

Democrats Question Republican Agenda To Attract Hispanic Vote

San Jose, California, - The Democratic Party in California on Wednesday challenged the Republicans, who are attempting to win the minority vote, to deliver on their election promises instead of only developing strategies to win the Nov. 7 general elections.

Democratic Party Chairman in California Bob Mulholland told EFE that the Republicans do not have a grip on power just yet.

"Hispanic voters and other minorities in California have not forgotten Republican proposals and the former governor of this party who made several aspects of their lives difficult," the Democratic leader said.

On Tuesday, at the beginning of a four-day meeting with Hispanic community leaders in San Jose, the Republican National Committee (RNC) proposed the creation of a fund of up to 3,000 dollars to help individual families without health insurance or access to Medicare.

The purpose of the meeting is

to come up with strategies to attract the Hispanic vote, which has traditionally gone to Democratic candidates in the general elections.

RNC Chairman Jim Nicholson said that the proposal called "Fair Care" because it offers fair medical treatment for low-income people is part of the benefits that the Hispanic voters will get if they vote Republican next November.

During the closing of the meeting Saturday, the RNC will release to the public the results of a study that says that 40 percent of Hispanics living in the United States would support a Republican candidate.

Nicholson also said that an ambitious ad campaign will target Hispanics and African Americans.

The Republicans have used this opportunity to promote a tax cut proposal for big companies, in search of businessmen from Silicon Valley in California, the capital of the computer manufacturing industry.

However, Mulholland said that when Hispanics go to vote

DEMOCRATS



Bill Bradley

Al Gore

in the Nov. 7 elections the voters will take into account the actions of former California Gov. Pete Wilson, "whom Republicans did not mention" at the meeting.

In 1998, more than 85 percent of Hispanic voters in California voted for Democratic Gov. Gray Davis, and against Wilson, who was the main sponsor of the controversial Proposition 187,

which denied basic services to illegal immigrants and their families.

The measure was later dropped by Gov. Davis, after a legal battle ensued.

All election analysts said that Hispanics increased their participation in the elections, as well as their support for the Democrats, in retaliation against Wilson's conservative policies.

The state of California also eliminated "affirmative action" programs that gave minorities and women preferential treatment.

According to RNC estimates, the Republicans need the support of 40 percent of the Hispanic voters to win November's general elections.

"It would be very hard to believe that in only two years (the Republicans) recovered the Hispanic voters' support in California and other states (just) because a study claimed this is the case," Mulholland said.

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

EL EDITOR

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U.S. Republicans Intent On Winning The Hispanic Vote

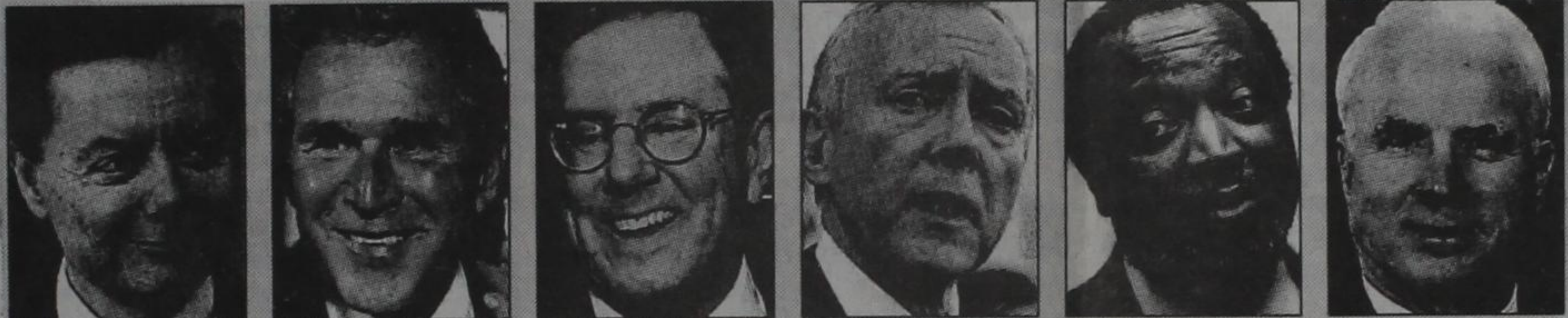
By Jose A. Delgado
Washington, - In an attempt to gain the support of Hispanic voters in the upcoming U.S. presidential race, the Republican Party plans to launch a special advertising campaign in the states with the highest concentration of Hispanics.

The GOP has proposed a 10-million-dollar publicity campaign for the states of California, New York, Florida, Texas, Illinois, New Mexico, New Jersey, Arizona and Utah, which together account for 80 percent of the Hispanic vote.

Although Republicans acknowledge that 70 percent of Hispanics sympathize with the Democratic Party, they are heartened by a recent study that reveals that 25 percent of Hispanic voters are registered independents.

Republican Party Chairman Jim Nicholson noted that independent Hispanic voters are conservative and in favor of free enterprise, and are open to change.

A poll of 1,000 Hispanics conducted by Republican Lance Tarrance revealed that 60 percent plan to vote for the Democratic presidential



Gary Bauer

George W. Bush

Steve Forbes

Orrin Hatch

Alan Keyes

John McCain

candidate and 30 percent for the Republican candidate, while 10 percent are still undecided.

The Republicans calculate that winning half of the independent 25 percent Hispanic vote would garner the Republican Party a level of support not seen since the election of Ronald Reagan, in which 42 percent of Hispanics voted Republican.

Sixty percent of those surveyed were of Mexican origin, 20 percent Central or South American, 15 percent Puerto Rican and five percent Cuban.

Hispanics make up 11 percent of the general population, and although they comprise five percent of the electorate, they could represent up to 10 percent of the votes in the elections next Nov. 7.

Texas Gov. George W. Bush is favored to obtain the Republican nomination, which could be a special incentive for Hispanic voters, according to Rep. Henry Bonilla (Rep.-TX), a

member of Bush's campaign team, who noted that the support generated by Bush among Hispanics is unprecedented for the Republican Party.

In fact, Bush obtained nearly half of the Hispanic vote during last November's gubernatorial elections, in which he was re-elected governor of Texas.

Democrats also have reason to worry, as revealed by surveys conducted by "NBC" and "The Wall Street Journal."

Those polls indicate that if Al Gore and Bush were to be the two presidential candidates, Bush would draw 52 percent of the Hispanic vote, while Gore would only garner 41 percent, although Bush's support would be reduced significantly if Bill Bradley were to receive the Democratic Party nomination.

If Bradley were to run against Bush, there would only be a three percent difference between the candidates, with the former receiving 41 percent of the votes and the latter 44.

Nicholson said the GOP's advertising campaign, to be launched this spring, will emphasize that Republicans and Hispanics share similar values, including those of "family, a strong work ethic, and a love of country and freedom."

