

# Gore Promises Revolution for "Cosmic Race"

Houston, - Vice President Al Gore stepped up his presidential campaign last Wednesday, saying that the "cosmic race" is the future of the United States, announcing a "revolution in education" and attacking his main Republican rival, Texas Gov. George Bush.

Gore repeatedly peppered his closing speech at the end of the national convention of the National Council for La Raza, in Houston, Texas, with phrases in Spanish, such as "we cannot wait," "we are a nation of immigrants and proud of it" and "our families deserve the best."

At the end, he promised not to dance "La Macarena" again and said his farewells to the tune of "Livin' La Vida Loca."

Energy Secretary Bill Richardson introduced the vice president in Spanish, stressing that the results of the year 2000 elections would determine, to a large extent, the future of Hispanics in the United States, because the new president will appoint judges to

the Supreme Court and will determine the budget based on the results of the new census.

After saying that there will be a heated debate over the next few months on the principles that will guide the nation in the new millennium, Richardson reminded his audience that Hispanic voters are concentrated in California, Texas, New Mexico and Illinois, states which will play a large part in determining the outcome of the elections.

Gore, after describing Latinos as "the most varied blend of colors, races and religions that the world has ever seen," said that the concept of a "cosmic race," created by Mexican writer Jose Vasconcelos - meant that race separation could be overcome through a common destiny of success in the next century.

To achieve this, Gore promised to lead "a revolution in education" in public schools, to fight the 30 percent rate of Hispanic school dropouts, to bring the Internet to the classrooms, providing both professional teachers and financial relief so that parents will be able to pay for their children's university education.

Education, the vice president said, "is the best program we have against poverty," adding that it was too late to have patience in this area, because "the children won't stay young forever."

Gore, who referred to the National Council of La Raza as "an angel on the shoulder of America," stressed the group's role in providing services to more than three million Hispanics each year and its fight for equality, against immigrant abuse and hate crimes.

Furthermore, he acknowledged the leadership of Raul Yzaguirre, who has been president of the group for more than 25 years, and who is well-known for his defense of human rights throughout the country.

In an oblique criticism of Gov. Bush, who did not attend the convention and who is Gore's main contender for the presidency of the United States, the vice president said that 10 percent of the children without medical insurance live in Texas, where 56 percent of Hispanic children lack medical insurance.

In Spanish, Gore urged the public to remember that "beautiful words, whether in English or in Spanish, are not worth anything unless they are backed up by action," warning that if Congress voted for the budget cut approved by the House of Representatives, Clinton would veto it.



# News Briefs

## Bush Campaign Calls Criticism by Minority Groups "Unfair"

By Cecilia Avila

Austin, - Spokespersons for the presidential campaign of Texas Governor George W. Bush said that criticism from minority groups on his no-shows at recent Hispanic conventions is "unfair."

"The governor is reaching out to minorities across the country," Mindy Tucker, Bush campaign spokeswoman, told EFE on Friday. She said that in order to win the trust of minorities, the Republican presidential hopeful plans to meet next week with minority leaders in Iowa.

"His message is fair and seeks to reach all Americans," Tucker said, noting Bush's recent visits to Mexican neighborhoods in Detroit and California.

In early July, Karen Hughes, Bush Campaign communications director, told the media that the governor did not attend the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) convention because he had done so last year. She said he generally does not attend activities by the same group two years in row.

"The governor would love to attend all the events. He receives hundreds of invitations, but it is not possible to attend them all," Tucker said.

Harry Pachon, president of the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute at Claremont University, told EFE that the Bush's strategy at this point in the campaign is "smart policy."

"First, Bush has to win the party nomination and Republicans do not have a great number of Latinos and African Americans in their ranks," Pachon said.

"If Bush goes to Iowa and New Hampshire, where there very little minority presence, and starts speaking about bilingual education, affirmative action and immigration issues, he might not get the votes needed to win the nomination of the Republican Party," he said.

"There is a lot of time before November 2000 and ... things can change," Pachon said.

"Once he wins the Republican nomination, Bush can address these groups and let everyone know his position" on issues concerning minority communities, he said.

Part of Bush's initial impact as a national candidate was his ability to reach minorities. In the gubernatorial election, Bush won two-thirds of the vote and 48 percent of the Hispanic vote, which has traditionally gone to the Democratic candidate.



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"Respect for the Rights of Others is Peace"  
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# EL EDITOR

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## Expertos En Educacion Bilingue Se Mueven Mas Alla Del Debate Politico

Por Oswaldo Zavala

Dejando a un lado el debate politico nacional, los principales expertos en la enseñanza bilingüe del país se reunieron el 15 y 16 de julio en Washington, D.C., para discutir el futuro de los programas de educación bilingüe.

En una conferencia de dos días, unos 200 investigadores, maestros y representantes de dependencias federales, estatales y locales para la enseñanza compartieron información sobre nuevas formas de mejorar la enseñanza bilingüe y medir la eficacia

### Comentarios de Bidal by Bidal Agüero

I received a letter this week asking me about the salaries of elected officials and administrative persons being reported recently in the news.



"What do people do with all that money?" the writer asked and went on to say, "I mean like \$90,000 for judges, \$150,000 for top school administrators, \$350,000 for Montford and many other people making over \$80,000 and \$100,000 a year?"

I make \$5.50 an hour. I think that's about \$11,440 a year - if I'm lucky to get all 40 hours every week. I know what I do with my money. Each month I pay \$400 a month in rent. That's about \$4,800. I also spend about \$50 a month for car insurance, \$75 a month for utilities and about \$250 a month on food for my wife, child and me. That \$4,500 more.

For a years' salary and after these basic necessities of living that leaves me about \$2,100 for everything else I need like a car, clothes, toilet paper and sometimes a six-pack of beer.

I have sometimes had to go to the County to ask for help. Now I hear that might not be available any more.

Do you think maybe each one of these high paying officials might be able to chip in \$100 a month to help people like me and take the place of the County Welfare Department. The money would probably add up to \$500,000.

Maybe I'm hoping to much. After all \$100 a month is a lot of money."

Thank You, Juan Rodriguez. Bidal can be reached by e-mail at elclub@aol.com or by mail at 1502 Ave. M, Lubbock, TX. 79401.

de los programas.

Kenji Hakuta, catedrático de la Universidad de Stanford y presidente de la Junta Nacional para la Investigación, los Cursos de Acción y las Prioridades en la Enseñanza (NERPPB en inglés), enfatizó que numerosos estudios han convalidado el valor de la educación bilingüe en el éxito de los estudiantes del inglés.

"Se ha comprobado claramente que la enseñanza bilingüe es superior a la que utiliza solamente el inglés," dijo. "Necesitamos ir más allá del limitado enfoque del debate político."

Hakuta agregó que es importante el aclarar todos los malentendidos sobre el tema. Desafió al dictamen de la Propuesta 227 diciendo: "Ninguna persona razonable diría que un año es tiempo suficiente para aprender inglés."

Refiriéndose a los hallazgos comunes de la investigación, en el sentido de que se necesitan entre tres y cinco años -- y aún más tiempo para adquirir un conocimiento pleno de la lengua -- agregó: "Estamos apuntando a soluciones de largo plazo."

El National Clearinghouse on Bilingual Education (NCBE), agencia federal de información sobre educación bilingüe, informó que durante el año escolar 1996-1997, existían 3.4 millones de estudiantes con un conocimiento limitado del inglés (LEP, sus siglas en inglés) en las escuelas públicas del país. Basándose en una encuesta que abarcó a 47 estados, el NCBE registró ese año a sólo 1,059,279 alumnos reci-

biendo alguna forma de enseñanza bilingüe.

La investigación presentada durante la conferencia por Aida Walqui, maestra adjunta en el Departamento de Educación de la Universidad de California en Santa Cruz, concluyó que entre 1990 y 1995 la cantidad de estudiantes que tuvieron que aprender inglés como segundo idioma aumentó casi en un 45 por ciento.

"Necesitamos asegurarnos de que los maestros no sólo estén preparados para manejar una clase," dijo ella. "Necesitamos proporcionarles apoyo a lo largo de sus carreras. Walqui dijo que el 42 por ciento de todas las escuelas públicas del país tienen por lo menos un estudiante del inglés."

Margarita Calderón, investigadora de la Universidad Johns Hopkins, en Baltimore, Maryland, habló sobre un programa en el ambiente bicultural de El Paso, Texas, que pone en práctica la teoría de la inmersión doble, la cual agrupa a estudiantes de habla inglesa monolingües con sus homólogos de habla hispana.

Los padres de los anglófonos se han dicho emocionados de llevar a sus hijos a aprender español, dijo Calderón. "Todo empezó con sólo unas pocas escuelas. Ahora tenemos más estudiantes de distintos distritos escolares independientes involucrados. Hasta tenemos una lista de espera."

Donna Christian, presidenta del Centro de Lingüística Aplicada, con sede en Washington,

D.C., subrayó la necesidad de crear más programas para ayudar a los estudiantes a conservar y desarrollar sus idiomas natales. "El mantener al idioma primario es por el bien del estudiante y de su comunidad," dijo. "Todos resultamos beneficiados por eso en última instancia."

A pesar de los resultados positivos reportados por todo el país por el cada vez mayor número de programas tales como los de inmersión doble, la crítica contra la enseñanza bilingüe no ha amornado, dijo Hakuta. "Estamos tratando de dejar atrás a la política, pero el lado político del asunto tiene que ser contestado al nivel político."

Pero Delia Pompa, quien la semana pasada dejó su plaza como directora de la Oficina para la Enseñanza Bilingüe y Asuntos Minoritarios (OBEMLA en inglés) del Departamento de Educación federal para ocupar la dirección ejecutiva de la Asociación Nacional para la Enseñanza Bilingüe (NABE en inglés), enfatizó que: "Estamos aquí para hablar sobre el mejoramiento de la enseñanza bilingüe, no para someterla a prueba."

El director interino de OBEMLA, Art Love, pronosticó que el uso de información válida también permitirá que la enseñanza bilingüe gane la lucha política.

"Hemos estado tratando de sustanciar el caso con la mejor información disponible," dijo él. "Esa es nuestra estrategia: El uso del pensamiento y objetivo para usar mejor para la enseñanza de nuestros niños."

## Bilingual Education Experts Move Beyond Political Debate

By Oswaldo Zavala

Putting aside the national political debate, the country's top experts in bilingual education met July 15-16 in Washington, D.C., to discuss the future of bilingual education programs.

In the two-day conference, some 200 researchers, educators and representatives of federal, state and local education agencies shared information on ways to improve bilingual teaching and measure program effectiveness.

Kenji Hakuta, a Stanford University professor and chairman of the National Education Research Policy and Priorities Board, stressed that countless studies have validated the value of bilingual education in leading English-language learners to success.

"It has been clearly proven that bilingual education is superior to English-only," he said. "We need to move beyond the narrow focus of the political debate."

