

News Briefs

Latino Kids Miss Out On Health Care

Nearly half of the urban Latino children eligible for government health coverage aren't receiving it because of their parents' immigrant status, according to a new study by researchers at the University of California Los Angeles, reports San Jose Mercury News.

The study, which was published in today's Journal of the American Medical Association, also suggested that health coverage was likely to worsen for California's Latino children because of pending measures aimed at reducing the costs of immigration. Welfare reform in California could make most non-citizen immigrants ineligible for Medi-Cal, the government health insurance program for the poor.

The report is one of the first to document how immigration measures aimed at denying government benefits to adults also deprive the immigrants' U.S.-born children of health coverage. The findings prompted Dr. Jack Lewin, a top official of the California Medical Association, to take the unusual step of writing an editorial calling the situation "a growing ethical and economic calamity."

The study found that 80 percent of 795 Latino families surveyed were not U.S. citizens - 48 percent were documented immigrants and 32 percent were undocumented immigrants. But 96 percent of all their children were born in the United States, and thus most were citizens.

Of the children, 84 percent qualified for Medi-Cal, but 39 percent had sporadic or no Medi-Cal coverage, despite their eligibility. Children of non-citizen immigrants were far more likely to lack coverage than those of citizens.

The study noted that because non-citizen immigrant families had higher rates of employment than citizens, they ironically were less likely to get the benefit of Medi-Cal for their children.

"Despite strong workforce participation, immigrant Latino families are among the poorest population in California," the study said.

ATF: Domestic Abuser Gun Ban Problematic

Federal law enforcement officials are bracing for an inundation of phone calls from domestic-abuse victims who want guns taken away from their abusers, reports Associated Press.

A measure prohibiting gun ownership by people convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence was passed by Congress last year. The Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms is enforcing it.

"In almost every state, ATF is going to be the enforcement arm of first resort, because there is no state law" lifting firearms from those abusers, agency Director John Magaw told the House Appropriations subcommittee that oversees the Treasury Department.

The agency "may not have the personnel to carry out all these investigations," he said Tuesday, and that could create problems.

Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., chairman of the subcommittee, said he hoped ATF would not simply arrest people found to be wrongfully owning guns but would warn them of the new law first. He also expressed concern that the law could have significant budgetary impacts.

About 10 law enforcement officers in the Treasury Department have lost their gun-carrying rights because of the law. Rep. Bob Barr, R-Ga., with support from the Fraternal Order of Police, is now seeking to have the law repealed.

Enforcement of the law is complicated by the fact that not all states have crime databases that include misdemeanor domestic violence. The government is developing computerized databases to enable instant checks of backgrounds before handgun sales are allowed, an evolution of the Brady Law requiring five-day waits for background checks until instant checks are operable.

CA Senate's Act to Help Immigrants

California's two Democratic senators moved yesterday to try to restore welfare benefits to elderly immigrants, reports The San Francisco Chronicle.

Yesterday Senator Dianne Feinstein proposed amending last year's welfare reform law, which will terminate Supplemental Security Income benefits to elderly immigrants starting August 22. Senator Barbara Boxer is co-sponsoring the amendment.

Feinstein said the SSI provision could affect 200,000 people in California. SSI benefits to immigrants were ended on the grounds that the children of elderly immigrants are obligated to support their parents and that SSI had become a major draw to elderly residents of Third World countries attempting to retire at public expense in the United States.

Feinstein's measure would restore SSI benefits to elderly and disabled immigrants who "have no other sufficient means of support" and who were in the United States before passage of the welfare reform bill in August.

Republicans argue that the sharp recent decline in welfare caseloads has left states flush with federal welfare money that they could use to supplement benefits for immigrants.

However, a spokesman for the House Ways and Means Committee said Republicans have not shut the door to re-examining the SSI provision for immigrants who have no family support. "It is being discussed," the aide said, but the discussions are "very preliminary."

FDA Tobacco Crackdown Begins

Food and Drug Administration regulations requiring retailers to card all customers younger than 27 attempting to purchase cigarettes went into effect today, reports Associated Press. Failure to comply could cost store owners \$250.

Celebrating a milestone in his anti-smoking campaign, President Clinton said rules that went into effect today will help keep cigarettes out of kids' hands. "No I.D., no sale," he said.

The FDA is contracting with states to send undercover teens to catch lawbreakers. But the agency still has not picked the 10 states that will share the first \$4 million in enforcement funds - meaning federal stings will not happen for at least a month.

Virginia and North Carolina both oppose the FDA's crackdown on youth smoking, which later this year will entail advertising and other restrictions, and they joined a tobacco industry lawsuit seeking to block it. But Virginia Gov. George Allen on Thursday acknowledged, "It is the law."

The FDA hot line is 888-FDA-4KIDS.

High Court Throws Out English-Only Case

The Supreme Court has invoked a legal technicality in throwing out a challenge to an Arizona law that requires government workers speak only English on the job, reports Reuters.

The justices today ruled unanimously that the case was moot, or legally irrelevant, because the state worker who challenged the law resigned her job in the state government in 1990. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg says the high court is expressing no view on the constitutionality of the law, enacted in 1988.

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Who Is That Enigma Named Juan Jose Gutierrez?

By RICARDO VERGARA

Juan Jose Gutierrez came from obscurity to the national stage in the space of one day, Oct. 12, 1996 -- *Dia de la Raza*. That's when the relatively unknown recent law school graduate pulled off the Latino organizing feat of the decade. He enticed almost 50,000 Latinos, young and old, from all over the country to Washington, D.C., to join in a March for Justice.

With next to no encouragement or help from established Latino organizations or political leaders, he elevated *la causa* to a national story. At least for a day. All day long, Gutierrez stood in the spotlight, directing *raza* traffic and emotion. But when the sun went down, who Gutierrez was and why he did what he did were never really explained.

Now, five months later, he's at it again, coordinating another grassroots march against injustice to occur March 9. This time, the setting is Los Angeles, the city with the nation's largest

Hispanic population. And the question remains: Why is Juan Jose, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Mexico, so intent at age 39 on uniting the conglomerate of nationalities that make up the Latino electoral muscle in the United States?

Kevin de Leon, a human and civil rights senior associate with the National Education Association who was one of the march's coordinators, describes best the enigma that is Juan Jose. He compares his friend and former coworker at Los Angeles One Stop Immigration and Education Center to an onion.

"You can peel off the many layers that he has," de Leon says, "and when you think you've found his essence, you find more layers."

Gutierrez's introduction to the Latino movement came at a Los Angeles junior high school following a day etched in the minds of many Latino activists. On Aug. 29, 1970, Latino journalist Ruben Salazar was killed by a deputy

sheriff's tear-gas canister. Salazar had been covering an anti-Vietnam War march in East Los Angeles.

"I remember going to school afterwards and reading on the walls slogans like *Viva la Causa*. That mystified me. I didn't know the meaning. I started asking questions, and when I found out what that meant, it gave me the sense that only very special people could belong to such a noble cause as *el movimiento*."

At East L.A.'s Garfield High School a few years later, Gutierrez worked with El Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano (MECHA), organizing elected student leaders of schools in the area to lobby the Los Angeles Board of Education for improvements to their campuses.

Now, slightly overweight and beginning to lose his hair, he still speaks of his high school friends and their agenda with a youthful ardor that is contagious.

He carried with him the fire

sparked by MECHA to the University of California-San Diego, founding a militant Latino student publication called *La Voz Fronteriza*.

He was a literature and history major. One of his passions was, and remains, reading. His heroes are literary figures and writers such as Cervantes and Shakespeare. Today, as he continues his community organizing efforts, the few hours that are not taken up by his crusade are spent in front of a book. Fabian Nunez, a Coordinadora '96 march organizer and long-time friend, sees Gutierrez as a person in love with his mission: "His personal life accounts for maybe five percent of his time. The rest is all political. Juan has made a big sacrifice in his life, but it is not a demand that anybody has put on him."

His desire to learn more about his roots took him to Mexico in 1980. There, he attended the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico in

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**"El Respeto Al
Derecho Ajeno
Es La Paz"**
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Study: Minorities Face Home Bias

By KARYN HUNT

SAN FRANCISCO - Despite concerted efforts and laws to the contrary, ethnic minorities in San Francisco still face more obstacles to buying a home than do whites, according to a study released Wednesday by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

Subtle forms of discrimination begin in the search process and show up again and again through the purchase and the loan, according to the report.

Wash. House Democrats Say NAFTA Flawed

By HARRY DUNPHY

WASHINGTON - House Democrats say the NAFTA trade agreement has serious flaws that should be fixed before it is extended to other countries in the hemisphere such as Chile.

House Democratic Whip David Bonior, D-Mich., said the North American Free Trade Agreement was a failure, resulting in job losses for American workers and a record \$16 billion trade deficit with Mexico.

"Expanding NAFTA now would be like building a new room onto your house when your kitchen is on fire and your roof is collapsing," he said Wednesday. "Before we expand NAFTA, we've got to fix it and there is a lot to fix."

Bonior said that the Labor Department estimates by a narrow definition that 100,000 Americans have lost their jobs to NAFTA. A formula used by advocates of the trade agreement puts the figure six times higher, he said.

Senior administration trade representative Ira Shapiro said the 600,000 figure was fallacious and the reported 100,000 job loss covered all trade categories, not just NAFTA.

Describing the accord as a failure, Rep. Marcy Kaptur, D-Ohio, said that it should be evaluated to see if it lived up to the promises made by the Clinton administration and other proponents.

"If the agreement did not meet benchmark standards," she said, then President Clinton would have to "renegotiate the faulty provisions, whether they pertain to the trade deficit, job losses, environmental safeguards, human rights and democracy, immigration, truck standards and truck safety."

She said it should not be expanded beyond Mexico and Canada until it has shown to

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"We do feel that we have identified some subtle barriers to fair access," Federal Reserve Community Affairs Officer Joy Hoffmann Molloy said. "Let's eradicate the subtle biases against a certain population to ensure there is fair access to credit."

Although the study looked only at San Francisco, it can be extrapolated to other cities across the country and its findings will become part of a nationwide effort to end discrimination in home ownership, she said.

All 12 Federal Reserve Banks are taking part in that effort.

Specifically, the task forces taking part in the project found that minority and low-income people need more education about the home buying process and their rights.

They also discovered that ethnic and low-income neighborhoods were not included in marketing efforts intended to attract buyers.

The insurance task force ac-

Marina De Guerra Empieza Nueva Vuelta De Audiencias En Puerto Rico Sobre Radar Controvertido

Por LANCE OLIVER

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico -- La parte de recepción de un gigantesco sistema de radar que la Marina de Guerra quiere instalar en Puerto Rico, consiste de 250 pares de antenas que lucen como pías suaves enterradas, de 19 pies de alto.

