.

In the play Mondragon explains of thoughts about destiny and how it influenced the young man's life. The first destiny that he would die, the second of the innocent victims and the third of experiences, the situations and the people who influenced the young man's life and who ultimately where the creators of his destiny.

In explaining the play, Mondragón says "I hope that it might be understood that

the young man came back from the dead in order to relate his tragedy and how when he died and took the lives of others. The young man's soul could not rest until he could caution other youth of the dangers of a life as he had lived."

In addition to the play the program will feature poets, Esteban Gomez, Mario Sanchez and Jim Cody doing poetry readings. The program will also feature Jerry Ochoa of the Ballet Folklorico Aztlan dancing to "La Llorona" using the background of a short film by Francisco Cano of San Antonio and will include other musicians performing for the event.

Tickets and reservations for the event scheduled for 6:30 at the White Knights Ballroom on 15th and Texas Avenue in Lubbock are \$35 per couple, \$20 single and \$10 students and senior citizens can be purchased by calling 806-763-3841.

By Bidal Agüero, Jerry A. Padilla correspondent of "El Crepúsculo contributed to this article

"El Respeto al Derecho Ajeno es La Paz."  
"Respect for the Rights of Others Is Peace"  
Lic. Benito Juárez

# EL EDITOR

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Comentarios de Bidal

## Day of the Dead Traditions Explained

by Bidal Agüero

What is the Real Reason

Republicans didn't nominate David Gutiérrez.

This is a question that many Chicanos are continually asking in our community.



Many are quick to say that David is Hispanic. Many justify this by asking what Reasonable mind could nominate a person like Dowgar, who has come under continual criticism and his lack of experience, over a highly qualified person such as David.

The Republican Party can easily justify their choice by simply saying that they are just following traditions. They have been consistent in voting for White Anglo Saxon Protestants because most Republicans are White Anglo Saxon Protestants.

And this is the case. the Gutiérrez camp might be cautious to rely solely on the GOP for victory and thereby might want to consider continuing to run as an independent.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Get out and vote on November 3rd.

As for the other races our suggestion last week remains

...In the other State races, you can bet that voting Democrat will be you and your family's best bet.

Mauro, Sharp, Hobby, Raymond and Van Os are especially important.

\*\*\*Pico de Gallo\*\*

There are still seats available for the celebration of "Día de los Muertos". Don't miss the event. The program will prove to be both entertaining and educational.

\*\*Mas Pico\*\*

Vote for Lugo for "Bato Gacho"

By John Rosales

We all need to escape from our personal realities once in awhile. That may explain why the Indo-Hispanic celebration of Days of the Dead is becoming increasingly popular in the United States.

The rituals offer an outlet. As they bring together elements of Catholicism and Aztec ritual they give me an annual breather unlike any other.

Between Oct. 27 and Nov. 2 each year, the living invite the spirits of dead relatives and others to return home again to eat gallina en mole (chicken in a dark, spice sauce) and pan de muerto (bread of the dead) and to drink a chocolate concoction with cinnamon and corn paste.

Part of the idea is to make death, because, after all, there is no escaping it. When I lived briefly in Mexico, I was privileged to enter into the myth and festivities surrounding this ancient ceremony.

With the Spanish conquest in 1521, new mourning rituals were introduced into Mexico. Catholic funeral rites came to co exist with the Aztec notion of the afterlife. Saints joined the hierarchy of Aztec gods. All Souls and All Saints Days merged with the Aztec harvest rites.

As such, the Days of the Dead begin on Oct. 27 when the spirits of those with no survivors are received by kind-hearted families with bread and jugs of water. The offerings are meager, but at least the orphaned souls find something.

On Oct. 28, those who instigated an accident, murder or other violent act are offered bread and water, place outside houses or in the corner of a church to keep them away, as they are unpardoned.

Bakeries and candy stores sell a high volume of edible skulls, crosses and cadavers on Oct. 29 and 30 in preparation for next day, All Hollows Eve. This is when the spirits of dead children return home.

In a variation on Halloween as celebrated in the United States, people dressed in masks dance from house to house, performing comic skits in exchange for treats. They represent mischievous ghosts who have not yet come home.

Or they assume the role of Death or the Devil, coming to deprive spirits from living again. They too can be bribed away with a treat.

By midday on Nov. 1 (All Saints Day), child spirits must be gone. Bells ring through the afternoon as the adults (called the faithful dead) begin to arrive. While the spirits of children are hosted only at home, adults can also be greeted at their graves. Families formally host the adult who died most recently, and through him or her other ancestors are acknowledged. In some villages, people visit the homes of families who have lost a relative within the past year.

At sundown, families move to the graveyard for an all night vigil of communion with the dead. Tombs and gravestones have been scrubbed clean and

painted. Candles are lit throughout the cemetery one of each lost soul. People will pray, talk, eat and drink until sunrise. Some bring radios and TV to pass the time. A priest might celebrate a Mass in the cemetery. In most cities, food stands are set up outside the grounds. At sunrise, people start to depart.

On Nov. 2 (All Souls Day), visitors continue to crowd the cemetery. Strolling musicians play favorite songs of the departed. By evening, the party is over, the ghosts return to the world of the dead. Only a few are reluctant to leave. These stubborn souls must be scared away by villagers wearing skull masks.

In the United States, the family altar is the most visible symbol of the Days of the Dead ritual. Sometimes during October, an altar is set up on table with baby's breath flowers, fruit and drink. Each soul being honored is represented on the altar by a candle. A photograph of the deceased may be placed there along with the right brand of cigarette or symbols of other earthly pleasures. For the spirits of children, a favorite toy might be set out.

A path of marigold petals -- with their powerful scent -- is set out from the altar to the front door to help spirits find their home.

While those of us on earth are escaping into the world of the dead, those who are dead are taking much pleasure among the living. Ironic isn't it?

## First Hispanic Health Conference To be Held in Lubbock

The Lubbock Hispanic Outreach Task Force of the American heart Association will host a first of its kind two-day Hispanic Health Conference in Lubbock.

The conference is to be held in an effort to bring awareness of the unique medical and cultural aspects of Cardiovascular Disease and its treatment in the Hispanic population. The conference entitled "Hispanics and heart Health" will be divided into two segments, one directed at the general Hispanic community and the other at health Care Professionals. The conference for the general public will take place on Friday, Nov. 6, 1998, from 5:30 - 9:30 pm, at the Holiday Inn civic Center, 801 Ave Q. The conference for Health Professionals will be held at the Texas Tech health

Sciences Center on Sat., Nov. 7, 1998, from 8:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Became Cardiovascular disease is the main cause of death among Hispanics, the American Heart Association has found it important to reach out to this segment of the population. Unique aspects of Hispanic culture add complexities to the treatment of Hispanics with Cardiovascular Disease. The Conference will address the medical aspects and recommend dietary changes consistent with Mexican-American cuisine as well as important cultural and lifestyle considerations.

The first segment on Friday evening is directed to the lay Hispanic public and has the objective of helping understand the effects, prevention and treatments of this disease. The

evening offers a heart healthy dinner and four presentation by guest speakers.

The second day segment of the conference will offer a more technical format designed for medical physicians and other health professionals. Cost for the conference including meal is \$5.00 per person or \$8.00 per couple. Tickets are available through HOTF members or by contacting Josie Alvarado at Estencial Home Health at 747-4229 or the American heart Association office at 792-6394.

The Hispanic Outreach Task Force of the American Heart Association is a state-wide association of medical professionals and community members dedicated to creating awareness of the dangers of Cardiovascular Disease among Hispanics.

## Drama Dice La Historia de Un Joven Alcoholico

Aún que es una celebración de "El Día de los Muertos" la presentación de Jerry Mondragón en el escenario hablando con el público no es normal para una persona quien supone estar muerto.