Hakuta added that it is important to clear all misunderstandings about the issue. He challenged the premise of California's Proposition 227 with the comment, "No reasonable person would say that one year is sufficient time to learn English."

Referring to common research findings that it takes between three and five years -- and longer for full literacy, he added, "We are looking at long-term solutions."

The National Clearinghouse on Bilingual Education reported that during the 1996-97 school year, there were 3.4 million "limited English proficient" (LEP) students in the country's public schools. Based on a survey covering 47 states, NCBE counted 1,059,279 students actually receiving some form of bilingual education that year.

Research presented at the conference by Aida Walqui, an associate professor with the Education Department at the University of California, Santa Cruz, found that between 1990 and 1995, the number of students who had to learn English as a second language increased by nearly 45 percent.

"We need to make sure that teachers are not simply prepared to handle a classroom," she said. "We need to provide them with support throughout (their careers)." She said 42 percent of all public schools in the country have at least one English-language learner.

Margarita Calderon, a re-

search scientist with Johns Hopkins University, described a program in the bicultural setting of El Paso, Texas, that puts into practice the theory of dual immersion, which groups English-speaking students with Spanish-speaking peers. Parents of English-speakers are excited about bringing their children to learn Spanish, she said. "It started with only a few schools. Now we have more students from different independent school districts involved. We even have a waiting list."

Donna Christian, president of the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Applied Linguistics, highlighted the need for more programs to help students preserve and develop their native languages.

"It is for the good of the student and the student's community to maintain the primary language," she said. "We are all ultimately benefited by that."

In spite of positive results reported by the increasing number of programs, such as dual immersion across the country, criticism of bilingual education has not abated, Hakuta said. "We are trying to leave politics behind, but the political side (of the is-

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## Clinton Praises Programs that Aided Welfare-to-Work Transition

Chicago, - U.S. President Bill Clinton on Tuesday applauded the success of nationwide programs that have aided in the country's efforts to move citizens from the welfare rolls to the labor force.

"We have reduced the number of dependents on social welfare by almost half, cutting the percentage to its lowest level since 1967," Clinton told some 2,000 participants in an annual conference on welfare.

The conference, which opened Aug. 2 in Chicago and will close on Aug. 4, was attended by business and political leaders who evaluated the challenges posed by the programs promoting the assimilation of people on welfare into the labor force.

According to a study by the Urban Institute, there are 7.3 million people on welfare in the United States, reflecting a significant reduction from the 14.1 million beneficiaries in 1993, and from the 12.2 million in 1996 when Clinton signed a Republican-sponsored welfare reform act.

However, the study warned of the precarious situation of the poor at a time of prosperity, indicating that many people who leave welfare - particularly women - receive low pay, to the point that they have difficulties in paying rent and buying food.

Since the enactment of the law, Clinton managed to address some deficiencies by reinstating benefits for legal immigrants who arrived in the country prior to the approval of the act. But Congress has not yet voted to include those who arrived after 1995.

The president also expressed his gratitude to the 12,000 companies who participated in transition programs into the labor force, which provided work for over 410,000 people throughout the United States in 1998. Despite the success, the president said, however, "much remains to be done."

Clinton called for congressional support to a bill that would increase funds for work training for adults, subsidize child care programs and increase the minimum wage.

After his speech, Clinton listened to stories of people who entered the work force as a result of the transition programs.

One such story was that of Maria Mercado, a former welfare recipient who found work as a cashier at Marshall's. After a short while, she was promoted to coordinator of the store's women's department.

According to statistics presented at the conference, 62 percent of the entrepreneurs who hired former welfare dependents, considered those workers to be "good and productive employees."

## OPERATION "RIO GRANDE" TURNS 2 AMID CONTROVERSY

Austin, - The controversial anti-drug and counter-immigration operation known as "Rio Grande" celebrated its second anniversary on Monday.

According to Border Patrol chief George Gunnoe, "the operation has had a positive impact."

The number of officers assigned to cover the border is up, as well as the use of helicopters, vehicles, ground sensors, illumination of crossing points and tower-mounted cameras, Gunnoe said.

"We have been able to improve the quality of life of the people that live and work in the area. Crime is down as well as other types of offenses. We have gained control of the area foot by foot," he said.

However, lawyer Nathan Selzer of the Freedom Project in Harlingen, Texas, said that "in the past two years we have registered an increase in police abuse and deaths as a result of dehydration."

The Freedom Project immigrant rights organization is preparing a report on the impact of the operation on immigration and the border area.

Selzer said that "public insecurity is on the rise."

"We have received complaints from local residents who have been literally attacked on their own land by officers who have mistaken them for immigrants. They have even expressed fear for their lives," he said.

The lawyer said "violent detentions" have been reported during the past two years around the area of King Ranch.

"Several detainees have arrived with their ribs or collarbone fractured. Confrontations between agents and immigrants are now more violent," he said.

The operation has produced a change in the migration flow," Selzer explained.

"There are no longer populated areas where immigrants can cross. The immigrants will continue coming in, but are obliged to cross through more dangerous zones. They are going to get lost in the desert or immigrant smugglers are going to abandon them to their fate," Selzer said.



# El Boicot De Los Hispanos Contra La Television Es Una Accion Muy Demorada

Por Miguel Pérez

Finalmente, después de muchos años de representación insuficiente de los latinos en la televisión de los Estados Unidos, y de tanto servicio de boquilla por parte de los ejecutivos de las redes televisoras, una coalición de organizaciones hispanas está haciendo lo que deberían haber hecho en primer lugar: Boicotearlas. Es el único idioma que entiende esa gente.

"Si ustedes no nos quieren, Hollywood, si no van a contratarnos, Hollywood, entonces no vamos a consumir sus productos," dijo Alex Nogales, portavoz de la Coalición Nacional de los Medios Informativos Hispanos, anunciando que varios grupos hispanos pedirán a los televidentes que desconecten sus televisores durante un boicot de una semana contra las redes televisoras, comenzando el 12 de septiembre próximo.

"Si los ejecutivos de los medios de comunicación han ocasionado un 'apagón parcial' de los latinos, entonces los latinos 'apagarán parcialmente' a la televisión," agregó Félix Sánchez, presidente de la Fundación Nacional Hispana para las Artes. "A pesar de años de promesas vacías, los estudios de Hollywood, las redes televisoras en inglés y la industria del cable todavía se niegan a emplear a los latinos frente y detrás de las cámaras. Los latinos están extremadamente enojados, y no vamos a aguantar más eso," dijo Sánchez, recordando el grito de asamblea de la película Network.

La petición del apagón nacional llega en medio de un resentimiento cada vez mayor sobre cierto número de asuntos: Menos del 1 por ciento de los personajes importantes de la televisión son hispanos, aunque hay 30 millones de latinos en los Estados Unidos, más del 10 por ciento de la población.

Después de numerosas reuniones con los ejecutivos de las redes, cuando la nueva temporada de televisión empieza en el otoño próximo, los latinos serán aún el grupo menos representado en las cuatro redes principales.

"Los dirigentes hispanos pueden hablar con los ejecutivos de las redes televisoras hasta que se nos ponga la cara colorada," dijo Nogales, sin tener éxito para cambiar el modo en que la televisión excluye a los latinos y lo presenta en un aspecto negativo.

En cerca de dos docenas de programas nuevos en el alineamiento de otoño de las cadenas ABC, NBC, CBS y Fox, habrá solamente dos actores latinos: Martin Sheen y Anthony Michael Ruivivar, en papeles normales.

Sheen personificará al Presidente Josiah Bartlet en "The West Wing" por la NBC los miércoles por la noche, y Ruivivar desempeñará el papel de un paramecico novato en "Third Watch" por la NBC los domingos por la noche. Otros cinco latinos continuarán en programas que regresan -- Néstor Carbonell en "Suddenly Susan"; Bruno Campos en "Jesse"; Wilmer Valderrama en "That 70's Show"; Héctor Elizondo en "Chicago Hope" y Cheech Marin en "Nash Bridges." Ninguno de esos programas, sea nuevo o que regrese, tiene a alguna latina en un papel normal.

"Desde que el finado Freddie Prinze actuó como estrella en 'Chico and the Man' y Eric Estrada fué la estrella de 'CHiPs' en el decenio de 1970, nunca ha habido un latino o una latina en un papel principal de una novela de situación con tema latino, un drama, una película de la semana, o las mini-series," dijo Sánchez. "Con la excepción de 'I Love Lucy,' nunca ha habido una familia latina completamente integrada y funcional presentada

por televisión."

Menos del 1 por ciento de todas las noticias transmitidas por los noticieros de las redes (ABC, CBS y NBC) en 1998 trataban de los hispanos, según la Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Hispanos (NAJH en inglés) en su cuarto informe Apagón Parcial en las Redes Televisoras anual, publicada a principios de este mes. Eso significa 118 artículos de noticias de un total de 12,000.

Aunque los latinos fueron presentados en una variedad mayor de asuntos noticiosos en 1998 que en 1997, el 41 por ciento del tiempo aparecieron todavía en relatos de delincuencia, inmigración y acción afirmativa, comparado con el 66 por ciento en 1997. Pero los relatos positivos acerca de las contribuciones latinas son todavía pocos y muy espaciados.

En noticias o dramas de televisión, los latinos son relegados demasiado a menudo a los papeles de delinquentes, dañando la imagen de toda una comunidad.

"La mayoría de los estadounidenses tienen una opinión muy mala de la comunidad latina, basada en lo que ven por televisión," dijo Raúl Yzaguirre, presidente del Consejo Nacional de La Raza, la mayor de las organizaciones hispanas de los derechos civiles en la nación, quien se unió a otros dirigentes hispanos para denunciar la ausencia de los latinos en la televisión.

En una conferencia de prensa la semana pasada durante la convención anual de La Raza en Houston, los representantes de 10 organizaciones hispanas nacionales dijeron que fijaron el apagón nacional para que coincidiera con la semana en que saldrán al aire muchos de los programas nuevos y en la que las redes televisoras estarán efectuando encuestas críticas de la teleaudiencia. Eso coinci-

dirá también con el 15 de septiembre, en que comenzará el Mes de la Herencia Hispana.

Pero ya que se formularon quejas similares sobre la falta de negros por televisión en la reciente convención de la Asociación Nacional para el Adelanto de las Personas de Color (NAACP en inglés) en Nueva York, los dirigentes hispanos dijeron que se reunirán con la NAACP para proseguir una estrategia conjunta.

Sánchez dijo que los participantes del apagón serían estimulados a leer libros o ver películas de temas hispanos durante el boicot contra la televisión. "Salgan y alquilen o compren una película de tema latino, tal como 'La Bamba,' 'Mi Familia,' 'Como Agua para Chocolate' o 'Selena,'" dijo Sánchez. "Mejor aún, vean un documental como 'Chicano: La Historia del Mexicanoamericano' o 'Mi Puerto Rico.'"

