

Llega Festival Viva Aztlan a Lubbock

Viernes 27 de Marzo-3 pm, Lubbock Municipal Auditorium-Sabado, 28 de Marzo, Memorial Civic Center Theatre



"El Respeto al Derecho Ajeno es La Paz."
"Respect for the Rights of Others is Peace"
Lic. Benito Juarez

EL EDITOR

Vol. XXI No. 26

Week of March 26 to April 1, 1998

Lubbock, Texas

Established 1977 - Texas' Oldest Hispanic Owned Newspapers

Anti-Bilingual Initiative Confusing In Any Language

By James Crawford, Stephen Krashen and Haeyoung Kim
Everyone seems to have a strong opinion about bilingual education -- if not several. Polls on California's anti-bilingual Proposition 227

have been contradictory, to say the least. That's because they have posed simplistic questions about a complex issue.

Ask whether schools should provide intensive English classes for immigrant children, and you'll get overwhelming agreement. That's how the Los Angeles Times Poll last October characterized the English-only ballot measure, sponsored by businessman Ron Unz. Not surprisingly, the Times found 80 percent support among registered voters statewide; 84 percent among Latinos.

But ask whether native-language instruction should be used to help children keep up in school while they are learning English, and people like that idea, too. A Times poll in November reported that 60 percent of Los Angeles County voters approved of bilingual education, while 37 percent were opposed.

In February, a poll commissioned by Los Angeles Spanish-language media -- the daily newspaper La Opinion and television station KVEA -- found a 68 percent approval rating for bilingual education among Latino parents in that city, including 88 percent of those with children in bilingual classrooms.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see what's going on here. Opinion polls are only as accurate as the questions behind them. In this case, the questions have ranged from confusing to downright misleading. Compounding the problem, Californians remain largely oblivious to the details of the Unz initiative, whose full text has yet to appear in a major newspaper.

Any of the following provisions of Proposition 227 would seem controversial enough to influence the polls, if respondents were only aware of them:

-- Bilingual education programs -- whether good, bad or indifferent -- would be dismantled, regardless of the wishes of parents, educators or local school boards. Child-

ren would be arbitrarily limited to one year of special English instruction, then required to "sink or swim" in regular classrooms.

-- Teachers and principals could be sued for financial damages if caught using a language other than English to assist a child.

-- \$50 million would be spent in each of the next 10 years on a questionable program to train adult immigrants as English tutors.

-- Once approved, the English-only mandate would require a two-thirds vote of the Legislature to amend or repeal.

We wondered how Californians would answer a question that more accurately summarized Proposition 227 and how their responses would compare with those in previous polls. So, with the help of students at the University of Southern California

School of Education, we conducted our own experiment.

We asked 130 registered voters the Los Angeles Times Poll question: "There is a new initiative trying to qualify for the June primary ballot that would require all public school instruction to be conducted in English and for students not fluent in English to be placed in a short-term English immersion program. If the June, 1998, primary election were being held today, would you vote for or against this measure?"

We asked 121 others a modified question: "There is a new initiative trying to qualify for the June primary ballot that would severely restrict the use of the child's native language in school. This initiative would limit special help in English to one year (180 school days). After this time,

Continued Page 2

La Iniciativa Anti-Bilingual Confusa En Cualquier Idioma

Por James Crawford, Stephen Krashen y Haeyoung Kim

Todo el mundo parece tener una opinión sólida acerca de la enseñanza bilingüe -- si no es que varias. Las encuestas sobre la Proposición 227 de California han sido contradictorias, para decir lo menos. Eso se debe a que han planteado preguntas simplistas sobre un asunto complicado.

Pregunten si las escuelas deberían proporcionar clases intensas de inglés para los niños inmigrantes, y obtendrán un acuerdo abrumador. Así es cómo la Encuesta del Times de Los Angeles, en octubre último, caracterizó a la propuesta medida del inglés solamente para la boleta, auspiciada por el comerciante Ron Unz. No es sorprendente que el Times hallara un 80 por ciento de apoyo entre los electores inscriptos de todo el estado y el 84 por ciento entre los latinos.

Pero pregunten si la enseñanza en el idioma nativo de-

bería usarse para ayudar a los niños a continuar en la escuela mientras están aprendiendo inglés, y a la gente le gusta esa idea también.

Una encuesta del Times en noviembre último informó que el 60 por ciento de los electores del Condado de Los Angeles aprobaban a la enseñanza bilingüe, mientras que el 37 por ciento estaban opuestos a ella.

En febrero, una encuesta encargada por los medios informativos de Los Angeles en español, el periódico diario "La Opinión" y la estación televisora KVEA, halló una tasa del 68 por ciento de aprobación para la enseñanza bilingüe entre los padres y las madres latinos de esa ciudad, incluyendo al 88 por ciento de los que tienen hijos en las aulas de clases bilingües.

No se necesita de un científico especializado en proyectiles para ver lo que está pasando aquí. Las encuestas de

Continued on Page 5

News Briefs

Child Labor in Agriculture

The Associated Press reports information compiled by the General Accounting Office found children doing farmwork generally receive less protection under the law than their peers in other industries.

At a forum Monday on child labor in agriculture chaired by Repr. Tom Lantos (D-CA), lawmakers heard testimony that suggests that finding is right. One nine year old boy spoke of working in the field with his parents after school, on weekends and during summer vacations since he was age four.

The GAO's report said, "Children working in agriculture are legally permitted to work at younger ages, in more hazardous occupations, and for longer periods of time than their peers in other industries." It also found that government agencies responsible for enforcement have devoted a "relatively low level" of resources to policing child workers in agriculture.

John Fraser, acting administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor, which is responsible for enforcing federal child labor laws, testified that his department is committed to promoting work opportunities for young people, while assuring that their work is positive, safe and doesn't interfere with their education.

Diane Mull, executive director of the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs, an education and advocacy organization based in Arlington, Va., testified that only one in 10 farmworker children complete the 12th grade. Eighty percent of adult migrant farmworkers, she added, are considered educationally disadvantaged, functioning at a fifth-grade literacy level or less.

The GAO report estimates 155,000 children aged 15 to 17 may be working in agriculture, based on the government's Current Population Survey. That figure might be low because of data limitations. The GAO didn't try to calculate how many of the boys and girls are working illegally.

Florida's Welfare Time Limits Kick In

The Associated Press reports that in 1996 Pensacola, FL became the first place to end people's welfare benefits because they had reached a time limit.

Welfare recipients across the country face a five-year time limit imposed by the 1996 federal welfare reform law. But many states impose shorter limits. Florida allows two years for most welfare recipients.

The nation's first evaluation of time limits for people on welfare was released Monday by Manpower Demonstration Research Corp. Study of the experimental program in Pensacola, began in 1994, found the time limits did little to encourage recipients to move off the rolls more quickly on their own. And only about half of welfare recipients had found a job by the time they became ineligible for further benefits.

Two years into the program, 52% of the people subject to the new rules were working, compared with 44% in the traditional program. People in the experiment were also more likely to find full-time jobs and jobs with benefits.

Only 11% of the Pensacola families actually hit the limit after two years because, like families nationwide, they came on and off the welfare rolls as their circumstances changed. While state officials had considerable latitude in dealing with them, almost all lost their benefits immediately or after a brief extension.

Half were already earning more than their welfare grant. The half that were not had their cases closed after review by a community panel. Six months later, about 75% were working. The others were living with relatives and/or relying on other public assistance, such as food stamps.

Significantly, the two-year time limit applied only to recipients deemed most likely to find work. Others facing tougher challenges got three years. They hadn't hit the time limit in time to be studied.

"That's the group you really want information about before you draw conclusions," said MDRC's Dan Bloom.

Viva Aztlan Festival March 27-Municipal Coliseum March 28-Civic Center Theatre

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

La Pastilla De Veneno En La Estadidad De Puerto Rico

Iro de una serie de tres artículos
Por Anthony M. Stevens-Arroyo

Ahora que la gritería partidaria ha cesado, es hora de echar un vistazo serio a las perspectivas para que Puerto Rico llegue a ser el quincuagésimo-primero estado.

La legislación sobre el plebiscito de Puerto Rico aprobada por la Cámara de Representantes de los Estados Unidos el 4 de marzo por un sólo voto se denomina "Ley Young", por el nombre de su autor principal, el Representante Don Young, republicano por Alaska. La pregunta que deben hacer los latinos es por qué Bob Menéndez (demócrata por Nueva Jersey), que es cubano-americano, y los puertorriqueños Nydia Velázquez (demócrata por Nueva York) y Luis Gutiérrez (demócrata por Illinois) votaron en contra de ella.

¿Saben ellos algo que otros latinos del Congreso desconocen? Después de todo, el resto de ellos, republicanos y demócratas por igual, apoyaron a esta legislación, que da a Puerto Rico un empujón sólido hacia la estadidad. Un estado con un 98.5 por ciento de población latina agregaría influencia, con seis nuevos representantes y dos senadores hispanos en Washington. Actualmente hay 17 miembros hispanos con voto en la Cámara y no hay ninguno en el Senado.

Pero este proyecto de ley tiene una pastilla de veneno oculta en el texto. La pastilla fué puesta allí por sus autores para evitar la posibilidad de que Puerto Rico se convierta en un Estado Libre Asociado - algo que los puertorriqueños han seleccionado en las dos votaciones anteriores sobre la situación de la isla.

Esa pastilla de veneno plantada por los partidarios de la estadidad podría ser mortífera también contra otros latinos.

La cuarta disposición de la segunda parte de la Ley Young despojaría a 3.8 millones de puertorriqueños de su ciudadanía. Al día siguiente de que la mitad más uno de los pobladores de la isla voten por la estadidad, la otra mitad que votó en contra de ella perdería su ciudadanía. Si ellos quieren conservar la ciudadanía de los Estados Unidos, entonces tienen que dejar de ser puertorriqueños. En el escenario que pinta la Ley Young, los puertorriqueños del futuro tendrían que solicitar pasaportes para entrar a los Estados Unidos.

Puesto que cerca de 3 millones de puertorriqueños residen en el territorio continental de los Estados Unidos, las fuerzas partidarias de la estadidad que redactaron este proyecto de ley calcularon que ésta sería la "pastilla de veneno" que torpedearía a cualquier alternativa que no fuera la estadidad. Ellos saben que los vínculos familiares de los puertorriqueños son tan sólidos, que la mayoría de nuestro pueblo no querría perder la capacidad de viajar libremente entre la isla y los estados continentales.

El quitarle la ciudadanía a 3.8 millones de personas no es probablemente constitucional. En decisiones anteriores del Tribunal Supremo, al gobierno se le ha prohibido quitarle la ciudadanía a una sola persona, mucho menos a millones de personas.

Por ejemplo, un judío estadounidense que se unió al ejército de Israel pudo conser-

var su ciudadanía de los Estados Unidos, aún cuando juró lealtad a una potencia extranjera y se alistó en sus fuerzas armadas. Los tribunales fallaron a favor de la ciudadanía doble y cumplieron la Constitución, la cual dispone que cualquier persona nacida en los Estados Unidos, así como los nacidos de padres estadounidenses en cualquier parte del mundo, son ciudadanos de esta nación. La Ley Young trata a los puertorriqueños de distinto modo que a los judíos estadounidenses en este respecto. La ciudadanía doble, algo que los dominicanos y otros ya tienen, le sería denegada a los puertorriqueños.

¿Por qué deberían estar preocupados los latinos que no son puertorriqueños?

