June 15th 1988

Hispanic News

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Center Aims to Register Minorities
To Increase Voter Participation

By Sonia D.T. Rodriguez

The Center for Participation in Democracy is hoping to register 42,000 minorities, youths and low income people to vote in the November elections statewide.

"There are 6.5 million eligible unregistered voters in California. We hope to register 1 million by October," said Bettina Duran, project coordinator for the center located at Casa Ramona in San Bernardino.

The Center for Participation in Democracy is headquartered in Los Angeles with 18 projects throughout the state.

Nationally the turn-out of eligible voters in presidential elections has declined from a high of 85% in 1876 to a low of 53% in 1984. Similarly, the turn-out of eligible voters in statewide elections in California is on the decline — 44% of the eligible voters voted in the 1986 general elections — the lowest percentage turn-out since 1930, according to statistics from the center.

Duran noted that out of the 2.1 million Hispanics eligible to vote, 1.5 million are not even registered to vote. "They need to be educated. When we try and register them, they say their vote won't make a difference — but it will."

Duran and her staff, made up mostly of volunteers, try and reach minorities, youth and low income people at a number of places in the area.

"Our volunteers are the most important people we have working for us — without them, we couldn't get our job done," said Duran. The center locates people at high traffic areas where their target people frequent. Duran is always looking for more volunteers to register people to vote.

The center hoped to have registered 315,000 by May 11; however, to date 50,000 have been registered statewide.

"If I think we just started a little late. The center opened on April 22 here in San Bernardino, too close to the primaries."

So far the center has registered 2,000.

Center, cont. on p.9

Willie Velasquez Has Plans For the Future

By Darryl Figueroa

When you speak to William Velasquez by telephone, you receive no clue that the man is in a hospital bed, beginning a battle against kidney cancer, an uncommon disease that had spread to several parts of his body before he even knew he was sick.

Willie, who turned 44 on May 9, shares his plans for the future and talks of the ongoing work of his creation, the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, with the same enthusiasm as always shown.

I remind myself that he is at the M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston with an IV unit pumping four bottles of vitamins and medicine into his arm. Velasquez was originally admitted to the Santa Rosa Hospital in San Antonio on May 15 after his wife, Jane, had insisted his increasing fatigue demanded a checkup.

For those unfamiliar with his work, Velasquez is the dynamo responsible for increasing voter registration of Hispanics by 25 percent around the country and for the resulting increase in the number of Latino elected officials. Raul Yzaguirre, president of the National Council of La Raza, a Hispanic service organization, assesses his impact: "The number of Hispanic elected officials has doubled over the last 10 years. A good part of the credit for that must go to Willie."

"After a few interruptions from nurses, Velasquez reminds me why Hispanics have remained for so long outside the political process. "Not voting was not apathy. It was a political statement," he affirms. "When the system is fixed to work as designed, when Mexicans know they truly have a chance to elect their own representatives, they register to vote in greater numbers than Anglos."

As President of SVREP since its inception in 1974, Velasquez has led more than 1,000 voter registration campaigns in 200 cities throughout the region. His inspiration and formula led to the establishment of the increasingly active Midwest/Northeast Voter Registration Education Project.

He and his organization have produced more than a million Hispanics into exercising a voice frozen silent from Velasquez, cont. on p.9

Personal Profile

R.V. "Chico" Rosales
San Bernardino County Sheriff's Detective

Vera Lopez Scholarship recipients Daniel Christian Muro and Laura Patricia Gomez at dinner held June 4. Muro from San Bernardino High School will be attending Pitzer College. Gomez who will be graduating from Cajon High School will be attending Cal State San Bernardino.

Other recipients included Armond Lawson, Jackie Carlson, Fred Lopez, Jorge Lopez, Celeste Monroe, Thryron Owings, Christina Dewey and Vicky Shoisky.

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Photograph By Bob Ramirez

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Photograph By Bob Ramirez
Hispanic Voter Apathy -- What's The Cure?

By Graciano Gomez
Publisher

The June 7 primary election results made political history. Some election results being predictable and others, predicted to go either way.

The margin of victory in the primary election was 349.5 percent. This is the third lowest primary election turnout since the late fifties. Another voter turnout was 43 percent. This is the third lowest primary election turnout prediction in the historical low Hispanic voter turnout. Voter statistical analysis have not been published as yet, however, this writer's discussion with numerous individuals within our community indicated the lack of interest to participate in the election process. (some individuals stating that certain elections had become "vulgar").

