

Organizations Awards Scholarships



The Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce together with University Medical Center presented scholarships to students last week. Recipients were (l-r in picture) Joe Lopez, Tatdrian Tolliver, Gwen Stafford - representing UMC, Felix Adame - receiving the Bidal Agüero/COMA Endowment Scholarship, and Christi Chavez. Not pictured, Octavio Villanueva, Michael Aldape, Jaime Garcia, Connie Lopez, Angelica DeLeon, Maria DeLeon, Rebecca Titus and Eddie Lucio. Also receiving awards were Martyselda Sosa, Joanna Garcia, Justin Dela Garza, Benny Burse. A total of \$7,500 was awarded in scholarships.



The American GI Forum Ladies and Mens Chapters of Lubbock, awarded their scholarships for the 1998-1999 on Friday night at the annual Scholarship Banquet at the Maggie Trejo Super Center. Pictured from left to right are Pete Garza vice Regional Commander. Recipients are as follows: Ysidro Gutierrez, graduate studies Texas Tech, \$500 Melissa Aguirre graduate Lesbbudde High School entering West Texas AM \$500 Mona Mia Rodriguez attending South Plains College \$500 Lucinda R. Garza attending South Plains College \$500 Monica Gurule attending Texas Tech 2nd year \$1000. At far right Frank Gutierrez Chapter Commander. Not in picture Ladies Chapter President, Julia Carrillo.

News Briefs

Clinton Vows to Veto GOP Health Plans

Reuters--President Clinton Monday vowed to veto major Republican alternatives to his proposals for regulating HMOs and announced new rules for managed-care health plans covering federal workers.

Clinton, drawing a distinction between the "patients' bill of rights" he champions and Republican approaches for regulating the managed-care industry, said Americans should not believe bills passed by the Republican-dominated House or offered by Senate Republicans would offer adequate protections.

It was the first time Clinton threatened to veto the bills, although top administration officials had made similar threats earlier.

The president also announced Monday that the administration was ordering managed-care companies that insure federal workers to eliminate "gag rules" that restrict what a doctor can tell a patient about treatment options.

The order is the latest step Clinton has taken administratively to give the protections proposed in his legislation to the 85 million Americans enrolled in all federal health programs, such as Medicare and veterans' programs.

The Republican bills have several flaws, Clinton said. They deny patients the right to sue managed-care companies, fail to provide adequate emergency treatment safeguards, and cover too few people, he said.

The House passed its version of the Republican bill by a narrow 216-210 margin last month, after defeating the bill that Clinton backed by just five votes.

The Democratic bill, which has drawn some Republican support, would allow patients to appeal decisions by HMOs through an independent grievance system, and also allow lawsuits against health plans when a patient is harmed by a denial of treatment coverage.

The Senate has not yet taken up managed-care legislation, and Clinton administration officials say they hope to work out an acceptable compromise when it does.

Study: "Crack Babies" Do As Well As Poor Ones

Kansas City Star--A \$1.7 million study at Albert Einstein Medical Center has found that babies born to crack-addicted mothers so far aren't doing any worse than babies born to drug-free, low-income women.

Researchers caution this doesn't mean cocaine-exposed children won't have more problems later. The oldest children in the study have only finished second grade.

The problem, however, is that the 101 cocaine-exposed babies and the 118 drug-free babies from low-income Philadelphia homes are not faring well.

In fact, the majority score below average in intelligence testing.

"It makes us wonder: Is poverty such a sledgehammer you can't detect a difference between both groups? It's possible," said Hallum Hurt, who heads the neonatology division at Einstein. "These are our children, Philadelphia children, and to see them do so poorly now, it's sad. It's not a pretty picture."

Perhaps the most startling finding relates to IQ tests. At 4 years of age, the average IQ of cocaine-exposed children is 79, well below the average in the United States that ranges from 90 to 109.

The control group of inner-city children not exposed to crack, however, is also low -- 81.9.

Of the 150 children tested at age 4, only 32 scored average or above. Of them, 16 were in the cocaine-exposed group.

Researchers want to further examine the caregivers and their relationship with the child, the child's exposure to violence, parents' drug and alcohol use, and whether the child becomes involved in drugs or violent behavior.

As a result, they could better pinpoint precursors to trouble and possibly prevent them.

IRS Announces New Rules on Nonprofit Salaries

The Internal Revenue Service has released proposed regulations to fine top nonprofit executives and board members with excessive salaries or perks - and the trustees that approve them, the Chronicle of Philanthropy reports.

Under the legislation, the IRS can impose on charity officials fines of up to 25 percent of the portion of their compensation or benefits found to be excessive. Failure to pay the fine and take corrective actions can result in fines of 200 percent of the excessive amount.

The proposed regulations will, if passed, clarify what constitutes excessiveness and set guidelines for setting salaries and benefits packages. With the law, a charity board setting salaries must:

- * Be composed entirely by people unrelated to and unduly influenced by the salary recipient.
- * Set salaries by looking at compensation figures for similar organizations.
- * "Adequately document" all steps.

To suggest changes to the proposal, contact the IRS before Nov. 2 by mail at: CC:DOM:CORP:R (REG-246256-96) Room 5226 Internal Revenue Service POB 7604, Ben Franklin Station Washington, D.C. 20044 Or visit the IRS Web site <http://www.irs.gov>.

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Unresolved Hispanic Issues Await Congress When It Returns

By Patricia Guadalupe

Before Congress took off for its month-long summer recess last week, its members spent some late nights on legislation that could have a significant impact on the Latino community.

Five main pieces to watch when it returns:

Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero

Marisol, Olga and I took a little break this past week and took a little recreational trip to Sea World, alias San Antonio, to give Mari a little break from home before she starts school.



Shamu personally sent his regards to all our readers. His mom and dad -- Sumama and Supapa and Subaby his newborn also sent their hellos.

I always enjoy visiting San Antonio, eating at the Mercado and all the other Mexican Restaurants. Most are family owned small businesses. One thing that came to mind while driving on one of the many Interstates was the big signs that advertise businesses. It kind of made me reflect on the Lubbock sign ordinance which prohibits owners to have big free standing signs and basing the size of the sign by the size of the building. It really made me realize how much at a disadvantage small business owners are to expose what could be a very good eating establishment or any other type of service to visitors that come or drive through Lubbock. Maybe this is something that the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber should investigate. Why can't small businesses be given more space to display signs and big businesses that can afford TV, radio and major newspapers be given less space?

Well besides this, we also enjoyed our visit with old friends like Nephtali DeLeon who always has something going on that's dealing with Chicanos. Most recent is a movement to free Ramsey Muñiz who is currently in jail for life without possibility of parole. More on this later.

Upon getting back to my office my first question was: "What been happening?" "Same old, same old," Bob replied. Why should I have expected any different?

CENSUS "SAMPLING": In a vote that could signal a show-down this fall with the White House, the U.S. House of Representatives defeated an amendment to the \$33.4 billion Commerce, Justice and State departments Fiscal Year '99 appropriations bill that would have allowed the Census Bureau to add statistical sampling to the methods it wants to employ in conducting the 2000 Census.

Under sampling, 90 percent of the population is counted under the old process of enumeration. This involves mailing census questionnaires and following up with visits to households that do not respond; then the Census Bureau estimates the other 10 percent of the population in each census tract of roughly 4,000 people.

Sampling is supported by the Clinton administration and most Hill Democrats, including the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, as the only way to avoid another major miscount, which works to the disadvantage of the poor and communities of color. The 1990 census failed to find, by the bureau's own admission, more than 1 million Latinos.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who had supported sampling after the 1990 census, when the population of his state was undercounted by 300,000, led the fight against the amendment.

The appropriations bill which the House passed stipulates that the Census Bureau will receive only half of its \$956 million budget until both

political parties agree to "viable methodology" by next March, when another bill is discussed. It will certainly come up sooner, since President Clinton has said he will veto "any and all" legislation that does not include statistical sampling.

INS SPLIT: In another late vote, a congressional subcommittee backed a bill that would place the enforcement functions now administered by U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service under a new Office of Law Enforcement and Border Issues within the U.S. Department of Justice.

The INS would be responsible only for "community services," such as processing naturalization applications and work permits. Although there is widespread bipartisan support for restructuring the INS, the bill's critics say that given the present federal emphasis on border enforcement, the bill would guarantee that processing of citizenship applications and other services would stay in an agency with depleted funds, while the enforcement aspect would function in one with enormous power and scant supervision.

The subcommittee rejected a bill supported by the Hispanic Caucus that would divide the functions but maintain them under the current single agency.

Curiously, the current bill is based on legislation originally proposed by Rep. Silvestre Reyes (D-Texas), a former U.S. Border Patrol chief who had supported disbanding the INS. Reyes says he opposes the bill

because it doesn't guarantee an improvement in naturalization services. Subcommittee chair Lamar Smith (R-Texas) charges that Reyes was pressured by the Clinton administration and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to oppose the bill.

Reyes denies the allegation, but it's very likely to surface again next month, when the full committee takes up the bill.

AMNESTY: Luis Gutierrez (D-Ill.) introduced a bill to avoid the deportation of hundreds of thousands of Central Americans who came to the United States during the '80s fleeing civil war and political persecution. It would expand current law and grant amnesty to Guatemalans, Hondurans and Haitians.

The Clinton administration has not supported including these groups in a general amnesty because "they were not directly affected by civil war" like El Salvador and Nicaragua. But after caucus members reminded President Clinton that U.S.-backed forces used Honduras as a base of operations in the region, Clinton told Gutierrez he wanted more information and would reconsider his position. Gutierrez needs about 100 more congressional supporters to ensure passage of the bill before October.

"BRACERO" BILL: On the Senate side, legislators passed an amendment to expand the so-called "guestworker program," which allows employers to bring in seasonal

Clinton Reitera Su "Decidido" Apoyo a Comunidad Hispana EEUU

Washington, 4 ago (EFE).- El presidente de EEUU, Bill Clinton, ha reiterado hoy, durante una reunión con el "caucus" (grupo) de legisladores hispanos en la Casa Blanca, su "decidido" apoyo a los hispanos de este país y su interés por solucionar los problemas que les afectan.

Los 18 demócratas del total de 20 miembros del grupo hispano de la Cámara Baja de EEUU (los dos republicanos se retiraron del "caucus" por diferencias sobre Cuba) mantuvieron una "fructífera" reunión de más de una hora con Clinton, según dijeron.

"El mandatario fue muy receptivo a las aspiraciones de los hispanos y manifestó un interés muy especial por el desarrollo de esta comunidad", dijo el presidente del "caucus", Xavier Becerra, representante demócrata por California.

"Le planteamos muchos asuntos, pero concretamente le



pedimos su ayuda para agilizar los trámites de naturalización, a fin de que los más de dos millones de hispanos que han solicitado este beneficio se conviertan pronto en ciudadanos estadounidenses, después de una prolongada espera de

más de tres años", agregó Becerra.

Según explicaron los legisladores después de su reunión con Clinton, el presidente también quiere hacer justicia a los centroamericanos que se refugiaron en EEUU a causa de los conflictos bélicos en aquella región, y desea contar con mayores elementos de juicio en el caso de los hondureños.

