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March/marzo 17, 2004

Spanglish Weekly/Semanal

Vol. 35, No. 1

FOR MEXICANOS TAMBIEN, "HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY"



Last Saturday, Grupo Vida of San Antonio, Texas thrilled the audience at LSU's Scholarship Baile at the University of Toledo, where it is anticipated that over \$10,000 will be successfully raised in scholarship monies—see complete story on page 7.

Overall U.S. job safety improves, but death rate rises for mexicanos

By JUSTIN PRITCHARD Associated Press Writer

The jobs that lure Mexican workers to the United States are killing them in a worsening epidemic that is now claiming a victim a day, an Associated Press investigation has found.

Though Mexicans often take the most hazardous jobs, they are more likely than others to be killed even when doing similarly risky work.

The death rates are greatest in several Western and Southern states, where a Mexican worker is fourtimes more likely to die than the average U.S.-born worker. In Arizona, the annual Mexican worker death toll has been increasing, but because



Widow of Urbano Ramírez with UFW president, Arturo Rodríguez, at FLOC rally last March in Toledo—La Prensa Photo Archives.

of the large Mexican-born population their death rates are lower than most other states though the rates are still well above the average for U.S.born workers.

These accidental deaths are almost always preventable and

often gruesome: Workers are impaled, shredded in machinery, buried alive. Some are as young as 15.

For the first study of its kind of Mexican worker deaths in the United States, (Continued on Page 2)

Tues: 50 cents draft beer 50 cents per taco Sun: Buy 1 sandwich &

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Breves

Nuevo homicidio en Ciudad Juárez podría no ser serial Por OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ

RODRIGUEZ
CIUDAD JUAREZ,
México (AP), mar. 12: Una
mujer cuyo cuerpo
semidesnudo fue hallado esta
semana en el desierto no
parece formar parte de una
serie de unos 100 asesinatos
registrados aquí desde hace
una década, dijo la fiscalía el
viernes.

Los fiscales mencionaron indicios de uso de drogas, marcas de jeringas y otra evidencia no especificada para diferenciar el cadáver hallado el miércoles de aquellos de numerosas jóvenes asesinadas en esta ciudad fronteriza desde 1993.

«Pensamos, con la evidencia obtenida hasta ahora, que este delito no se ajusta al perfil de los asesinatos recientes», dijo María López Urbina, fiscal especial nombrada en enero por el presidente Vicente Fox para investigar el caso.

A su vez, el subprocurador del estado de Chihuaha, Oscar Valadez Reyes, dijo que

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Overall U.S. job safety improves, but death rate rises for mexicanos

(Continued from Page 1) the AP talked with scores of workers, employers, advocates and government officials and analyzed years of federal safety

and population statistics. Among the findings:

Mexican death rates are rising even as the U.S. workplace grows safer overall. In the mid-1990s, Mexicans were about 30 percent more likely to die than native-born workers: now they are about 80 percent more likely.

- Deaths among Mexicans increased faster than their population in the U.S. Between 1996 and 2002, as the number of Mexican workers grew by about half, from 4 million to 6 million, the number of deaths rose by about two-thirds, from 241 to 387. Deaths peaked at 420 in 2001.
- Though their odds of dy-

ing in the Southeast and parts of the West are far greater than the U.S. average, fatalities occur everywhere: Mexicans died cutting North Carolina tobacco and Nebraska beef, felling trees in Colorado and welding a balcony in Florida, trimming grass at a Las Vegas golf course and falling from scaffolding in Georgia.

 Even compared to other immigrants—those who historically work the U.S.'s hardest jobs-what's happening to Mexicans is exceptional in scope and scale. Mexicans are nearly twice as likely as the rest of the immigrant population to

Why is this happening? Public safety officials and workers themselves say the answer comes down to this: Mexicans are hired to work cheap, the fewer questions the

They may be thrown into jobs without training or safety equipment. Their objections may

be silent if they speak no English. Those here illegally, fearful of attracting attention, can be reluctant to complain. And their work culture and Third World safety expectations don't discourage extra risk-taking.

Simple precautions would save many lives, government records show. "Was not using any type of fall protection," concludes a government report on one worker who fell 150 feet. Says another report: "Untrained worker ... operated the equipment." Another: "Procedure was patently unsafe."

Federal and state safety agencies have started to recognize the problem. But they have limited resources—only a few Spanish-speaking investigators work in regions with hundreds of thousands of recent arrivals-and often can't reach the most vulnerable Mexican work-

President Bush's recent proposal to grantillegal immigrants temporary protections as guest workers energized the national immigrationdebate. Yet in these discussions, job safety has been an afterthought. Meanwhile, Mexicans continue to die on

Examples include FLOC's Urbano Ramírez:

Eighteen-year-old Carlos Huerta was helping build federal low-income housing in North Carolina-but because his bosses ignored basic work safety rules, according to state safety inspectors, he fell to his

Huerta was told to stand in a trash container, which a forklift raised 10 feet so he could wash a brick wall. But the improvised platform wasn't secured to the forklift's prongs, and it soon toppled.

In 2002, the year Huerta was killed and the latest year of com-

plete federal statistics, more Mexicans died in construction than any other industry-and more died from fatal falls than any other accident.

In April 2000, 16-year-old Antonio Garcia Reyes was framing the roof of a new col-lege dormitory in Alabama when he plunged three stories. He had no harness or other protection against a fall, accident investigators found.

A year ago in South Carolina, brothers Rigouerto and Moses Xaca Sandoval died building a suburban high school that, at 15 and 16, they might have attended. They were buried in a trench when the walls of sandy soil collapsed.

The United States offered $Rigouer to and \, Moses \, wages \, 10$ times higher than in México. The boys offered their employers cheap, pliant labor.

Each of these four teens had just been hired by a subcontractor, the kind of outfit bigger firms sometimes employ to keep costs down. For safety violations that led to these four deaths, the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration has fined employers a total of \$63,075

Accidents like these suggest that employers tell Mexicans to do the most glaringly perilous tasks, says Susan Feldmann, who fields calls from Spanishspeaking workers for an institute within the federal Centers for Disease Control

"They're considered disposable," she says.

However, employers are not always at fault, safety officials

Though he was trained and wearing required safety gear, Jesus Soto Carbajal severed his jugular vein with a carving in a Nebraska meatpacking plant in 2000. The blade punctured his chest just above where the protective metal mesh stopped.

"Everybody wishes they had 20-20 hindsight on this one," said Mark Klein, a spokesman for Minneapolis-based Cargill Inc., which owns the plant where workers have since been outfitted with larger protective

Sometimes a worker may misjudge a hazard. That was the conclusion of federal inspectors in the case of Manuel Topete, who punctured his heart when he tripped carrying a borrowed knife at another Nebraska meatpacking plant. He wore no protective gear because his job was to steam-clean meat, not cut it.

Soon after Topete gashed himself, supervisors moved his body and opted to restart the work line at the plant. Coworker Luis Rodríguez, who described a geyser of blood pumping from Topete's chest, still can't understand it. "The foreman came real fast and turned the chain on. Why?