La apariencia es correcta porque el radar se ha convertido en un pararrayos eficaz, atrayendo a toda variedad de oposición imaginable en las relaciones difíciles entre el gobierno federal y Puerto Rico.

El proyecto se llama Radar Relocalizable Sobre el Horizonte (ROTHR en inglés), destinado a usarse en las gestiones de interdicción de narcóticos. Al hacer rebotar las ondas en la alta atmósfera, de modo muy parecido como sucede con la transmisión de radio de onda corta, ROTHR puede mirar por encima del horizonte, lejos hacia dentro de las naciones productoras de narcóticos de la América del Sur.

Ya hay dos ROTHRs funcionando en el territorio continental. Los documentos de la Marina muestran que un tercero en Puerto Rico cubriría un millón de millas cuadradas, incluyendo a Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Perú y gran parte del Brasil y Bolivia.

"Los sistemas ROTHR existentes en Virginia y Texas pro-

porcionan una cobertura incompleta de las naciones suramericanas donde se originan los narcóticos, lo cual resulta en brechas que son explotadas por los narco-traficantes", dicen los documentos de la Marina. Esta dice que las dos instalaciones del territorio continental descubrieron cerca de 77,000 vuelos entre abril de 1993 y agosto de 1996, y contribuyeron a la intercepción de 66 toneladas de cocaína.

ROTHR observa constantemente los cielos en busca de vuelos no programados o sospechosos, y la información se traslada a las dependencias de la ejecución de la ley para la interdicción.

Los equipos transmisores y receptores de ROTHR deben estar entre 50 y 100 millas de separación. Los planes originales pedían que el transmisor se situara en terreno de la Marina en la isleta de Vieques, a unas pocas millas al este de la isla de Puerto Rico. El receptor estaría en el Valle de Lajas, al suroeste de Puerto Rico.

Ahí fue donde cayó el relámpago. Los residentes de Lajas se quejaron de que la Marina estaba apoderándose de terrenos agrícolas de la mejor clase y que trastornaría el sistema de irrigación del valle. Algunos se preocupaban de que el radar podría ocasionar problemas de salud, aunque

That task force suggested putting together a pre-purchase home buyer education program that would include information about the indirect discrimination minorities might face.

The Federal Reserve Bank has no enforcement authority in cases where independent contractors and private insurance companies are used for searches, loan applications and appraisals.

There is no timetable for implementing corrective actions because the Federal Reserve wants to let individual contractors and companies police themselves.

"It doesn't make sense for us to have a very specific or heavy role because we are not the experts," Molloy said. "The fed is not the expert in the insurance industry, the appraisal industry or the real estate or the lending industries. We really want this to be a genuine local effort."

Young Democrats to Meet Saturday

The Young Democrats of Lubbock County will have an organizational meeting on Saturday, March 8 at LaLa's Restaurant, 1110 Broadway at 1 pm. Guest speaker will be Marisa Schouten, Membership Vice President of the Texas Young Democrats.

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La Marina dijo que era seguro. Los funcionarios municipales no creían que cientos de antenas feas realizarían sus planes de convertir un camino cercano en una carretera escénica.

Los activistas por la independencia condenaron el aumento de la militarización de Puerto Rico y especularon que ROTHR se usaría no solamente para interceptar a los vuelos de narcóticos, sino también para recoger información de inteligencia sobre las naciones de la América Latina. Años de persecución contra los defensores de la independencia en Puerto Rico por parte del Buró Federal de Investigaciones (FBI, en inglés) en la época de Hoover, crearon desconfianza hacia las dependencias federales, la cual continúa siendo fuerte.

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¿Quien Es Ese Enigma Nombrado Juan Jose Gutierrez?

Por RICARDO VERGARA

Juan José Gutiérrez salió de la obscuridad al escenario nacional en un día, el 12 de octubre de 1996 -- El Día de la Raza.

Entonces fue cuando el recién graduado de la escuela de derecho, relativamente desconocido, efectuó la hazaña de la década en organización latina. El convenció a casi 50,000 latinos, jóvenes y viejos, de todo el país, a ir a Washington, DC., y unirse en una "Marcha por la Justicia."

Sin casi ningún aliento ni ayuda de las organizaciones y dirigentes políticos latinos establecidos, él elevó La Causa a una historia de envergadura nacional. Al menos por un día.

Durante todo el día, Gutiérrez estuvo en el centro, dirigiendo el tránsito y la emoción de la raza. Pero al ponerse el sol, no se había explicado realmente quién era Gutiérrez y por qué había hecho lo que hizo.

Ahora, cinco meses después, él está trabajando nuevamente, coordinando otra marcha popular contra la injusticia, que tendrá lugar el 9 de marzo.

En esta ocasión, el lugar será la ciudad de Los Angeles, que tiene la mayor población hispana del país. Y la pregunta

sigue en el aire:

¿Por qué Juan José, ciudadano de los Estados Unidos oriundo de México, está tan apasionado a la edad de 39 años con unir al conglomerado de nacionalidades que forman la fuerza electoral latina en los Estados Unidos?

Kevin de León, asociado ejecutivo para los derechos humanos y civiles de la Asociación Nacional de la Enseñanza (NEA en inglés), que fue también coordinador de la primera marcha, describe mejor el enigma que es Juan José. El compara a su amigo y anterior colega en el Centro de Inmigración y Enseñanza de Una Parada de Los Angeles con una cebolla.

"Uno puede quitar las muchas capas que lo forman, y, cuando uno cree que ha encontrado su esencia, encuentra más capas."

La introducción de Gutiérrez al movimiento latino llegó en una escuela intermedia de Los Angeles, sucediendo a un día grabado en las mentes de muchos activistas latinos. El 29 de agosto de 1970, el periodista latino Rubén Salazar fue muerto por una cápsula de gas lacrimógeno disparada por un diputado del alguacil mayor, mientras el periodista cubría

una marcha en contra de la guerra de Viet-Nam en el Este de Los Angeles.

"Recuerdo haber ido después a la escuela y haber leído en las paredes lemas como "Viva La Causa. Eso me desconcertó. Yo no sabía el significado. Empecé a hacer preguntas y, cuando hallé lo que significaba, tuve la impresión de que sólo personas muy especiales podían pertenecer a una causa tan noble como "el movimiento.D"

En la Escuela Superior Garfield, del Este de Los Angeles, pocos años después, Gutiérrez trabajó con El Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MECHA), organizando dirigentes estudiantiles electos de las escuelas de la zona para cabildar a la Junta Escolar de Los Angeles procurando mejoramientos para sus recintos escolares.

Ahora, ligeramente pasado de peso y comenzando a perder el cabello, él habla todavía de sus amigos de la escuela secundaria y de su programa de trabajo con un ardor juvenil que es contagioso.

El llevó consigo la llama encendida por MECHA a la Universidad de California en San Diego, fundando una publicación estudiantil latina militante

llamada La Voz Fronteriza.

Hizo su bachillerato en literatura e historia. Una de sus pasiones era, y continúa siendo, la lectura. Sus héroes son figuras literarias y escritores tales como Cervantes y Shakespeare. Hoy, a medida que continúa sus gestiones para organizar a la comunidad, las pocas horas que su cruzada no absorbe las pasa delante de un libro.

Fabián Núñez, organizador de la Marcha de la Coordinadora D96 y amigo de largo tiempo, ve a Gutiérrez como una persona enamorada de su misión:

"Su vida personal posiblemente ocupa el cinco por ciento de su tiempo. El resto es todo político. Juan ha hecho un gran sacrificio en su vida, pero no es una exigencia que nadie puso sobre sus hombros."

Un deseo de aprender más acerca de sus raíces lo llevó a México en 1980. Allí asistió a la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, en San Antonio. Estudió psicología y ciencias políticas e inevitablemente se involucró en la escena política, trabajando con los sindicatos de trabajadores.

Su historial como defensor de los derechos de los inmigrantes

es tan impresionante como su dominio del inglés y del español. El ha trabajado como organizador sindical y ha prestado servicios como director ejecutivo de One Stop (Una Parada), una de las organizaciones más fuertes entre las que apoyan a los inmigrantes en la Costa Occidental.

Al preguntársele sobre su vida personal, las respuestas de Gutiérrez son secas, tan cortas como su estatura de cinco pies y siete pulgadas. El parece recogerse en sí mismo cuando se trata del asunto. Nunca se ha casado. Según amigos, la vida amorosa es algo más que ha sacrificado para comprometerse con su vida política.

"A él lo impulsa un compromiso por representar a aquellos que no tienen voz. Esto es algo mucho mayor que sus propias necesidades," dice de León. En realidad, su personalidad es complicada, pero no hay duda de que él es parte de una emergente clase de dirigentes latinos. Los colegas le dan crédito por su instintiva astucia con los medios de comunicación y la política, que es indispensable para adelantar el programa de trabajo latino.

Núñez dice que, "Juan puede ir tan lejos como las fuerzas de la comunidad permitan circun-

stancias de cambio. El desempeñará un papel principal en los derechos civiles y humanos de los latinos y todos los inmigrantes."

Se enfoca actualmente en establecer una oficina permanente para el Comité Coordinador Nacional para la Ciudadanía y la Participación Cívica en Washington, DC. Esto podría ser un logro tan formidable como la misma pionera marcha. El tendrá que hallar espacio en una ciudad ya saturada de organizaciones establecidas que tratan de adelantar la misma causa -- y de proteger su territorio.

Pero su optimismo no cesa. A pesar de haber sido el objeto de devastadores ataques políticos sobre los latinos en el pasado año, Gutiérrez mira hacia delante, no hacia atrás. "No deberíamos estar pensando en cuánto tenemos que perder. Es cuánto tenemos que ganar," dice él.

(Ricardo Vergara, de Arlington, Virginia, es reportero de Hispanic Link News Service.)

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Una Entrevista Con Juan Jose Gutierrez

Después de la Marcha Latina de 1996, ¿Qué planea él como segunda parte? El 12 de octubre de 1996, la primera Marcha Latina de todos los tiempos en Washington, D.C., hizo lo que muchos -- incluyendo varios dirigentes nacionales hispanos -- decían que no se podía hacer. La Coordinadora D96, una coalición de cerca de 1,000 grupos comunitarios, estudiantiles, religiosos y sindicales que se unieron como auspiciadores, juntaron a personas de todo el país para demostrar una fuerza hispana afirmativa e inminente.