Mondragón, artista del teatro quien vive en Albuquerque, presentará una presentación de dos actuaciones de el drama bilingüe "Destino," que él escribió y actúa personalmente. Dicha presentación se llevara a cabo el domingo día 1ro empesando a las 6:30 de la tarde en una celebración de "El Día de los Muertos" presentada por la organización Lubbock Centro Aztlan.

"Destino" es la historia de un joven hispano que vuelve de la muerte para contar su historia y tratar de comprender las consecuencias de sus acciones. "Este drama originalmente lo compuse y lo presenté para el Día de los Muertos, en el South Broadway Cultural Center de Albuquerque el año pasado. Bidal Agüero y representantes de Centro Aztlan me convío a presentarse aquí en Lubbock," compartió Mondragón.

El mensaje de la historia trata con las consecuencias del alcoholismo. "No representa mi historia personal, pero partes del contenido son basados en situaciones y personas que he conocido," continuó Mondragón. "Me gusta poder desarrollar un tema y un personaje o carácter por sí mismo, para mejor poder expresar el mensaje que traigo."

Volviendo de la muerte durante el Día de los Muertos, el joven, quien no tiene nombre verdadero y es un personaje imaginario, trata de explicar las situaciones que contribuyeron a su muerte y la de cinco más personas inocentes.

El carácter del joven adulto cuenta como fue aprendió a tomar, siendo criado por una mujer soltera quien era alcohólica. A través de los años, sobrevive varias desaventuras, amores e ilusiones. Por un tiempo el joven puede dejar de tomar por un tiempo. La interpretación por Mondragón fue tan realístico que alguien enfrentando problemas semejantes comprendiera como es.

Segue la historia, hasta que un día el protagonista ya no puede con los problemas de la vida. Trata de encontrar socorro con su mamá, pero la encuentra desmayada de boracha. Enojado, se emboracha para tratar de olvidar el dolor. Sale manejando un coche y buscando la muerte, choco con otro carro. A este punto realiza la audencia lo grave de la tragedia. Cinco personas inocentes quienes viajaban en el otro carro murieron también. El joven alcohólico no solamente acabó con su propia vida, pero se lleva a cinco inocentes junto con él.

Explicó Mondragón, "hay tres destinos en esta obra. El primer destino es que el joven muere. El segundo son las víctimas inocentes del choque y el proceso espiritual de sus vidas. Y la tercer parte es la vida del joven, las situaciones y la gente quien tiene el influjo en la vida, o los cradores del destino."

Hay semejanzas en las tragedia de algunos dramaturgos españoles quienes tejen el destino con vueltas inesperadas. En este drama uno de los cinco muertos en el otro carro es el mejor amigo del protagonista.

Mondragón también utilizó su talento de voz en las canciones que cantó que corresponden al tema, "Un Puño de Tierra" y "El Destino."

En sumar su presentación concluyó Mondragón, "creo que todos comprendieron que la razón que el joven tuvo que volver a contar su historia era porque cuando se mató, le quitó la vida a los otros. Su alma no podía descansar hasta que no aconseja a otros jóvenes que hagan como él. Según algunos quienes han visto este drama, el tema y el mensaje tiene mucho valor y la actuación fue muy bien recibida."

Mondragón es muy conocido por aficionados del teatro en Albuquerque y se ha presentado en Lubbock cuando colaborado con Elena Avila en el muy aclamado drama, "Tu y Yo," en el primer Festival Viva Aztlan en la cual él también escribió sus propias líneas desarrollando el carácter quien interpretó. También tomó parte en el drama, "Poaching," escrito y presentado por Marcos Martínez, hace unos pocos años.

El programa para celebrar "El Día de los Muertos" es una actividad anual de Lubbock Centro Aztlan. Además de el drama de Mondragón, se presentaran los poeta Esteban Gomez, Mario Sanchez y Jim Cody. La Srita. Jerry Ochoa presentara una interpretación de danza a la musica de "La Llorona" donde por el fondo se presentara el film corto llamado "La Llorona" de Francisco Cano de San Antonio. También habra musica nortea por los Hermanos Gil y otro músicos y artistas.

Bidal Agüero, coordinador de el proyecto dijo que el programa traidera la oportunidad para "que nuestra gente disfrute de algo diferente y muy bello además de promover la cultura Hispana y sus tradiciones. Además la presentación de Mondragón nos educara sobre el peligro de tomar descontroladamente y sus consecuencias"

El costo de entrada sera de \$35 por pareja, \$20 por persona, y \$10 para estudiantes y ancianos. La entrada incluye el entretenimiento además de una cena completa de bistek y sus condimentos. Para informacion y reservaciones se puede llamar al 806-763-3841. También se les urge a profesores que llamen para descuentos de clases completos quien quieran asistir.

Jerry A. Padilla correspondal de El Crepúsculo contribuyó a este artículo.

## Bush's Re-Election Campaign Targets Hispanics

El Paso, Texas, Oct 27 - Under the slogan "It's up to us," Texas Gov. George W. Bush is conducting the most aggressive campaign in the history of the state to lure Hispanic voters.

Bush, who is seeking re-election in next Tuesday's election, has stepped up his efforts to attract the vote of a minority that until recently was largely ignored by politicians.

The governor is aware that in cities such as El Paso and Laredo, for example, Hispanics are not only the majority, but also have a tradition of voting Democratic, meaning they could be expected to favor challenger Garry Mauro.

"I know El Paso will be hard to carry," Bush said on a recent visit to the border city. "Nobody will doubt that I was successful if I get 50 percent of the votes here." He added "I feel safe in the rest of the state."

Mindy Tucher, a spokeswoman for the governor's campaign office in Austin, told EFE that over 15 million dollars had already been raised to help Bush's campaign, of which 30 percent has gone to finance advertising aimed at Hispanics.

The Texas Association of Hispanic Newspapers issued a statement criticizing Bush on his efforts to "sweet talk his way into convincing Hispanics to vote for him. The statement states that Bush has used 30 second sound bites to ignore the fact that his governorship has virtually ignored Hispanics. "In doing this he has ignored the impact that Hispanic newspapers throughout Texas could have brought to the front in the race to really educate Hispanics." It was reported that the Bush campaign had not bought any newspaper space for advertising in newspaper members of the Association.

In the 1994 campaign, Bush spent 14 million dollars, of which 25 million was devoted to attract the votes of Mexican-Americans.

According to Texas Electoral Commission statistics, in 1994 the governor won 24 percent of the Hispanic vote, while rival Ann Richards got 76 percent.

Tucher said that this year Bush was already counting on 40 percent. She added that efforts to convince Latinos to vote for Bush included radio and television messages in which the governor speaks in Spanish, expressing his familiarity with Hispanic traditions and respect for family values.

Bush traveled to El Paso last month to mark Mexico's independence, went to the Mexican city of Puebla for Cinco de Mayo celebrations and attended numerous meetings with organizations that promote Latino interests.

However, Democrats argue that Bush is not really interested in the welfare of Latinos, but that he is only trying to secure their votes for his re-election as a stepping stone toward the White House in the 2000 elections.

But Bush's efforts appear to be paying off. Polls show he is the most popular Republican politician among the 30-million strong Hispanic community in the United States.

# La Noche Que Incendiamos La Tumba De Abuelo

Por Tony Castro

Cuando yo tenía cinco años de edad, mi tía-abuela, Doña Juana, me llevó al viaje más increíble de mi corta vida.

Fué la noche después de Halloween, cuando yo había salido "altrick-or-treat" vestido de negro de pies a cabeza, con los huesos blancos de un esqueleto bordados a mano sobre mi disfraz.