Supervisors properly resumed work because they didn't know the severity of the accident, said a spokesman for the Tyson Fresh Meats plant in Dakota City, who called Topete's death "a tragic and unfortunate accident.

When Camilo Rojas died at a Georgia chicken processing plantin 2001—his head crushed by a conveyor belt from which he'd tried to dislodge a packing box-plant officials closed the bloodied production line, but ran two others that day

Urbano Ramírez, who has been one of the reasons for a five-year old boycott by Toledo's Farm Labor OrganizingCommittee(FLOC)against the Mt. Olive Company, died picking tobacco in the North Carolina summer. There was no drinking water in the field, though his crew boss sold beers on the side. That supervisor told investigators Ramírez suffered a nosebleed, so he told him to rest.

Ramírez's body was found 10 days later reclined against a magnolia tree, the only shade around. A medical examiner said he died of unknown natural causes, the body too badly decomposed for a definitive finding. His brother, Luis, suspects heat stroke.

Like Urbano Ramírez, many Mexican workers who die arrive with little more than a gradeschool education. Often they leave behind a wife and chil-[The widow of Sr. Ramírez is pictured on page one of La Prensa with UFW president Arturo Rodríguez as they attended a FLOC rally in Toledo last March.]

Criminal charges are rare fines more typical—when employers are to blame. One exception is a California dairy man who faces involuntary manslaughter charges after two of his workers drowned in liquid cow manure.

José Alatorre was overcome by fumes as he stood in the fetid stew, trying to fix a pump at the bottom of a 30-foot concrete shaft. His partner, Enrique Araisa, died trying to save him



Both men were full-time workers but, according to prosecutors, had no safety training. No one told them to ventilate the predictably hazardous air or provided a harness to extract a stricken worker.

"They didn't simply go into the shaft, they got the shaft," prosecutorGaleFiltertoldgrand jurors who indicted the dairy owner. Trial is scheduled for April.

The deaths received a burst of attention in early 2001, but just 18 months later, at another dairy in the same small town of Gustine, a third Mexican-born worker died in the same way.

Federal government statistics

The federal government catalogues those accidents and hundreds more each year in a growing roll call of dead Mexi-

The AP's investigation focused on 1996 through 2002, the most recent set of worker death data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Those were years when the economic boom coaxed about 1 million Mexicans beyond the border states, according to the best government estimates, which

(Continued on Page 3)

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Overall U.S. job safety improves, but death rate rises for mexicanos

(Continued from Page 2) may be low because of the difficulty in counting undocumented workers.

During these years, the analysis showed, Mexicans were increasingly more likely to die on the job than U.S. workers of any race.

The annual death rate for Mexicans increased to the point that about 1 in 16,000 workers died. Meanwhile, for the average U.S.-born worker, the rate steadily decreased to about 1 in 28,000.

Mexicans now represent about 1 in 24 workers in the United States, but about 1 in 14 workplace deaths.

On-the-job fatalities had distinct regional patterns:

CALIFORNIA AND TEXAS: These states, where generations of Mexicans have developed strong support networks, still rank first and second in the annual number of Mexican worker deaths-but the numbers have steadied or fallen recently. Though the death rate for Mexican workers in California is far less than in Western and Southeastern states where they have arrived in large numbers only recently. it is still greater than the average for U.S.-born workers, the AP found

SOUTH: In the bloc of states from Louisianato Maryland, the Mexican death rate averaged about 1 in 6,200 workers—four times that of native-born workers and more

than double the national average for Mexicans. Florida, North Carolina and Georgia were consistently among the deadliest states. Total deaths more than tripled from 27 in 1996 to 94 in 2002 in the South (excluding Texas), where some states saw Mexican populations triple to more than 100,000 workers.

WEST: Outside California.

WEST: Outside California, deaths in Western states increased from 41 to 58, and death rates hovered well above the national average. Colorado and Washingtonstoodout with consistently high rates. In Arizona, 95 Mexicans were killed on the job over that seven-year span and the Mexican death rate averaged about 1 in 20,400 workers.

MIDWEST: The number of Mexicans killed annually doubled between 1996 and 2002, from 19 to 38; death rates were slightly above the national average for Mexicans.

NORTHEAST: In the region with the fewest Mexicans, death rates still far exceeded U.S. worker averages. Total annual deaths rose from eight to 17, with New Jersey seeing a recent spike.

Construction was the deadliet industry. Across the naliet industry. Across the naconstruction laborers died on the job, arateone-quarter above that for native-born whites working the same job, and onethird above that for native-born blacks, though more in line with that for native-born Latinos.

Unlike the U.S. worker who may have apprenticed in a trade such as roofing or welding, a new Mexican worker might not anticipate dangers—or might ignore them, said James Platner of the Center to Protect Workers' Rights, a union-funded research institute.

"Ithink people find it easy to rationalize the hazards in their jobs," says Platner, "if their family really needs the money and they really need the job."

Federal and state safety officials are starting to grapple with the surge in Mexican worker deaths.

OSHA Director John Henshaw points to Spanish-language materials the agency has put on its Web site, as well as the agency's Hispanic Taskforce, which coordinates enforcement and educational ventures for Mexicans and other workers from Central and South America.

Safetyofficialsinhigh-growth Southern states such as North Carolina, Georgia and Florida launched outreach programs after they saw construction deaths rise. Some states cooperate with local Mexican consulates or construction associations.

Government workers have dropped in at cultural fairs and talk radio programs, conducted workshops through churches and produced training videos. The private sector also is reacting—the National Association of Home Builders is distributing some Spanish-language

safety literature in the South.

The greatest frustration is that so many deaths are avoidable.

"Ninety-five to 99 percent of the time, there's going to be noncompliance with a standard that could have prevented the fatality," says Joe Reina, the No. 2 OSHA official for Texas and four neighboring states and a leader of the Hispanic Taskforce.

Still, Reina holds workers partly responsible.

"They just don't know that they have rights and responsibilities," Reina says, among them, "the right to file a complaint."

Explaining that right is one thing, enforcing it another. Some of OSHA's own officials say their resources are insufficient and note the agency's own policies generally provide for punitive action only after an accident.

It's unclear whether Bush's guest worker program, if approved, would improve worker safety. In announcing the plan in January, Bushsaiditwouldmake the country safer by enhancing border controls and would help fill employers' needs and protect workers' rights.

AsOSHA works to improve safety, language remains a barrier. By the agency's own count, there are no Spanish-speaking inspectors or accident investigators in the half of Georgia that includes Atlanta, where tens of thousands of recent Mexican immigrants live. Some other Southern cities do have Span-

Irish-, Mexican-Americans have melded

Today, March 17th, is St. Patrick's Day. What do Irish, Irish-Americans, Mexicans, and Mexican-Americans have in common?

Numerous cities throughout the United States and Méxicohave societies named after San Patricios. These groups are made up of Irish-Americans and Mexican-Americans, such as the one in Phoenix, Arizona. According to its cofounder, "The Mexicans and the Irish are very much alike," said O'Brien. "They both like to sing, dance and fight. All the good things in life. They both value family very much. And they have that Catholic connection."