Este verano próximo, la Coordinadora se propone establecer sus oficinas principales en la capital de la nación, para trabajar con otras organizaciones hispanas a fin de proteger y realizar los derechos civiles de los latinos y otros inmigrantes. La oficina abogará por un conjunto de demandas que van desde la reforma laboral hasta los derechos de los inmigrantes.

Juan José Gutiérrez, su voz dirigente, habló recientemente con Ricardo Vergara, de Hispanic Link News Service, sobre las perspectivas de la Coordinadora en el año que comienza. Pregunta: ¿Qué ha estado haciendo tu grupo desde la marcha?

Respuesta: Regionalmente, hemos organizado reuniones de seguimiento en todo el país para revisar la lista de demandas y planear la estrategia de cómo vamos a llevar a la práctica nuestra plataforma de siete puntos. Acabamos de tener buenas reuniones con cuatro de los cinco miembros del Congreso que representan a California. Ellos nos conocen y me han asegurado que van a tomar en serio nuestras gestiones. Un contingente de 450 miembros de la Coordinadora se unió a una manifestación de la AFL-CIO en apoyo de los trabajadores de hoteles y restaurantes en Los Angeles. Estamos preparando un cuestionario que profundizará al debate sobre nuestra plataforma y nos ayudará a definir las prioridades de la comunidad.

Tuvo lugar una reunión de planificación en el Este de Los Angeles en diciembre. Más de 50 organizaciones -- representando distintos aspectos de la plataforma -- participaron.

En febrero, un grupo de nosotros fue a Ciudad de México, donde nos reunimos con cerca de 60 dirigentes electos mexicanos de los cuatro partidos políticos. Varios otros de los Estados Unidos -- funcionarios locales y estatales de California, Texas e Illinois -- llegaron y se unieron a las discusiones.

Pregunta: ¿Qué otras actividades se efectuarán pronto?

Respuesta: El 9 de marzo, auspiciaremos una manifestación y asamblea por los derechos de los inmigrantes en Los Angeles. Es nuestro primer disparo de salva, a medida que nos preparamos para una reunión nacional en mayo

próximo. Del 21 al 23 de marzo, llevaremos a cabo una reunión regional en San Antonio, donde esperamos la presencia de cerca de 50 organizaciones de siete u ocho estados -- Texas, Louisiana, Nuevo México, la Florida, Nebraska, Georgia, Alabama y puede que Arizona.

La reunión nacional será o bien en Nueva York o bien en Los Angeles.

Nuestro objetivo principal es la comunicación, para poner a la gente al tanto de lo que estamos haciendo en la estela de la marcha. Estamos usando la Red Mundial (Internet) como instrumento para comunicarnos con nuestros partidarios. Estamos tratando de que las personas se suscriban a un "list server" y tenemos un directorio de personas que están interesadas en obtener información sobre la Coordinadora.

Pregunta: ¿Cómo están ustedes recaudando dinero?

Respuesta: Estamos pidiendo a personas y organizaciones, a los sindicatos, las iglesias y los negocios que hagan donativos a la Coordinadora. Estamos planeando también conciertos en zonas estratégicas del país, tales como Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami y Houston. Ya varios artistas han ofrecido presentarse a beneficio de la Coordinadora. Tenemos otras ideas muy ambiciosas y de amplio alcance.

Pregunta: ¿Cómo están reclutando miembros? ¿Quién es elegible para unirse?

Respuesta: Estamos fortaleciendo nuestras relaciones con los movimientos existentes que están tratando de adelantar puntos semejantes a los de nuestro programa de trabajo. Los miembros se reclutan mediante el trabajo y los servicios que prestan las organizaciones de nuestras comunidades. Cualquiera que esté de acuerdo con nuestra plataforma y que esté dispuesto(a) a apoyarla, es bienvenido(a) de trabajar con nosotros.

Pregunta: ¿Qué clase de apoyo crees tú que es indispensable para que tu movimiento tenga éxito?

Respuesta: Necesitamos una mayor representación en el Congreso, junto con un movimiento sindical más progresista y una Iglesia Católica más dedicada. Si nuestro movimiento ha de ir a alguna parte, va a tener que contar con el apoyo sólido de la Iglesia Católica de los Estados Unidos, porque la mayoría de nuestra gente es católica. Preferiría el apoyo de la Iglesia Católica por encima del apoyo de el movimiento de izquierda. Con la Iglesia Católica de nuestro lado, no hay nada que pueda detenernos.

Pregunta: Hay varias organizaciones en Washington, D.C., que trabajan como defensoras de los asuntos latinos. ¿Cómo funcionará la Coordinadora entre esos grupos?

Respuesta: Esta será una ofi-

cina nacional distinta. No vamos a trabajar solamente en abogar por la comunidad latina en general, sino que vamos también a servir como conducto para las organizaciones locales que forman la Coordinadora, a fin de que puedan aprender los trabajos interiores del trámite legislativo, de las relaciones con el mundo empresarial y otras actividades. Queremos ser el conducto para sus gestiones al nivel federal y queremos estar a tono con lo que sucede localmente. Otras organizaciones se enfocan en el Capitolio. Nosotros haremos éso y trabajaremos desde una perspectiva comunitaria. Haremos cosas de modo creativo para ser el puente hacia los poderes de los Estados Unidos. Estamos hablando en serio.

Pregunta: ¿Cómo estará estructurada tu organización?

Respuesta: Ahora mismo queremos enfocarnos más sobre nuestro análisis y plan de acción referente a nuestra pla-

taforma. Todavía estamos trabajando sobre una estructura, mientras permitimos que un movimiento muy dinámico evolucione.

Pregunta: ¿Dónde estás concentrando tus gestiones para llevar a la práctica tu programa de trabajo?

Respuesta: Queremos reunirnos con el Presidente Clinton. En la historia de los Estados Unidos, ningún presidente se ha reunido alguna vez con los representantes populares de la comunidad hispana para tratar de un programa político de trabajo. Queremos hablar de cuáles son nuestras preocupaciones y de lo que él se propone hacer tocante a ellas.

Pregunta: ¿Estás fijando una tabla cronológica para lograr la realización de tu programa de trabajo?

Respuesta: No sé cuánto tiempo llevará, pero si alguien te hubiera preguntado si la Cortina de Hierro se derrumbaría, ¿qué le habrías dicho? Era impensable que eso fuera a

AN INTERVIEW WITH JUAN JOSE GUTIERREZ

After the '96 Latino march, what's he planning for an encore?

On Oct 12, 1996, the first-ever Latino march on Washington, D.C., did what many -- including several national Hispanic leaders -- said couldn't be done. Coordinadora '96, a coalition of some 1,000 community, student, religious and labor groups that signed on as sponsors, united individuals from all over the country to display an assertive and imminent Hispanic force.

This summer, Coordinadora plans to set up its headquarters in the nation's capital to work with other Hispanic organizations to protect and enhance the civil rights of Latinos and immigrants. It will advocate for a set of demands ranging from labor reform to immigrants rights. Juan Jose Gutierrez, its leading voice, spoke recently with Hispanic Link News Service reporter Ricardo Vergara about Coordinadora's prospects in the year ahead.

Q: What has your group been doing since the march?
A: Regionally, we have organized follow-up meetings all over the country to review the list of demands and strategize and on how we are going to implement our seven-point platform. We just had good meetings with four out of California's five members of Congress. They know us now and have assured me that they're going to take our efforts seriously. A Coordinadora contingent of about 450 joined in an AFL-CIO march in support of the hotel and restaurant workers in Los Angeles. We are preparing a questionnaire that will deepen the discussion around our platform and help us define the priorities of the community. A Western region planning meeting took place in Los Angeles in December. Over 50 organizations -- representing different aspects of the platform -- participated. In February, a group of us went to Mexico City, where we met with some 60 elected Mexican leaders from all four political parties. Several others from

the United States -- local and state officials from California, Texas and Illinois -- came and joined in the discussions.

Q: Any other actions coming up soon?

A: On March 9, we're cosponsoring a march and rally for immigrants rights in Los Angeles. It's our first salvo as we build toward a national meeting in May.

On March 21-23, we're holding a regional meeting in San Antonio, where we expect some 50 organizations from seven or eight states -- Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Florida, Nebraska, Georgia, Alabama and maybe Arizona -- to be represented. The national meeting will be either in New York or Los Angeles. Our main objective is communication to make people aware of what we are doing in the aftermath of the march. We are using the World Wide Web as a tool to reach supporters. We are trying to get people to subscribe to a list server and we have a directory of people who are interested in getting information.

Q: How are you raising money?

A: We are asking individuals and organizations, unions, churches and businesses to donate to Coordinadora. We are also planning concerts in strategic areas of the country like Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami and Houston. Already, several artists have offered to perform. We have other ideas that are very ambitious and broad in scope.

Q: How are you recruiting members? Who is eligible to join?

A: We are strengthening our relationships with existing movements, trying to advance similar points of our agendas. Members are being recruited through the work and services provided by those organizations in our communities. Anyone who is in agreement with the our platform and willing to support it is welcome to work with us.

Q: What kind of support do you think is essential for your movement to succeed?

A: We need more representation in Congress, along with a more progressive labor movement and a more engaged Catholic Church. If our movement is going anywhere, it is going

to have to count with the strong support of the U.S. Catholic Church because the majority of our people are Catholic. I would much rather have the support of the church than of the entire left movement. If the Catholic Church is on our side, there is nothing that can stop us.

Q: There are several organizations in Washington, D.C., working as advocates on Latino issues. How will Coordinadora function among those groups?
A: This will be a different national office. We are not only going to advocate for the Latino community at large, but we are also going to serve as a conduit for local organizations that make up Coordinadora, so they can learn the inner workings of legislative work, of relationships with the corporate world, and other activities. We want to be the conduit for their efforts at the federal level and we want to stay in tune to what is going on locally. Other organizations focus on the Hill. We will do that and work from a community perspective. We'll do things in a creative way to be the bridge to the powers in the United States. We mean business.

Q: How will your organization be structured?
A: Right now we want to focus more on our analysis and plan of action regarding our platform. We are still working on a structure while allowing for a very dynamic movement to evolve.

Q: Where are you concentrating your efforts to get your agenda implemented?
A: We want to meet with President Clinton. In the history of the United States, a president has never met with grassroots representatives of the Latino community to discuss a political agenda. We want to talk about what our concerns are and what he intends to do about them.