Esta bien, pero ¿qué pasará cuando termine la semana del boicot? Yzaguirre dijo que el apagón será solamente la primera acción contra las redes televisoras en una batalla prolongada que podría incluir acciones legales, económicas y políticas.

En otras palabras, es hora de que los latinos hagan tan invisibles a las redes televisoras como ellas lo han hecho con los latinos. Es hora de hacer saber a los ejecutivos de las redes que ellos no solamente carecen de sensibilidad, sino de buen juicio para los negocios.

Si ellos pueden jugar con nuestra imagen, nosotros podemos jugar con sus clasificaciones de cantidad de televidentes, que es el único idioma que ellos entienden.

(Miguel Pérez es columnista del Record en Bergen, Nueva Jersey.)

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# Hiroshima's Lessons Recalled by American Survivors

EDITOR'S NOTE: This August 6 marks the 54th anniversary of the atom bombing of Hiroshima. Yet some Americans are still living with the effects of that explosion. PMS commentator Sanford Gottlieb, who worked with the survivor committee in 1975, is author of "Defense Addiction: Can America Kick the Habit?" published by Westview Press, and has worked for over 30 years for private organizations in the field of international arms control. BY SANFORD GOTTLIEB, PACIFIC NEWS SERVICE

How many of us know that Americans were among those atom-bombed at Hiroshima on August 6, 1945? Several thousand U.S. citizens were exposed to the blast, heat and radiation of that first A-bomb.

Some 3,200 U.S. citizens were in Hiroshima when the bomb dropped, according to estimates by Japanese historian Rinjiro Sodei, author of "Were We the Enemy? American Survivors of Hiroshima" (Westview Press, 1998), an exhaustive study of the Japanese-American experience with the A-bomb.

Many of these victims were Nisei -- Japanese-Americans born in the United States who often visited grandparents before World War II began or were going to school and ended up being trapped there after Pearl Harbor.

Other American victims included 23 POWs killed by the bomb. Kaz Suyeishi was one of the survivors. Born in Pasadena, California, she was brought to Hiroshima as a young child. At age 19, she was at home in the doomed city that August morning. Her injuries kept her bedridden for half a year. Later on, at various intervals, she suffered high fever, weight loss, nightmares and a nervous breakdown. "Three days out of five," Suyeishi said, "I had to rest."

Later she moved to Hawaii, where an American pointed an accusing finger at her and yelled, "You bombed Pearl Harbor and killed our boys!"

After returning to the mainland, she, like many of her fellow survivors, was part of a minority within a minority. Troubled about the effects of the bombing but unwilling to talk about it, often with poor command of English, the survivors felt isolated and alienated.

But that did not prevent Suyeishi from becoming a leader of the Committee of Atomic Bomb Survivors in the U.S., based in Los Angeles where she finally settled.

During the early 1970's the group won support from California and national medical associations, the Los Angeles County Supervisors and the L.A. Times. But legislation in 1975 to help the American survivors failed in both the California Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives.

Insurance companies refused to cover any condition that might arise from the atom-bombing, survivors faced big bills for sicknesses few American doctors understood.

That was not their only problem. At a public hearing on the California bill in 1975, someone shouted, "These people were our enemies!" According to Sodei's account, Kanji Kuramoto, head of the northern California survivors group, began to shiver. He wondered, "Were we the enemy? No, we couldn't have been. We were citizens born in America, and we only happened to be in Japan when the war broke out."

In August 1975, 30 years after Hiroshima, Suyeishi and Kuramoto came to Washington to urge passage of a bill by Rep. Edward Roybal providing medical aid to U.S. A-bomb survivors. The debate made clear that some members of Congress didn't distinguish between Japanese nationals and Japanese-Americans.

More importantly, the Roybal bill died because the Pentagon - fearing it would open the door to claims from others hurt in past wars - opposed it.

But if the U.S. government turned its back on the survivors, Japan did not. Teams of Japanese doctors visited survivors in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and Hawaii, and found the psychological scars of the bombing more important than the effects of radiation.

It is now 54 years since Hiroshima and Nagasaki were bombed, but the consequences of nuclear weapons development are still with us.

# Hispanic TV Boycott Is An Action Overdue

By Miguel Perez

Finally, after so many years of Latino underrepresentation on U.S. television, and so much lip service from network executives, a coalition of Hispanic organizations is doing what should have been done in the first place: boycott. It's the only language those people understand.

"If you don't want us, Hollywood, if you're not going to hire us, Hollywood, then we're not going to consume your products," said Alex Nogales, a spokesperson for the National Hispanic Media Coalition, announcing that various Hispanic groups will ask viewers to turn off their sets during a weeklong network boycott starting Sept. 12.

"If media executives have caused a Latino brownout, then Latinos will brown out TV," added Felix Sanchez, president of the National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts. "Despite years of promises, Hollywood studios, English-language networks and the cable industry still refuse to employ Latinos in front of, and behind, the camera.

"Latinos are mad as hell, and we're not going to take it anymore," he said, recalling the rallying cry from the movie "Network." The call for the national brownout comes amid growing resentment over a number of issues:

Less than 1 percent of major characters on television are Hispanic, although there are 32 million Latinos in the United

States, more than 11 percent of the population. After numerous meetings with network executives, when the new TV season begins this fall, Latinos will still be the most underrepresented group on the four major networks.

Out of nearly two dozen new prime-time shows on the fall lineup of ABC, NBC, CBS and Fox, there will be only two Latino actors -- Martin Sheen and Anthony Michael Ruivivar -- in regular roles. Sheen will play President Josiah Bartlet in "The West Wing" on NBC on Wednesday nights. Ruivivar will play the role of a rookie paramedic in "Third Watch" on NBC on Sunday nights. Five other Latinos will remain in returning shows -- Nestor Carbonell in "Suddenly Susan," Bruno Campos in "Jesse," Wilmer Valderrama in "That 70's Show," Hector Elizondo on "Chicago Hope" and Cheech Marin in "Nash Bridges."

None of the shows, new or returning, has a Latina in a regular role.

"Not since the late Freddie Prinze starred in "Chico and the Man," and Eric Estrada starred in "CHiPs" in the 1970s, has there been a lead Latino/Latina or Latino-themed sitcom, drama, movie-of-the-week or miniseries," Sanchez said. "With the exception of 'I Love Lucy,' there has never been a fully integrated and functional Latino family de-

icted on television."

Fewer than 1 percent of all news stories aired on the network news (ABC, CBS and NBC) in 1998 were about Hispanics, according to the National Association of Hispanic Journalists' fourth annual "Network Brownout" report released last month. That's 118 news stories out of 12,000.

Forty-one percent of the time, Hispanics appeared in stories on crime, immigration and affirmative action. Positive stories about Latino contributions are still few and far between.

Whether it's in the news or in TV dramas, Latinos are too often relegated to the role of criminals, hurting the image of an entire community.

"Most Americans have a very low opinion of the Latino community, based on what they see on television," said Raul Yzaguirre, president of the National Council of La Raza, the nation's largest Hispanic civil rights organization. Other Hispanic leaders also denounced the absence of Hispanics television.

In a press conference at La Raza's annual convention in Houston last week, representatives from 10 national Hispanic organizations said they timed the national brownout to coincide with the week many new shows will premiere and when the networks will be conducting critical audience ratings. It will also coincide with the Sept. 15 start of

Hispanic Heritage Month.

With similar complaints about the lack of blacks on television made at the recent National Association for the Advancement of Colored People convention in New York, Hispanics leaders said they will meet the NAACP to pursue a joint strategy.

Sanchez said brownout participants would be encouraged to read books or view films with Hispanic themes during the television boycott. "Go out and rent or buy a Latino-themed film like 'La Bamba,' 'Mi Familia,' 'Like Water for Chocolate,' or 'Selena,'" Sanchez said. "Better yet, see a documentary like 'Chicano: The History of the Mexican American' or 'Mi Puerto Rico.'"

OK, but what happens when the boycott week is over? Yzaguirre said the brownout will be only the first action against the networks in a "protracted battle" that could include legal, economic and political action.

In other words, it's time for Latinos to make the networks as invisible as they have made Latinos. It's time to let network executives know that they not only lack sensitivity, but good business judgment.

If they can play with our image, we can play with their ratings, which is the only language they understand.

(Miguel Perez is a columnist with the Record in Bergen, N.J.) (c) 1999, Hispanic Link News Service.

# El Editor Newspapers

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# Mexico Confident of New, Improved Relationship with California

Mexico City, - Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo said Tuesday that a new phase in trade and cultural relationships has been ushered in with the state of California.

Zedillo received a delegation comprised of 30 political, social, business and scientific community leaders from California during part of their official visit to Mexico.

The Mexican president emphasized that "solid contacts (with California) create an excellent climate of good will, culture and economy."

The U.S. delegation is led by California Assembly speaker, Antonio Villaraigosa, who said that the defeat of Proposition 187, which denied the right to educational and medical benefits to the children of illegal immigrants in California, was aided by Zedillo's leadership and the visit made by the Mexican President to California in May.

"During his visit in May, President Zedillo's legal arguments helped convince the California assembly to reject proposition 187, and we thank him for it," Villaraigosa said.

In an interview with EFE, the legislator said that in the meeting between Zedillo and California Gov. Gray Davis, the governor promised never again to deny public education benefits to the children of Latin American illegal immigrants.

Villaraigosa met with Zedillo Tuesday to exchange viewpoints on immigration, and assured the Mexican president that the human rights of Mexican immigrants seeking work in California would be respected.

The speaker of the state house said that he opposed temporary immigration programs which enable Mexican workers to enter California and which promote the abuse and violation of the human rights of the immigrants.

Villaraigosa supported temporary programs for field workers on the condition of respect for human rights and labor laws so as to permit any type of corruption.

He added that the U.S. government had chosen the wrong measure in an attempt to prevent illegal immigration from Latin America.

"Instead of militarizing the border or enacting laws against undocumented immigrants, the governments of Mexico and the United States should draft joint programs to invest in those nations whose citizens are emigrating to encourage them to stay at home," Villaraigosa concluded.

The U.S. delegation is scheduled to meet with the ministers of Energy, Communication and Foreign Affairs over the next few days, according to reports from the Mexican Foreign Ministry.

# To Improve The Odds For Their Students, Two Teachers Choose to Defy the Odds

By Joe Rodriguez

The white bungalows on a hot summer day were so bright, they made me squint. They had no windows, just the peepholes in the doors. Classrooms should have windows, I said to myself. Students need to daydream. It's harder to daydream without windows.

I was there to meet two young teachers with a new idea: a college-preparatory high school for students here in San Jose, Calif, for kids who are not traditionally identified as college material.

Jennifer Andaluz and Greg Lippman don't have the money for it yet. Or a permanent building. They don't have powerful friends in high places. They don't even have a telephone.

