

Latinos Back Census Plan, Fear Congressional Interference

By Joseph Torres

As the U.S. Census Bureau prepares for the year 2000, agency officials are striving to produce a more cost-effective, accurate population tally by abandoning the notion of achieving a 100 percent head count and increasing the use of "sampling."

To prevent a repeat of the bureau's controversial 1990 undercount, when an estimated 1.2 million Latinos were not included, Hispanic leaders generally support its strategy. But they fear congressional interference could disrupt the process.

This time, using sampling methods designed to protect against undercounts that disproportionately affect poor, urban and immigrant communities, the bureau plans to release a single, final census figure. And this time, it says, it won't need to hire thousands of extra workers to pursue those who fail to mail in a census form.

To increase response rates, the bureau is attempting to make census forms more "user-friendly." It plans to print them in Spanish, and make them available in public areas -- libraries, schools

and other places.

Arturo Vargas, executive director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, sees its proposals as good for the Latino community. "Some of the changes are on track with what was learned from the 1990 census," he says.

UCLA Professor David Hayes-Bautista, who was once courted by the Clinton administration to head the Census Bureau, agrees that enumeration, an actual head count, can miss too many people.

Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, who met last month with Census Director Martha Farnsworth Riche and U.S. Commerce Undersecretary Everett Ehrlich to discuss bureau plans, concur.

But the bureau's proposals are already encountering opposition from the GOP leadership in Congress. U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers (R-Ky.), chairman of the House appropriations subcommittee on commerce, says sampling will lead to lawsuits because of its complexity and "sophisticated guesswork." He calls the bureau's budget request too

costly. Bureau officials estimate they'll need \$3.9 billion if sampling is used, or \$4.8 billion without it.

The 1990 Census cost \$2.6 billion. More than 300,000 additional census employees were hired in an attempt to count the 37 percent of the population that did not initially respond. The bureau admitted that despite its efforts, more than four million people, mostly people of color, were not counted. In some cases, workers were reluctant to enter certain neighborhoods.

Post-enumeration sampling was used to determine the size of the undercount, but then-Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher, whose agency oversees the Census Bureau, refused to implement the adjustment. Several states sued, but the U.S. Supreme Court recently rejected their appeal.

Hispanic leaders fear that this time some in Congress will exploit the nation's current anti-immigrant sentiment to raise such issues as whether undocumented residents should be counted (just as the issue of whether African Americans should be

counted was raised last century) and over the use of Spanish or other languages to reach as many people as possible.

Harry Pachón, president of the Tomás Rivera Center in California, says the intensity of the debate could be affected by the country's economic situation, noting that undocumented immigrants are often viewed as dragging down our living standards.

UCLA's Hayes-Bautista says that although the U.S. Constitution requires the Census to count every person living in the country, he foresees Congress debating what exactly constitutes "a person."

Vargas notes that some members of Congress raised questions about counting undocumented residents in 1990. They will do so again, he feels certain. Others also predict that Official-English proponents will rail against using multilingual census forms.

Vargas suggests that lawmakers who tamper with the bureau's methodology do so because it is an "excellent

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News Briefs

Bill Targets Youth Gangs

President Clinton said Monday the "terrifying face" of organized youth gangs demands a tougher approach to juvenile violence, reports Associated Press.

He called for stiffer penalties and improved cooperation by police. Authorities should exchange information, work together on investigations and keep better track of gang members, the president said.

He also proposed legislation to restore a ban on guns in schools and allow juveniles to be prosecuted as adults for drug conspiracy, violent crimes and crimes involving guns.

Clinton repeatedly has spoken of a need to address an alarming increase in crimes by children and teen-agers at a time when overall crime in the nation is going down.

Clinton asked Congress to reauthorize \$160 million in law enforcement funds for fighting juvenile crime and gang violence. "I hope Congress will join us in a bipartisan commitment to save our neighborhoods and our children," he said.

The president's plan, with portions already introduced by Rep. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., calls for longer prison terms for selling drugs to children or for luring children to sell drugs. Juvenile detention would be lengthened to 10 years, and young offenders would face fines, supervised release and mandatory restitution.

The bill also calls for two grant programs, one to build jails for children who repeatedly commit violent crimes, and the other to help set up special courts for juvenile drug crimes and drug treatment for nonviolent young offenders.



United People for the Betterment of Llano Estacado hosted a reception honoring Mr. Ramon Abarca, the newly hired Slaton Schools Superintendent. He is the first Hispanic School Superintendent in the South Plains. Special thanks goes to Hispanic Agenda a correlation of organizations and individuals, your sponsorship and support made this reception very successful.

Boomers Face Future Shortage of MDs

A Senate panel in Washington was told Tuesday next century America faces a critical shortage of doctors trained to care for the elderly, reports the Chicago Tribune.

"Fifty years ago, the United States first met the postwar Baby Boom without enough pediatricians, schools, jobs or housing. Today, just 15 years before the first Baby Boomers become eligible for Social Security and Medicare, the nation does not have enough physicians trained in geriatrics," said Daniel Perry, executive director of the non-profit Alliance for Aging Research.

"This acute shortage will reach far more serious proportions when 76 million people of the Baby Boom generation reach or approach retirement age in the next 20 years. The senior boom could be a ticking time bomb of inadequate medical care," Perry said.

Less than 1 percent of the nation's physicians - fewer than 6,800 out of 684,000 - are certified geriatricians, meaning

- A tax credit for employers who hire welfare recipients and other disadvantaged workers.

In the Ways and Means Committee, Republicans defeated Democratic attempts to add breaks to the bill, including Clinton's proposed \$5,000 deduction for college tuition and a provision permitting the unemployed to make penalty-free withdrawals from Individual Retirement Accounts and 401(k) accounts.

Panels OK \$53B in Welfare Cuts

The May 10 issue of the Community Nutrition Institute newsletter reported congressional panels approved plans to cut \$53 billion in projected spending from welfare during the next six years.

President Clinton was cool to the plan, urging Republicans to avoid combining "poison pills" with welfare reform legislation. The bill will likely be introduced this week.

Although new welfare reform plans are touted as more moderate than the welfare legislation vetoed by Clinton, total savings will actually be the same, said David Super of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities [HN0026]. The Congressional Budget Office recently recalculated the vetoed welfare reform bill, estimating that it would have cut \$53 billion - the same amount as the new goal, points out Super.

Discretionary food programs would also be affected by the congressional budget plans. The Commodity Assistance Programs would follow the president's recommendation through 2000 and freeze at that level, a \$140 million decrease in projected growth in 2002. Food Program Administration funds would drop about \$90 million.

Project Builds Community Nutrition

The May 10 issue of the Community Nutrition Institute newsletter reports a project aimed at changing the poor nutrition and sedentary lifestyles of children is focusing on long-term community involvement to guarantee the program's success.

The Eat Well & Keep Moving Project is a joint effort between Baltimore City Public Schools and the Harvard School of Public Health to promote healthy eating and active lifestyles among children. In operation since 1993, the project will run through 1997 as a demonstration program in 17 Baltimore City schools.

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Latinos Respaldan Plan Del Censo Y Temen A La Interferencia Congresional

Por Joseph Torres

A medida que la Oficina del Censo de los Estados Unidos se prepara para el año 2000, los funcionarios de esa dependencia están esforzándose para producir un conteo de población más eficaz en cuanto al costo y más exacto, al abandonar la noción de lograr un conteo del 100% y aumentar el uso del "muestreo".

Para evitar una repetición del controvertido sub-conteo hecho por la oficina en 1990, cuando se dejó de incluir a un estimado de 1,200,000 latinos, los dirigentes hispanos apoyan dicha estrategia por lo general. Pero ellos temen que la interferencia congressional podría trastornar al trámite.

Esta vez, empleando métodos de muestreo diseñados para protegerse contra los sub-conteos que afectan desproporcionadamente a las comunidades pobres, urbanas y de inmigrantes, la oficina se propone publicar una cifra única y final del censo.

Y esta vez, dice la misma, no necesitará reclutar a miles de trabajadores adicionales para encontrar a los que dejan de enviar por correo un formulario del censo.

Para aumentar las tasas de respuesta, la oficina está tratando de hacer que los formularios del censo sean más "amistosos para los usuarios". La misma se propone imprimirlas en español y tenerlos disponibles en lugares públicos -- bibliotecas, escuelas y otros.

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color, no fueron contadas. En algunos casos, los trabajadores se mostraron renuentes a adentrarse en ciertas vecindades.

