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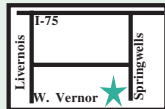
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1 de diciembre, 2006

Spanglish Lazo Cultural Edition

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Special Edition of La Prensa for Lazo Cultural



TIPS ON TRIPS: Dreams Cancún Resort & Spa, at Cancún, México

By Julie Picknell, Travel Special to La Prensa
Email: jpicknell@reinhartrealtors.com

Ann Arbor: Sitting in front of my computer one frosty autumn morning, while watching the leaves trying to change on my trees, an intense thought sparked into my brain...*I need a vacation, and I want it warm!*

Being a mother of four children with extremely varying ages, not to mention a wife in desperate need of a vacation with her husband, I needed a get-away that not only included activities for children (and teenagers) in all age groups, but also allowed for peace and solitude (and perhaps romance?) for adults.

I wanted a luxurious setting that included activities, food, and beverages of all types, readily available as part of the price, but I wanted to be on land rather than on a cruise ship. I wanted to wake up every morning to the ocean, off of my balcony, while sipping coffee brought to me by room service.

Quality snorkeling and diving was a must, but I also longed for culturally enriched excursions for the whole family not too far away from where we were staying. Oh, and yes...I wanted all of this to be affordable.

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Carla Soto

Carla's Corner

Por Carla Soto-Cruz,
La Prensa Entertainment Editor

Lo mejor de la semana

1. El asesinato de Edgar Ponce no quedó impune y a decir de otros, la sentencia es "ridícula". Luis Pascasio Murguesa, el individuo que arrolló con su auto al modelo y actor del elenco Sólo para Mujeres, fue encontrado culpable por las autoridades y sentenciado a tres años y medio de prisión. A 18 meses del accidente, el culpable deberá pagar 243 mil 972 pesos por reparación del daño, según determinó la juez Celia Morín. Y aquí viene la ironía de la sentencia: Murguesa no pisará la cárcel. Después de más de un año de proceso legal, las autoridades mexicanas resolvieron que Luis Pascasio Murguesa sí es responsable de la muerte del actor y modelo Edgar Ponce. Sin embargo, el inculpado no pisará la cárcel, pues en mayo del 2005, cuando ocurrieron los hechos, Murguesa pagó una fianza por 300 mil pesos, cantidad que pagó después de ser detenido.

2. El "Sol" está de nuevo en problemas. Después de que Luis Miguel recibió la demanda civil

(Continúa en la p. 17)

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Carla's Corner

Por Carla Soto-Cruz,
La Prensa Entertainment Editor
(Continuación de p. 15)

interpuesta por William Hardy y Jason Moan, por agresiones, durante la presentación de su disco. Uno de sus guardaespaldas de nombre Joe Madera, agredió al paparazzi Luis Guerra, quien trabaja para la agencia Grosby Group. Cuatro fotos lo dejan malherido. El fotógrafo que esperaba la salida del cantante más asechado por los medios de comunicación, Luis Miguel, fue agredido por uno de sus guaruras tras haber captado al llamado "Sol" subiendo a su limusina. Fue entonces que Joe, guarura, lo tomó de la solapa y el cuello, y lo arrastró hasta un lugar detrás de un árbol con la única intención de quitarle la cámara y fue con dos patadas que el camarógrafo logró escapar.

3. Cada vez que **Los Tucanes de Tijuana** hace planes para grabar un video, lo primero que consideran es la chica que les acompañará, pues ya se ha vuelto una costumbre que en ellos salgan mujeres muy guapas. Eso ha pasado en los últimos 24 videos del grupo norteño, siendo la cantante Jimena la participante más reciente. Y como en este negocio nada es de gratis,

estas chicas se llevan su buena paga, unas más y otras menos. ¿Quieres saber quién les ha salido más cara? En la lista figuran reconocidos nombres de la industria del entretenimiento. Sin embargo, Mario aclaró que Alicia Machado, la ex Miss Universo y ahora Conejita de Playboy, ha sido quien ha recibido la paga más alta por ser parte de un video.