Asimismo, Clinton dijo estar dispuesto a que el próximo censo demográfico sea justo para los casi 30 millones de hispanos que hay en EEUU, ya que una cantidad muy significativa de ellos fueron excluidos en perjuicio de sus intereses políticos y económicos.

Clinton también apoya el nombramiento de un mayor número de hispanos en altos cargos del Gobierno y anunció que tratará de forma seria y eficaz el problema de la deserción escolar, que afecta en alto grado a esta minoría.

Por otro lado, los 18 miembros del "caucus" hispano de la Cámara de Representantes confirmaron su respaldo a Clinton "en este momento difícil que afronta", señaló el representante por Illinois, Luis Gutiérrez, sin mencionar la presunta relación adultera del presidente con la ex becaria de la Casa Blanca Monica Lewinsky.

Gutiérrez dijo que también se había pedido el apoyo de Clinton a un proyecto de ley para legalizar la situación migratoria en EEUU de más de 300.000 salvadoreños, guatemaltecos y hondureños indocumentados que corren el riesgo de ser deportados.

El representante por Illinois señaló que Clinton estaba evaluando el caso de los hondureños (unos 80.000), a quienes se les ha negado la posibilidad de obtener residencia permanente en EEUU porque, según la Casa Blanca,

en Honduras no hubo conflicto bélico en la década de los ochenta.

Simultáneamente a la reunión del grupo de legisladores hispanos con Clinton, miles de refugiados salvadoreños, guatemaltecos y hondureños se concentraron hoy frente a la Casa Blanca para pedir la legalización de su situación migratoria, como ocurrió con los refugiados de Nicaragua y de Cuba.

El demócrata José Serrano, representante por Nueva York, dijo a EFE que "en resumen, fue una buena reunión donde se discutieron temas de importancia para nuestra comunidad".

"Queríamos hacer dos cosas: hacerle (a Clinton) ciertas peticiones concretas para el futuro y reiterarle nuestro respaldo sin mencionar los detalles. Dar ese respaldo durante un tiempo difícil", agregó Serrano.

Algunos Inmigrantes Hallan Favor Con Los Legisladores Republicanos

Por Ray Rodríguez

Para los negocios agrícolas de los Estados Unidos, el milenio ha llegado!

Los republicanos, que a menudo usan la inmigración como un chivo expiatorio conveniente para cualquier mal nacional, han tenido un cambio de opinión. Respondiendo a la presión por parte de los negocios agrícolas, están tratando de que el Congreso apruebe un proyecto de ley que permitiría que 40,000 trabajadores agrícolas extranjeros vinieran en la época de la cosecha.

Según todas las indicaciones, de aprobarse el proyecto de ley, éste sería vetado por el Presidente Clinton. Pero donde hay voluntad hay camino. A fin de permitir a los granjeros el reclutar a trabajadores extranjeros e imposibilitar un veto, se agregó hace poco una medida sin debate en algún comité o aprobación del mismo, un proyecto de ley de asignación de fondos del Senado por valor de \$33,000 millones.

Este procedimiento subrepticio fué empleado por los mismos republicanos que acusan a sus colegas demócratas de subterfugio y escasez de ética política.

El Senado aprobó el proyecto de ley a pesar del hecho de que un estudio gubernamental reciente indicaba que no existe escasez de trabajadores agrícolas.

Si éste es el caso en verdad, ¿por qué apremiaron los negocios agrícolas a sus aliados del Congreso para promulgar legislación que les permitiría soslayar los reglamentos en vigor? A tenor del proyecto de ley propuesto, los trabajadores agrí-

colas podrían ser reclutados siempre que los cultivadores lo estimaran conveniente o beneficioso de hacer.

Los republicanos rodearon su apoyo para el nuevo "programa de braceros" de términos altruistas: Los cultivadores no tendrían que descansar en una fuerza de trabajo formada por inmigrantes ilegales. El suministro de mano de obra podría coordinarse al establecer un sistema de registro. Los cultivadores podrían conceder comprobantes en vez de exigirles que suministren viviendas decentes para sus trabajadores. Y los trabajadores aprobados por sus patronos podrían solicitar una extensión de sus visas por tres años.

Pero el hecho decisivo es que, después de cuatro temporadas, los trabajadores serían elegibles para una tarjeta verde y la residencia permanente.

En esencia, a pesar de la retórica altruista, el proyecto de ley crea una fuerza de trabajo cautiva, habilitando a los negocios agrícolas para explotar tanto a los trabajadores agrícolas extranjeros como nacionales. El mismo permite a los cultivadores mantener los jornales bajos y usar la amenaza del reemplazo como un arma en contra de los "buscabullas", es decir, los organizadores sindicales, que exigen mejor paga y mejores circunstancias de trabajo.

Si a los republicanos les preocupan los derechos humanos y la explotación de los trabajadores en China, ¿por qué están tan dispuestos a condonar las mismas circunstancias aquí?

Aparte de las negativas ferribles, el proyecto de ley está destinado a cuidar de los partidarios de los negocios agrícolas, no obstante las consecuencias negativas en el futuro.

Como caso a señalar, cuando el programa de "braceros" de la Segunda Guerra Mundial terminó en 1964, más de un millón de mexicanos tuvieron que ser localizados y deportados. Sin embargo, muchos desaparecieron sencillamente en la alberca turbia de nuestra fuerza de trabajo ilícita. Según los estimados más recientes, por lo menos un tercio de nuestra fuerza de trabajo agrícola de 1.5 millones está formada por inmigrantes ilegales.

Bueno, tanto así por la retórica republicana de frenar a la inmigración.

Lo que crea el proyecto de ley propuesto es una laguna que alentará al ingreso ilegal. Sin duda, como ocurrió durante el antiguo programa de los "braceros", llegará a los hogares del extranjero la noticia de que los Estados Unidos necesitan trabajadores agrícolas. Adivinen quiénes van a estar llegando a través de nuestra frontera meridional al amparo de la obscuridad.

Los dos senadores de California reconocieron al proyecto de ley como un fraude y votaron en su contra.

La justificación insubstantial para atraer a los trabajadores agrícolas extranjeros a los Estados Unidos es que los trabajadores estadounidenses no quieren hacer el trabajo que rompe las espaldas que exigen con gran volumen de mano de obra.

Eso es una insensatez transparente. Los trabajadores estadounidenses no tienen miedo del trabajo árduo. Nuestro desarrollo industrial y agrícola es prueba viviente de ese hecho. Lo que no toleraremos son las circunstancias de trabajo y de vida miserables ni la paga baja.

A pesar de trabajar horas largas y duras, la mayoría de los trabajadores agrícolas viven en la pobreza. Para que una familia pueda sobrevivir, los niños deben trabajar a menudo junto a sus padres.

Empero, a pesar de sus ganancias, los granjeros no están inclinados a pagar jornales decentes a los trabajadores, ni a mejorar las circunstancias atroces de trabajo. Aún el ganado recibe mejor atención y vivienda que los trabajadores.

No obstante, los republicanos, que alegan apoyan los valores familiares, apoyan voluntariamente a este sistema deshumanizador.

No puedo ver mérito alguno en explotar a los trabajadores agrícolas destituidos, que están tratando de alimentar a sus familias, sólo para que los negocios agrícolas puedan disfrutar de mayores utilidades.

El proyecto atestigüa la avaricia de los propietarios e ilustra claramente que las simpatías de los republicanos se hallan con sus contribuyentes ricos, antes que con los trabajadores, a pesar de sus alegatos al contrario.

(Raymond Rodríguez de Long Beach, California, es autor y profesor jubilado de universidad.)

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Some Immigrants Find Favor With Republican Legislators

By Ray Rodriguez

For U.S. agribusiness, the millennium has arrived!

Republicans, who often use immigration as a convenient scapegoat for any national ills, have had a change of heart. Responding to pressure from agribusiness, they are trying to get a bill through Congress that would allow 40,000 foreign farmworkers to come in at harvest time to pick the perishable crops.

From all indications, the bill, if passed, would be vetoed by President Clinton. But where there's a will, there's a way. To enable farmers to recruit foreign workers and make a veto impossible, a measure was recently added, without any committee debate or approval, to a \$33 billion Senate funding bill.

This surreptitious procedure was used by the same Republicans who accuse their Democratic counterparts of subterfuge and a shortage of political ethics. The Senate approved the bill in spite of the fact that a recent government study indicated no farmworker shortage exists.

If that is indeed the case, why did agribusiness pressure its allies in Congress to enact legislation that would allow them to bypass current regulations? Under the proposed bill, foreign workers could be recruited whenever growers deemed it convenient or beneficial to do so.

Republicans couched their support for the new "bracero program" in altruistic terms: Farmers would not have to rely on an illegal-immigrant labor force. The labor supply could be coordinated by establishing a registry system. Farmers could grant vouchers rather than being required to provide decent housing for their workers. And workers approved by their employer could apply for a three-year extension on their visas.

But the clincher is that after four seasons, workers will be eligible for a green card and permanent residency.

In essence, despite the altruistic rhetoric, the bill creates a captive labor force, enabling agribusiness to exploit both foreign and domestic farmworkers. It enables owners to keep wages low and use the threat of replacement as a weapon against troublemakers, a.k.a. union organizers, who demand better pay and working conditions.

If Republicans are concerned about human rights and the exploitation of workers in China, why are they so willing to condone the same conditions here?

Fervent denials aside, the bill is designed to take care of agribusiness supporters despite negative consequences in the future.

As a case in point, when the World War II bracero program ended in 1964, more than a million Mexicans had to be rounded up and deported. However, many simply disappeared into the murky pool of our illicit labor force. According to latest estimates, at least a third of our 1.5 million agricultural work force is made up of illegal immigrants.

Well, so much for Republican rhetoric of curbing immigration.

What the proposed bill creates is a loophole that will encourage illegal entry. Without a doubt, as occurred dur-

ing the old bracero program, the word will get back home that the United States needs farmworkers. Guess who is going to be coming across our southern border under cover of darkness.

Courageously, both of California's U.S. senators recognized the bill as a fraud and voted against it.

The inane justification for luring foreign farmworkers to the United States is that U.S. workers will not do the back-breaking labor required by exotic and labor-intensive crops.

That is sheer nonsense. U.S. workers are not afraid of hard work. Our industrial and agricultural development is living proof of that fact. What we will not tolerate are miserable working and living conditions and low pay.

Despite working long, hard hours, most farmworkers live below the poverty line. For a family to survive, children must often work alongside

their parents.

Yet, despite exorbitant profits, farmers are not inclined to pay workers a decent wage or improve the atrocious working conditions. Even their livestock get better care and housing than the workers do.

Yet Republicans, who claim to espouse family values, willingly abet this dehumanizing system.

I fail to see any merit in exploiting destitute farmworkers who are trying to feed their families just so agribusiness can enjoy greater profits.

The scheme attests to the greed of the owners and clearly illustrates that Republican empathy lies with their wealthy contributors rather than with the workers, despite their claims to the contrary.

(Raymond Rodríguez de Long Beach, Calif., is a retired university professor and author.)

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LITTLE WHITE LIES

EDITOR'S NOTE: What's in a lie? Do lies matter? PNS editor Richard Rodriguez writes that even though lying is the first sin mentioned in the Bible, and that lies invariably self-destruct, Americans don't take lying very seriously. Rodriguez is author of "Days of Obligation" and "Hunger for Memory," and an essayist for the Los Angeles Times Sunday Perspective page and the PBS "News Hour with Jim Lehrer."