There has been an increase in the participation by Hispanics in the political process within the last twenty years. Hispanics have been elected to local offices, including school districts, councilmanic post and State offices. This is good news. However, we are barely scratching the surface.

Our black brothers and sisters have been increasingly active in every facet of the political process. Nationwide, the black population has registered and has exercised their vote. in every political level. They are heard when grievances are raised. The biggest impact has been the recent primary election. Jesse Jackson, as a presidential candidate, received millions of votes on his behalf. The majority of these votes were from the black population. As a result, Jesse Jackson has a direct impact on the National Democratic Platform. and Rightly So.

The general election in November will have a significant impact on all of us, in terms of electing Democratic candidates who will have a vote in the apportionment of our political boundaries in 1990, increasing Assembly and Congressional districts which would give the Hispanic voter an opportunity to elect Hispanic candidates to these offices. This is only one of many reasons why Hispanics should register and vote.

We desperately need persons to commit their time and effort to volunteer in political education, voter registration, involvement in every level of political activities, and most importantly, to get Hispanics to vote.

Currently, there are two organizations that are planning to become involved in voter registration and developing a political data base. The Center for Democratic Participation and Impact-88 Mobilizing for Presidential Elections and Beyond are organizing voter programs for registration and education. They are seeking volunteers to participate in this worthwhile project. This is a commendable effort which should be supported the total Hispanic community.

There is no justifiable reason why every eligible Hispanic should not be registered.

Correction Policy

The Inland Empire Hispanic News will publish any corrections regarding factual errors or misleading information.

Wednesday, June 15, 1988 Vol. 1-No.19

Hispanic Link

By Rafael C. Castillo

San Antonio, Texas — My niece had rented the video cassette "Giant," starring Rock Hudson and Elizabeth Taylor. We sat around the living room and watched it. A poignant scene where Juana, the wife of the ostracized son (played by Dennis Hopper), was refused service at a beauty shop because she was Mexican drew my niece's curiosity. She was surprised that Hispanics were so blatantly discriminated against during the '50s. Now entering a period of introspection, she is asking more questions about her cultural roots. She wants to become a civil rights lawyer.

While over the years racism has become more sophisticated, layered with the thick cometic facade of the ethnic joke, my father still remembers a time when people told you flatly, "Sorry, bud. No Mexicans allowed," or "Get in, son." I'd stare at my father's countenance: his dark hair, his sad, humble features, that large forehead of his. We drove for miles without a word. He lit a cigarette. I was lost to a reverie of counting telephone poles when he abruptly asked, "Well, did you buy any candies?" The tone of his question made me accept that a diachronic process was about to begin.

"No, sir." "Why not?" "Because the man said he didn't have any more." "And did he?" "Yes, he did." "Why do you suppose he refused to sell you any?" "I guess because of my color!"

... Pretty soon you'll have all them pepperbellies comin' in here buying candies.

"Do you think that's right?"
"No.
"And do you hate him, and think all people are the same as he is?"
"No, sir."
"Why?"
"Because the man was ignorant." I said. It was my father's way of teaching me, a kind of Socratic dialogue, to make me confront a problem and understand Pennies, cont. on p.5
Personal Profile: Ramiro "Chico" Rosales

By Sonia D.T. Rodriguez

Ramiro “Chico” Rosales was born 43 years ago in the small south Texas town of Donna in the Rio Grande Valley. A year after graduating from high school, with Vietnam going strong, he decided “it was time to go” into the service.

It was in the service that he was given the nickname “Chico” by another Marine Corps, veteran, who served in Vietnam going strong, he decided “it was time to go” into the service.

He was discharged on May 29, 1968. He remembers driving to California and hearing about the assassination of Robert Kennedy on the radio.

“I came to California because I wanted to be a Los Angeles cop.” However, after his first trip into Los Angeles he realized he would not be happy working there. “There were so many cars, and people and freeways — and this was on a Saturday,” he remembered. “I was ready to go back home that same day, but a cousin in Pomona convinced me to stick it out.”

Rosales almost immediately was hired by the Chino Men’s Institute as it refers to its as “The Joint.” He worked for “The Joint” for two years. In 1970 he was called by the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department. Rosales went through the academy and on Feb.

Rosales volunteered because he wanted to help his country by fighting in Vietnam, ironically, he never set foot on Vietnam. Instead, he mostly served in many cars, and people and freeways — and this was on a Saturday,” he remembered. “I was ready to go back home that same day, but a cousin in Pomona convinced me to stick it out.”