Democrats, on the other hand, insist that they will not let Hispanics forget the Republican policies of the last several years, such as the elimination of bilingual education programs and anti-immigration legislation.

"Bush likes to speak Spanish, but his congressional colleagues would love to eliminate bilingual education and establish English as the official language," Rep. Robert Menendez (Dem.-NJ) said.

Rep. Jose Serrano (Dem.-NY) disparaged the Republican advertising campaign as lacking sense or purpose, as it does not represent the Hispanic community's feelings.

"It is a classic act of hypocrisy," he said.

News Briefs

L.A.P.D. Seeks Help From U.S. Gov't to Combat Gang Violence

Los Angeles, - The Los Angeles Police Department (L.A.P.D.) has asked for assistance from federal agents to help control the growing number of gang-related violent acts committed in the San Fernando Valley.

Lieut. Gary Nanson, with the L.A.P.D.'s gang unit in San Fernando, has asked for help from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and is also talking with the FBI.

Major San Fernando Valley gangs have maintained a seven-year truce but gang confrontations and violent incidents between rival gang members rose 25 percent last year, compared to 1998.

The recent increase in gang violence may be attributed, according to Nanson, to new gang members who were young children when the truce was reached and who have been replacing older gang members who have either been killed or are in jail.

Many gun-toting new gang members were six and seven years old when the older gang members agreed to the truce, Nanson said.

In 1999, the Los Angeles police department documented approximately 1,500 cases of violent crimes committed by San Fernando Valley gangs.

San Fernando Valley gangs were responsible for 25 percent of all gang-related violence in the Los Angeles metropolitan area, Nanson added. A.T.F. agents have been training the San Fernando gang unit to trace illegal firearms used by gang members that will help the L.A.P.D. to apply recently passed legislation aimed at keeping people from carrying firearms banned in California.

Federal agencies are becoming increasingly interested in controlling gangs because of their criminal activities and increased use of violence which affects all of society, Nanson said.

The L.A.P.D., in another measure aimed at curbing gang activity, will begin posting one full-time police officer in each public high school in the San Fernando Valley.

Officer Kandi Schmidt, a supervisor with the Foothill gang subdivision, which is one of the areas with the highest amount of gang activity, said movies and television, in addition to friends and acquaintances, also play a major role in attracting new gang members.

"It seems like today, every kid growing up in the San Fernando Valley joins a gang because of the music, movies, videos or television programs that glorify taking part in these organizations," Schmidt said.

The police, in addition to the new training, added officers in public schools and federal assistance, are also planning an intervention program aimed at keeping San Fernando Valley children from joining gangs.

Study: Hispanics Assimilate Into U.S. Culture in Three Generations

Washington, - Hispanic immigrants generally take three generations to assimilate into U.S. culture and adopt English as their language of preference, according to a poll published in Sunday's Washington Post.

Hispanics, who currently make up about 12 percent of the U.S. population, are expected by the Census Office to overtake blacks as the main minority in less than 20 years.

"Instead of being a separate society, Latinos have established homes in the United States and are remaking themselves in a process of assimilation," the daily said.

The article was based on a poll conducted by the Post in collaboration with the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard University.

According to the article, 73 percent of first-generation Hispanic immigrants speak only Spanish at home compared to 20 percent who speak both English and Spanish.

When it comes to the third generation, however, 78 percent speak only English at home compared to 21 percent who speak both languages equally.

Sixty-three percent of first-generation immigrants indicated that they cannot read a newspaper or book in English, while 91 percent of immigrants' grandchildren can without any problem.

"In general, Hispanics with deeper roots in U.S. society are less optimistic about the future and more cynical about the nation's basic institutions," the article said.

The opinions of Hispanics about family matters and finances vary greatly from the first generation to the third, with grandchildren of immigrants possessing a world-view that more closely mirrors the society that surrounds them.

Eighty-seven percent of first-generation Latinos feel it is better for children to stay with their parents until they get married, compared to 46 percent for the third generation.

Forty-six percent of recent arrivals said "a certain degree of equality in marriage is a good thing, but in general the husband should have final say over family decisions," an opinion that was shared by only 24 percent of the third generation and 26 percent of non-Hispanics.

Among first-generation Hispanics, only 31 percent said abortion should be legal in most cases, compared to 65 percent for the third generation.

Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Aguiro

I can for the life of me understand how thousands of Texans are saying that George Bush is the best candi-date for our next president when he continues to refuse to address the most critical issue that affects all Texans and for that matter the entire populus of the United States.

I am further dumb founded that senior citizens are saying that Bush is the best candidate when they are the most affected by the lack of a health care policy that will provide for them and their families.

Early voting is now taking place for the school bond election which will provide needed repairs and new technology for our schools -- or should we say needed for our kids? The average increase for people in Lubbock will be about \$25 more in taxes. It's it worth it!

Go Vote Today!

Pico de Gallo
Ya se llego la politica o todavia no? I couldn't tell by the lack of activity.

El Editor

MALDEF Launches Census Program

Hágase Contar! Make Yourself Count!

Once every 10 years, the United States Census Bureau undertakes the process of counting every single person who lives in the United States. This process is called the census and it is specifically mandated by the U.S. Constitution. The last census was taken in 1990, and the next one is scheduled for the year 2000.

MALDEF's Hágase Contar! Make Yourself Count! Campaign is a national, multimedia, outreach campaign designed to educate Latinos about the census, and encourage their participation. MALDEF has a 30-year history of working to advance the rights of Latinos living in the United States. Making sure that all Latinos are properly counted in the Census has always been one of MALDEF's key priorities. In fact, MALDEF has taken a leadership role in reaching out to Latinos in each of the last three censuses. The 2000 Census will mark the beginning of the fourth decade of MALDEF leadership on this issue.

The Importance of the Census
The census is our country's most basic source of demographic data. It is used by virtually all federal, state and local government agencies (and others) to make important

decisions that affect every community in our country. For example, census data is used to determine how to draw lines around political districts; how much money to give to schools in different areas; how to plan for more, or less housing in cities and neighborhoods; and how to plan for the health needs of different communities.