La respuesta está clara. El dar al Congreso la facultad de revocar la ciudadanía a toda una clase de personas es un precedente peligroso. Un ataque al por mayor contra un grupo racial es lo que fué llevado a cabo por Hitler en la Alemania nazi contra todos los judíos. Una vez que se dictamine como permisible el actuar de este modo en contra de los puertorriqueños, esto se podría aplicar a los demás latinos.

El Congreso podría aprobar un proyecto de ley que dispusiera que cualquier cubano-americano que hubiera visitado a Cuba perdería su ciudadanía estadounidense. El inscribirse para votar en el partido "equivocado" en una elección de la República Dominicana podría llevar la misma suerte a los dominicanos de los Estados Unidos. Y, dado el fervor anti-mexicano en los estados tales como

Texas y California, ¿quién sabe qué pretexto se podría emplear para despojar a los mexicanoamericanos de la ciudadanía?

Algunos dirán que la probabilidad de que Puerto Rico obtenga la asociación libre o la independencia es remota. Pero hace diez años, el Partido de Quebec en el Canadá era motivo de risa; hoy está listo para hacer de Quebec una nación separada.

La independencia de Puerto Rico está lejos ahora; pero, ¿deberían los latinos jugar a la suerte su ciudadanía de los Estados Unidos?

Lo que es más importante, aún cuando no se aplique la ley, es que una vez que se establezca el precedente, influirá sobre todas las decisiones de los tribunales. Si nadie reta al derecho del Congreso de quitarle la ciudadanía a millones de puertorriqueños nacidos bajo la bandera de los Estados Unidos, algún día esa potestad se podría emplear contra otros latinos.

Los latinos deberían obligar a sus representantes en el Congreso a eliminar esta parte de la Ley Young. El asegurar la ciudadanía para Puerto Rico resolvería este problema y salvaguardaría a todos los demás latinos. Después de todo, este es el modo de tratar a los judíos estadounidenses. ¿No tienen derecho los latinos al mismo respeto?

(El Dr. Anthony M. Stevens-Arroyo, que fué antes vicepresidente del Comité del Estado de Nueva York para la Comisión Estadounidense sobre los Derechos Humanos, es catedrático de Estudios Puertorriqueños y Latinos en la Escuela Superior de Brooklyn, Universidad Municipal de Nueva York.)

Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 1998. Distribuido por The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

When "Multiculturalism" Means Fighting Over Scraps

EDITOR'S NOTE: In San Francisco -- with its highly diverse student population -- a battle has erupted over a school board proposal to require that up to seventy percent of the curriculum consist of works by non-white authors. What do young teachers and youth workers on the front lines of the new California majority think of the proposal?

By Josh Parr, Pacific News Service

Living in a world in which you are, like your stories, peripheral, means having no sense of home. Integrating stories of non-white writers into the public school curriculum is an attempt to provide students with glimpses of home inside the classroom. Calculated by demographers as comprising between zero and .5 percent of the San Francisco population, no group is more implicated in an effort to include "minorities" in the curriculum than Native Americans.

But a word of caution. At the Native American Charter school in Oakland where I taught, my students often said, "Man, I'm sick of being taught what it means to be Indian." Through cultivating a traditional garden or sitting in talk circles, the teachers tried to instill a knowledge of culture, a sense of history, in their students. But the students identified more with Tupac and Little Kim than Black Elk and Joy Harjo.

Encouraged to make murals in the garden, the students wanted to spray-paint their names across the fence.

Another group of young Native Americans I spoke with recently who attend various public schools saw things differently. "We always learn about African American history," said one young woman, holding up Toni Morrison's "Song of Solomon." "But we never hear our own stories." As the facilitator of many discussions about representation and racial identity among multicultural youth, this is a line I've heard repeatedly. America is so stuck on the black/white dichotomy of the 1960s that any discussion of representation or equity becomes, almost by default, a conversation about those two groups.

I remember a particular argument between two young men, one black and the other Native American.

"There has never been anything to compare to 400 years of slavery!" said the black man.

"You saying that genocide don't mean anything?" challenged the Native man. The goal of this argument was to win the title of "Most Righteously Pissed Off at Whitey," and receive all the imaginary benefits thereof: scholarships, pages in the history books, welfare, 40 acres and a mule, whatever. It's a leftover idea from the days when white liberal zeal pushed forward an affirmative action agenda. Instead of eyeing a common enemy, the "oppressed" wind up battling each other.

If minorities begin squabbling over space on the reading list, this will reduce literature to just another footnote in the identity politics debate. Inclusion in the curriculum becomes an issue of clout. The small carrot of inclusion makes the Native American girl resent the black author. As always, the so-called gifts of the system divide people of color as they struggle to take care of their own.

Wanting "our stories" present is natural. Joining the national imagination sparks our own. We gain a sense of belonging, a feeling of power. And a diverse reading list is without a doubt better than a straight shot of vanilla. But the bottom line is that these over-hyped debates about representation turn "minority" groups against each other, leaving us, once again, competing over scraps.

Cuando "Multiculturalismo" Significa Pelearse Por Las Sobras

NOTA EDITORIAL: En San Francisco, con una población estudiantil muy diversa, la batalla ha explotado sobre una proposición del consejo de escuelas que requiere que hasta el setenta por ciento del plan de estudios consista en obras de autores no blancos. ¿Qué piensan de esta proposición profesores jóvenes y trabajadores de la juventud al frente de esta nueva mayoría de California?

Por Josh Parr, Pacific News Service

Vivir en un mundo en el que eres, como tus historias, periférico, significa no tener un sentido de hogar. Integrar historias de escritores no blancos en el plan de estudios de las escuelas públicas es un intento de hacer que los estudiantes vislumbren algo de ese hogar dentro del aula.

Con un porcentaje calculado por los demógrafos de entre cero y 0.5% de la población de San Francisco, ningún grupo se encuentra más implicado en el esfuerzo por incluir a las "minorías" en los planes de estudios que los nativo-americanos.

Pero una palabra de atención. En la escuela de la Carta Nativo-Americana de Oakland en la que daba clases, mis estudiantes decían a menudo: "Estoy harto de que me enseñen lo que significa ser indio". A través del cultivo de un jardín tradicional o sentándose en círculos de conversación, los profesores trataban de inculcar en sus estudiantes conocimiento sobre la cultura y un sentido de la historia. Pero los estudiantes se identificaban más con Tupac y Little Kim que con Black Elk ("Alce Negro") y Joy Harjo. Alentados a realizar murales en el jardín, los estudiantes querían pintar sus nombres en la valla con aerosol.

Otro grupo de jóvenes nativo-americanos con los que hablé recientemente, el cual había asistido a diversas escuelas públicas, veía las cosas de otra forma. "Siempre aprendemos sobre historia afro-americana", decía una joven, poniendo como ejemplo la "Canción de Salomón" de Toni Morrison. "Pero nunca escuchamos nuestras propias historias". Como facilitadora de muchas discusiones sobre representación e identidad racial entre la juventud multicultural, esta es una frase que he escuchado repetidamente. Estados Unidos está tan pegado a su dicotomía blanco/negro de los 1960s que cualquier discusión sobre representación o equidad se convierte, casi por defecto, en una conversación sobre estos dos grupos.

Recuerdo una discusión particular entre dos jóvenes, uno negro y el otro nativo-americano.

"No ha habido jamás algo que se compare con 400 años de esclavitud!", dijo el muchacho negro.

"¿Estás diciendo que el genocidio no significa nada?", desafió el nativo-americano. El objetivo de esta discusión era ganar el título de "El que tiene más derecho a estar enojado con los blancos" así como recibir todos los beneficios imaginarios que de él emanan: becas, páginas en los libros de historia, asistencia pública, 40 acres y una mula, cualquier cosa. Es una idea proveniente de los días en que el ardor liberal blanco empujó hacia adelante una agenda de acción afirmativa. En vez de ver un enemigo común, los "oprimidos" terminaron peleándose entre ellos.

Si las minorías comienzan a pelearse por un espacio en la lista de lecturas, esto reducirá la literatura a simplemente una nota más al pie en el debate de política de la identidad. La inclusión en el plan de estudio se convierte en un tema de tiro al blanco. La pequeña zanahoria de la inclusión hace que la niña nativo-americana se sienta resentida frente al autor negro. Como siempre, los así llamados regalos del sistema dividen a la gente de color mientras éstos luchan por cuidar de sí mismos.

Querer que "nuestras historias" estén presentes es natural. Formar parte de la imaginación nacional enciende la nuestra propia. Ganamos un sentido de pertenencia, un sentimiento de poder. Y una lista de lectura diversa es, sin duda alguna, mejor que un trago puro de vainilla. Pero el resultado final es que todos estos acalorados debates sobre la representación vuelven los grupos "minoritarios" en contra el uno del otro, dejándonos, una vez más, peleándonos por las sobras.

Translations were done by Lucrecia Miranda.

The Poison Pill In Puerto Rico Statehood

First in a series of three articles
By Anthony M. Stevens-Arroyo

Now that the partisan shouting is over, it's time to take a serious look at the prospects for Puerto Rico becoming the 51st state.

The Puerto Rico plebiscite legislation passed by the U.S. House of Representatives March 4 by a single vote is called the Young Bill, after its principle author, Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska). The question Latinos should ask is why Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), a Cuban-American, and Puerto Ricans Nydia Velázquez (D-N.Y.) and Luis Gutiérrez (D-Ill.) voted against it.

Do they know something other Latinos in Congress don't? After all, the rest, Republicans and Democrats alike, supported this legislation which gives Puerto Rico a hard push toward statehood. A state with a 98.5 percent Latino population would add clout, what with six new Hispanic representatives and two Hispanic senators in Washington. Presently, there are 17 Hispanic voting members in the House and none in the Senate.

But this bill has a poison pill hidden inside the text. The pill was put there by its authors to ward off the possibility of making Commonwealth into a Free Associated State -- something that Puerto Ricans have chosen in the two previous votes on status.

That poison pill planted by the pro-statehooders could also jeopardize the future of other Latinos in America.

The fourth provision in the second part of the Young Act would strip Puerto Rico's 3.8 million residents of their U.S. citizenship if statehood is voted down. If they want to retain U.S. citizenship, they must stop being Puerto Ricans. In the scenario painted by the Young Bill, Puerto Ricans in the future would have

to apply for passports to enter the United States.

Since nearly 3 million Puerto Ricans reside on the U.S. mainland, the pro-statehood forces who wrote this bill calculated that this would be the "poison pill" to torpedo any alternative but statehood. They know that Puerto Rican family ties are so strong, the majority of our people would not want to lose the ability to travel freely between the island and the states.

Taking away citizenship for 3.8 million people is probably not constitutional. In past Supreme Court decisions, the government has been barred from taking citizenship away for a single individual, let alone millions.

For instance, an American Jew who joined the Israeli army was able to hold onto his U.S. citizenship, even though he swore allegiance to a foreign power and joined its armed forces. The courts ruled in favor of dual citizenship and followed the Constitution, which says that anyone born in the United States, as well as those born to a U.S. parent anywhere in the world, is a citizen. The Young Bill treats Puerto Ricans differently from American Jews in this regard. Dual citizenship, something Dominicans and others already have, would be denied to Puerto Ricans.

Why should non-Puerto Rican Latinos be worried? The answer is clear. Giving Congress the power to revoke citizenship for a whole class of people is a dangerous precedent. A wholesale attack on a racial group is the sort of thing that was done by Hitler in Nazi Germany against all Jews. Once it is ruled permissible to act in this way against Puerto Ricans, it could be applied to other Latinos.

Congress could pass a law that any Cuban American who had visited Cuba would

have his or her U.S. citizenship taken away. Registering to vote in the "wrong" party in a Dominican election could bring the same fate to Dominicans in the United States. And given the anti-Mexican fervor in states like Texas and California, who knows what pretext could be used to strip Mexican Americans of citizenship?