Q: Are you setting a timetable to achieve your agenda?
A: I don't know how long it will take, but if someone would have asked you if Eastern Europe would collapse, what would you have said? It was unthinkable that was going to happen. Well, it happened. It was unthinkable that we would fall backwards and the

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-- Derechos humanos y constitucionales para todos

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-- Enseñanza pública para todos los niños, sin perjuicio de su situación respecto a inmigración

-- Expansión de los servicios de salud públicos

-- Juntas de revisión civil para todas las dependencias de ejecución de la ley

-- Reforma de la ley del trabajo -- Salario mínimo de \$7

-- Flexibilidad en la concesión de la ciudadanía, extensión de la amnistía

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president would sign into law the welfare bill and take away 60 years of available benefits to the American public, but it happened. Why don't we get into the habit of thinking that maybe some progressive things could happen? Lets have Congress debate our proposals and reject them if that is the will of the majority. At least Congress will be debating something that can win Latinos some rights instead of getting no rights or, what is worst, losing some.

(The National Coordinating Committee for Citizenship and Civic Participation maintains offices on the West Coast at Coordinadora '96, 3600 Whittier Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90023. Its e-mail address is (c o o r d i n a d o r a 9 6 . a o l . c o m www.cordinadora96.org). List serve: 96seradcu.washington.edu.)

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-- Labor law reform/\$7 minimum wage

-- Flexibility in granting citizenship/amnesty extension

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Bidal Agüero

RULES LIMIT CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO SSI

From Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Families Can Take Steps to Protect a Child's Eligibility

February 21, 1997—On February 11, the Social Security Administration (SSA) issued interim final rules to implement provisions in the 1996 welfare law limiting children's access to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. SSI provides up to \$484 a month in cash assistance to children with severe disabilities in low-income families.

Under the new rules, effective immediately, 263,000 of the one million children who now receive SSI will have their eligibility reviewed by August 22. About half will no longer qualify. Also, another 45,000 children who would have qualified by 2002 will be denied eligibility.

SSI is tied to Medicaid coverage in most states. As a result, children who lose SSI are also at risk of losing their medical assistance.

Advocacy Needed to Lessen the Impact

Advocates can work with families to make sure that every child who still qualifies will.

1. Encourage families to apply.

The SSI program is still a legal entitlement for low-income children whose mental or physical disability is severe enough to meet the new standard (described below). There is great concern that families will stop applying if they hear that some children—especially those with mental disabilities—are losing benefits. Families who believe that their children have severe functional limitations should apply at their local Social Security office.

Families need to collect as much evidence about their child as possible. They must be able to show exactly how the disability limits what the child can do at home, in school and elsewhere. Information from the child's doctor, therapist, nurse or teacher will be very helpful.

2. Urge families to appeal if they receive a notice that their child is denied benefits.

Children who are told they do not qualify under the new standard may appeal. The decision may be reversed. And in most cases, SSI benefits will continue throughout the appeal process.

Also, state medical assistance agencies must continue Medicaid while SSA reviews a child's SSI eligibility and throughout the appeal process. If the SSI denial is upheld on appeal, the state medical assistance agency must then redetermine the child's eligibility for Medicaid.

3. Help children remain eligible for Medicaid.

Children who lose SSI after an appeal will continue to receive Medicaid if they qualify on other grounds, such as low family income or being under 13 years old. Advocates and families need to be watchful that state medical assistance agencies do not attempt to terminate Medicaid without performing the legally required redetermination of the child's eligibility.

The President has asked Congress for funds to continue Medicaid for all the children who lose eligibility because of the SSI changes. Advocates should monitor this proposal in the 1998 budget debate.

Key Changes in the Law

Congress expects to save \$4.7 billion over the next six years through changes in children's eligibility for SSI. The new rules reflect these changes:

* A higher standard of severity

To qualify now, a child must have a physical or mental condition that can be medically proven and results in "marked and severe functional limitations" of substantial duration. The condition must meet a specific disability in SSA's List of Impairments or be medically or functionally equal to the severity of a listed impairment.

* No functional assessment (IFA)

The law eliminated the Individualized Functional Assessment established after the Supreme Court's 1990 Zebly decision. Now children can show their limitations only through "functional equivalence" to a listed physical or mental condition. This means they must prove disabilities that are more severe than previously required.

In many states, up to a third of eligible children qualified through the IFA. Among these children, 42% had a mental disorder; an additional 32% had mental retardation. All will have to meet the new higher standard of disability to remain eligible.

* No references to "maladaptive behavior"

The list of childhood mental impairments eliminates all references to "maladaptive behavior." A child's capacity to form and maintain relationships with parents, other adults and peers falls under the area of "social function." Behavioral problems such as physical aggression or avoidance of interpersonal activities will be evaluated as part of a child's social functioning. However, this change is not expected to limit access as much as the elimination of the IFA.

* More frequent eligibility reviews and a new treatment requirement

All children will have their eligibility checked every three years, unless their condition is not expected to improve. Children who qualify by low birthweight will be reviewed 12 months after birth.

Children who turn 18 will have their eligibility reviewed under the adult criteria within one year after their 18th birthday. At the review, parents must show evidence that their child is receiving treatment that is "medically necessary"—that will improve or restore the child's functioning—if such treatment is "available."

Timeline

Current recipients will continue receiving benefits until either July 1, 1997 or the date of redetermination of their eligibility, if that is later.

The 263,000 current beneficiaries affected by these changes received notices late last year that their eligibility would be reviewed. About 20,000 of these children will receive a second letter explaining that, after reviewing the medical evidence in their current file, SSA determined that they remain eligible under the new definition. The rest will receive letters beginning in March that they need to provide information about their medical condition and functional limitations.



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From Page 1

fulfill its promises. Chile is frequently mentioned as a strong candidate for joining NAFTA.

Bonior and Kaptur were among those testifying at a three-hour hearing of the House International Relations subcommittee on economic policy and trade headed by Rep. Illeana Ros-Lehtinen, D-Fla.

Other witnesses included Teamsters President Ron Carey who said a temporary ban on Mexican trucks crossing the border should be made permanent. He said these vehicles were unsafe and could be used to transport illegal drugs.

Under NAFTA, commercial truck traffic for each country

is permitted throughout the other's border states. But the Clinton administration has delayed putting those provisions into effect for 14 months after complaints Mexican trucks are older and heavier and their drivers less trained.

At present, these trucks may travel only within a 20-mile border trade zone.

"The trucking delay should be made permanent, and the trucking provisions should be renegotiated," Carey said, "to protect working families on both sides of the border."

Shapiro said the Transportation Department was working with Mexican authorities to have the same standards that apply to American vehicles and drivers apply to Mexico as well.

Navy Has A Fresh P.R. Problem In Puerto Rico

By LANCE OLIVER

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico -- The receiver portion of a giant radar system the Navy wants to install in Puerto Rico consists of 250 pairs of antennas that look like smooth spikes sticking in the ground, 19 feet tall.

The appearance is apt because the radar has become an efficient lightning rod, attracting every variety of opposition imaginable in the touchy relations between the federal government and Puerto Rico.

The project is the Relocatable Over The Horizon Radar, or ROTH, intended to be used in drug interdiction efforts. By bouncing waves off the upper atmosphere, much like a shortwave radio transmission, ROTH can peer over the horizon, far into the drug-producing countries of South America.

Two ROTHs are now at work on the mainland. Navy documents say a third in Puerto Rico would cover a million square miles, including Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru and much of Brazil and Bolivia.

"The existing ROTH systems in Virginia and Texas provide incomplete coverage of the South American source countries, resulting in gaps that are exploited by drug traffickers," the Navy documents state. The Navy says the two mainland installations tracked some 77,000 fights between April 1993 and August 1996 and contributed to the interception of 66 tons of cocaine.

ROTHR constantly scans the skies for unscheduled or suspicious flights, and information is passed on to law enforcement agencies for interdiction.

ROTHR's transmitting and receiving arrays must be 50 to 100 miles apart. The original plans called for the transmitter to be placed on Navy land on the small island of Vieques, a few miles east of the main island of Puerto Rico. The receiver would be in the Lajas Valley in southwest Puerto Rico.

That's when lightning struck. Lajas residents complained the Navy was taking prime farmland and would disrupt the valley's irrigation system. Some worried that the radar could cause health problems, though the Navy said it was safe. Municipal officials didn't think hundreds of ugly antennas would enhance their plans to turn a nearby road into a scenic highway.

Independence activists decried the additional militarization of Puerto Rico and speculated that ROTH would be used not just to intercept drug flights, but also to gather intelligence on Latin American countries. Years of persecution of independence advocates in Puerto Rico by the FBI in the Hoover era created mistrust of federal agencies that remains strong.

Opponents passed around a Popular Science magazine article that described an experimental radar installation in

Alaska that could be used for much broader military and scientific purposes, even altering the weather above enemy territory. The Alaska project and the Puerto Rico ROTH were both developed by Raytheon, the same Navy contractor, and both use the same high-frequency waves, but the Navy says the similarities and links between the two end there. That reassurance did little to end skepticism in Puerto Rico.

Protest marches were organized and crowds stormed into public hearings.

The focus stayed on the Lajas installation largely because unhappiness with the Navy on Vieques is old news. The Navy controls two-thirds of the island, thwarting tourism and development and interfering with the local fishing industry, critics complain.

Under Navy plans, the ROTH would be built in 1999. But it has now been a controversy in Puerto Rico for two years.

The Navy has now retrenched and scrapped the Lajas location in favor of a site on Fort Allen, a federally owned 941-acre Army National Guard property. It's not as well suited for ROTH as the Lajas site, the Navy says, but it will do.

This hasn't defused all the controversy, however. A group of residents near Fort Allen has now surfaced, worried about possible health problems.

Santos & Santos

by Octavio Solis

A review of the play by Omar Rodriguez

In the play Santos and Santos we can very clearly see Mr. Solis' ability to portray La familia Santos' plight to capture for themselves the great American Dream by whatever measures including but certainly not limited to assimilation, cheating and even murder without any concern to what ramifications and consequences they would encounter.

This play was well written and directed. The entire cast in my opinion did well in bringing forth the essence of reality through stereotyping even the somewhat arrogance and machismo associated by the sole desire to prevail in a country where being of Mexican descent is already a mark against you.

The set for this play was kept simple and uncluttered using minimal props which prompted a satisfying and comfortable perspective.

We must keep in mind that assimilation and stereotyping is not unique but in this play all this has been ultimately believable to a certain degree. I commend

Mr. Solis for a job well done and recommend to all aspiring playwrights to lend themselves to the next opportunity to see this play.

It is not very often that Texas Tech University presents plays to which Hispanics can relate to and we say Gracias to all at Texas Tech and Mr. Solis for making this play available.

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Albuquerque Divided Over Boxers

By TIM KORTE

ALBUQUERQUE - In Alabama, people cheer for the Crimson Tide or the Auburn Tigers. In the Lone Star State, you're a Longhorn or an Aggie.