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Vietnam and was awarded the Purple Heart medal. Earp is past president and life member of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 47.

Dennis L. Stout, a U.S. Army veteran and Mayor of Rancho Cucamonga. Stout is a charter member of the Rancho Grande Kiwanis Club.

Alice White a U.S. Army veteran and member of America Legion Post 106. White has worked over 3,000 hours as a volunteer at the Pettis V.A. Medical Center.

* The Veteran Service Organization of the Year award will be presented to the Department of California American Legion.

* Tickets are $25 per person. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Aurelio W. DeLaTorre at (714) 387-5987.

* MANNY ARRIETA, Owner

* HORacio "Zack" EARP, a U.S. Marine Corps. veteran, who served in Vietnam, is past president and life member of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

* Dennis L. Stout, a U.S. Army veteran and Mayor of Rancho Cucamonga. Stout is a charter member of the Rancho Grande Kiwanis Club.

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Rómulo 27, 1971 he started working for the Sheriff’s Department as a Glen Helen Deputy Sheriff.

Through the years Rosales has worked as a patrolman, as a narcotics agent, and a detective. “Working in narcotics taught me a lot about people.” Rosales traveled all over the state from San Diego to Northern California following drug deals.

Rosales is presently a detective for the Labor Detail where he works with industrial labor. “I deal with the unions and help protect federal civil rights that are notoriously violated by law enforcement personnel.” Rosales serves as a labor liaison.

On occasion, Rosales serves as a media contact person for the Sheriff’s Department. He handled the media relations for the fatal shooting in Rancho Cucamonga of a young man, with the laser gun. Since that incident made international news, Rosales was seen around the world as the spokesperson for the county’s law enforcement agency.

Rosales recommends anyone in a career in law enforcement, join the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department because “true deep-seated politics have not yet caught up with it.”

“If you want to go into law enforcement, go into it for the people, because there is no money in it. You have to want to work with people.”

After serving 17 years with the Sheriff’s Department, Rosales loves his job, especially working with people. Rosales and his wife “Glendy” have three children, Monica 20, Martin 18 and Victor 14.

American Legion State Commander to Speak At Veterans Award Banquet

Mike Canales, State Commander for the American Legion, will be the keynote speaker of the fifth annual awards dinner to recognize the achievements of local veterans and their families at the Inland Empire Veterans Recognition Committee banquet on Saturday, June 18, at the American Legion Post #155 in Colton at 6:30 p.m., Aurelio W. DeLaTorre, Dinner Chair of the Inland Empire Veterans Recognition Committee, announced recently.

The event is open to the public. The organization will present its Veteran of the Year and Veteran Service Organization of the Year citations and will award college scholarships to two local high school graduates, who are descendants of veterans.

More than 250 people are expected to attend the annual awards dinner, which is sponsored by Budweiser beer and Anheuser-Busch’s Wholesale Operation Division.

Award recipients for this year’s Veteran of the Year Award are:

* H.R. “Zack” Earp, a U.S. Marine Corps. veteran, who served in the Middle East.

* Dennis L. Stout, a U.S. Army veteran and Mayor of Rancho Cucamonga.

* Alice White a U.S. Army veteran and member of America Legion Post 106.

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Bumper Kindergarten Class Expected For Fall

There are a lot of 5-year-olds out there—nearly 4,000 of them by school district estimates—who will begin their formal education in the San Bernardino City Unified School District in September. But exactly where do they live? While a bumper kindergarten crop is forecast in the city schools next fall, the 1988-89 kindergarten registration is something of a crop failure. Only 750 students have signed up for next year's kindergarten classes and that's almost 3,000 fewer than are expected.

"While we have been able to accurately predict our overall numbers of students each year, mobility within the district and other complicating factors sometimes makes it difficult to judge how the number will be distributed among our schools," E. Neal Roberts, District Superintendent said. "That’s where preregistration of kindergartners can help us. The preregistration will indicate where we need to open a new class and where we may have more classes than we need. The better we can plan now, the fewer teacher transfers and student class reorganizations we will need next year."

School officials point out that early registration now may save parents time and aggravation next fall when there may be lines of late-registering parents. In some cases, kindergarten classes may be filled at the student’s regular school and the kindergartner may be assigned to the nearest school with a kindergarten opening.