BY RICHARD RODRIGUEZ
PACIFIC NEWS SERVICE

We Americans don't seem much troubled these days by liars or lies. Polls suggest that the majority of us are content with a president we assume to be a liar. Maybe it's because we don't believe in truth -- whatever that might mean.

It's true, no one wants to be around someone who tells the truth all the time. We all admit to the necessity of "little white lies." We say, for example: If the president were to tell us that, in order to protect his wife and his daughter, he lied under oath, we are prepared to sympathize.

Politicians from both parties concur. In little sound bites on the evening news, they plead with the silent, brooding president: "Just tell us you lied, so we can put the matter behind us."

But lying is no easy matter to dispense with. Lying matters. Not for little reason is lying the first sin in the Bible. Satan lies to Eve. And then lies beget lies.

As any architect knows, a lie can make an entire building collapse. Lies subvert reality -- what the author of Genesis would call "The glorious order of God." Lies bring disorder.

And then they self-destruct. Which is why, as children, we were warned by our parents, "Don't lie or else no one will believe you when you tell the truth."

That's Monica Lewinsky's dilemma precisely. Ms. Lewinsky, with typical passionate abandon, has been caught on tape admitting (to her former friend Linda Tripp) that, "I have lied all my life." If her statement is logically true, then it is also logically false.

The liar ends up trapped, even as she would

try to extricate herself from her own lies. It becomes a case of Monica versus Monica. One day she tells us that x is y; then (after her lawyers manage to secure her immunity from her own words) she tells us that x is not y.

There are not many great tragedies written about liars. More often, liars appear as figures in comedy. That's because liars become a joke -- well known as liars to everyone around them.

The only one who is finally fooled by the liar is the liar himself. The perpetual liar ends up victimized by his own bad habit, never supposing that the entire world sees through his earnest smile.

There is madness in lying. Lies make one lose touch with reality. The liar needs (as Mark Twain remarked) a very good memory to remember what lies he told in the past. And then the liar ends up unable to distinguish the true and the untrue.

When he is discovered, the liar seeks escape both in ambiguity ("I didn't mean that exactly") or in literalism (hair splitting -- "I meant only what I exactly said"). President Clinton is famous for both rhetorical tools.

Finally, the politician who is a frequent liar needs "spinmasters" and good lawyers on the Sunday morning talk shows to tell American voters what the politician really meant when the politician yesterday told us something contrary to what he means to tell us today.

Some one asked me the other day, "What if Clinton is telling the truth?"

It's the appropriate question to ask -- and the sad question we are left with after watching a political career of many little lies.

It's lucky for Monica Lewinsky that she has money enough for lawyers. It's luckier for President Clinton that Americans are not much interested in the importance of lying.

After all, liars love liars. Americans these days seem in a relativistic mood about most matters. We may have found our perfect president.

For what matters much more to Americans is the economy, polls say. Please, Mr. President, tell us you are a liar. Then get back to work!

Sittin' Here Thinkin'

by Ira Cutter

The Year 2000 Computer Glitch

It now appears certain that the federal government, consumed by sex scandals, re-election concerns, the need to divert campaign donations to personal use, and thoughts about the history books, will be woefully unprepared for the havoc caused by the Year 2000 computer meltdown. This has all the ingredients of a Biblical, Star Trek or Aesop's fable tale of a people in a mythical land who get so dependent on machines that, when the machines malfunction, everything falls apart and they are helpless. It is getting mighty scary.

The importance of lots and lots of computers all going haywire at the same instant is lost on a lot of people. They picture everybody's personal computers freezing up and we all lose the ability, God forbid, to do web searches or to chat with anonymous strangers. But that vision of inconvenience seriously underestimates the all pervasive presence of computers in nearly every tool and device that we use every day. We are talking here about all forms of telecommunications, virtually every form of transportation that isn't horseback, household appliances, elevators, the whole health care industry, the stock market, the entire electrical system, traffic lights, billing systems, and the entire defense apparatus that is shielding us from whatever foreign enemies we imagine are out there. Everything is computerized today, and lots of it is threatened by The Year 2000 Computer Glitch.

"The Year 2000 Computer Glitch," to make it simple for you lay people, refers to the fact that most computer programs have functions that identify time and that to save space lots of programs have historically identified the year by only using the last two digits. This year, for example, is identified as 98 and the computer knows somehow that that means 1998. But after midnight on December 31, 1999 the computers will see 00 and will not know whether that means 1900 or 2000. They will not know if I am 54 years old then, or have not been born yet and will not be born for another 46 years. (Why the computers are not currently confused by whether we are currently in 1998 or 1999 has never been made clear.) In any case, the computers will get confused, frustrated and possibly even pissed off and no one knows what will really happen at that point. The key thing is to not be in a moving conveyance of any sophistication, or undergoing an operation, when you find out.

Hey, don't just take my word for it. No less than The New York Times, in its lead editorial on Sunday, August 2, noted that there were only 516 days remaining before the start of the Year 2000 and that "Instead of addressing a potential crisis, many leaders in business and government are complacent...It is time to start worrying." President Clinton, trumpets please, has appointed a Council on Year 2000 Conversion.

Meanwhile, the General Accounting Office (GAO) has issued a series of reports on how prepared, or ill prepared, the government really is. In a May, 1998 report on the Army's preparedness, GAO reports that the Army is still assessing what its problems are and what it might cost to fix them. Part of the Army's plan, with now only 508 days remaining, is to create an Awareness effort that will "Define the Year 2000 problem and gain executive-level support and sponsorship...Develop an overall strategy...Ensure that everyone in the organization is fully aware of the issue." Can you hear the clocking ticking while the Army does internal public relations to get the whole team on board? I always thought that in the military, perhaps only in the military, you could just tell people what to do and they would do it.

A no less frightening GAO report to the House Subcommittee on Management Information and Technology notes that the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Air Traffic Control System, which is a nightmare even without The Year 2000 Computer Glitch, is in the process of replacing its current computer systems because they are so old that they cannot buy spare parts anymore. The systems now in place were installed between 1986 and 1988, with a predicted useful life of ten years. They will be replaced on a schedule that will run through 2006, twenty years from first installation. You and I would quickly throw out a carton of milk under similar circumstances. As for The Year 2000 Computer Glitch, the FAA says that it has fixed the software and solved the problem, but IBM, who made these old dog machines has no confidence in their ability to learn new tricks, and says that the whole system needs to be replaced, and soon.

I could go on and on. The GAO report on the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) suggests that everything from delivery of school lunches and subsidy payments to farmers to control of bacterial agents could be at risk. The report on the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) suggests that they are on the job, although their task is daunting, and that report also raises the fear that the IRS, and probably everyone else attempting to fix their Year 2000 Computer Glitch, really will not know whether the fix works until we get to New Year's eve 1999 and the ball drops. That is a scary picture: everybody crossing their fingers, closing their eyes, and listening for the click of the digital clock. Whew!

Finally, for now at least, we have The Year 2000 Computer Glitch Atrocity to report.

Federal Departments, no surprise, are now exaggerating the level of calamity we will face if they do not get really big appropriations to fix the computer problems they have known about for years. And on June 5 the Associated Press reported that the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) had transferred funds within its budget to help address the computer problems in Medicare and elsewhere. \$7,000,000 of the funds transferred to fix computers had originally been budgeted to assist teen runaways and other homeless people living on the streets. The irony is striking: the homeless are perhaps the only people on the planet whose lives are not all tied up in computerization. There are no micro-chips in the cardboard boxes that are used as housing and no computerized distribution system to guide the left over food in dumpsters. They have no stake at all in The Year 2000 Computer Glitch, and yet they are paying a disproportionate share of the tab.

That the poor and homeless should pay for new hardware for bureaucrats is a fitting end, a symbolic crescendo if you will, for the sad state of social policy in America in the 1990's.

Read El Editor

Asuntos Pendientes Esperan El Regreso Del Congreso

Por Patricia Guadalupe

Antes de que el Congreso comenzara su receso de agosto, por muchas horas legisladores estuvieron discutiendo proyectos de ley de gran impacto en la comunidad latina.

Cinco temas de seguir cuando regresen en septiembre:

El "Muestreo": En un voto que puede señalar una batalla próxima con la Casa Blanca, la Cámara de Representantes rechazó una enmienda al presupuesto de mas de \$33,000 millones de los departamentos de Comercio, Justicia y Estado para el año fiscal 1999 que hubiera permitido que el Departamento del Censo use el método estadístico del muestreo para llevar acabo el Censo 2000.

El muestreo, donde se calcula el 10 por ciento de la población en ciertas zonas, es apoyado por el Presidente y la mayoría de los demócratas, incluyendo el grupo de congresistas latinos, como la única manera de evitar un mal conteo que mayormente afecta a comunidades pobres y minoritarias. El censo del 1990 dejó fuera a más de un millón de latinos.

Newt Gingrich, el presidente de la Cámara, quien había apoyado el uso del muestreo en el 1990 cuando en su estado quedaron 300,000 sin contar, encabezó la lucha contra esta enmienda.

El proyecto de ley aprobada por la Cámara estipula que el Departamento del Censo recibiría solamente la mitad de su presupuesto de \$956 millones hasta que ambos partidos lleguen a un acuerdo sobre "el método adecuado", para marzo próximo, cuando se discute otro proyecto de ley presupuestario. El tema seguramente se discutirá antes, ya que el Presidente Clinton ha dicho que vetará "cada y cualquier" legislación que no incluya el uso del muestreo.

DIVISION DEL SIN: En otro voto, un subcomité congresional aprobó un proyecto de ley que coloca las funciones de vigilancia actualmente bajo el Servicio de Inmigración (SIN), dentro de una nueva Oficina de Vigilancia y Asuntos Fronterizos en el Departamento de Justicia. El SIN se responsabilizaría solamente por "servicios a la comunidad", como el tramitar solicitudes de naturalización y permisos de trabajo. Aunque existe amplio apoyo bipartidista por una reestructuración del SIN, quienes critican el proyecto de ley dicen que dado el actual énfasis en vigilancia fronteriza, la propuesta garantiza que el procesamiento de solicitudes de ciudadanía y otros servicios quedarían dentro de una agencia sin fondos, mientras las funciones de vigilancia estarían en un departamento con enormes poderes y poca supervisión. El subcomité rechazó un proyecto de ley apoyado por el grupo de congresistas hispanos demócratas que dividía las funciones del SIN pero las mantendrían bajo una misma agencia.

Curiosamente, este proyecto de ley se basa en legislación anteriormente propuesta por el congresista demócrata Sil-

vestre Reyes de Texas, ex-jefe de la Patrulla Fronteriza, quien apoyaba el desmantelamiento del SIN. Reyes dice que se opone a este proyecto de ley porque no garantiza un mejoramiento en la tramitación de solicitudes de naturalización. El congresista republicano Lamar Smith de Texas, presidente del subcomité alega que Reyes fue presionado por la Administración Clinton y el grupo de congresistas hispanos para retirar su apoyo. Reyes niega la alegación, pero seguramente se volverá a dar el mes que viene cuando el pleno del comité discuta la legislación.