Some will say that the chance of Puerto Rico gaining free association or independence is remote. But 10 years ago, the Quebecois Party in Canada was a laughing stock; today it is poised to make Quebec a separate country.

Puerto Rican independence is a long shot now, but should Latinos gamble with their U.S. citizenship?

Most importantly, even if the law is not applied, once the

precedent is established it influences all court decisions. If no one challenges the right of Congress to take away the citizenship of millions of Puerto Ricans born under the U.S. flag, someday that power could be used against other Latinos.

Latinos should force their representatives in Congress to eliminate this part of the Young Bill. Ensuring citizenship for Puerto Rico would solve this problem and safeguard all other Latinos. After all, this is how American Jews are treated. Are not Latinos entitled to the same respect?

(Dr. Anthony M. Stevens-Arroyo, formerly vice-chairman of the New York State Committee for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, is professor of Puerto Rican and Latino studies at Brooklyn College, City University of New York.)

From Page One

limited-English-proficient children would be expected to know enough English to do school work at the same level as native speakers of English their age. The initiative would dismantle many current programs that have been demonstrated to be successful in helping children acquire English, and would hold teachers financially responsible if they violate this policy. If passed, schools would have 60 days to conform to the new policy. If the June, 1998, primary election were being held today, would you vote for or against this measure?"

In response to the Times' question, 57 percent said they would vote for Proposition 227.

But in response to our modified version, only 15 percent said they would do so. The difference is statistically significant.

We believe it's politically significant, too. It shows that passage of the anti-bilingual initiative on June 2 remains far from a certainty.

The more Californians learn about Proposition 227, the more likely they are to recognize it as a threat to children, parents, teachers and taxpayers. The more they consider its extreme provisions, the more likely they are to vote no.

For opponents of Proposition 227, the most effective slogan may be: Read the Fine Print.

(James Crawford is a Washington, D.C.-based writer on language and education policy.)

El Editor Newspaper

is a weekly bilingual published every Thursday by Amigo Publications in Lubbock Texas, 1502 Ave. M, 79401. Tel. 806-763-3841. Subscribing \$40 per year payable in advance. Opinions and commentaries expressed by guest columnists do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publisher or of advertisers.

**"ES TU FAMILIA,
ES TU BARRIO."**

Porque se trata de la seguridad y el futuro de tu familia, ya es hora de tomar control y unirse a la lucha contra el crimen.

Llama hoy mismo al 1-800-727-UNETE.

18 Millones Se Visten Ahora Mientras

El Soccer Obtiene Popularidad En Los Estados Unidos

Por Fernando Trulin IV
(Primera de dos partes)

A medida que el Soccer de Ligas Mayores se adentra en su tercera temporada y que el equipo nacional estadounidense de soccer tiene señalado competir en la Copa Mundial en Francia en este verano, el soccer continúa creciendo de estatura como un deporte popular en los Estados Unidos.

La Copa Mundial de 1994, a la que sirvieron de anfitrión los Estados Unidos, hizo aumentar meteóricamente el atractivo del soccer en las escuelas, las ligas de recreo y los campos de juegos de todo el país.

Desde 1993 hasta 1996, la cantidad de participantes de ese deporte aumentó desde 16 millones hasta 18 millones, según el Consejo Industrial de Soccer de los Estados Unidos (SICA en inglés), una asociación de fabricantes de trajes y equipos para soccer que observa el deporte.

Su crecimiento ha sido impulsado más por las madres del soccer suburbanas que por el interés de las familias latinas. Sólo el 5 por ciento del aumento -- 100,000 participantes -- se atribuye a los latinos.

SICA informa que los blancos forman el 76 por ciento de los que juegan soccer, seguidos por los latinos en el 12.5 por ciento, que han disminuido desde el 13.1 por ciento en 1993. La cantidad de negros saltó desde 200,000 (el 0.8 por ciento del total) a 1.3 millones (el 7.6 por ciento) durante ese espacio de tiempo. Las mujeres formaron el 31 por ciento (7.2 millones) de la población que juega al soccer. Su participación ha aumentado en 1.1 millones desde 1987.

Los analizadores dicen que, a pesar de las estadísticas de SICA, es difícil medir cuántos latinos realmente juegan. Las dos ligas juveniles de soccer más importantes, American Youth Soccer Organization y United States Youth Soccer Association, no llevan estadísticas sobre la



composición étnica de los 3.4 millones de personas entre las edades de 4 a 18 años que participan en sus ligas.

Muchos latinos nacidos en el extranjero juegan en sus propias ligas informales, a menudo organizadas por país de origen de los jugadores, pero según concuerdan los analizadores, los hispanos continúan estando sub-representados todavía en las ligas organizadas.

"El soccer ha tenido tradicionalmente un perfil suburbano en los Estados Unidos. Las poblaciones urbanas no tienen las mismas oportunidades que las suburbanas", observa Adam Zand, director de asuntos públicos del Centro de la Universidad del Nordeste para el Estudio de los Deportes en la Sociedad. "En los suburbios se ven campos de soccer muy bien cuidados. Se podría ver juegos "de recogida" más pequeños en las zonas urbanas. También hay una sub-cultura de padres y madres (blancos) que ven jugar a sus hijos todos los fines de semana".

Sandy Briggs, director ejecutivo de la SICA, dice que las mamás y los papás del soccer forman la espina dorsal de las organizaciones de recreo y son la fuerza impulsora detrás del crecimiento del de-

porte. Cherie Tucker, directora de operaciones para la AYSO, sugiere que hay necesidad de integrar mejor a los latinos en las asociaciones estatales de soccer.

Zand dice: "Al nivel juvenil, necesita haber más gestiones transculturales y populares para lograr más de una mezcla de jugadores suburbanos y urbanos. Eso mejora la diversidad y el nivel de habilidad".

Art Taylor, de Northeastern, director de deportes juveniles urbanos para el Centro, agrega que es importante el atraer a más latinos y negros jóvenes de las zonas urbanas a las ligas escolásticas y a otras, para proporcionarles una oportunidad de obtener becas atléticas y grados de escuelas superiores.

Major League Soccer (MLS en inglés), la principal liga profesional de los Estados Unidos, puede ser el catalizador para atraer a más latinos a las ligas de aficionados.

Taylor precisa que los fanáticos del soccer que asisten a los juegos no son las multitudes de color "blanco como el lirio" que se ven asistiendo a los acontecimientos deportivos para algunos otros deportes profesionales.

La MLS ha creado so-

ciudades con organizaciones tales como la AYSO para auspiciar clínicas y campamentos.

Otro estímulo posible es la popularidad de los jugadores latinos criados en los Estados Unidos en la liga profesional.

Tab Ramos, de los Metrostars de Nueva York-Nueva Jersey, y Marcelo Balboa, de los Colorado Rapids, sostienen principales del equipo del equipo de los Estados Unidos a

la Copa Mundial, han logrado reconocimiento en la liga. Ramos nació en Uruguay y fué criado en Nueva Jersey, mientras que Balboa, de origen argentino, fué criado en Cerritos, California.

Zand pronostica que la cantidad de jugadores latinos de alto perfil en la MLS producirá un interés hispano mucho mayor por este deporte.

"Es asunto de orgullo. Es agradable el que los fanáticos

vean a personas que se parecen a ellos y que son excelentes en el campo de juego", dice él.

(Próximamente: Un vistazo al efecto de los latinos sobre el soccer profesional.)

(Fernando Trulin IV es reportero de Hispanic Link News Service en Washington, D.C.)

Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 1998. Distribuido por The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

18 Million Now Suit Up As Soccer Gains U.S. Popularity

By Fernando Trulin IV
(First of two parts)

As Major League Soccer enters its third season and the U.S. national soccer team is set to compete in the World Cup in France this summer, soccer continues to grow in stature as a popular U.S. sport.

The 1994 World Cup hosted by the United States catapulted soccer's appeal in schools, recreational leagues and playgrounds nationwide.

From 1993 to 1996, the number of participants in the sport climbed from 16 million to 18 million, according to the Soccer Industry Council of America, a trade association of soccer apparel and equipment manufacturers who monitor the sport.

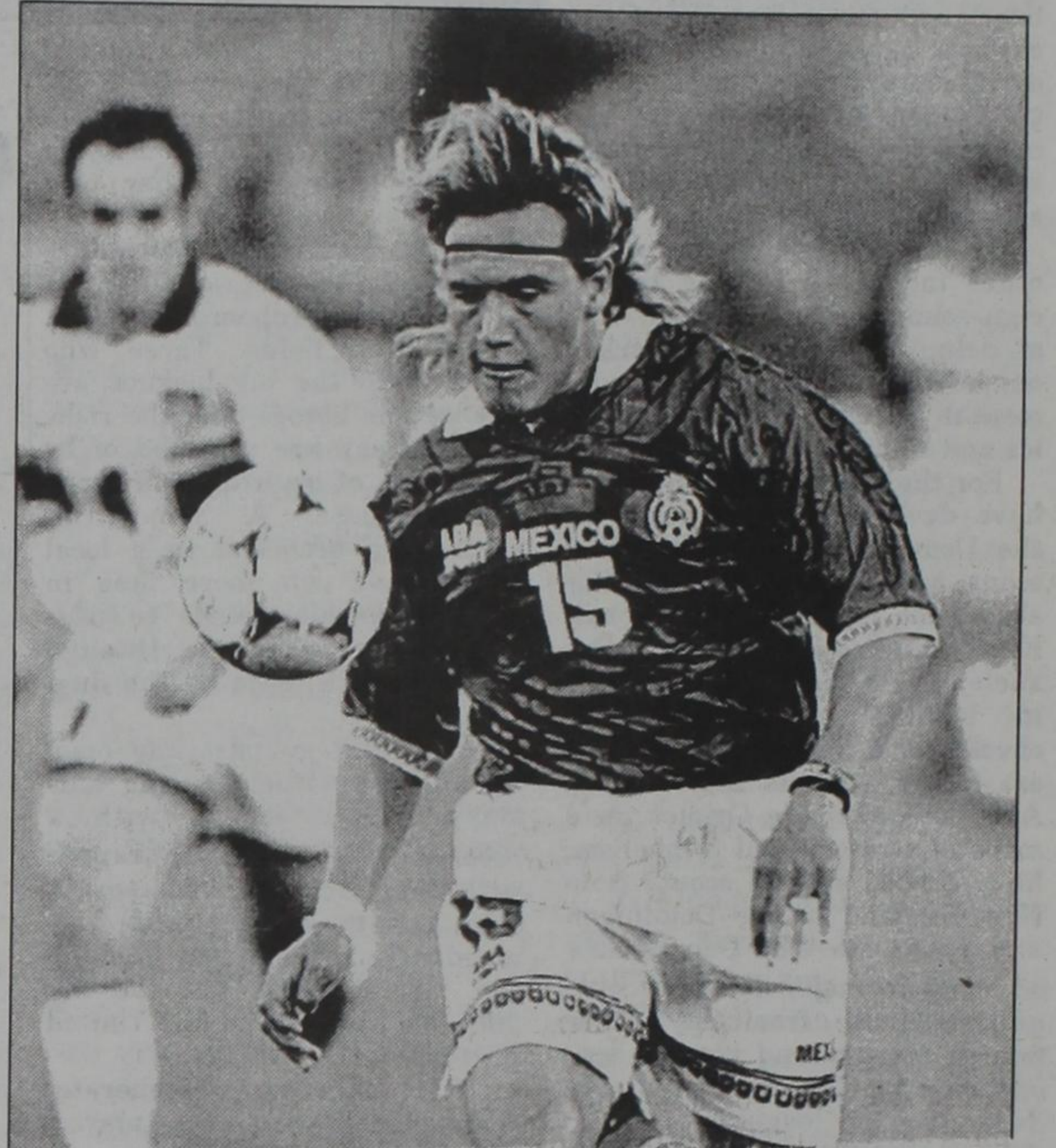
Its growth has been driven more by suburban soccer moms than by Latino family interest. Only about 5 percent of the increase -- 100,000 participants -- is attributed to Latinos.