El muestreo posterior a la enumeración fué usado para determinar la magnitud del sub-conteo, pero el entonces Secretario de Comercio, Robert Mosbacher, cuya dependencia supervisa a la Oficina del Censo, se negó a poner en práctica el ajuste citado.

Varios estados iniciaron demandas judiciales, pero el Tribunal Supremo de los Estados Unidos rechazó esas apelaciones hace poco.

Los dirigentes hispanos temen que, en esta vez, algunos miembros del Congreso explotarán el sentimiento actual contra los inmigrantes en la nación para plantear asuntos tales como si se debe contar a los residentes indocumentados (igual que se planteó la cuestión de si debía contarse a los afroamericanos en el siglo pasado) y el uso del español u otros idiomas para comunicarse con tantas personas como sea posible.

Harry Pachón, presidente del Centro "Tomás Rivera" en California, dice que la intensidad del debate podría verse afectada por la situación económica del país, haciendo notar que a menudo se ve a los inmigrantes indocumentados como que disminuyen nuestros niveles de vida.

Hayes-Bautista, de UCLA, dice que aunque la Constitución de los Estados Unidos exige que se cuenta a toda persona que viva en el país, él prevé que el Congreso debatirá sobre qué constituye exactamente "una persona".

Vargas hace notar que algunos miembros del Congreso plantearon preguntas sobre el conteo de los inmigrantes indocumentados en 1990. El se siente seguro de que volverán a hacerlo. Otros predicen que los proponentes del Inglés Oficial protestarán contra el uso de formularios del Censo en varios idiomas.

Joseph Torres es reportero del Hispanic Link Weekly Report en Washington, DC.

Inglés Solamente, Please

Por Lalo López

Es algo bueno el que mi madre nunca tuviera que ir a un tribunal para pelear por mi custodia. Como la mujer de Amarillo, Texas, que fué regañada por un juez en el verano pasado, mi madre me hablaba solamente en español antes de que yo fuera a la escuela. El juez calificó a eso de "maltrato de niños".

Temerosa de que yo pudiera convertirme en un "pochito", mamá quería estar segura de que yo aprendiera español. Ella sabía que yo aprendería inglés de mis compañeros de clase rubios y mocosos.

Y así fué. Lo aprendí en el kindergarten en un mes, o por lo menos así dice mi madre lactanciosa.

Todavía sorprendo a mis parientes cuando los visito en México y ellos esperan vez a alguien que chapurrea el español. Mi pronunciación clara y un dominio muy decente del idioma no igualan a la imagen defectuosa que el chicano promedio enseñado en inglés tiene en México.

Los chicos a quienes se enseña en dos idiomas en las escuelas de los Estados Uni-

dos no sólo dominan el español para conversación, sino que pueden realmente hacer sus trabajos escolares en español. Pueden leer, escribir y comprender en su idioma nativo. Y obtienen puntajes académicos más altos en inglés que los estudiantes que no han sido enseñados en los dos idiomas.

Eso se debe a que ellos reciben enseñanza en inglés todo el tiempo. Si empiezan a aprender en los dos idiomas en el kindergarten o el primer grado, de costumbre son verdaderamente bilingües para el quinto grado.

¿Es algo como para alarmarse el pensar en chicos morenos de nivel mundial?

El Protector de la Civilización Occidental, Newt Gringo-rich, advierte que si continúa el bilingüismo, algunas regiones de este país edificado sobre el Destino Manifiesto pedirán inevitablemente una votación de secesión al estilo de Quebec y optarán por el separatismo.

Sr. Presidente de la Cámara: Aduzco respetuosamente que hay un modo más fácil y

consagrado por el tiempo de separarse de los Estados Unidos de Norte-América. Se le llama la Fuga de los Blancos.

Y otra cosa: ¿Por qué los anglo-americanos se salen de su camino para pronunciar correctamente, digamos, las palabras francesas que se han metido en el idioma inglés, pero a menudo echan a menos al español? (A menos que sean personas versadas en NAFTA, que aprendieron español más rápidamente que lo que usted pueda decir "maquiladora")

No es que los inmigrantes no quieran aprender español. Cada dos minutos, en la televisión en español, aquí en Los Angeles, parece haber otro anuncio comercial vulgar que trata de impulsar a las cintas de video y de sonido en inglés.

Me gusta personalmente "La Máquina del Lenguaje" -- una toca-cintas de precio excesivo. Hay hasta un anuncio informativo de media hora disfrazado de telenovela, en el cual un trabajador de una agencia de viajes mexicana pierde un ascenso porque envía a los turistas

indefensos a Michoacán, en vez de enviarlos a Michigan.

Necesitamos el imponer por ley al inglés como idioma oficial de los Estados Unidos, tanto como necesitamos ordenar que la gente coma alimentos de basura o que programas de televisión destaque a amigos solteros de raza blanca.

Las escuelas de los Estados Unidos necesitan enseñar a los chicos dos o más idiomas. En vez de eso, los republicanos quieren que los escolares recen.

Creo que los estudiantes deben estar rezando también. Chicos, baje sus cabezas y recen para que los republicanos no eliminan de un todo a la enseñanza.

Permitanme decíles un chiste viejo.

Bob Dole.

Permitanme decíles otro.

¿Cómo llaman ustedes a alguien que hable dos idiomas?

Bilingüe.

¿Cómo llaman ustedes a alguien que hable sólo un idioma?

Un estadounidense.

Let me tell you an old joke. Bob Dole.

Let me tell you another one. What do you call someone who speaks two languages? Bilingual. What do you call someone who speaks only one language? An American.

Lalo López, of Los Angeles, writes Mexiled, a political satire column, for L.A. Weekly. Readers' comments may be sent to him c/o Hispanic Link News Service, 1420 N St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20005. E-mail: zapotec@aol.com

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el idioma, fuera el factor determinante.

Después se incluyó al género, y eso ha beneficiado a todas las mujeres, especialmente a las euroamericanas.

Los latinos necesitan echar mano del momento ahora para volver a fraguar el propósito de la acción afirmativa para que se ajuste a nuestra situación.

La acción afirmativa no debería proyectarse más como "una compensación por la discriminación anterior". Esta idea es perdedora porque crea antagonismo con la población euroamericana, la mayoría de la cual no tuvo nada que ver con la esclavitud ni con las leyes de Jim Crow. Necesitamos acentuar lo positivo y decir que a los jóvenes debería dárseles preferencia en las universidades cuando traen destreza cultural e idiomática".

Esto significaría que una latina, por ejemplo, podría ser seleccionada para la universidad por encima de alguien que tuviera un puntaje SAT más alto, porque la latina habla español y supiera el modo de celebrar las fiestas tradicionales. La universidad la admitiría no sobre la base de "ser" latina, sino por "actuar" como latina.

Nadie objeta a que se den becas atléticas en baloncesto sobre la base de la raza, aún cuando puede comprobarse estadísticamente que las becas de baloncesto en las escuelas de la División I se adjudican desproporcionadamente a los afroamericanos. Eso es porque la destreza -- en este caso atlética -- es un atributo positivo.

La capacidad para hacer deportes no se mide por los puntajes SAT ni sólo por un cuadro de atributos físicos. El entrenador, actuando como funcionario de ingresos, decide a favor de las habilidades de un candidato. La decisión no refleja una preferencia racial.

Deberíamos hacer algo semejante con la acción afirmativa. Como latinos, necesitamos reconocer que la ley fué diseñada inicialmente para beneficiar a nuestros hermanos y hermanas afroamericanos, lo cual es la razón de que la raza, antes que la cultura o

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CATO STUDY EXAGGERATES BENEFITS POOR FAMILIES RECEIVE; POLICYMAKERS USE FLAWED DATA TO JUSTIFY WELFARE CUTS

A study some governors and members of Congress are relying upon as justification for proposals to cut welfare benefits rests upon distortions and substantially exaggerates the amount of benefits that poor families receive, according to an analysis of the study the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities released today.

The study in question was issued last fall by the Cato Institute, a libertarian policy organization in Washington, D.C. that advocates eliminating various parts of the federal and state governments. The Cato study claimed the typical family of three received a welfare benefits package equivalent to \$17,500 in income in 1994 and that a family would have to earn between \$5.53 and \$17.50 an hour, depending on the state, for work to pay more than welfare.

New York Governor George Pataki has circulated material citing the study's New York figures as justification for an unprecedented 26 percent cut in AFDC benefits he proposed earlier this year. California Governor Pete Wilson and leading members of the California legislature have cited the study to support deep cuts they are seeking in AFDC benefits in their state.

