Goodbye to The Greatest

Muhammad Ali was a titan until the end > 23

NORTHWEST: Rehearsal for megaquake catastrophe begins > 22

DEMOGRAPHICS: Nation’s Latinos defined by their youth > 21

LATIN AMERICA: Ruling party sees defeats in Mexican elections > 19
Goodbye to The Greatest: Ali was a titan until the end

By TIM DAHLBERG (AP)

I n 1980 and Muhammad Ali had no business being in the ring against a younger and stronger Larry Holmes, no matter how much his entourage kept telling him how good he looked in training. And he did look good. He had lost nearly 40 pounds to get his body to a reasonable replication of its magnificent prime. At the age of 38 he had also grown a mustache to show off during the prefight press tour.

“He and Delight of the writers who could barely see him was there was one more fight left in him, that electrified a generation didn’t flow quite as easily as they once did. Surely he could beat Holmes, his former sparring partner. This, after all, was a man who whipped the scowling Sonny Liston, stopped the fearsome George Foreman in Africa and won a battle nearly to the death with Joe Frazier in the Philippines.

But the one opponent Ali couldn’t beat was Father Time. He barely laid a glove on Holmes, taking such a beating that Holmes begged the referee several time to stop the fight so he wouldn’t permanently damage his idol. The fight was finally stopped after 10 rounds, with Ali sitting on a stool, offering no resistance.

Later that night Holmes paid a visit to Ali’s hotel suite. In a darkened room, he leaned over and, kissed Ali on the cheek and told him he loved him.

“Then why did you whip my ass like that?” Ali replied.

There weren’t many bad nights like that for Ali in a pro career that spanned the better part of two decades. Still, his willingness to take punches in the ring — he estimated at one point he had taken 29,000 blows to the head — would soon doom him to a life of living with the debilitating effects of Parkinson’s.

It hardly seemed possible then that this exquisitely sculptured man would spend his later years stooped over and trembling, unable to do the basic human tasks like tie his shoes or brush his teeth. Even more impossible was that the voice that roared so loud and so often would be nearly mute for the last few decades of his life.

At home in Arizona he led a quiet life. Ali would fiddle with the magic tricks he enjoyed so much, often listening to Elvis on the stereo. Most of all, though, he loved to watch tapes of his fights, his eyes following closely the fighter he once was.

I last saw Ali on a February morning in 2012 in the lobby of the MGM Grand hotel. He had been feted at a brain research dinner the night before, and now was the chance for the average fan to take a picture or see him in person.

The expression on his face never changed as Ali’s family and friends were called up in person.

The expression on his face never changed as Ali’s family and friends were called up in the ring to be with him. Moon walker Buzz Aldrin and singer Kris Kristofferson were among the notables, while Leon Spinks and Evander Holyfield also joined him.

A few of his daughters hovered around, and grandbabies were put in his lap. Then, with Holyfield holding him by one arm and his wife by the other, Ali made a slow, trembling, walk around the ring, holding his right arm up waist high to salute the cheers from the crowd.

He was still The Greatest.

In this Dec. 17, 2005, file photo, boxing legend Muhammad Ali poses in Berlin, Germany. ON THE COVER: In this May 25, 1965, file photo, heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali knocks out challenger Sonny Liston in the first round of their title fight in Lewiston, Maine.
The Pacific Northwest kicked off a massive earthquake and tsunami drill Tuesday as part of a multiday event to rehearse scenarios on how the region would deal with a dual natural disaster that could kill thousands, cut off coastal communities, and collapse phone and internet service.

The four-day event, called Cascadia Rising, is built around the premise of a 9.0 magnitude earthquake 95 miles off of the coast of Oregon that results in a tsunami. Both events would likely destroy buildings, roads and buildings and disrupt communications.

Major General Bret Daugherty, commander of the Washington National Guard, said that when the Cascadia Subduction Zone — a 600-mile-long fault just off the coast that runs from Northern California to British Columbia — ruptures “it will result in a catastrophe like nothing we have ever seen.”

“It’s expected to be the worst natural disaster ever in the United States,” he said. So we’re taking this week very, very seriously and we’re pulling in every possible resource so that when the quake actually hits we’re assured that we are all on the same page in our response efforts.”