AMNISTIA: El congresista demócrata Luis Gutiérrez de Illinois presentó un proyecto de ley para evitar la posible deportación de cientos de miles de centroamericanos que llegaron a Estados Unidos durante la década del 1980 escapando persecución política y guerra civiles. La propuesta de Gutiérrez ampliaría la ley actual para otorgarle amnistía política a guatemaltecos, hondureños y haitianos. La Administración Clinton no ha apoyado incluir estos grupos bajo una amnistía general porque "no fueron directamente afectados por guerras civiles" como El Salvador y Nicaragua. Pero cuando congresistas latinos le recordaron que, por ejemplo, fuerzas armadas apoyadas por Estados Unidos usaron bases en Honduras para sus operativos militares en esa zona, Clinton le dijo a Gutiérrez que estudiaría su petición. Gutiérrez necesita el apoyo de otros 100 congresistas para la aprobación del proyecto de ley antes de Octubre.

PROYECTO BRACERO: En el Senado, legisladores aprobaron un proyecto de ley que pudiera reestablecer el programa de trabajadores jornaleros del extranjero; el llamado programa bracero, el cual permite que, en tiempos de escasez, empleadores contraten por temporadas a trabajadores de otros países. El proyecto de ley fue aprobada a pesar de un recién estudio de la Oficina no-partidista de Contabilidad General (GAO, en inglés), el cual encuentra que no hay escasez de trabajadores en Estados Unidos y por lo tanto no se necesita implementar el programa. El proyecto además elimina el requerimiento por parte de los empleadores de encontrar alojamiento para los

trabajadores y de reclutar empleados en Estados Unidos antes de contratar a foráneos. Críticos del proyecto alegan que la propuesta desplaza a trabajadores estadounidenses y disminuye salarios.

PROYECTO PLEBISCITARIO: El senador republicano Frank Murkowski de Alaska, el que encabeza el comité que discute legislación para que se lleve acabo un plebiscito en Puerto Rico, presentó un borrador de su propia legislación. Su propuesta autoriza que residentes de la isla voten "de vez en cuando" sobre si prefieren la estadidad, la independencia, o mantener el actual estado libre asociado. Pero a diferencia del proyecto actualmente bajo consideración en el comité, los resultados de un plebiscito bajo la propuesta de Murkowski no necesariamente tendrían que tener el aval del Congreso federal. Murkowski dice que espera que sus colegas estudien su propuesta durante el receso congresional y puedan votar sobre la misma antes de terminar el año legislativo en octubre.

El 4 de agosto, los congresistas latinos demócratas se reunieron con el Presidente Clinton por primera vez en más de un año. El presidente del grupo, el congresista Xavier Becerra de California dijo que estaban ahí con una agenda cargada para hablar sobre el proyecto de ley de Gutiérrez, para abogar por el nombramiento de más latinos a puestos de importancia dentro de la Administración, para discutir el rezago de más de 2 millones en solicitudes de ciudadanía, y para asegurar que Clinton siga con su amenaza de vetar cualquier legislación que no incluya el uso del muestreo en el siguiente censo.

Al terminar la reunión, la prensa anglosajona parecía estar solamente interesada en averiguar si los congresistas latinos hablaron con el Presidente sobre el escándalo que rodea el asunto de la ex-asistente de la Casa Blanca, Monica Lewinsky. Mientras una mayoría ignoraba preguntas sobre ese asunto, el congresista Esteban Torres de California ofreció, "lo apoyamos hasta el fin", y siguió hablando de otros asuntos.

(Patricia Guadalupe es correspondiente en Washington para varios medios en Estados Unidos y América Latina.)

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ENFOQUE A LA SALUD

Joseph Garcia-Prats, M.D.
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas

Enseguida hay 1-2-3 pasos de como luchar contra el cancer del pecho:

1. Examine sus pechos mensualmente.
2. Vea a un medico anualmente si es mayor de 40 años de edad, cada tres años si es menor de 40 años de edad.
3. Hagase un mamograma cada año si es mayor de 40 años.

El autoexamen de los pechos es facil de aprender y puede ayudarle a detectar masas o endurecimiento - las senales tempranas de cancer del pecho. El momento de hacerse este examen es una semana despues de su periodo. Examine cada mes.

La mamografia clave para detectar el cancer del pecho

Una visita regular a su medico debe incluir un repaso de su historia medica, examen fisico y discusion abierta acerca de recientes cambios que haya detectado.

La mamografia, es un nivel bajo de rayos X para los pechos y el mejor metodo para detectar lesiones o desarrollos anormales. Tambien puede detectar cambios en los tejidos del pecho que a veces no se descubren. De acuerdo a los expertos de Baylor College of Medicine, la

mamografia puede detectar canceres muy pequenos que la mujer misma o un medico con experiencia no podrian.

El autoexamen de los pechos puede ser una salvacion. Aunque los casos son raros en mujeres menores de 35 años de edad, cada mujer tiene riesgo de contraer cancer del pecho. No puede ser prevenido - solamente tratado si se capta a tiempo. La American Cancer Society (Asociacion Americana

del Cancer) tiene folletos de este tema incluyendo algunos en Espanol. Llame al 1-800-ACS-2345.

De acuerdo a la Asociacion, los factores de riesgo para el cancer del pecho incluye:

- El riesgo aumenta con la edad
 - Historia en la familia del cancer del pecho
 - Algunas formas del cancer benigno del pecho puede progresar a cancer
 - Menstruacion temprana a menopausia tardia
 - Larga exposicion de estrogenos despues de la menopausia
 - Uso reciente de contraceptivos orales
 - No haber concebido o tener hijos tarde en la vida
 - Educacion y status socioeconomico altos
- Entese hoy acerca de como detectar el cancer del pecho. Es tan facil como 1-2-3.

La diabetes, seria amenaza para la salud en México

CIUDAD DE MÉXICO (ARB) - Si continúa la tendencia de los malos hábitos alimenticios de buen porcentaje de la población mexicana y no se refuerzan las campañas para la atención oportuna de la diabetes, para el año 2025 más del 20% de los mexicanos sufrirá este padecimiento, afirmó la Dra. Irma Fernández Gárate, jefa de la División de Epidemiología de la Coordinación de Salud Comunitaria del IMSS.

La diabetes, como consecuencia de excesos en el consumo de carbohidratos, sedentarismo y factores hereditarios, constituye una causa importante de baja calidad de vida que padecen más de 3.5 millones de mexicanos - precisó.

Como anticipamos en el auditorio del Hospital General Regional «Lic. Benito Juárez» del IMSS, se llevó al cabo el «Simposio regional: diabetes, obesidad y enfermedades cardiovasculares», organizado por la División de Fomento a la Salud de la institución.

En la ceremonia de apertura del evento, al que asistieron 200 médicos y enfermeras de la delegación regional de la institución, que abarca la Península, estuvieron presentes los Dres. Angel Zárate Aguilar, Alejandro Guarneros Chumacero y Eduardo Espinosa Macín, coordinadores, los dos primeros, de Salud Comunitaria y de Atención Médica y asesor médico regional del IMSS, respectivamente. También asistió el Ing. Milton Rubio Madera, delegado de la institución, entre otros funcionarios.

El mensaje del Dr. Guarneros Chumacero fue el que más llamó la atención de los asistentes, incluidos los ponentes del simposio, a juzgar por los comentarios que realizaron durante el receso.

En su discurso, el Dr. Guarneros Chumacero exhortó a «todos los que intervienen en las actividades institucionales» a llevar al cabo una transformación médica.

«Hay que hablar de salud y no de enfermedades. La actividad institucional debe ser realizada con mayor énfasis en la anticipación y prevención, más que en la resolución de los padecimientos -apuntó.

Poco antes de la apertura oficial, la Dra. Fernández Gárate ofreció la ponencia «Panorama epidemiológico de la obesidad: diabetes y enfermedades cardiovasculares en México», en la que destacó que de los 110 millones de personas que padecen esta enfermedad en el mundo, 3.5 millones son mexicanos, y 1.5 derechohabientes del IMSS.

De continuar esta tendencia, se calcula que para el año 2025, más del 20% de la población del país tendrá diabetes, y aunque no se podría afirmar que disminuiría la esperanza de vida actual (75 años), si decrecerá la calidad -subrayó.

Entre las enfermedades consideradas de riesgo cardiovascular, la diabetes es la de mayor prevalencia y la

de mayor demanda de servicios de medicina familiar y de consulta de especialidades en el IMSS.

La especialista manifestó que a nivel institucional cada día se detectan 265 nuevos casos de pacientes con diabetes, lo que aumenta la morbilidad nacional.

«Sin embargo, a pesar de algunos registros, no se conoce la magnitud real de la diabetes, ya que estamos sujetos a un tipo de notificación deficiente, por lo que es esencial, imprescindible reforzar las campañas de prevención de la enfermedad -añadió.

«En la actualidad, la diabetes es la segunda causa de consulta externa, que de 1984 a 1996 se incrementó en un 400% -indicó-. Según estadísticas de 1996, casi 11 consultas al día fueron para atender o diagnosticar casos de pacientes con esta enfermedad.

«La población en general debe entender que la diabetes, más que una enfermedad, es una condición de vida que a diferencia de un catarro o un trastorno gastrointestinal no desaparece con fármacos, y que no seguir las indicaciones médicas lleva a un deterioro paulatino del organismo -concluyó.

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Uno de Cada Diez Hispanos Tiene la Diabetes

Cualquiera puede tener la diabetes. Pero la probabilidad de que sufra de la diabetes es mucho mayor si es miembro de una minoría étnica, si es mayor de 45 años de edad, o si tiene sobrepeso.

Algunos de los síntomas de la diabetes son: vista borrosa o nublada, fatiga, sed o hambre excesiva, cambio repentino de peso, orina frecuentemente, y falta de sensación en las extremidades o siente que se le duermen las manos o los pies. Sin tratamiento médico, la diabetes puede causar pérdida de la vista, ataque cardíaco, infarto, colapso renal, amputaciones y hasta la muerte.

Si usted cree que está a riesgo de tener la diabetes, llame a su médico o tome medidas para someterse a pruebas médicas. Para más información, llame al 1-800-342-2383.

Factores de Riesgo Para la Diabetes

- Africano Americano
- Asiático Americano
- Indio Americano
- Hispano
- Historial de diabetes en su familia
- Tiene sobrepeso
- Hace poco ejercicio
- Tiene 45 años de edad o más

La Guerra De Administracion Veteranos Con La Madre De Un Heroe De Guerra

Por John Flores

Han pasado cinco años desde que Dolia González -- camarera del restaurante del Hotel Echo, en la plaza del pueblo de Edinburg, Texas -- recibió aquella carta desagradable de la Administración de Veteranos.

Empleando la fraseología gubernamental estéril, la carta le decía que ella adeudaba a los Estados Unidos casi \$8,000 por "pago excesivo de beneficios a sobrevivientes" que se le dieron durante un espacio de casi 24 años, desde la muerte heroica de su hijo Freddy, el 4 de febrero de 1968, en el patio de una iglesia de la ciudad de Hue, en Viet-Nam.

Dolia es ahora una persona activa de 70 años de edad, de ojos oscuros animados y una sonrisa agradable casi constante. Ella comenzó su vida como trabajadora de campo, recogiendo algodón.