Elisea O'Donnell, vice president of LSU at the University of Toledo, agrees. "My mother is

ish-fluentenforcement officials. In its eight-state Southeast-

In its eight-state Southeastem region, OSHA has a single Spanish-speaking outreach worker. Her name is *Marilyn Velez*, and whenshe isn'tdrawn away to translate at an accident scene, she encourages workers and employers to avoid unsafe practices and unnecessary risks.

It's noteasy. Some wary workers see Velez as a police officer; others, having survived abject poverty in rural México and the deserts of the U.S. Mexico borrows.

Mexican-American and my father is Irish-American. I have grown to love both cultures and histories."

Detroit hosts an annual Mexican Irish Festival to honor these connections and to also honor the infamous San Patricios Battalion, a ragtag group of Irish immigrants who deserted the U.S. Army to join the Mexicans in their fight against the United States in the Mexican-American War of 1846. Most of the deserters were eventually hanged for treason in 1847, but it added another chapter to the Irish-Mexican connection.

In 1997, Ireland and México cemented the cultural bond by issuing commemorative stamps in honor of the deserters. These stamps are pictured on page 1 of *La Prensa*.

der, feel they don't need her.

"They are looking at you like, 'Are you crazy? I have done worse things," 'Velez says. 'It's just the way they see risk."

Sometimes the lessons do register. But the United States' Mexican labor force is constantly in flux. Workers graduate to safer jobs, or perhaps they move backhome. Theirreplacements may be the next victims.

Editor's Note: Rico de La Prensa contributed to this special report.



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Review Cleveland Gets SLAMMED!!

Special to La Prensa by Roberta M. Rosa of Lorain, Ohio Email: rican_rosa@yahoo.com

On March 6, 2004, I was humbled to sit front-row-center in the Ohio Theater at Cleveland's Playhouse Square...and, no, *Lion King* was not back in town.

The Tony Award winning Russell Simmon's Def Poetry Jam was in town. Bringing an array of hard hitting, in-your-face, I hate you, I love you, I hate you again, type poetry, called Slam Poetry, but before we can even get into the flamboyance of the show, allow me to educate you with the basics.

Before there was spoken word poetry, and the poetry was spoken, and the word was spoken from it, this form was poetry for a long time.

Poetry as words on a page is a fairly recent development, and some of the world's greatest literature originated in recitation handed down by word of mouth. That tradition has barely survived in the English-speaking world, and performing poetry now means: a) slam poetry integrated with improvisation and music as a type of performing art, and b) the reading of poetry out aloud in classroom, workshop, or poetry reading act.

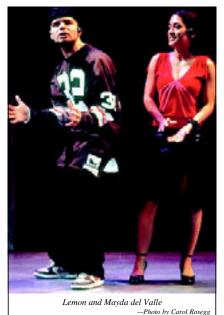
Some venues in the Northeastern Ohio area are already hip to this form of performance/writing, but in the Latino community the only poets that are recognized are the poets from before such as Miguel Algarin, the late Pedro Pietri, and Miguel Pinero. These poets laid down the cornerstones for such places as the world famous Nuyorican Poets Café

Who knew that writing your emotions down on paper and expressing them over a microphone would grow to be a multi-million dollar business? Russell Simmons did, and started Def Poetry Jam on HBO, which subsequently swept the nation. Highlighting the best and upcoming poets in the United States, which offspringed into Def Poetry Jam on Broadway that sold out for months, resulting in Def Poetry Jam on Tour.

Now if you live in the Cleveland area and haven't grasped the essence of *Slam Poetry*, here are some poets that are a must see:

Coming onto the stage is we aring a ring - a - ClevelandBrowns-jersey Lemon—the poet of felons. A Boricua that gears his pieces towards the current inmates serving years more than eleven. His electrifying, but firm, serious, but comedic, performances, kept the audience thinking, "What is he going to say next?" He is definitely not as sour as his name.

Flaco Navaja, formally of the critically acclaimed the-



ater group based out of New York, Universes. Flaco's targets the joy and pains...and the painful joys of love and

heartache, in an in-vour-face

type of way.

And last but not least, la nena that never got kicked out of Mami's Kitchen, the youngest poet and the first Latina to ever win a National Grand Slam Poetry Championship, Mayda del Valle! Mayda's performance was more of capturing the root of being a young Latina woman living in Chicago. She went from making mambo in mami's kitchen to doing a

tribute piece with Lemon on

the life of Tito Puente.

The show was excellent and enlightening. After seeing these Latino/a poets do their thing on stage, it made me want to write a piece of my own and it goes like...oh, I believe I have ran out of space.

Please look at your local listings for times and dates of HBO's *Def Poetry Jam*.

¡Si se puede!—school to be named for César E. Chávez

EUGENE, Ore. (AP): A new elementary school will be named in honor of César E. Chávez, leader of the struggle for migrant farm worker rights, officials said.

The vote followed a twomonth lobbying effort to honor a Hispanic leader that began with a suggestion from a Jefferson Middle School youth club for Hispanics, but quickly escalated.

"What can I say? Si se puede!" said student Elizabeth Sampedro, 13, after a suspenseful 4-3 vote by school board members, evoking Chávez's motto, "it can be done."

Board members had been barraged with e-mails and phone calls since a meeting last week.

Four of the seven members said they favored different names, and three of those four refused to budge.

Tom Herrmann, Mike Fox and Craig Smith all said they preferred the name Blue Heron, believing it would provide inspiration for young children.

The fourth, Virginia Thompson, said she favored another name, Chinook, but voted with the majority to honor Chávez.

Sonia Reyes, a Jefferson sixth-grader, said she felt proud of the role she and other students played.

"I think one day far away when all of us go to college, the children are going to learn how we won, how we did it," she said.





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Weekly Horoscope

BY SEÑORITA ANA

ARIES: (March 21-April 20)

It's time to consider the difference between balance and basic stagnation... and to take note of just what state you are really in. You tend to be quite critical of yourself, and judging yourself so harshly could be holding you back from bigger and better things.

TAURUS: (April 21 - May 21)
A loved one may unknowingly hurt your feelings this week. Let them know what has hurt you, and how to avoid such problems in the future. Be willing to look at any oversensitivity on your part. A personal philosophy you hold dear may be questioned, so try to go with the flow.

GEMINI: (May 22 - June 21)

There is no such thing as perfection, so don't expect as much from yourself, and those around you. Stop being so critical and learn to be good to yourself and to others. Follow your hunches this week, you will be glad you did, or sorry you didn't. Delegate responsibilities.

CANCER: (June 22 - July 23)

Your belief system may seem to be disintegrating before your eyes, and although this does not seem to be good news at the present time, it will in the long run. Take advantage of the support and care family members want to give you... family has always been there for you.

(July 24- August 23)

Try to set aside time during the week to explore any new ways of self-expression, you may uncover creative avenues that you never had previously thought of. Let a special person in your life know that they are appreciated and loved. Spend some time alone.

(August 24 - September 23)

Facing the truth in a situation may not be as damaging as you may think. Relax into the newness and you will find that it really isn't so bad; there are advantages to a new way of looking at situations. Someone may put you in your place if you monopolize others.

