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1977
El respeto al
derecho ajeno
es la paz
Benito Juarez



EL EDITOR

West Texas' Oldest Weekly Bilingual Newspaper

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Week of June 2 to June 8, 1994

Lubbock, TX,

Racial Fights Continue in Prison

Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero

Lubbock has an election Saturday, June 11.

Two persons are trying to get elected in order to represent

District 1 which encompasses north Lubbock which is where most Chicanos live.

Both men, Victor Hernandez and Richard Lopez claim to be the most qualified.

There is no doubt that both have contributed much to the progress of our community.

Richard Lopez has worked consistently for providing those that are disadvantaged with shelter, food and health services. For this he deserves our thanks.

Victor Hernandez has served on the City Council since last August. Since he has been on the Council, we have seen good communication established between the City and the barrios. For this he deserves our thanks also.

So how can we decide who deserves our vote?

I'm inclined to side with the Lopez camp that says that we need a person on the Council that will really represent the common person.

I'm also convinced to side with the Hernandez camp that says that a strong "politico" on the City Council.

By "politico" would we mean a person who can negotiate and play hard ball when it needs to be done.

In looking back at the beginning of the campaign, it really stands out in my mind the fact that Lopez did not want to run and was convinced by a group of people, including John Montford to run.

Just the fact that he is backed by Montford is really enough not to give our endorsement to Lopez. But this is not the only reason we are not giving our support to Lopez.

We feel that Victor Hernandez deserves our endorsement because Hernandez is that type of politico that can provide a strong voice for us on the Council. We feel that Hernandez is the person who will work *sin rajarse y sin dudas!*

Pico de Gallo

Las proximas elecciones son importantes. ¿No seria en el mejor interes de usted y su familia que se seleccionara una persona quien deberas va pelear y representar nuestras intereses en el Concilio?

Todavia hay tiempo para hablar con los candidatos para darnos cuenta a quien vamos a apoyar.

Los candidatos son:
VICTOR HERNANDEZ
Llamen: 765-5481 o 747-7187
RICHE LOPEZ
Llamen: 744-4416 o 763-8866
Todo depende en USTED!

CASTAIC, Calif. - Two guards watch over 200 prisoners eating lunch in maximum-security dorms. It's quiet, but it won't stay that way. The beds will become shields, the plastic spoons sharpened into bloody weapons.

If not today, then maybe tomorrow. But it will happen.

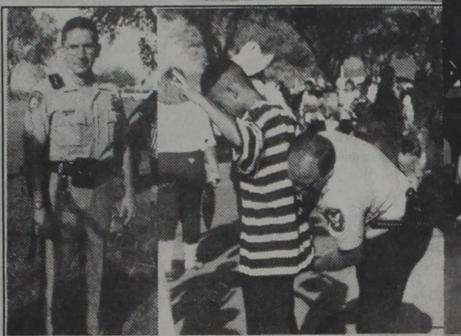
With broomsticks and any-

motorists during the 1992 riots.

Damian Williams, convicted in the riot beatings of Hispanics and of white truck driver Reginald Denny, was targeted for retaliation by Hispanic gangs in state prison, according to prison gang experts who, because of their undercover work, spoke on condition of anonymity.

Springs, where two fights erupted among blacks and Hispanics in February at Palm Springs High School. Eme, he said, "lost control of the dope trade in the neighborhoods, and they want back in on it."

One of Pitchess' biggest brawls erupted Jan. 9 in a building at the maximum-security North County Correc-



thing else at hand, black and Hispanic inmates thrash it out with numbing regularity at Los Angeles County's largest jail, the Peter J. Pitchess Honor Rancho, home to 10,000 men.

Hundreds of inmates and a dozen guards have been hurt since last year. Brawls have spilled into courthouse holding tanks and onto the streets. The only solution, said the head of the jail, sheriff's Cmdr. Robert J. Spierer, may be a legally and morally troubling one: racial segregation.

Even the American Civil Liberties Union agrees - providing the separation is for protection.

The fighting behind prison walls mirrors tensions among many black and Hispanic youth gangs in Los Angeles. In some cases, educators say it also represents a split among the two groups in some area public schools.

Hispanics, now the city's largest ethnic group, account for 40 percent of the city's 3.5 million residents, about three times the black population. In some poorer areas, the two compete for scarce opportunity.

"With the economy the way it is and the lack of jobs, you usually have Latinos and blacks in the same neighborhoods, vying for limited resources, and it's really a boiling pot," said Michael Nunez, police chief at the Compton Unified School District.

Brawls among blacks and Hispanics erupted earlier this year on high school campuses in the Los Angeles suburb.

The jail fighting, Nunez said, is "kind of a barometer for what's happening in the community."

At Pitchess, 35 miles northwest of Los Angeles, black-Hispanic tensions have been simmering for years and partly reflect the growing numbers of Hispanic inmates, who now make up half the population, Spierer said. About a third of the prisoners are black.

Rows break out over telephone privileges or perceived slights. Hispanic gang leaders also were angry that blacks attacked Hispanic

Pitchess guards separated black and Hispanic inmates after a January melee engulfed 20 dormitories. As tempers cooled, prisoners were reunited. But fighting has resumed on a smaller scale, and there's no end in sight.

Explanations are numerous, but most often cited is a reputed move by the Mexican Mafia, the powerful California prison gang, to wrest control of the Southern California drug trade from black gangs inside and outside the prisons.

The Eme, as the Mexican Mafia is known, has ordered Hispanic inmates to intimidate black prisoners - particularly members of Crips gangs - according to prison gang experts. Eme is Spanish for the letter M.

On the streets, Eme told Hispanic gangs last year to stop drive-by shootings, ostensibly to avoid killing innocent bystanders. Violators would face reprisals, including death, the gangs were told.

Southern California's Hispanic gangs are fiercely independent, and not all obeyed Eme's warning. But the demand did help reduce gang slayings in Los Angeles County from 803 in 1992 to slightly more than 700 in 1993, according to sheriff's Sgt. Wes McBride, a gang expert.