In Albuquerque, boxing fans root for Danny Romero or Johnny Tapia.

Not both. It's a dilemma because both fighters are Albuquerque natives who own a world junior bantamweight belt - Romero is the IBF champion and Tapia the WBO titlist.

Romero vs. Tapia, the bout to unify the belts, is tentatively scheduled for this summer. First, there's Saturday night's event in Albuquerque that features Romero and Tapia against separate opponents. Romero meets Jaji Sibali of South Africa, the IBF's No. 1 contender. Tapia defends his title against Jorge Barrera of Mexico City.

If either loses, the unification bout is off.

But if loyalists aren't supposed to cheer for the other guy, what would they do if it could lead to the fight that Albuquerque fans want most?

"Everybody in Albuquerque

who has looked forward so long for the Tapia-Romero fight will be rooting for both to win," said Bob Arum of Top Rank Inc., Tapia's promoter.

But it will be only a temporary truce.

"The fans have become very polarized. They're either real pro-Danny or real pro-Johnny. I don't know why," says Ron Koch, a lawyer who is one of Romero's entourage.

They are very different. Romero (29-1-0, 26 KOs) trains at his father's home in Albuquerque's north valley. Tapia (39-0-2, 23 KOs) hails from a rough-and-tumble section of the south valley.

Romero is a power puncher, with 26 knockouts in 30 fights. Tapia is a showman who relies on speed and technical skills. He often celebrates a victory with a backflip inside the ring.

Trainer Dan Romero Sr. has meticulously cultivated his son's career. Tapia was raised by his grandfather after his mother was murdered when he was a child.

Romero, at 22, has a bright future outside the ring.

"I know I can box. I know I can fight," Romero says. "But I

don't have any boundaries. Acting and possibly modeling are other things I'm interested in - something a little easier than getting hit."

Talk about Tapia tends to focus on his past.

For years, his boxing success was tempered by court dates. He was suspended from boxing for 3 1/2 years after repeatedly testing positive for cocaine use.

In January 1996, Tapia received 18 months' probation after pleading guilty to assaulting his wife. In a plea agreement, prosecutors dropped a firearms charge.

Subject to random drug testing, Tapia says he has been clean for over a year. Since autumn 1995, he has trained in Big Bear, Calif., where he moved to avoid Albuquerque's influences.

"That was the best move I ever made, not just in boxing but in life," Tapia said. "I'm closer to the Lord in the mountains. The main thing is I don't hang out with anybody and I keep to myself."

When he turned 30 on Feb. 13, Tapia conceded there was a time when it seemed unlikely he would reach that age.

It's Over For Good For Sugar Ray

By ED SCHUYLER Jr.

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. - Sugar Ray Leonard heard the cheers again.

However, they were cheers of welcome, not cheers for the winner. The applause at the post-fight news conference early Sunday were meant as a farewell.

"For sure, my career is definitely over for me in the ring," Leonard said after being knocked down and stopped in the fifth round by Hector "Macho" Camacho.

It was Leonard's first fight since he retired after being battered for 12 rounds by Terry Norris on Feb. 9, 1991.

"I lost to a better man," the 40-year-old Leonard said.

A younger one, too, and one who had fought 27 times while Leonard was gathering rust in retirement. Camacho is 34.

"I've got no excuses," Leonard said. But he offered one.

Leonard said he tore a muscle in his right calf about a month ago while training at Chandler, Ariz., and went to a hospital two weeks ago. He was given a shot of novacaine before the fight.

Dr. Scott Steingard, who treated Leonard, said he suggested Leonard call off the fight. J.D. Brown, Leonard's adviser, said he also recommended a postponement, but Leonard wanted to fight.

How much the calf problem contributed to Leonard's defeat is debatable. He had trouble with his balance, but he said his problem was a combination of "inactivity, 40 years and the calf. All of those things contributed."

So did Camacho.

After Leonard held his own in the first two rounds before 10,324 fans at the Convention Center, the left-handed Camacho, who applied pressure from the opening bell, scored well with head blows in the third round. He continued to score well in the fourth round and nipped a cut over Leonard's right eye.

About 50 seconds into the fifth round, Camacho, 158 3/4, knocked down Leonard with a right and two left uppercuts. Leonard struggled up, but was unable to ward off Camacho, who landed 10 punches to the head before referee Joe Cortez



stopped the fight at 1:08 of the round.

"He (Leonard) thanked me," Cortez said.

"I had something to gain," said Camacho, winning for the 64th time in 70 fights. Whether the victory will benefit Camacho's career and enhance his reputation is questionable.

"Yeah, they are going to take this and turn this around because he was in retirement and all," he said.

Camacho, who retained the fringe IBC middleweight title, also has held the WBC super featherweight and lightweight title and the WBO junior welterweight title.

"Give me anyone," he said. "Give me Whitaker, give me De La Hoya and give me Trinidad."

Oscar De La Hoya is set to challenge Pernell Whitaker for the WBC welterweight (147 pounds) title April 12 at Las Vegas. Felix Trinidad is the IBF welterweight champion. There is no reason for any of the three to move up in weight, especially to challenge for a fringe title. There's no way Camacho can get down to 147 anymore.

As for Leonard, the former undisputed welterweight champion and holder of shares of world titles in four other weight classes will be inducted in June to the International Boxing Hall of Fame to which he was elected in January.

"I'm through," Leonard said. But his place in boxing history is secure. Even before he decided to try to be a fighting grandfather.

Is '97 the Year of Ejections?

By ARNIE STAPLETON

CHANDLER, Ariz. - In 21 spring trainings, Phil Garner can only recall seeing two managers ejected from an exhibition game.

Earl Weaver was chased for arguing a call. Lou Piniella was booted for asking an umpire to quit talking to his young shortstop.

"About my first or second spring in Pittsburgh, Earl was ranting and raving about something and got tossed. And I was amazed by it," Garner, the Milwaukee Brewers' manager, said Wednesday.

Garner was even more astounded by the ejection he witnessed Tuesday.

"Ted's a nice guy. He talks to everybody," Garner said.

That's what he was doing in the bottom of the eighth inning, when Piniella hollered at Hendry to quit distracting Sheets with small talk.

"I told him, 'Leave him alone. Let him concentrate,'" Piniella said.

According to Piniella, Hendry replied: "I'll talk to whoever I want."

At that point, Piniella reiterated his request and the two exchanged words, including a couple of vulgarities.

Garner thought the two were joking "but the next thing I know, Lou is getting tossed."

Major league umpires, still upset over the Roberto Alomar spitting incident, announced Monday that they don't plan to stand for any guff from players or managers this season.

Piniella said he couldn't tell if this was the first salvo in that policy.

"I don't know if that had anything to do with it. I was made aware of it during the conversation," following his ejection, Piniella said. "I think that eight-run inning that took an hour and a 14-13 game that took four hours was most of it."

Garner said that if the incident was Strike 1 in the umpires' new policy, "I hope this is



Alomar

short-lived. Ted jumped on Lou so fast it was unbelievable. And Ted Hendry's not that way. Ted Hendry's not an angry sort of guy."

Garner perceives a disturbing trend in baseball where the umpires are often just as high-strung as the enraged players.

"It appears to me over the years I've been watching it, umpires have gone from a point of walking away from arguments to confrontation," he said. "Instead of turning their back on an argument, they've gone to standing square at it and challenging a player on it."

"Umpires have gotten emotionally involved in these things. In the umpire's job description, he's got to remain emotionally unattached and I fear sometimes they're the ones who get angry."

"And there's a lot of things that are said and yeah, you shouldn't say some things. Everybody has feelings now.

But an umpire's supposed to have less feelings in his job than other people. That's the nature of the beast."

Garner reiterated he agrees with the umpires' stance that ejected players who get suspended ought to serve their time right away and without pay. But he said he doesn't see where the umpires' get-tough policy will help matters.

"I think if they're going to hold to this zero tolerance it's going to be a mess," he said.

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News Briefs

Kids Start Using Drugs Earlier

A survey says kids are beginning to use drugs, especially marijuana, at a younger age than ever before, reports Associated Press.

While drug use for pre-teens is still relatively low, a survey released today reports a doubling in marijuana use by youngsters in the fourth through sixth grades and an increasing tolerance of drugs.

The survey, prepared for the New York-based Partnership for a Drug-Free America, found that kids in those grades, those aged 9 to 12, less likely than before to believe drugs are risky, more likely than before to believe they are acceptable and even more likely to experiment with them as they move into middle school and high school.

The study surveyed the practices and attitudes of 12,292 children, teens and parents. It was conducted by Audits & Surveys Worldwide Inc., a New York market research company, and paid for by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation HN4292@handsnet.org.

Among the findings for kids ages 9-12:

- Fewer children said they would tell their parents if someone offered them drugs: 63 percent in 1995 and 55 percent last year.
- One of every four was offered drugs last year, but only 7 percent of parents believed such an offer was made.
- The children reported learning less about the dangers of drugs at school and from television shows, news programs, television commercials and friends.
- The study appeared to dovetail with a new ABC-Washington Post news poll released Monday and finding that while 52 percent of parents rate drugs in the schools as a crisis or serious problem, only 34 percent of teen-agers do.

Lawmaker: INS Gave Citizenship to Criminals

A Republican lawmaker angrily accused the nation's top immigration officials of incompetence Tuesday, saying bungling and election-year politics led them to grant citizenship to perhaps thousands of immigrants with felony arrest records, reports Associated Press.

"Well your system doesn't work because today we have 10,000 criminals on the streets thanks to your incompetence," Rep. Harold Rogers of Kentucky shouted to Attorney General Janet Reno and Doris Meissner, head of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, during a House subcommittee hearing.

The INS has found that it naturalized as many as 180,000 people without complete criminal checks.

Meissner continued to insist that the INS has fixed the procedural glitches that led to the error and assured the panel that politics played no role. The INS has promised to revoke the citizenship of any criminal who slipped through the cracks during the first year of its attempt to speed the naturalization process to clear massive backlogs.

Rogers and other Republicans say they suspect the real motive was to naturalize as many people as possible so they could vote, presumably for Democrats, in the November elections.

Meissner said an ongoing review of about 9,500 of 10,000 new citizens found to have felony arrest records shows that only about 170 were ineligible for citizenship.

At issue is the Citizenship USA program, an INS effort to process an avalanche of citizenship applications from documented permanent residents, mostly previously undocumented aliens who received amnesty in 1986. Before the program began in August 1995, some applicants had to wait as long as two years before being sworn in as citizens.

New Book on African-American Education

A new reference book devoted to African-Americans and education has just been published by the research arm of the United Negro College Fund in Fairfax, Va, reports The New York Times.