Lack of preregistration is compounded by the existence of year round schools and magnet schools. The district provides an academic kindergarten for mature five-year-olds who possess the ability to move rapidly into a program of academic performance geared to a faster pace than regular kindergartens. There is also a full-day kindergarten, again for mature youngsters who can handle a six and a half hour school day rather than a three hour day. Like the overall preregistration, registration for these two programs is down. Persons interested in more information about this program may call Cindy Yelm at 862-7111. Year round schools continue to be a problem in terms of kindergarten registration. People moving into a neighborhood in late spring or early summer assume that there is no need to worry about kindergarten registration until September. Actually, for students at Lincoln, 255 West 13th St.; Lytle Creek, 275 South K St.; Emmerton, 1888 Arden in Highland; Riley, 1266 North G St; and North Park, 5378 North H Street; the school year begins on July 5.

Parents may register their kindergartner at the school serving their home neighborhood. Parents should have a copy of the child’s birth certificate and their immunization record when the child is enrolled. School offices are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. While June 16 is the last day of school, the school offices will be open for two weeks after that date.
Business Of The Week: Midtown Auto Body

By Sonia D.T. Rodriguez

Turning in his tie for a pair of overalls, Ray Silva, owner of Midtown Auto Body, stopped selling cars last year and went into business for himself. "I had been restoring cars and trucks only as a hobby at my home," said Silva. He started receiving inquiries from people who would see his classic cars in his driveway. The large amount of potential prompted him to open Midtown Auto Body located at 416 East Rialto Avenue in San Bernardino.

"I do complete restoration of "old iron" (older model cars that are considered useless). If you don't enjoy this type of work, you will not last long doing it because it takes a lot of hard work. At most body shops, you simply replace the damaged body parts—with older cars you have to repair the body with a torch, dolly and hammer because these are hard to find parts.

An automobile will be brought into Midtown Auto Body, sometimes with the assistance of a tow truck and receive a complete makeover including engine work, new upholstery, and body work. The same automobile will leave looking brand new.

He receives a number of customers through referrals. "I'm doing a truck for a guy from Huntington Beach right now. I'm also expecting a truck from San Diego very soon." Silva specializes in 1947 to 1957 Chevrolet trucks.

Silva also does body work on new cars except he will not take insurance work. "I have my customers pay me and they settle with their insurance." Silva noted that it was taking him too long to clear insurance checks.

Learning body work in high school, Silva always dreamed of owning a '53 Chevrolet pickup and restoring it. Silva continues to relive his dream.

Before and after pictures of a 1966 Ford Mustang which has been renovated at Midtown Auto Body.

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In Puerto Rico, San Juan Day is celebrated annually all over the island June 24. There are other San Juan Day celebrations in various parts of the world, including South and Central America, and Mexico. The following is a historical account of how the San Juan Day celebration first began.

On Columbus’ second voyage he discovered Puerto Rico. He named the island San Juan Bautista. It is ironic that it is the island “San Juan Bautista”.

Upon discovering the island, Columbus needed water. He headed southward hugging the island coast. He came upon a bay and went in. He anchored the ship there, and sent his crew to shore to bring back water at any cost.

They had spotted some Indians at the beach. Both the Spaniards and the Indians were curious. The Indians had never seen these types of boats. The Spaniards edged to the shore with their weapons ready, in case the Indians would start trouble. They saw that the Indians were busy preparing a shallow pit, and the Indian women were preparing some food. Since the Indians didn’t bother them, they began to drag the boats into the sand, while the Indians scrutinized them closely. They were very friendly to the Spaniards.

The Indians in these parts were the “Boriquen” Indians. They were the most docile of the four tribes of the island. The others were the “Caribes” who were the most savage and fearless.

The “Guanaives” and the “Tainos” were less fearless. The Caribes and the Guanaives occupied two thirds of the island and the Tainos and Boriquen the other part.

The Spaniards didn’t know that the Boriquen they had met ashore were preparing for a great festival. During this festival all Indians were at peace. The Spaniards didn’t know what they were celebrating. Nevertheless, the Spaniards went among them without much fear, as they saw that the Indians were very friendly. The Spaniards began to use sign language in asking the Indians for water, so the Spaniards brought up their fist, making like a cup towards their mouth, the Indians thought that they were asking for fire water. They brought a clay jar full of a white substance that looked like water, and gave it to the Spaniards. The Spaniards put some of that white stuff in their hands to taste it. They took a sip and spat it out fast, choking. It burned, and they smelled it. They talked among themselves. This liquid wasn’t like their own liquor. But it was some kind of alcohol. They knew it was a distilled liquor. The Indians said in their own language that it was “Firewater”. One of the Spaniards said it was like “pi-torro”. The Indians that heard it, repeated it and others followed with “Pi-torro, Pi-torro”. So now the Indians were calling their fire water “Pi-torro”. It stuck to them till this day.