But sheriff's officials say the Eme also was uniting Hispanic gangs to serve as its street drug sellers in neighborhoods formerly considered black gang turf. They believe the prison-based organizing drive contributed to a black-Hispanic gang war in Venice that has claimed at least 11 lives since September.

Street gang members involved in that struggle have carried their feud into Pitchess and other California state prisons, said sheriff's Lt. Errol Van Horne, the second in command at Pitchess.

"Any problem that you have on the outside is going to happen here," Van Horne said.

Some also note money is the motivation in these clashes.

"This is an economics issue, not a race issue," said police Lt. John Clem in Palm

tional Facility, one of five complexes at the 2,800-acre jail. As unsuspecting black inmates watched a Los Angeles Raiders football playoff game, Hispanic prisoners attacked without warning in 20 dormitories.

About 1,000 inmates fought; 80 were hurt.

"It was supposed to be a green light put out on our race," said Ray Dailey, 24, a black inmate sentenced to life for murder. "It just exploded and everything went haywire."

Joe, 31, an Hispanic robbery convict who did not want his real name used, said there was a "green light" to hit black prisoners but he didn't know where it came from.

"Sometimes you can't offer a black guy a cup of coffee because our people will say, 'What the hell is going on?'" he said. "You always are going to have those problems in here."

Blacks and Hispanics share 52-bed dormitories instead of cells at the maximum-security complex, making lockdowns less effective in reducing violence.

Fighting also has erupted on buses shuttling prisoners to and from court and in courthouse holding tanks in Santa Monica, Pomona, Van Nuys and downtown Los Angeles.

On Feb. 8, black inmate Etienne Moore was put in a Van Nuys courthouse cell with Hispanic inmate James Anthony Prado. They were there for separate cases and didn't know each other.

But as soon as a deputy shut the door, Prado pulled a makeshift knife and jumped Moore, stabbing him 30 times, said Moore's attorney, Curtis Shaw.

Moore, who survived, had been warned he could be attacked at the courthouse. "And it's for no other reason than skin color," Shaw con-

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News Briefs

Texas to Sue Federal Government for Undocumented Immigrant Costs

The Mercury Wire Services report that Texas announced yesterday plans to sue the federal government over costs incurred while providing public services to undocumented immigrants. Yet, unlike other states who have filed similar lawsuits, Gov. Ann Richards and other Texas officials appeared to go out of their way to refrain from casting the lawsuit as a direct attack on the immigrants themselves.

Florida has already filed a suit to recover money spent on educating, housing, hospitalizing and jailing undocumented immigrants. California and Arizona, which have already sued over prison costs, plan to broaden their lawsuits.

Job Market Grim for High School Grads

The New York Times reports that most high school graduates who are planning to go straight to work are offered the same low wages, same part-time hours and same assignments they worked in after school jobs they held as students. That is "if" they can find work. In 1993, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that 24% of high school graduates who did not go on to college and wanted jobs were still unemployed in October, compared with 21% of each year's new graduates in the 1980's and 16% in the 1970's. For the first time, unemployment grew among graduates while the economy was growing.

Alison Bernstein, the head of education programs at the Ford Foundation, said, "Unless they have certain kinds of skills, they can get locked on a path that doesn't take them anywhere. They could be among the working poor very early."

Much of the problem is due to the loss of high-paying manufacturing jobs. The nation's economy is producing two million new jobs a year, but they are jobs with wages typically below \$8 an hour, or about \$16,000 a year, and without health benefits or opportunities for promotions.

Adjusted for inflation, the starting pay of people with at least four-year college degrees has slipped a bit in two decades, said Lawrence Mishel, an economist at the Economic Policy Institute in Washington. But in the same period, wages have plunged 25% to 30% for men with only high school diplomas and 15% to 18% for women.

Knowing the reality of the current job market, many students have opted for college or vocational schools. The Labor Department said that 63% of last year's 2.3 million high school graduates entered two or four year colleges, compared with 50% in 1980. But even college degrees and good skills do not guarantee a decent job. The growth of low-paid, low-skilled jobs is outpacing the growth of more skilled jobs. At the same time industry is shedding layers of middle-management jobs. Many people with college degrees are invading blue-collar jobs.

National Electronic Benefits Transfer Plan

AP reports that the Clinton administration announced plans Tuesday to expand electronic benefits transfer systems into a nationwide network that could ultimately deliver \$111 billion a year in benefits ranging from welfare to Social Security and military pensions.

The administration's strategy calls for a single card being used to deliver more than one-fifth of the \$500 billion a year in benefits distributed by federal and state treasuries. By comparison, the administration says VISA does \$175 billion to \$180 billion a year in credit card business in the U.S.

EBT is already being used in Maryland, and in several cities around the country, to deliver welfare benefits and food stamps through ATMs and retail point-of-service terminals. The White House says standard EBT services should be available nationwide by 1999, and estimates that the design and implementation of the system would be \$83 million from 1994 through 1997. As a first step, the federal government is working with nine Southern states - Florida, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas and Missouri - to develop a federal-state prototype EBT system.

"By using technologies that already exist on the information superhighway, this program brings the federal government into the 21st century to deliver services more safely and effectively, with less paperwork and less cost to the American taxpayers," Gore said.

One drawback to expansion of the program could be Regulation E. Under current law, consumers whose ATM cards are lost or stolen can be reimbursed for all but the first \$50 if they report the theft or loss within two days of discovering it. The Federal Reserve Board of Governors voted in February to extend Regulation E to EBT users, but states fear they could suffer potential losses due to fraud.

Michelle Meier, counsel for government affairs at Consumers Union [HN1474], criticized Gore's approach, saying it appears to be laying the groundwork for cutting the safety net out from under poor people.

Residence Visa Lottery Begins

The Chronicle Wire Services report that the Clinton administration is giving away residence visas to 55,000 immigrants under its month long "diversity visa lottery" program. Residents of countries from which the United States has received 50,000 or more immigrants in the past five areas in two separate categories will not be eligible. Those countries are China, Canada, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, India, Jamaica, Mexico, the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, the United Kingdom excluding Northern Ireland and Vietnam. One category gives preference to immediate family members and the other to those with certain job skills.