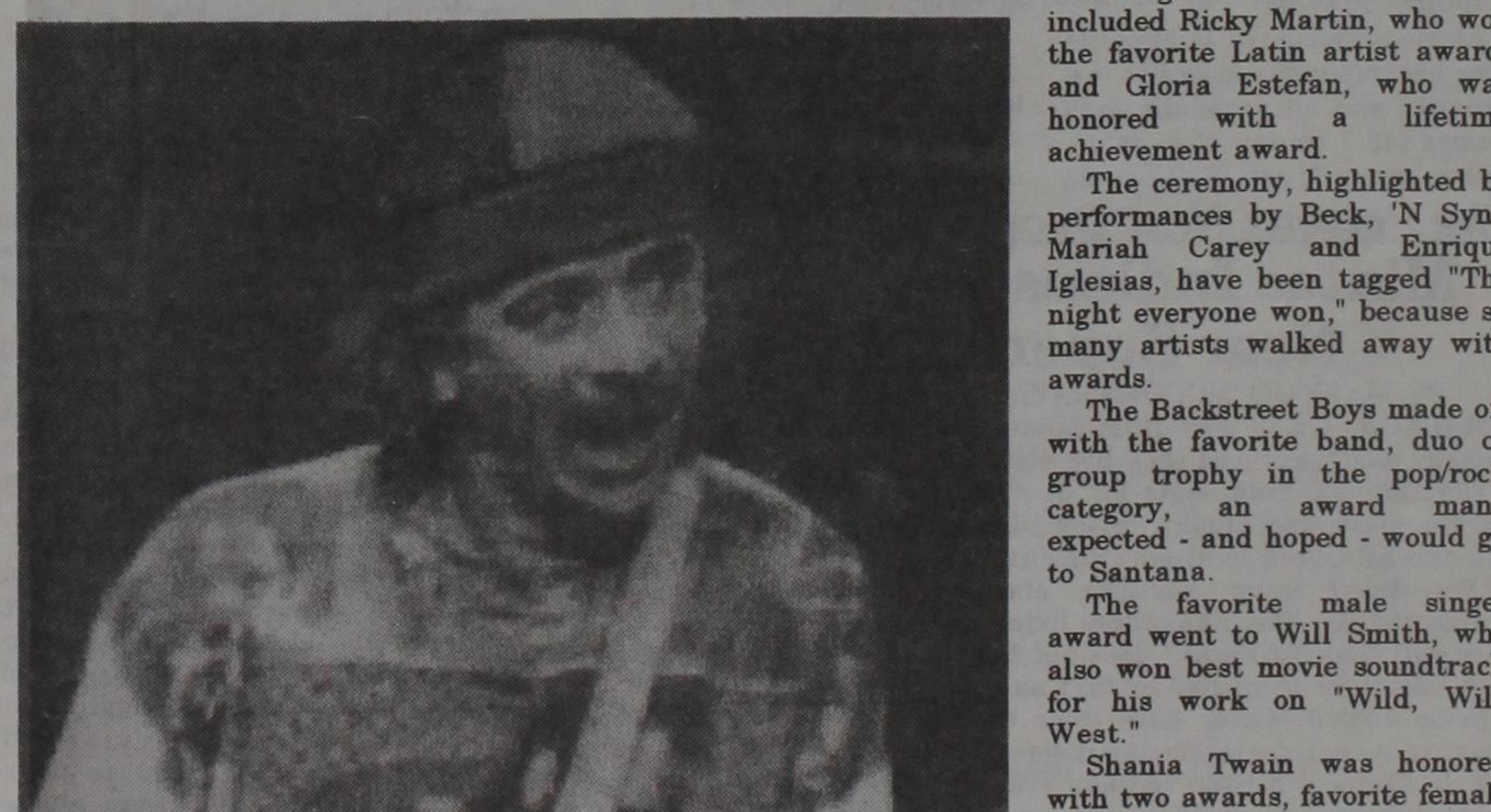
The Census Bureau has estimated that in 1990, the last time the Census was taken, almost 2% of the population was not counted. The undercount was higher among minority communities. (An effect that is typically called the differential undercount.) By the Census Bureau's own estimates, 5% of the Latino population was not counted. In fact, the undercount for Latinos was the highest for any community, except Native Americans.

The Importance of the Census Undercount

Everybody is hurt if the Census is incorrect. But, a community that is differentially undercounted (such as Latinos) will also be shortchanged across the board. For Latinos, a 5% undercount means that political districts were drawn that weren't reflective of the Latino population that lives within them; it also means that less money was allocated for schools, public health clinics, public housing, head starts centers,

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Santana Caps Comeback With Music Awards "Favorite Album"



LOS ANGELES, - Carlos Santana topped off his 1999 success story by walking away with the favorite album award in the pop/rock category at the 27th American Music Awards for his release "Supernatural."

The American Music Awards, considered a precursor to the Grammy Awards, were given out Monday night at the Los Angeles Shrine Auditorium, where the audience rose to its feet in thundering applause to honor the veteran Mexican rock guitarist.

At 52 years of age, Santana revived a 30-year-old stagnant career with an energetic blend of rock and pop that placed his album among the year's

bestsellers.

Santana also captured worldwide attention when he said that the Virgin of Guadalupe, patroness of Mexico, had appeared to him.

The Mexican-born rock legend also garnered 11 nominations to the Grammy Awards for "Supernatural," which has sold over five million copies to date.

The American Music Awards are often considered a popularity contest among best-selling artists, since nominees are chosen based on album sales and radio airplay and then selected by a poll of 20,000 people.

The Grammy Awards, by

contrast, are given to artists by their music industry peers.

Other Hispanic artists receiving awards on Monday included Ricky Martin, who won the favorite Latin artist award, and Gloria Estefan, who was honored with a lifetime achievement award.

The ceremony, highlighted by performances by Beck, 'N Sync, Mariah Carey and Enrique Iglesias, have been tagged "The night everyone won," because so many artists walked away with awards.

The Backstreet Boys made off with the favorite band, duo or group trophy in the pop/rock category, an award many expected - and hoped - would go to Santana.

The favorite male singer award went to Will Smith, who also won best movie soundtrack for his work on "Wild, Wild West."

Shania Twain was honored with two awards, favorite female artist in both the pop/rock and country categories, but did not appear in person to receive them.

Teenage golden girl Britney Spears won the favorite new pop/rock artist award.

In the soul/rhythm & blues category, Lauryn Hill led the way with favorite female artist and favorite album for "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill."

Phil Collins was chosen favorite artist in the adult contemporary category for his work in the animated Disney film "Tarzan."

The band Red Hot Chili Peppers won favorite artist in the alternative music category, while DMX took the rap/hip-hop award.

Hispanics Want To Know:

Where Are 100,000 "Missing" Federal Jobs?

By Oswaldo Zavala

The gap persists between the percentage of Hispanics in the U.S. work force and those employed by the federal government. Today it represents a deficit of nearly 100,000 jobs lost to the Hispanic community.

If the government practiced what it preached — equity in employment — that's how many more Latino men and women would be working for Uncle Sam.

Instead, Hispanics remain the only underrepresented major racial/ethnic group in government service. African Americans, for example, make up about 11 percent of the U.S. labor market but hold 17 percent of federal jobs.