4. El cantante grupero **Valentín Elizalde**, conocido como 'El Gallo de Oro', y dos de sus escoltas, fueron asesinados esta madrugada al salir de una presentación en el Palenque de la Expo-Feria de esta ciudad, en cuyos hechos otra persona resultó grave, señalaron los primeros reportes policíacos. El intérprete y sus guardias de seguridad fueron acribillados en el interior de una camioneta cuando concluyó la presentación. De acuerdo con los primeros peritajes, Elizalde fue alcanzado por otro vehículo, de donde dispararon armas de grueso calibre, ante la presencia de algunas personas que salían del lugar.

En el atentado, además del cantante fallecieron dos de sus escoltas, identificados como Reynaldo Ballesteros y Socorro Mendoza, mientras que **Fausto Castro Elizalde**, resultó gravemente lesionado.

Informes preliminares señalaron

que los crímenes fueron cometidos al filo de las 3:30 horas de este sábado, y que en el lugar del atentado se localizaron 67 casquillos de rifle de alto poder, al parecer AK-47.

Testigos de los hechos aseguraron que unos 20 minutos después de que terminó la presentación del cantante grupero, del interior del Palenque salió una camioneta a toda velocidad, seguida por otras dos, y calles más adelante, la primera fue alcanzada por otra unidad, y sus ocupantes asesinados.

El cantante, originario de Sonora, figuró dentro de la ola grupera, con melodías como "Vete ya" -uno de sus mayores éxitos-, "Ebrio de Amor", "Soy Así" "Y Se Parece a Tí".

5. Muere el conductor de Siempre en Domingo, **Raúl Velasco**, a los 73 años de edad, en la Ciudad de México. Se cerró un capítulo más en la historia de la televisión mexicana, este domingo a las 7:45 de la mañana falleció Raúl Velasco en el Distrito Federal. Luego de una intensa lucha contra distintos padecimientos, el conductor murió rodeado de su familia en su hogar.

Los mejores chistes de la semana

• La mamá llama a Pepito y le dice: Le dije a tu hermana que era fea, y está llorando. Anda y decíle que lo sentís.

Entonces, va Pepito y le dice a la hermana:

Hermanita, siento que seas tan fea.

• **Pepito llora, llora y llora en clases la maestra preocupada le pregunta: Dime Pepito, ¿a que viene tanto llanto? Pepito contesta: Es que perdí mi saca punta y mi papá me va a pegar, porque si se diera cuenta maestra los golpes que le dio a mi hermana cuando perdió la regla.**

• Pepito estaba con su mejor amigo y mira el calendario y dice:

Hace 15 días que mi tío descansa en paz.



Carla Soto

Al oír esto el amigo le dice: Oye Pepito, por qué no me dijiste nada sobre la muerte de tu tío.

Y Pepito respondió:

¿Cómo crees si la que murió fue mi tía!

• **Está la fiesta a su máximo, en eso llega Pepito y se acerca a una chica y le pregunta:**

¿Vas a bailar?

La chica con gran entusiasmo le responde:

¡Sí!

Entonces, Pepito le dice:

¿Me prestas tu silla?

• La maestra le pregunta a Jorgito:

¿Por qué llegas tarde?

Ay maestra, es que venía en mi caballo y que se sienta y ya no se quiso parar.

Bueno, ¿Y tu Pedrito por qué llegas tarde?

Ay maestra, es que venía en mi caballo y que se sienta y ya no se quiso parar.

Bien, ¿Y tu Pepito por qué llegas tarde? ¡Tú no tienes caballo!

Ay maestra, pues con tanto caballo sentado no podía pasar.

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Travel: Cancún

(Continued from page 15)

Was there such a place?

I turned back to my computer screen and the internet and *un gran* google search and started typing key search engine words.

Of all the Five Star All-Inclusive resorts that popped up from my search, *Dreams Cancún Resort and Spa* caught my attention by matching my criteria the closest. Located in Cancún, Quintana Roo, México, on one of its most desirable ocean front locations, *Dreams* boasted of romance, beauty and catering towards the entire family. [www.mexico-dreaming.com/dreams-cancun.htm]

The price looked extremely reasonable (starting at \$150/adult per night with reduced rates for children), especially considering that this cost included all food and beverages found at a variety of quality restaurants and bars throughout the resort.

SOLD! I booked out non-stop flights and started to pack.

Upon arriving at the resort, I immediately noticed the fine quality of service, as a smiling *caballero* brought us bottled water, as we advanced toward the check-in area.