SICA reports that whites make up 76 percent of those playing soccer, followed by Latinos at 12.5 percent, down from 13.1 percent in 1993. The number of blacks jumped from 200,000 (0.8 percent of the total) to 1.3 million (7.6 percent) during that time. Women made up 31 percent (7.2 million) of the soccer-playing population. Their participation has increased by 1.1 million since 1987.

Analysts say that despite the SICA statistics, it is difficult to gauge how many Latinos actually play. The two major youth soccer leagues, the American Youth Soccer Organization and the United States Youth Soccer Association, do not keep statistics on the ethnic makeup of the 3.4 million persons ages 4-18 participating in their leagues.

Many foreign-born Latinos play in their own informal leagues, often organized around the players' country of origin, but, the analysts agree, Hispanics still remain underrepresented in organized leagues.

"Soccer has traditionally had a suburban profile in America. Urban populations don't have the same opportunities as suburban ones," observes Adam Zand, director of



public affairs for Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society. "In the suburbs (you see) nice manicured soccer fields. You might see smaller pick-up games in urban areas. Also, there is a sub-culture of (white) parents who watch their kids play every weekend."

Sandy Briggs, executive director of the SICA, says soccer moms and soccer dads form the backbone of recreational organizations and are the driving force behind the sport's growth. Cherie Tucker, director of operations for the AYSO, suggests there is a need to better integrate Latinos into state soccer associations.

Zand says, "At the youth level, there need to be more cross-cultural, grassroots efforts to (get) more of a mix of suburban and urban players. It improves diversity and skill level."

Northeastern's Art Taylor, director of urban youth sports for the Center, adds that it is important to attract more young Latinos and blacks in urban areas to scholastic and other organized leagues to provide them a chance to gain athletic scholarships and a college degree.

Major League Soccer, the premiere U.S. professional

league, may be the catalyst to attract more Latinos to the amateur leagues.

Taylor notes that soccer fans attending games are not the "lily white" crowds seen attending sporting events for some other professional sports.

The MLS has created partnerships with organizations such as the AYSO to sponsor clinics and camps.

Another potential incentive is the popularity of U.S.-raised Latino players in the professional league. Tab Ramos of the New York-New Jersey Metrostars and Marcelo Balboa of the Colorado Rapids, mainstays of the U.S. World Cup team, have achieved recognition in the league. Ramos was born in Uruguay and raised in New Jersey while Balboa, of Argentine descent, was raised in Cerritos, Calif.

Zand predicts that the number of high-profile Latino players in the MLS will generate much greater Hispanic interest for the sport.

"It's a matter of pride. It's nice for (fans) to see people who look like (them) excelling on the field of play," he says.

(Fernando Trulin IV is a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C.)

Copyright 1998, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Impuestos en Español

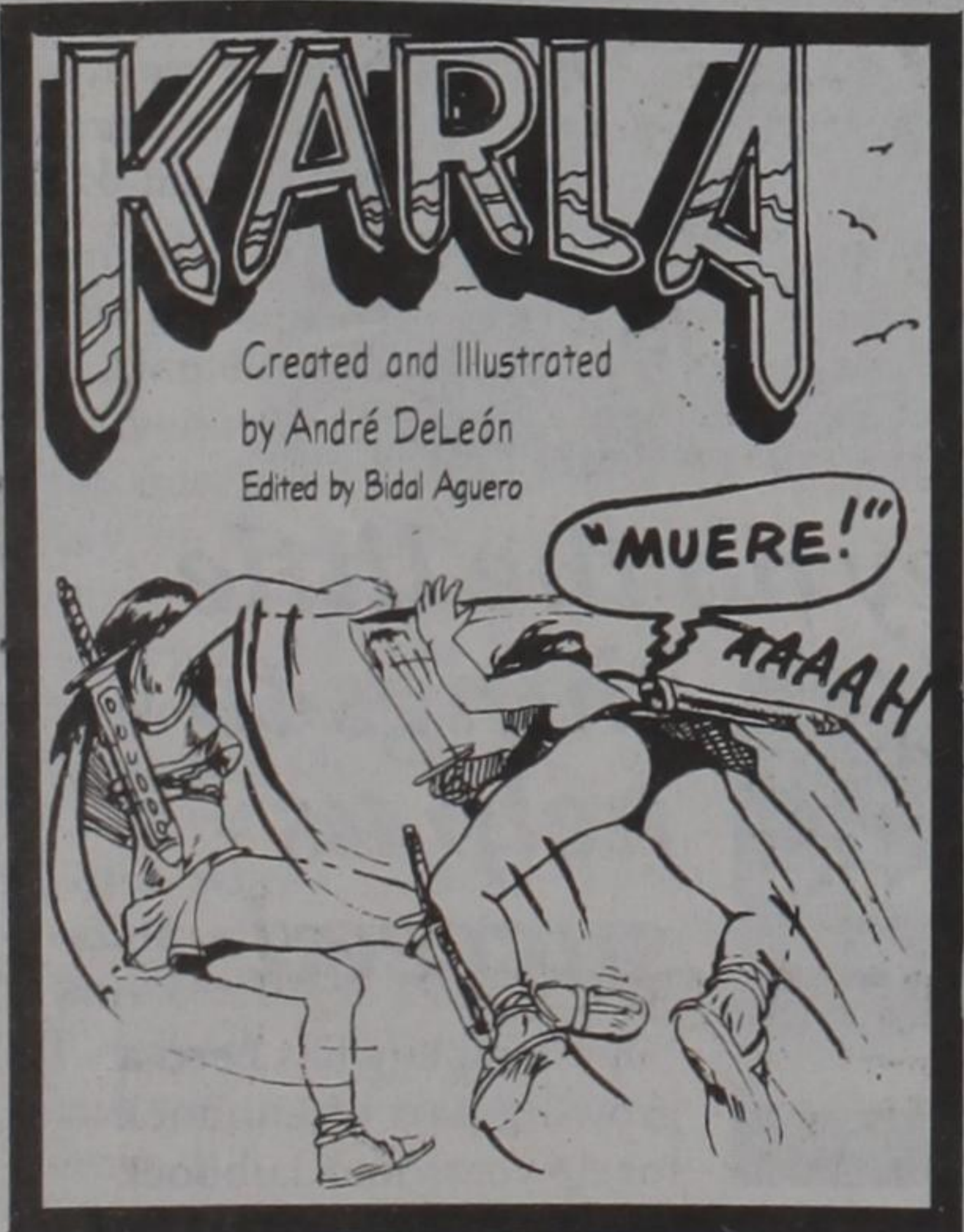
¿Dónde podrá buscar ayuda en español? La Publicación 579SP, *Cómo Preparar la Declaración de Impuesto Federal*, contiene información en español acerca de la forma que debe llenar, el estado civil para efectos de la declaración que debe escoger, los ingresos tributables y no tributables y algunos de los créditos tributarios más comunes. Llame al 1-800-829-3676 para pedirla.

Cambio de Nombre

Si cambia de nombre por cualquier motivo, por ejemplo, debido a matrimonio o divorcio, usted debe notificar a la Administración del Seguro Social (SSA). Los nombres y números de seguro social en las declaraciones de impuestos deberán coincidir con los contenidos en los archivos de la SSA, ya que de otra manera, los reembolsos del impuesto sobre el ingreso federal pueden demorarse.

Etiqueta y Sobre — una Buena Idea

¿Quiere reducir el tiempo que tarda el procesamiento de una declaración de impuestos? ¿Qué le parece reducir la posibilidad de correspondencia o reembolsos mal dirigidos debido a una letra difícil de leer? Cuando envía su declaración de impuestos federal, use la etiqueta desprendible y el sobre incluido dentro del folleto de impuestos. Es una buena idea.



Come Holy Spirit

Youth Rally 1998
March 28, 1998
9:00 am to 11:00 pm
Lubbock Memorial Civic Center
1501 6th Street
For more information, contact
Paul Florez or Lillie Romero at
806-792-3943

Parent Rally 1998 March 28, 1998
10 am til 3 pm (lunch provided)
St. Joseph's Parish
102 N. Avenue P., Lubbock, Tx
For more information, contact
Alice Alvarez or Family Life,
Den. Jesse Esquivel at
806-792-3943

Latin Players Changing the Face of Baseball

By MURRAY CHASS

Sandy Alomar Jr. hits a home run that wins last summer's all-star game. Edgar Renteria drives in the winning run in the 11th inning of the seventh game of the World Series last October. Pedro Martinez is voted the National League's best pitcher for 1997, later becoming the highest-paid player in baseball history.

Teams are mining the fields of Latin America, from San Pedro de Macoris in the Dominican Republic to Maracaibo in Venezuela, in a hunt for teen-age players that is driven by two facts: The talent in this country is dwindling, and the cost of signing American players is skyrocketing.

Players from outside the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada are not subject to the amateur draft and can typically be signed for a fraction of the cost of American players. Already, there are twice as many Latin American players in the major leagues as there were 20 years ago -- 184, or 16 percent of all major leaguers.

Thus, baseball, not unlike other industries looking to foreign countries for a cheaper way of doing business, is embarked on an effort that could fundamentally alter both the economics and the face of the game.

For the first time, all 30 clubs have development personnel in the Dominican -- from a single scout to sophisticated training academies -- and roughly half have similar operations in Venezuela. Clubs have also engaged in blanket signings, writing checks for dozens of young players for as little as \$2,000 each. And the Baltimore Orioles, in a move of strategy and symbolism, have shifted several scouts from New England to the Dominican and Venezuela. The Dominican's 88 current major leaguers outnumber those from any other foreign country and place it second only to California as a producer of major leaguers.

But the sport's aggressive foray into Latin America has also provoked a range of policy violations and concerns. Players as young as 14 are lying about their ages in order to sign contracts, sometimes with the complicity of the clubs. The often tiny bonuses given to young Latin players have produced cries of exploitation. Eager for their own cut, American agents have moved in to negotiate better deals for the players, and in the process have angered local Latin officials who believe they threaten a thriving, if imperfect, baseball economy.

"There are players there and we want to get the best players," said Randy Smith, the general manager of the Detroit Tigers. "Baseball is still the No. 1 sport in those countries. Baseball is, unfortunately, not the No. 1 sport in the U.S."

Pablo Peguero, general manager of the Dominican baseball academy owned by the Los Angeles Dodgers, said cost savings were as appealing as the talent.

"Everybody, as a matter of standard business practice, tries to make as small an investment as possible," Peguero said. "Some companies make shoes or electrical appliances or clothes. It's not just baseball. But I'll



tell you, the best raw material anywhere in the world is here in the Dominican Republic."

A Rich Environment: Players May Be Raw, But They Are Willing

In the Dominican, baseball is a part of life's fabric. Children play it with cardboard gloves in sugar cane fields. Those who make it to the big leagues are followed as heroes, and the riches they reap are dreamed of by thousands of aspiring shortstops and pitchers. A home run against an archrival in a local tournament can move fans in the ramshackle stands to pass money to the player through the chain-link fence by the dug-out.