According to the report "Hispanics in the Federal Government," released with little fanfare by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management in the fall, there were 102,775 Hispanics — 58 percent of them women — employed in the federal bureaucracy in fiscal year 1998. They made up 6.4 percent of the federal civilian work force of 1.8 million.

The report found Hispanics underrepresented in 28 of the 39 federal executive departments with 500 or more employees. And despite targeted recruitment efforts, such as the OPM's Hispanic Employment Program (HEP), the chasm has been increasing over at least 15 years.

Measured against all federal employees, Hispanics on average are younger (43.7 vs. 45.6), paid less (\$39,144 annual wages vs. \$44,886) and less educated (30 percent have

bachelor's degrees, vs. 40 percent for other federal workers).

In 1985, Hispanics made up 5.0 percent of federal employees, contrasted to 7.4 percent of the total civilian work force, a difference of 2.4 percent.

By 1998, they held 6.4 percent of federal government jobs, but their representation in the U.S. labor market had grown to 10.8 percent. Thus the division widened to 4.4 percent.

The HEP program, established in 1970, involves managers who work directly with every federal agency, and the OPM specifically, to address the hiring and retention of Hispanics.

Many federal departments offer lip service to it, suggests Roland Roebuck, Hispanic Employment Program manager with the Washington, D.C., Department of Human Services. But, he adds, "There is a lack of courage from many of these so-called advocates. I'm sick and tired of the hypocrisy and the cute reports that come out of the federal government saying how well Latinos are doing."

Admittedly, keeping up with the exploding Latino population while the Clinton Administration has been trying to downsize the bureaucracy hasn't been easy.

But John Sepúlveda, who joined OPM as deputy director over a year ago, sees sunshine between the clouds. Stronger guidelines and initiatives launched over the past few

years are producing encouraging new statistics, he says. He praises the administration's commitment and support, pointing out that in the last several months, the number of Hispanics in the government work force has increased by 2,000, and that hiring has finally equaled U.S. work-force percentages.

"We're optimistic that we have put into place the policy infrastructure to reach or pass parity," he says. In 1998, Hispanics made up 8.4 percent of permanent new hires and 6.2 percent of permanent losses.

Sepúlveda acknowledges another problem: Hispanic representation at the higher professional levels. Latinos make up just 3.1 percent of some 7,000 federal employees in its Senior Executive Service.

OPM Director Janice Lachance took an unusual step this month when she rejected a U.S. Merit Board recommendation that special hiring methods started by court order 18 years ago to reach out to non-whites be discontinued. She argued that Hispanics remain under-represented at all levels of government and that African Americans are still in short supply at the senior levels.

The only agency that surpasses the 10.8 percent Hispanic percentage in the overall U.S. civilian labor force is the Justice Department, with 12.3 percent. Justice has a broad need for Spanish-speaking personnel within its immigration arm. More than a third — 2,983 — of workers employed by the Border

Patrol and a quarter — 1,317 — of its immigration inspection units are Hispanic.

The department with the worst record is Health and Human Services, which employs nearly 50,000 workers. Only 2.8 percent of its staff is Latino.

"I feel an extreme revulsion at the anti-minority attitude being perpetuated by your managers and supervisors at various administrations within the HHS," Roebuck wrote recently to Secretary Donna Shalala.

Harry Salinas, who chairs the HEP national council, suggests that Hispanic organizations can and should get busy and help. "Government officials need to look at the diversity they have in their agencies," he agrees. "But Hispanic organizations need also to take the lead. We need to start working together."

Ida Castro, chairwoman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, believes that although the government is still far from the desired figures, the Clinton administration is on the right track.

"We have not reached parity, but the administration is moving forward," she says. Although the EEOC had reached parity in previous years, it fell short in 1998, with 10.6 percent of its employees Hispanic.

(Oswaldo Zavala is a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C. © 2000, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by Los Angeles Times Syndicate)

Martin Luther King, Jr. Message

MOVE BEYOND RACIALISM

BY GREGORY STEPHENS, PACIFIC NEWS SERVICE
Martin Luther King, Jr., is the most revolutionary of America's "official" national icons. He is also the most marginalized. His enduringly timely message has been sanitized and ghettoized, above all, by confining it within a "black box."

Every January, I expose my college students to some of King's radical thought, beyond the "Dream" snippet, which is all that most of them have heard. And I ask them to write about whether they think his message is still relevant. Some say yes; others think he is dated, for a variety of reasons. But on one thing most agree: they see him as a "black" leader, whose message is directed to Afro-Americans.

It seems to me that ghetto-izing King within a "black box" is a clear indication that we have not come to terms with King, nor the movement he represented. And that we have not freed ourselves from the mental slavery of racialism. I say racialism because King (and many other spokespersons we are accustomed to think of as black, such as Frederick Douglass and Bob Marley) believed that the problems of racism could not be solved with the language of race. And that people of all colors perpetuated the bad habit of believing that we can peg someone's mindset, or their community, just by their skin color.

King's dream was both moral and political. Peace could not be achieved without social justice. His vision transcended racial matters. As he said after Malcolm X's assassination, "We as a society have not learned to disagree without being violently disagreeable." In the international arena, when he won the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize, King argued that "the crucial political and moral question of our time" was "the need to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to violence and oppression."

That is surely a challenge with global relevance. But in a North American context, this "moral question" could be paraphrased as "the need to overcome racism without resorting to racialism."

Frederick Douglass once described racism as "diseased imagination." If it could not be cured, it could be contained by presenting a more attractive alternative. King, like Douglass, believed that this could only come about by developing forms of identity and community that went beyond "race."

In a 1960 speech called "The Rising Tide of Racial Consciousness," King called racial discrimination a "cancerous disease." Yet more racialism was clearly not the answer, in his view. While pride in one's heritage was a foundation of mental health, basing this pride solely on "race" was counterproductive. "This is an age in which (we are) forced to compete with people of all races and nationalities," King observed. "We cannot aim merely to be good Negro teachers, good Negro doctors, etc. We must set out to do a good job irrespective of race," he stressed.

In an era in which affirmative action has been seen less as a historically necessary corrective, and more as a birthright, many have given up on that ideal. "Color blindness" has become the ideology of conservatives. For progressives, there is the widely shared notion that following King's vision means being naive, or assimilating: giving up, or downplaying, one's cultural heritage.

But this was not what King said. He merely argued that we should at least aim for an ideology other than racialism as what was most important in the way we defined ourselves and other human beings. In the final analysis, we should at least try to make the content of our character more important than the color of our skin.

Many have decided that color has always been more important than character, and always will be. They have embraced a racialism rooted in white supremacist thought. "No justice, no peace," a binary slogan of our times, often voices a rejection of the very possibility of common standards. Rather than a "rainbow coalition," we have "whites" vs. "people of color." Those such as King who spoke across such divisions are put into racial boxes where those outside that box can safely ignore their message.