Federal officials say about 20,000 people will be involved in the disaster drill, representing various federal agencies, the U.S. military, and state and local emergency response managers from Washington, Oregon and Idaho, Native American tribes and emergency management officials in British Columbia.

One main goal of the exercise is to test how well they will work together to minimize loss of life and damages when a mega-quake unleashes a tsunami. More than 8 million people live in the zone, which contains the most heavily populated areas of the Pacific Northwest, including Seattle and Portland. Things that officials will be testing include the ability to communicate without the internet or phone or cell service; practicing ways of delivering services in emergency conditions, and National Guard search and rescue, decontamination and evacuation abilities.

Officials will be running off of the assumption that there will be mass casualties, including 1,100 killed by the earthquake, 13,000 killed by the tsunami and 24,000 injured. During this week’s drill, National Guard soldiers in Washington state will run airborne operations, including dropping supplies to set up a mobile operations center and deliver medical supplies. Other participants in the exercise will contact emergency management offices with reports of specific needs during the simulated disaster, and amateur radio operators will take part, as it’s expected they can help bridge the gaps for emergency officials if internet and phone services are severed.
DEMographics

The nation’s Latino population is defined by its youth

By Eileen Patten, Pew Research Center

Hispanics are the youngest major racial or ethnic group in the United States. About one-third, or 17.9 million, of the nation’s Hispanic population is younger than 18, and about a quarter, or 14.6 million, of all Hispanics are Millennials (ages 18 to 33 in 2014), according to a Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data. Altogether, nearly six-in-ten Hispanics are Millennials or younger.

By comparison, half of the black population and 46% of the U.S. Asian population are Millennials or younger. Among whites, the nation’s oldest racial group, only about four-in-ten are Millennials or younger (39%).

The nation’s Latino population has long been one of its youngest. In 2014, the most recent year for which data are available, the median age of Hispanics – 28 years – was well below that of the major racial groups and has been so since at least the 1980s. But as with the nation’s population overall, the Hispanic population’s median age has steadily risen since the 1980s, from 22 then to 28 in 2014, a significant change though still the smallest increase in median age among any major racial or ethnic group during that time period. For example, the median age among whites was 43 in 2014, up 12 years since 1980. Among Asians, the median age in 2014 was 36, up eight years since 1980. And for blacks, the median age has risen nine years since 1980 to 33 in 2014.

Looked at another way, the share of the Hispanic population under the age of 18 has decreased somewhat since 1980. Back in 1980, 40% of the nation’s 14.8 million Latinos were under age 18, while among white non-Hispanics, that share was 26%. In 1990, 35% of the then 21.8 million Latinos living in the U.S. were under 18. That share remained stable through 2000, but had dropped to 32% as of 2014. Meanwhile, among whites, the share under age 18 stood at 19% in 2014.

For the nation’s Hispanic population, youth is a defining characteristic. For example, among Hispanic eligible voters, 44% are Millennial Hispanics – the single largest cohort of Hispanic eligible voters. And among the nation’s Millennials, Hispanics are a greater share than they are among all American adults – Hispanics make up 21% of all U.S. Millennials versus 15% of all adults in 2014.

Within the Hispanic adult population, Millennials stand out in a number of ways from older Hispanics, according to the Pew Research Center analysis. Millennials are currently much less likely to be immigrants and are more likely to speak English proficiently. They are also more likely than older generations to be of Mexican origin, reflecting the youth of the Mexican-origin population in the U.S.

HAVE YOU BEEN DENIED OR DISCOURAGED FROM GETTING A HOME LOAN BECAUSE OF YOUR:
Race, National Origin, Color, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Religion, Creed, Veteran or Military Status, Sex, Marital Status, Public Assistance Income, Disability, Familial Status, or Age?

If so, we may be able to help you file a fair housing complaint

Call us at 1-800-200-FAIR (3247) or visit our website at www.lendingawareness.org

DON’T LET FAIR LENDING DISCRIMINATION DESTROY YOUR DREAMS

The work that provided the basis for this publication was supported with funding under a grant with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NWFHA is solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this publication. Such representations do not necessarily reflect the views of the Federal Government.
A pair of powerful Senate Republicans on Sunday warned Donald Trump to drop his attacks on a Latino judge presiding over a lawsuit against Trump University, joining the widespread rejection of their presumptive presidential nominee’s treatment of the federal jurist. A third prominent Republican who also supports Trump urged the candidate to start acting like “a potential leader of the United States.”