In addition, the House Budget Committee cited the Cato study in February in a document defending the budget reconciliation bill that Congress passed last fall and attacking President Clinton's veto of the bill.

Welfare Typically Leaves Families Several Thousand Dollars Below Poverty Line

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities found, however, that the typical family of three on AFDC received a welfare package of less than \$9,000 in 1994. This is \$3,000 below the poverty line and only about half the \$17,500 estimate Cato mistakenly attaches to the welfare benefit package. The Center also found that a family with a full-time low-wage worker receives more in wages and benefits than the typical AFDC family without a worker does in every state.

Cato produced its estimates, Center director Robert Greenstein said, through a series of errors that reflect unsound research. He noted that the Cato findings could mislead policymakers at a time of historic national and state debate on this issue. Center analysts uncovered the errors and distortions in the Cato study when they checked Cato's methodology and sources.

Cato inflates the benefits said to go to welfare families by assuming the typical AFDC family receives benefits that only a small fraction of such families actually get, the Center found. At the same time, Cato underestimates the incomes of low-income working families not on AFDC by assuming these families typically fail to get benefits that large numbers of them actually receive. "There is no justification for such practices," Greenstein said.

For example, Greenstein noted, fewer than one in four AFDC families receives any rental subsidy, but Cato assumes the typical AFDC family gets a rental subsidy worth between \$2,500 and \$8,600, depending on the state.

Similarly, less than one in every five children in AFDC families receive WIC benefits, which are food vouchers for specific nutritious foods provided to young children and pregnant women at risk of inadequate nutrition. In addition, a very small proportion of AFDC recipients receive "crisis assistance" to help avoid utility shut-offs. But Cato assumes the typical AFDC family gets both of these benefits plus housing assistance.

While inflating the value of the benefits that typical AFDC families receive, Cato sharply understates the income of low-income working families that do not receive AFDC. For example, while Cato adds several thousand dollars to the income AFDC families are said to receive on the basis that Medicaid coverage increases their income by this amount, Cato fails to count Medicaid coverage as income when members of working families get it. Cato also fails to count the employer-paid health insurance many working families have. Some 62 percent of children in working poor families not on government cash assistance receive either Medicaid or employer-based coverage. But Cato acts as though these low-income working families typically have no health insurance at all.

Cato also fails to count the food stamp benefits that many poor families with earnings receive, counting food stamps as income that only welfare families get. Yet a working family of three with limited assets now qualifies for food stamps until its income reaches \$16,900, and several million low-income working households receive food stamp benefits.

In a similar vein, a large majority of the children receiving WIC benefits are children in low-income working families not on AFDC. In addition, most children on AFDC do not get WIC benefits. Cato assumes, however, that the typical AFDC family receives WIC benefits for two children while assuming that low-income working families not on AFDC receive no WIC benefits for any children.

The Center found that in 1994, a family of three with a parent working full time for \$5.53 an hour - the wage level that Cato says is needed in the lowest benefit state to exceed the value of the welfare package - could receive wages, tax benefits from the earned income tax credit, and food stamps equaling more than \$14,000. This level will climb to more than \$15,000 in 1996 due to an increase in the earned income credit, the Center said. While some families with wages at this level incur significant unsubsidized child care costs and other work expenses and may encounter financial difficulties, the Center found that the income such families receive generally surpasses the \$9,000 in benefits the typical AFDC family of three gets by a substantial margin.

The Cato estimates also are belied by the experience of welfare programs, the Center said. Even in California, a state with above-average welfare benefits, more than half of the families in the state's welfare-to-work program that left welfare for employment went to work at jobs paying less than \$6 an hour. If the Cato estimates were accurate, it would not pay these families to leave welfare for work until they found jobs paying more than \$11 an hour.

The Cato Recommendation and Proposals to Cut Welfare Benefits

On the basis of its mistaken conclusion that welfare benefits provide much higher income than low-paid work, the Cato report recommends sharp cuts in AFDC benefits in states across the nation. In issuing proposals for large AFDC benefit reductions this year, both the Wilson and Pataki Administrations have cited the Cato report.

Governor Pataki's budget unveiled earlier this year pro-

English Only, Por Favor

By Lalo López

It's a good thing my mother never had to go to court to fight for my custody. Like the woman in Amarillo, Texas, who last summer was chastised by a judge, my mother spoke to me only in español before I went to school. The judge called that child abuse.

Afraid that I might become a pocho, Mom wanted to make sure I learned Spanish. She knew I would pick up English from my blond classmates. And I did. I learned it in kindergarten in about a month, or so says my boastful mom.

I still shock my relatives when I visit them in Mexico and they expect a mush-mouthed mangle of Spanish. My clear pronunciation and my decent command of the language don't match the poor image the average English-educated Chicano has in Mexico.

The kids who get bilingually educated in U.S. schools not only have a grip on conversational Spanish, but can actually do their schoolwork in Spanish. They can read, write and comprehend in their native tongue. And they score higher academically in English than non-bilingual students.

That's because they receive English instruction the whole time. If they start learning bilingually in kindergarten or the first grade, they are usually truly bilingual by the fifth grade. Is the thought of worldly brown kids something to be alarmed about?

Protector of Western Civilization Newt Gringo-rich warns that if bilingualism continues, some regions of this land built on Manifest Destiny will inevitably call for a Quebec-style secession vote and opt for separatism. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully submit that there's an easier and time-honored way to secede from the United States of America. It's called White Flight.

And another thing: Why do Anglo-Americans go out of their way to properly pronounce, say, French words that have crept into the English language, but often look down on Spanish? Unless they're crafty NAFTA business people, who learned español quicker than you can say maquiladora.

It's not that immigrants don't want to learn English. Every two minutes on Spanish-language TV here in Los Angeles there seems to be another cheesy commercial pushing English-language

videos and audiocassettes.

I personally am fond of La Maquina del Lenguaje (The Language Machine) -- an over-priced cassette player. There's even a half-hour infomercial disguised as a telenovela in which a Mexican travel-agency worker loses a promotion because he sends hapless tourists to Michoacán instead of Michigan.

We need to legislate English

as the official language of the United States about as much as we need to mandate that people have to eat junk food or that sitcoms need to feature single, white friends.

U.S. schools should teach children two or more languages. Instead, Republicans want school children to pray. I think students should be praying, too. Kids, bow your heads and pray that Republicans don't eliminate education altogether.

Let me tell you an old joke. Bob Dole.

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La Destreza Cultural Podria Salvar A La Accion Afirmativa Para Latinos

Por Antonio M. Stevens Arroyo

"discriminación a la inversa" de la derecha.

Debemos alejarnos de la acción afirmativa que pueda definirse como un valor negativo y convertirlo en algo positivo.

Propongo que cambiamos la ley desde definir la raza como la característica y en vez de eso utilicemos el término "destreza cultural e idiomática".

Esto significaría que una latina, por ejemplo, podría ser seleccionada para la universidad por encima de alguien que tuviera un puntaje SAT más alto, porque la latina habla español y supiera el modo de celebrar las fiestas tradicionales. La universidad la admitiría no sobre la base de "ser" latina, sino por "actuar" como latina.

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Eso beneficiará especialmente a los latinos, porque muchos (no todos) de los euroamericanos han perdido esas habilidades.

Un curso de acción basado en la destreza mejoraría la experiencia estadounidense de la enseñanza para todos. Al ser amigos de personas de distintas culturas que hablan más idiomas que el inglés solamente, los euroamericanos llegarán a estar mejor preparados para la economía global.

La misma clase de pensamiento beneficiaría a los asiáticos, norteamericanos nativos y afroamericanos. También reforzaría a los estudiantes de segunda y tercera generación que tengan antecedentes italianos, polacos, irlandeses, judíos y de otros antecedentes para conservar sus herencias, mejor

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Home Test Kit for HIV OK'd

The Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday approved the first at-home test kit for detecting the virus that causes AIDS, reports the Chicago Tribune.

The test kit system, called the Confide HIV Testing Service, was developed and is being marketed by Direct Access Diagnostics, a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson. Initially, the company will make the kit available for over-the-counter purchase in Texas, the FDA said.

The kits also will be sold through a toll-free number in Texas and Florida, for people who would prefer having the kits mailed confidentially to their homes.

Pricing was not announced.

Until now, the FDA noted in a statement, all tests for the HIV virus, whether using blood or saliva samples, were done under the supervision of health professionals at medical facilities, clinics, physicians' offices or blood establishments.