"You can't go past any open space there without seeing kids playing, even if it's with a broomstick and a ball wrapped with tape," Sandy Johnson, an official with the Arizona Diamondbacks, said of the Dominican. "It's probably like the '20s and '30s and '40s in the United States."

That environment generates a dynamic for producing players who the officials find lacking in the United States. Increasing numbers of the talented young athletes in this country, the officials say, are choosing basketball, football or something else.

"I haven't seen a Dominican player on a skateboard yet," said Doug Melvin, general manager of the Texas Rangers.

Thus baseball has set up shop in the Dominican to locate, purchase and develop these players. Venezuela and the Dominican Republic are filled with academies -- baseball complexes with dormitories -- although some are of much greater quality than others. For \$250,000 to \$500,000 annually, the teams with academies can develop youngsters into major leaguers, working on their skills, the English language and North American culture.

But organizations get by with much more bare-bones operations. At the St. Louis Cardinals' facility, the accommodations are spartan and players sleep on beds that rest on cinder blocks. Still, applicants, weighing the conditions against working in sugar cane fields or selling cookies on the street corner, flood the facilities.

"If there's no competition for a player, you don't have to pay

him," said Chuck LaMar, general manager of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. "A kid in the U.S. has options. He can go to a two-year college or a four-year college or he can sign. The more options a kid has the more money you have to pay him."

Still, there are scores of Americans, either undrafted or taken in the later rounds, who sign for four-figure bonuses, too.

The youngsters in Latin countries who are talented enough to sign a contract can live well on the roughly \$850 a month they earn as prospects. Others, who technically can only remain in the facilities for 30 days if they are not signed to



a contract, make the best of it. Pedro Osuna, a young shortstop at the Cardinals' camp, laid out the equation bluntly. "Here you get to eat every day," he said. "That's not always the case at home."

Candida Leonardo is the mother of Raul Pimentel, a 19-year-old infielder in the St. Louis organization who signed for \$2,000 two years ago but has yet to advance to the American minor leagues. A cook at the baseball school, Leonardo raised her son for the sport.

"Ever since he was 7 years old, his entire formation has been shaped on the playing field," she said. "I've never allowed him to do anything else. He dropped out of school after sixth grade, but I've never been after him to get a job. Baseball has been his entire upbringing."

For the clubs, the training facilities, in addition to providing a financially practical way of developing hundreds of players a year, are vital because even many of the most gifted Dominican players suffer from a lack of proper nutrition and a shortage of fundamental skills.

"You're taking these kids on as raw material," said Omar Minaya, a former Dominican scout who, as assistant general manager for the Mets, is now the highest-ranking Latin American executive in baseball. "You have to invest money in teaching them how to run, the proper way to throw, plays to make."

The difficulty, then, in being able to accurately predict a Dominican player's long-term potential places an added premium on signing lots of players at low prices. Mel Rojas, a \$4.5 million-a-year relief pitcher for the Mets, had only a 78-mile-an-hour fastball when he signed as a youth. "He never would have been signed in the U.S. throwing 78," Minaya said.

The best of the Latin pros-

pects, even those signed at 16, can be sent to play in low-level minor leagues in the United States soon after they are under contract. Others can remain in their countries playing in summer leagues for several years before they are promoted or let go.

The move to sign scores of young Latin players has raised questions about whether they risk greater incidence of injury. Major League Baseball is concerned enough, said Bill Murray, the sport's director of operations, that it has begun a long-term study of patterns in how Latin players have fared in recent years.

And thus it remains to be seen how much the clubs will be willing to invest in a fuller cultivation and protection of their prospects.

"I believe it's imperative to have a program on the personal development side," said Sal Artiga, who works for the Chicago White Sox as the only coordinator of cultural development in baseball. "We have to prepare a kid with linguistic skills and survival skills as well as personal development. The industry has to adopt a program."

For now, though, baseball will continue to grab as much talent as it can in Latin America. Tampa's Chuck LaMar said, "You're going to see more and more money spent by major league organizations in the scouting and developing of those players."

Discount Shopping: Is It Opportunity or Exploitation?

Money is at the root of the pursuit of foreign talent -- a drive that has taken scouts to Asia and Australia, but that is most intensely focused on Latin America. Some clubs, such as the Dodgers and the Toronto Blue Jays, have been a presence in Latin countries for years, but others began heading there after deciding they were spending too much money for too little return.

The average cost of signing a first-round draft choice -- American, Canadian or Puerto Rican players tend to be represented by agents -- has increased sevenfold since 1989. The player who cost \$170,000 to sign in 1989 now costs \$1.3 million. Under the draft, instituted in 1966, teams cannot sign players until they graduate high school when they are 17 or 18 years old.

The American investments can wind up busts. For example, the top three picks in the 1991 draft of amateur players cost the Yankees (Brien Taylor), the Atlanta Braves (Mike Kelly) and the Minnesota Twins (David McCarty) a total of \$2.52 million for players who either haven't played in the majors or have performed unimpressively.

In places like the Dominican and Venezuela, with players not subject to the draft, players can be signed as young as 16, and almost all lack any kind of representation beyond a family member.

"People realize that for the same amount of money they're signing a first-round pick here, they could sign virtually a hundred players or 50 players and bring them to their complexes in the Dominican and develop them inexpensively," said Fernando Cuza, an agent, whose Chicago firm hired him to represent professional Latin players.

The Hispanic Association of Women

will be hosting their 15th Annual Awards & Scholarship anquet on April 25th at the Four Points Motel, 505 Ave. Q., from 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.

Individual Tickets Are \$16 or Tables can be purchased by contracting Mary Pineda @ 793-3321 or Margie Olivarez @ 791-3040

1973 Estacado High School 25th Reunion
The 1993 Estacado High School graduates are planning their 25th Reunion in June, 1998. We are looking for you if you graduated with us that year. For more information call Margie Aguilar at 763-0710 or you can call our voice mail at 766-7273.

The dividends of such wholesale signings can be striking. A year ago the Baltimore Orioles had seven young Dominican players on their 40-man roster who cost them a total of \$7,000 to sign. One pitcher, Armando Benitez, could be the team's No. 1 reliever this year. More recently, the Colorado Rockies signed eight Dominican teen-agers for bonuses ranging from \$4,000 to \$20,000. One of them, 17-year-old David Martinez, received \$17,000. He said his father earns \$2,500 a year fixing air conditioners and iceboxes.

The reach into Latin America, modestly under way for years, is changing whom Americans see playing at the ballparks. The 184 Latin Americans who played in the major leagues last season was a record, and one in five players on baseball's 40-man team rosters this spring is Latin American.

Gerry Hunsicker, the Houston Astros' general manager, said Latin America is especially important for small-market clubs. In 1989, the Astros became the first club to build a training academy in Venezuela. "We're at the point where it's almost prohibitive to participate in the United States draft," he said. "For what we'll spend on one high draft pick here, we can run our academy and sign 10 to 12 players a year."

Of course, not all Latin players can be had cheaply, either

because their talent is so obvious or because they have enlisted agents or family members who themselves are major leaguers.

Jackson Melian, a Venezuelan outfielder who now plays at the second-lowest level of the minor leagues, received a record bonus of \$1.6 million when he signed with the Yankees as a 16-year-old in 1996. Two Dominican youngsters, Ricardo Aramobles and Josephang Bernhardt, who were declared free agents after it was found that they initially had signed before they were 16, recently received \$1.52 million and \$1.1 million, respectively, from the Yankees and Blue Jays. Both will play in a rookie league or low minor league this year. In Panama, Omar Moreno Jr., son of the former major leaguer, signed last year for \$900,000 with the Dodgers and will play in an American rookie league this year.

But the prevailing experience for the young Latin players is much more modest, and they typically receive bonuses of \$2,000 to \$30,000.

Robert Pepen, who will get his first crack at American minor league experience this summer, signed with the Mets in 1996 when he was 17 for \$7,500. Rafael Gomez, a 20-year-old pitcher whom the Mets signed for \$2,000 when he was 17, said he was discovered by "buscones" or

Continued on Page 5

SOFTBALL - SOFTBALL

Preseason Bash in Yoakum County

April 3 & 4 - \$100 Entry

1 place - 2 button Jerseys with Team Logo
2 & 3 T-Shirts, 1-3 Trophies, MVP & GG -
Call Brent 799-4894

APRIL SHOOTOUT

LITTLEFIELD - APRIL 3 & 4

\$100 Entry - 1-3 trophies, MVP, GG

1st - Mesh Shirts, 2nd - 2 button

Shirts, 3rd - Long Sleeve Shirts

Call 385-5619 or 385-6920

1/2 OFF of Retail Price!!

On all Camping Gear: Fishing Poles, Lanterns, Tents-Small, Medium, Large & Jumbo

Popular Brands:
Coleman, Ozark,
Spalding



EMPIRE PAWN SHOP

We Appreciate Your Business Always!

We Love To Loan Money

747-0383
1510 50th St.

747-7043
1120 19th St.

ATTENTION SOFTBALL TEAMS

Let Us Do Your Softball

Uniforms at 1/2 the

Price Others Do!

FREE NUMBERS

Custom Designs 2 colors

for the Price of One

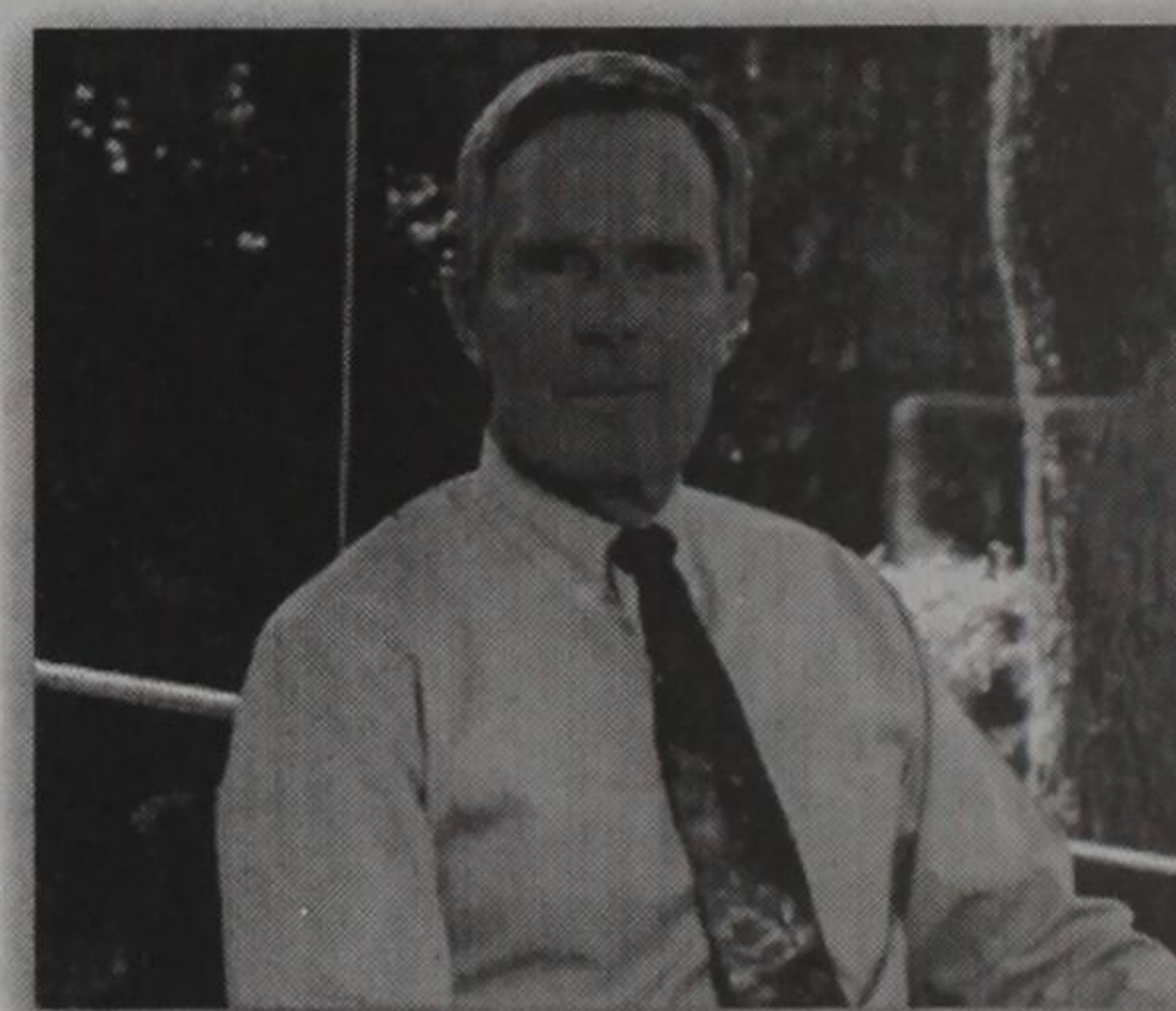
Delivered in 5 Days

CALL: (806) 763-3841

TEXAS SOFTBALL

SUPERCUP

Watch for a Texas SuperCup Softball Tournament
Coming to Your Town Soon!