Como reportero de un diario de pueblo fronterizo, yo había oído pedacitos de su relato. Cuando almorzaba en el restaurante donde, por \$150 a la semana, ella todavía sirve a las mesas, algunas veces trataba de averiguar detalles personales. Durante un espacio de tiempo, casi renuente, ella los compartía conmigo.

Irónicamente, yo vivía exactamente junto al Boulevard Freddy González, tomando esa ruta para ir al trabajo. No tenía la menor idea de que la avenida fué nombrada en honor de su único hijo.

El esposo de Dolia la abandonó antes de que naciera Freddy. A los 17 años, ella desertó de la escuela secundaria para apoyar y criar a su hijo. Nunca volvió a casarse.

Freddy se alistó en la Infantería de Marina a la edad de 18 años y murió teniendo escasamente 21 años de edad, durante su segundo período de servicio en Viet-Nam. Herido varias veces en uno de los combates más sangrientos de aquella guerra, se negó a ser evacuado para recibir tratamiento, continuando al mando de su pelotón. Murió durante un ataque con cohetes mientras trataba de salvar a sus hombres heridos y, con una carga de cohetes anti-tanques, deteniendo al Viet-Cong que avanzaba.

El está enterrado en el Cementerio Conmemorativo Hillcrest, de Edinburg. Su madre, Dolia, visita su tumba varias veces por semana.

Los beneficios de sobreviviente que ella recibió comenzaron por \$50 mensuales, aumentando gradualmente a casi \$300, hasta que dejaron de pagárselos cuando ella recibió la carta.

"La Administración de Veteranos dijo que yo les debía \$8,000", explicó ella cuando yo proseguí el relato. "Fué un error de parte de ellos. Yo no tenía que dársele todo de una vez. Ellos me dijeron que podría reembolsarlo poco a poco".

Ella lo hizo, hasta el año pasado, a razón de \$20 mensuales, lo que ella podía costear.

Mientras tanto, el valor de Freddy al salvar a su pelotón no fué olvidado. A él se le otorgó la Medalla de Honor. Ray Smith, un segundo teniente que mandaba la Compañía A del Primer Batallón de la 1ª División, cuando Freddy fué muerto en la ciudad de Hue, recuerda a González como un

veterano experimentado a los 21 años de edad, un "tipo grande de 160 libras de peso, debido a lo que él hizo". Smith es actualmente Mayor General de la Infantería de Marina.

Hace unos cuantos años, al revisar el expediente de Freddy, el Secretario de la Marina de Guerra, John Dalton, escogió personalmente el nombre del hijo de Dolia para un nuevo buque de guerra de la clase Arleigh Burke, debido a la valentía y el espíritu de combate de Freddy.

En febrero de 1995, el USS González, un destructor con proyectiles guiados que vale \$1,500 millones, fué comisionado en Bath, Maine. Los miembros de su tripulación hi-

cieron una colecta para que Dolia, como su auspiciadora, pudiera viajar hasta allá para asistir a la ceremonia. Ellos nombraron a la galera "El Comedor de Dolia".

Con la ayuda para los gastos de viaje, Dolia se las ha arreglado para asistir a otras ceremonias en Corpus Christi y Norfolk, Virginia, para la bendición del buque y las ceremonias del cambio de mando.

Cuando ella está a bordo, le sirve a la tripulación. Ella ha llegado hasta a contribuir unas cuantas recetas de cocina.

Los relatos sobre el heroísmo de González y el tratamiento que la Administración de Veteranos ha dado a su

The V.A.'s War With A War Heroe's Mother

By John Flores

It's been five years since Dolia Gonzalez -- a waitress at the Echo Hotel restaurant on the town square in Edinburg, Texas -- received that jarring letter from the Veterans Administration. Using sterile, government language, it told her that she owed the United States almost \$8,000 for "overpayment of survivors benefits" she was given across a period of almost 24 years, since her son Freddy's heroic death on Feb. 4, 1968, at a church yard in Hue City, Vietnam.

Dolia is an active 70 years old now, with animated dark eyes and a near-constant, engaging smile. She started life as a field laborer, picking cotton. As a reporter for a border-town daily, I had heard bits of her story. When I ate lunch at the restaurant where, for \$150 a week, she still waits tables, I sometimes probed for personal details. Over a period of time, almost reluctantly, she shared them with me.

Ironically, I lived just off Freddy Gonzalez Blvd., taking that route to work. I had no clue that the boulevard was named in honor of her only child.

Dolia's husband had left her before Freddy was born. At 17, she dropped out of high school to support and raise her son. She never remarried.

Freddy joined the Marines at age 18 and was killed, barely 21, during his second tour of duty in Vietnam. Wounded several times in one of the bloodiest battles of that war, he declined to be evacuated for treatment, continuing to command his platoon. He died during a rocket attack while saving his wounded men and, with an armload of anti-

tank rockets, holding off the advancing Viet Cong.

He's buried in Edinburg's Hillcrest Memorial Cemetery. His mother Dolia visits his grave several times a week.

The survivor's benefits she received started at \$50 a month, gradually increasing to almost \$300 until they stopped coming when she received the letter.

"The VA said I owed them \$8,000," she explained when I pursued the story. "It was an oversight on their part. I didn't have to give it to them all at once. They told me I could pay it back a little at a time."

She did, until last year, at \$20 a month, what she could afford.

Meanwhile, Freddy's valor in saving his platoon was not forgotten. He was awarded the Medal of Honor. Ray Smith, a second lieutenant commanding Company A, 1st Battalion of the 1st Division, when Freddy was killed in Hue City, remembers Gonzalez as a seasoned veteran at 21, a 160-pound "big guy, because of what he did." Smith is a Marine Corps major general today.

A few years ago, reviewing Freddy's record, Secretary of the Navy John Dalton personally chose Dolia's son's name for a new Arleigh Burke Class warship because of Freddy's gallantry and fighting spirit.

In February 1995, the USS Gonzalez, a \$1.5 billion guided missile destroyer, was

commissioned in Bath, Maine. Its crew members took up a collection so Dolia, as its sponsor, could travel there for the ceremony. They named the galley "Dolia's Diner."

With help for travel expenses, Dolia has managed to attend other ceremonies in Corpus Christi and Norfolk, Va., for the ship's christening and change-of-command ceremonies.

When she's on board, she serves the crew. She's even contributed a few recipes.

The stories about Gonzalez's heroism and the VA's treatment of his mother have brought Dolia some relief. The Albertson's grocery chain stepped forward with an \$8,000 check for her. At first, the VA indicated an interest in it, but more media coverage made it reconsider.

Now politicians praise her son and pose with her.

But the VA still has not restored her benefits.

"They say I make too much money," Dolia explains. "I make \$150 a week. If I give up what I make as a waitress, then they will give me the \$260 a month for survivor's benefits."

She concludes with a quizzical smile, "I can't live on that."

(John Flores, now based in Austin, Texas, is a correspondent with Latino USA, a weekly radio news magazine distributed by the Public Broadcasting Service, which will air the Gonzalez story in October.)

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From Page One

foreign workers if there is a labor shortage. The amendment was approved even though a study by the non-partisan General Accounting Office found that the program was not necessary. The provision eliminates the requirement that employers provide housing for the workers and recruit domestically before seeking labor abroad. Critics contend the measure would displace U.S. farmworkers and depress wages.

PUERTO RICO PLEBISCITE: Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska), chairman of the committee discussing legislation mandating a plebiscite in Puerto Rico, offered a draft of his own proposal. It authorizes Puerto Ricans to vote "from time to time" on whether to become a state, seek independence, or remain a U.S. commonwealth.

Unlike the bill now under consideration, the proposal does not obligate Congress to honor plebiscite results. Murkowski says he hopes his colleagues will study the proposal over the August recess and vote before the end of the legislative year in October.

On Aug. 4, the Hispanic caucus held its first meeting with President Clinton in over a year. Caucus chairman Xavier Becerra (D-Calif.) said they were there to lobby for administration support on the Gutierrez bill, to press for more Latino appointments, to discuss the 2 million-plus backlog of naturalization applications, and to ensure that Clinton makes good on his threat to veto any Census appropriation sans sampling, among other things.

Following the meeting, the mainstream press seemed more interested in learning

madre le han llevado algún alivio a Dolia. La cadena de tiendas de alimentos AlbertsonDs se adelantó con un cheque de \$8,000 para ella. Al principio, la Administración de Veteranos indicó que tenía interés por el asunto, pero la información adicional en los medios de comunicación les hizo reconsiderar.

Ahora los políticos elogian a su hijo y se retratan con ella.

Pero la Administración de Veteranos no le ha restablecido aún sus beneficios.

"Ellos dicen que yo gano demasiado dinero", explica Dolia. "Gano \$150 a la semana.

Si renunció a lo que gano como camarera, entonces ellos me darán los \$260 al mes por concepto de beneficios para sobreviviente".

Y ella concluye con una sonrisa misteriosa: "No puedo vivir con eso".

(John Flores, que ahora se halla en Austin, Texas, es corresponsal de Latino USA, una revista semanal de noticias de media hora distribuida por el Servicio Público de Transmisiones (PBS en inglés), el cual transmitirá el relato de González en octubre próximo.)

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Upward Bound students look on in amazement as instructor Juan Mancias, of the Carrizo Nation, dances the Sneak-up Dance. During his language course, Mancias introduced students to the Carrizo Comecruo language and also provided information about other languages and cultures of First Nation peoples of the Southwest. Mancias' class was part of the Language Exchange, an innovative series of courses in which Upward Bound students are introduced to five uniquely different languages each summer.

National School Lunch and Child Nutrition Programs Lubbock Independent School District 1998-99 INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

The Lubbock Independent School District offers free or reduced-price meals for children from families whose income is at or below guideline levels. Parents are encouraged to purchase pre-paid meal tickets for their child at any school in the district.

Eligible families may apply at each campus at the beginning of the school year. Foster children are also eligible for the benefits.

A letter from Superintendent Curtis Culwell, containing information on the free or reduced-price meals will be distributed to students to take home to parents. All programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture are available to everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or handicap. If anyone believes that they have been discriminated against, they should write immediately to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

Under provisions of the free or reduced-price meal policy, all applications will be reviewed by the local Director of Food Services at 3501 Avenue G. If a parent is dissatisfied with the ruling of the official, he/she may make a request either orally or in writing for a hearing to appeal the decision. The request should be directed to Darwin Hilliard, Executive Director of Purchasing and Contract Services, 1628 19th Street, telephone 766-1098. The school district's policy contains an outline of the hearing procedure.

The following income guidelines will be used to determine the eligibility for free or reduced-price meals:

Household Size	Annually		Monthly		Weekly	
	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced
1	\$10,465	\$14,893	\$873	\$1,242	\$202	\$287
2	\$14,105	\$20,073	\$1,176	\$1,673	\$272	\$387
3	\$17,745	\$25,253	\$1,479	\$2,105	\$342	\$486
4	\$21,385	\$30,433	\$1,783	\$2,537	\$412	\$586
5	\$25,025	\$35,613	\$2,086	\$2,968	\$482	\$685
6	\$28,665	\$40,793	\$2,389	\$3,400	\$552	\$785
7	\$32,305	\$45,973	\$2,693	\$3,832	\$622	\$885
8	\$35,945	\$51,153	\$2,996	\$4,263	\$692	\$984
For each additional family member add	+\$3,640	+\$5,180	+\$304	+\$432	+\$70	+\$100

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Lubbock Police Department seeks new recruits

Lubbock Police Department seeks new recruits

The Lubbock Police Department is searching for an elite group of men and women to wear the LPD uniform.