“We’re all behind him now,” Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell warned, adding that it’s time for unifying the party, not “settling scores and grudges.” “I hope he’ll change his direction.”

So far, Trump has refused, reiterating in interviews broadcast Sunday that U.S. District Judge Gonzalo Curiel’s Mexican heritage means he cannot ensure a fair trial involving a billionaire who wants to build a border wall to keep people from illegally entering the United States from Mexico. Curiel was born in Indiana to Mexican-born parents — making him, in Trump’s view, “a hater of Donald Trump.”

“I couldn’t disagree more” with Trump’s central argument, McConnell said on NBC’s “Meet the Press.”

“I don’t condone the comments,” added Sen. Bob Corker, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, on ABC’s “This Week.”

And Newt Gingrich, who became speaker of the House promising to open the GOP more to minorities, delivered the harshest warning of all.

“This is one of the worst mistakes Trump has made. I think it’s inexcusable,” Gingrich, a former presidential contender, said on “Fox News Sunday.”

Their remarks solidify the line GOP leaders have drawn in recent days between themselves and Trump, with whom they’ve made a fragile peace over their shared sense that almost anyone would be a better president than Democrat Hillary Clinton.

The GOP pushback against Trump comes two days before presidential primaries in California, home to more Latinos than whites. It’s the final major battleground between Clinton and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. Far ahead of Sanders in the delegate race, Clinton is poised to clinch her party’s nomination in the next few days.

Trump has no more competition for the GOP nomination, but he does have significant issues with the most senior elected members of the party he hopes to lead.
LATIN AMERICA

**Ruling party sees stinging defeats in Mexican elections**

XALAPA, Mexico (AP)

Mexico’s ruling party was headed for stinging defeats in some of the 12 governorships up for grabs in state elections, according to preliminary vote counts Monday.

Hobbled by corruption scandals, violence and a weak economy, the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party lost four states it had never lost before, including the northern state of Tamaulipas, across the border from Texas.

The party, known as the PRI, also lost in Veracruz, a state of 8 million that is the third most-populous in the country, and Quintana Roo, home to the resort of Cancun.

Entering Sunday’s elections, the PRI held nine of the 12 states up for grabs. According to preliminary vote results, it won only five.

“Mexicans have been angered by several corruption scandals and worried about a sluggish economy, and they showed their frustration at the ballot box,” said Andrew Selee, a Mexico expert at the Wilson Center think tank in Washington.

Enrique Gutierrez Marquez, a political science professor at Mexico’s Ibero American University, said what occurred has to be seen as “a punishment vote.”

“There is a public perception that conditions in the country are getting worse, in terms of corruption and public safety,” he said.

The ruling party was particularly punished in states like Quintana Roo — where PRI governors built up one of the highest state debt levels in Mexico — and Veracruz, where more journalists have been killed in recent years than any other state.

President Enrique Pena Nieto reacted philosophically, saying “anybody who competes in a democracy knows that sometimes you win, sometimes you lose.”

“As leaders, we should listen to and act on the message from the voters,” Pena Nieto said.

The big gains were for the conservative National Action Party, or PAN, which alone or in coalition picked up seven governorships.

The PAN wins included the border states of Chihuahua and Tamaulipas, and the central states of Aguascalientes and Puebla.

An unusual alliance between the PAN and the leftist Democratic Revolution Party, or PRD, resulted in wins in the northern state of Durango, Quintana Roo and Veracruz.

The number of states the party controls heading into 2018 will have a significant impact on the amount of resources it has and the number of votes it can muster in the presidential contest.