The new testing system comprises three integrated components -- an over-the-counter home blood collection kit, HIV-1 antibody testing at a certified lab, and a test result center that provides test results, counseling and referral anonymously.

More than 60 percent of Americans at risk for contracting HIV, which causes AIDS, have not been tested, according to estimates by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

House Dems Forcing Wage Vote

House Democrats are planning an unusual parliamentary maneuver to again force a vote on the minimum wage, reports Associated Press.

House Minority Whip David Bonior, D-Mich., said Republicans failed to table a Utah land bill in December, providing the opening to call up the bill and force a vote on a proposed substitute that includes an increase in the minimum wage. House GOP leaders planned to bring the bill to the House floor next week.

Meanwhile, Senate Democrats intent on raising the minimum wage temporarily blocked a Republican measure to cut the gasoline tax by 4.3 cents a gallon.

In the House, Democrats and moderate Republicans have enough votes to approve the minimum-wage increase. The Clinton administration continued to insist on a separate vote on the minimum wage increase it wants, even though it also supports several tax breaks in the House bill, including:

- Renewal of an exemption for employer-paid tuition. The exemption would be renewed in 1996 for undergraduate tuition only.

- Tax-exempt organizations would be allowed to offer their employees 401(k) plans.

they have been trained to handle the complex medical needs of the elderly.

In a report released Tuesday, the Alliance estimated that 20,000 physicians with geriatric training are now needed - 13,000 more than are currently available. By 2030, the Alliance estimates nearly 37,000 geriatric-trained physicians will be needed.

But if present trends continue, only 8,880 will be available.

Members of the Alliance and experts in geriatrics say that unless the elderly are treated by doctors with special training, they can be misdiagnosed, misunderstood, or unnecessarily put in nursing homes.

Fight to Ban Junk-Guns May Be Illegal

With several major California cities rushing to endorse local bans on the sale of "Saturday night specials," there are questions about whether the cities can legally enact or enforce this fight against handgun violence, reports The San Jose Mercury News.

Officials in San Jose, San Francisco and Oakland are promoting legislation similar to that in West Hollywood, which earlier this year became the first city in the state to enact such a ban.

But West Hollywood's ordinance faces a serious legal challenge from gun advocacy groups, including the California Rifle and Pistol Association and the National Rifle Association. The challenges are based on a state law that gives the Legislature exclusive control over "regulation of the registration or licensing of" firearms.

West Hollywood attorneys argue that the state's pre-emption does not also include the "sale" of such weapons. But the state Legislative Counsel, in a non-binding opinion, agrees with the gun groups that such local ordinances are invalid because pre-emption is implied by the language of the state law.

A Los Angeles County judge is expected to hear the challenge to the West Hollywood ordinance sometime this summer.

The West Hollywood law establishes definitions of guns based on their characteristics, but the ban applies only to a brand-name list of guns published by the city. The list includes six of the 10 guns on the ATF's list of weapons most frequently traced for local police departments. Such traces are ordered almost always for guns involved in crimes, ATF officials say.

But critics note that manufacturers can get around ordinances that specify brand names simply by changing the name. And definitions based on physical characteristics can also be a problem, as manufacturing specifications can change.

Study Finds For Affirmative Action

Minority Physicians Fill Need

SAN FRANCISCO-Black and Hispanic physicians in California care for a disproportionately high share of the state's minority patients, suggesting that care for these patients could be threatened by policies that might reduce the number of these doctors, UCSF researchers conclude in a new study.

Using state data and results from physician surveys, the researchers found that in black physician practices, 52 percent of the patients are black, while in non-black physician practices, the number of black patients is only 9 percent.

In Hispanic physician practices, 54 percent of patients are Hispanic, while in the practices of non-Hispanic doctors, the number of Hispanic patients is 20 percent. The study also found that black and Hispanic physicians are more likely to care for the state's poor patients.

"Minority physicians, particularly black and Hispanic, serve minority populations to a greater degree than white physicians in the same communities. So training members of minority groups for medical careers is going to be extremely important to get care to underserved populations," said Miriam Komaromy, M.D., UCSF assistant professor of medicine and chief author of the study. The study appears in the May 16 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

The results suggest that dismantling affirmative action programs, which have been under attack at both the national and state level, could

jeopardize care for minority patients, Komaromy said.

"Affirmative action is an important policy to address the health needs of the public in California. If we, as a society, are interested in making sure there is an adequate distribution of physicians in minority communities, an important goal is to train minority physicians since they are more likely to care for patients in these communities," Komaromy said.

When affirmative action programs were introduced in the late 1960s and early 1970s, minority enrollments in medical schools doubled, according to the researchers. Enrollments then leveled off following the 1978 U.S. Supreme Court decision in the Bakke case, in which a white student successfully claimed that race-based quotas prevented him from being admitted to medical school at the University of California.

Minority admissions began to rise again beginning in 1990, largely as a result of an Association of American Medical Colleges' project that is credited with boosting the number of minority graduates from medical schools by 37 percent, according to AAMC data.

However, minorities still remain underrepresented among physicians, the researchers say. Blacks make up 12 percent of the U.S. population but only 4 percent of physicians. Hispanics account for 9 percent of the general population but only 5 percent of physicians.

To find out what role these minority physicians play in

serving patients, the researchers examined 1990 American Medical Association data for primary care doctors throughout the state. Those communities with high numbers of black and Hispanic residents were found to have fewer physicians per resident overall, the researchers reported.

"What was most striking is that we found there were fewer physicians available in affluent minority communities than in poor, non-minority communities. So what determines the number of available physicians in a community is race and ethnicity, not income levels," said Kevin Grumbach, M.D., UCSF assistant professor of family and community medicine and a co-author on the study.

The researchers also surveyed 1,008 primary care physicians about where they practiced and the kinds of patients they served. They found black physicians provided care in communities where the percentage of black residents was nearly five times as high as in areas where other physicians practiced. A similar trend was noted for Hispanic physicians. Moreover, both black and Hispanic physicians were found to care for more uninsured patients or patients on Medi-Cal, the researchers reported.

The researchers noted it was possible that discrimination played a role in where the minority physicians located their practices. To help address this issue, they reviewed records from 1969 to 1984 for the 275 black, Hispa-

nic and Native American graduates of the UCSF School of Medicine, which has the highest proportion of graduates from underrepresented minorities of any U.S. medical school other than traditionally black schools, according to the study. Minority graduates of UCSF were more likely than non-minority graduates to locate in black and Hispanic communities, the researchers found.

"These graduates are among the most competitive in the country, so if they are going to these communities, that implies it's a matter of choice, rather than discrimination," Komaromy said.

The researchers conclude that: "Our data suggest that physicians who are black or Hispanic fill an important role in caring for poor people and members of minority communities. Changes that result in a decrease in the number of physicians from minority groups are also likely to result in poorer access to health care and may ultimately result in reduced health and well-being for a substantial portion of the population."

The other researchers involved in the study are Michael Drake, M.D., UCSF associate dean for admissions and student programs and professor of ophthalmology; Karen Vranizan, M.A., UCSF biostatistician; Nicole Lurie, M.D., MPH, professor of medicine at the University of Minnesota; Dennis Keane, MPH, UCSF staff research associate; and Andrew Bindman, M.D., UCSF assistant professor of medicine and epidemiology.