LIBRA: (September 24 - October 23)

Gather all that excessive and positive energy to get a task accomplished this week-there is no use in putting off what needs to be done eventually. Do not get caught up in a situation that is going nowhere. You can accomplish quite a bit if you put your heart to it.

SCORPIO: (October 24 - November 22)

It's time for a well-deserved rest this week. Along with rest should come self introspection. Pay attention to any health matters, no matter how trivial they may seem. Romance may be on hold for the time being until you review your feelings and options for how you want to proceed.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23 - December 21)

This week you probably come to some important con-clusions regarding the best use of your money. Lively discussions with family members will bring new information to the group. Be cautious of letting another know your feelings, you may just need to sit on this one awhile.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 - January 20)

Any information you may be able to glean from a family member, no matter how authoritarian this figure may seem, will be well worth any discomfort. Daydreams do serve a very useful function, but try not to get caught up in such fantasies. Financial juggling is in order.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 - February 19)

You may be able to teach another the lesson of focusing energies to profitable ends. You have good ideas for the workplace, but you need to soften your approach so that you don't turn off others. A cherished part of your life is coming apart at the seams.

PISCES: (February 20 - March 20)

Bask in the admiration of others for a job well done, and then start a clean slate. Time alone can be a real treat, so surround your self with quietness, beauty and serenity. If you are working only for money, find additional work that will leave you satisfied.

IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: You are unusually witty, adventurous, skillful and personable-so use this to your advantage. Social happenings will lead you to new friends who will liven up your life and boost your

Carla's Krazy Korner

Por Carla Soto

Ten noticias de la farandula

La noticia de la semana sin lugar a dudas fue el anuncio del divorcio de Cristian Castro y Gaby Bo, todo parece indicar que no hay vuelta de hoja y que los celos de la paraguaya fueron la causa principal de esta separación.

Alejandro Sanz acudió ayer a la embajada de España en México para expresar sus condolencias a sus compatriota.

Angélica María plasmó las huellas de sus manos en una universidad de música en la ciudad de México, en donde la actriz convivió con todos los alumnos y hasta cantó con ellos.

Pedro Almodovar canceló el estrenó de la película la mala educación protagonizada por Gael García prevista para el 17 de marzo en Barcelona, debido a los ataques terroristas en Madrid

Marco Antonio Muñiz recibirá un homenaje en Pachuca Hidalgo, por sus 58 años de carreara artística, el próximo 20 de marzo

Kate del Castillo y Demián Bichir filmarán la película American Visa en Bolivia a mediados de mayo.

Alejandra Guzmán anunció que se casará con Gerardo Gómez Borbolla, el próximo 25 de septiembre, pero sólo quiso decírselo a Cristina Saralegui, pues dice que ella es la única periodista que la ha tratado bien.

Paty Muñoz ya posó desnuda para una importante revista para caballeros y nos confesó que sólo usó algunos accesorios.

Niurka despotricó en con-

tra de Chucho Gallegos después de que publicó en su revista que la cubana y Bobby Larios no le pagaron a uno de los guardaespaldas de su boda, cosa que prendió a la pareja, pero al periodista poco le importó.

Marisol Santacruz aceptó que sale con un hombre a pesar de que hace pocos días que se separó de su esposo, pues asegura que no tiene por qué encerrarse en su casa.

Lola Beltrán hubiera cumplido 69 años este mes, por lo que su familia le llevó una serenata hasta su tumba en Rosario Sinaloa y Maribel Guardia fue la invitada principa.

Los chistes de la semana...;cuidado! son feministas

Se le acerca un hombre a Dios y le pregunta:

¿Por qué las mujeres son tan bonitas?

Dios se queda pensando y le responde:

Para que ustedes se enamoren de ellas.

El hombre se queda pensando y vuelve a preguntar:

Pero, ¿por qué son tan tontas?

Y Dios le responde: ¡Simple! ¡Para que ellas

se enamoren de ustedes.
¿En qué se parecen los
hombres guapos,
inteligentes, fieles,
trabajadores, amables,

honestos, generosos, a los extraterrestres? En que ninguno de los dos

¿Porque es lo mismo hablar con un hombre que con un perro?

Porque a los dos les hablas, te mirar, y hasta parece que te entienden...

Y los dos para conseguir algo mueven la colita...

Que es lo que no le debes de creer a los hombres?

- Mañana te pago.
- 2. me quede trabajando hasta tarde
- 3. eres la mujer que mas he querido
- 4. tu eres la primera tambien....si como no...
 - mbien....si como no...
 5. siempre te amare
- 6. y nunca te engañare ¿Porque los hombres no tienen menopausia?

Porque nunca salen de la adolescencia.

¿Porque los hombres no confian en las mujeres?

Porque no confian en alguien que sangra 5 dias y no se muere...

¿Porque los hombres dicen que las mujeres somos brujas?

Porque podemos hacer levanter una "barita" sin tocarla.

¿Porque los hombres se sientan con las piernas abiertas?

Para no aplastar el cerebro...

¿Porque existen los trav-

Porque hasta ellos se arrepienten de ser hombres. ¿Por qué sólo el 10% de

los hombres llegan al cielo? Porque si todos fueran,

sería el infierno. ¿Por qué la mayoría de las mujeres maneja mal?

Porque todos los instructores de manejo son hombres.

¿Por qué a los hombres les gustan tanto los autos y las motos?

Porque son lo único que pueden manejar.

Qué es lo que consigue que todos los hombres sean hermosos?

La oscuridad.

¿Por qué existe el machismo?



Carla Soto at LSU's Scholarship Baile

Porque de ilusiones también se vive.

¿Por qué Dios hizo primero al hombre y después a la mujer?

Porque los experimentos primero se hacen con ratas y luego en seres humanos.

¿Por qué la inteligencia de un hombre no se puede pagar con dinero?

Porque no existe una moneda de tan baja denominación.

¿Por qué el hombre ladea la cabeza para pensar?

Para que sus dos neuronas hagan contacto.

¿Cómo vuelves loco a un hombre en la cama?

Escondiéndole el control remoto.
¿Por qué los hombres

tienen la conciencia limpia?
Porque no la han usado

Breves

(Continued from Page 1)
la evidencia indica que la
muerte en cuestión podría
estar relacionada con el
narcotráfico, aunque no dio
más detalles.

«Es muy pronto para determinar la causa de este homicidio», dijo Valadez-Procuradores federales aceptaron ayudar en la investigación del delito por su posible vinculación con el narcotráfico.

Al igual que muchas de las víctimas previas, Rebeca Contreras, de 23 años y madre de tres, fue estrangulada, reveló la autopsia. Su cadáver fue encontrado el miércoles en el desierto cerca de donde fueron hallados los cuerpos de tres jóvenes en febrero del 2003, las cuales habían sido violadas.

España busca a los culpables de ataque; muertos ascienden a 200 Por ANDREW SELSKY

MADRID (AP):
Millones de españoles
protestaron el viernes en las
calles contra los peores
ataques terroristas de la
historia del país, y el grupo
separatista ETA negó toda
responsabilidad en los
atentados que provocaron la
muerte de 200 personas.