The Spaniards had to go near the water, and at the beach they did the same sign. Then the Indians made a gesture and stretched their arms towards the forest. The Spaniards showed them their buckets they had brought with them for the water, and also a few to the big jars. The Indians called for them to follow, and headed for the forest. The Spaniards followed and prepared themselves for trouble. Some of the Indians yelled in their own dialect to others to stay and prepare the food. The Spaniards followed them all the way to the river. There they found a spot with clear water. They drank, and the Indians also drank. Then they filled their buckets and jars.

That river went down all the way to the ocean. That water was fresher and cleaner up there, The Indians helped them to fill the jars and the buckets fast because they wanted to get back to their festival. The Indians carried the water to the boats. The Spaniards went back to the ship full of water and with a few jars of the Pi-torro that the Indians gave them.

The Indians also gave the Spaniards some of the food that they were cooking. This consisted of some root vegetables.

The Spaniards gave Columbus all the details as how they acquired the water, and where they went. Also they told him of the Pi-torro. These details were written into the ship’s log. The tide had gone out, and it was too late to depart. They decided to wait until morning.

During the night, the Indians built a fire at the beach. The Spaniards watched from the ship. The beach was well illuminated, and the sea was like a shining glass, the panoramic view with the stars gleaming bright made it a beautiful tropical night. The next morning, the Spaniards were ready to sail. The anchor was lifted, and they began to sail out of the harbor. The men from the ship began to wave at the Indians and the Indians were doing the same. Some of the Indians began to bang on the bongos, and others the sticks, and they scraped the gourds making music to give the big ship a good send off.

The Spaniards began to pass the jars of Pi-torro, and drank while saying good by to the Indians. Ashore, the Indians picked up the jars of Pi-torro and also began to wave them in the air to the Spaniards.

These Indians were the Boriquen Indians, and were very friendly. The Indians watched the ship until it was out of sight.

Still they celebrated their festival. This was a festival that the Indians celebrated after they had finished the harvest.

A few years later when Juan Ponce de Leon came to Puerto Rico as the first Governor of the Island. It was in 1508, and all the armada settled in Caparra. The Caparra settlement was founded by De Leon. When De Leon made his exploration into the interior of the Island, Caparra was his main base of operations.

By this time the Spaniards had intermixed with the Boriquen Indians who were very friendly to them. The Boriquen Indians served De Leon well. They were used as guides. There were many confrontations with the Carib Indians, but the Spanish weapons took care of them. Also, many of the Tainos and the Guanaives were slain by the Spaniards.

Another festival came, and the Indians from the interior of the Island made their way to Caparra.
their way to the nearest beach. They put all their pots and pans and their food for the picnic in a push cart. Then that push cart would be pulled by the Indians to the beach. The food consisted of root vegetables, such as green bananas, plantains, taro roots and yam, and tropical fruits. They had all of herbs to mix and marinate their pig, or goat, to be barbecued by the beach. They would slaughter the goat or the pig, they would skin it and place it on the pole.

The Indians placed the banana leaves on the sand, and then the pig or goat was laid there to be marinated. The Indians then built a shallow pit and put rocks around. Then they would get some dry twigs or palm leaves to start the fire. The Indian women would fix the garlic, oregano leaves, salt, and the peppers. The salt had to be ground along with the pepper, oregano leaves and garlic.

This was done with a round rock they had with a hole on top. They turned the rock, and another Indian would be putting the herbs through the hole. Those herbs fell to the side as the rock kept going around. The mixture didn’t get mixed with the sand as they put banana leaves under the rocks. After all the herbs were put, a stick would be put in each corner and then place the pole with the pig or goat on them.

The fire was lit the old fashion way. They would grind the sticks near the twig and when they got hot the fire went on. Each of the Indians took turns roasting the roast At the same time they had a very good harvest festival. More events were added to the authorities and others were not.

From Spain via Hispanola, orders came to give the Indians more freedom. These orders came in 1512. The Spaniards were supposed to obey the Burgos treaty of Hispanola. That treaty was supposed to be for all Indians, of all the islands that were occupied by Spain. Many Spaniards that had become land owners didn’t pay any attention to that treaty. They didn’t have much help either for harvesting their land because they themselves were slaughtering the Indians.