The lobby was stunning and registration was quick and painless. We weren't even required to put on wrist bands to identify us as resort guests, which is a standard policy for most all-inclusive resorts. Ten minutes later, we were unpacking in our room.

The room accommodations were everything that we had expected, with an incredible view of the turquoise-blue ocean from the large furnished balcony. There were fluffy slippers and robes waiting for us on the beds, with

chocolates, two fully stocked mini bars, a fully loaded entertainment center, and a large walk-in closet with a built in safe for valuables. The tiled bathroom was spacious with a full bathtub and shower, as well as a vanity area for added "get ready" space. *Quite impressive.*

After freshening up, we decided to dine at one of the restaurants *Dreams* offered. Being fond of Japanese cuisine, the *Himitsu* won, and off we went.

It is difficult to adequately describe the dining experience that awaited us. Not only was the quality of food incredible, but the ambience and view had taken our breath away! The *Himitsu* has both indoor and covered outdoor dining that overlooks the Gulf of México, and there happened to be a wedding ceremony underway on *Dreams Cancún's* private beach just yards in front of us.

While we dined, we watched Mayan dancers in the starlight, playing music and sharing customs with two newlyweds and their bridal party and guests (everyone dressed in white), with the sound of waves gently rolling in from the distance. After a mere two hours at *Dreams Cancún Resort and Spa*, we had no doubt that we had chosen wisely!

In addition to the *Himitsu*, *Dreams* has: the no. 1 world café—a buffet style restaurant which has a wide variety of food and dessert selections, with certain entrées made to order in front of you; the *Oceana*—a fresh seafood restaurant which also faces the ocean; the seaside grill—a steak house for adults only; and the *Paloma Bonita*—a restaurant not part of the all-inclusive, but available with authentic fine Mexican cuisine.



There were also snack bars and grills located throughout this sizeable resort. The quality of *comida* was top notch, whichever restaurant that you chose to dine at.

• Resort activities

Dreams Resort and Spa has activities available throughout the day such as Spanish lessons, water aerobics, bungee trampoline, tennis lessons, dancing lessons, and snorkeling tours. These daily activities are brilliantly and energetically carried out by an entertainment staff that is so wonderful you end up considering them new-found friends.

There is a large, fully-staffed, private children's area called the *Explorers Club*, which has daily events and activities lined up, beginning at 9:30AM and ending at 9:30PM. Your children will love the piñata party, treasure hunts, art projects, swimming

games, and disco parties. This very organized and carefully run club is for children 12 and under.

Evening entertainment is also covered with nightly shows, outdoor movies, and dancing in the resort lagoon area, themed dinners, and after-hour parties in which the entertainment staff accompany *Dreams'* guests to popular local night clubs.

For parents with children, there are fully trained and thoroughly screened staff members available for in-room babysitting for an additional cost.

• Sales Director Ramón Rabelo

When sitting down with *Ramón Rabelo*, *Dreams Cancún Resort and Spa's* Director of Sales, I was very impressed with the level of professionalism and sincerity that he and his entire staff felt towards pleasing their resort guests. A great amount of pride was apparent by the quality of their service; an ongoing goal of keeping their guests happy and satisfied was the constant role played by all of the staff.

I was also informed that *Dreams Cancún Resort and Spa* is widely known for focusing on romance and relaxation, and that a large amount of their guests were either honeymooners or people celebrating anniversaries. A beautiful pagoda (overlooking the ocean) on a cliff was clearly a favorite spot for weddings or renewals of vows.

While the resort itself has enough activities to keep you happily busy your entire stay, the outside excursions are easy to arrange, and well worth it. My family chose *Xcaret*, a magical Eco-park only about a one hour drive from *Dreams*. There, we enjoyed a lush park that looked more like a rainforest, learning more about the Mayan culture and climbing the ruins, snorkeling in natural underground rivers, and viewing and actually feeding tropical wildlife. It was truly amazing.

By far, *Dreams Resort and Spa* is one of the nicest vacations that my family has been blessed to take. Everything was well organized and convenient. From the "day at the spa," to kayak tours, to the cocktail making contest...there is truly something for everyone! My only complaint is that I wish that it had lasted longer!

I am now sitting at my computer in Michigan, looking out of the window at trees with NO leaves and at a sky that's threatening snow. *I daydream of my friends at Dreams Cancún Resort & Spa.*

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