«!Asesinos!», gritaba la multitud que marchaba en mediode la lluviaen Madrid, estimada en unos 2,3 millones de personas. También se realizaron protestas masivas en Barcelona, Sevilla, Valencia v otras ciudades.

«No está lloviendo. Madrid está llorando», dijo Jorge Méndez, unestudiante de telecomunicaciones de 20 años

Tan sólo en Madrid las autoridades estimaron que cerca de 2,3 millones de personas salieron a marcharpor las calles, más de la mitad de la población capitalina.

El presidente del gobierno José María Aznar prometió el viernes capturar a los responsables de los atentados contra varios trenes, mientras la vida cotidianapareció frenarse en toda España.

Sin embargo, Aznar dijo que la investigación aún no ha determinado quién fue el responsable. Las sospechas han recaído sobre los separatistas vascos y la red terrorista al-Qaida.

El ministro del Interior Angel Acebes dijo que el jueves por la noche la policía encontró un bolso con metrallas y explosivos similares a los que utiliza ETA en uno de los trenes atacados, y manifestó que el grupo separatista sigue siendo el principal sospechoso.

La coordinación y el momento preciso de los ataques—10 explosiones en el transcurso de 15 minutos y tres días antes de las elecciones generales del Domingo—sugrireron que fueron obra de al-Qaida. Pero la dinamita empleada

(Continued on Page 16)

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BGSU

LSU jams while it raises funds for its scholarships

By Rico de La Prensa

The Latino Student Union (LSU) of the University of Toledo (UT) presented a tremendous scholarship baile on March 6th thanks to the hard work of LSU members, supporters, and friends.

It was its first scholarship dance brandishing its new name, Latino Student Union. Latino students, however, have held such annual scholarship dances for over thirty years at UT.

The evening com-menced at 6:30 PM with comida mexicana for LSU sponsors and members prepared by El Camino Real restaurant. Father Richard Notter of SS. Peter & Paul Parish offered a prayer in Spanish prior to the meal.

In attendance were Consul Antonio Meza and his son, Antonio, along with local dignitaries. Sr. Meza directs the Mexican consulate office in Detroit.

A large crowd was waiting when the baile's doors opened at 8:00PM. By that time, 700 tickets had already been pre-sold. The community knew that tickets would be scarce and, therefore, early attendance was necessary. Ticket sales were halted at 9:45PM when it became obvious that at least 1,000 would be in attendance-the seating capacity of the UT Student Union Auditorium.

For the first time, a shuttle service was offered by LSU from 8:00PM to 10:00PM, carrying the baile guests from lot 10 to the Student Union, According to LSU president Francisco Aguilar and Treasurer Cristina Alvarado, "Next year, this shuttle service will be expanded to ease the walk from

Program/event booklets had been prepared by LSU members Brenda Guel and Alex Ramírez, listing the agenda for the evening and the many supporters and sponsors, and placed on the 70plus tables in the auditorium, where numerous LSU students had spent the day decorating.

LSU member Robert Gutierrez created the advertising poster/artwork that was widely circulated in Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan.

Entertainment was provided by *Grupo Vida* of San Antonio, Texas and La Nueva Onda of Adrian, Michiganboth play primarily Tejano music, but Vida experimented a bit in its second set by including country and several English pieces.

Somos 3, an area Hip Hop/ Rap group, entertained between sets, consisting of performances by Francisco Aguilar, Stephen Johnston, and Robert Gutierrez, along with special appearances by Able & Yvonne Ramos. Johnston is a 2003 graduate of UT, the former copresident of LSU, and is currently in his freshman year of law school in Dayton.

Eddie Galan, Šr. of Fostoria and his Galan Lighting & Sound provided the sound. Galan has been in the business for over three decades, with his two sons, Jesse Villalon, and Dan Montez being involved for most of this time.

LSU members Terry and Tony Strode were the MCs. 2003co-president CeciRivera

was active in almost all phases of the dance including ticket information and decorations.

La Prensa Presents \$1,000 to LSU

In between musical sets, La Prensa presented a check for \$1,000 to Aguilar as pro-

ceeds received from the first Latino Scholarship Day with the Toledo Mud Hens, which was held last year on July 13. This year's Latino Scholarship Day is scheduled for Sunday, July 18th, with 50 per cent of the proceeds realized going to LSU. In the near future, its members will be actively selling tickets to this event for the price of \$10.

Aguilar presented a chronometer-memento to Rico Neller of La Prensa for his assistance in this year's event. La Prensa's Carla Soto introduced Consul Meza who thanked the audience for its

support. Cristina Alvarado, Aguilar, Elisea O'Donnell, and Ceci Rivera were active in promoting the event on area Latino radio programs including LatinoMix 1230AM of Toledo (Tony Rios, Carla Nayeli Soto, & Rico Pico), BGU 88.1FM of Bowling Green (Freddie Gutierrez and clan), WFOB 1430AM (Freddie WOTE Gutierrez), and 95.3FM of Adrian (Lady Di).

In addition to LSU members previously mentioned, this vear's members who actively participated include: Marisol Ibarra, Crystal You (Montez), Elicia Leal, Ophelia Salcedo, Christian Mauter, Belinda Castro, Adam Belcher, Marcus Sneed, Shacara Malone, Juan Manazaran, Jon Borland. Alvarado-Wee, Lucas Garcia, Felipe Arredondo, and other members of Alpha Si Lamda fraternity. [If I omitted any names, I apologize]

As pictured in La Prensa, this year's LSU officers are: Francisco Aguilar (president), Elisea O'Donnell (vice president), Cristina Alvarado (treasurer), and Adam Belcher (secretary). They and the other LSU members are to be congratulated for a job well done



Francisco Aguilar



Elisea O'Donnell



Cristina Alvarado

Main library to present film festival

Toledo-Lucas County Public Library will be presenting Film Movement: An Independent Film Festival, a collection of first run feature films that havenever been shown in Northwest Ohio, on six consecutive Thursday's beginning April 22 through May 28.

The series takes place at Main Library, 325 Michigan Street, in the McMaster Family Center for Lifelong Learning. Each screening begins at 6:30PM and will be followed by group discussion. The program is free and open to the public, though the films are unrated and may contain mature subjects

Film Movement: An Independent Film Festival includes:

April 22 - OT: Our Town The students at Dominguez High School in Central Los Angeles set out to put on the school's first theatrical production in more than 20 years. OT: Our Town follows the students on their discovery of the power of art and the human spirit. OT: Our Town was called "Extraordinary! Constantly surprises!

> Pure filmmaking savvy. May 13: HOP

All Justin and his father want to do is enjoy a soccer game together. This simple act sparks a chain of events leading to Justin running from the law and embarking on an adventure to reunite with his father. In order to fight the system, he must enlist the help of a former anarchist and together they will need to apply the secret of the HOP. HOP received the Joseph Plateau Prize (Belgium's Oscar) for Best Actress and Best Musical Score.

May 20: Carol's Jour-

Carol, a twelve-year-old Spanish-American girl from New York, travels with her mother to Spain in the spring of 1938, at the height of the Spanish Civil War.