The PRI lost the presidency in 2000 for the first time in 71 years and won it back in 2012. But Pena Nieto is suffering from low approval ratings, intense narco violence in parts of the country and what some see as a lack of commitment to fight corruption.
Our Faith

Equal Justice for All

By Dr. Joseph Castleberry

When you harvest the crops of your land, do not harvest the grain along the edges of your fields, and do not pick up what the harvesters drop. It is the same with your grape crop—do not strip every last bunch of grapes from the vines, and do not pick up the grapes that fall to the ground. Leave them for the poor and the foreigners living among you. I am the Lord your God.—Leviticus 19:9-10, NLT

As part of the social provisions of the Law, God commanded the Israelites not to let greed overcome them, but rather to allow opportunity for the landless poor and the recently arrived foreigner to gather food for their survival. The implications of this command—repeated verbatim in Leviticus 23:22—offer several principles to guide our charitable giving:

1. God loves people regardless of their national origin, as equally concerned for immigrants as for the native poor.

2. Everyone has a duty to participate in charity. Rather than grabbing everything for themselves, every Israelite who enjoyed the blessing of harvest had an obligation to contribute something to the poor. At the same time, this form of charity required the poor and the immigrant to do something for themselves. God could have required the Israelites to give a set percentage of their harvest to the less fortunate, but instead insisted on a form of giving that required the poor to work for what they got.

3. Meeting the physical needs of the poor and immigrants does not fulfill their total need. Working for a living rather than passively receiving an offering preserves the dignity of the poor. Immigrants come to work because their home countries do not generate enough work to ensure the thriving of their families. A strong, freedom-based economy is the best help a receptor nation can offer to immigrants, and precisely the one they come looking for. As they begin to work, they often become entrepreneurs, creating jobs for native-born workers and immigrants alike.

4. Why should we take care to obey this commandment? Because the LORD is our God and this command flows out of God’s very nature and self.

Obedience to the principle of equal justice in this law wound up blessing Israel immensely. When Ruth, the Moabite, immigrated to Bethlehem, she initially survived by gleaning the grain left in fields by righteous Israelites. Not only did she feed herself, but also her Israelite mother-in-law, Naomi. When Boaz the farmer took notice of her and married her, their family would within two short generations produce Israel’s greatest political leader, King David.

No one can outgive God. When we give opportunity to immigrants and the poor, God will do justice by us as well in the blessings we will all share.

Copyright © 2013 by Joseph L. Castleberry. All Rights Reserved. joseph.castleberry@northwestu.edu

Dr. Joseph Castleberry is president of Northwest University in Kirkland, Washington. He is the author of The New Pilgrims: How Immigrants are Renewing America’s Faith (Worthy Publishing). Follow him on Twitter @DrCastleberry and at http://www.facebook.com/Joseph.Castleberry.
**Vin Diesel, Chanel spark cultural backlash in Cuba**

HAVANA, Cuba (AP)


The triple tsunami of global capitalism that pounded socialist Cuba this month has spawned a fierce debate about the downside of detente with the United States. Artists, writers and intellectuals who believe deeply in Cuba’s opening to the world are questioning their government’s management of an onslaught of big-money pop culture.

On an island that prides itself on egalitarianism, sovereignty and its long record of outsized accomplishments in the arts, many are openly critiquing opaque deals with multinational corporations seeking picturesque backdrops for car chases and summer frocks.

“The essence of the thing is that we’re a country with a particular history that has a particular culture. We have to be conscious of those values and keep them in mind when it’s time to negotiate,” said Graziaella Pogolotti, an 84-year-old cultural critic who wrote a long editorial in state media calling for deeper thinking about Cuba’s dealing with international entertainment brands.

Cubans began complaining soon after the first U.S. cruise ship in Cuba in nearly 40 years. Around the world, television viewers watched prosperous-looking Americans greeted by trays of rum drinks and Afro-Cuban dancers in skimpy Cuban flag-patterned bathing suits. For many Cubans, it was a spectacle uniting the worst exotic stereotypes about their country with disrespect for a symbol of independence.

Within 24 hours, the world’s rich and famous were lounging on park benches on the majestic, colonial Prado boulevard as slender models showed off outfits by the French luxury label Chanel that seemed inspired by pre-revolutionary Cuba. The mostly foreign audience arrived in specially hired classic American cars. Havana residents had to watch from behind police lines more than a block away.