About four of five permanent residence visa offered under the lottery will be slated for Africans and Europeans, including people from states of the former Soviet Union. The rest will be divided among applicants from other regions. Applications are being accepted today through June 30. For more information call the State Department's 24-hour hotline at (202) 663-1600.

¿Donde Esta el Fuego en Nuestros Pechos?

Por Guillermo Torres

SE BUSCA: Un grupo militante hispano que tenga fuego en su pecho.

Piensen sobre eso.

¿Cuándo fué la última vez que un grupo hispano de los derechos recargara las máquinas de "fax" y las líneas telefónicas y telegráficas del Congreso, la Casa Blanca o los medios informativos nacionales, con respecto a un asunto que fuera importante para los hispanos? Cuando un juez hispano fué pasado por alto para la postulación al Tribunal Supremo en mayo, el silencio de las organizaciones hispanas fué ensordecedor.

¿Tolerarían los grupos afroamericanos y judíos semejantes desaires políticos o sociales, o ataques contra sus razas y etnicidades?

La respuesta es que no lo tolerarían.

El gobierno y los medios informativos han aprendido que cuando la NAACP o el B'nai B'rith hablan, la gente escucha.

Por otra parte, los mayores o mejor conocidos de los grupos militantes hispanos -- la Liga de Ciudadanos Latino-Americanos Unidos, el Pondo Méxicoamericano para la Defensa Legal y la Enseñanza, y el Consejo Nacional de La Raza, como ejemplos -- están en el negocio del cabildeo silencioso.

LULAC, MALDEF y EL NCLR, además de otros con dedicación, fuerza y alcance iguales, tienen la posibilidad

colectiva de ejercer influencia sobre las tres "Pes" de la nación -- los políticos, los periodistas y el público -- tan indispensable en las gestiones para efectuar el cambio necesario.

Pero su efecto individual no está sintiéndose.

Con su red de fanáticos, la Asociación Nacional de Rifleros (NRA) ha aterrorizado a Washington durante años. La derecha religiosa todavía puede parar al Congreso de cabeza de la noche a la mañana.

Es claro que los hispanos somos principiantes cuando se trata de la militancia.

De modo que he aquí mi plan para que los hispanos se filtren dentro de la conciencia nacional:

Reunir una conferencia nacional de los principales grupos hispanos que representen a las personas de ascendencia mexicana, puertorriqueña, cubana, española, filipina y de las Américas Central y del Sur. Estas organizaciones podrían designar a un comité directivo y obtener promesas de fondos de los principales grupos de los derechos civiles y de las empresas que tengan una conciencia social.

A su vez, el comité directivo podría formar una "organización de sombrilla" con vínculos a cada uno de sus miembros.

¿Qué nombre daríamos a este grupo "de sombrilla"?

Consejo Hispano Nacional, Hispano-Americanos Unidos, Asociación Nacional de

Hispanos, o cualquier cosa semejante que usara las palabras "americanos" o "nacional" sería suficiente. Podría arrancar con un personal pequeño, un especialista de relaciones con los medios informativos, un portavoz oficial y un(a) jefe de oficina.

Debería tener un servicio de recortes de transmisiones, periódicos y revistas, y la capacidad electrónica para enlazarla en escala nacional con las organizaciones de los derechos civiles, los periodistas y los funcionarios gubernamentales. Agréguesele un número telefónico "800", una o más máquinas de "fax", una provisión de sobres y franqueo postal, y ¡milagro! -- ahí tienen una máquina nacional de militancia que podría incitar una tormenta de protesta de la noche a la mañana. O bien, cuando fuera adecuado, enviar felicitaciones por un trabajo bien hecho.

Comienzos modestos, pero un grupo tal como éste, con la bendición y el respaldo de los grupos hispanos nacionales y sus vínculos con 29 millones de hispanos estadounidenses, haría que se volvieran las cabezas.

Supónganse que un Jay Leno se burlara de los mexicanos en su programa, o que Clinton desairara a otro postulante hispano impresionante para una plaza disponible importante, o que Hollywood produjera otra película más en que todos los personajes hispanos fueran sirvientas y ayudantes de co-

cina de una sola dimensión, pandilleros y delincuentes en pequeña escala.

¿Y qué tal si la industria de la publicidad continuara pasando por alto nuestras características positivas en los anuncios de la corriente principal y en los anuncios comerciales?

¿O bien que las cadenas de televisión y los periódicos siguieran criticando a otros por no adelantar la causa de la diversidad, mientras que limitan el ingreso de hispanos y su adelanto en sus propias redacciones?

¡Imagínense! Un grupo profesional de militancia y cabildeo que protegiera los intereses de los hispanos en toda la nación. Que enviara una señal inconfundible a los poderes establecidos, en el sentido de que los hispanos ya no continuarán siendo una "minoría invisible", ni sirviendo de chivos expiatorios para los fracasos nacionales de la economía y la enseñanza, la inmigración y la delincuencia.

Las palabras de lógica y justicia, habladas con suavidad hacia un viento rugiente, no se oyen.

La hora de la timidez por parte de nuestras organizaciones principales ya ha pasado. La población general debe aprender el significado de la palabra "¡Basta!"

(Guillermo Torres es editor de corrección en "The Los Angeles Times". El redacta artículos.)

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Crazy Horse

By Stephen C. McIntyre

After battling Fleet Financial Group for over a year about Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) issues, The United neighborhood assistance Corporation in Boston (UNAC) was present in February when Fleet announced an \$8 billion over three year plan for affordable housing, consumer, and small business loans along the Atlantic coast. UNAC will be opening new offices in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Maryland, and Washington, DC. to insure underserved areas along the Atlantic coast fully participate in Fleet's plan.

Go vote for Jan Blacklock for Municipal Judge and reelect Victor Hernandez to the City Council.