They do the little things to help us succeed



"Our company has been a growing part of Lubbock for 62 years and Lubbock Power & Light, with their

outstanding service, has never let us down. Whatever we've needed they've been there - whether it's meeting out twenty-four hour around the clock schedule or helping us locate our new plant in Lubbock... LP&L has provided the solutions that have made us better. They do the little things to help us succeed which is all part of the home-owned advantage of LP&L!"

Gail Kring



LUBBOCK
POWER & LIGHT

916 TEXAS • 767-2509

News Briefs

Oakland to Vote on Living Wage

Associated Press reports the City Council in Oakland, CA is scheduled to vote Tuesday night on a proposal to require companies doing business with the city to pay a minimum \$8 an hour wage.

The ordinance, approved 4-0 at a committee hearing earlier this month, is expected to pass. It would make Oakland the 19th jurisdiction to set a minimum wage for companies that do its work. Oakland's measure would be one of the strongest, requiring a minimum wage of \$8 with benefits, \$9.25 without, for companies or organizations, including nonprofits, that have either a service contract of at least \$25,000 or get \$100,000 in subsidies or tax breaks.

The current federal minimum wage is \$5.15 an hour. "What we're seeing is the more recent ordinances are getting stronger and stronger as we get more experience working with living wage policies," said Brian Kettenring, an Oakland organizer with the Association for Community Organizations for Reform Now, or ACORN, which lobbied for the new rules.

Business officials worry that the ordinance in its present form will hurt efforts to recruit new businesses to town just as Oakland is beginning to recover from the effects of the 1989 earthquake, the early '90s California recession and the 1991 Oakland Hills fire.

Mark Weisbrot, who has studied the effects of the first living wage ordinance, enacted in Baltimore in 1994, said those concerns probably aren't justified. "There was no evidence that businesses responded negatively," said Weisbrot, a research director with the Washington, D.C.-based Preamble Center, which studies economic issues.

Partial Immigrant Food Stamp Restorations

In an update to the below story, Associated Press reports Congressional negotiators agreed on Tuesday to restore food stamps to thousands of legal immigrants whose benefits were cut off by the 1996 welfare law. But the plan would cover fewer people than President Clinton had urged.

The House-Senate deal would spend \$642 million over five years to restore benefits to immigrants. Clinton had sought at least \$2 billion to cover up to 730,000 immigrants; aides could not say how many would be covered under the lower spending.

The agreement, reached in negotiations on an agricultural research bill, would use some of the \$1.8 billion in savings from administering the food stamp program to guarantee subsidies for agents who write crop insurance and to increase spending on agricultural research instead of devoting it all to food stamps.

Advocates for the immigrants said they would continue pressing Congress for more money. "We have always thought that the agriculture research bill would be a down payment," said Ellen Vollinger, spokeswoman for the Food Research Action Center, HN005@handsnet.org. "Do we want more? Absolutely."

The deal calls for any further savings in food stamp administration costs to go toward restoring benefits for immigrants, but there were no firm estimates on how much that might be.

The legislation still faces another potential roadblock in the Senate: the budget resolution drafted last week sought to use the food stamp savings for highway and transportation spending.

Supporters of the agriculture research agreement said they would try to get their measure approved on the floor first, preventing a battle between farms and food stamps versus highways.

The agreement still must be approved by the House and Senate, but cannot be amended.

Will Raising Minimum Wage Cost Jobs?

The New York Times reports President Clinton's plan to increase the minimum wage was introduced on Thursday by Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA), the principal congressional proponent of a higher minimum wage.

The bill would raise the minimum by 20%, to \$6.15 an hour, by January 1, 2000. Even some supporters fear that level might be high enough to eliminate some jobs, pointing out a central debate in deciding if the minimum wage should be raised again.

Before the last raise in 1996, most labor economists insisted that the higher minimum wage would not cost any jobs. They turned out to be right.

Now some of the same economists say a wage of \$6.15 an hour could mean two or three minimum-wage workers in a group of 100 may have trouble keeping a job or finding one. But that potential is far outweighed by the financial gains for the 97 or 98 who get the raise and keep their jobs, they add.

Alan Krueger of Princeton University and David Card of the University of California at Berkeley were advocates of raising the minimum in 1996 and also favor the bill introduced Thursday, on the ground that the pluses outweigh the minuses. Their study several years ago centered on Pennsylvania and New Jersey found that lifting the minimum actually increased the employment of minimum wage-workers; it played a key role in passage of the 1996 bill.

"David and I have said all along that there was a tipping point where a great enough increase in the minimum wage would start to reduce employment," Krueger now says. "We were confident that the last increase was below the tipping point. I suspect now that another increase, coming quickly after the last one, would bring us closer to the tipping point and may even cross it."

Kennedy acknowledged the potential, saying in an interview: "I am not ready to grant the job loss argument. But it is an argument that needs serious evaluation."

The \$6.15 hourly wage, adjusted for inflation, would still be well below the inflation-adjusted minimum in the 1960s, but would bring minimum wage workers closer to the wage level of more skilled workers than at any time since 1979. Jared Bernstein of the Economic Policy Institute argues that closing that gap is all to the good, as it would reduce the wage inequality that is now such a national issue and would "insure that low-wage workers get a fairer share of the economic growth."

Even opponents of the increase concede that employment would continue to rise with the minimum at \$6.15 an hour, as long as the economy remains as strong as it is today. The trouble will come in the next downturn, says Cliff Waldman of the National Federation of Independent Business, representing small companies, which are the biggest employers of minimum wage workers.

A majority of Americans favor increasing the minimum, according to polls. About 12 million people, nearly 10% of the work force, are paid \$6.15 an hour or less.



Un Rayito De Luz

por Sofia Martinez

Amar a Dios es lo más grande que cualquier persona puede hacer. Dios es la mayor causa por la que cualquier persona desearía vivir. (Rom. 14, 8). El deseo de entregarse completamente a Dios, es la señal especial de los grandes cristianos. (mat. 13, 44-46). Conocer y amar a Dios, es vivir profundamente; todos tenemos hambre de Dios. (Juan 6, 35). En Cristo, podemos aprender a amar esa hambre, recibiendo en la Eucaristía, Pan de Vida que nos alimenta pero que al ha-

VOTE EARLY

Latin Players

From page 4

bird dogs, the men who bring players to a team's scouts. The bird-dog scouts are sort of freelance operators who roam the countryside in search of young talent to then broker to established organization officials.

"Two thousand dollars doesn't go very far," said Gomez, who will pitch in Class A ball this year. Gomez, though, said he does not feel exploited, that all he wants to do is play baseball.

Others have come to interpret that mixture of desperation and gratitude as exploitation.

"A lot of people are taking advantage of the situation," Tony Bernazard, a Puerto Rican native, a former major leaguer and an official of the players union, said. "Teams say they're giving kids an opportunity. The kid has talent, and teams are looking for talent."

One talented youngster is Martin Genao, a 19-year-old Dominican pitcher who in 1994 received \$13,000 from the Dodgers.

"They exploit us like you would exploit a mine," said Genao, who is recovering from a shoulder injury. "Here you find people playing in garbage dumps, in alleyways, everywhere. That's why the supply of Dominican ballplayers will never run out."

Some baseball officials defend the small amounts paid to the young players. Sandy Alderson, president of the Oakland Athletics, said the bonuses might be exploitation to some, but "to the kids it's an opportunity."

"Let's say you have \$200,000 in signing bonus money for the year," said Alderson, whose organization runs a highly regarded academy on the island. "Is society down there better off having you sign one or two kids for \$200,000 or a lot of kids for \$200,000?"

Other officials say signing the Latin players for any price affords the teen-agers an opportunity at wealth otherwise un-

cernos gustar lo que es el Señor, no deja con más hambre de El, de más intimidad, de más cración, etc.

Debemos de amar a Dios con todo el corazón. Poniéndole en Primer lugar, antes que nada. Obedeciéndole. (1 Jn. 4, 16. y 2, 6) (Fil. 2, 5). Debemos de amar a Dios con toda la mente: Queriendo conocerle mejor. No con nuestros medios, ni estudiando Teología, ni adquiriendo títulos de doctorados, sino dejando al Espíritu Santo que nos enseñe. (Jn. 14, 26) También debemos de amar a Dios con toda nuestra alma: Dirigiendo todo lo que tenemos hacia El: tiempo, dinero, cariños, amistades, etc. Gal. 2, 20.

El Espíritu Santo, es el que nos hace crecer en nuestra relación con Dios. (Jn. 16, 13-15) Conoceremos las profundidades de Dios, conducidos por el Espíritu Santo. El nos hará perfectos, transformándonos conforme a la acción del Espíritu Santo. Tenemos que dejarnos hacer del Señor. Personas convencidas de la importancia de la oración. (ef. 3, 14-21. Gal. 5, 18. 1a Cor. 13, 11.2a. Cor. 3, 16-18. Fil. 2, 13

imaginable. Sammy Sosa signed with the Texas Rangers in 1985 for \$3,500; last year the Chicago Cubs gave him a four-year contract for \$42.5 million. Pedro Martinez signed with the Dodgers in 1988 for \$5,000. The Red Sox recently signed him to a six-year contract for \$75 million.

"They want to get out of the island so they keep playing and they sign for practically nothing," said Howie Haak, a retired scout who made his reputation in Latin countries.

Milton Jamail, a professor of Latin American studies at the University of Texas, agreed. "Most of the players I've talked to see it as a chance to win the lottery," said Jamail, an expert on Latin baseball. "Sammy Sosa signed for next to nothing and now makes \$10 million. It's worth the opportunity to get into the system."

Perhaps But many challenges face both baseball and the Latin countries producing the players as the industry's shift plays out. In the Dominican, the traffic in fraudulent birth certificates is epidemic as the youngest players try to fake being 16. Meanwhile, American agents have developed their own networks to sign young clients before they negotiate with the clubs and get them fairer deals.

For their part, major league baseball officials, as well as certain baseball officials in the Dominican, wince at the prospect of more expensive deals. They fear they will lose their supply of cheaper labor, and local officials worry that, if the price for players rises, fewer will be signed, and the foundation of their baseball industry will erode.

Jose Cuello, a Dominican father whose son, a second baseman, signed with the Rockies, spoke of how appealing that local industry can be.