Doña Juana hizo el disfraz, diciéndome que era mágico porque ella había cosido al mismo pedacito de huesos de un cadáver real.

"No le creas", dijo mi madre, siempre desconfiada de los relatos fantásticos que Doña Juana acostumbra decir. "Es otro chiste de tu tía".

Empero, yo creí que podía sentir huesos en mi disfraz. Lo llevé a la cama como una pijama y me lo dejé puesto al día siguiente, cuando visité a Doña Juana por el fin de semana. "Con esos huesos de la muerte, vas a poder ver tu vida pasada", me dijo Doña Juana después que mis padres me dejaron en su casa.

Serían años después cuando yo podría comprender El Día de los Muertos. Como niño de cinco años que creía cada vez más confuso entre mis mitades inglesa e hispana, yo pensaba en eso como el "Halloween Hispano", sólo que celebrado durante más tiempo. El "Halloween Católico Hispano".

El catolicismo tenía un cierto misterio que me había asustado desde el momento en que yo había llegado a una capilla oscura de nuestra iglesia y descubierto al Cristo crucificado, de tamaño natural, captado para la eternidad en una agonía dolorosa.

# The Night We Torched Grandpa's Grave

By Tony Castro

When I was five years old, my great aunt Dona Juana took me on the most incredible journey of my young life.

It was the evening after Halloween, when I had gone trick-or-treating dressed in black from head to toe with the white bones of a skeleton hand-embroidered on my costume.

Dona Juana made the costume, telling me it was magical because she had sewn on bits from bones of a real cadaver.

"No la creas," my mother said, always disbelieving the fantastic stories Dona Juana habitually told. "Es otro chiste de tu tía." It's another of your aunt's jokes.

Still, I thought I could feel bones in my costume. I wore it to bed like pajamas and kept it on the next day when I visited Dona Juana for the weekend.

"Con esos huesos de la muerte vas a poder ver tu vida pasada," Dona Juana said to me after my parents dropped me off at her home. With those bones of death, you will be able to see your past life.

It would be years before I understood *Día de los Muertos*. As a 5-year-old, growing increasingly confused between my English and Spanish halves, I thought of it as Spanish Halloween, only celebrated longer. Spanish Catholic Halloween.

Catholicism had an eeriness about it that had frightened me from the moment I had wandered off to a darkened alcove of our church and discovered a life-sized crucified Christ, captured for eternity in excruciating agony.

## El Centésimo-Quinto Congreso Recesa:

### En Nota Primordialmente Positiva Para Los Latinos

Por Ronald Sal Panuco  
Los dirigentes congresionales hispanos hicieron notar en una conferencia de prensa de clausura el 16 de octubre en el Capitolio que el centésimo-quinto Congreso finalizó su año legislativo con "logros hispanos importantes".

Ellos prometieron terminar el trabajo cuando regresen en enero próximo.

Los asuntos en los que ellos alegaron tener algún éxito para durante este año legislativo incluyen la inmigración, la educación y el censo del año 2000.

Como parte del acuerdo presupuestario para el año fiscal de 1999 alcanzado por el Presidente Clinton y el Congreso, se aprobaron \$171 millones para disminuir el resago en las solicitudes de ciudadanía y se asignaron \$25 millones para el desarrollo profesional en el terreno de la enseñanza bilingüe.

Las universidades con al menos un 25 por ciento de población estudiantil latina recibieron \$16 millones, el programa pre-escolar Head Start recibió un aumento de \$313 millones y los fondos para el uso del muestreo estadístico durante el Censo del año 2000 fueron aprobados hasta el 15 de junio del año próximo.

Eso permite que la Oficina del Censo continúe el trabajo

sisima.

El catolicismo y el "Día de los Muertos" compartían muchos de los mismos símbolos. Los altares y santos que Doña Juana y otros parientes usaban para ofrecer sus oraciones y rosarios eran los mismos que empleaban para sus rituales del "Día de los Muertos"; la ofrenda de Pan de Muerto y otros renglones horneados y dulces se hacían en forma de calaveras, cruces y cadáveres para las almas de los muertos.

El mundo de Doña Juana era también un mundo de incenso y Estafiate. Su casa olía a ambos, ya que ella parecía estar siempre quemando incienso y preparando té de Estafiate, bueno para cualquier enfermedad, incluyendo la muerte.

Había un recipiente grande de Estafiate recién preparado en un viejo carrito de madera que Doña Juana arrastró detrás de ella al ponerse el sol aquella tarde, cuando salimos hacia el cementerio, que estaba a varias cuadras de distancia.

Eramos partes de una larga procesión que llegó al camposanto para una vigilia de toda la noche, de comunión con los muertos. Las velas que ardían se reflejaban en las tumbas y las lápidas que habían sido limpiadas y adornadas.

La lápida de mi abuelo brillaba con un resplandor especial. Era bastante nueva. El había muerto sólo pocos meses antes.

Don José Angel y yo habíamos estado inusualmente próximos. Yo había crecido pasando todos los fines de semana con él, divirtiéndome con sus relatos bélicos intrincados de la revolución mexicana, en la cual él había

combatido, y con sus relatos de los héroes griegos, uno de los cuales él deseaba haber sido.

"Los únicos héroes más trágicos que los griegos son los mexicanos", me decía él a menudo. "Ellos no tienen a ningún Homero que relate su gloria".

Cuando él murió, mi abuelo había estado leyendo un antiguo ejemplar de la Iliada, traducida al español. Las mujeres que lo encontraron no podían leer y dijeron a todos sus amigos que Don José Angel, un católico que se había ausentado de la Iglesia, había estado leyendo la Biblia en su lecho mortuorio y había encontrado a Dios en su última hora.

Yo sabía que esto no era cierto, pero nadie quiso escucharme. Ellos enterraron a mi abuelo con dos servicios religiosos. Los católicos de mi familia insistieron en una Misa de Funerales. Los pentecostales de la familia alegaban que la Biblia que él había estado leyendo cuando murió era una Biblia no católica. En el cementerio, ellos convirtieron el entierro en una diversión ruidosa de oleaje santo.

Sólo yo sabía que Don José Angel quería ser cremado sobre una pira fúnebre, como los griegos.

En su tumba, Doña Juana encendió una vela y empezó a extender la fiesta que ella había traído. Yo me arrodillé frente a la lápida y empecé a rezar. "Por favor, perdóname, Don José Angel", dije. "Por favor, perdóname por no cumplir contigo".

A medida que incliné la cabeza y recé un Padre Nuestro, sentí el reflejo de la luz de la vela sobre la lápida brillar más caliente y más esplendoroso.

fought and his tales of Greek heroes, which he wished he had been.

"The only heroes more tragic than the Greeks are the *mexicanos*," he often told me. "They have no Homer to tell their glory."

When he died, my grandfather had been reading an old copy of the Iliad translated into Spanish. The women who found him couldn't read and told all his friends that Don Jose Angel, a lapsed Catholic, had been reading the Bible on his death bed and had found God in his last hour.

I knew this wasn't true, but no one would listen to me. They buried my grandfather with two religious services. The Catholics in my family insisted on a funeral Mass. The Pentecostals in the family claimed that the Bible he had been reading when he died was a non-Catholic Bible. At the cemetery, they turned the burial into a raucous holy-roller sideshow.

Only I knew that Don Jose Angel wanted to be cremated on a funeral pyre like the Greeks.

At his grave, Dona Juana lit a candle and began laying out the feast she had brought. I knelt in front of the gravestone and began praying.

"Please forgive me, Don Jose Angel," I said. "Please forgive me for letting you down." As I bowed my head and prayed an Our Father, I felt the candle light's reflection on the gravestone glow warmer and brighter. I started to move back until I

Empecé a retroceder hasta que miré a la lápida y vi la cara de Don José Angel que me sonreía.