It was reported in The Texas Observer that Gary Bledsoe may be running a write-in campaign for Attorney General of Texas as a protest against Dan Morales. Bledsoe is the current State President of the NAACP and a former Assistant Attorney General. Bledsoe is Chairman of the Travis County Democratic Party and is well respected around Texas.

Go Vote

- 6/1 1660 Mary Dyer hanged in Boston for returning to preach Quakerism.
- 1940 Supreme Court affirms the right of public schools to compel the flag salute.
- 1954 CIA agent Col. Lansdale arrives in Saigon to command covert action team using paramilitary and psywar tactics.
- 6/2 1863 Harriet Tubman leads raid of black Union soldiers, frees 750 slaves.
- 6/3 1918 Supreme Court rules that Congress cannot constitutionally enact a law to protect child labor.
- 6/4 1928 The Supreme Court rules that wiretapping is constitutional.
- 1946 National School Lunch Act passed.
- 1969 Kissenger meets J. Edgar Hoover to request a tap on N.Y. Times reporter Hedrick Smith
- 6/5 1939 Hague v. CIO (free speech for unions).
- 1968 Robert Kennedy shot, dies next day
- 1975 Chicago Daily News reveals that the Chicago Police and the CIA, working together, have infiltrated 57 local groups.

Vote. Good people have fought and died so that you can have this opportunity to control your lives.

Watch "I'll fly Away" at 7:00 on Monday nights on PBS, Channel 5.

So you don't know what to get your apathetic, apolitical child, niece, brother,....who just graduated. Buy a video for them (since they won't read a book) or rent them a dozen. Make them think a little. Even if some of the following are not the greatest movies in the world, one of the following will make a few of their brain cells exercise:

A Dry White Season, Alice's Restaurant, All the President's men, American me, Apocalypse Now, Bob Roberts, Born on the Fourth of July, Bread and Chocolate, Brubaker, Class Action, Coming Home, Cry Freedom, Dances With Wolves (director's version), Do The Right Thing, Dr. Strange love, Easy Rider, El Norte, Fail-Safe, Fandango, Full Metal Jacket, Gandhi, Getting Straight, Glory, Good Morning Vietnam, Harlan County U.S.A., High Noon, In Country, In The Name of the Father, It's A Wonderful Life, Jackknife, Jesus of Nazareth, JFK, King of Hearts, King of Kings, Kiss of the Spider Woman, Little Big Man, Mandela, Marie, MASH, Metewan, Missing, Mississippi Burning, Mr. Deeds Goes To Town, Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, 1969, Norma Rae, O Lucky Man, On the Beach, Our Town, Philadelphia, Platoon, Reds, Romero, Salvador, Sarafina, Schindler's List, School Daze, Silkwood, Spartacus, Stand and Deliver, The Alamo (director's version), The Ballad Of Gregorio Cortez, Testament, The Candidate, The China Syndrome, The Deer Hunder, The Graduate, The Grapes of Wrath, The Harder They Come, The Long Walk Home, The Milagro Beanfield War, The Mission, The Old Gringo, The Strawberry Statement, The World According to Garp, The Year of Living Dangerously, Thunderheart, To Kill a Mockingbird, 12 Angry Men, Under Fire, Viva Zapata, Walker, Wall Street, West Side Story, Woodstock, X, Z, and Zoot Suit.

In the May 29th Lubbock Avalanche-Journal it was announced that Sonny S. Garza had left his job as a commercial action officer with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in San Antonio and was assuming a new position as vice president in the consumer lending department of Plains national Bank. you will recall that a few months ago Josh Silva left his job at American State Bank for a promotion to a vice president at First national Bank.

There will be more activity in Lubbock banks over the summer as they scramble to address their group ranking as the highest in Texas for rejecting minorities for home mortgage loans. Hopefully, this recent flurry of activity is signaling a permanent change of attitude and action in Lubbock towards compliance with the letter an spirit of the Community Reinvestment Act.

"If there is no struggle there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom and yet deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground, they want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters. This struggle may be a moral one, or it may be a physical one, and it may be both moral and physical but it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand, it never did and it never will."

Frederick Douglas

Stephen C. McIntyre is a Lubbock lawyer.

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Bidal Agüero

Where is the Fire in Our Bellies?

By Guillermo Torres

WANTED: A Hispanic advocacy group with fire in its belly.

Think about it.

When was the last time a Hispanic rights group overloaded the fax machines and telephone and telegraph lines to Congress, the White House or the national news media on behalf of an issue important to Hispanics?

When a Hispanic judge was overlooked for the Supreme Court nomination in May, the silence from Hispanic organizations was deafening.

Would African American and Jewish groups stand for similar political or social snubs or attacks on their race or ethnicity?

The answer is they would not.

Government and the news media have learned that when the NAACP or the B'nai B'rith talk, people listen.

On the other hand, the largest or most well-known Hispanic advocacy groups -- the League of United Latin American Citizens, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and National Council of La Raza, as examples -- are in the business of quiet lobbying. LULAC, MALDEF, NCLR, plus some others with equal commitment, muscle and reach, have the collective potential to influence the nation's three P's -- the politicians, press and the public -- so essential in efforts to cause necessary change.

But their individual impact is not being felt.

With its network of fanatics, the National Rifle Association has terrorized Washington for years. The Religious Right still can stand Congress on its head overnight. Clearly, Hispanics are beginners when it comes to advocacy.

So here's my plan for Hispanics to percolate into the national consciousness:

Convene a national conference of the major Hispanic groups representing people of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Spanish, Filipino, and Central and South American descent. These organizations could appoint a steering committee and pursue funding commitments from major civil rights groups and corporations with a social conscience.

Aviso De Final De Juego.