But they have what most school reformers don't. They have a clear vision and a name everyone can understand: Downtown College Prep. They envision 400 students from central San Jose attending their school from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Most will come from working-class Latino or Asian families, and many will be the first to finish high school or attend college. The goal is

Stanford, Berkeley the Ivy League.

"We'll tell these kids, 'College is your destiny, and this is what you have to do to get there,'" Lippman said. "But let's not be naive. There's a lot of hard work that has to happen before some of them can even dream of going to college."

We don't know how many downtown students enter college, but here are some helpful numbers:

Fewer than 2 percent of Latino graduates from San Jose's two biggest school districts go on to a University of California campus; only 8 percent attend a state university.

You can pick from any explanation out there, but I like one of Andaluz's: "School reform in the large public schools and districts doesn't have a singular vision. Everything gets diluted."

A couple of years ago, she and Lippman taught social studies, history and English at Gundersen High School in San Jose. Both worked with many students who were learning English. But something was wrong. Too many of their college-capable students

were not being placed on the college track. The two started talking about starting a public charter school, which would be accountable to the state, and independent from local school districts. With only 13 years in teaching between them, they left Gundersen and dived in.

Among their first successes was persuading San Jose State University to give them two modular classrooms for a summer program for sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-graders -- future Downtown Prep students.

Then they hunted for students by visiting local schools, community groups and churches. They mailed out dozens of fliers. "At one point, I don't think we'd get anyone," Andaluz said. As it turned out, some 70 students applied for 52 places.

I visited them this summer. In one classroom, Lippman was preparing half of the students for the analytical thinking, vocabulary and math sections of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, a college entrance exam at least three years away for these students.

In the other classroom, Anda-

luz was teaching his students how to analyze and interpret literature.

Neither teacher is collecting a paycheck from the program.

In one exercise that demonstrated the expectations of Downtown Prep, the students filled out San Jose State admissions applications and mock transcripts of their ideal high school experience.

Downtown Prep has tougher days ahead. There isn't a single public charter school in Santa Clara County. There are probably several reasons for this. One surely is that local school officials and teachers unions feel threatened. Some don't want to lose their best students to the charters. Some want to protect their monopoly. Some wish to avoid the humiliation of being shown up. Whatever the reasons, schools districts in this valley aren't gung-ho over public charter schools.

Lippman and Andaluz learned this quickly.

"When we said 'charter school,' it set off alarms all over the city," Lippman said. Since then, they've been trying to con-

vince local school officials "that we're not going to put their best students on our pony and ride out of town."

Andaluz and Lippman hope to open Downtown College Prep in September 2000 with 100 students, five teachers and at least \$1.5 million in hand.

Are they being hopelessly optimistic and a little naive about the political hurdles? Probably. But they have the talent and dedication and the support of parents. If not next year, then following year. One thing won't change: the desperate need and demand for a Downtown College Prep here and in a thousand places across the state and country.

(Joe Rodriguez is a columnist with the San Jose Mercury News.)  
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# King Arthur & the Media Myth Called Prince John

By Carlos Conde

Once upon a time, according to the Arthurian legend, King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table lived in Camelot. They were brave, righteous men in an age of chivalry. When not courting the fair ladies, they combat the wicked and defend the poor and oppressed.

It ended when King Arthur was killed fighting some despicable warrior. His body was placed on an unmanned ship that sailed into the sunset toward his awaited providence.

Once upon a time in the U.S.A., there was the Kennedy family of Boston led by a gallant young man who was killed pursuing the people's causes. His heir apparent, John F. Kennedy Jr., also died tragically, and his remains were committed to the sea.

That's the Camelot mythology then and now. All the world mourns young Kennedy's death because he, the young prince as invented by the media, embodied what was left of the latter-day Camelot legacy forged by his father.

But many, while lamenting the death of such a prominent young man, took issue with the extremes of the media-fed public deification of the Kennedys. The coverage created a torrent of debate and produced a self-examination by the media of its excesses in Camelot treacle. It is even more ironic when you consider that young Kennedy and his wife were known as a couple who preferred to live as ordinary people. JFK Jr. accepted the public adulation as part of the family's noblesse oblige that he endured more than he appreciated.

The media went into what one journalist called wretched-excess mode. Tom Brokaw, Dan Rather and Peter Jennings anchored from Hyannis Port. Regular programming was canceled for coverage of mostly vacuous events and retreads of nostalgic family biographies and its hard-luck history.

The New York Times was conspicuous for its restraint. Times managing editor Bill Keller said in a Washington Post interview that he was proud the Times didn't wallow in the curse of the Kennedys and America's prince as if it were the death of a president.

On the Internet, the public's open mike, there were more than 60,000 postings at one chat room on the morning of the burial at sea. A random survey revealed a surprising number of dissenters who, while grieving JFK Jr.'s death, debated sympathizers on the eulogizing of the Kennedy family. America's heartland commentators, as usual, minced no words.

One comment: JFK Jr. was America's prince. The Kennedys deserve to be in heaven where all their dead ones are.

The response: A royal family? Didn't we fight a war in the 1700s to do away with royalty?

Another comment: Potato famine trash (alluding to the Kennedy ancestors' migration from Ireland.)

The reply: Your IQ must be minus 20.

The origins of the Kennedy/Camelot myth escape most of us. Camelot was home to King Arthur and his knights who took the covenant to be gentle to the weak, courageous to the strong, terrible to the wicked, true in friendship and faithful in love.

Most people remember it as a Broadway musical. Jackie Kennedy reportedly told the late political historian Theodore H. White it was a favorite of President Kennedy's. White metaphorically described the Kennedy presidency as the Age of Camelot, and a modern legend was born.

In his 1982 book, "America in Search of Itself," White graded Kennedy as a great president -- a superior one -- who gave the nation a sense of new direction. White cited accomplishments in

## From Page 1

sue) has to be answered at the political level."

But Delia Pompa, who last week left her post as director of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs to become executive director of the National Association for Bilingual Education, stressed, "We are here to talk about improving bilingual education, not proving it."

OBEMLA's acting director, Art Love, predicted that the use of valid data will enable bilingual education to win the political struggle, too.

"We've been trying to make the case with the best data available," he said. "That's our strategy: the use of logical, objective thinking to find what is best for the education of our children."

(Oswaldo Zavala is a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C.)

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# LULAC Targets 2000 Census

By Matt Flores

CORPUS CHRISTI — Hoping to avoid an undercount of Hispanics and other minorities in the 2000 census, the bureau's director Wednesday promised a litany of changes aimed at improving the way the agency conducts its population tally.

"The 2000 census is going to be a turning point as to how this country represents itself," said Kenneth Prewitt, director of the U.S. Census Bureau. "Being included (in the census count) is going to drive a lot of politics in the 21st century."

Prewitt made his comments as a keynote speaker at the 70th annual convention of the League of United Latin American Citizens here. LULAC President Rick Dovalina said ensuring that Hispanic populations are accurately measured in the upcoming census is the organization's top priority.

"We are always fighting for parity in our schools. One of the ways that is done is by making sure we are counted," Dovalina said.

Panelists noted that more than 5 percent of the nation's Hispanic population wasn't counted in the 1990 census, which in Texas alone amounted to a loss of about \$1 billion in federal funding.

Such funding is essential to virtually every kind of federal program from early childhood development to community development block grants.

"If we don't register, we don't count," warned state Sen. Carlos Truan, D-Corpus Christi, who said an undercount also translates into minority underrepresentation in the Legislature and U.S. Congress.

"Redistricting at the state level is based on the census," said Truan, who pointed to changes in his own Corpus Christi district over three decades that saw it change from one-third to nearly two-thirds Hispanic.

Prewitt, who called the accuracy of the 1990 census count "disappointing," said several factors contributed to a minority

undercount, including language barriers, high mobility, irregular housing patterns, and "attitudinal issues" such as indifference or fear in dealing with the government.

ference or fear in dealing with the government.

But the bureau is tackling several operational changes that will help the agency get a more accurate accounting of minority populations in the next census, he added. Among them:

Establishing a school-based curriculum to teach students census-related concepts like mapping and demographics.

Simplifying census questionnaires to make them more user-friendly. The questionnaire has been pared down to a single page and should take about 10 minutes to complete.

Launching a major paid advertising campaign heavily targeted to urban poor and racial minorities. Half the ads will be in languages other than English, and about half of those will be in Spanish.

Partnering with civic, corporate, government, and community groups — such as LULAC — to help publicize and carry out the census. Prewitt said the Census Bureau already has enlisted the help of 25,000 groups of all kinds.

Diversifying the language of the questionnaires, to include Spanish and five other languages.

One concern that must be overcome is the fear many new immigrants to the country have in dealing with the government, said Margaret Leal-Sotelo, national census director for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund in Los Angeles.

In California, she said, about 33 percent of Latinos are immigrants and likely will be wary of participating in a census — particularly since many of them will be doing so for the first time.

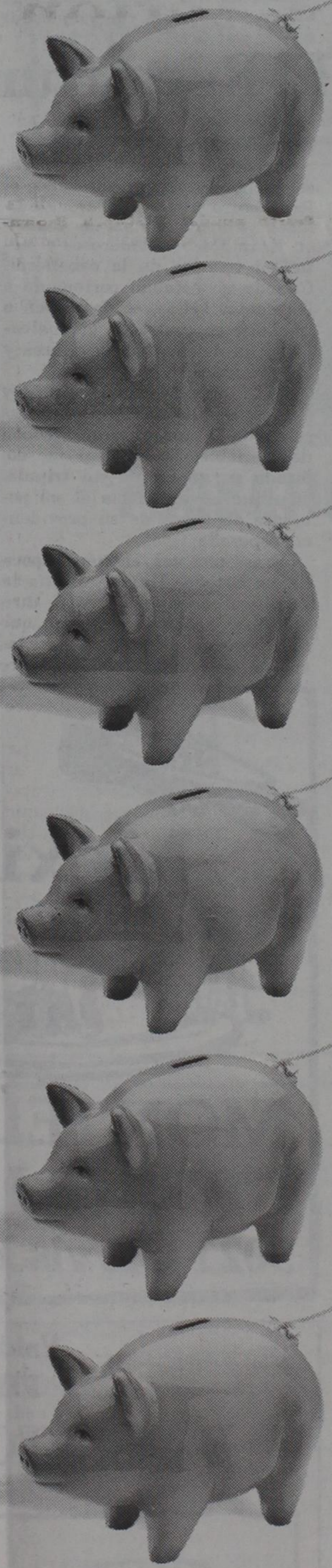
"We have our work cut out for us," Leal-Sotelo said.