El Editor
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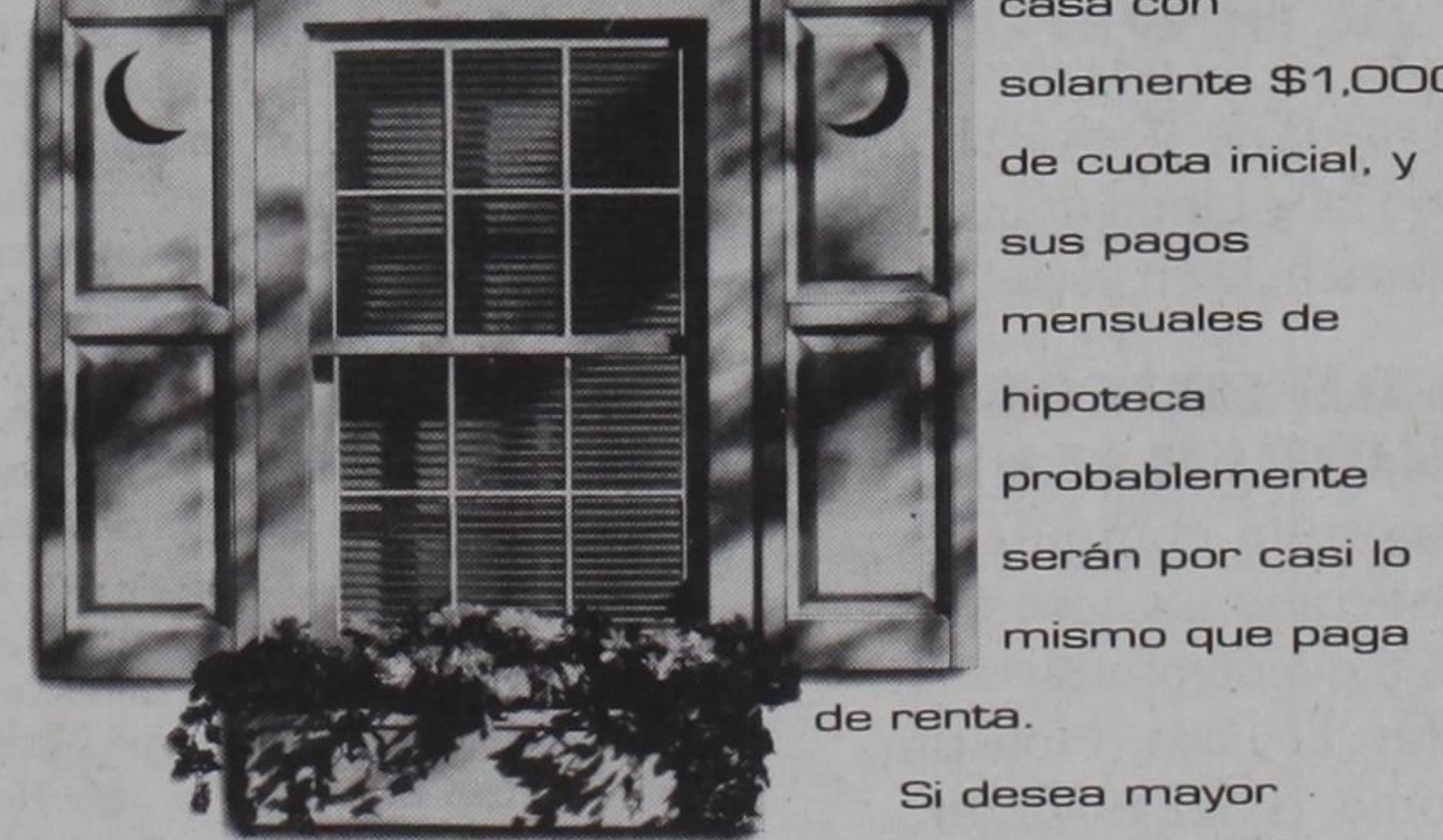


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Entertainment

POW! PAU! Latino Superheroes Muscle Into Comic Book Mix

By Fernando Trulin IV

Comic books have entertained millions of U.S. readers for years, letting their fans' imaginations transport them to alien worlds where superpowered beings routinely perform heroic deeds.

To their readers, half of whom fall into the 13-to-25 age range, characters like Batman, Spiderman, Superman and Captain America have become cultural icons.

Yet these heroes represent only one element of our society -- the Anglo male. Only in the past few years have Latino superheroes become a bit more visible in English-language comics to provide identifiable role models for Hispanic children.

But unlike popular titles such as X-Men and Sovereign 7, available in just about every drugstore and supermarket, the majority of Latino comics are independent titles found only in comic book specialty stores. Most are self-published, forcing creators to assume extra responsibilities to market their books.

In an industry that generates nearly \$1 billion a year in comic books and merchandising, "We're still only about one-thousandth of one percent of the market," figures Carlos Saldaña, creator and publisher of the critically acclaimed comic book Burrito.

"We fall in this gray area -- too big for local (Latino) businesses and too small for nationals, so it's hard finding advertisers." Independent titles must compete with major companies such as Marvel Comics, DC Comics and Image, which can afford to flood the market. Last year, Image's sales totaled \$100 million. Marvel Comics bought out Hero's World, a major comic distributor, and set up exclusive distributing

rights, forcing some of the small retailers who handle independent titles out of business.

Saldaña says the main reason Latino superheroes aren't more popular is lack of exposure. "The editors of the established presses didn't know how to read the Latino market. They were waiting for the next guy to tap into it, and if it worked they would jump in."

Fernando Rodríguez, owner/creator of the comic Aztec of the City, agrees. "The industry just doesn't see Latino kids as comic book readers and buyers."

A few titles that have crossed over successfully, such as Love and Rockets, frequently depend on barrio-gang story lines. Just as many Latino teenagers blend English and Spanish in their daily speech, most English-language Latino comic books incorporate occasional words or phrases in Spanish.

In some, English translations are provided in the margins. Last year, a group of Latino artists and writers met at the San Diego Comic Convention, one of the largest events in the industry, and formed PACAS, the Professional Amigos of Comic Art Society.

Identifying itself as an "all-for-one-and-one-for-all" organization, PACAS serves as an informal network among its 42 members.

"We're all struggling, but even if we have to Xerox the damn thing, we'll make it because we have the talent," vows José Martínez, creator of The Chosen. Martínez spent \$12,000 last year to produce his first issue. He sold 3,000 copies and grossed \$7,000. Of

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that, 60 percent went to distributors.

"We're the barbed-wire people (of comics), so the kids behind us won't have any trouble with the industry. We risk our beliefs and our own characters for the love of the medium of comic art," says Saldaña.

Currently, there are no prominent Latina superheroes. But Martínez plans to introduce a major heroine in upcoming issues of The Chosen.

Marvel Comics characters such as Rictor and Sunspot, and Milestone's Fade and Third Rail are of Mexican, Brazilian and Puerto Rican descent. They speak a mix of English, Spanish and Portuguese. However, according to many Hispanic comic creators, these characters don't reflect Latino culture.

"I grew up on comics and only saw Americans as the superheroes. There were not that many Latinos, and usually they were either supporting characters or got killed off," recalls Richard Domínguez, creator of El Gato Negro.

"They were created by (non-Latinos) who didn't know our culture and heritage and failed to capture the true essence of our community."

The current line of Latino superheroes attempts to rectify this problem. "We have to get young people excited about their culture," says Martínez. "What better way to show them what their ancestors did than through comic books."

Fernando Trulin IV is a reporter with the national newsweekly Hispanic Link Weekly Report. Copyright 1996, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Usan a Los Tigres del Norte Para Detener Ilegales!



Los Tigres del Norte apoyarán musicalmente a los indocumentados.

"Los de la Migra aprovechan nuestras presentaciones en USA para detener a cientos de paisanos al terminar los bailes": Jorge Hernández!

Ciudad de México. La tristeza y la impotencia son los principales sentimientos que surgen en Jorge Hernández, integrante de Los Tigres del Norte, cuando escucha hablar del tema de los indocumentados.

El vocalista del grupo

dijo que para él, el caso de los indocumentados que residen en los Estados Unidos es un motivo de tristeza pues siempre que finalizan sus presentaciones en ciudades de Norteamérica la gente de migración está en la salida al alocado de los ilegales.

"Me da mucha tristeza que siempre que nos presentamos en algún lugar de los Estados Unidos, la gente de migración detenga a tanta gente indocumentada. Siempre que se entera que va a haber un evento mexicano, van y detienen a mucha gente pues allá les pagan una recompensa por las personas que defiendan", expuso Jorge.

Aunque a Los Tigres del Norte les parece que esa situación es demasiado triste, ellos no han podido hacer nada por sus compatriotas que residen en el norte de América y lo único

que han hecho es intervenir en algunos casos para tratar de que no se los lleven.

"Nosotros no podemos hacer nada pues son las leyes de allá. En una ocasión si tratamos de que no se llevaran a una niña porque sus familiares nos lo pidieron, pero aún así se la llevaron.

que lo había agredido y se la tenía que llevar.

"Los familiares de la menor nos pidieron que por favor hicieramos algo. Entonces fuimos a hablar con el sargento para impedir que se la llevaran, pero como quiera la pasaron a otro departamento", recordó el vocalista.

El grupo norteno tiene planeado realizar próximamente un disco de corridos donde seguirán incluyendo temas que hablen del problema de los indocumentados y de la violación a sus derechos humanos.

Comics, P.O. Box 67368, Century City, CA 90067. (310) 276-7431.

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From Page 2

way of undermining the Census to make sure that the U.S. population is not accurately counted."