¡Es arte! ¡Es un juego! ¡Es Texas Treasures de la Lotería de Texas! Y llega a su fin este 1ro. de junio. Pero no te preocupes, porque tienes hasta el 28 de noviembre de este año para comprar los boletos restantes y reclamar tus premios. Recuerda que en Texas Treasures si iguales tres cantidades, tú ganas esa cantidad. Y tu premio podría ser de hasta \$2,500. Puedes cobrar los premios de hasta \$500 en cualquier comercio de la Lotería de Texas. El premio de \$2,500 debe ser reclamado en uno de los 24 centros de reclamo de la Lotería de Texas, o por correo, usando una de las formas de reclamo que están disponibles en los comercios donde compras tus boletos. Si tienes preguntas llama gratis al Teléfono de Servicio a Clientes de la Lotería de Texas al 1-800-37-LOTTO.



Mi Experiencia Con La Muerte

Por Mike Castro

Se puede vivir en un mundo imaginario de juventud eterna si se tiene cuidado de evitar el mirarse en el espejo.

Me acordé de esto después de una contienda reciente con una larga enfermedad. Me di cuenta de mi mortalidad y de la realidad de que había sobrepasado la edad de 55 años.

No era que yo hubiera estado indispuesto para aceptar el envejecimiento; era que no me sentía viejo y no pasaba mucho tiempo delante del espejo. Y además, estaba viéndolo sin fijarme en el tiempo.

Mi primera esposa murió joven y yo tuve que criar a nuestros tres hijos por mí mismo. Yo tenía una parienta distante, la tía Chuev, que era una mujer vieja y sabia. Un día, mientras estábamos visitando a mi madre, tía Chuev miró con aprobación a mi paternidad sin compañera y pronosticó en su español clásico: "Dios va a darte un regalo por esto".

Pensé mucho sobre la predicción de tía Chuev después que conocí y me casé con mi segunda esposa, una mujer más joven que yo por una generación. Este, pensé yo, era el regalo que mi tía había previsto.

Mi segunda esposa volvió a despertar la juventud y el optimismo que yo tuve como un joven que luchaba para salir del barrio en el sureste de San Diego. Comenzamos una segunda familia, y atravesé la nueva experiencia de renacimiento para ayudar a traer a mi segundo grupo de hijos al mundo. La vida era rica y aparentemente sin fin.

Entonces, en noviembre último, una semana antes del Día de Acción de Gracias, tuve un encuentro con la influenza y traté de abrirme paso a través del mismo. Pero no cedía. Un sábado por la noche nos fuimos a la cama, y todo lo que recuerdo con claridad es haber sido despertado de un sueño profundo por mi esposa. Recuerdo que me preguntó: "Querido, ¿por qué están tus ojos retorciéndose?" Después, mientras me hundía en el sueño, la oí decir, alarmada: "¡Oh, Mike, tú estás realmente asustándome ahora!"

Ocho días después, desperté en el hospital. Ella estaba allí, esperando que yo recobrar el conocimiento. Recuerdo que un médico se inclinó sobre mi cama y me dijo: "Mike, no creo que sabremos alguna vez lo que te pasó. Pero creemos que podemos asegurarnos de que nunca vuelva a pasar".

Comenzaron los exámenes. Recuerdo que me colocaron en un dispositivo de observación y que los técnicos me inyectaron curare, una medicina de la que yo sabía que los indígenas de la América del Sur usaban para untar las puntas de sus flechas e inmovilizar a sus presas. Ahora se emplea en la medicina moderna para inmovilizarlo a uno, pero manteniéndolo con conocimiento.

En algún momento llegó el sacerdote de mi iglesia y me administró los últimos sacramentos. Yo estaba consciente y recordé que mi madre me enseñó, cuando era un niño, a hacer la señal de la cruz. Aunque ella llevaba siete años de muerta, sentí su presencia. Cuando volví a despertar, mi hijo mayor estaba allí. Yo le pregunté cómo estaba mi madre.

"¿No te acuerdas?" preguntó él. "Nana murió hace mucho tiempo". Ahora lamento su muerte por segunda vez.

Ese lapso de memoria fue el primero de varios que sacudieron mi propio sentido de identidad. Me dijeron en el hospital que había sufrido una serie de crisis epilépticas; que una parte de mi memoria a corto plazo había resultado dañada debido a que, durante cierto espacio de tiempo, una parte de mi cerebro estuvo sin recibir oxígeno. Yo había se-

guido durante mucho tiempo las creencias existenciales de que uno determina quién es por las decisiones que adopta. Puesto que yo no podía recordar mis decisiones, no sabía quién era.

También me dijeron que experimentaré una sensibilidad emocional intensificada, lo cual es una ocurrencia común para cualquier persona que sufra una crisis epiléptica, un ataque cardíaco o una embolia.

Las olas de emoción se desataron sobre mí sin referencia a ninguna serie de recuerdos o hechos. Sólo podía controlarlas al efectuar los ejercicios respiratorios que usaban las mujeres en las últimas etapas agudas del parto. No podía ver la televisión. Aún cuando observaba los dramas baratos, no podía contener mis emociones.

Mi memoria de largo plazo estaba buena todavía. Yo sabía que, alrededor de mis 20 años de edad, me había sometido a una serie de exámenes psicológicos para seleccionar mi carrera. Me habían clasificado en el 97x percentil por mi capacidad para visualizar los objetos geométricos en el espacio.

Cuando salí del hospital, hallé que mis recuerdos de las calles, las rampas de las autopistas y los edificios habían desaparecido, como una pantalla de computadora que se hubiera oscurecido. Olvidé el modo de llegar a lugares que había visitado docenas de veces antes. Hubo veces en

que saludé equivocadamente a personas que a las claras no sabían quién era yo, y otras que hablaban conmigo mientras yo pretendía saber quiénes eran ellas. En mis semanas de convalecencia algunas cosas han llegado a estar claras: La vida es preciosa y la buena salud es crítica para su disfrute total. Vivimos esencialmente en nuestras relaciones con otras personas. Y en algún momento, alrededor de la edad de 55 años, llegamos a estar al tanto de que nuestras vidas están terminando. Ese conocimiento nos permite decidir de qué modo pasaremos los años que nos quedan.

Mi esposa recuerda eso de cuando el sacerdote me administró los últimos sacramentos: "Lo has mirado como si estuvieras viendo a Dios".