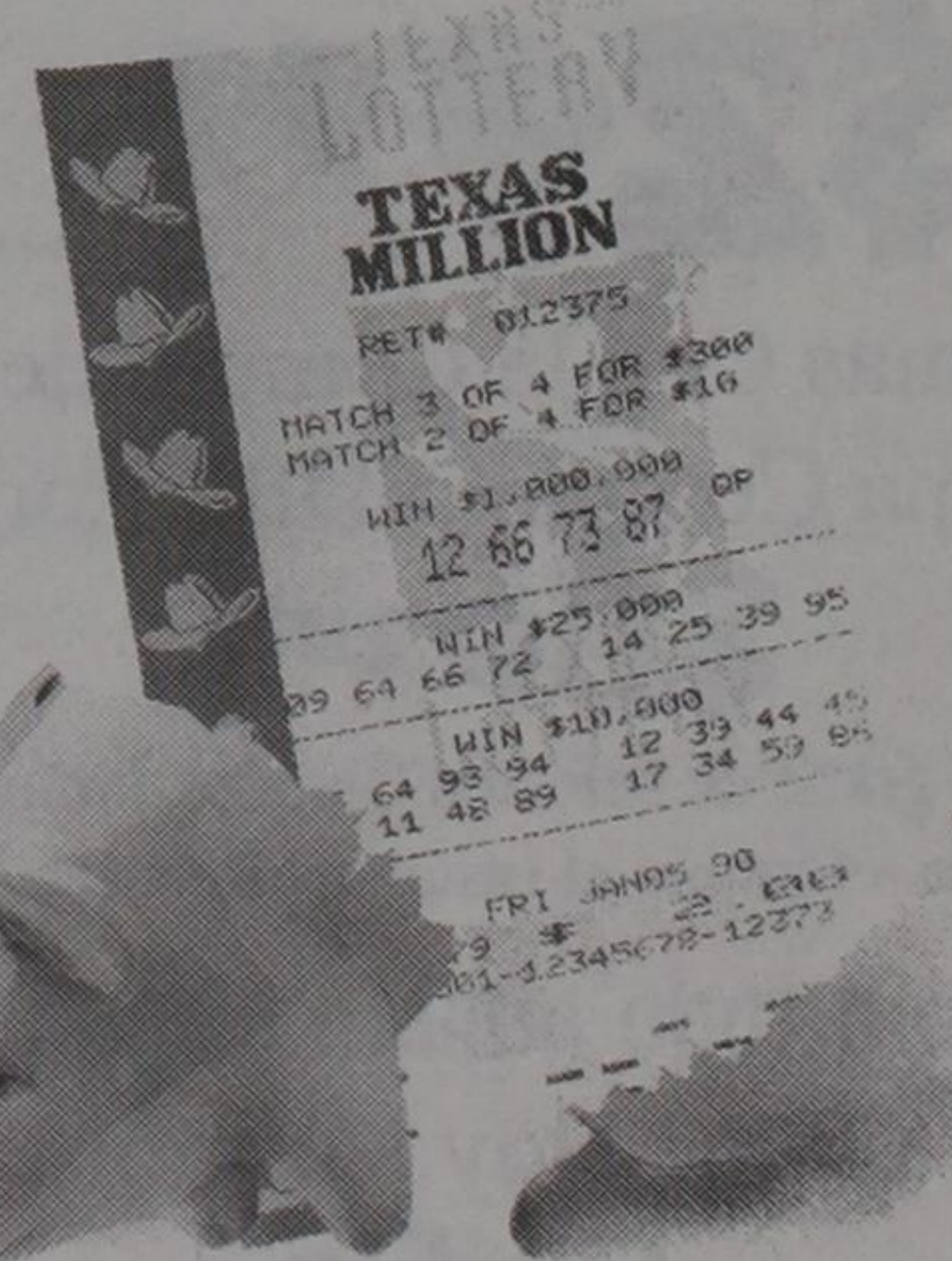
David Lopez, Vice President of Southwestern Bell Telephone, addresses the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) 70th Annual Convention in Corpus Christi, July 11-17, 1999. Looking on is Enrique Dovalina, LULAC National President. Southwestern Bell Telephone served as a major sponsor of the convention.



(Pictured left to right) Richard Riley, Secretary of the Department of Education, visits with Enrique Dovalina, National President of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) at LULAC's 70th Annual Convention in Corpus Christi, July 11-17, 1999.



Para jugar Texas Million, sólo escoge 4 números, o usa Quick Pick (QP), para el premio en efectivo de \$1,000,000. Automáticamente, recibirás 6 series más de números escogidos al azar, que te ofrecen más oportunidades de ganar. De hecho, Texas Million te ofrece un premio de \$10 en efectivo si igualas sólo 2 números dentro de una serie, en cualquiera de las 7 series, y \$300 si igualas 3 números dentro de una serie. ¿Qué más puedes pedir?



# 7 Oportunidades De Ganar.

Probabilidad de ganar, 1 en 20. Debes tener 18 años para poder jugar. ©1999 Texas Lottery



# Ali's Power Just Comes A Little More Quietly Now

By George Diaz

He marks his direction by listening for the distinctive cluck of his best friend.

"Cluck, cluck," Howard Bingham says, leading interference for the Most Famous Man in the World.

An appreciative group of fans gather, as they always do in his presence, looking for a moment to preserve for eternity.

A moment with Muhammad Ali.

He passed through Central Florida this weekend, reaching out with trembling hands to accept an honorary doctorate degree from Florida A&M University during its inaugural alumni association convention.

There is gray around the sides of his hair, a bit disheveled these days. The champ has a pot belly, his face slightly bloated. His steps are ponderous.

THERE ARE THOSE WHO LOOK at him with pity, seeing a fallen hero who has lost the gait in his famous shuffle and the booming voice that once proclaimed his greatness.

They don't understand, and perhaps never will, that Ali needn't say a word to be heard. He immediately becomes the most powerful man of any room he gently steps into, quietly proving his point with measured steps Saturday.

"Hey champ," Bingham says, "You know this guy? He wants to fight you."

Orlando's Pinklon Thomas, forever bonded with Ali as another former heavyweight champion, steps through the crowd to hug his friend. They make eye contact, Ali's way of acknowledging Thomas.

"This guy gives me goose bumps," Thomas said. "I love him." Minutes later, raucous chants of "Ali! Ali!" at a private reception. Ali has felt the embrace of

Thomas and millions of others through his compassionate heart. "Kindness to others is the rent we pay for our time on earth," he has often said, reflecting an unwavering commitment to help and heal.

Despite suffering from parkinsonism -- a syndrome related to Parkinson's disease -- Ali travels the world as an honored guest. The world is his home, offering bed-and-breakfast an estimated 275 days a year.



Muhammad Ali paid

Two soulmates are usually by his side, lending eyes and ears, gently guiding Ali along through logistical limitations.

Lonnie Ali is Muhammad's fourth wife, though she has been in his life for a long, long time. She was the girl next door, growing up in Louisville, Ky., across the street from Ali's mother. They have been married 14 years and have an 8-year-old son, Asaad, who was adopted at birth.

He is the youngest of Ali's 9 children.

Bingham is friend and photographer, capturing the essence of Ali's soul in split-second increments. They met 37 years ago, when Bingham drove up in a Dodge Dart and offered Ali (then Cassius Clay) and his brother Rudolph Valentino Clay a tour of Los Angeles. Bingham, then working for an African-American weekly paper in Los Angeles, has since become the guy you always

Fernando Castro in Cuba last year.

Bingham's portraits have captured the essence of a man who casts no distinctions between race, color or political beliefs.

A friend to all: King Hassan II of Morocco, who died last month, welcomes Muhammad Ali to the royal palace a year ago.(AP)

In the silence that condemns a man who once screamed louder than all of us, Ali continues to fight like a champion: appeals to write off Third World debts, soliciting support to meet Cuba's health-care demands, appearances to raise money for the Parkinson's Foundation.

After the reception, Ali met a few friends and university VIPs at a backstage area.

THOMAS DROPPED BY WITH HIS wife, D.J. So did former sparring partner Solomon McTier, who now lives in Eustis. Ali sat in a chair, posing for pictures for a half hour and whispering little jabs-in-the-ear as the cameras clicked away.

"Don't give me any trouble," he tells a man from his hometown of Louisville.

Perhaps his favorite joke: "You know what Abraham Lincoln said after he came off a two-day drunk?"

"I freed the whaaaaat?"

Those who pity do not understand. The grumbles and the whispers cannot silence his passion. The "Ali Shuffle" has not lost its energetic bounce -- it has simply been modified to meet his physical limitations.

Do not look at Muhammad's trembling hands, his methodical steps, or the tired arms that drop at his side.

Look at the eyes. They sparkle with the same mischievous charm that made Ali the most magical athlete to grace us this century. They beckon us to laugh and embrace life.

They tell us that Muhammad Ali is still heavyweight champion of the world.

George Diaz is a sports columnist for the Orlando Sentinel.

# Aikman Strives For Perfection

WICHITA FALLS, Troy Aikman feels helpless against the pull of perfection. No matter how much he tries to ease up, the Dallas Cowboys quarterback continues to demand it from himself.

"Sometimes I try to back off a little bit and not be quite as competitive," Aikman said. "But that's just my makeup."

That makeup has helped the Dallas Cowboys win three Super Bowls this decade. It's also helped Aikman become the highest-paid player in NFL history.

And as he prepares for his 11th season, it keeps him from being satisfied with a career that will one day earn him a spot in the Hall of Fame.

"I want to win the Super Bowl as badly today as I did before I won the first one," Aikman said. "I'd be highly disappointed if I left the game and didn't win another."

Aikman, who turns 33 in November, said Wednesday he plans to play 3-5 more seasons. That's quite a change from earlier in his career when he talked about retiring by 30.

"I still feel like my best years are ahead of me," Aikman said. "I still feel like I can go out and play at a high level, compete and do the things I need to do."

Although the Cowboys have won only one playoff game in the three seasons since their last championship, Aikman said he believes they have the talent to win it all this year.

If they don't, it would be the longest championship drought of his career.

"If I didn't think we were willing to do everything we could as a team and as an organization, I would not have redone my contract," said Aikman, who will receive \$85.5 million through 2007 under an extension signed in April. "I'd like our football team to get back to the respectability we once had, and I think we're on track for that."

While Aikman hopes to leave

the NFL on top like John Elway, he added that he wouldn't retire if Dallas won the Super Bowl this season.

"I'm still healthy and my arm still feels good," Aikman said. "Barring an injury, I think I can play three to five more years."

It wasn't long ago that Aikman thought about retiring because the game wasn't fun. He was rejuvenated by the departure of coach Barry Switzer and the arrival of offense-minded Chan Gailey.

The Cowboys were 10-6 last year in Gailey's debut season and won the NFC East, only to be knocked out of the playoffs in the first round with a 20-7 loss to Arizona that Aikman called embarrassing.

That loss completed a five-game slide caused mainly by a struggling offense. The bad ending overshadowed the team's turnaround from 6-10 the previous year.