The bureau is also experimenting with a new multiracial category on trial forms and with placing its Hispanic origin question before the race question. Louis Nuñez, a member of its Hispanic Advisory Committee and former president of the National Puerto Rican Coalition, favors asking the Hispanic origin question first, saying it clarifies for respondents which category applies to them. He adds that the committee is closely monitoring the trial multiracial category.

Census numbers shape the reapportionment of the U.S. Congress and provide the framework by which more than \$100 billion in annual federal government aid is disbursed to states. The states also use the Census to allocate funds to localities and establish their state political districts.

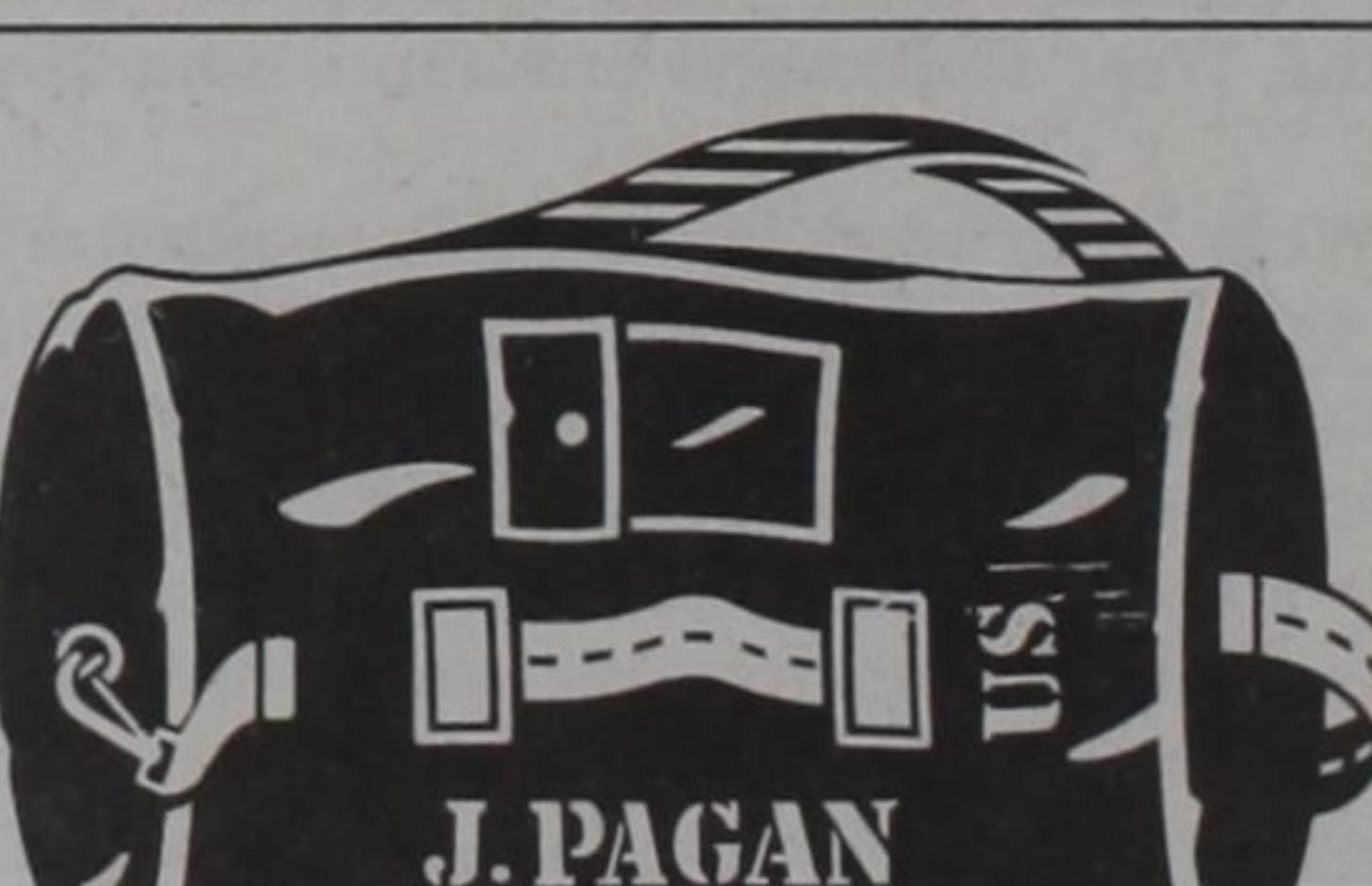
In the 1992 election, with redrawn boundaries based on the 1990 Census, six Latinos were elected in newly created congressional districts, raising the number of Latino voting members in the House of Representatives from 11 to 17. Congressional districts contain about half a million persons each.

Between 1990 and 1996, the U.S. Hispanic population has shot up from 25.5 million to 31.7 million, raising the probability that several new "Hispanic" districts will be created once again.

Joseph Torres is a reporter with Hispanic Link Weekly Report in Washington, D.C. Copyright 1996. Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate

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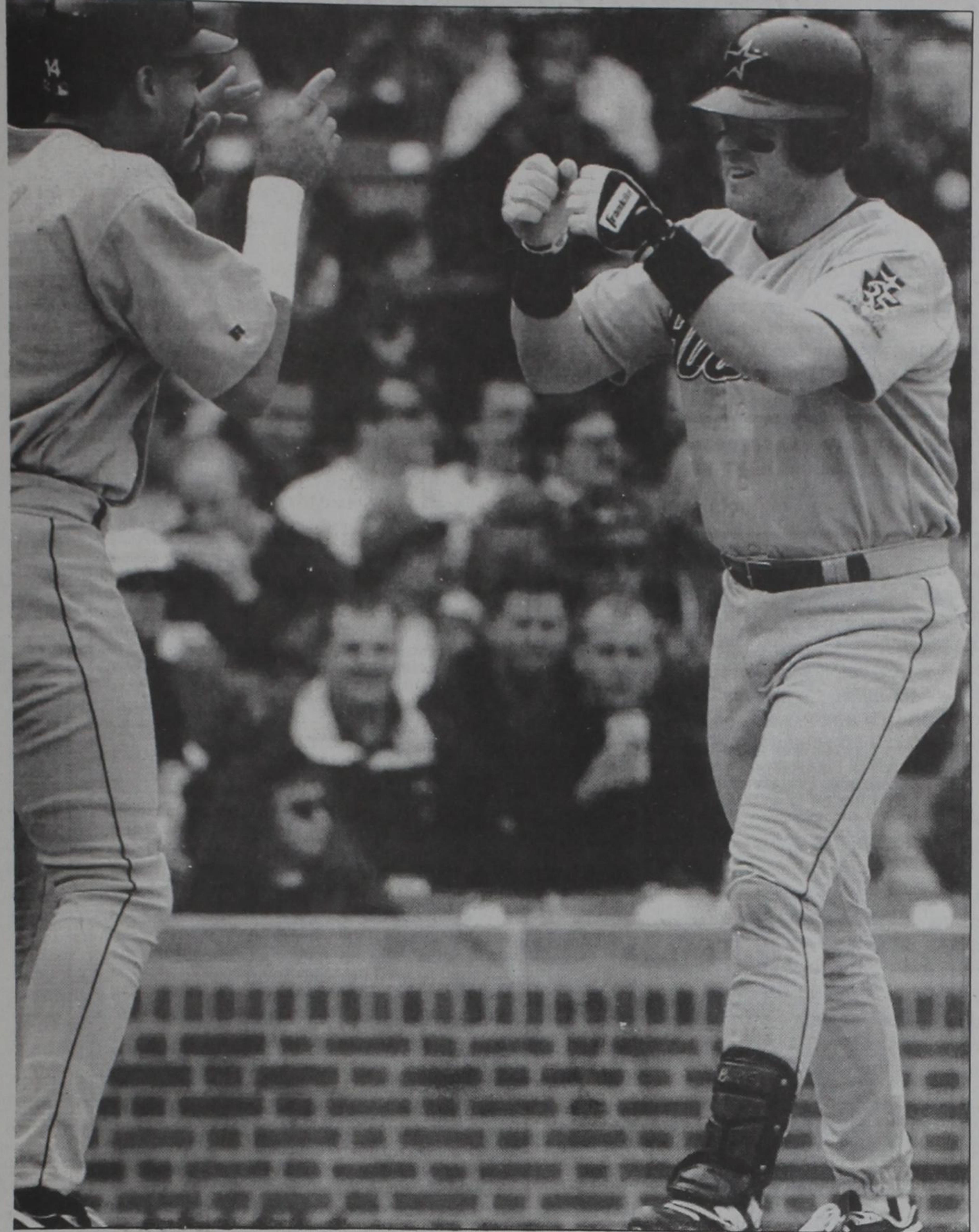
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El Editor's
LATEST

Deportes - Sports

LO MAS
RECIENTE

Attendance Lagging For Astros

HOUSTON - The Houston Rockets have been eliminated from the NBA playoffs. School is almost out.