No tengo recuerdo de eso ahora. Sólo sé que mi preocupación era por mi familia y por la adversidad que ellos podrían sufrir sin mí.

Morir es fácil. Es tan sosegado como deslizarse hacia dentro de esa alberca negra que tanto alarmó a mi esposa aquella noche. Los que sufren son aquellos que continúan viviendo con la pena de haber perdido a un ser querido. Ellos llevan la carga de la vida.

(Mike Castro redacta una columna semanal en el "Sacramento Bee".) Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 1994. Distribuido por The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Prisons

from Page 1

tends. Prado was booked for attempted murder.

Temporary segregation cooled tempers after the January brawl at Pitchess, but permanently separating prisoners and Los Angeles County's 11,000 other inmates would be a logistical nightmare and possibly unconstitutional, Spierer said.

Church services, jail buses, cafeterias and courthouse holding cells would have to be separated and guarded, and the sheriff's department doesn't have adequate staff, he said.

Segregation could lead to discrimination complaints over job assignments, breed continued distrust and hostility and harm race relations, Spierer and Van Horne said.

It also would be difficult restricting segregation to Pitchess because prisoners from several jails mix at courthouses, officials added.

Joe, the robbery convict, supports segregation. "For one, you stop the racial thing," he said.

But other approaches are being tried. Sheriff's officials want former football player Jim Brown, who works with troubled teens, to bring a youth accountability program to Pitchess. The ACLU wants mediators to resolve disputes.

Shaw, the attorney, fears segregation is the only solution.

"I never thought I would believe that it would be necessary," he said. "But I think for the safety of all parties, it's become the necessary evil."

Fire from P. 2

printer and, voila! -- you have a national advocacy machine that could generate a storm of protest overnight. Or, when appropriate, kudos for a job well done.

Small beginnings, but a group such as this, with the blessing and backing of national Hispanic groups and their ties to 29 million U.S. Hispanics, will turn heads.

Suppose a Jay Leno mocks Mexicans on the air, or Clinton snubs another impressive Hispanic nominee for an important opening, or Hollywood produces yet another movie where the "Hispanic" characters are all one-dimensional maids and kitchen help, gangbangers and petty hoods?

What if the advertising industry keeps ignoring our positive attributes in mainstream ads and commercials? Or television and newspapers continue to criticize others for not advancing the cause of diversity while limiting Hispanic entry and

progress in their own newsrooms?

Imagine! A professional advocacy and lobbying group to look after the interests of Hispanics nationwide. One that will send an unmistakable signal to the powers-that-be that Hispanics will no longer be an "invisible minority" or serve as a whipping boy on national economic and education failures, immigration and crime.

Words of logic and justice, spoken softly into a roaring wind, aren't heard. The time for meekness by our major organizations is past. The mainstream must learn the meaning of the word "Basta!"

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4.) "¡Ay!"



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Big Apple Yawns at Soccer

NEW YORK, - You would think it would be something New Yorkers would talk about -- the world's greatest soccer players showing up in the "World's Greatest City" for real football's greatest show, the World Cup.

Wrong. Frankly, my dear, so far nobody but a bunch of unruly ethnics, hotel keepers, travel agents, sporting goods salesmen, suburban schoolchildren and international corporations seem to really give a damn, even though -- mystery of mysteries -- every game save one of the seven in the Big Apple is sold out.

Tourism experts say the New York region could earn about \$450 million from an influx of 500,000 visitors anxious to see such matchups as Italy vs. Ireland, Ireland against Norway and Norway vs. Italy.

The only game for which tickets are still available is Saudi Arabia versus Morocco.

But the games seem to be for the tourists who come here anyway to gawk at the big buildings of Baghdad-on-the-Hudson, marvel at the melting pot of ethnic groups and revel at being told off or taken in a dozen different languages.

Real New Yorkers -- the ones who are here to begin with -- are talking about another sporting event set for the same time in late June as the first three World Cup matches in the only city in America where too much is never enough.

That's the fourth edition of the Gay games which will bring 10,000 gay and lesbian



athletes from 40 countries to the city for four weeks of competitions. A council official in the Bronx caused a local furore by suggesting that the gay games will touch off an epidemic of AIDS, as if the city was some sort of pristine virgin about to be sacrificed.

New Yorkers are also talking about a demonstration set for June 26 that is expected to draw some 300,000 marchers to Manhattan to mark the 25th anniversary of a violent police raid on a homosexual bar, the Stonewall Inn, in Greenwich Village, the event that launched the gay rights movement.

Then there is another reason why New Yorkers are not babbling about the World Cup: if the truth be told the games are not being played in New York despite what 60 million specially-issued postage stamp sheets are proclaiming.

They are being played in a football stadium in a tidal marsh across the Hudson River from New York City in a state called New Jersey where people are a little more excited because a lot less happens there.

New Jersey schoolchildren play soccer because their parents think it is safer and

cheaper than American-style football and New Jersey used to be home to the greatest team in the long defunct North American Soccer League, the Cosmos, the team that Pele played for and retired from in glory.

Pele had a dream that Giants Stadium in the Hackensack Meadowlands, the place where legend has it that missing labour leader Jimmy Hoffa is buried in a concrete post, would create a soccer revolution in the land of basketball, baseball, American-style football and ice hockey.

The revolution never got started and the Cosmos died a couple of years after Brazil's greatest player left the scene.

Soccer is the least played sport in the United States. Always has been and maybe always will be, according to sporting experts.

This is not to say that the matches have generated no excitement. In the Irish, Hispanic, Italian and Greek neighbourhoods of New York, bars are festooned with World Cup banners and filled with world-class arguments.

More than 80 hotels are welcoming World Cup visitors. Buses are set to ferry them to and from matches and New York is getting ready for a scene out of a Woody Allen movie.

Gay athletes crossing paths with Irish, Italian, Norwegian, Saudi and Moroccan footballers in the middle of a gay rights march under a blazing June sun.