King's enduring legacy is that neither justice nor peace can be achieved without multi-ethnic coalitions. Only in this context can we imagine the possibility of the Psalmist's words:

"Justice and peace kiss each other Truth shall sprout up from the earth And justice will look down from the heavens."

Los Hispanos Quieren Saber:

¿Donde Estan Los 100,000 Empleos Federales "Faltantes"?

Por Oswaldo Zavala

Persiste la brecha entre el porcentaje de hispanos en la fuerza de trabajo de los Estados Unidos y los empleados por el gobierno federal. Hoy representa un déficit de casi 100,000 empleos que la comunidad hispana ha perdido.

Si el gobierno practicara lo que predica — la igualdad en las oportunidades de empleo — tal es la cifra de cuantos más latinos y latinas estarían trabajando para su Tío Sam.

En su lugar, los hispanos continúan siendo el único grupo importante, racial o étnico, insuficientemente representado en el servicio gubernamental. Los afroamericanos, por ejemplo, componen el 12 por ciento del mercado de trabajo estadounidense, pero ostentan el 17 por ciento de los empleos federales.

Según el informe titulado "Los Hispanos en el Gobierno Federal," publicado sin pompa por la Oficina de Administración de Personal (OPM en inglés) de Estados Unidos en el otoño pasado, había 102,775 hispanos — el 58 por ciento de ellos mujeres — empleados en la burocracia federal en el año fiscal de 1998. Los hispanos representan el 6.4 por ciento de la fuerza de trabajo civil de 1.8 millones.

El informe señala que los hispanos están insuficientemente representados en 28 de los 39 departamentos ejecutivos federales, con 500 o más empleados. Y a pesar de intentos de reclutamiento enfocado, tales como el Programa de Empleos Hispanos (HEP, en inglés) de la OPM, el cisma ha venido aumentando por lo menos durante los últimos 15 años.

Al medirse contra la cifra de todos los empleados federales, los hispanos son en promedio más jóvenes (43.7 contra 45.6 años), reciben menor paga (\$39,144 de

suelo anual contra \$44,886) y tienen menos instrucción (30 por ciento tienen títulos de licenciatura, a comparación del 40 por ciento de otros empleados federales).

En 1985, los hispanos eran el 5.0 por ciento de los empleados federales, comparados con el 7.4 por ciento de la fuerza total de trabajo civil, una diferencia del 2.4 por ciento.

Hacia 1998, los latinos tenían el 6.4 por ciento de los empleos del gobierno federal, pero su representación en el mercado de trabajo de Estados Unidos había aumentado hasta el 10.8 por ciento. De modo que la división se amplió hasta llegar al 4.4 por ciento.

El programa HEP, establecido en 1970, involucra a los administradores que trabajan directamente con todas las dependencias federales y la OPM, específicamente para enfocarse sobre el reclutamiento y la retención de los hispanos.

Muchos departamentos federales sólo hablan de la problemática pero sin actuar, dice Roland Roebuck, administrador del Programa de Empleos para los Hispanos en el Departamento de Servicios Humanos de Washington, D.C. Pero, advierte, "hay falta de valentía por parte de muchos de estos llamados 'defensores.' Estoy harto de la hipocresía y los atractivos informes que salen del gobierno federal diciendo lo bien que le va a los latinos."

Se reconoce que igualar el paso con la población latina que aumenta meteóricamente, mientras el gobierno de Clinton ha estado tratando de recortar a la burocracia, no ha sido fácil.

Pero John Sepúlveda, quien se unió a la OPM como director adjunto hace más de un año, ve al sol brillar entre las nubes. Las directrices más sólidas y las iniciativas lanzadas

durante los años recientes vienen produciendo nuevas estadísticas alentadoras, dice.

Resalta la dedicación y el apoyo del gobierno, señalando que en los meses más recientes la cantidad de hispanos en la fuerza de trabajo gubernamental ha generado 2,000 trabajadores más, y el reclutamiento ha igualado por fin a los porcentajes de la fuerza de trabajo de los Estados Unidos.

"Nos sentimos optimistas de que hemos establecido la infraestructura de programas para alcanzar o sobrepasar la paridad," explica. En 1998, los hispanos representaban el 8.4 por ciento de los nuevos empleados permanentes y el 6.2 por ciento de las pérdidas permanentes.

Sepúlveda reconoce otro problema: La representación hispana en los niveles profesionales más altos. Los latinos conforman sólo el 3.1 por ciento de cerca de 7,000 empleados federales en el Servicio Ejecutivo Superior.

La directora de la OPM, Janice Lachance, tomó una medida inusitada en este mes, cuando rechazó una recomendación del Consejo de Mérito de Estados Unidos sobre descontinuar los métodos especiales de reclutamiento comenzados por orden judicial hace 18 años para establecer comunicación con personas de color. Ella argumentó que los hispanos continúan con un baja representación a todos los niveles del gobierno, y que los afroamericanos están aún en pocas cifras a los niveles superiores.

La única dependencia que sobrepasa el porcentaje de 10.8 por ciento de hispanos en la fuerza conjunta de trabajo civil, es el Departamento de Justicia, con un 12.3 por ciento. Este departamento tiene una gran necesidad de personal de habla hispana dentro de su

rama de inmigración. Más de un tercio — 2,983 — de los trabajadores empleados por la Patrulla Fronteriza, y la cuarta parte — 1,317 — de sus unidades de inspección de inmigración son hispanos.

El departamento que tiene el peor historial es el de Salud y Servicios Humanos (HHS en inglés), que emplea a cerca de 50,000 trabajadores. Sólo el 2.8 por ciento de su personal es latino.

Roebuck escribió hace poco a la secretaria de HHS, Donna Shalala: "Siento una extrema repugnancia por la actitud contra las minorías que está siendo perpetuada por sus gerentes y supervisores en varias administraciones dentro del HHS."

Harry Salinas, presidente del consejo nacional del HEP, sugiere que las organizaciones hispanas pueden y deben ponerse a trabajar al respecto. "Los funcionarios del gobierno necesitan mirar a la diversidad que tienen en sus dependencias," afirma. "Pero las organizaciones hispanas también necesitan asumir la dirigencia. Necesitamos empezar a trabajar juntos."

Ida Castro, presidenta de la Comisión para la Igualdad de las Oportunidades de Empleo (EEOC en inglés), cree que aún cuando el gobierno siga lejos de las cifras deseadas, la administración Clinton está en el camino correcto.

"No hemos logrado la paridad, pero el gobierno está avanzando," dice. Aunque la EEOC ha logrado la paridad en años anteriores, se quedó corta en 1998, con el 10.6 por ciento de sus empleados siendo hispanos.

(Oswaldo Zavala es reportero de Hispanic Link News Service en Washington, D.C.)