"Tú no me has incumplido", dijo él. "Tú eres la razón de que yo haya regresado para esta noche".

Durante la mayor parte de la noche, escuché a Don José Angel contarme la leyenda de Aquiles, el mayor de los guerreros griegos, por última vez.

Al amanecer, me desperté en los brazos de Doña Juana. Era hora de regresar a casa. Pero yo tenía una última cosa que hacer. Corrí alrededor del cementerio recogiendo ramitas y ramas muertas, y con la ayuda de Doña Juana, empecé a amontonarlas en una pira semejante a un altar, junto a la tumba de Don José Angel.

Cuando hubimos terminado, me quité el disfraz de Halloween y palpé los huesos de cadáver que Doña Juana había cosido en él.

"¿No te enojarás conmigo?" le pregunté.

"Yo te dije que el disfraz era mágico", dijo ella. "De modo que usa de su magia".

Tendí el disfraz sobre la pira fúnebre y encendí las ramitas del fondo con una de las velas que estaban ardiendo todavía.

En cosa de segundos, la madera seca empezó a cruji. Las llamas bailaban alrededor del disfraz antes de que éste empezara a quemarse también. Mi abuelo tuvo por fin el funeral de héroe que había soñado.

(Tony Castro es editor administrativo de La Ola, East Los Angeles Tribune, en Los Angeles).

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looked at the gravestone and saw Don Jose Angel's face smiling back at me.

"You have not let me down," he said. "You are the reason I have come back for tonight."

For most of the night, I listened to Don Jose Angel tell me the legend of Achilles, the greatest of the Greek warriors, one last time.

At sunrise, I awoke in Dona Juana's arms. It was time to return home. But I had one last thing to do. I ran around the cemetery collecting dead twigs and branches and with Dona Juana's help began piling them into an altar-like pyre next to Don Jose Angel's grave.

When we were finished, I stripped off the Halloween costume and felt for the cadaver bones that Dona Juana had sewn on.

"You won't get mad at me?" I asked her.

"I told you the costume was magical," she said. "So use its magic."

I laid the costume on top of the funeral pyre and lit the bottom twigs with one of the candles that was still burning.

In seconds the dry wood began cracking. Flames danced around the costume before it began burning as well.

My grandfather finally had the hero's funeral he had dreamed about.

(Tony Castro is editor of La Ola, East Los Angeles Tribune in Los Angeles.)

para que incluya a los salvadoreños, guatemaltecos y hondureños; la confirmación por parte del Senado de más latinos a puestos de mayor importancia a nivel de administración y judicial, y la re-introducción de proyectos de ley para aumentar el salario mínimo y frenar el hábito de fumar entre los adolescentes.

"Sí, hay muchas cosas de que estar orgullosos, pero todavía tenemos mucho que hacer", dijo el congresista demócrata Silvestre Reyes de Texas.

El centésimo-sexto Congreso se reunirá el 6 de enero próximo. Se espera que regresen todos los miembros hispanos actuales (con las excepciones de los salientes congresistas demócratas, Esteban Torres de California y Henry B. González de Texas).

El contraste entre el tratamiento a

# El Día de los Muertos and a Lesson in Life and Death

By Victor Landa

The person who told me this long ago says he doesn't remember where he read it or heard it. Placing it in space and time somehow doesn't seem important. What matters is that it resonates in life the way a stone in a pond rings true in concentric circles.

"In our tradition," he said, "people die three deaths." The first death, he recounted, is when our bodies cease to function; when our hearts no longer beat of their own accord, when our gaze no longer has depth or weight, when the space we occupy slowly loses its meaning.

The second death comes when the body is lowered into the ground, returned to mother earth, out of sight.

The third death, the most definitive death, is when there is no one left alive to remember us.

To the casual observer, *el día de los muertos*, the Day of the Dead, is at best a quaint tradition of the Mexican people, with delicious sugar skulls and cemeteries littered with bright, beautiful flowers. At worst, it is pagan superstition, a remnant of ancient cults and days long past.

To the casual observer, death is the end game. But like the stone that causes ripples on the surface of the water and then sinks to become part of the pond, so death is as much a part of life as memory is to the living.

On Nov. 1, some of us will gather in the *campo santos*, the holy fields, to scrub down the tombstones, tidy the grass, decorate with flowers and sit and remember. Others will build altars to the memory of those passed; a picture, a favorite dish, a drink, a toy, a cigar. Stories will be told, evoking the memory of the *tio*, of the *abuelo*, of the son dead in the war. And with the stories our dead return to laugh with us, and cry with us, and dance with us. They spring forth from our memory, our sacred obligation to keep them alive, our sacred obligation to keep ourselves alive, because to live is to build memories, to remember and to be remembered.

Unlike Halloween, where death wears a mask and is lived in the grotesque, the tradition of *el día de los muertos* does not see death as a monster. Death is not something you run from with plastic surgery, daily workouts and fad diets. Neither is death something taken lightly or ignored out of a fear of confronting oneself. *La muerte* is music and fireworks, food and flowers. The only way to celebrate death is to live with courage, just as the only way to cause ripples upon the soft water is to pierce it with a hard stone.

*El día de los muertos* is a celebration of life. To know this is to contemplate another reality where we live to be well remembered, where we act to be well-evoked, where we love to be well-missed. In this sense each moment contains forever and each memory is constantly beginning.

And so we sweep the tombs of our dead and build altars to our loved ones because memories need a sacrament in which to be rooted; a simple act of caring, a noble act of life.

To the casual observer *el día de los muertos* is almost surreal, because the casual observer is merely interested in spectacle (just as he or she understands death as happening only once). And this very well may be the point where cultural values diverge. Where one who throws a stone to the water is satisfied with the splash, the other will sit and consider the ripples.

# 105th Congress Adjourns On Largely Positive Note For Latinos

By Ronald Sal Panuco

The 105th Congress ended its legislative year with "significant Hispanic accomplishments," Hispanic congressional leaders noted at a wrap-up press conference Oct. 16 on Capitol Hill.

They vowed to finish the job when they return in January. Issues they claimed some success in addressing this legislative year include immigration, education and the Census 2000.

As part of the \$500 billion 1999 fiscal year budget agreement reached by President Clinton and Congress, \$171 million was approved to reduce the backlog of applications for naturalization and \$25 million was earmarked for professional development in the bilingual education field.

Hispanic Serving Institutions -- those with at least a 25 percent Latino student population -- received \$16 million, the preschool program Head Start received an increase of \$313 million and funding for the use of statistical sampling during the Census 2000 was approved through June 15 of next year.

"It allows for the Census Bureau to continue the work they need to do so that when the sampling decision is made, they are able to move forward. The March deadline would have cut off their funds and they would not have been able to proceed," said Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-Calif.).

The Supreme Court is expected to make a decision next month on the constitutionality of allowing for statistical sampling. Hispanic members successfully defeated a measure to resurrect the so-called *bracero*, or agricultural guestworker program, a widely criticized endeavor last used in the 1940s.

It would have allowed employers to bring into the country farmworkers on an as-needed ba-

sis. And for the first time, farmworkers affected by last summer's floods in California will receive \$7 million in relief under funding for agricultural emergencies.

Other victories that the Congressional Hispanic Caucus highlighted were the restoration of Supplemental Social Security and food stamps to most legal immigrants and the dismissal of the congressional probe of California Democrat Loretta Sanchez's defeat of Republican Bob Dornan.

"As a caucus we worked as a bloc," stressed its chair, Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-Calif.). "Although we are only 18 members, we had the force of much more and the backing of other members to help us."

"These victories will be reflected not just today but in the things we do into the future," he said.

