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Peter Rios _____ *Publisher*
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Contributing Writers —
Ray Rivera
Bobby Marin
Tony Pabon
Carlos Cuevas
Bobby Rodriguez

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EDITORIAL ON VIOLENCE

The subject of violence is very much on our minds these days. The violence of a few mad men has been dramatized by the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert F. Kennedy. In our newspapers and over the air, there are daily reminders of violence in the streets, of criminal assaults on people and property, of the violence practiced by groups and among nations. Our senses are so battered by the constant din of violence that we tend to become insensitive to it.

Crime stories, such as the Alice Crimmins Trial, become just another form of entertainment, and the casualty list from Viet Nam becomes just another box score. Perhaps it takes the shock of a personal tragedy to really bring home the message of violence. The death of Senator Kennedy not only stunned our nation, but the entire world. The poor and powerless felt this deeply; in Kennedy they saw a symbol of strength and renewed hope, and to them violence against him was violence against them. It was as if someone close had been sacrificed. To the Puerto Rican, Kennedy was a special kind of hero.

And yet, despite the speeches after the assassination, we are still caught in the grim game of living with violence. Politicians rant and rave about violence in the streets, but ignore its origins; business executives complain about the assault and robbery statistics, then proceed to engage in their own brand.

Then of course, there is the violence that is practiced every day against people who, because of their color, creed, or race, are denied fair and equal treatment by government officials, employers, landlords, and bureaucrats.

We feel that violence is deplorable in whatever shape, manner, or form, but we must not overlook the less violent, but more damaging type of hostility that demeans the spirit, and relegates some groups to the status of second-class citizens.

Yes, we need gun control laws in America, but we also need to listen to the Poor People's March and launch an all out effort to improve education, housing and employment opportunities to the end that every American will be able to share in the American dream.

* * *

In this issue Latin N.Y. has paid a quiet tribute to the memory of the late Robert F. Kennedy, by quoting some of his eloquent words. We also offered a testimonial to the memorial of the Late Rev. Martin Luther King in the poetic words of students at Brandeis High School. We welcome this opportunity to present the feelings and talents of these young people in English as well as in Spanish.

Our main feature in this issue is the four page account on Discrimination in the Theatre, written by Al Castro. Mr. Castro has written a moving story of the difficulties facing latin artists in the legitimate theatre and in the film industry.

Latin N.Y.'s coverage of the District 65 Labor Conference, the employment opportunities at McGraw Hill, and the Puerto Rican Day Parade is in keeping with our policy to bring you information that concerns you.

Our new "Would You Believe" column by "El New Yorican" promises to continue to speak out on matters and issues that concern the latin community.

The Community Briefs section has been introduced to provide current news and announcements on what is happening in the latin community.

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