Representatives of the Lubbock Police Department and the City of Lubbock Human Resources Department will be at South Plains Mall August 7 and 8, and again on August 14 and 15 to meet with men and women who are interested in a career with the LPD.

The recruiting team will be set up near Taber's Jewelers from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. all four days. No appointment is necessary, and anyone who wants more information can drop by at any time.

Because the Lubbock Police Department fills its ranks with only the brightest and best, the requirements to become an LPD officer are stringent. In order to begin the application process, you must be a United States citizen between the ages of 21 and 35. Applicants with five years prior police or military experience will be accepted through the age of 45.

You must be a high school graduate or have a G.E.D. certificate. If you have served in the military, you must have been discharged under honorable conditions.

Applicants cannot be under indictment for a felony offense, or convicted at any time of a felony offense or misdemeanor family violence offense.

You also must have a valid driver's license not in jeopardy of suspension and be covered by a current motor vehicle liability insurance policy.

A full list of requirements to become an LPD officer, as well as other information about the force, is available on the Department's web site, located at <www.lubbockpolice.com>.

For more information about the City of Lubbock, visit its web site at <www.ci.lubbock.tx.us>. From this site, you can also link to the Chamber of Commerce and other Lubbock sites. The City of Lubbock is an equal opportunity employer. For further information, contact the Human Resources Department, PO Box 2000, Lubbock, TX 79457.

end/end/end

For more information, contact Cpl. William Carter, 775-2965.

Camacho Wins Decision

MIAMI -- Former three-time world champion Hector "Macho" Camacho easily outpointed Tony Menefee to win a 12-round unanimous decision Tuesday night. Camacho, of Orlando, Fla., set the pace from the opening minutes of the junior middleweight bout at Miccosukee Indian Gaming. A strategy of left leads to the head and inside body shots proved too difficult for Menefee to defend.

Although there were no knockdowns, Camacho was favored convincingly on all three judges cards. Two had him winning 120-108, while the third scored the fight 119-109.

CAMACHO, A FORMER WBC lightweight champion and two-time WBO junior welterweight title holder, is now 66-4-1. Menefee, of Lincoln, Neb., fell to 60-5.

Despite having a height and reach advantage, Menefee tried to shorten the range, luring Camacho into infighting during the early rounds.

Camacho managed to score with body shots even while clenching with Menefee.

Early in the sixth, Menefee landed a two-punch combination to the head, but couldn't mount much of an attack to follow it. Later in the round,



Camacho stunned Menefee with a left to the head.

Camacho, 36, continued to wear down Menefee, 25, in the fight's final rounds with close shots to the head and body. In the ninth, Menefee reacted painfully to Camacho's body shots along the ropes.

Camacho landed three straight shots to Menefee's chin in the 11th, which nearly finished him, but Menefee grabbed Camacho and survived the assault.

Camacho weighed 153 for the bout. Menefee weighed 154.

Dallas Cowboys Information

INSIDE SLANT
What a difference three days makes.

Just last Saturday, the Dallas Cowboys' offense created much apprehension, having gained just 129 yards total offense and 62 rushing in a 16-3 preseason loss to the Oakland Raiders.

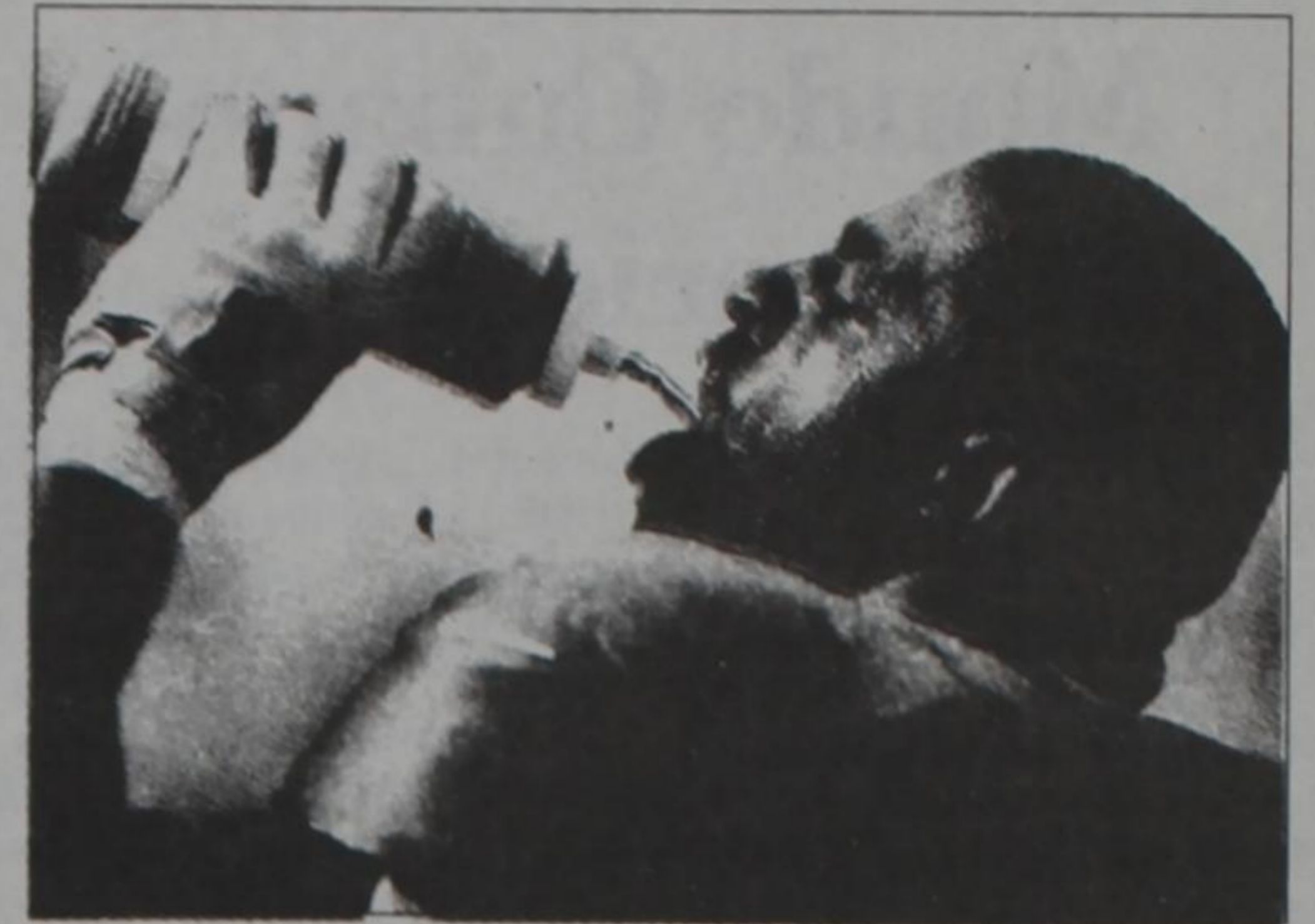
But Tuesday night the same offense did a number on the New Orleans Saints in a scrimmage at Independence Stadium in Shreveport, La. The Cowboys gained 243 yards on 42 official snaps, averaging nearly six yards per snap. Factored over a normal, 60-snap game, that would have been a healthy 360-yard effort.

Even more encouraging was a breakout performance by running back Emmitt Smith, who is trying to bury a growing perception that has him on the downside of his now nine-year NFL career. In two preseason games, Smith has gained 14 yards on seven carries, leaving one game after suffering a stinger when his left elbow banged off a helmet.

This nothing-to-speak-of two-game performance already had some radio talk show callers trying to fan a running back controversy, saying that newly acquired Chris Warren should start instead of Smith. Head coach Chan Gailey has remained steadfast in his support of Smith, constantly saying that Smith is his starter and Warren the backup/third-down back.

If Tuesday night is any indication, people now know why Gailey is so adamant in his support of Smith. The four-time NFL rushing champ had a breakout performance, gaining 83 yards on six carries, including a 54-yard burst up the middle on a delay. Smith appeared to be running with the confidence of old.

But it was obvious that Smith had some help he did not have consistently last season. The offensive line opened some huge holes for Smith, who was playing for the first time since the opening preseason game with full feeling in his left hand following the stinger. Smith didn't have to avoid his own linemen, who repeatedly were pushed into the backfield last season, causing Smith to take a false step or two just to reach the line of scrimmage.



Rookie responsibilities: The Cowboys are counting on defensive end Greg Ellis, their first-round pick, for sacks.

Smith also showed he has not lost a step, faking Saints linebacker Mark Fields out of a huge hole on his 54-yard run.

"I hope that dispels the notion that some people have that Emmitt doesn't have much left," Gailey said. "I knew it was going to happen. It was just a matter of time."

Gailey also must be happy that his offense dispelled a lingering notion from Saturday's preseason game with the Raiders that this offense is no better than last year's, which struggled mightily. Understand that the Raiders, after looking bad against the Cowboys in last Thursday's scrimmage in El Paso, game-planned the Cowboys for that preseason game two days later. The Cowboys had not studied the Raiders' defense nor prepared for the array of blitzes that they faced in the preseason game.