That places Houston baseball fans in the spotlight as attendance lags for the Astros despite a half-game lead in the NL Central.

The Astros are scheduled to play 15 of their next 21 games at home.

"We're in first place, and we're doing well," Astros owner Drayton McLane Jr.

said. "With a break or two, we could have a better record."

The Astros' showing at the gate this season is crucial to the future of the franchise, which McLane has threatened to move if attendance does not improve.

"This will be a key time for us because people are beginning to focus on baseball," McLane said. "This home stand could set a positive trend for us."

"Of course, it could set a negative trend, but we look at the positive side, and we think attendance will be up."

Last year, McLane considered selling the Astros to a Virginia businessman who wanted to move the team to the northern Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C.

Earlier this spring, McLane said at least 2.7 million people must attend games this season. But his latest estimate is 2.2 million, meaning that the Astros must average about 27,100 per home game.

This year's first 17 home games drew an average of 21,700 fans, a marked increase from last year's average of 18,900 but far short of McLane's most recent goal.

"By early July, we will have a pretty good idea of what we will do," McLane said. "This should have provided a strong indication of what the fans want. The fans really need to make the decision. If baseball is that important to them, they need to support the team."

Amid the Astros' bid for a playoff position last season, home crowds were small during pivotal games, which some players said affected the team's performance.

Pam Gardner, who oversees Astros ticket sales, said sales generally increase 15 percent to 24 percent after school lets out for the summer. Houston public schools end classes May 31.

Black Advocates Mad At Cowboys

DALLAS - Black civil-rights advocates said Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones fell short of fulfilling his pledge to award more Texas Stadium contracts to minority businesses.

"We're very frustrated with the Cowboys organization," said Anthony Bond, president of the Irving chapter of the NAACP. "It's been almost two years, and we don't have anybody working yet."

With 18 contracts worth millions of dollars due to be awarded later this month, local activists are asking for a meeting with Jones to discuss future business opportunities.

Cowboys spokesman Rich Dalrymple said he would not release figures on minority contractors until after the pending contracts are awarded. But he said the team is working to increase minority

STATS

Albert Belle has hit 47 homers in 96 games since Aug. 1.

STATUS

Chuck Knoblauch started at second base for the Twins on Thursday, his first appearance in the field since being sidelined May 5 with an injured middle finger on his left hand.

SIDELINED

Cubs second baseman Ryne Sandberg left Thursday's game with a bruised right forearm after being hit by a pitch from Astros reliever Anthony Young. His was listed as day-to-day.

STEADY STARTER

Jack McDowell of Cleveland has pitched into at least the seventh inning in all nine of his starts.

SCOUTING

Tony Clark drove in Toledo's first three runs as the Mud Hens defeated the Rochester Red Wings 6-3 Thursday. Clark hit a run-scoring single in the first inning and a two-run homer, his sixth of the year, in the fourth.

SPEAKING

"Everybody has a breaking point and I just reached mine last night. From now on, my breaking point will be a little further." - White Sox outfielder Tony Phillips.

SEASONS

May 17

1903 - In a game played at Columbus, Ohio, the Indians beat the New York Highlanders.

SPEAKING

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SEASONS

May 17

1903 - In a game played



Un Rayito De Luz

por Sofía Martínez

San Juan describe, al comenzar su evangelio, la generación eterna del Redentor: En el principio existía el Verbo, y el Verbo estaba en Dios, y el Verbo era Dios. El existía en un principio en Dios, todas las cosas fueron hechas por El, nada se hizo sin El. En El estaba la vida y la vida era la luz de los hombres.

Juan da testimonio de Jesucristo, y grita diciendo: De El es de quien he dicho: el que debe de venir después de mí porque ha sido colocado por sobre de mí, porque era antes que yo. Y nosotros, todos, hemos recibido parte de Su Plenitud, y gracia por gracia, y la verdad, han venido por Jesucristo. Nadie ha visto jamás a Dios; el Hijo Unico que se halla en el Seno del Padre, es el que lo ha manifestado. (Juan 1, 1-19).

Hubo un hombre enviado por Dios, llamado Juan, Este Juan vino para dar testimonio de la luz (Jesús) para



PENSAMIENTOS DEL PREDICADOR

POR PASTOR FRANK GARCÍA

Lubbock, Texas

JESÚS Y EL DIABLO

Entonces Jesús fue llevado al desierto, Para ser tentado del Diablo Mt. 4:1.

El primer evento que S. Mateo refiere del ministerio de nuestro Señor después de su bautismo, es su tentación. Parece que hay mucho en esta narración que no podemos explicar. Pero por encima se presentan lecciones prácticas y sencillas, y que haremos bien en considerar.

APRENDÁMOS EN PRIMER LUGAR;

Qué enemigo tan real y poderoso tenemos en el Diablo. Que en su malignidad salta aún al mismo Jesús, y que tres veces ataca de diversos modos al Hijo de Dios. Fue el Diablo quien al principio trajo el pecado al mundo. El fue quien hizo padecer a Job, engañó a David, y causó a Pedro una grave caída. Por lo mismo la Biblia le llama asesino mentiroso, y león rugidor. Y en su enemistad contra nuestras almas, jamás duerme. Y que por cerca de 6,000 años ha estado ocupado en arruinar hombres y mujeres para arrastrarlos al mismo infierno, y amenazarnos con presentarse como un ángel de luz. Velemos y oremos diariamente contra sus maquinaciones. Porque El es nuestro más cruel enemigo, y aunque invisible, no descansa en su malignidad y designios contra nuestras almas.

APRENDÁMOS EN SEGUNDO LUGAR,

Que no debemos considerar las tentaciones como una cosa extraña. "El discípulo no es más que su maestro, ni el criado que su amo." Porque si Satanás se acercó a Cristo, se acercará también a los cristianos. Sería conveniente que todos los cristianos recordaran ésto, porque están demasiado propensos a olvidarlo. Cristianos: no olvidemos que hay un Diablo, y no nos maravillemos al hallarlo cerca de nosotros. Pero ser tentado por él no es en sí mismo pecado. Pero ceder a la tentación y abrigarla en nuestro corazón, es lo que debemos temer.

APRENDÁMOS EN TERCER LUGAR:

Que la gran arma que debemos emplear para resistir a Satanás es la Biblia. Tres veces, el gran enemigo presentó tentaciones a nuestro Señor. Pero tres veces sus ofertas fueron rechazadas, sirviendo en cada vez como arma para hacerlo así la Palabra de Dios. "Está escrito" le dijo Jesús tres veces al Satanás. He aquí una razón entre otras muchas, por las cuales debemos ser lectores y hacedores de la Santa Palabra de Dios. Porque la Biblia es la espada del Espíritu. Porque en el cristianismo, nunca libraremos una buena batalla si no hacemos buen uso de la Biblia, y la usemos como nuestra arma principal. Porque si no viajamos por su luz, nunca seguiremos rectamente por el camino real del cielo, pero hoy día es de temerse que entre nosotros no se lea suficientemente la Biblia, no es suficiente poseerla. Debemos leerla y pedir ayuda del Espíritu Santo. La inteligencia de la Biblia nunca se adquiere por intuición. Se adquiere leyéndola con regularidad todos los días. Porque todo lo que está relacionado con el bien de nuestras almas merece toda nuestra aplicación. Porque es de suma importancia que nos familiarizemos con lo que nos dice Dios en su Santa Palabra.

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que sacrificarlas.

Ya que los colegios y las universidades fijan sus propias normas para los atributos positivos, desde el talento para el baloncesto hasta la destreza en matemáticas, este curso de acción no podría ser desafiado fácilmente por el ala derecha.

Nosotros, los latinos, tenemos la obligación de actuar ahora para conservar la diversidad cultural e idiomática en este país. Los jueces

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Cuidando Su Salud

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posed cutting AFDC benefits 26 percent, from \$577 a month to \$424. (A cut of this magnitude is barred by current federal law, but it would be permitted under pending federal legislation to convert AFDC to a block grant. Pataki has proposed a smaller cut for the interim period until legislation blocking AFDC is approved.) In California, Governor Wilson's proposals would cut AFDC benefits across-the-board, impose additional reductions once a family has received aid for six months, and impose further cuts when the family has received assistance for 12 months. In both states, assistance levels would be reduced for families in which parents are complying with work and job search requirements but are unable to find a job.