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A hen and newborn chicks run underfoot in the dirt yard outside the 25-foot trailer — bought used for \$6000 in 1993 — where Margarita lives with her husband and four children. Nearby are the flowery remains of a recent fiesta, an outdoor altar with a statue of St. Michael, patron of the village from which most residents come.

Bushy yerba santa and guaje plants bloom in yards, brought as seedlings on the long journey from Oaxaca to provide medicinal leaves and familiar flavors. Chile, tomatoes and radishes grow in gardens, despite warnings from farmworker advocates that the ground may be contaminated.

Residents say when it rains, water pools in the dirt street, smells bad and shines unnaturally "with colors." "But you can't keep children out of puddles," says Margarita resignedly.

For years after the dumpsite closed in 1974, kids played there unhindered by even a fence. In 1981, routine health screenings in the area by the Fresno-based Sequoia Community Health Foundation Clinic, found an unusually high incidence of blood in the urine and "a significant number of stillbirths that raised a red flag," recalls Esther Padilla, a social worker then working for the clinic.

Municipal agencies and state officials were alerted, and the EPA stepped in. It reported soil samples from the site contained "significant concentrations of PCBs, lead, copper, zinc, and various volatile organics," and that an "unknown sludge-like substance is oozing from the filled areas" and had entered adjacent property.

No major clean-up ensued, and by 1992 another EPA report listed "contaminants of concern," including benzene, toluene and xylenes, pesticides and arsenic. Meanwhile, Mixtec-speaking Indians were displacing those who had lived in the trailer park in 1982. Communications from authorities to park residents ebbed, then disappeared.

In 1998, advocates for farmworkers and indigenous discovered Las Trailer's history. The lack of action reflects the fact that the residents "are Indians from Mexico with no power or way to effectuate their desires," says Luke Cole, Director of Environmental Justice at the non-profit California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation.

The foundation is seeking to have residents permanently relocated, with EPA paying costs, possibly reimbursed by the companies at fault. Chevron spokesman Edward Spaulding said the company might give \$100,000 toward a permanent relocation — a

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Ben Detwiler hoped to make the world a better place. That hope died when he was killed by a drunk driver.

What should you do to stop a friend from driving drunk?
Whatever you have to.
Friends don't let friends drive drunk.

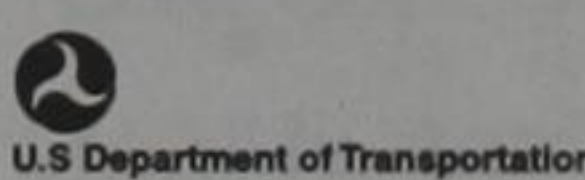


figure Indian advocates dismiss as completely inadequate. For Chevron, Spaulding says, relocation is "part of a broader public policy issue" — whether people should be living there or not — best handled by the County of Fresno.

At Las Trailer's, concern about toxins is mixed with hesitation about leaving at all. The spaces cost about \$150 a month, and many can't afford more for rent.

In addition, big families live in close quarters, a habit which doesn't translate well to town. "My parents can't move because there are nine of us with my grandparents and brothers," said a 21-year-old woman named Olimpia.

CRLA Foundation Fresno field director Ephraim Camacho points out that residents own their own trailers, and prefer to live in a group. "To separate for them is devastating. They are afraid of having to live in an apartment complex, and don't want to mix their kids with gangs."

Rose Marie Caraway, EPA's Remedial Project manager for the Purity site, says the Mixtec want to stay because "There is a predisposition in America to go for home ownership, and that's what they're doing, going for the concept if not the structure." She adds, "And they're living within their means."

Caraway, Spaulding and Fresno county sources say there is no health danger from the Purity site. A partial cement cap is in place, wells which might draw from the underlying aquifer have been shut down, and the toxic materials are "fixed in the soil and don't migrate," in Spaulding's words.

There have been no thorough health studies of the residents of Las Trailer's, but they pay a high emotional cost, wondering just how closely they are connected with the toxins next door. A cancer has destroyed parts of the structure of Olimpia's nose and mouth, and she wears a patch where doctors removed an affected eye.

Near the altar to St. Michael, Olimpia's cousin Sergio, 26, lifted a 2-year-old named Erwin to show the blackened cuticles on his fingers and toes, which he said doctors could not explain. Sergio himself has three fingers where nails have not grown for two years, and a long-standing skin eruption.

Such conditions could have any number of causes, but in a community that feels it has little control over its immediate destiny, Sergio thinks the worst. "What could be causing it but the poisons next door?"

**The Poisons Next Door
Mixtec Indians Find a Home
Near Superfund Site**

BY MARY JO MCCONAHAY, PACIFIC NEWS SERVICE
MALAGA, CA -- Far from home, a tight-knit group of Mixtec Indians has discovered they live alongside a toxic waste dump.

The Indians, fieldhands for hire on harvests up and down the Pacific coast, are caught among bigger players including Chevron Oil, the EPA, and local government agencies.

"We didn't know anything about it when we came," said Margarita, 32. She, like others living in the trailer park community they call "Las Trailer's," does not have proper immigration papers, and asks to be identified by first name only.

Some 50,000 Mixtec have come to live and work on the Pacific coast in recent years, fleeing deforestation that has destroyed their life in Oaxaca. Mixtec Indians are now the backbone of harvests from grapes and melons here in California's Central Valley to Oregon berries. Yet they remain largely invisible, and typically lack the education and civic tools to engage authorities.

"They tell us something and we stand there staring," Margarita said. "We are people of few of the kind of words we need," added a 54-year old neighbor, Silvana.

Las Trailer's consists of some 40 old trailers and ten modest wooden structures in a sparsely populated area two miles south of booming Fresno (pop: 600,000), amid junkyards and a fertilizer plant. Along its southern border is the 7-acre site of the Purity Oil Company, now bankrupt, where Chevron and about 150 other companies and government agencies dumped toxic waste, oily liquids and sludge for 40 years.

Now state property, the EPA first named the dump a Superfund Clean-Up site 17 years ago. Only two years ago, after being sued by the EPA, Chevron — in a secret agreement with other responsible parties — undertook to lead the multi-million dollar clean-up.

That process is now slowed by the need to make decisions about the community. Chevron wants only a few Mixtec families to move temporarily, to make way for cleanup equipment. Advocates say all should be moved. The Mixtec don't want to move far from work connections, or to split up. They have carried an ethic of living together from the close-knit villages they left behind.

Contando Los Costos De La Discriminacion

Por Gregory D. Squires

La discriminación ha costado a las familias afroamericanas y latinas casi \$1.3 billones por concepto de propiedad de viviendas.

Esto significa casi \$66,000 por cada familia afroamericana y poco más de \$59,000 por cada familia latina. No son precisamente algunas monedillas de cambio.