Separated from her father, Carol arrives in her mother's home village and transforms the secretive family environment. Her innocence and rebellious nature drive her at first to reject a world that is at once new and foreign. But she soon journeys into adulthood through a friendship with Maruja, the village teacher, and a young local boy, Tomiche. Carol's Journey received numerous nominations and awards including the Glass Bear (Special Mention) at Berlin International Film Festival, three Gova Award nominations (Spain's Oscars) including Best New Actress and a Grand Prize nomination at Montreal

World Film Festival.

For more information about Film Movement: An Independent Film Festival, contact the library at 419-



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Marisol Ibarra and Chasity Casiano at UT's Latino Student Union Scholarship Baile.

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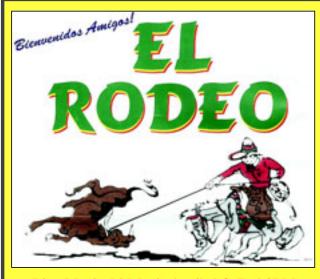
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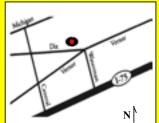
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Club Mystique, 3122 Airport Hwy [The Atrium]. salsa, merengue, & hip hop; DJ Tony Rios; Thurs is Ladies/College Night; Friday & Sat. with DJ Tony Rios, \$3 cover after 10:00PM for Thur & Fri; \$5 on Saturday after 10PM. This Saturday features Oasis Tropical, 11:30PM-12:30AM. 419.704.5108.

Las Palmas Nightclub. 3247 Stickney Ave; Live bands most Saturdays; call 419.726.8469.

The Connection. 3126 Lagrange St., live Tejano bands every Sat; DJ Lady Di on 419.242.2924.

MICHIGAN: Adrian:

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Los Galanes, 3362 Bagley St., every Friday and Saturday, Latino music; 313.554.4444

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Royal Oak: Thurs; Sky Club, 401 S. Lafayette: doors open at 8 p.m. with free dance lessons at 8:15 p.m; 21 and over; proper attire: 586,254,0560.

Utica: Argentine Tango Detroit, 7758 Auburn Road; on Tango 586.254.0560.

Ypsilanti:

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Club Metro, 2275 Ellsworth Street; Sun. is Mexican night with DJ Miguel, 10PM-2AM.

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Spanish Church **Services:**

Evangelical Assemblies of God 705 Lodge Toledo, Ohio 43609 Pastor Moses Rodríguez Miér., 7:00 p.m. Dom., 11:00 a.m. 419-385-6418

First Spanish Church of God 1331 E. Broadway Toledo, Ohio 43605 Dom., 10:00 a.m.& 5:00 p.m Mier. & Vier., 7:00 p.m. Sab., 6:00 p.m. 419-693-5895

Iglesia Bautista El Buen Pastor 521 Spencer Road Toledo, Ohio 43609 Rev Dr Alberto Martínez Berna Aguilar, Youth Pasto Miér., 6:00 p.m. Sab., 6:00 p.m. Dom., 10:15 a.m., 11:20 a.m., 6:00 p.m. 419-381-2648

> Iglesia Nueva Vida 2025 Airport Hwy Toledo, Ohio 43609 Pastor Titular: Josué Rodríguez Pastor Asociado: José Rosario Servicio de adoración: Domingos 12:30 p.m. 419-382-0954

La Primera Iglesia Bautista 628 Elm Street corner of Elm & Erie Toledo, Ohio 43604 Pastor Titular: J. Truett Fogle Pastor Asociado: Jesus Segovia Escuela dominical: 10:00

a.m. Culto de adoración: 11:00 a.m. Los cultos son bi-lengual 419-241-1546

SS. Peter & Paul 728 Guadalupe Street Toledo, Ohio 43609 Fr. Richard Notter Dom., 12:00 p.m. [en español] 419-241-5822

Primera Iglesia Hispana de Monroe

Alianza Cristiana y Misionera Pastor Jesse Morales 317 E. Front St. Monroe, Michigan 48161 Dom., 1:30 p.m. Mar. & Jue., 7:00 p.m. 734-848-4271

Primera Iglesia Bautista

Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana 3495 Livernois Street Detroit, Michigan 48210 Pastor Titular: Carlos Liese Pastor Asociado: Elí Garza Estudio Bíblico: Miér., 7:00 p.n Escuela Dominical: 10:00 a.m.
Culto de Adoración: Dom.,
11:00 a.m. 313-894-7755

Nueva Creación United Methodist Church 270 Waterman St. Detroit MI Services: Juev. at 7:00 p.m. & domingo a 5:30 p.m.

Editor's Note: Churches desiring to be included in this directory should e-mail the information to Rico, c/o laprensal@yahoo.com, or fax to 419.241.5774, or call 419.870.6565 o 313.729.4035

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LA PRENSA'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

March 18, beginning at 6:30PM: University of Toledo will host its 4th Annual Latino Student Recognition Awards honoring 132 Latinos, Student Union Room 2592. Call Dr. Dagmar Morales at 419-530-2992.

March 20, 7:00PM: Ballet Folklorico Mayahuel, 7th Anniversary Concert; accompanied by Trio Los Reales de Colima, and special guest Grupo de Danza Folklorica Conin; at the Western International High School Auditorium, 1500 Scotten, Detroit; Call Holy Redeemer Rectory at 313-842-33450; \$8 for adults and \$6 for children 5-12 years old.

March 24: FLOC's annual March for Justice on Broadway Avenue near Golden Rule Park, Toledo; 419.244.1265.

April 17-18: auditions for West Side Story; St. Mary's School Hall, 7th & Reid Ave., Lorain; 440-233-5072.

April 27: Latino Parent's Night at the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, downtown Toledo, sponsored by the Latino Youth Summit Com-

April 28: Latino Youth Summit, University of Toledo.

Any listings? Contact Rico at 419-870-6565 or 313-729-4435. Always call ahead before going to any event in case of last minute time changes.

Jesse Villalon, the Monitor Man. dead at 45

Jesse Villalon Sr., age 45, decresendoed, or passed away, March 9, 2004, at his home. Jesse was known as "Big Daddy" by his loving family but in Tejano music circles he was the Monitor Man.

Jesse was heavily involved in Tejano music for over three decades and worked primarily with Eddie Galan, Sr. for over 25 years, fine-tuning the various sound equipment necessary to properly amplify and magnify sound at a Tejano concert or gig.

According to Galan, Sr., "He was the best Monitor Man I ever saw in the Tejano world. I would never let anyone other than Jesse touch our monitor boards."

He was part of the crew that provided the sound lights at last Saturday's Latino Student Union successful biale at the University of Toledo.

