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F.Y.I.

## A Gift From Mexico

By MICHAEL POLLAK

### **A** Gift From Mexico

**Q.** *The other day I noticed a statue of Benito Juárez in Bryant Park. I don't recall ever seeing it before last week. Is it new?*

**A.** It is. Furthermore, it is the first statue of a Mexican on New York City public land and the first statue of an actual indigenous person (as opposed to a stylized one) in the city parks.

The statue, facing the Avenue of the Americas between 41st and 42nd Streets, was a gift from the Mexican state Oaxaca to New York. The work of the Mexican sculptor Moises Cabrera Orozco, it was unveiled on Oct. 9 by Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe and Gov. José Murat of Oaxaca. A phrase by Juárez, "Respect for the rights of others is peace," is on the monument.

Juárez (1806-72) was born to Zapotec Indian parents who died before he was 4. Eventually becoming a lawyer, he made politics his life's work, laying the foundation for the independent Republic of Mexico. A liberal reformer, he promoted capitalism over the economic monopoly held by the Roman Catholic Church, and supported land reform. As president, he led his country against the invading French in the 1860's.

According to the Parks Department, the statue of Juárez brings to seven the Latin American leaders whose sculptures overlook the Avenue of the Americas. They include General José Artigas (1764-1850), the Uruguayan independence leader and national hero in SoHo Square; Juan Pablo Duarte (1813-76), considered the father of the Dominican Republic, at Canal Street; and José Bonifácio de Andrada e Silva (1763-1838), the Brazilian independence leader, in Bryant Park at 41st Street. Three statues are on the avenue at Central Park South: the Cuban patriot, journalist and poet José Martí (1853-95), the Argentine General José de San Martín (1778-1850), and the South American liberator Simón Bolívar (1783-1830).

### **Pigskin Planning**

**Q.** *New York is the only National Football League city with two teams. Given the N.F.L.'s blackout rule, and a home game almost every Sunday, don't New York fans get less Sunday TV football than fans elsewhere?*

**A.** They get less, but not as little as it could be, explained Dick Maxwell, senior director of broadcasting for the N.F.L.

The league contract forbids television networks to broadcast a home game in the home TV market if the game has not sold out 72 hours beforehand. This is a factor in some cities, but, Mr. Maxwell pointed out, the Giants and the Jets have sold out their seasons for years, so the blackout rule does not apply.

But another factor can reduce the number of games shown. With the Jets and Giants sharing Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., one team is always away if the other is at home when both play on the same day. For the typical viewer, three Sunday afternoon games are televised, a doubleheader on one network at 1 and 4:15 p.m., and a competing game, in one of those time slots, on a different network.

New Yorkers will not get three afternoon games if the home New York team is on the network that is not telecasting the doubleheader that day. Confused? Let's say the Giants are at home at 1 p.m. on Fox and CBS has that day's doubleheader. CBS would broadcast its 4:15 p.m. game but not its 1 p.m. game, which would compete with the Giants at home, something the N.F.L. does not allow.

Six of the 17 N.F.L. Sundays this season in New York are three-game TV afternoons; the other 11 are two-game afternoons, Mr. Maxwell said.

### **A Rarity in Government**

**Q.** *Since 1898, New York has had a unified government for its counties (the boroughs). Is there any other place in the country where several counties have a combined government?*

**A.** The simple answer, according to the National Association of Counties, is no. There are counties that cooperate with one another in bodies like regional planning commissions, said Tom Goodman, the association's public affairs director. Several states allow cities to annex land in an adjacent county, whose residents continue to vote for county officials. But he said he believed that New York City is the only municipality that comprises and governs more than one county.

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