The African-American Education Data Book: Volume 1, Higher and Adult Education, a 550-page compendium, contains information from private and public data bases from throughout the United States. The book is intended to be the most comprehensive source available on African-Americans and higher education.

For example, one study shows African-American women are almost twice as likely as men to obtain a bachelor's degree. Another tells how African-Americans with Ph.D. degrees, while being underrepresented in the population as a whole, made dramatic increases in recent years but have since leveled off.

One finding in the data was that graduation rates have doubled for those getting strong financial aid.

A staff of five researchers devoted seven months to the project. Sources included the Department of Education, the Census Bureau and the National Science Foundation.

Two companion volumes are planned for later this year. The second book, to be published in the late spring, will cover preschool through high school education. The third, to be published this summer, will deal with the transition from high school to the workplace or college. All three books will be updated annually.

Edelman: Plan to "Fix" Welfare Law Futile

Former Health and Human Services official Peter Edelman, who resigned last year to protest President Clinton's welfare reform law, says Clinton's proposals to "fix" the new welfare law would do little to relieve the problem he created by signing it, reports Associated Press.

Decrying the 1996 law as "the worst thing Bill Clinton has done," Peter Edelman says the changes Clinton is proposing - alleviating the law's denial of welfare to documented immigrants and undoing some food stamp cuts - would still leave provisions doing great and possibly permanent harm to America's poor.

Edelman foresaw more homelessness, more soup kitchens, "more malnutrition and more crime, increased infant mortality and increased drug and alcohol abuse" as well as additional family violence as social fallout from the measure.

One poor family in 10 will lose income because of the law, he predicted.

Edelman's chief criticism is that the law assumes most adults on welfare can find and hold jobs. Enough jobs don't exist, even now when the unemployment rate is about as low as it will ever get, he said.

And the impact could be devastating in five years, when the lifetime limit on receiving welfare comes into effect, he said.

The drive to create jobs for welfare recipients - chiefly mothers - could also have the result of draining funds and attention from young inner-city males, undermining efforts to promote two-parent families and responsible fatherhood, he said.



Miss Rebecca Nicole Cardona age, daughter of Patsy Cardona of Lubbock has been selected as a Delegate in the 1997 West Texas National Teen-Ager Scholarship Program hosted by Wayland Baptist University, and the Plainview Chamber of Commerce, Plainview, March 21-23, 1997. The West Texas National Teen-Ager Scholarship Program is the Official Regional Final leading to the Texas State Finals in June at Baylor University. State winners will meet with 50 other young women at the 26th Annual National Teen-Ager Scholarship Program to be held at Opryland, USA in Nashville, TN, August, 1997.

There will be a Regional Winner and Runners-up in two age divisions: 13,14,15 and 16,17,18. The Winner in each age division will receive a \$500 Cash Tuition award, her room and board to compete in the TEXAS State Finals; and a Full-Tuition Modeling Scholarship from John Robert Powers, worth \$1,000. There will be over \$400,000 in Tuition Scholarships awarded during this weekend.

The Senior West Texas National Teen-Ager will also receive a \$4,000 Tuition Scholarship to Mary Hardin Baylor University, a Tuition Scholarship to Liberty University valued at \$16,000, a \$16,000 Tuition Scholarship to Southern Wesleyan, a \$24,600 Tuition Scholarship to the University of the Ozarks, an \$11,800 Tuition Scholarship to the Art Institute and an \$8,000 Tuition Scholarship to the University of Charleston. The West Texas Junior National Teen-Ager will receive a \$4,000 Tuition Scholarship to the

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San Antonio. He studied psychology and political science and inevitably became involved in the political scene, working with labor unions.

His record as an advocate for immigrant rights is as impressive as his command of English and Spanish. He has worked as a labor organizer and served as executive director of One Stop, one of the strongest organizations helping immigrants on the West Coast.

When asked about his personal life, Gutierrez's answers are dry, as short as his 5-foot-7 frame. He seems to recoil when the subject comes up. He has never married. According to friends, love life is something else he sacrificed to commit himself to his political life.

He's driven by a commitment to represent those who don't have a voice. "This is something much larger than his own needs," de Leon says. Indeed, his personality is complex, but there is no doubt that he is part of a new type of emerging Latino leadership. Colleagues credit him with the instinctive media and political savvy es-

University of Charleston. Every West Texas Delegate receives a \$500 Tuition Scholarship to Wayland Baptist University, and a \$200 Scholarship to John Robert Powers School.

Each delegate participates in the Volunteer Community Service Program of the National Teen-Ager Scholarship Program. This program teaches teenagers to participate in school and civic activities. Students are judged 30% scholastic achievements, 30% leadership ability, 30% communication skills and 10% poise-personality. There is no swimsuit or physical fitness competition. Talent may be presented at the option of the participant or an oral essay on either the subject of "What's Right About America" or the student's experiences with Volunteer Community Work.

Nicole is a 15 year, 9th grader at Mackenzie Junior High School here in Lubbock. Besides her school activities, Nicole is presently working on her Silver Award as a Cadette Girl Scout.

She and two other Cadettes are planning a baby-sitting course on April 5 at St. Mary's Hospital, sponsor of the event. The girls will be securing speakers for the course. They are also putting together a baby-sitting manual which participants will be able to take home with them to use as a reference source in the future. This project will complete the requirements for the Silver Award. Nicole has been actively involved in the Girl Scout organization for the past 9 years. She has been selected for Wider Opportunities in the past two years. She traveled to Swartz Creek, Michigan in December for the Winter Sports II program this past December. She was recently notified by the Erie Shores Girl Scout Council in Ohio that she had been selected to attend their Wider Opportunity this summer. Nicole has accepted the invitation and will travel to Ohio in June.

Nicole has also been very active in the Lubbock Junior Jaycees for 6 years. Much other community service has come through her involvement in that organization.

America's National Teen-Ager is giving Nicole the opportunity to expand on her community and leadership and she is excited to have been selected to participate.

essential to advance the Latino agenda.

Juan can go as far as community forces allow the conditions for change. He will play a lead role in the civil and human rights of Latinos and all immigrants, Nunez believes.

His focus today is on setting up a permanent office for the National Coordinating Committee for Citizenship and Civic Participation in Washington, D.C. This could be as formidable as his ground-breaking march. He will have to find room in a city already saturated with established organizations trying to advance the same cause -- and protective of their territory.

But his optimism doesn't flag. In spite of being the object of some devastating political attacks on Latinos in the past year, Gutierrez looks forward, not back. "We shouldn't be thinking of how much we can lose. It's how much we can gain," he says.

(Ricardo Vergara of Arlington, Va., is a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service.)

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Los opositores hicieron circular un artículo de la revista Popular Science que describía una instalación experimental de radar en Alaska, y que podría ser usada para fines militares y científicos más amplios, inclusive alterando las condiciones del tiempo en territorio enemigo. El proyecto de Alaska y el ROTHIR de Puerto Rico fueron ambos desarrollados por Raytheon, el mismo contratista de la Marina, y ambos usan las mismas ondas de alta frecuencia, pero la Marina dice que las semejanzas y los vínculos terminan ahí. Esa afirmación hizo poco para poner fin al escepticismo en Puerto Rico.

Se organizaron manifestaciones públicas y las multitudes se amontonaron en las audiencias públicas.

El enfoque continuó sobre la instalación de Lajas, en gran medida porque la infelicidad con la Marina en Vieques es noticia vieja. La Marina controla dos terceras parte de la isla, perjudicando al turismo y al desarrollo e interfiriendo con la industria local de pesquería, se quejan los críticos.

Según los planes de la Marina, el ROTHIR sería construido en 1999. Pero ha habido ahora

una controversia en Puerto Rico durante dos años.

La Marina se ha retirado ahora y ha abandonado la ubicación de Lajas en favor de un emplazamiento en Fort Allen, una propiedad federal de 941 acres de la Guardia Nacional del Ejército. No está tan bien adecuada para ROTHIR como el emplazamiento de Lajas, dice la Marina, pero se las arreglarán para que funcione.

La Marina no ha quietado toda la controversia, sin embargo. Un grupo de residentes cerca de Fort Allen ha surgido ahora, preocupados acerca de los posibles problemas de salud.

Ahora que el emplazamiento para el receptor ha sido cambiado, una nueva vuelta de audiencias públicas empezará en este mes de marzo. Si la controversia no continúa, sin embargo, será una inversión asombrosa en la suerte de pararrayos de ROTHIR.

(Lance Oliver, de Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, es un contribuyente periódico al servicio de columnas de Hispanic Link.)

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Un Rayito De Luz

by Sofia Martinez

Comunmente decimos que Jesús vino a darnos a conocer a Dios. Y es verdad. Pero como descubriremos a ese Dios de Jesucristo en los Evangelios? La pregunta plantea un problema muy grande y es imposible hacerlo del tamaño del universo. Pero hagamos al menos lo que odemos.

Empecemos viendo que en los Evangelios no encontramos una doctrina hecha a la medida y al gusto de cada uien. Jesucristo no era un teólogo ni un maestro de teología. Entre otras cosas, porque esa no era su misión. Su doctrina acerca de Dios era, sin embargo, semejante a la que profesaban los fieles devotos del judaísmo y a la enseñada por los maestros y los sabios de Israel: era el Dios de los patriarcas, de Abraham y de Moisés, el Dios de la alianza, cercano, bueno, misericordioso, compasivo con los podres.

Entre esta imagen de Dios y la propuesta por Jesucristo en sus dichos y sus parábolas no hay mucha distancia. El conflicto de Jesús con los líderes religiosos de su pueblo no tuvo, como base, doctrinas contrapuestas o contrarias. Además, entre esta imagen judioscristiana de Dios y la profesada por muchas otras reli-

giones tampoco hay, generalmente, grandes diferencias. Pero no es ésta la señal que no haga reconocer el Dios de Jesucristo, sino el "amor".

"En esto conocerán que son mis discípulos, en que se aman como yo los he amado". (San Juan 13, 34-35).