According to musician, record producer, and TV and radio personality Tony Rios, "Jesse was super fun to be around. He was always direct and to the point. He was a great monitor



man. He will be missed." Musician and composer

Tony Avila, cofounder of the Midwest Tejano Music Awards and director of its Houseband, informed La Prensa, "Iknew Jesse for over 15 years and really got to know him at the MTM Awards. He was part of the Galan team at these annual shows and he made them happen. Jesse was always there when Rico and I needed him. Jesse was the best

Tejano monitor man.' Musician Rubén Ramos was a close friend of Jesse. "I played for his wedding 24 years ago and sang "Just My Imagination," which was Eva's and his favorite song. He was a great monitor man and cook. He will be dearly missed. As I understand it, the owner of Rocky's bar, who hosts an annual Jigg's Dinner, is donating 50 per cent of this years proceeds from his dinner to Jesse's family. Jesse cooked that meal every year.'

Jesse was a chef at Arnies Saloon for many years. He loved sports, being outdoors, taking vacations with his familv, and most of all, cooking. He was a loving husband, father, brother and friend with a great sense

Jesse was loved by evervone whose lives he touched and will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him. Jesse was preceded in death by his par-Robert and Guadelupe Villalon Sr.

He is survived by his wife, Eva Villalon; daughter, Erica Renee Villalon; sons, Jesse James Eric Villalon Jr. and Jason Michael Villalon; sisters, Minnie (Simon) Vasquez, Mary (Noe') Martínez, Angie (Ray) Quintanilla; brothers, Robert (Mary) Villalon Jr., Paul (Shirley) Villalon, Harry Villalon; and many extended family and friends

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- Proof of age, other than a driver's license.
- Social Security Income letter and card.
- Name and address of any other source of income, including whole or universal life insurance
- Name and addresses of all bank accounts
- Last 12 months print out of all medical professionals and pharmacies.

Name and address of current and past landlords for three years, if applicable

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Consulado de México anuncia Consulado Móvil en área Pontiac para el 27 de Marzo

Detroit, MI: El Consulado de México para Michigan y Ohio informa que el próximo sábado 27 de marzo, se llevará a cabo el primer consulado móvil de este año en el área de Pontiac.

"De esta manera, atenderemos la gran necesidad de identificación de cientos de mexicanos que viven y trabajan en esta área del Estado, sin que se vean en la necesidad de perder un día de trabajo o tengan que trasportarse hasta nuestras oficinas", indicó el Cónsul Antonio Meza Estrada. "Estamos trabajando por nuestra gente".

El lugar donde se realizará el consulado móvil, es en Summit Place Mall, ubicado en el 315 N. Telegraph Road, Waterford, Michigan 48328, de las 9:00am a las 17:00pm. Se recomienda a todas las personas que deseen realizar algún trámite, llegar temprano al lugar y llevar consigo todos los documentos que se tengan disponibles para acreditar su nacionalidad mexicana.

Los trámites que se podrán realizar en este consulado, serán: expedición de Matriculas Consulares y Pasaportes, documentos de gran importancia para la identificación de los mexicanos.

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TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS – NEW OAKDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL INFORMATIONAL UPDATE

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Board of Education of the Toledo Public School District until **12:00 NOON on APRIL 13, 2004**, at the Toledo Public Schools Treasurers' Room 3, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608, for all labor material and supervision necessary for the New Oakdale Elementary School, as more fully described in the drawings and specifications for the project prepared by The Collaborative Inc. and will be opened publicly and read immediately thereafter.

Bid Documents for the project may be examined at the F.W. Dodge plan rooms in Maumee, Dayton, Columbus, Ft. Wayne, and Southfield; Reed Construction Data in Novi, MI, Ohio Construction News in Cleveland, Builders Exchange in Cleveland, University of Toledo – Capacity Building, E.O.P.A. – Hamilton Building, Northwest Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Northwest Ohio Black Chamber of Commerce.

Bidders may obtain copies of the documents starting March 10, 2004, which can be purchased from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Rd., Toledo, OH, 43615 phone: (419) 385-5303. Drawings only with the purchase of the manual may be obtained on CD-Rom for no cost.

A PREBID CONFERENCE is scheduled for March 23, 2004, at 2:00pm at the Oakdale Swing Space School, 1701 E. Broadway St., Toledo, OH 43605.

If you have any questions, or if you need additional information, please direct all questions in writing to Amy Runge, LGB-LLC fax (877) 281-0784.

Bid Package Estimate:

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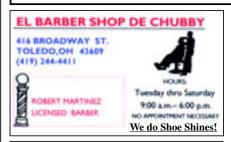
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Notice of Change of date of Chávez function

Adelante, Inc.'s 2nd Annual César E. Chávez Award and Dinner, originally scheduled for March 31-Chávez's birthday-has been cancelled and postponed to September, Call 419.241.8440 for any auestions or concerns.

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Notice of Public Hearing

The Board of Commissioners of the Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) is preparing to submit its Five-Year and Annual Public Housing Agency (PHA) Plan to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2004.

A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, April 7, 2004, at 4:00PM

in the McClinton Nunn Community Building, 425 Nebraska Avenue, Toledo, Ohio. This hearing will provide interested citizens with pertinent information regarding the strategic goals and program activities of the LMHA. Citizens are encouraged to attend this public hearing to provide their input on the PHA Plan. Copies of the Plan with proposed revisions will be available for viewing at: 430 Nebraska Avenue, 211 S. Byrne Road, and 131 Indiana Avenue, Toledo, Ohio, and LMHA's website:

Should any attendee require auxiliary aids due to a disability, please contact the LMHA administrative office (419) 259-9457 at least one week prior to the hearing date to ensure your needs will be accommodated.

> Robert Houck, Chairman Lawrence E. Gaster, Executive Director



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AVISO

Durante largo tiempo el sistema de la pena de muerte se ha caracterizado por racismo que afecta desproporcionamente a la población afroamericanos, pero con menor frecuencia se observa que la pena de muerte es aparentemente también discriminatoria contra los latinos. Si se analizan las ejecuciones pendientes de delincuentes juveniles, es decir, aquellos acusados por un delito cometido cuando eran menores de 18 años, se observa un perturbador respaldo a la matanza patrocinada por el Estado de los jóvenes latinos.

Cuatro de cuatro delincuentes juveniles cuya ejecución está programada para este año, todos en el estado de Texas, son latinos: Edward Capetillo, Efrain Pérez, Raul Villarreal y Mauro Barraza. De forma predecible, dado que los estudios demuestran regularmente que la raza de la víctima es un factor determinante para la decisión de quiénes serán los condenados que recibirán la pena de muerte, los cuatro fueron condenados por la muerte de personas de raza caucásica. Amnistía Internacional ha expresado su preocupación acerca del prejuicio racial presente en el caso de Edward Capetillo, el único de los cuatro condenados por el asesinato de Kimberly Williamson para quien el Condado de Harris, Texas, procuró obtener la pena de muerte. Los otros tres condenados eran blancos. Se decidió la pena de muerte para Capetillo a pesar de que sus antecedentes no son típicos de la mayoría de los delincuentes juveniles que se encuentran en el corredor de la muerte: no tenía antecedentes penales, era un atleta prometedor en la escuela secundaria y provenía de una familia estable. La ejecución de Capetillo está programada para el 30 de marzo.