Most of the priests that came from Spain spread throughout the Islands in order to convert the Indians and educate them to be more domesticated. In 1519, the Spanish government sent from Hispanola an appointed Judge, Don Antonio De La Gama, to Puerto Rico. As soon as he settled, he saw the inquisition that the Spaniards were imposing and to baptize them. He dispatched a report to Spain via Hispanola. The report was about the treatment the Spaniards were imposing on the Indians.

In 1521, Don Antonio De La Gama received the answer to his report. It was a program to carry out in Puerto Rico, Hispanola and the other Islands under the Spanish rule. It was to give the Indians total freedom. De La Gama gave the documents to the Island Governor and the Governor carried out the orders immediately.

During the same period in 1521, Ponce De Leon moved the Caparra Armada to the nearest island. This island was named “San Juan”, and the bay became “San Juan Bay”. The move was done because the Caparra settlement was insecure. From this islet that was surrounded by water, everything was visible, and better to defend the lives of the island people.

As more Spaniards came to the island, they would inform De Leon about other goings in different parts of the world. Such as saying that the British were conquering other islands. At this time, the British and Spanish were going at each others’ throat. Ponce De Leon then began to position his armada around the island and San Juan Bay for the safety of his people.

Once in a while a few canoes with the Caribe Indians would approach and attack the Spaniards, but they were restrained by the Spaniards’ guns. Those that didn’t get killed would paddle out of the bay.

In 1523, the Dominican Friars built the Dominican convent, a monastery. Then more Spanish priests kept arriving on the Island from Hispanola, and other Islands. They also started to educate the Indians and to baptize them.

Now that the Indians had more freedom, they celebrated the harvest festival with more enthusiasm. In San Juan, the Spaniards began to have fire works at the festival. More events were added as time went by.

From 1525 on, there was a change. At the time they had a very good harvest. The Spaniards businessmen opened up more businesses. More trinkets for gifts and trade. But as the Spaniard became more dominant and more brutal, the Indians from the outer islands began to dwindle. The Indians
Round Up The Usual Suspects

By Raoul Lowery Contreras

On a recent evening, several dozen San Diego County Deputy Sheriffs — including SWAT teams, in camouflage combat fatigues, armed with high-powered, semi-automatic rifles — surrounded, detained and questioned 85 brown-skinned, Spanish-speaking men 16 through 30 regarding a rape in suburban San Diego.

The 15-year-old victim reported that two young men repeatedly raped her in front of five witnesses. Her description of the assailants was: young, Mexican, powerfully built and wearing suits and carrying briefcases. The witnesses: the same, except two were women.

Sheriff's Department rounded up 85 Mexican men in the rape's general locale and, according to reliable witnesses, slammed many of them against walls, handcuffed and laid them out on the parking lot for hours while each of them was questioned.

Almost all of the 85 were properly documented, either U.S. citizens or legal immigrants; those who were not were turned over to the U.S. Border Patrol.

While the 85 were being individually questioned, sheriff's spokesman reported that only those who met the description given by the girl were detained for questioning. They offered no explanation why men up to 50 years old, or men 6 feet tall, were held.

When this story hit the newspapers, the American Civil Liberties Union and Mexican American groups protested. The raid on the grounds its was racially implemented. Denials from the Sheriff's Department were along the lines of: the detention was really not a detention, it was voluntary, force was not used, the deputies were well-mannered and everyone was treated with respect.

A number of questions arise from this episode. First, the rights of the victim. Without a doubt, she's entitled to be raped, and anyone convicted of this crime should spend the rest of his life in prison, without possibility of parole. If, however, the constitutional rights of 85 brown-skinned, Spanish-speaking men are trampled in the process of the investigation, what have we gained?

None of the 85 detainees was arrested for the crime. Information leading to the suspects' arrest was not, repeat, not developed by the detention. Rather, it was voluntarily offered days later by other Mexican Americans repulsed by the crime and eager to see the perpetrators punished. They did what all good citizens should do. They stepped forward.

As to the Sheriff's Department, one wonders if the raid was proper and what motivated it. To analyze its consequences and motivations, allow me to propose another scenario.

In downtown San Diego, there's a special bus stop for affluent suburban commuters. Most of them are upwardly mobile Anglo college graduates, male, well-dressed in three-piece suits, with brief cases, properly monogrammed, of course. A rape occurs within a block of the bus stop, at approximately 5 p.m., commuter time. The victim: a 15-year-old Mexican girl.

What does the San Diego Police Department do?