"I think it's fair to be critical over the last four, five games, but we finished eighth in offense and at one time we were third," Aikman said. "If I hadn't missed five games due to injury, it statistically could very well have been my best year."

Aikman expects the offense to improve this year because players are more comfortable with Gailey's system. He's also encouraged by upgraded talent on the offensive line and at receiver.

"We have an opportunity to have one of the better offenses since I've been here," Aikman said.

Gailey has talked about trying to rest Michael Irvin early in the season in hopes of having him fresher for the playoffs. Aikman said he's not sure that plan will work.

"It's going to be awfully hard to say 'Hey, we need to rest you.' He's too valuable to the team and too competitive," Aikman said. "I think when the game's on the line, he's still the guy I'm going to try to get the ball to."

see next to the Most Famous Man in the World.

It is a responsibility he embraces with kindness and irreverence. They call each other "Bill," Bingham's way of meeting on common ground with the MFMIT-W.

We see the magic of Ali through Bingham's eyes. Click: Ali playfully jabbing former Beatle George Harrison at the Fifth Street Gym at Miami Beach. Click: Ali cutting a cake shaped like a boxing ring to celebrate his 57th birthday Jan. 19 at a private party at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. Click: Ali visiting 2-year-old cancer patient

# El Rey Arturo Y El Mito Llamado El Principe Juan

Por Carlos Conde

Erase una vez en cierta época, según las leyendas medievales, el Rey Arturo y sus caballeros de la Mesa Redonda vivían en Camelot. Eran hombres valerosos y rectos en tiempos de la caballería. Cuando no estaban cortejando a las damas bellas, se dedicaban a combatir en contra de los malvados y en defensa de los pobres y los oprimidos.

Todo terminó cuando el Rey Arturo resultó muerto mientras combatía a un guerrero bribón despreciable. Su cadáver fue colocado en un buque sin tripulación que navegó hacia el sol poniente en busca de su providencia esperada.

Erase una vez, en cierta época de los Estados Unidos, existía la familia Kennedy de Boston, dirigida por un joven gallardo que fue asesinado atendiendo las causas del pueblo. Su heredero

aparente, John F. Kennedy Jr., murió también trágicamente y sus restos fueron entregados al mar.

Esa es la mitología de Camelot, de entonces y de ahora. Todo el mundo lamenta la muerte del joven Kennedy porque él, el príncipe joven, según lo invistieron los medios de información, encarnaba lo que quedaba del legado de Camelot de los últimos días, forjado por su padre. Muchos, aunque lamentándose por la pérdida de un joven tan prominente, criticaron los extremos de la deificación de los Kennedy, alimentada por los medios informativos.

El asunto creó un torrente de debate por parte del público causal y produjo un examen de conciencia por parte de los medios informativos acerca de sus excesos en la triaca de Camelot. Es aún más irónico cuando se con-

sidera que el joven Kennedy y su esposa eran conocidos como una pareja que prefería vivir como personas ordinarias. John F. Kennedy Jr. aceptaba la adulación pública como parte del comportamiento honorable que se espera de personas destacadas, y la sufría más que agradecerla.

Los medios informativos se involucraron en lo que un periodista calificó de modalidad de exceso despreciable. Tom Brokaw, Dan Rather y Peter Jennings transmitieron desde Hyannis Port. La programación normal fue cancelada para informar sobre acontecimientos primordialmente vacíos y retrasmisiones de biografías nostálgicas de la familia y su historia de mala suerte.

El New York Times se destacó por su limitación. El editor administrativo del Times, Bill Keller, dijo en una entrevista con el Washington Post que se sentía orgulloso de que el Times no se revolcara en el maleficio de los Kennedy y del príncipe de los Estados Unidos, como si se tratara de la muerte de un presidente.

En la Internet, el micrófono abierto del público, hubo más de 60,000 entradas en un salón de charlas en la mañana de los funerales en el mar. Una encuesta al azar reveló una cantidad sorprendente de inconformes que, aún cuando lamentaban la muerte del joven Kennedy, debían a los simpatizadores sobre los elogios a la familia Kennedy. Los comentaristas de la región central de los Estados Unidos, como d\$ costumbre, no e3catimaron palabras.

Uno de ellos dijo: jhn F. Kennedy Jr. e2a el príncipe de los Estados Unidos. Los Kennedy merecen estar en el cielo, donde están todos sus muertos.

Y la respuesta fue: ¿Una familia real? ¿No libramos una guerra en el siglo 18 para eliminar a la realeza?

Otro comentario: Basura de la

hambuna de las papas (aludiendo a la migración desde Irlanda de los antecesores de los Kennedy).

La réplica: El cociente intelectual de usted debe ser de 20 con signo negativo.

Los orígenes del mito de Kennedy/Camelot escapan a la mayoría de nosotros. Camelot era el hogar del Rey Arturo y sus caballeros, que tomaron el juramento de ser benévolos con los débiles, valerosos con los fuertes, terribles con los malvados y los malhechores, veraces en la amistad y fieles en el amor.

La mayoría de las personas lo recuerdan como una revista musical de Broadway. Se dice que Jackie Kennedy dijo al finado historiador político Theodore H. White que esa obra era una de las favoritas del ZPresidente Kennedy. White describió metafóricamente a la presidencia de Kennedy como la Edad de Camelot, y así nació una leyenda moderna.

En su libro de 1982, titulado "Los Estados Unidos en busca de Ellos Mismos," White calificó a Kennedy como un gran presidente -- un presidente superior -- que dió a la nación una sensación de nueva orientación, mencionando sus hazañas en asuntos exteriores (Rusia), derechos civiles (afroamericanos) e igualdad de oportunidades para todos.

Las evaluaciones históricas posteriores de la dinastía Kennedy no han sido tan laudatorias. Los Kennedy son indudablemente una familia excepcional, pero no exenta de contratiempos ni de transgresiones públicas que datan retrospectivamente hasta el patriarca Joe Kennedy y que se extienden más allá de la época de Camelot.

En algunos aspectos, el maleficio de los Kennedy es un término contradictorio. Los hermanos Joe, John F. y Robert F. murieron al servicio de su país. Algunos de los otros incidentes más recientes enlazados con el maleficio, sin embargo, necesitan de una definición mejor.

La caída nocturna de Ted Kennedy desde el puente de Chappaquiddick se llevó la vida de una joven. Un joven Kennedy resultó muerto en un accidente de esquiar por imprudencia y otro murió de una dosis excesiva de narcóticos. Otro fue juzgado por acusaciones de violación, pero fue absuelto. Uno de los hijos de Robert F. Kennedy estuvo involucrado en un asunto amoroso con la criandera de sus hijos. Todo eso suena como las vicisitudes de la vida, pero en la imagen pública de los Kennedy, es parte del maleficio.

La muerte del joven Kennedy Jr. ilustra elocuentemente la

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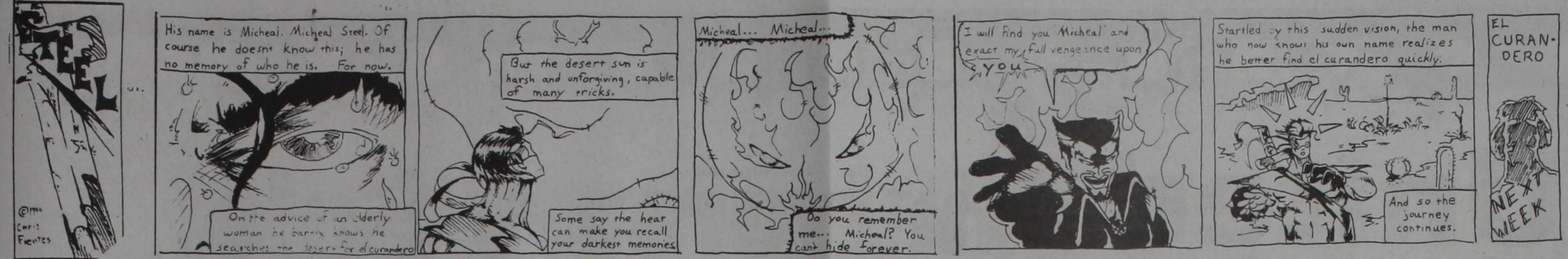
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# Noticias Breves

## Operación "Rio Grande" Cumple Dos Años en Medio de Controversias

Austin, - Hoy se cumplen dos años desde que las autoridades de inmigración pusieron en marcha la controvertida operación "Rio Grande" contra el narcotráfico y la inmigración ilegal. "La operación ha tenido un impacto positivo en la frontera", dijo el jefe de la Patrulla Fronteriza, George Gunnoe. Gunnoe destacó el aumento de agentes destinados a la frontera así como el uso de helicópteros, vehículos especiales, sensores terrestres, iluminación en los puntos de cruce y cámaras en torres construidas alrededor del Río Grande.

"Hemos logrado una mejora de la calidad de vida de las personas que viven y trabajan en la zona. El crimen ha disminuido así como también otra clase de delitos. Hemos logrado controlar pie por pie el territorio", indicó el jefe de la Patrulla.

Sin embargo, el abogado Nathan Selzer, del Proyecto Libertad en Harlingen (sur de Texas) dijo que "en estos dos últimos años hemos tenido un aumento de los abusos de las autoridades y más muertes por deshidratación".

El Proyecto Libertad -una organización que defiende los derechos de los inmigrantes- está preparando un informe sobre el impacto de la operación en la frontera.

Selzer señaló que "ha aumentado la inseguridad pública en la zona".

"Hemos recibido varias denuncias de vecinos de la zona que

han sido literalmente asaltados en sus propias tierras por los agentes, al ser confundidos por inmigrantes, hasta el punto de temer por sus vidas", manifestó.

Selzer dijo que la actitud de los nuevos agentes ha cambiado. "Existe una gran diferencia entre los veteranos y los nuevos agentes que se acaban de incorporar. Estos últimos están más tensos y ven al inmigrante como un enemigo y no como a un simple inmigrante", lamentó.

El abogado dijo que en la zona de King Ranch (un área casi poblada y dedicada a la crianza de reses) se han registrado en los dos últimos años "detenciones violentas" de los inmigrantes.

"Varios han llegado con las costillas o la clavícula rotas. Ahora el encuentro entre un agente y un inmigrante es más violento", denunció.

La operación ha producido un cambio en el flujo migratorio, según Selzer.

"Ya no hay áreas pobladas donde los inmigrantes puedan cruzar. Bronswille es un ejemplo de ello. Los inmigrantes van a seguir entrando y lo van a hacer por zonas más peligrosas. Se van a perder por el desierto o el coyote los va a abandonar a su suerte", dijo Selzer.

## Gobierno Reconoce Gran Inmigración Ilegal de Mexicanos

México, - El Gobierno de México reconoce que un número importante de mexicanos sigue intentando entrar de manera ilegal en Estados Unidos en busca de oportunidades, de lo cual es prueba la repatriación de más de un millón de personas en 1998.