La propiedad de una casa es la mayor inversión y la mayor fuente de acumulación de capital para la mayoría de las familias.

Cuando los obstáculos artificiales, como la discriminación, evitan que las familias compren un hogar o limitan el valor de ese hogar, los costos económicos son graves para los miembros individuales de la familia y el resto de la comunidad de la cual son parte.

La segregación excesiva y la concentración de pobreza son obstáculos ampliamente reconocidos para las personas de color en las ciudades de nuestra nación. Tenemos un estimado de cuán grandes son los obstáculos y de los costos económicos que son absorbidos por las víctimas. Si en algo afectan, estas cifras subestiman los costos verdaderos de la discriminación.

Estos costos fueron calculados del modo siguiente: Primero, del Estudio de Vivienda de 1997 en Estados Unidos, efectuado por el Departamento Federal de Viviendas y Desarrollo Urbano, identificamos el valor promedio de los hogares propiedad de blancos (\$143,292), afroamericanos (\$92,247) y latinos (\$111,790).

Estas cifras fueron multiplicadas por la cantidad de familias que eran propietarias de sus hogares, a fin de determinar el valor total de las propiedades en viviendas de estos tres grupos. Este resultado fue

dividido por la cantidad de todas las familias (no sólo las propietarias de hogares) para determinar la riqueza promedio por familia en forma de viviendas para los blancos (\$107,230), afroamericanos (\$41,654) y latinos (\$47,865).

Al restar el promedio para los afroamericanos del promedio para los blancos, encontramos una diferencia de \$65,576. La diferencia para los latinos es de \$59,365. Los estudios han mostrado constantemente que las preferencias en la vivienda y el deseo de poseer un hogar no varían por raza o etnicidad. En consecuencia, estas diferencias reflejan hasta qué punto la discriminación ha denegado la propiedad y limitado la riqueza por concepto de vivienda para las familias individuales, afroamericanas y latinas.

Al multiplicar estas diferencias individuales familiares en promedio por la cantidad total de familias afroamericanas y latinas, el total asciende a una brecha de \$792,500 millones para la comunidad afroamericana y a \$505,400 millones para los latinos, un gran total de casi \$1.3 billones. Estas cifras representan el punto hasta el cual la discriminación ha suprimido la riqueza en materia de viviendas para estas dos comunidades en los Estados Unidos.

Esto no significa, desde luego, que la discriminación por parte de la industria de la vivienda solamente explique estas disparidades. La capacidad de comprar un hogar depende de la situación económica de una familia (es decir, la ocupación, los ingresos, la clasificación de crédito, la riqueza) lo cual, a su vez, refleja las oportunidades de instrucción anteriores para los miembros de la familia. De modo que las prácticas

discriminatorias en las instituciones de enseñanza, los mercados del trabajo y otros lugares, todas contribuyen a estos resultados.

Pero no se puede eximir de culpa a la industria de la vivienda. En 1989, el Instituto Urbano empleó pruebas apareadas (una técnica en la que compradores blancos y no blancos, igualmente calificados, procuran vivienda o servicios relacionados con la vivienda) para examinar las prácticas referentes a las propiedades inmuebles en 25 zonas metropolitanas. Los afroamericanos y latinos fueron dirigidos hacia propiedades de menores valores; se les mostraron menos viviendas o fueron sometidos a otras formas de discriminación ilegal en más de la mitad de sus tratos con agentes de bienes inmuebles.

En 1992, el Banco de la Reserva Federal de Boston encontró que entre los solicitantes igualmente calificados para préstamos hipotecarios, los afroamericanos fueron rechazados en un 60 por ciento mayor de frecuencia que los blancos.

Y en una investigación acerca de seguros sobre propiedades en nueve ciudades, llevada a cabo entre 1992 y 1994, la Alianza Nacional para la Vivienda Equitativa (NFHA) concluyó en que aproximadamente a la mitad de los afroamericanos y latinos que fueron observados se les ofrecieron productos inferiores y menor cantidad de servicios que a los blancos igualmente calificados, al solicitar pólizas de compañías de las cuales la NFHA sospechaba que practicaban el método de "línea roja," consistente en trazar líneas rojas alrededor de zonas de ciudades pobladas por minorías y no extender pólizas dentro de esos límites.

Cada una de estas prácticas dificulta en mayor medida el que las familias minoritarias puedan comprar hogares y disminuye los valores de esos hogares que dichas familias puedan comprar. En la ausencia de tal discriminación — y del "impuesto" aproximado de \$60,000 de que la misma hace víctimas a las familias no blancas, una familia afroamericana o latina típica podría hoy pagar matrícula completa, alojamiento y comidas, libros y otros gastos afines para que dos chicos se graduaran de una universidad pública local, y todavía les sobraría dinero.

Por \$1.3 billones, más de 9,000,000 de hogares podrían comprarse a razón de \$143,292 cada uno, que es el valor promedio de los poseídos por personas blancas. Un programa de fabricación o compra de hogares en esta escala podría convertir a más de las tres cuartas partes de los 11 millones de familias afroamericanas y latinas, que actualmente arriendan sus viviendas, en propietarias de hogares.

El negar sus derechos a las personas — y su parte equitativa — sencillamente debido a su color, es costoso de muchos modos tangibles. Y estos costos persisten de una generación a otra. La discriminación es el "regalo" que sigue regalando.

(Gregory D. Squires es catadrático de sociología en la Universidad de Wisconsin en Milwaukee, y co-autor (con Sally O'Connor) del libro en colores próximo a publicarse por SUNY Press, titulado 'El Color y el Dinero' (Color and Money).)

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LHCC/COMA Hosts 25th Anniversary Banquet



Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce/COMA held its 25th Anniversary Installation & Awards Banquet this past Saturday at the Holiday Inn Civic Center.

In photo (L-R) Chamber president Robert Dominguez, new Chairwomen Eva Garza and keynote speaker Ramon Rodriguez from the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Photo by John Cervantez

Undocumented Immigrants Fear Responding to Census, Experts Say

By OLIVA P. TALLET HOUSTON, Texas, - The lack of participation by undocumented immigrants in the 2000 Census could affect services and resources offered to the Hispanic community in the United States, the Immigration Research Center of the University of Houston announced on Monday.

In an interview with EFE, the Center's director, Nestor Rodriguez, said that the Census Bureau could experience similar problems to those reported in 1990. Some four million people, mostly minorities and poor people, went unaccounted for in the previous census, the Census Bureau said.

The Center conducted studies on population participation in

the previous census "and discovered that 40 percent of the undocumented immigrants in the area failed to respond to the questionnaire because they either did not speak English or were traveling," Rodriguez explained.