The Deputy Chief, a Mexican American, orders SWAT teams and dozens of his Latino officers to arm themselves with high-powered, semi-automatic rifles, instructs them to dress in urban warfare camouflage uniforms, and briefs them as follows: "Gentlemen," he says, "a heinous crime has been committed by two blond, blue-eyed men, dressed in three-piece suits and carrying briefcases. The victim reports," he continues, "that several other men, women, also wearing suits and carrying brief cases, witnessed the rape and cheered the rapists on.

"Deploy around the special commuter bus stop and interview every blond, blue-eyed man and woman dressed in a suit and carrying a brief case. While we're at it, I want everyone's papers and documents checked. If anyone can't produce papers, the Border Patrol will arrest them. We didn't round up the usual suspects." (Raoul Lowery Contreras is a businessman in La Jolla, Calif.)
Reduciendo Los Peligros Del Cancer

Depende de nosotros mismos reducir el riesgo de contraer cáncer. El Instituto Nacional de Cancerología recomienda tomar algunas medidas de prevención en las siguientes áreas: en la alimentación, el uso del tabaco y alcohol, exposición a la irradiación y a productos químicos industriales, el uso prolongado de algunos medicamentos y contacto con ciertos virus.

El riesgo de desarrollar cáncer en los pulmones es 25 veces más entre los fumadores que el número de muertes por cáncer de los pulmones sigue aumentando con un 30 por ciento de estas muertes atribuidas al uso del tabaco.

Las dietas ricas en grasas y de bajo contenido en fibra se asocian como un gran riesgo para contraer cáncer del colon, de la próstata y de los senos. El Instituto recomienda mantener un peso saludable. El consumo de carnes grasas y huevos vacaban, pescado y ceras migas (sin grasa), así como productos lácteos descremados y evitar mantequilla, manteca de cera y margarinas que contengan aceites de palma y coco. aderezos para ensaladas y alimentos fritos.

Velasquez, Cont. From Front Page

discute. And he did it on his feet, in the neighborhoods, using his endless reserve of humor and a personal touch. Richard Avena, former Southwestern Regional Director of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, recalls, "Even in the smallest Southwest towns that I have visited, the most isolated Latinos will know Willie. I would ask how they would say, "He came here and made it. "I would ask to register to vote." SVREP has constantly fueled the votes of other civil rights groups to ensure that Hispanics receive fair political representation. The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, for one has filed numerous lawsuits in response to voter denial and fraud discovered by SVREP.

SVREP was first organized by Velasquez in 1970 as a two-year project of the National Council of La Raza. In its history, SVREP itself has brought 88 cases to trial. One of these is now on appeal. All others have been successful.

Upon hearing of Velasquez's illness, San Antonio residents have been searching for some way to show their love and support. A drive was organized by the League of United Latin American Citizens to donate blood. The City Council led its May 19 invocation meeting with prayers for him. At Santa Rosa, letters and flowers filled an entire room.

Jane, who is staying with her husband at the hospital, says that calls offering prayers, good wishes and monetary support have been overwhelming. When it was learned that Willie would need transportation to M.D. Anderson, five planes were made available to him.

Velasquez calls the support his "therapy." "It's just terrific; it makes me feel good," he says, sounding strong and upbeat. Jane agrees. "It's an intolerable situation, but all the support makes it easier."

Velasquez has requested sabbatical leave from the organization that has been the focus of his professional life for over 15 years. He plans to spend time with his wife and children, Carmen 15, Catarina 12, and Guillermo 11. Also, along with reading and resting, he hopes to write a book that will focus on what he expects will be the future contributions of Hispanics to the United States and on the standards Hispanics should set for themselves. "A period of introspection is needed now," he counsels. "We have been transitioning to power in recent years and we have to realize the responsibility that power brings. It's incumbent upon us to say how we will use that power."

He suggests Latinos search themselves, their past, and recent history, in order to arrive at a coherent set of ideals "Articulating that would be a contribution to the democratic process," he believes.

The 10-member SVREP board of directors meets June 9 to vote on the sabbatical request of their president. In the meantime, executive director Andy Hernandez is acting in Velasquez's place. "Around the country, Latinos wait and pray that Willie will win his new battle, as he has so many others," says his wife. "Willie has made a decision to fight as he has with everything else," says his wife.

As Velasquez himself would say, "Andale!" (Darryl Figueroa is a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C.)
Después de dos fallidos intentos, Jose Luis Rodríguez “El Puma” logró presentarse en Guatemala en un concurrido evento beneficio de la nternacional de 1986 (siglas en inglés IRCA) llegó a su fin oficialmente en este mes. Y ahora, ¿qué?