Just another New York summer is about to get under way in the Big Apple.

Clinton To Attend World Cup

WASHINGTON, May 31 - President Clinton will attend the World Cup opening ceremonies in Chicago on June 17, the White House said on Tuesday.

Vice President Al Gore will attend the final at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Los Angeles, on July 17.

Clinton and Gore earlier met Joao Havelange, president of the world soccer body FIFA, and World Cup chairman Alan Rothenberg for a 15 minute discussion.

The White House said the meeting was "very cordial and exciting" and added that Clinton thanked Havelange for his role in bringing the

World Cup to the United States.

"They had the opportunity to discuss the 1994 World Cup games, to be held in the nine venue sites throughout the United States from June 17 to July 17," the statement said.

There was no mention of security fences erected around fields at three venues by local police against the wishes of FIFA and the World Cup organisers.

FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni said on Monday that he expected Havelange and Rothenberg to make a direct appeal to Clinton to have the anti-hooligan fences removed.

"Wild Thing" Released from Astros

HOUSTON, - Relief pitcher Mitch Williams, who surrendered the home run that lost the 1993 World Series for the Philadelphia Phillies, was released on Tuesday by the Houston Astros after only two months with the baseball team.

Astros general manager Bob Watson said the decision to release Williams "was made based on his performance, level of confidence we've had in him in the late innings and the direction our team is headed."

The Astros said they are responsible for his \$2.5 million 1994 contract.

The 29-year-old Williams, nicknamed "Wild Thing" for his lack of control and awkward pitching style, was acquired by Houston from the Phillies last December for pitchers Doug Jones and Jeff

Juden.

Williams saved 43 games for the Phillies last season including the National League pennant-winner against the Atlanta Braves.

He failed, however, to successfully close two World Series games and gave up the Series-winning homer in Game 6 to Joe Carter of the Toronto Blue Jays. His World Series performance led to death threats against the pitcher.

For the Astros, Williams was 1-4 with six saves and a 7.65 earned-run-average. His last outing as an Astro was on Sunday against the Phillies in Philadelphia.

Williams, who also pitched for the Texas Rangers and Chicago Cubs, has 192 career saves and a 44-55 won-lost record in nine seasons in Major League Baseball.

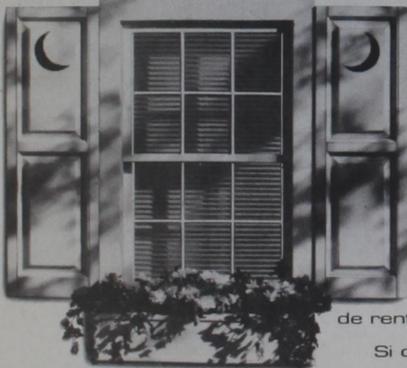
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News Briefs

Rights Coalition to Challenge Family Cap

The Washington Post reports that a coalition of 85 civil rights and religious organizations said Thursday that it would challenge President Clinton's proposal to allow states to deny additional benefits to women who have children while they are on welfare.

The "child exclusion" policy will be contested in any state that enacts it, said Deborah Lewis, legislative counsel of the American Civil Liberties Union, one of the coalition's sponsoring groups. Lewis said the administration's decision to include the provision in its welfare proposal will "open the floodgates" of legislation aimed at punishing welfare mothers. At the same time, she said, it will do nothing to discourage out-of-wedlock births, which are estimated to represent nearly a third of all births in the U.S.

The ACLU and the National Organization for Women have joined to form the Child Exclusion Coalition, whose member groups range from the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League to Feminists for Life and the Seamless Garment Network, an umbrella of several hundred groups that oppose abortion. Also opposing the extension of family caps are a number of large religious organizations, including the National Council of Churches, Catholic Charities of the United States, the National Council of Jewish Women and the Washington headquarters of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Battered Women Denied Insurance

The New York Times reports that insurance companies often deny insurance to battered women, claiming it is for the victims' own protection. "There is some fear that if the beneficiary is the batterer, we would be providing a financial incentive, if it's life insurance, for the proceeds to be paid for him to kill her," said K.C. Eynatten, a spokeswoman for State Farm Insurance. "We don't want to do that."

But several domestic-violence groups see the practice as discrimination and plan to seek legislation against it. Rep. Charles Schumer, D-NY, who has worked against domestic violence said he would ask insurance companies to end the practice and if they did not, he would introduce a bill requiring them to do so. "When you say it's OK to deprive insurance because a woman is battered, you're saying the violence isn't as serious as the other crimes," he said.

His aides said a survey of 16 insurance companies found that half "admitted to discrimination against victims of domestic violence."

State Farm Will Insure Battered Women

The New York Times reports that State Farm announced yesterday that it would no longer deny life insurance or health insurance to victims of domestic violence. "We're just not the kind of company that wants to make victims out of victims," said K.C. Eynatten of State Farm. "It became clear to us that that's what was happening."

State Farm also says that it is seeking an organization that the company can support to help combat domestic violence.

Supreme Court Upholds Teen Curfew

AP reports that the Supreme Court let stand a ruling that said a curfew adopted by the Dallas City Council in 1991 was properly aimed at "protecting juveniles from crimes on the streets."

The ordinance prohibits anyone under 17 from being in public places - including streets, stores, restaurants, schools and movie houses - after 11 p.m. on weeknights and after midnight on weekends. It has numerous exceptions for youths either accompanied by parents or guardians or with other approved reasons for being out during the curfew, which extends to 6 a.m. Those found to have violated the curfew can be fined up to \$500 for each occurrence.

In *Qutb vs. Bartlett*, 93-1571, Dallas parents and teens challenged the curfew, saying that it "convicts the innocent (and) broadly stifles fundamental liberties." They said the curfew violated their children's freedom of speech and association and parents' right to raise their families as they see fit.

Many cities across the U.S. have adopted similar curfews to curtail rising crime rates. Most, but not all, of those curfews challenged in court have been upheld.