Still pending are such matters as extending the current amnesty law which aided Nicaraguans and Cubans to include Salvadorans, Guatemalans and Hondurans; Senate confirmation of more high-level Latinos who were nominated to judicial and other posts but stalled in this session; and re-introduction of bills to raise the minimum wage and to curb smoking among teens.

"Yes, there are a lot of things to be proud of, but we still have a lot to do," said Rep. Silvestre Reyes (D-Texas).

The 106th Congress will convene Jan. 6. All current Hispanic members -- with the exception of retiring congressmen Esteban Torres (D-Calif.) and Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Texas) -- are expected to return.

(Ronald Sal Panuco is a reporter with the national newsweekly Hispanic Link Weekly Report.)

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## Pinochet Y Castro:

# Los Británicos Emplean Normas Dobles

Por Miguel Perez

De todas las cosas inesperadas que han ocurrido este año, el arresto del ex-dictador chileno Augusto Pinochet por parte de Gran Bretaña tiene que clasificarse entre las más absurdas.

Nadie esperaba una desviación abrupta de la tradición europea de dar la bienvenida hipócritamente y hasta homenajear a los dictadores más sanguinarios del mundo.

Pero Pinochet fué arrestado en un hospital de Londres el mes pasado, a pedido de un juez español que quiere extraditarlo para que se enfrente a las acusaciones de delitos en contra de derechos humanos durante su gobierno de 17 años en Chile.

¿Justificado? Ciertamente. Pinochet debería responder por los delitos que cometió su gobierno en contra del pueblo chileno.

¿Hipócrita? Absolutamente. Inglaterra ha sido por mucho tiempo un refugio seguro para que los infractores de los derechos humanos vayan a gastar el dinero que robaron a sus propios pueblos cuando estaban en el poder. Y España ha recibido a menudo a otros asesinos en masa como si fueran héroes.

Si los europeos estuvieran cambiando las normas, si estuvieran hallando subitamente la autoridad moral para perseguir a todos los dictadores y terroristas que van allí en busca de in-

munidad contra la acusación, quizás si el arresto de Pinochet no sería visto como una norma doble.

Pero hace dos semanas, mientras Pinochet permanecía bajo arresto en Londres, el dictador cubano Fidel Castro fué recibido en Madrid por el Primer Ministro de España, José María Aznar. No hubo condenación para el genocidio cometido por Castro, sino una gestión hipócrita para mejorar las relaciones entre Cuba y España.

"No tengo miedo de ir a ninguna parte", dijo Castro a los reporteros en España, haciendo burla del caso de España contra Pinochet y del arresto del ex-gobernante chileno.

El contraste entre el tratamiento a

los dos dictadores es repugnante.

Pinochet tiene mucho de qué responder. Los activistas de los derechos humanos dicen que más de 3,000 personas fueron muertas o desaparecieron durante su dictadura, especialmente en los años que siguieron al sangriento golpe de estado en el cual él le quitó el poder a un gobierno izquierdista.

Pero si Pinochet es un genocida, también lo es Castro, que ha encarcelado, torturado y ejecutado a incontables opositores políticos desde que él derrocó a otro dictador en 1959.

Mientras que Pinochet se hizo a un

continued on page 5

**Pinochete & Castro:**

**British Employ Double Standard**

By Miguel Perez

Of all the unexpected things that have occurred this year, Great Britain's arrest of former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet has to rank among the wackiest. No one expected an abrupt departure from the European tradition on hypocritically welcoming and even honoring the world's most vicious dictators.

But Pinochet was arrested in a London hospital last month at the request of a Spanish judge who wants to extradite him to face charges of crimes against humanity during his 17-year rule in Chile.

Justified? Certainly Pinochet should answer for the crimes his regime committed against the Chilean people.

Hypocritical? Absolutely. England has long been a safe haven for the world's human rights violators to go spend the money they stole from their own people when they were in power. And Spain has often received other mass murderers as if they were heroes.

If the Europeans were changing the rules, if they were suddenly finding the moral authority to go after all dictators and terrorists who go there to seek immunity from prosecution, perhaps Pinochet's arrest would not be seen as a double standard.

But two weeks ago, while Pinochet remained under arrest in London, Cuban dictator Fidel Castro was received in Madrid by Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar. There was no condemnation of Castro's genocide, but a hypocritical effort to improve relations between Cuba and Spain.

"I'm not afraid to go anywhere," Castro told to reporters in Spain, making a mockery of the Spanish case against Pinochet and the British arrest of the former Chilean ruler.

The contrast between the treatment of the two dictators is repulsive.

Pinochet has a lot to answer for what human rights activists say are more than 3,000 people killed or "disappeared" during his dictatorship, especially in the years following the 1973 bloody coup in which he seized power from an elected, leftist administration.

But if Pinochet is a mass murderer, so is Castro, who has jailed, tortured and executed countless political opponents since he overthrew another dictator in 1959.

While Pinochet stepped down and gave way to democracy in 1990, Castro continues to rule Cuba with an iron fist. With impunity, his regime is still violating the human rights of the Cuban people.

Given the European history of ignoring the atrocities of dictators who go there to visit, you would think that if charges were to be filed against Pinochet it would be done in Chile. But since Pinochet stepped down in 1990, no elected Chilean government has attempted to bring charges against him for rights



abuses committed under his rule. In fact, Chilean President Eduardo Frei has condemned the arrest of Pinochet, who is still a senator in Chile, claiming he has diplomatic immunity.

Frei said Spanish courts have no more right to try Pinochet than Chilean judges would have to investigate human rights abuses committed under dictator Francisco Franco, who ruled Spain for nearly 40 years until his death in 1975.

Thousands of Franco's opponents were executed in the years following his victory in the Spanish Civil War of the 1930s. Yet, just like in Chile, Spain's transition to democracy was marked by a reluctance to bring any of Franco's henchmen to justice.

So why the double standard? What makes leftist dictators any better than right-wing strongmen? The hypocrisy is astonishing.

Why are 36 Democratic U.S. congressmen now urging President Bill Clinton to join Britain in helping Spanish judges put Pinochet on trial? Because Europe's love affair with leftist dictators is also afflicting many U.S. politicians who only see atrocities committed by right-wingers, including the 1976 car-bomb assassination of exiled Chilean socialist and former ambassador Orlando Letelier in Washington, D.C., which is attributed to the Pinochet regime.

But let's hope they succeed.

The precedent they will set will be undeniable. If Clinton goes after Pinochet, he will have to go against Castro and the Chinese leaders his administration flirts with so often.

The 36 Democrats who wrote Clinton a letter about Pinochet made no mention of Castro. But in another letter, eight House members urged Clinton to have U.S. authorities review the efforts by Spanish courts in the Pinochet case and to take similar steps against Castro.

They cited Castro's role in the deaths of four Cuban Americans whose unarmed plane was shot down by a MiG near the Cuban coast two years ago.

"Without minimizing the immensity of Castro's crimes perpetrated throughout the last 40 years, the killing of Americans in the Florida Straits on February 24, 1996, clearly provides the basis for immediate legal action by the Justice Department," the lawmakers said.