En un comunicado divulgado este fin de semana, la Secretaría de Gobernación (SG) apunta que el aumento del número de repatriaciones de mexicanos es el resultado, sobre todo, del mayor número de detenciones derivadas de los acuerdos locales establecidos entre las autoridades migratorias de México y EEUU.

En el comunicado, la Secretaría explica que durante 1998 se incrementó en un 25,1 por ciento la repatriación de mexicanos detenidos en Estados Unidos, al pasar de 879.288 personas en 1997 a más de un millón en el año pasado. El mayor número de repatriaciones, según la fuente, se realizaron en las ciudades de Monterrey, Nuevo Laredo, Nogales, Ciudad Juárez y Tijuana.

La SG considera que dada la relevancia de este problema, el Gobierno mexicano aplica una

política migratoria con sentido humanitario, respetando los derechos humanos de sus connacionales.

Esta política migratoria impulsada por el Gobierno mexicano -dice- busca actualizar de manera permanente normas, criterios y procedimientos, para facilitar los flujos migratorios que se consideran benéficos para el país, y ejercer la facultad de vigilancia migratoria con apego a la ley".

La Secretaría cita como ejemplo el trabajo que realizan los grupos Alfa, Beta y Ebano de protección a inmigrantes y que operan en las fronteras norte y sur de México.

Según la Secretaría de Gobernación, entre enero y diciembre de 1998 se atendieron quejas de 297.121 personas, cifra un 20,6 por ciento superior a las atendidas en el mismo periodo de 1997.

Resultado de la anterior, el año pasado fueron detectados 5.366 faltas o delitos cometidos por integrantes de grupos oficiales de protección a inmigrantes mexicanos, faltas que fueron de inmediato remitidas a las autoridades competentes.

En la frontera norte operan los grupos Beta Agua Prieta, Beta Nogales, Beta Tijuana, Beta Mexicali, Alfa Tecate y Ebano Matamoros, mientras que en la frontera contraria operan los grupos Beta Sur, Beta Comitán y Beta Tabasco.

Pese a las quejas presentadas, precisa la SG, la labor de esos grupos ha merecido el reconocimiento de los habitantes y autoridades de las zonas donde operan, y de los propios inmigrantes, en la que destaca la protección de los derechos humanos y la integridad física y patrimonial de las personas, sin distinción de nacionalidad.

## Genera Oposición Propuesta de Cobrar Países por la Educación de Inmigrantes

Anaheim - La Liga de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos (LULAC) aseguró que se opondrá a una resolución de la Oficina de Escuelas Secundarias de Anaheim, en California, que exige que otros países paguen por la educación que reciben los estudiantes indocumentados.

Cerca de 40 miembros de la oficina local de LULAC en el condado de Orange protestaron el fin de semana en una marcha con pancartas frente al auditorio donde las autoridades escolares debatían el borrador de una demanda para exigir a esos pagos.

condado de Orange consideran el plan como "un intento frívolo y malicioso" que afecta directamente las relaciones entre los grupos étnicos de la zona.

Las autoridades educativas "pierden su tiempo en planear actos de discriminación a los estudiantes, en vez de enfocarse en mejorar la educación" de los alumnos, enfatizó Romero.

Uno de los miembros de la directiva escolar, Harald Martin, presentó en mayo pasado una resolución personal que pedía al gobierno de México el pago de 50 millones de dólares por los gastos de educación a los indocumentados en Anaheim.

Los miembros de la directiva ampliaron más tarde esa demanda a todos los países de donde provienen los estudiantes indocumentados que reciben clases de secundaria.

Martin dijo que una resolución final acordada por los seis miembros de la directiva será presentada tentativamente la próxima semana, y que les permitiría demandar a gobiernos de otros países o al gobierno federal de EEUU para que pague por esos gastos.

"Tengo la esperanza de que la gente entienda que esto no es una cacería de brujas contra los

estudiantes que nacieron en otros países", argumentó Alexandria Coronado, miembro del consejo directivo.

Sin embargo, los activistas temen que además del cobro a los países, las autoridades acosen a los estudiantes indocumentados.

Martin manifestó que la resolución actual solicitará al Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización (INS) para que colabore en la identificación de indocumentados a fin de calcular la cantidad a la que ascienden los gastos.

Agregó que la Oficina de Escuelas Secundarias calcula que "los residentes de California gastan en impuestos cerca de 27 millones de dólares anuales en la educación de esos estudiantes".

La oficina de prensa del INS en Laguna Niguel respondió a EFE sin embargo que las funciones de esa agencia incluyen "detener a los inmigrantes indocumentados en la frontera o en centros de trabajo, no identificar a estudiantes de secundaria".

Romero opinó por su parte que la oficina escolar realiza un cálculo arbitrario para tratar de conseguir apoyo a la resolución y a la demanda.

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 Sealed bids will be received by the Lubbock Interfaith Hospitality Network until 3:00 p.m., August 23, 1999, to renovate the house property at 1319 15th Street. This is a federally funded project subject to Equal Employment Opportunity provisions and HUD Section 3 regulations. Beginning Monday, August 9, bid packets may be obtained at 1625 13th Street, Rm 107 between the hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. A "walk through" the property will be Monday, August 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. All sealed bids will be opened Tuesday, August 24, at 9:00 a.m. bidders will be notified of the results of the bidding process on Wednesday, August 25, before 5:00 by telephone.

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 For more information about the Lubbock Police Department, visit our web site at [www.lubbockpolice.com](http://www.lubbockpolice.com). For more information about the City of Lubbock, visit [www.ci.lubbock.tx.us](http://www.ci.lubbock.tx.us).

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**Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal for Federal Fiscal Year 2000**  
 City Transit Management Co. Inc., DBA Citibus has established its proposed Fiscal Year 2000 DBE Goal of 15.9%. The proposed goal description and goal setting determination is available for review between the 8:30am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, beginning August 8, 1999 until September 22, 1999 at the offices of Citibus located at 801 Texas Avenue, Lubbock, TX 79457.  
 City Transit Management Co. Inc. and the Department of Transportation will accept comments on the DBE Goal for 45 days beginning August 8, 1999 and ending September 22, 1999. Comments are for information purposes only.  
 Comments can be sent to: Cody R. Amis, Management Assistant of Finance  
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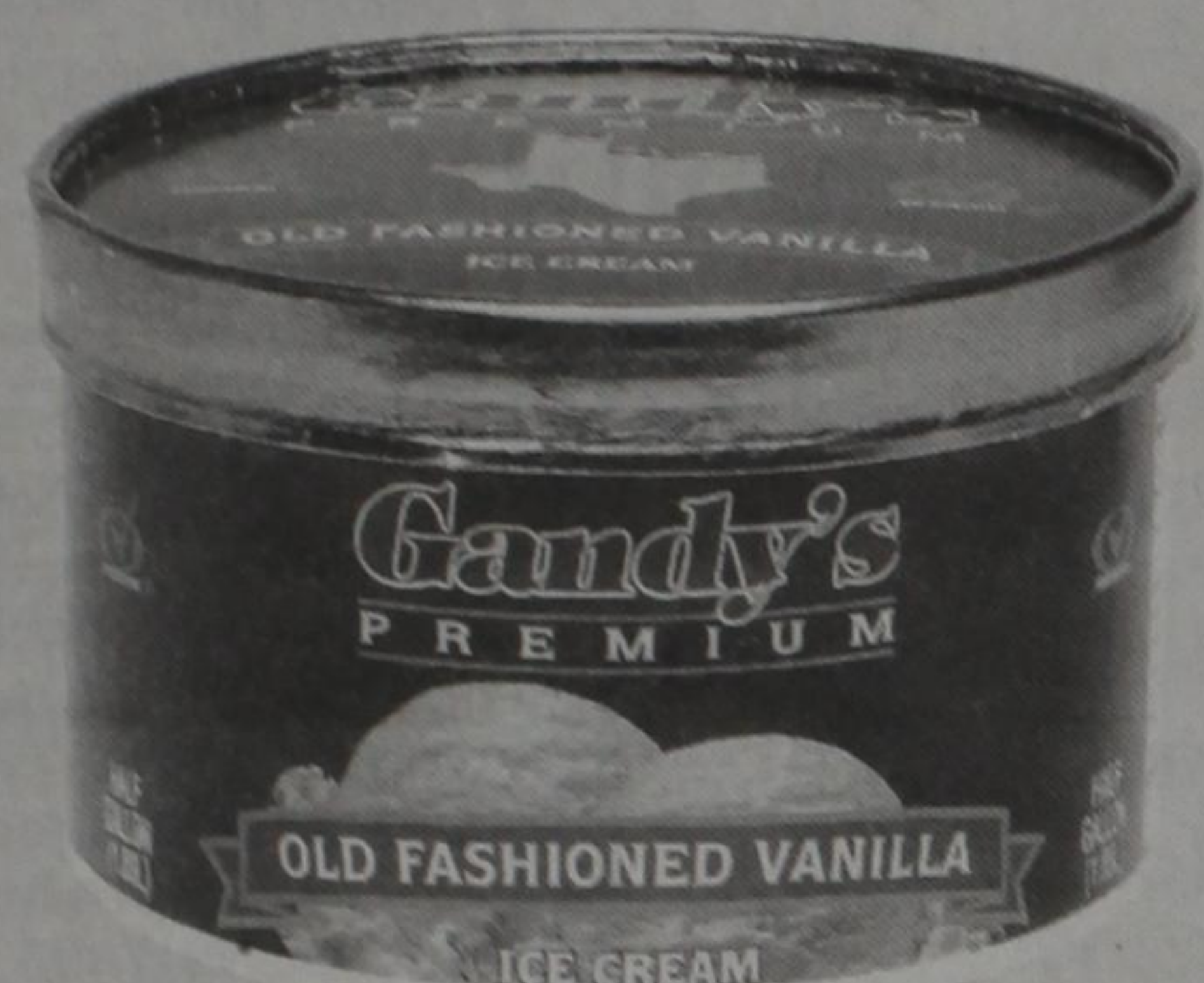
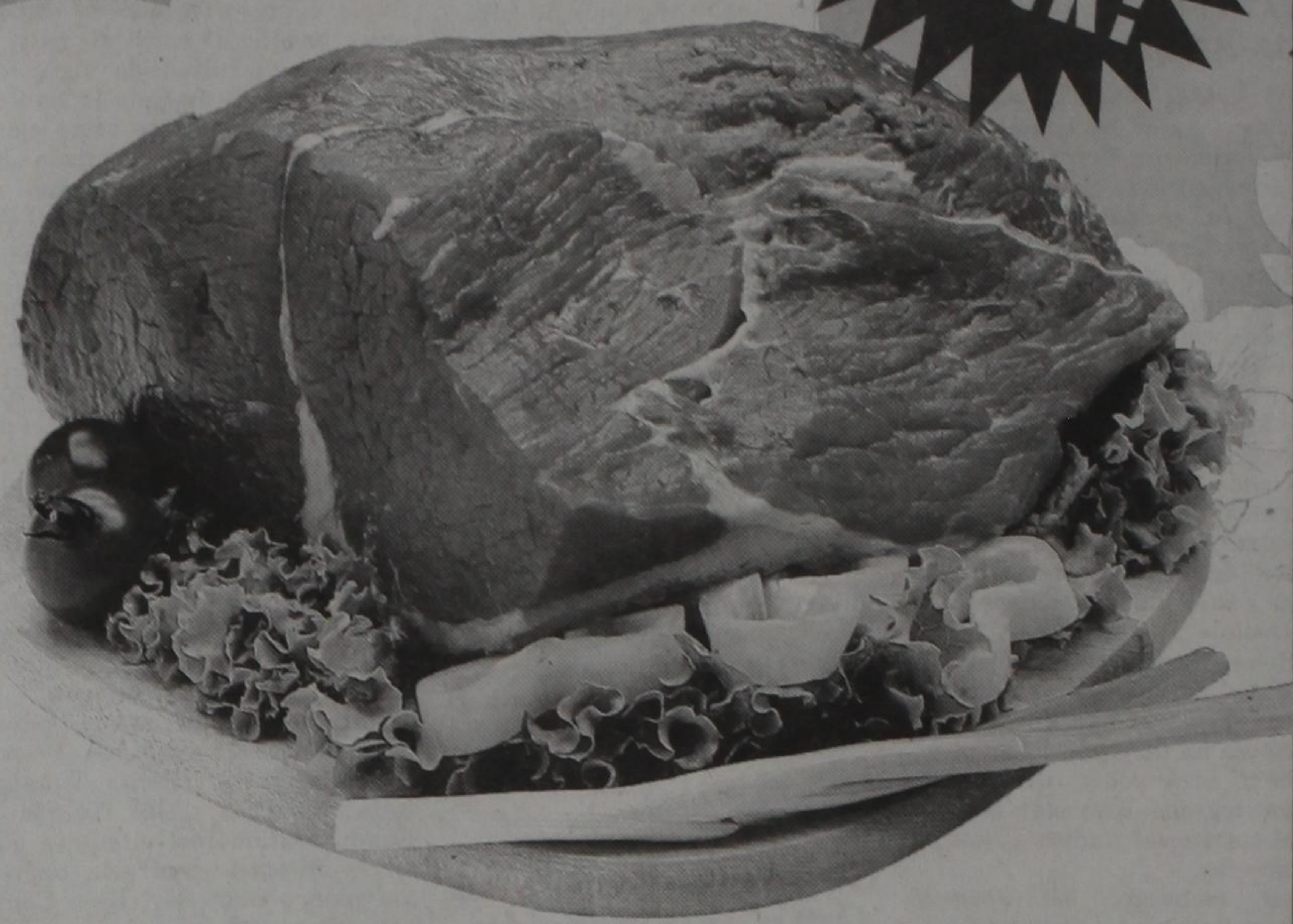