"He was so smitten with the organization he nearly forgot about the money," Cuello said of the recruitment of his son. He added, "The big contract is waiting for him up there in the big leagues."

What Is Truth

People say that when a person is "born again", he is given the right to become a "Child of God". But with choice of knowledge of what has happened to them as new creatures, virgins, clean temples. Consider the early believers, the "Christians" who followed Christ although they believed in Jesus and were baptized in his name they were given only the right to be Children of God. They hung around with the Christ as mere "Christian followers of the Messiah". It was not until Pentecost that they were transformed from fleshly being worshippers called "Christians" to "Sons of God". No longer mere followers or believers Christians but "Co-heirs" of the throne in Christ Jesus "Sons of God" Remember in (Luke 11:13) where a prophecy is made by the Lord about continuing asking for "the Holy Spirit" yet they were chosen and born again one is to pray the "Sinner prayer" until he gets the "promise" of the "Holy Spirit". But one must ask for it! The ones who are clean temples. Those who are given the right to be children of God. When one is born

again, it is by believing in the name of Jesus. One is washed of all his sins and is made a new creation with the choice to continue knowledgeably to be a child of God by completing the very thing Christ told Nicodemus you must be born of water and spirit. The water represents the testimony of the Christ ministry of "Truth" the "Spirit represents the promise" made to Abraham, which is the "Holy Spirit". The water represents "Truth" as it was in the time of Moses, the serpent lifted up and to believe). The worshiper God the father seeks are in Spirit and in Truth. Pilate, ask Jesus what is truth? (Born of water and of Spirit)

A Word.

1973 Estacado High School 25th Reunion
The 1993 Estacado High School graduates are planning their 25th Reunion in June, 1998. We are looking for you if you graduated with us that year. For more information call Margie Aguilar at 763-0710 or you can call our voice mail at 766-7273.

De la Primera

opinión son únicamente tan exactas como las preguntas que hay detrás de ellas.

En este caso, las preguntas han fluctuado desde confusas hasta absolutamente engañosas. Para complicar el problema, los californianos continúan siendo indiferentes a los detalles de la iniciativa de Unz, cuyo texto completo todavía está por aparecer en algún periódico importante.

Cualquiera de las disposiciones siguientes de la Proposición 227 parecería ser lo suficientemente controvertida como para influir sobre las encuestas, si los respondientes sólo estuvieran al tanto de ellas:

-- Los programas de enseñanza bilingüe -- ya sean buenos, malos o indiferentes -- serían desmantelados, sin importar los deseos de los padres y las madres, de los educadores ni de las juntas escolares locales. A los niños se les limitaría arbitrariamente a un año de enseñanza especial de inglés, y después se les exigiría que "nadaran o se hundieran" en las aulas de clases normales.

-- A los maestros y directores se les podría demandar personalmente por daños económicos si se les sorprendiera usando un idioma que no fuera el inglés para ayudar a un(a) niño(a).

-- Se gastarían \$50 millones en cada uno de los 10 años próximos en un programa cuestionable para capacitar a inmigrantes adultos como preceptores de inglés.

-- Una vez aprobado, el mandato del inglés solamente exigiría una votación de los dos tercios de la Legislatura para enmendarlo o revocarlo.

Nos preguntamos cómo responderían los californianos a una pregunta que resumiera más exactamente a la Proposición 227 y de qué modo sus respuestas se compararían con las de las encuestas anteriores. Así que, con la ayuda de los estudiantes de la Escuela de Enseñanza de la Universidad del Sur de California, efectuamos nuestro propio experimento.

Hicimos a 130 electores inscriptos la pregunta del "Times" de Los Angeles: "Hay una nueva iniciativa que trata de calificar para la boleta de las elecciones primarias de junio, que exigiría que toda la enseñanza pública

fuera efectuada en inglés, y que los estudiantes sin dominio del inglés fueran ubicados en un programa de inmersión en inglés a corto plazo. Si las elecciones primarias de junio se realizaran hoy, ¿votaría usted a favor o en contra de esta medida?"

Hicimos a otros 121 una pregunta modificada: "Hay una nueva iniciativa que trata de calificar para la boleta de las elecciones primarias de junio, que limitaría gravemente el uso del idioma nativo del niño en la escuela. Esta iniciativa limitaría la ayuda especial en inglés a un año (180 días de clases). Después de este espacio de tiempo, se esperaría que los niños con dominio limitado del inglés supieran suficiente inglés como para hacer trabajo escolar al mismo nivel que los anglo-parlantes nativos de su misma edad. La iniciativa desmantelaría a muchos programas actuales que han probado tener éxito para ayudar a los niños a aprender inglés, y haría responsables económicamente a los maestros si infringieran este curso de acción. Si la iniciativa fuera aprobada, las escuelas tendrían 60 días para amoldarse al nuevo curso de acción. Si las elecciones primarias de junio se efectuaran hoy, ¿votaría usted a favor o en contra de esta medida?"

En respuesta a la pregunta del Times, el 57 por ciento dijo que votarían por la Proposición 227. Pero en respuesta a nuestra versión modificada, sólo el 15 por ciento dijo que harían eso. La diferencia es importante desde el punto de vista estadístico.

Creemos que es importante políticamente también. Muestra que la aprobación de una iniciativa anti-bilingüe el 2 de junio continúa lejos de ser algo cierto.

Mientras más aprendan los californianos acerca de la Proposición 227, más probabilidades hay de que la reconozcan como una amenaza para los niños, los padres y las madres, los maestros y los contribuyentes.

Mientras más consideren sus disposiciones extremas, mayores probabilidades hay de que ellos voten que "No".

Para los opositores de la Proposición 227, el lema más eficaz puede ser: Lean la letra pequeña.

(James Crawford es un escritor con sede en Washington, DC)

HUD Homes

From the FHA

- **Low Down Payment**
3% down for owner-occupant up to 5% closing cost paid by HUD
- **Low Monthly Payments**
interest rates are low may not be much more than rent
- **See your Broker**
for a list of available homes to submit your bid to HUD
- **Contact your Lender of choice**
for financing options



KCBD, NEWSCHANNEL 11, has an opening for a Commercial Producer. Schedule, write and produce commercials. Requires strong writing and organizational skills along with good people skills, video production and editing experience also required. Prefer degree in telecommunications, advertising or marketing. Apply at KCB-D-TV, 5600 Avenue A, Lubbock, TX. 79404. EOE.

"Exigen" Supervisión "Permanete" A México

Hay un "gravísimo deterioro" de los derechos humanos en Chiapas, diagnostica la Comisión Civil Internacional de Observación por los Derechos Humanos, en un amplio informe que será entregado el 30 del presente mes al Parlamento Europeo, en el cual señala a la UE pedir a México que permita "una verificación permanente de las condiciones" existentes en materia de derechos humanos.

"México vive -califican los observadores internacionales- una situación de profunda descomposición política y de preocupante desestructuración social".

A su vez, el obispo de Zamora, Carlos Suárez Cáceres, en su mensaje de cuaresma valoró que México vive una crisis que "parece no tener fin" y expuso que el mayor signo se evidencia en el conflicto chiapaneco, en la inseguridad reinante y en el empobrecimiento generalizado.

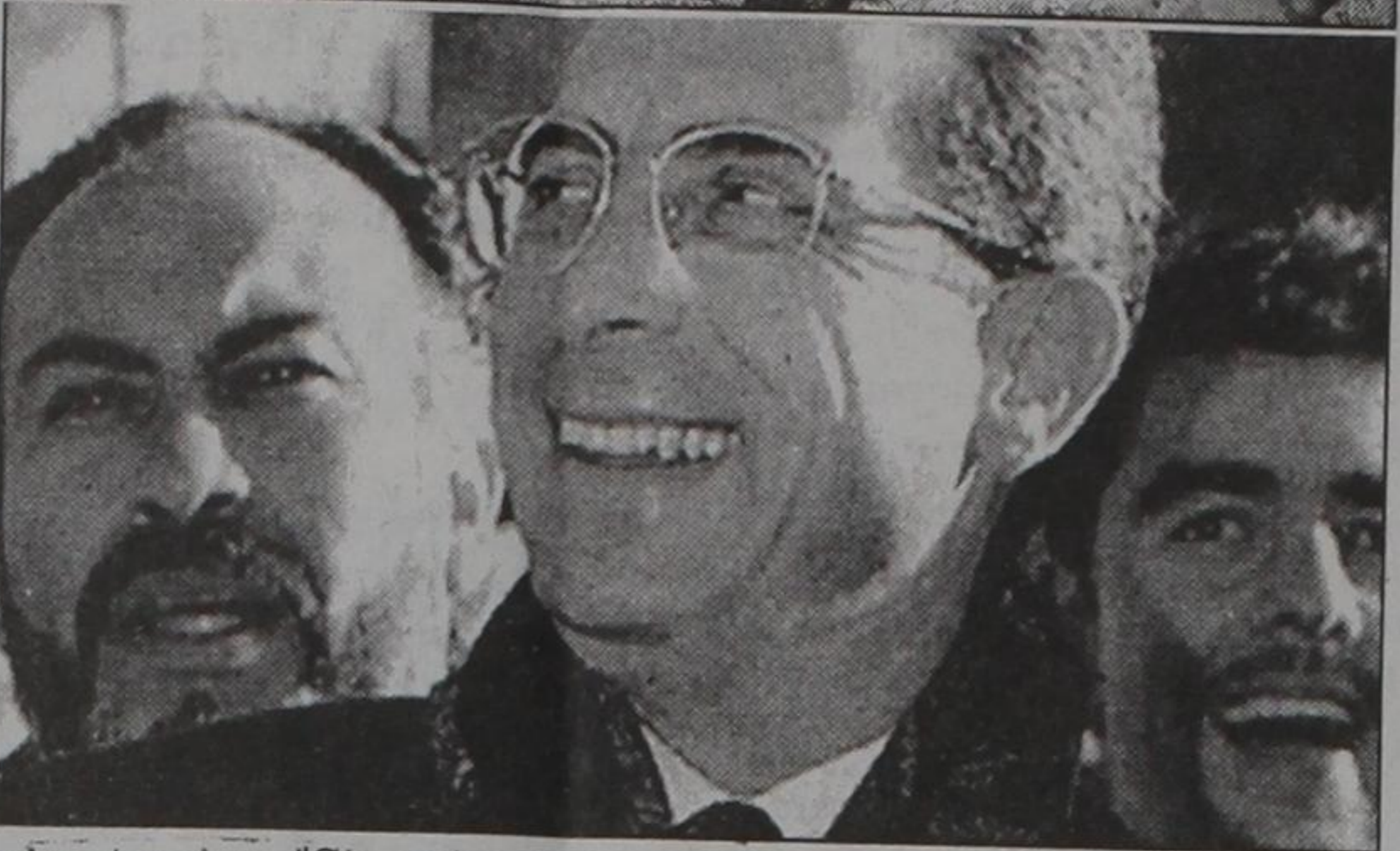
A su vez, organizaciones de ciudadanos, intelectuales y académicos enviarán mañana jueves una carta pública al Gobierno Federal, al EZLN y al Congreso, para solicitar una "prórroga" en el proceso legislativo de la iniciativa sobre derechos indígenas con objeto de "recuperar" el diálogo e Chiapas "y tratar de llegar a un acuerdo de consenso".

Al entregar el informe elaborado por 210 personas de 11 países diferentes, integrantes la Comisión Civil Internacional de Observación por los Derechos Humanos declararon sentirse "extrañados" porque la SRE no les ha permitido como observadores extranjeros el acceso a la forma FM3.