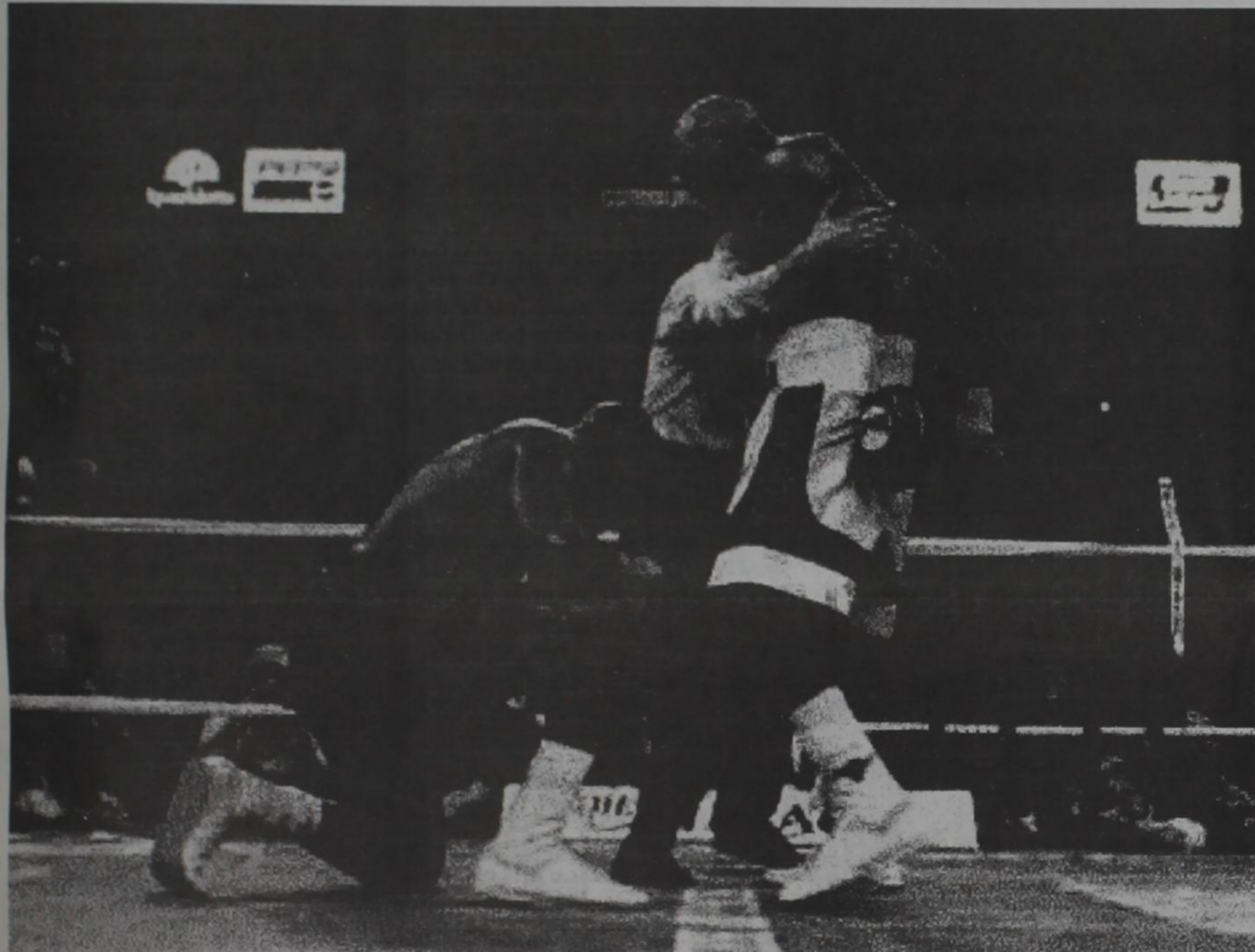
Thus, the poor showing. "We are putting in a new offense, and we're going to have times we struggle," quarter-

back Troy Aikman said. "We did last week, and everyone thought we didn't get into the playoffs. This takes time."

Understand also that, with the limited amount of tackling going on during training camp practices, the Cowboys first-team offense has now worked full-speed for two quarters and 33 plays in scrimmages in the new offense. That hardly is enough time to produce a finished product.

CAMP CALENDAR: The Cowboys were one of the first teams to report to training camp, arriving in Wichita Falls on July 15. They will conclude camp on Aug. 15. The Cowboys have just one more two-a-day practice scheduled, on Thursday, and will finish up with single practices on Friday and Saturday before departing for Monday night's America Bowl game with New England in Mexico City. The Cowboys then will hold the remainder of their preseason practices at their Valley Ranch facility.

It's Official: Holyfield to Fight Bean



8 Nov 1997 - Referee Mitch Halpern pushes back Evander Holyfield after he knocks down Michael Moorer for the third time in the 7th round during their WBA/IBF Heavyweight Championship bout at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas, Nevada. Holyfield won the bout by way

ATLANTA -- Evander Holyfield says this one isn't about the money.

Holyfield, who failed to line up a lucrative heavyweight unification bout with Lennox Lewis, instead will settle for his first hometown fight in seven years when he meets unheralded Vaughn Bean at the Georgia Dome on Sept. 19.

The hastily arranged fight was promoted during a news conference Tuesday featuring all the ludicrous hype -- Don King was the master of ceremonies, after all -- and bad taste usually associated with a heavyweight title fight.

Holyfield, holder of the IBF and WBA titles, pushed for a fight in Atlanta when he couldn't come to terms with Lewis, the WBC champion. In order to make the bout happen outside the casino belt, Holyfield had to agree to take a substantial cut in his usual purse.

Instead of commanding at least \$10 million for a fight in Las Vegas or Atlantic City, Holyfield agreed to base his purse on ticket sales at the 40,000-seat Georgia Dome.

"This thing is not about the money," Holyfield said. "I know I'm worth more than I'll be getting."

HIS LAWYER, JIM THOMAS, would not disclose Holyfield's possible purse, but said it would be less than \$3 million even if ticket sales are strong -- certainly no guarantee considering Atlanta's checkered boxing history.

Muhammad Ali made his historic return to the ring in 1970 at the City Auditorium, selling out the 5,000-seat arena for a bout against Jerry Quarry. But two title fights in 1986, one featuring Holyfield's cruiser-weight bout against

Dwight Muhammad Qawi, drew poorly at the Omni.

Holyfield's last fight in Atlanta came in 1991 for his heavyweight defense against Bert Cooper. A crowd of 12,996 was announced, short of a sellout at the Omni and a gathering that would appear downright sparse in the cavernous Georgia Dome.

"The purse is going to be based largely on the gate," Thomas said. "It's going to be a sacrifice under the best of circumstances. But how many nickels and dimes he makes are not important."

HOLYFIELD SAID HE PLANS to use the bout to give a firsthand lesson to the underprivileged children in his hometown, showing they can reach their goals with dedication and hard work. He called on Atlanta's business community to purchase blocks of tickets -- King said half of the seats would be priced at \$50 or less -- and distribute them to inner-city youngsters.

"I've been fortunate enough to make a lot of money," said Holyfield, who lives in a huge suburban estate. "That's the reason I can fight here."

Hopefully, I can show the kids that it's not where you're at but where you're going."

Holyfield (35-3 with 25 knockouts) hasn't fought since a Nov. 8 knockout of Michael Moorer added the IBF belt to his collection of titles.

Holyfield was scheduled to fight June 6 at Madison Square Garden, but the bout was canceled when opponent Henry Akinwande tested positive for hepatitis.

Bean, rated the No. 1 contender by the IBF, has built up an impressive record (31-1, 25 KOs) against a collection of mediocre opponents. His lone

loss came in a March 1997 title fight against Moorer, who claimed a 12-round decision in a lackluster performance by both fighters.

"I want to tell the world that there's no fear here," said Bean, who had a large red turban on his head and former heavyweight champions Joe Frazier and Michael Spinks at his side. "I respect Mr. Holyfield for the champion he is and the things he's accomplished. But I'm here to win."

NEVERTHELESS, BEAN WAS largely a sideshow in Tuesday's news conference and doesn't figure to get much attention leading up to the bout, which will be televised by the Showtime network.

Holyfield, who will be a huge favorite, admitted that he's never seen Bean in action and doesn't plan to watch tapes of his opponent until a week or two before the bout.

"I want the people of Atlanta to say they're going to this fight to root for Holyfield, not to worry so much about who he's fighting," the champion said. "It doesn't matter who you brought in here. Any fighter would be a challenge for a while, then I would get to him. I'm the best."

A month after being acquitted of insurance fraud charges, King resumed the role of promoter with his usual bombast. At one point, he said tickets were selling briskly, then conceded that sales wouldn't even begin until Wednesday.

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Tres Semanas Que Estremecieron Al Mundo Cubano-Americano

Por Antonio Stevens-Arroyo

"Los diez días que estremecieron al mundo", es el modo como John Reed describió a la Revolución Bolchevique de 1917.

Los acontecimientos ocurridos entre el 12 de julio y el 4 de agosto de 1998 señalaron tres semanas que estremecieron al mundo cubano-americano. El primer bombazo fue dos reportajes en el prestigioso New York Times, que detallaba la existencia deslucida y corrupta de Luis Posada Carriles, un auto-descrito terrorista de derecha. Posada se jactaba de tener nexos con la CIA, la cual supuestamente pasaba por alto sus actividades delictuosas a fin de mantenerlo activo en incontables complots para asesinar a Castro.

Posada reconoció haber tenido un papel en el bombazo de un avión civil en 1976 que mató a 73 personas, relacionó un escape al estilo de James Bond de una cárcel venezolana, mencionó trabajo encubierto en El Salvador para Oliver North y, más recientemente, haber planeado los atentados terroristas de 1997 contra los hoteles de La Habana. El terrorista envejecido, que ahora tiene 70 años de edad, alega tener una amistad de largo tiempo con el fallecido Jorge Más Canosa, fundador y primer presidente de la Fundación Nacional Cubano-Americana (CANF en inglés).

Como se publicó en el Times, Posada dijo que durante años muchas de sus misiones fueron financiadas por Más Canosa, quien le daba puñados de dinero y después le decía que no quería conocer ningún detalle de lo que hiciera con el dinero.

Alternando entre los alardes y la beligerancia, las entrevistas grabadas de Posada con los reporteros del Times no son enteramente verosímiles. Sin embargo, al usar documentos de la CIA, declaraciones juradas en los tribunales tales como la hecha por el hermano de Más Canosa y entrevistas con otros jugadores claves en la política cubano-americana, se pinta un cuadro muy feo de pagos en efectivo para el terrorismo en las sombras y un deseo fuera de control para eliminar a Fidel Castro por cualquier medio posible.

Tanto la CIA como la CANF replicaron con rapidez a los reportajes del Times. La CIA publicó una declaración que decía que, durante algún tiempo, esa agencia había dejado de ver a Posada como un aliado útil. Pero el lenguaje legal de la declaración no negaba que Posada había sido un operador de la CIA.

La CANF, por su parte, amenazó con presentar una demanda legal contra el periódico, negando que hubiera salido ningún dinero de la organización para apoyar al terrorismo. Lo que era aún más importante, presentaron una entrevista grabada con Posada en la cual él se retractaba de lo que le había dicho al periódico, diciendo que había mentado a los reporteros para proteger a los patriotas cubanos.

Mucho de esto resuena en segmentos de la comunidad cubano-americana. Algunos periodistas han justificado los atentados dinamiteros de Posada contra los hoteles de La Habana, han escrito elogios brillantes sobre Más Canosa y escrito que, mientras más sucia sea la historia, mayor será la estimación para la CANF. Hasta donde yo sé, ninguna

de estas pasiones partidistas invitan el apoyo de los latinos que no son cubanos. Los relatos sórdidos de terrorismo, recompensas y celo ideológico están aislando a esta rama de la comunidad cubano-americana. Casi como si tomara partido contra la CANF, el gobierno de Clinton dispensó nuevamente, el 16 de julio, las sanciones de la Ley Helms-Burton contra los inversionistas extranjeros en Cuba, mientras sacaba un reconocimiento de la CIA que la misma apoyó a los rebeldes nicaraguenses en el decenio de 1980 a pesar de reportes de narcotráfico por parte de estos opositores del gobierno sandinista, prestando veracidad al relato de Posada.

En la semana del 19 de julio, "El Nuevo Herald" publicó una entrevista con Elizabeth Trujillo Izquierdo, identificada como una doctora cubana que vive en Costa Rica, donde alegaba que presenciaba una operación que se le hizo a Castro en octubre de 1997 en La Habana para frenar la enfermedad cerebral de la encefalopatía hipertensiva. El relato parecía indicar que Castro había estado próximo a morir y que la edad avanzada lograría lo que Posada y los terroristas no habían podido lograr.

Pero después la Sra. Trujillo negó el relato del "Nuevo Herald" y alguien dijo que ella estaba en Costa Rica durante la presunta operación. Mientras tanto, Fidel subió al estrado con uno de sus discursos feroces inimitables, demostrando que su habla no le había abandonado.