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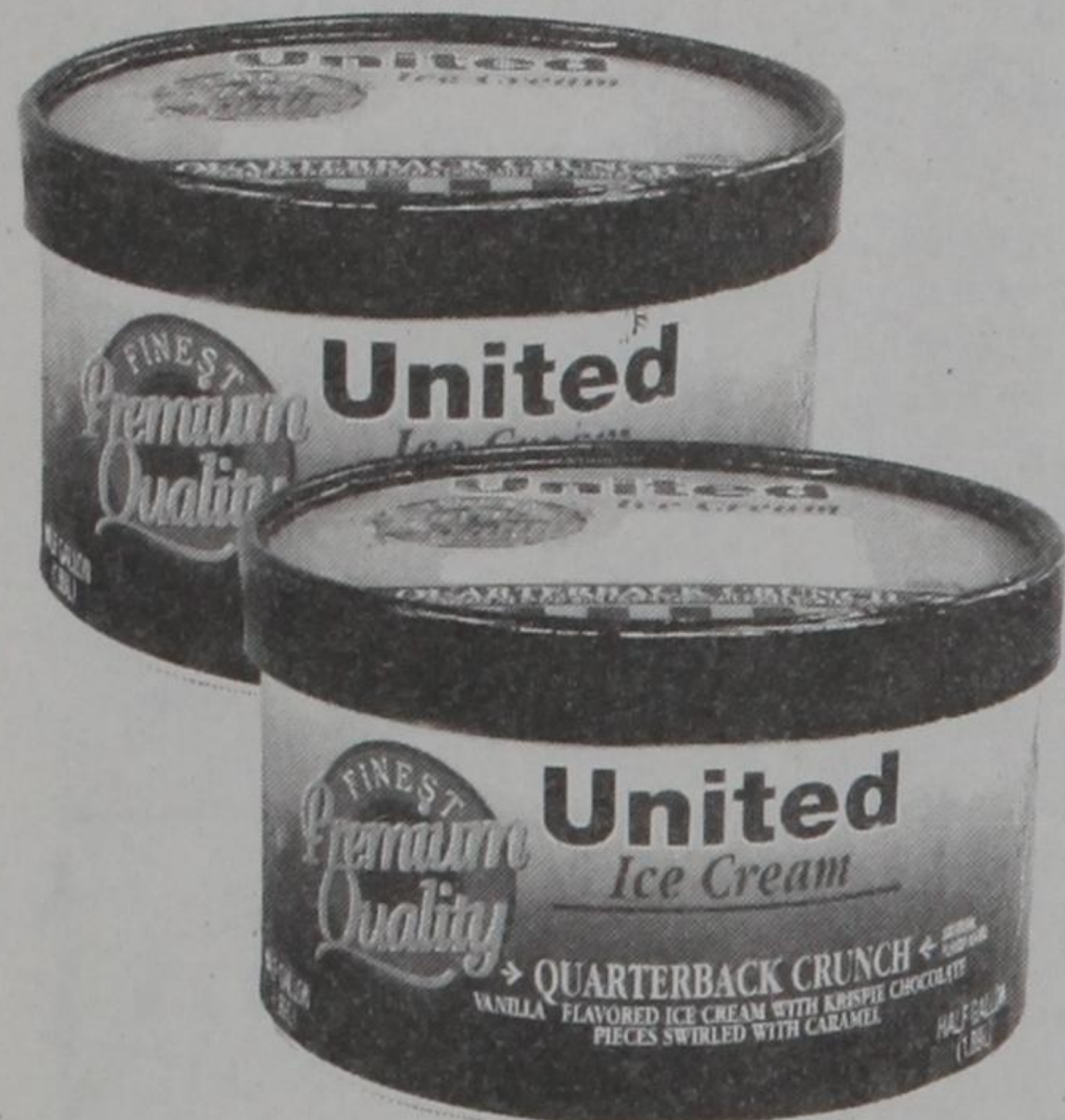
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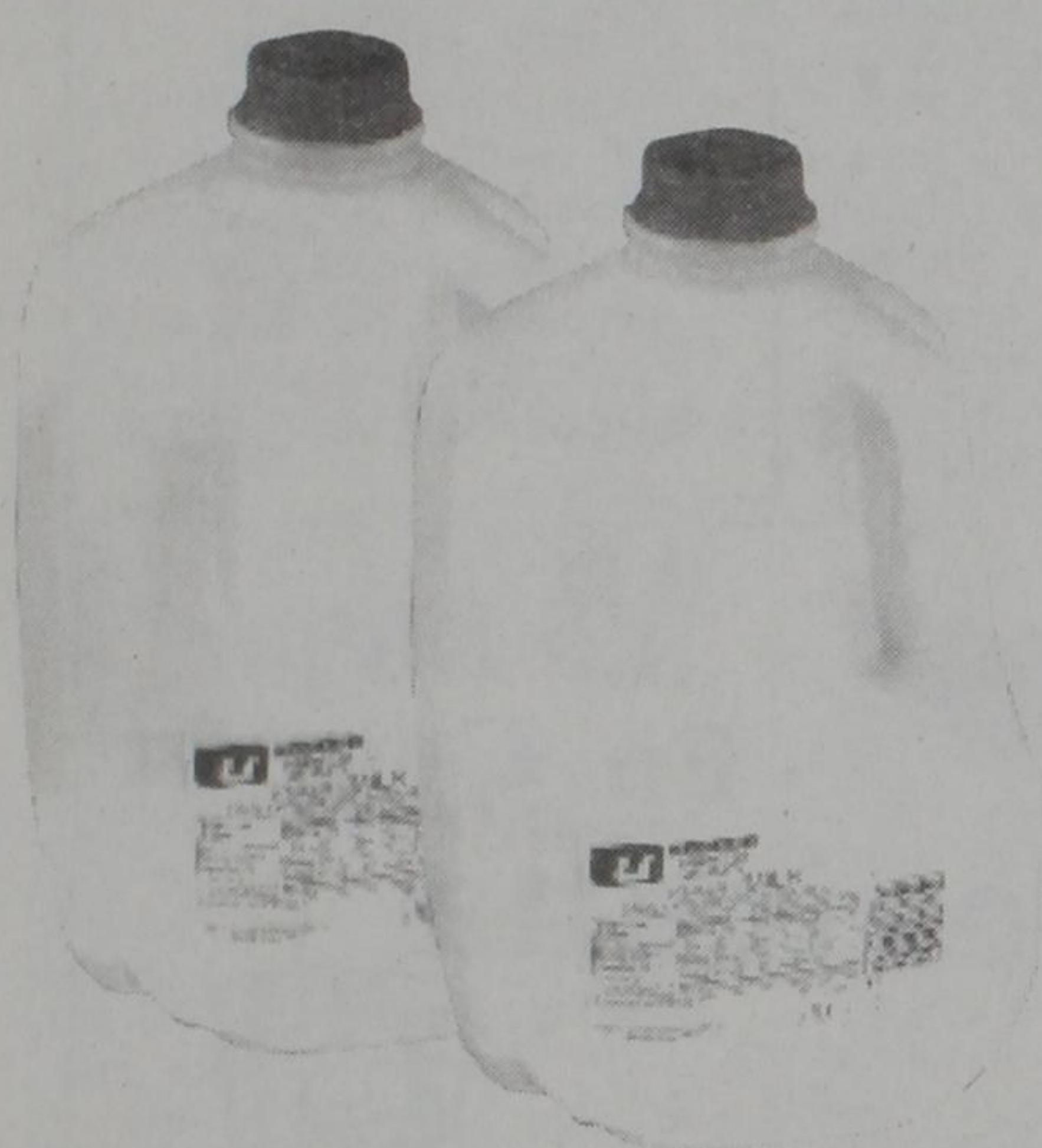
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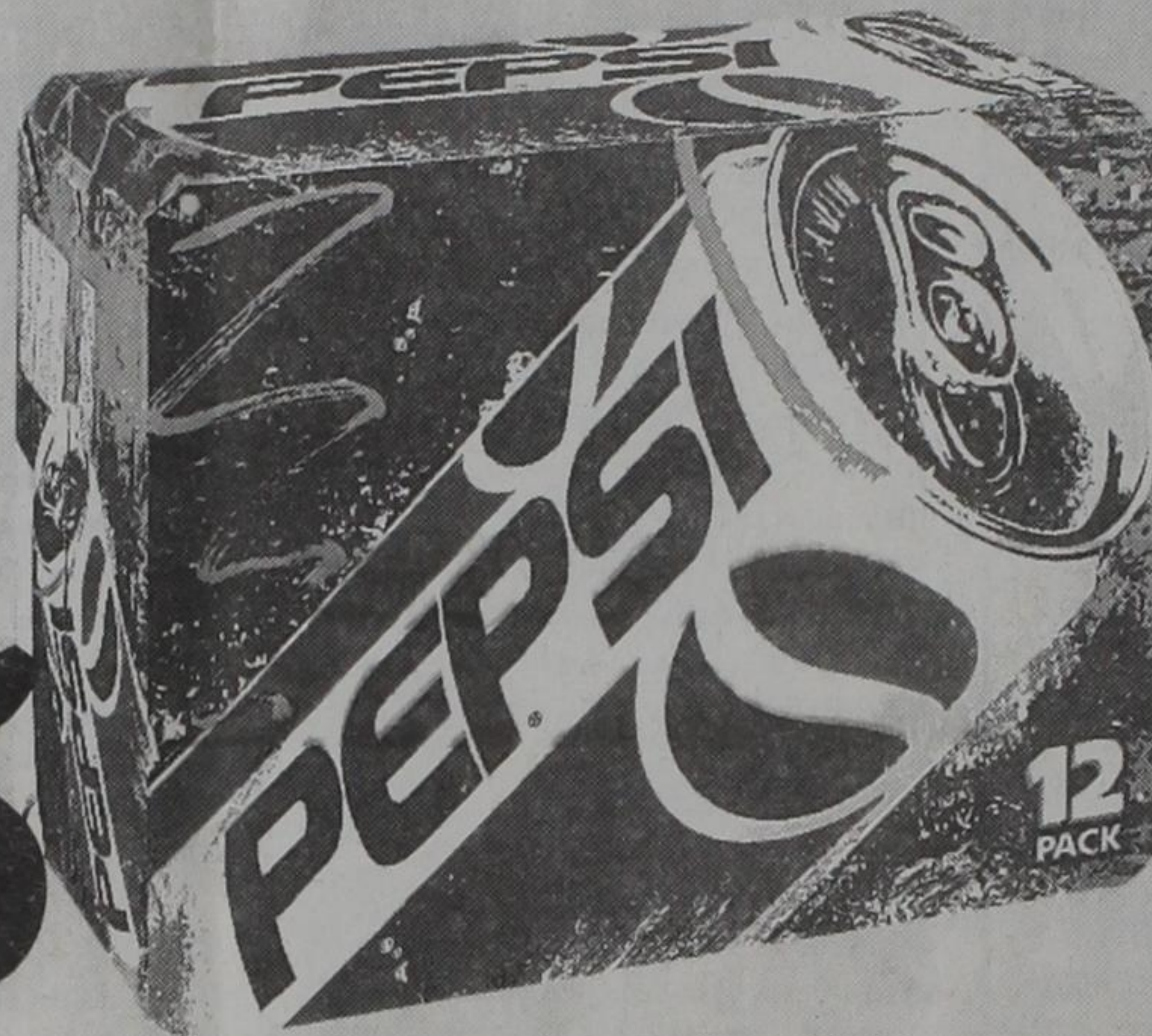