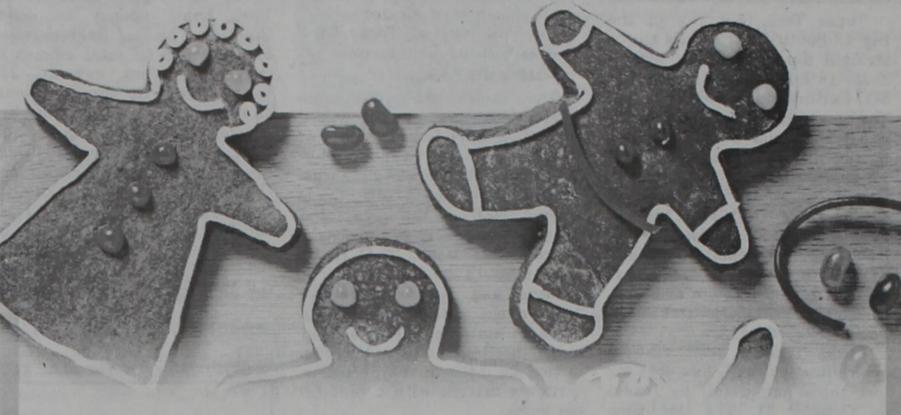
So let the leftists in Europe and Washington have their way with Pinochet. He deserves to be punished. And then let's see how they rationalize their hypocritical attitude toward Castro and other dictators. If they change the rules of the game, they have to abide by them.

(Miguel Perez is a columnist with the Bergen Record in New Jersey.) Copyright 1998, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by the Los Angeles Time Syndicate

  
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Saturday, Oct. 31, 1998

• Jones Stadium  
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# Texas Tech Faces Missouri

Texas Tech (6-2, 3-2 in the Big 12 South) will face its third-straight top-25 opponent with its hosts 18th-ranked Missouri (5-2, 3-1) Saturday at Jones Stadium. The game is a part of the university's annual Family Day activities. Texas Tech's popular pregame entertainment event, Raider Alley, will begin at 10 a.m., while Halloween Hoops Fest will begin at 9:30 in the Lubbock Municipal Coliseum. Tickets to the game are priced from \$13 - \$26 and are available through the Athletic Ticket Office at 806/742-4412.

Texas Tech is 3-7-1 all-time on Halloween and has lost its last three games (all to Texas) on October 31. The last time

The Missouri contest will be broadcast live on Texas Tech's network of radio stations throughout the state of Texas and Eastern New Mexico.

The Missouri at Texas Tech contest will not be televised.

## Missouri Is...

The Tigers enter the game with an impressive 5-2 record with their only losses coming at the hands of No. 1-ranked Ohio State and No. 7-ranked Nebraska, both on the road. Missouri is ranked 18th in the Associated Press poll and 21st in the coaches poll this week. The Tigers rank seventh in the nation in rushing and is an impressive 18th in the nation in total defense. A statistic that has been much discussed lately, Missouri is tied for 14th in the nation in turnover margin with a plus-1.0 per game.

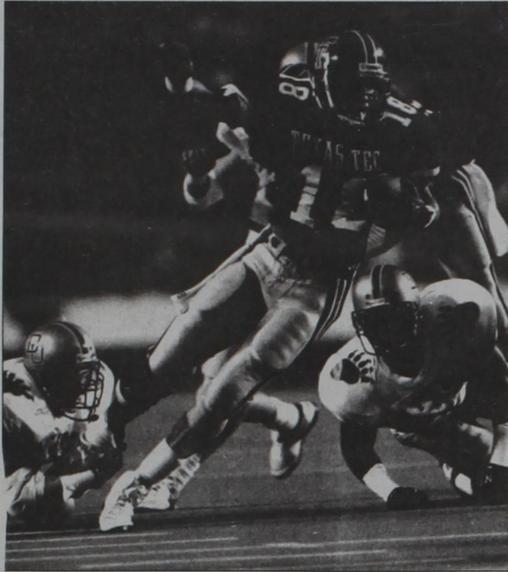
and that was in the season preceding the formation of the Big 12 Conference. Texas Tech defeated the Tigers 41-14 in the 1995 home opener in Jones Stadium. The Red Raiders rolled to 457 yards of total offense in that game, but gave-up 248 yards passing to three Missouri quarterbacks. Texas Tech rushed for 305 yards in the game and built a 24-7 halftime lead. Donnie Hart and Jaret Greaser are the only current Red Raiders to have stats in the game. Hart caught two passes for 40 yards, while Greaser kicked a 46-yard field goal late in the third quarter and added a fourth quarter PAT. Zach Thomas recorded a career-high 20 tackles in the game.

With this weekend's game

against 18th-ranked Missouri, Texas Tech will face its third-straight nationally-ranked opponent following narrow losses at Colorado (19-17) and Texas A&M (17-10) by a total of nine points. The Red Raiders faced a similar stretch last season when it played No. 2 Nebraska. Texas Tech has played three-straight nationally-ranked opponents four times in school history and has never played four-straight in a single season.

## Williams Moving Up Career Charts

Sophomore tailback Ricky Williams (Duncanville, Texas) has quickly moved into eighth on the Texas Tech career rushing list with 2,156 yards on the ground.



Texas Tech won on Halloween was a 3-0 win over Rice in 1970. The last time Texas Tech played on Halloween ended with a 44-33 loss against 25th-ranked Texas in 1992.

## Texas Tech vs. Missouri: The Series

Texas Tech and Missouri have met only once in the history of the two football programs



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## Medical News Briefs

From The Bureau of National Affairs Inc., Washington DC  
The Senate Oct. 8 passed by unanimous consent a welfare reform technical corrections bill (H.R. 4558) that includes a provision to extend Supplemental Security Income and Medicaid benefits for nonqualified aliens who were receiving benefits before the enactment of the 1996 welfare reform law, clearing the measure for the president.

This bill ensures that every elderly or disabled noncitizen dependent on SSI and Medicaid benefits when welfare reform was enacted in August 1996 will remain eligible, Senate Finance Committee Chairman William V. Roth Jr. (R-Del.) stated in an Oct. 9 news release on the Senate action.

The 1996 welfare reform law (P.L. 104-193) imposed new restrictions on eligibility for SSI and Medicaid for aliens, which provided that aliens receiving SSI benefits upon enactment were scheduled to have their benefits terminated within a year unless they qualified under the new restrictions. However, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 grandfathered most legal aliens receiving benefits before August 1996 and temporarily extended benefits to 22,000 "nonqualified" aliens through Sept. 30, 1998, pending redeterminations of eligibility.

The Social Security Administration has found that about 18,000 of the 22,000 aliens originally listed as nonqualified aliens are believed to be citizens or qualified aliens and thus eligible for benefits under current law, Roth said, noting the \$80 million cost of this provision will be offset with savings from other provisions in the bill.

Another provision of the bill prevents contributions from "wish" granting foundations to children with life-threatening illnesses from being counted as income under SSI calculations, to avoid possible reductions in Medicaid and SSI benefits.

This provision would exclude from SSI eligibility and benefit determinations cash awards under \$2,000 made by tax-exempt organizations to children with life-threatening conditions (for example, airfare and spending money so a child with cancer can go to Disney World), Roth explained in the release.

H.R. 4558 was approved by the House Sept. 23 (6 HCPR 1521, 9/28/98). President Clinton, who has indicated he supports the bill, is expected to sign it.

## Major Breast Cancer Study Underway

In the largest breast cancer study ever, government researchers are embarking next year on a multiyear project in hopes of finding a safe drug to prevent the disease.

The new National Cancer Institute study will compare tamoxifen with the osteoporosis drug raloxifene to see if raloxifene will do as good a job of preventing breast cancer, with fewer side effects. Breast cancer will strike an estimated 178,000 U.S. women this year, killing about 43,500.