A year and a half after the U.S. and Cuba declared detente, and a month after President Barack Obama visited Havana, it seemed as if the world of global commerce and entertainment had finally landed on Cuba with full force.

Many Cubans were exuberant. Avid consumers of U.S. culture in pirated TV and films, they welcomed the sight of movie stars walking the streets of a country that often feels cut off from the outside world. Many said they were hopeful that the millions spent on the productions would improve life for those who haven’t yet benefited from the post-detente surge in tourism.

But people’s personal offense at being held far from the events began translating into skepticism about whether their country’s hot new status would help improve their lives.

“I love that the world is looking at us, that the world is fixing its eyes on Cuba, but up until now I don’t see that it’s really bringing real, concrete benefits,” said Alberto O’Reilly, a 22-year-old librarian who was kicked off a street corner by police as he tried to watch the Chanel show.

For some Cubans, the flashy spectacles recalled the pre-revolutionary days when wealthy Americans viewed Cuba as a sexy tropical playground, ignoring the problems of the people who lived on the island. Fidel Castro famously shut down the country’s casinos and most sordid nightclubs when he came to power.

“It’s very important that we don’t give the ‘Ugly American’ reason to come back,” said Desiderio Navarro, a widely respected critic and editor. “We’re not in the 1930s or ‘40s and we mustn’t repeat the errors of the past.”

**Vin Diesel, Chanel spark cultural backlash in Cuba**

HAVANA, Cuba (AP)


The triple tsunami of global capitalism that pounded socialist Cuba this month has spawned a fierce debate about the downside of detente with the United States. Artists, writers and intellectuals who believe deeply in Cuba’s opening to the world are questioning their government’s management of an onslaught of big-money pop culture.

On an island that prides itself on egalitarianism, sovereignty and its long record of outsized accomplishments in the arts, many are openly critiquing opaque deals with multinational corporations seeking picturesque backdrops for car chases and summer frocks.

“The essence of the thing is that we’re a country with a particular history that has a particular culture. We have to be conscious of those values and keep them in mind when it’s time to negotiate,” said Graziaella Pogolotti, an 84-year-old cultural critic who wrote a long editorial in state media calling for deeper thinking about Cuba’s dealing with international entertainment brands.

Cubans began complaining soon after the first U.S. cruise ship in Cuba in nearly 40 years. Around the world, television viewers watched prosperous-looking Americans greeted by trays of rum drinks and Afro-Cuban dancers in skimpy Cuban flag-patterned bathing suits. For many Cubans, it was a spectacle uniting the worst exotic stereotypes about their country with disrespect for a symbol of independence.

Within 24 hours, the world’s rich and famous were lounging on park benches on the majestic, colonial Prado boulevard as slender models showed off outfits by the French luxury label Chanel that seemed inspired by pre-revolutionary Cuba. The mostly foreign audience arrived in specially hired classic American cars. Havana residents had to watch from behind police lines more than a block away.

A year and a half after the U.S. and Cuba declared detente, and a month after President Barack Obama visited Havana, it seemed as if the world of global commerce and entertainment had finally landed on Cuba with full force.

Many Cubans were exuberant. Avid consumers of U.S. culture in pirated TV and films, they welcomed the sight of movie stars walking the streets of a country that often feels cut off from the outside world. Many said they were hopeful that the millions spent on the productions would improve life for those who haven’t yet benefited from the post-detente surge in tourism.

But people’s personal offense at being held far from the events began translating into skepticism about whether their country’s hot new status would help improve their lives.

“I love that the world is looking at us, that the world is fixing its eyes on Cuba, but up until now I don’t see that it’s really bringing real, concrete benefits,” said Alberto O’Reilly, a 22-year-old librarian who was kicked off a street corner by police as he tried to watch the Chanel show.

For some Cubans, the flashy spectacles recalled the pre-revolutionary days when wealthy Americans viewed Cuba as a sexy tropical playground, ignoring the problems of the people who lived on the island. Fidel Castro famously shut down the country’s casinos and most sordid nightclubs when he came to power.

“It’s very important that we don’t give the ‘Ugly American’ reason to come back,” said Desiderio Navarro, a widely respected critic and editor. “We’re not in the 1930s or ‘40s and we mustn’t repeat the errors of the past.”