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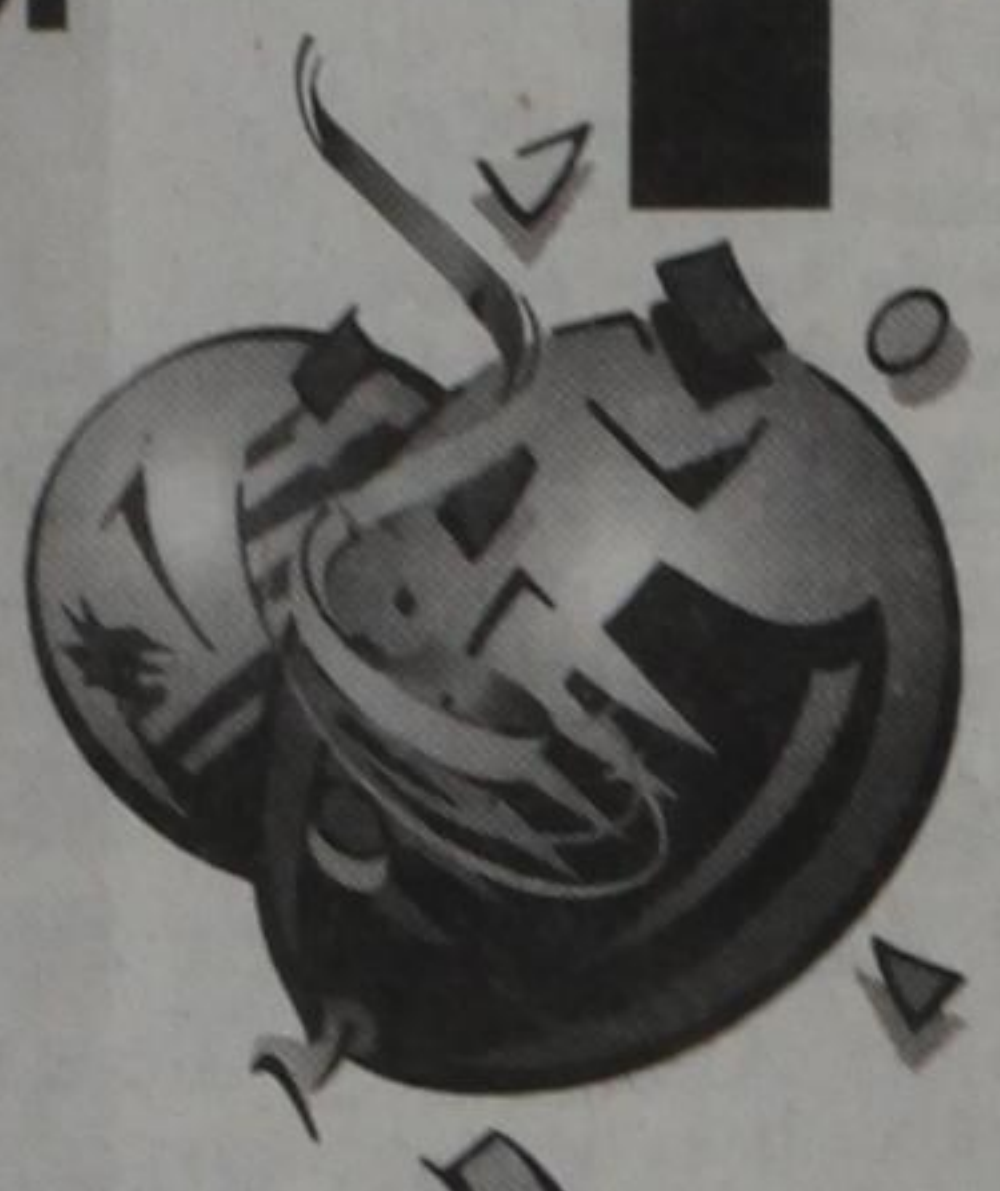


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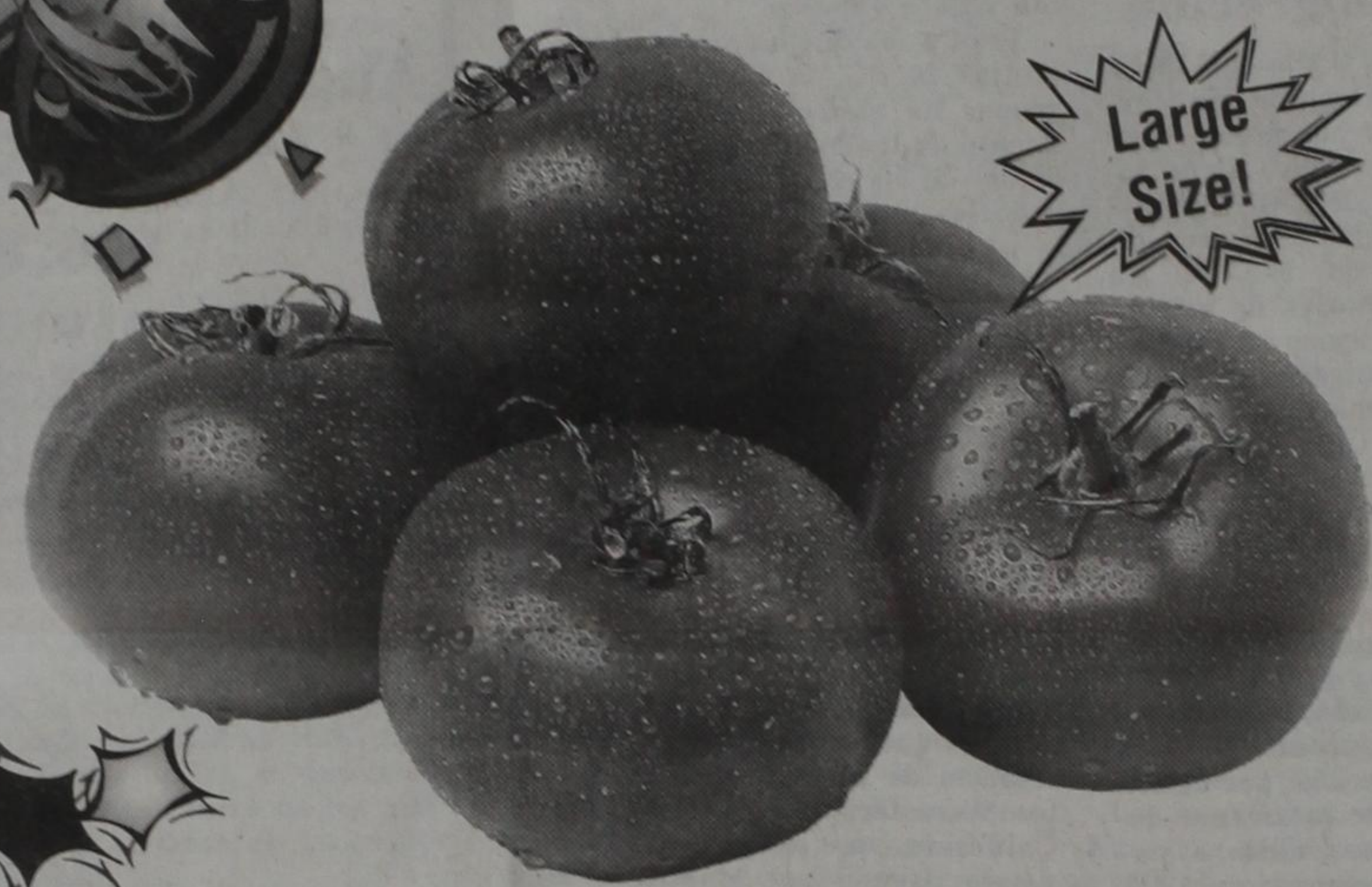
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