Durante la primera semana de agosto, casi todos los periódicos de Estados Unidos publicaron fotos de un Fidel Castro sonriente en un viaje triunfante por el Caribe, con escalas en Barbados, Jamaica y Grenada. Aquí estaba el barbudo Fidel impulsando a Cuba dentro del vacío dejado por una disminución del 90% de la ayuda estadounidense al Caribe entre 1985 y 1995.

Seis de los mandatarios de la zona han visitado a La Habana en el último año y medio, como lo ha hecho un legislador puertorriqueño partidario de la estabilidad, procurando nexos mercantiles. En Grenada, el lugar de la famosa invasión de rescate ordenada por Ronald Reagan, Castro develó un monumento que agradece a los trabajadores cubanos que murieron allí combatiendo a las tropas estadounidenses.

El terreno moral elevado sobre el asunto de Cuba ha pasado claramente desde la CANF y los derechistas a aquellos que defienden una reconciliación final. Mientras que Castro disfrutaba de una vuelta de victoria en el Caribe, y con la Ley Helms-Burton cayendo en desuso, la reacción de la CANF es amenazar con presentar una demanda contra el New York Times.

Conozco a cubano-americanos que desean que todas las contorsiones ideológicas terminen entre la generación de mayor edad, para que los cubano-americanos de hoy y de mañana puedan disfrutar de su patrimonio. Como dijo el Papa Juan Pablo II, es hora de abrir el mundo a Cuba y de abrir a Cuba para el mundo.

(Antonio M. Stevens-Arroyo es catedrático de Estudios Puertorriqueños y Latinos en Brooklyn College, de la City University of New York, y director de la Oficina de Investigación para la Religión en la Sociedad y la Cultura.)

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Three Weeks That Shook The Cuban-American World

By Antonio Stevens-Arroyo

"Ten days that shook the world" is the way John Reed described the Russian Revolution of 1917.

The events from July 12 to Aug. 4, 1998, marked three weeks that shook the Cuban-American world. The first bombshell was a two-day report in The New York Times that detailed the tawdry, corrupt existence of Luis Posada Carriles, a self-described right-wing terrorist. Posada boasted of ties to the CIA, which overlooked his criminal activities in order to keep him active in countless assassination plots against Fidel Castro.

Posada admitted a role in the 1976 clandestine bombing of a civilian aircraft that killed 73 persons, related a James Bond-type escape from a Venezuelan jail, told of undercover work in El Salvador for Oliver North, and most recently, masterminded the 1997 bombing of hotels in Havana. The aging terrorist, now 70, claimed a long-standing friendship with the late Jorge Mas Canosa, founder and first president of the Cuban American National Foundation (CANF).

As published in the Times, Posada said that over the years many of his missions were financed by Mas Canosa, who would hand out fistfuls of cash and then say he didn't want to know any details about what Posada did with the money.

Alternating between brava-

do and belligerence, Posada's taped interviews with Times reporters are not entirely believable. However, by using CIA documents, sworn court depositions such as the one from Mas Canosa's brother, and interviews with other key players in Cuban-American politics, a very ugly picture is painted of cash payments for shadowy terrorism and an out-of-control desire to eliminate Fidel Castro by any possible means.

Both the CIA and CANF were quick to reply to the Times' article. The CIA issued a statement that for some time the agency had ceased to view Posada as a useful ally. But the statement's legalese did not deny that Posada was a CIA operative in the past.

CANF threatened to slap a lawsuit on the Times, denying that any money came from the organization to support the terrorism. Most importantly, they produced a taped interview with Posada in which he retracted what he had told the Times, saying he had lied to the reporters to protect Cuban patriots.

Much of this resonates with segments of the Cuban-American community. Some journalists have justified Posada's Havana hotel bombings, written glowing eulogies for the late Jorge Mas Canosa and reported that the dirtier the tale, the greater the esteem for CANF.

As far as I can tell, none of these partisan passions invite support from non-Cuban Lati-

nos. The sordid tales of terrorism, payoffs and ideological zealotry are isolating this wing of the Cuban-American community. Almost as if taking sides against CANF, the Clinton administration on July 16 waived once again the sanctions of the Helms-Burton law against foreign investors in Cuba while issuing an admission from the CIA that it supported Nicaraguan rebels in the 1980s despite reports of drug trafficking by these opponents of the Sandinista government, lending credence to Posada's account.

The week of July 19, El Nuevo Herald published an interview with Elizabeth Trujillo Izquierdo, identified as a Cuban doctor living in Costa Rica, which claimed that she witnessed an October 1997 operation on Castro in Havana to alleviate a condition of hypertensive encephalopathy, a brain disease. The account seemed to signal that Castro had been near death and that old age would accomplish what Posada and the terrorists had not.

But then Trujillo denied El Nuevo Herald's story, and a witness told reporters that she was in Costa Rica at the time of the supposed operation. Meanwhile, Fidel took to the podium with one of his inimitable fiery speeches, demonstrating that his health has not deserted him.

In the first week of August, virtually every paper in the United States carried pictures of a smiling Fidel Castro on a

triumphant tour through the Caribbean, with stops at Barbados, Jamaica and Grenada. Here was the bearded Fidel thrusting Cuba into the void left by a 90 percent reduction of the U.S. aid to the Caribbean between 1985 to 1995.

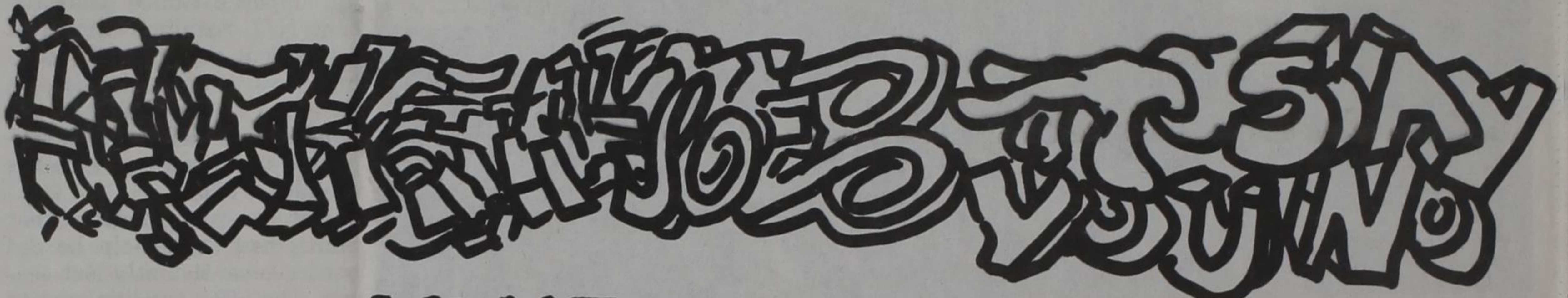
Six of the area's prime ministers have visited Havana in the past 18 months, as has a pro-statehood legislator from Puerto Rico, seeking business ties. In Grenada, the site of Ronald Reagan's famous invasion of rescue, Castro unveiled a memorial in gratitude to the Cuban workers who died there fighting the U.S. troops.

The moral high-ground on the Cuba issue has clearly passed from the CANF and the right-wing to those who espouse a final reconciliation. While Castro enjoyed a victory lap in the Caribbean, and with the Helms-Burton law falling into disuse, the CANF response is to threaten to sue The New York Times.

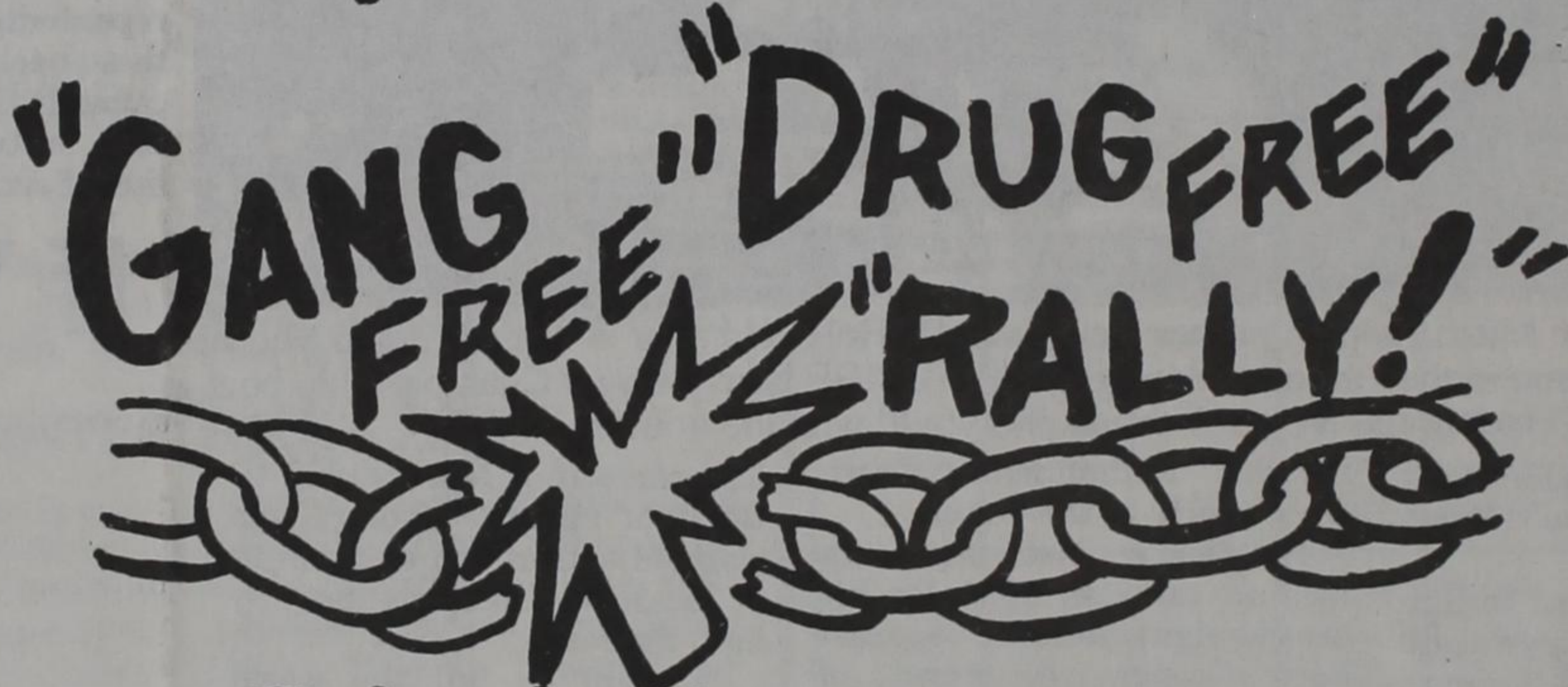
I know Cuban Americans who wish all the ideological posturing would end among the older generation so that the Cuban Americans of today and tomorrow can enjoy their patrimony. As Pope John Paul II said, it is time to open the world to Cuba to Cuba to the world.

(Anthony M. Stevens-Arroyo is professor of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies at Brooklyn College, City University of New York and director of the Research Office for Religion in Society and Culture (RISC).)

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