Welfare Reform Further Delayed

AP reports that it looks less and less likely that welfare reform will be launched this year. The Clinton administration has yet to finish its plan to overhaul welfare and the congressional faces a full plate with health reform, crime legislation, spending bills and confirmation hearings for a new Supreme Court Justice. In addition, there are election-year pressures to adjourn Congress by early fall, the indictment of Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, and Democratic leaders' misgivings about cutting social programs to pay for welfare reform.

A Senate aide puts the odds for passing welfare reform at less than one in four; House aides are less optimistic and cite the difficulties of finding enough money to pay for Clinton's \$9.3 billion package. "Virtually every source of new revenue comes at a price that some members don't think is worth paying," said one leadership aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Conservatives like William J. Bennett and Jack Kemp have begun to suggest that time limits and work requirements are not the only answer to solving the welfare crisis and they propose more extreme measures such as cutting off all cash, food stamp and housing benefits to women under age 21 with children born out of wedlock. On the left, Rep. Robert Matsui, D-CA, is drafting his own bill that will emphasize work for parents on welfare, but rejects the notion of time limits.



Un Rayito De Luz

Por Sofia Martinez

Jesus, siempre, predicaba, y hacia grandes milagros para que supieran que, de veras, el era el Hijo de Dios. Jesus tambien perdonaba los pecados. Un dia estaba predicando en una casa, y alli estaban unos Fariseos que "se creian mucho", que eran muy hipocritas y muy duros de corazon, que no querian creer que Jesus era el hijo de Dios, que lo tenian como un enemigo. Jesus hablaba adentro de la casa, y se amontonaba mucha gente, que no cabian adentro, y llenaban hasta el patio y hasta la calle: Todos querian oír lo que Jesus decia, y todos querian ver los milagros que estaba haciendo. Y...de repente... llegaron unos hombres que traian una camilla con un hombre enfermo, y querian entrar...pero era tanta la gente, que no podian entrar. Y los que traian aquel enfermo subieron la camilla al techo de la casa, hicieron un agujero grande en el techo, y por alli bajaron la camilla con el enfermo y lo pusieron enfrente del Buen Jesus, donde estaba predicando. Oh, que susto se llevaron las gentes...Todos miraban aquel pobre enfermo, que tenia muchos años de estar engarrunado en su camilla, y no podia mover ni las piernas, ni los brazos, porque estaba paralitico. Se le miraba en los ojos el gran deseo que tenia de sanar.

Jesus vio la fe del paralitico, y el amor tan grande de los que lo subieron al techo, que han de haber dicho: "Este agujero lo podemos tapar despues; pero nuestro hermano hoy va a ser sanado, porque Jesus puede...ya lo hemos visto... Jesus es Dios y veia en el enfermo lo que nadie puede ver: Veia el alma y los pensamientos de aquel pobre hombre. Y veia que tenia muchos pecados. Que el alma estaba enferma, mas enferma que el cuerpo. Y el enfermo pensaba: "Mis pecados me hacen indigno, si yo fuera bueno, Jesus me concederia mi salud". Y al ver la mirada amorosa de Jesus, el enfermo sintio un gran arrepentimiento de sus pecados... Y Jesus respondo a sus pensamientos, diciendole: "Animo, hijo mio. Tus pecados te son perdonados". (Luc. 5,17-26. Mat. 9, 1-8. Mc. 2, 1-12).

Que grande la fe y el amor de aquellos que subieron al techo de la casa al enfermo. No eran, ni se parecian a aquellos otros que cuando un ciego le gritaba a Jesus: "Jesus, Hijo de David, ten compasion de mi". Aquellos lo reprendian para que se callara; pero el ciego hizo muy bien en no callarse. El tenia fe y necesitaba ver, queria ver. Que bueno que no se callo. Siguió gritando, Jesus lo oyo, hizo que lo trajeran y, Jesus, lo hizo que viera. (Mc. 10, 46-52).

Jesus no quiere que calleemos a la gente necesitada, quiere que les ayudemos a acercarse a El para que sean sanados, y para que aprendan de El y crean en El y sean salvos. (Marcos 16, 15. Lucas 10, 1-12.).

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Texsun Orange Juice
46 oz. **.98**
Gatorade Fruit Drinks
Assorted 32 oz. **.88**

Prego All Flavors 30 oz. Spaghetti Sauce
2 for \$3
DAIRY

Kellogg's Cereals
Rice Krispies 19 oz. or Raisin Bran 25.5 oz.
2 for \$5

R&F Pasta
12 oz. Spaghetti, Thin Spaghetti, Vermicelli or Elbow Macaroni
2 for .78
PRODUCE

La Corona Yogurt
Asst. 8 oz. **3 for \$1**
Minute Maid Chilled Fruit Drinks
Punch, Berry Punch, Citrus Punch or Lemonade
64 oz. **.88**

MEAT
Tyson Split Fryer Breast
.99
lb.

California Peaches
New Crop Large Size
2 lbs. \$1
California Apricots
Jumbo Size
1 lb. \$1

FROZEN
Jeno's Crispy Pizza
Asst. 7.6-8.1 oz. **.88**
Stouffer Lean Cuisine Entrees
Assorted 5.25-11.5 oz. **2 for \$3**
Stilwell Cobblers
32 oz. Apple, Peach, Blackberry, Cherry or Apricot **2 for \$4**

Wright's Sliced Slab Bacon
Vacuum Pak
\$1.29
lb.

California Iceberg Lettuce
Large Head-Untrimmed
3 for \$1

NONFOOD
Zee Paper Towels
Print or Assorted
1 ct. **.58**

Farmland Extra Tender Super Valu Pak Pork Chops
Center Cut
Regular Pak lb. **\$2.29**
United Premium Quality 96% Fat Free Half Ham
lb. **\$1.98**

HEALTH & BEAUTY
V05 Shampoos or Conditioners **.89**
Asst. 15 oz.
V05 Hairsprays or Styling Aids **\$1.69**
Asst.
PHOTO
Get your Memorial Day photos developed at UNITED.
Second set of Galaxy prints **FREE**