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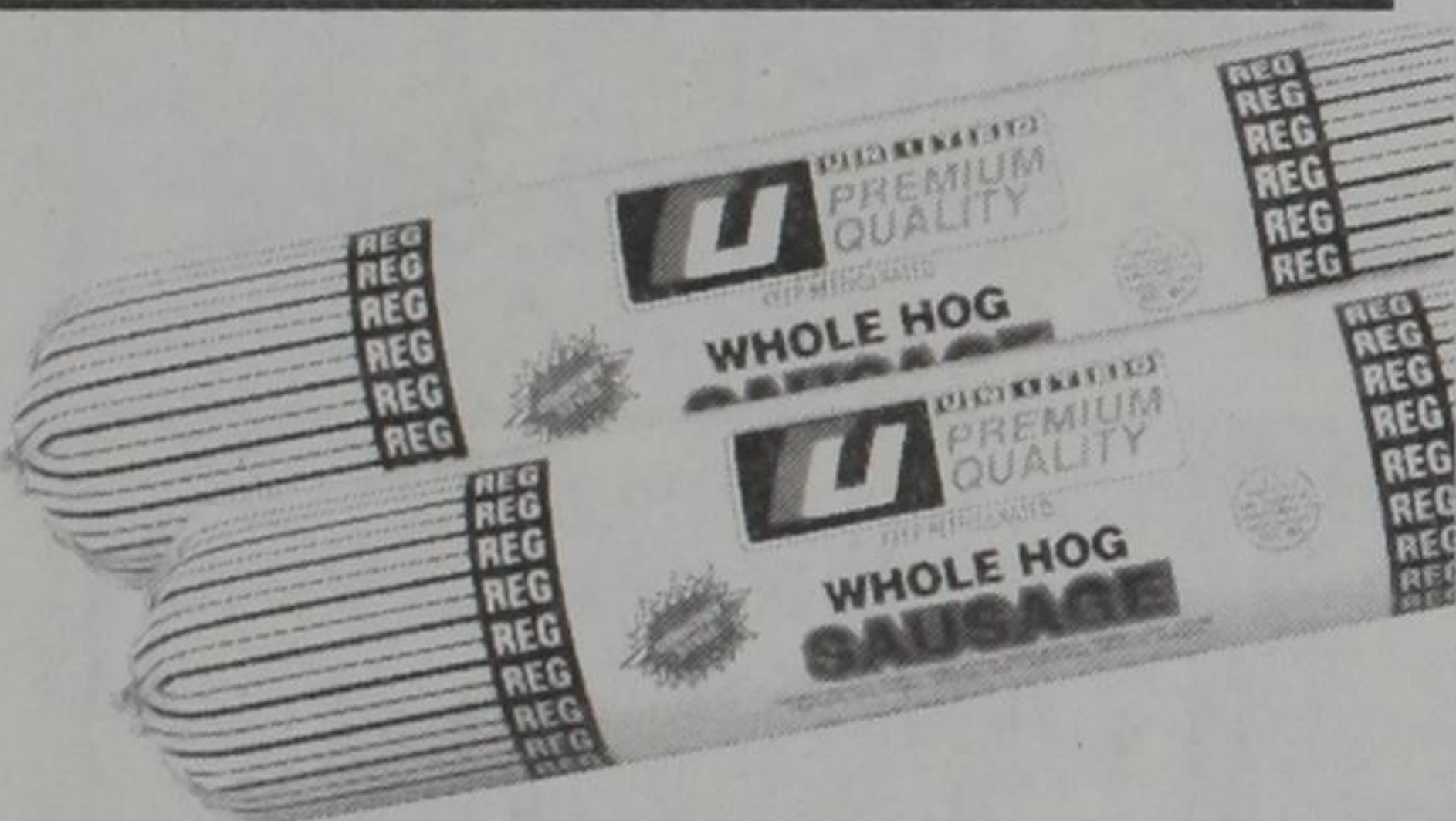
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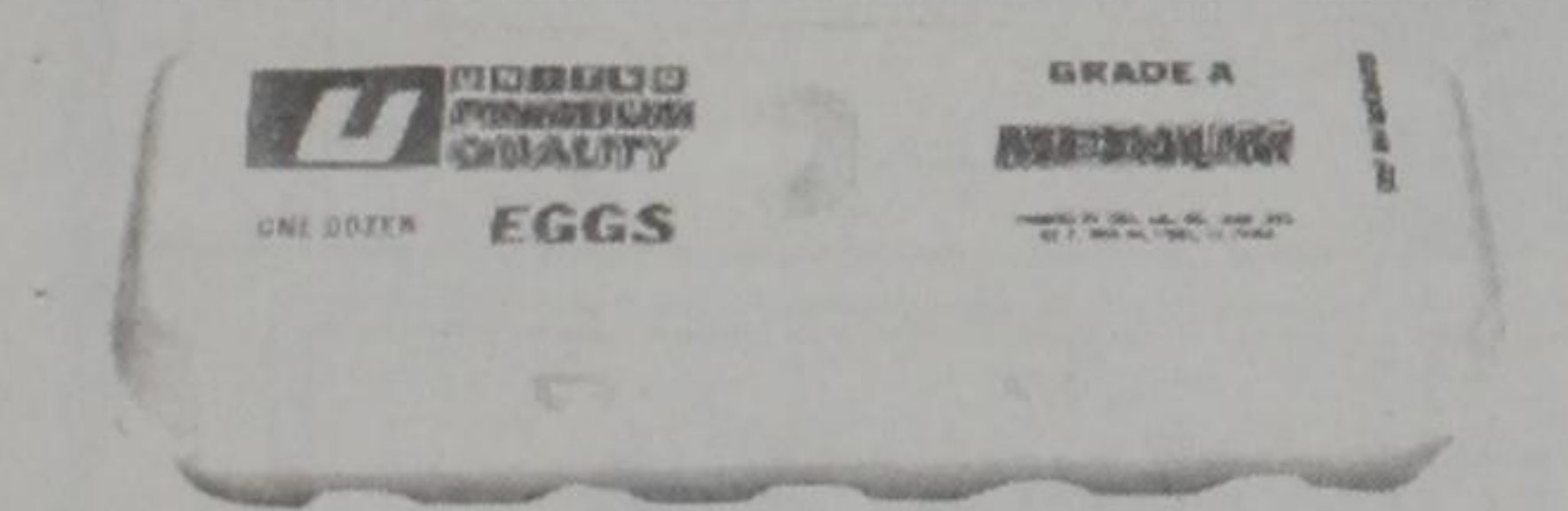
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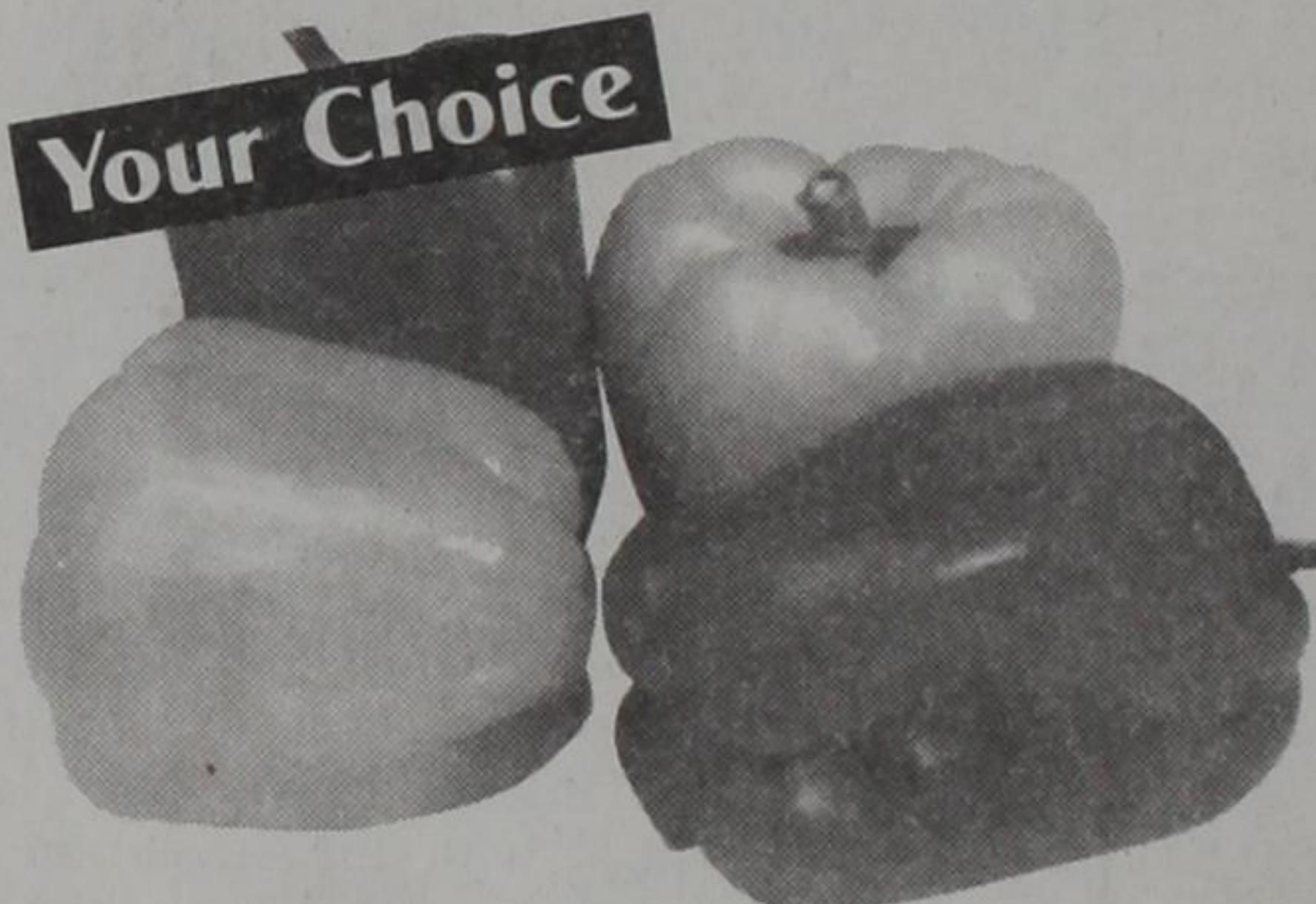
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