Regresará a sus naciones de origen sus trabajadores Indocumentados y sus familias que no solicitaron la legalización? ¿Debería el Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización dar comienzo a una recogida en masa? Estas son preguntas importantes que formulan en esta oportunidad.

Acompáñanos a la primera pregunta. Como está ciertamente claro, muchos inmigrantes indocumentados que llegaron antes de la fecha de corte del 1 de Enero, 1982, establecida para la legalización, no han solicitado al amparo del programa. Quizás si hay un millón de personas en esta clasificación. Las razones son muchas: Falta de información, reglamentos confusos y a menudo, cambios, falta de documentación, reglamentos confusos y a menudo cambiantes, falta de documentación para verificar las ejecutivas de trabajo y el término de residencia, el costo, el temor y la falta de confianza en el Servicio de Inmigración. Aún otros, quizás si tantos como un millón y medio, llegaron después del 1ro. de Enero de 1982.

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Examinemos la primera pregunta. Como está ciertamente claro, muchos inmigrantes indocumentados que llegaron antes de la fecha de corte del 1 de Enero, 1982, establecida para la legalización, no han solicitado al amparo del programa. Quizás si hay un millón de personas en esta clasificación. Las razones son muchas: Falta de información, reglamentos confusos y a menudo cambiantes, falta de documentación, reglamentos confusos y a menudo cambiantes, falta de documentación para verificar las ejecutivas de trabajo y el término de residencia, el costo, el temor y la falta de confianza en el Servicio de Inmigración. Aún otros, quizás si tantos como un millón y medio, llegaron después del 1ro. de Enero de 1982.

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Explicaré el proceso muy sencillamente. Los inmigrantes indocumentados que llegaron antes de la fecha de corte el 1ro. de Enero, 1982, establecida para la legalización, no han solicitado al amparo del programa. Quizás si hay un millón de personas en esta clasificación. Las razones son muchas: Falta de información, reglamentos confusos y a menudo cambiantes, falta de documentación, reglamentos confusos y a menudo cambiantes, falta de documentación para verificar las ejecutivas de trabajo y el término de residencia, el costo, el temor y la falta de confianza en el Servicio de Inmigración. Aún otros, quizás si tantos como un millón y medio, llegaron después del 1ro. de Enero de 1982.
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stores were built and more towns were beginning to spring up. Everything was in abundance.

That good harvest year, the priests with the help of the Friars, and the Indians labor built a grease tree. This was done in the back part of the garrison. There was an empty place there big enough for the festival.

The Grease Tree was thirty feet tall. It would take six men at five feet tall or five men at six feet tall to reach the top. The tree was greased from top to bottom. At the top they would put an arc to tie various items. These items were sometimes a live chicken tied by the legs, a bottle of rum at each side, a few pesos, and sometimes a ham. This was the price that those men that climbed it would share. Those that would climb the grease tree had to wear a bathing suit or short pants. That was all that was allowed to wear to climb the tree.

Between the Indians and the priests they had also built a round corral. They put sand inside so no one would get hurt. During the festival they would put a greased pig inside. One man was allowed to try and catch it. They would allow him some time to catch it. If the time was up, they would ring a bell, and someone else would try. Whoever caught the pig, that man would win a prize. Every time they had a different prize.

At night they would begin the fire-worships, and this was done not far from the Governor's resident. It was at this festival that the change came. On San Juan Day the priest began mass very early in the morning. After the morning Mass they went to the Beach where the Spaniards and the Indians were bathing. There the Indians and some of the Spaniards lined up to be baptized. "I baptize you in the name of San Juan Bautista" the priest would say. The Indians to learn it began to repeat it, and soon those words took hold of the people all over the Island. It kept on every year, and every one looked forward to the San Juan Day Festival. From there on they call it "Fiesta de San Juan". Finally the festival came to be known "Fiesta de San Juan" That name stuck to this day.

Also in various town they had other festivals with other different names and they would build a grease tree and round corral for the grease pig.

Since that time, San Juan Day has become a tradition in Puerto Rico. That is why wherever the Puerto Ricans live or go, they celebrate San Juan Day, but it has to be near the water. The food must consist of root vegetables and a barbecue pig for more enjoyment. This is a historical event of how the fiesta San Juan De Puerto Rico came into being.

Written by Luis E. Cuevas-Cardoza