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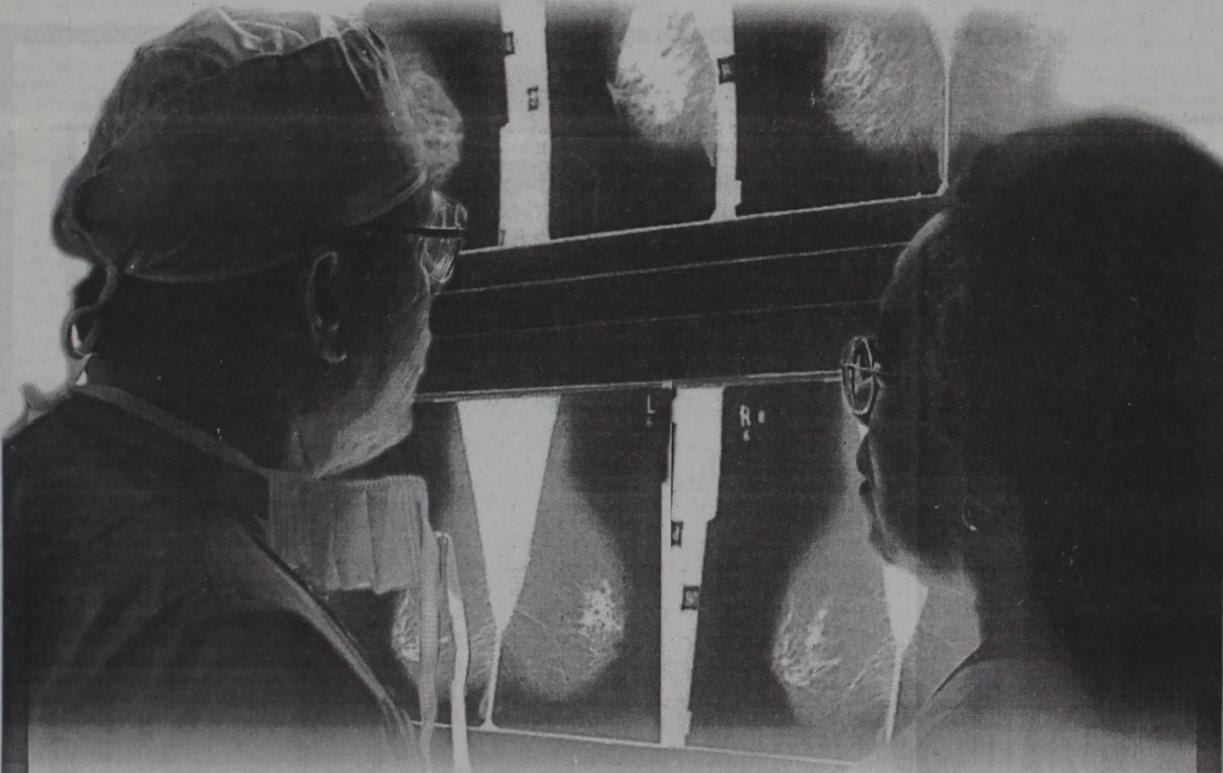
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## Texas Tech Football En Español

**Play By Play With Mario Montez**

### 1998 Texas Tech Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 5	Texas-El Paso	6 p.m.
Sept. 12	at North Texas (Friday)	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 19	Fresno State	6 p.m.
Sept. 26	• at Iowa State	1 p.m.
Oct. 3	• Baylor	6 p.m.
Oct. 10	• Oklahoma St. (Homecoming)	6 p.m.
Oct. 17	• at Colorado	11a
Oct. 24	• at Texas A&M	1 p.m.
Oct. 31	• Missouri (Family Day)	1 p.m.
Nov. 14	• Texas (Senior Day)	1 p.m.
Nov. 21	• at Oklahoma	2:30 p.m.

All times Central. Some game times will change for television.  
• denotes Big 12 game. Home games in bold.

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# Did the Cowboy's Fishing Vacation Do Any Good?

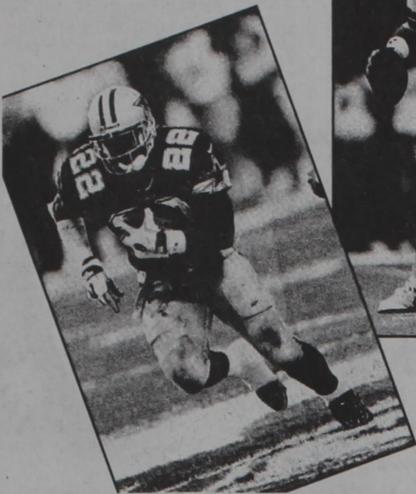
The Dallas Cowboys spent part of their off week fishing for a way to beat their next opponent, the Philadelphia Eagles. They spent the other part of it working on the Minnesota Vikings, whom they play on Thanksgiving Day.

Heavy on the Cowboys' minds was how to stop the Vikings' three-pronged aerial attack of Randy Moss, Cris Carter and Jake Reed.

Of course, to stay on the field with this trio, the Cowboys will need their usual All-World performance from Deion Sanders. And they'll need improved play from the other cornerback, Kevin Smith.

The Cowboys are still pondering ways to help Smith regain his confidence. And he could begin the Nov. 2 game against the Eagles on the bench for a series or two. But Coach Chan Gailey, "I'm not going to speculate," Gailey said. "We're going to try and help him and do everything we can to get his confidence back. But the rest has got to come from him."

Smith, who is usually cooperative with the local media, has been notably absent from the Cowboys' locker room. But his position coach, Mike Zimmer, has staunchly defended the player who displayed Pro Bowl-type talent for this club during its run of Super Bowl titles in the early 1990s.



Go Cowboys!

"I'm not trying to bench the guy," Zimmer said. "Yes, I'm concerned. But I don't care if I got Darrell Green over there. They are not throwing at (Sanders). I told Kevin to keep his head up. I believe in him 100 percent."

On offense, the Cowboys welcomed quarterback Troy Aikman back to the starting lineup. Then they spent much of the week working on their red-zone offense, which failed to score touchdowns on two of three chances in a 13-12 loss to the Bears in their game before the bye.

"We've got to be more con-

sistent. We've got to score touchdowns when we get down there that close," Gailey said.

If anything, the loss to the Bears, Cowboys players say, will make them an angrier bunch over the second half of the season.

Running back Emmitt Smith says the team is far ahead of where it was last season.

"One, I think the health of the ball club is better," Smith said. "Two, we've done a lot more things positive. And three, our mental state and our attitude is a lot more positive."

fueron ejecutados en los años que siguieron a su victoria en la Guerra Civil Española del decenio de 1930. Sin embargo, igual que en Chile, la transición de España hacia la democracia estuvo señalada por una renuencia a llevar ante la justicia a cualquiera de los esbirros de Franco.

De modo que, ¿por qué la norma doble? ¿Qué hace a los dictadores izquierdistas mejores que los de la derecha? La hipocresía es asombrosa.

¿Por qué están 36 congresistas demócratas de los Estados Unidos instando ahora al Presidente Clinton para que se una a Inglaterra en ayudar a los jueces españoles a llevar a Pinochet a juicio? Porque el amor que tiene Europa con los dictadores izquierdistas está afligiendo también a muchos políticos estadounidenses que sólo ven las atrocidades cometidas por los derechistas, incluyendo al asesinato mediante una bomba en un automóvil del socialista chileno exiliado Orlando Letelier en Washington, D.C. en 1976, que se le atribuye al régimen de Pinochet.

Pero esperemos que tengan éxito. El precedente que ellos sentarán será innegable. Si Clinton persigue a Pinochet, él tendrá que ir en contra de

Castro y de los líderes chinos con los que su gobierno coquetea tan a menudo.

Los 36 representantes demócratas que le escribieron una carta a Clinton sobre Pinochet no hicieron mención alguna de Castro. Pero en otra carta, ocho miembros de la Cámara de Representantes instaron a Clinton a hacer que las autoridades de los Estados Unidos revisen las gestiones de los tribunales españoles en el caso de Pinochet y adopten medidas semejantes en contra de Castro.