El mes pasado, los miembros de la familia, maestros, amigos y miembros de la comunidad que atestiguaron a favor de Capetillo en su etapa de sentencia se habrán sentido seguramente complacidos al enterarse de que la Suprema Corte de EE.UU. planea revisar la constitucionalidad de la pena de muerte para delincuentes juveniles este otoño. Desde que se hizo este anuncio, el Juez Scalia ha otorgado una suspensión de la pena del delincuente juvenil afroamericano Anzel Jones, pero hasta ahora no se ha aplicado el mismo tipo de suspensión para ninguno de los latinos condenados a morir a partir de este mes. Muchos defensores de la abolición de la pena de muerte tienen la esperanza de que los jueces pronto otorguen otras suspensiones, teniendo en cuenta los comentarios hechos en el pasado por la Corte, en los que se describía a la ejecución de los menores de edad como "incompatible con la evolución de las normas de la decencia en una sociedad civilizada". De hecho, Estados Unidos sigue siendo el único país del mundo donde periódicamente se ejecutan delincuentes juveniles, a pesar de que esto constituye una violación flagrante al derecho internacional y a varios tratados internacionales que protegen los derechos de los niños (los únicos otros países donde recientemente se ha condenado de forma esporádica a delincuentes juveniles son China, la República Democrática del Congo, Irán y Pakistán).

Sin embargo, Texas insiste en que no habrá redención para Capetillo, ni para ninguno de los veintiocho condenados que se encuentran en el corredor de la muerte por delitos cometidos a la edad de diecisiete años: trece hispanos, ocho afroamericanos, seis caucásicos y un asiático. El Estado de la Estrella Solitaria, como se lo conoce a Texas, ha sido desde hace rato el líder nacional de condenas de delincuentes menores de edad, al ser responsable del 60 por ciento de estas ejecuciones desde que se reimpuso la pena de muerte en 1977.

A pesar del creciente consenso nacional de que la pena de muerte para los delincuentes juveniles es vergonzosamente inmoral, además de la revisión pendiente de la Suprema Corte, el estado de Texas se prepara para proseguir con las programadas ejecuciones de Capetillo, Pérez, Villarreal y Barraza. Como dijo el Fiscal de Distrito del Condado de Harris Charles Rosenthal al Houston Chronicle, burlándose de los recientes acontecimientos en el área legal con respecto a la pena de muerte para los delincuentes juveniles: "Hasta que un tribunal me diga lo contrario, las ejecuciones siguen en pie".

El sistema de justicia de Texas ha calificado a demasiados jóvenes (en su mayoría latinos) como incapaces de arrepentirse, irrecuperables y mejor muertos. Si bien se espera que para este otoño la Corte Suprema de los Estados Unidos falle a favor de la abolición de la pena de muerte contra delincuentes juveniles, la justicia puede llegar demasiado tarde para algunos. Todos sufrimos cuando los derechos de nuestros hijos no están protegidos, y cuando los jóvenes y vulnerables son castigados con la negación máxima de los derechos humanos. Se debe acabar con el asesinato de más jóvenes y la inmoral práctica de la pena de muerte para los menores debe terminar para siempre.

—Tamara Gomez-Quiñones es una activista de Amnistía Internacional EE.UU. Ella es de Los Angeles, California.

Amnistía Internacional está actualmente en campaña para poner fin a las ejecuciones de menores de edad en todo el mundo. Para más información, visite http://www.amnestyusa.org/abolish/racialprejudices.html o http://www.amnestyusa.org/spanish/abolicion/ejecuciondemenores/index.s.html.

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Breves

(Continued from Page 6) en las bombas inclinó la balanza para el lado de la ETA.

Sin embargo, el grupo separatista vasco negó toda responsabilidad en los atentados.

El diario Gara, usado con frecuencia por la ETA para difundir sus comunicados, dijo a The Associated Press que una persona que se identificó como representante de la organización llamó a la sala de redacción para negar las acusaciones del gobierno de que el grupo llevó a cabo los atentados, los peores en la historia de España.

La ETA «no tiene responsabilidad alguna en los ataques de Madrid», dijo la persona que llamó, según un funcionario del periódico.

Lacifra de muertos se elevó de 192 a 199, dijo el ministro de Justicia Rafael Alcalá, y agregó que aún deben ser identificados 83 cadáveres.

Aznar indicó que entre las víctimas fatales había 14 extranjeros: tres peruanos, dos hondureños, dos polacos, un francés, unchileno, un cubano, un ecuatoriano, un colombiano, un marroquí y unapersonade Guinea-Bissau.

Más de 1.400 personas resultaron heridas el jueves, mientras intentaban escapar pisoteándose unas a otras. Hay 59 lesionados en condición grave, dijo Aznar.

En rueda de prensa Aznar prometió encontrar a los responsables de los ataques.

«Entregaremos a los culpables a la justicia», expresó Aznar, y agregó que el gobierno «no descarta ninguna línea d investigación».

En un principio, las autoridades españolas responsabilizaron a los separatistas vascos por la serie de 10 explosiones registradas en varios trenes durante la hora de mayor tráfico, pero también estudiaban el reclamo de responsabilidad efectuado por un grupo en nombre de la red el Ocido.

La policía encontró una camioneta robada con siete detonadores y una grabación en árabe de versos del Corán.

El diario árabe Al-Quds al-Arabi—con sede en Londres—dijo el jueves haber recibido un comunicado en el que el grupo islámico Abu Hafs al-Masri, en nombre de la red al-Qaida, se reivindica los atentados.

El comunicado afirma que la «escuadra de la muerte de la brigada» penetró «uno de los pilares de la alianza de los cruzados, España».

Editor's Note: With the tragic loss of 200 individuals in multiple bomb blasts in Madrid, Spain, last Sunday, the voters of Spain ousted Prime Minister José María Azner's Popular Party and elected the Socialist Party's candidate. According to the New York Times, the Socialist victory was viewed as a repudiation of Mr. Azner, whose party had been in power for 8 years, and his vigorous support of U.S. president Bush's War on Iraq. It also created a problem for the U.S.-led Iraqi occupation, where Spain has 1,300 troops—the Socialists have stated that they would withdraw the troops without a clear UN mandate.

Trial ends in hung jury in shooting of local boxer Torres

A jury trial that began last week in Lucas County Common Pleas Court for Joshua Herrera, 18, accused of the shooting death last year of an East Toledo man, Ricky Torres, ended up in a hung jury before Judge James Bates.

Seven of the 12 jurors had voted for acquittal, with five jurors voting for a conviction, resulting in the hung jury. For a conviction, a unanimous decision is required under state law.

Herrera faces a potential 10-year prison sentence if convicted of voluntary manslaughter for the death of Mr. Torres, 21, of East Broadway. It is expected that a new trial will be rescheduled, but this issue has not been decided yet by the Lucas County Prosecutor, Julia Bates. For this reason, numerous supporters of the victim, Mr. Torres, picketed in front of the Lucas County Courthouse last Monday as depicted in the photograph.

Mr. Torres, prominent boxer in the city, was shot Sept. 27, 2003 as he leaned into an automobile window in the 2200 block of Seaman Street in East Toledo.





Torres' supporters in front of the Lucas County Courthouse as patrolman Abe Días looks on.