El texto será entregado a la Cocopa y a la Conai y en él se hacen 11 recomendaciones, tras la matanza de Acteal, y se condena abierta y duramente el clima de violencia, el militarismo, la impunidad, los grupos paramilitares y la creciente miseria del sudeste.

"Hay que señalar -sustentan los observadores internacionales- que son numerosos los derechos humanos vulnerados en Chiapas. Dicha situación se da en todos los ámbitos e incluye los derechos relativos a la vida; a la libertad personal; a la libertad de circulación y establecimiento; a la protección y seguridad de las personas en territorio mexicano; a la protección contra la detención arbitraria, por parte de los poderes públicos; los derechos de libertad de pensamiento, conciencia y religión; el derecho a unas elecciones libres, pluralistas y democráticas".

Elaborado en memoria de José



Ena López García, asesinado tras presentar las denuncias de su comunidad ante la Comisión Civil Internacional, el reporte recopila información obtenida entre el 16 y 28 de febrero de este año desglosado en tres apartados: las visitas y encuentros; las dificultades encontradas para el desempeño de su labor; y el análisis, valoración y caracterización del conflicto.

Por su parte, el diputado perredista Demetrio Sodi de la Tijera, quien trabaja en la iniciativa de prórroga legislativa -junto con otras 20 personas-, justificó la carta con el alegato de que no sería conveniente para el país sacar una ley que no cuente con el respaldo de los zapatistas y de los indígenas.

"El objetivo final de la ley es la paz, no legislar por legislar."

Desvincular la ley del proceso de negociación en Chiapas es hacer que esa ley nazca muerta", advirtió Sodi de la Tijera.

El perredista manifestó que los firmantes de la carta destacan que debe darse una prórroga al proceso legislativo como parte de un último esfuerzo para recuperar el diálogo entre el Gobierno Federal y los zapatistas y tratar de alcanzar un acuerdo de consenso.

"Estamos platicando (esta carta) con diputados y senadores para que se adhieran. Lo peor que puede pasar es dejar de dialogar, hacer a un lado el consenso. Esto marcaría no sólo la paz en Chiapas, sino el camino que seguirá en los próximos años el gobierno del Presidente Zedillo."

Sodi de la Tijera remató con

otra advertencia: "Si optamos por el mayoriteo, vamos a entrar a un conflicto permanente. Esta iniciativa buscaría entonces una tregua en el proceso legislativo".

Asimismo, en el análisis entregado a nombre de los observadores internacionales por Ignacio García García, Sigfrido Miralles y Alejandro Goldberg, se describe al sistema de gobierno mexicano como de "democracia presidencialista" y refiere que de 91 millones 800 mil mexicanos, 11.4% es analfabeto.

"El estado de Chiapas -diagnostica- vive en estos momentos las consecuencias de una profunda descomposición política y de preocupante

desestructuración social. Desde todos los niveles se percibe cómo las estructuras institucionales son incapaces de asegurar la vigencia del estado de derecho y cómo la sociedad chiapaneca y, especialmente, las comunidades indígenas sufren las consecuencias de una situación generalizada de violencia y de impunidad".

Expone que los factores que en mayor medida contribuyen a crear esta situación son la intensa militarización de la zona; la presencia de grupos paramilitares; la situación generalizada de impunidad; los obstáculos para el acceso a la justicia; la situación de miseria estructural que sufren las comunidades; la represión hacia las formas de organización de la sociedad civil; y "la falta de voluntad política para la búsqueda de una solución respetuosa con las e lgencias indígenas."

"Hemos constatado una intensa presencia del Ejército que, según los testimonios, constituye uno de los factores más determinantes en las violaciones de los derechos humanos. El gobierno argumenta que cumple funciones estrictamente constitucionales pero es obvio que está ejerciendo funciones de gestión y promoción social y aseguramiento del orden público que no le corresponden", agrega.

La prácticamente totalidad de opiniones recabadas ratifican que la presencia del Ejército forma parte de una estrategia gubernamental dirigida a evitar la extensión de la zona de influencia próxima a las demandas zapatistas y a cercar y debilitar al EZLN mediante el acoso a las comunidades, que se manifiestan cercanas a sus planteamientos sobre el reconocimiento de los derechos de los pueblos indígenas.

Y juzga: "En nuestra tarea de observación hemos podido recoger numerosas quejas que denuncian la ocupación de tierras de cultivo, por parte de los destacamentos militares, las amenazas constantes, los robos, las violaciones a mujeres, detenciones extrajudiciales y una constante intimidación traducida en incursiones terrestres y aéreas que colocan a numerosas comunidades indígenas en una permanente situación de terror e inseguridad."

EL PRI Y LOS GRUPOS PARAMILITARES

En su informe, los observadores internacionales apuntaron que (la proliferación) los grupos armados que de modo sistemático y selectivo introducen elementos de enfrentamiento intra e intercomunitario, responden a una estrategia dirigida a provocar desplazamientos masivos de población que buscan desestructurar socialmente zonas enteras y deshacer el entramado reivindicativo organizado de la sociedad civil.

Acusa al PRI de tener "implicaciones" en este asunto.

La mayoría de los testimonios -cita-, apuntan a relacionar directamente a efectivos del Ejército y de cuerpos de policía con dichos grupos armados. Tanto respecto del suministro de armas, como incluso de su formación y adiestramiento. Las contradicciones presentes en las investigaciones de Acteal reforzarían estas tesis.

También se ha podido observar que la contradicción entre los intereses de terratenientes y comunidades se sitúa entre uno de los factores que explica la proliferación de grupos armados. Concretamente, se trata de la vía escogida por algunos de ellos para intimidar y expulsar a comunidades enteras de sus tierras ejidales.

Respecto de la posible implicación del PRI y de instancias gubernamentales con los grupos armados, menciona que se han encontrado evidencias notables sobre todo en relación con la organización Desarrollo, Paz y Justicia, por cuanto su principal representante es diputado del PRI en el estado de Chiapas y no ha habido -hasta la fecha- reacción alguna ni por parte del PRI ni por parte del gobierno".

La situación global de impunidad, continúa, es otro elemento que complica la delicada situación; existe una "enorme desconfianza de las comunidades hacia los estamentos judiciales y quienes presentan alguna denuncia han sufrido la persecución de los encargados de la seguridad pública y de grupos paramilitares."

Argumenta que en México existen presos políticos que son en la mayoría de los casos dirigentes de comunidades de base de apoyo zapatistas y afirma que el estado de Chiapas tiene uno de "los peores indicadores sociales" por el desigual reparto de

la riqueza, pese a la existencia de recursos petrolíferos e hidráulicos.

FALTA VOLUNTAD POLITICA

La citada comisión internacional refiere que ha podido constatar "la generalizada decepción" por la falta de cumplimiento por parte del Gobierno Federal de lo acordado en San Andrés Larrainzar. "Debemos mostrar -puntualiza-, nuestra perplejidad por la negativa gubernamental de aceptar el proyecto de la Cocopa, proyecto consensuado con todas las fuerzas políticas y aceptado por el EZLN cuyo éxito hubiese contribuido quizá de manera decisiva a la solución del conflicto, poniéndose con ello las bases para la reestructuración social, política y económica de la zona, a la vez que abrir un nuevo panorama en el reconocimiento de los derechos indígenas".

Interpreta que la militarización, la presencia de grupos paramilitares y la campaña xenofóbica que pretende evitar la presencia de extranjeros en la zona son signos de que pese al discurso oficial, que insiste una y otra vez en la voluntad de diálogo, "parece obvio que lo que está promoviendo es el debilitamiento del diálogo, el descrédito de las instancias de coadyuvancia, intermediación y verificación y la posibilidad de una salida no violenta".

Y remata: "En estos días tanto el PAN como el PRI han presentado sus respectivos proyectos de ley indígena que vienen a certificar la ausencia de voluntad de contar con la expresión directa de la voz de los distintos pueblos indígenas, inhabilitando de facto la vía de negociación abierta por los Acuerdos de San Andrés."

"Se trata -explica- de un paso más dentro de una estrategia previa que ha llevado al Ejército

a erigirse, ante la situación de descomposición política y social que vive el México actual, en el auténtico protagonista".

Las Recomendaciones

La Comisión de Observadores Internacionales por los Derechos Humanos recomiendan mediante 11 puntos, una serie de acciones tendentes a lograr la pacificación del sudeste

Como primer punto exigen el cumplimiento inmediato e íntegro de los Acuerdos de San Andrés; el respeto al proyecto de iniciativa de reformas constitucionales de la Cocopa; consolidación de las funciones de instancias de intermediación (Conai) y de verificación (Cosever); poner fin a la militarización y paramilitarización y asegurar el libre acceso a la justicia y promover la lucha contra la impunidad, por medio de las acciones globales y no meramente simbólicas.

Asimismo, se pronuncia por la amnistía inmediata a los presos políticos; el retorno de los desplazados a sus comunidades de origen; fortalecimiento de los organismos de derechos humanos mexicanos y garantías para los de carácter internacional, así como la designación de un relator especial de la ONU para México.

"Es necesario el establecimiento de un mecanismo por parte de la Unión Europea de seguimiento de la cláusula democrática y de derechos humanos, la cual, si el acuerdo de asociación económica, de coordinación política y de cooperación firmado con México se hace vigente, debería permitir proceder a una verificación permanente de la situación de los derechos humanos en México."

"Dicho mecanismo, debería integrar a las diferentes organizaciones sociales mexicanas e internacionales de defensa de los derechos humanos", finalizó.



There's No Need To Be In Jail

BROWN BAIL BONDS

24 HOUR SERVICE
SE HABLA ESPAÑOL
744-3224

1111 Ave J

Ya Llego
El Bingo Grande
\$ PREMIOS AL \$
CONTADO \$
Abierto Jueves, Viernes y Sabado
A LAS 12:30 DE LA TARDE
Sr. Citizen's Lodge - 6602 West 19TH St.
LULAC 263 Lic. #1751901745-7
¡Vengan Todos!

Calvillo
Funeral Home
SERVING THE ENTIRE SOUTH PLAINS
RICHARD CALVILLO 609 18th Street
Funeral Director (18th & I-27)
806-765-5555 Lubbock, Texas 79401
Professional people with traditional values, dedicated to personal attention.

Lo Mejor En Comida
Mexicana
MONTELONGO'S RESTAURANT
3021 Clovis Rd - 762-3068

Club Hotel
BY DoubleTree
SAN ANTONIO • AIRPORT

Do it now.

Don't miss e-mail from a client.
Don't call around for office supplies.
Don't search aimlessly for food.
Don't settle for less.

from **\$59** per room per night

JOIN THE CLUB. JOIN THE REVOLUTION.

Only Club Hotels by Doubletree have the Club Room. Equal parts den, office and café, it's like nothing you've ever seen. It's more than 4,000 square feet. With a CopyMax self-service business center by OfficeMax where you can copy, fax and print. An Au Bon Pain bakery café serving good food fast from early morning until late night. Private meeting rooms, personal office space and furnishings by Steelcase designed to help you get work done. It's always open. It puts you in control.

1-888-444-CLUB
www.clubhotels.com

OfficeMax COPYMAX
au bon pain
Steelcase A smarter way to work
Partners in our business travel revolution.

Located only one mile east of San Antonio International Airport and nine miles northeast of downtown San Antonio near the Broadway Executive Park.
1111 NE Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78209 (210) 828-9031 Fax (210) 828-3066

NOW OPEN IN ATLANTA, AUSTIN, CHICAGO, JACKSONVILLE, LOUISVILLE, MIAMI, NORWALK, PHILADELPHIA, SAN ANTONIO AND WASHINGTON D.C.

El Editor Newspaper