Los segundos mencionaron el papel de Castro en las muertes de cuatro cubano-americanos cuyo avión desarmado fue derribado por aviones MIGs de Cuba cerca de las costas de la isla hace dos años.

"Sin minimizar la inmensidad de los delitos de Castro, perpetrados durante los 40 años recientes, la matanza de los estadounidenses en el Estrecho de la Florida el 24 de febrero de 1996, proporciona claramente la base para acción legal inmediata por parte del Departamento de Justicia", dijeron los legisladores.

## Happy Halloween

# Hamed Knows How To Make An Entrance

By Joe Skrec

Between 10:30 and 11:00 on Saturday night, after most trick-or-treaters have gone to bed, Prince Naseem Hamed will emerge in costume to make boxing's most untraditional ring entrance.

It's a routine that hasn't frightened away fight fans and has helped make Hamed (30-0, 28 KOs) the richest prizefighter in the world below 147 pounds. HBO signed a six-fight contract with Hamed last year that reportedly pays the featherweight champion heavyweight cash -- a minimum of \$2 million per bout.

While most boxers concentrate on sparring partners during training camp, Hamed finds time to work with a choreographer and anyone else who could add some razzle-dazzle to one of boxing's most elaborate side-shows.

Hamed is just as famous for his journeys to the ring, which usually culminate with a flip over the ropes, as he is for his remarkable punching power.

"I don't want to give away what's going to happen, but there will be many Halloween surprises," said Ross Greenburg, executive producer of HBO Sports, who's thrilled with the theatrics Hamed's brought to the premium cable network. "We go over what's going to happen, but basically it's the Prince and his brother (Riath) who decide. There has to be a little bit of cost control involved because we don't want to blow our entire budget on the ring entrance."

Hamed took nearly 10 minutes to travel a few hundred yards at Madison Square Garden when he made his United States debut last Dec. 19 against Kevin Kelley. Veteran ringside observers, many with stopwatches in hand, turned around to watch the theatrics as the crowd roared its approval.

"WE DIDN'T TELL THE PRINCE how long he had for his entrance," Greenburg said. "Hamed beats to his own drum and he decides how long it's going to be. I think this one will be a little tighter because he won't be dancing behind a curtain for such a long time. He's going to start on the stage in convention hall and almost right away go wandering down an aisle."

"These entrances are no small task. (HBO director) Rick Bernstein has spent the better part of a month working on this. It's worth it because the Prince is such a charismatic figure and



you can feel the electricity in the building."

Perhaps everyone except Wayne McCullough (22-1, 14 KOs), who hopes to dethrone the World Boxing Organization's 126-pound champion. While Hamed jukes and jives, his opponents stand and wait.

"Hamed's show impacts any fighter he'll face," Greenburg said. "Every fighter the Prince faces will have to deal with the ring entrance. It could very easily knock off the concentration of any fighter. I've got a feeling McCullough isn't going to be bothered and will feed off it like Kevin Kelley did at The Garden."

Veteran trainer/manager/commentator Gil Clancy, a member of the International Boxing Hall of Fame, believes Hamed's antics give him an advantage after the opening bell rings.

"IF I WAS TRAINING AND MANAGING a guy Hamed was fighting, my guy wouldn't stand in the ring for five or 10 minutes," said Clancy, who's an adviser to undefeated World Boxing Council welterweight champion Oscar De La Hoya. "I'd take him out of the ring so he wouldn't have to stand around like a dummy."

"I think the Prince is a smart guy making a lot of money who's trying to get every advantage he can. But personally I think his act is a little too much show biz."

HBO has hailed Hamed as the first fighter of the 21st century.

"Hamed is the kind of fighter fans can't take their eyes off from the time he leaves the dressing room until he leaves the ring," Greenburg said. "He's brought a lot of attention to himself and he's bringing a lot of attention to boxing. When

sports fans start asking about a boxer -- and that's exactly what's happening with the Prince -- then you know you have a star.

"The ring walk is all a part of it. You can't help but be on the edge of your seat when you see Hamed because you never know what's going to happen next."

THE HBO EXECUTIVE MENTIONED Hamed, who has a lucrative endorsement deal with Adidas, in the same breath as Sugar Ray Leonard, George Foreman, Evander Holyfield, Marvellous Marvin Hagler and a young Mike Tyson.

"Like all of those guys, Hamed understands what it takes to be a superstar," Greenburg said.

## Other Boxing News

**Larry Holmes biography**  
Former heavyweight champion Larry Holmes has yet to write the final chapter on his Hall of Fame career, but that didn't stop him from penning his autobiography, *Against the Odds*. Holmes, who'll fight former heavyweight champion George Foreman in a battle of grandfathers on Jan. 23 in Houston, was one of a dozen children raised by a single mother in Cuthbert, Ga.

Holmes won a 15-round decision and the heavyweight title against Ken Norton on June 9, 1978. Holmes, who owns a 20-5 mark in world championship bouts, won 48 matches in a row before getting outpointed by former light heavyweight champion Michael Spinks on Sept. 21, 1985.

The book, to be released Nov. 5, includes candid comments from Holmes (66-6, 42 KOs) on his relationships with Muhammad Ali, Ken Norton and Gerry Cooney as well as his battles with promoter Don King. "(The book) is as straight as a Larry Holmes left jab," said boxing journalist Bert Sugar.

Nicknamed "The Easton Assassin," Holmes reveals details about his seven-year reign as heavyweight champion, his multiple comebacks and his triumphs as a businessman. Holmes, who's earned \$40 million in the ring, wrote the book with award-winning writer Phil Berger, who used to cover boxing for the New York Times. The book is published by Thomas Dunne Books, a division of St. Martin's Press.

Holmes last fought on July 29, 1997.

## From Page 2

lado y dió paso a la democracia en 1990, Castro continúa gobernando a Cuba con puño de hierro. Su régimen todavía infringe con impunidad los derechos humanos del pueblo cubano.

Dada la historia europea de pasar por alto a las atrocidades de los dictadores que van allá de visita, se pensaría que si se presentaran acusaciones contra Pinochet, eso se haría en Chile. Pero desde que Pinochet se hizo a un lado en 1990, ningún gobierno chileno electo ha tratado de presentar acusaciones contra él por abusos de los derechos humanos cometidos bajo su gobierno. En verdad, el Presidente de Chile, Eduardo Frei, ha censurado el arresto de Pinochet, que es todavía senador en Chile, alegando que él tiene inmunidad diplomática.

Frei dijo que los tribunales españoles no tienen más derecho para juzgar a Pinochet que el que tendrían los tribunales chilenos para investigar los abusos contra los derechos humanos cometidos bajo el dictador Francisco Franco, quien gobernó a España durante casi 40 años hasta su muerte en 1975.

Millares de opositores de Franco

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Los Republicanos dicen que  
Nosotros No Votamos  
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- \*Pón al Congreso a trabajar ¡Vota el 3 de Nov.!
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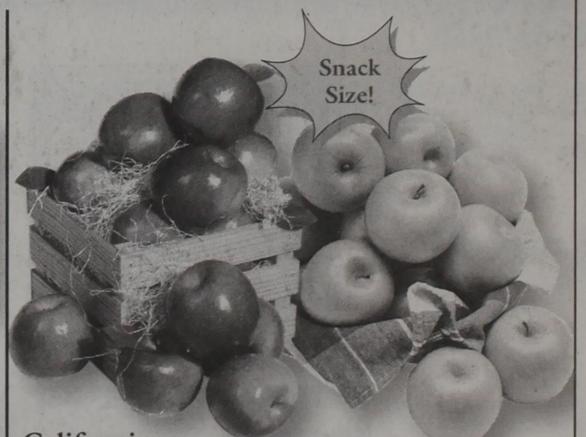
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