In addition, the House Budget Committee cited the Cato report in a document issued February 29 sharply criticizing President Clinton's veto of the budget reconciliation bill. Relying on Cato, the Budget Committee incorrectly claimed that welfare pays more than an \$8-an-hour job in 40 states.

Directions for Welfare Reform

The Center's findings do not mean that working poor families are doing well, Greenstein said. The value of the minimum wage has fallen to a tie for its lowest level in 40 years, after adjusting for inflation, and is 28 percent below its average value in the 1970s. In addition, low-income working families can face substantial child care costs if they do not receive a child care subsidy, and some members of these families - particularly parents - lack health insurance. But Greenstein noted that the problems facing the working poor should not lead to the erroneous conclusion that unemployed families receiving AFDC generally have higher incomes than families with a low-wage worker. He also observed that the Cato report does not recommend any steps to help families struggling on low wages to make ends meet.

"The debate over how to transform AFDC into a system that moves families from welfare to work, helps working poor families make ends meet, and provides a safety net for families with parents who try but are unable to find work is one of the most important policy debates facing the nation," Greenstein concluded. "As this debate moves forward, it should be informed by accurate information, not by misleading analysis such as that found in the Cato report."

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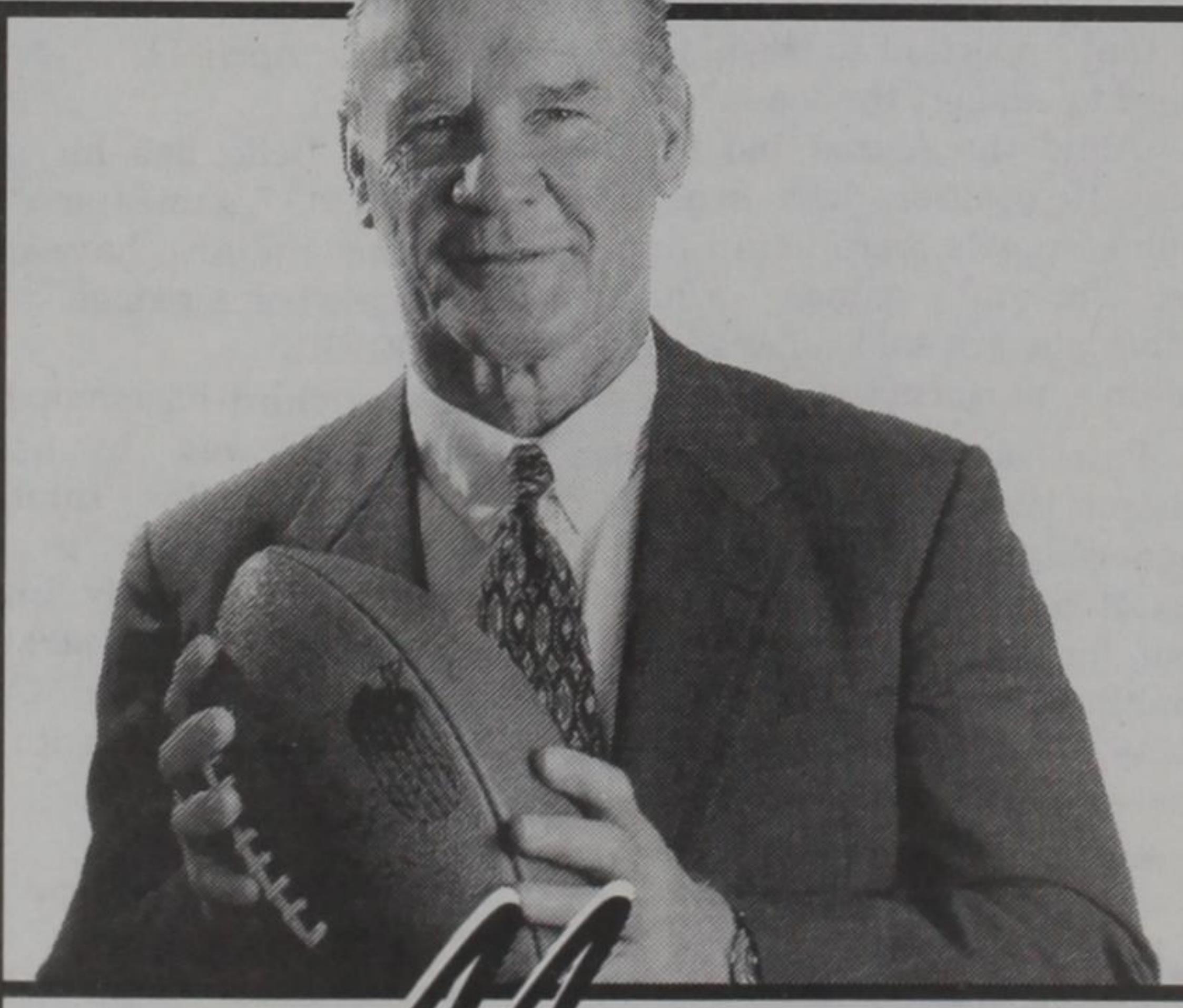
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SALUD

Enfrentando el Cáncer Recurrente

News USA

(NU) - Hoy en día hay más de 8 millones de sobrevivientes de cáncer en Estados Unidos — y tres millones de éstos corren el riesgo de que la enfermedad recurrira. Recurrencia significa que una enfermedad que se daba por curada o controlada ha vuelto a surgir.

El cáncer puede recurrir en el mismo lugar original o dispersarse a través de las vías sanguíneas o del sistema linfático a otras partes del cuerpo, tales como el hígado, los pulmones, los huesos o el cerebro.

Alrededor de 750,000 estadounidenses están en riesgo de recurrencia del cáncer colorectal o en los ovarios. Y en este año, de los 174,000 casos nuevos de estos tipos de cáncer, casi la mitad recurrirá, a pesar de los intentos de cirugía curativa.

Para el paciente, el regreso del cáncer puede ser más devastador psicológicamente y tan difícil de confrontar como el inicio original de la enfermedad. Sin embargo, la información completa y precisa de la localización y extensión del cáncer acompañada de un diálogo abierto entre el médico y el paciente, puede ayudar a los pacientes a asumir control.

"Mientras más conocimientos tengan los pacientes de cáncer sobre la enfermedad, mejor podrán afrontarla — tanto en términos físicos como psicológicos," indicó la conocida psicóloga Dra. Joyce Brothers. "Los médicos deben convertirse en educadores no solamente doctores. Ellos tienen que proveer información honesta a los pacientes sobre su enfermedad que les brinde el poder para participar en el proceso de toma de decisiones sobre su diagnóstico y tratamiento. Los pacientes que asumen un papel activo recobran el sentido de manejo y control de sus vidas."

En algunos casos, para determinar donde recurren ciertos tipos de

cáncer, los médicos hacen cirugías exploratorias. Hoy en día, existe un examen que no requiere cirugía: "Oncoscint CR/OV" (colorrectal/ovarios), un nuevo agente que produce imágenes del cáncer. "Oncoscint CR/OV" ayuda en el proceso de toma de decisiones y mejora el tratamiento médico y quirúrgico de pacientes con cáncer colorectal o en los ovarios.

Estos procedimientos que no requieren cirugía pueden proveer a los médicos y pacientes con la información crucial que necesitan para tomar decisiones terapéuticas correctas, y ofrecer mejores prospectos para su cura.

Consejos de la Dra. Joyce Brothers para afrontar la recurrencia del cáncer:

- Asuma control sobre su cáncer. Obtenga toda la información posible sobre su enfermedad. Participe activamente en las decisiones sobre su diagnóstico y tratamiento.
- Mantenga comunicación con su familia, amigos y su médico sobre como se siente y que necesita de ellos.
- Desarrolle y mantenga una relación abierta y honesta con su médico durante todas las etapas del diagnóstico y tratamiento. Siempre recuerde que él o ella debe ayudarle lo mejor que pueda.

- Pregunte a su médico si le conviene someterse a nuevas técnicas de imágenes de cáncer que detectan recurrencias mejor que otras pruebas y que limitan el uso de cirugías exploratorias.
- Obtenga una segunda opinión si no está recibiendo la información o el apoyo que necesita de su médico.

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