"As a census researcher I have not seen anything convincing done to avoid the same thing happening this time around," the expert said. This could be attributed to the "lack of involvement by Spanish-language media" in spite of the more than 100 million dollars spent by the Census Bureau in publicity campaigns to encourage minority participation.

The federal government has continued on page 4

Counting The Costs Of Discrimination

By Gregory D. Squires

Discrimination has cost African American and Latino households almost \$1.3 trillion in housing assets. This comes to almost \$66,000 for each African American household and just over \$59,000 for each Latino household. Not exactly chump change.

Home ownership is the largest investment, and the major source of capital accumulation, for most families. When artificial barriers, like discrimination, block families from purchasing a house, or limit the value of that house, the financial costs are severe for the individual family members and the larger community of which they are a part.

Hyper-segregation and the concentration of poverty are widely recognized barriers for people of color in our nation's cities. We now have an estimate of just how large the housing barriers are and the financial costs that are incurred by the victims. If anything, these numbers underestimate the true costs of discrimination.

These costs were calculated in the following way. First, from the 1997 American Housing Survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, we identified the average value of homes owned by whites (\$143,292), African Americans (\$92,247) and Latinos (\$111,790).

These figures were multiplied by the number of households that owned their homes to determine total housing assets held by these three groups. This figure was divided by the total number of all households (not just homeowners) to determine the average household wealth in the form of housing assets

for whites (\$107,230), African Americans (\$41,654) and Latinos (\$47,865).

By subtracting the African American average from the white average, we find a difference of \$65,576. The difference for Latinos is \$59,365. Surveys have consistently shown that housing preferences and the desire to own a home do not vary by race or ethnicity. Consequently, these differences reflect the extent to which discrimination has denied homeownership and limited housing wealth for individual African American and Latino households.

Multiplying these individual average household differences by the total number of African American and Latino households yields a \$792.5 billion gap for the African American community and a \$505.4 billion gap for Latinos — a combined total of almost \$1.3 trillion. These figures represent the extent to which discrimination has suppressed housing wealth for these two communities in the United States.

This does not mean, of course, that discrimination by the housing industry alone accounts for these disparities. The ability to purchase a home depends on a family's financial status (e.g. occupation, income, credit rating, wealth), which in turn reflects prior educational opportunities for family members. So discriminatory practices in schooling institutions, labor markets, and elsewhere all contribute to these outcomes.

But the housing industry cannot be let off the hook. In 1989 the Urban Institute used paired testing (a

technique in which equally qualified white and non-white home-seekers seek out housing or housing-related services) to examine real estate practices in 25 metropolitan areas. African American and Latino testers were steered to lower valued properties, shown fewer houses or subjected to other forms of unlawful discrimination in more than half their dealings with real estate agents.

In 1992 the Boston Federal Reserve Bank found that among equally qualified mortgage loan applicants, African Americans were turned down 60 percent more often than whites.

And in a nine-city property insurance investigation carried out between 1992 and 1994, the National Fair Housing Alliance found that approximately half the African American and Latino testers were offered inferior products and less service than similarly qualified whites when applying for a policy with companies it suspected of redlining.

Each of these practices makes it more difficult for minority households to purchase homes and reduces the value of those homes they are able to buy. In the absence of such discrimination — and the roughly \$60,000 "tax" it confers on each non-white household, a typical African American or Latino household today could pay full tuition, room, board, books and related expenses for two kids to graduate from a local public university, and have money left over.

For \$1.3 trillion, more than 9 million homes could be purchased at \$143,292 apiece, the average value of white-owned homes. A building or

training booklet for community leaders, bilingual brochures, posters and other promotional items.

The regional community education campaigns will be directed by MALDEF Census Regional Directors based in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, San Antonio, Washington, DC, and Atlanta. Their outreach efforts will target community-based groups, schools, churches, small businesses, labor and elected officials. At least 2,500 census presentations will be conducted

and hundreds of volunteers recruited. And, over 600 leadership forum kits will be distributed to train 6,000 community leaders.

Partnerships
Counting every single person — and every single Latino — in the United States is a massive effort. To help get the word out to the Latino community MALDEF is partnering with a number of organizations, including: Univision, Telemundo, La Opinion, Congressmember Lucille Roybal-Allard and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, NALEO, PRLDEF, LULAC, and numerous other elected officials.

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- (Look for the Covenant Mobile Clinic unit in United's parking lot.)

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From Page 1

and all kinds of other government services in areas with high concentration of Latinos.

MALDEF's Role in Census Outreach

MALDEF is one of our country's leading civil rights organizations. It has a keen understanding of particular challenges of reaching out to the Latino community — and, a deep concern that Latinos be equitably and fairly counted. That's why it launched **Hágase Contar! Make Yourself Count!** a national outreach effort designed to reduce the undercount of Latinos in Census 2000. The **Hágase Contar!** Campaign officially kicked off on March 30, 1999, with press conferences in 12 cities across the United States.

The Hágase Contar! Make Yourself Count! campaign.

MALDEF's **Hágase Contar! Make Yourself Count!** campaign will use a three-prong approach consisting of 1) a national outreach effort, 2) a strategic and proactive media campaign, and 3) regional community education campaigns

in the Southwest, the Midwest, Texas and the Southeast.

The national campaign will aim to reach 3 million parents through schools and churches and to assist 1 million Spanish-speaking immigrants to complete Census forms at community-based organizations, special service agencies, adult schools and community events. The program will also strive to provide information to 3 million young adults through community organizations, youth centers, sporting events and concerts.

The media campaign will include at least one national and five local public service announcements on both Spanish- and English-language television and radio networks. It will also include the publishing of over 100 articles and opinion editorials in newspapers across the country; the printing and distribution of five Census 2000 newspaper supplements; and the airing of three prime-time hour-long campaign census specials on Spanish-language television. Other key components of the media effort include the production of a 10-minute informational video, a bilingual

Rams Say They'll Be Patient Against Bucs

ST. LOUIS -- The first pile of rhetoric for the NFC Championship Game was shoveled Wednesday by St. Louis Rams coach Dick Vermeil. It smelled a lot like the

"They force you to play a more conservative game," Vermeil said. "They eliminate the big play. They force you into a patient attack. It's not our style of play. If you make a

mouth that no one is buying. True, the Bucs did set a franchise-record -- allowing only 14.7 points per game -- but the defense occasionally collapsed. There was that ugly little 45-0 affair against Oakland on Dec. 19.

The Rams won 14 of their 17 games this year stretching defenses of every type. They aren't going to stop in the face of the Warren Sapp-led Bucs. The two-deep zone allows Tampa Bay defenders to keep everything in front of them. That's the reason safety John Lynch was able to intercept Washington quarterback Brad Johnson last week igniting the Bucs' comeback.

"We're going to let them pick their poison and then we're going to attack and find where they're vulnerable," Rams receiver Az-zahir Hakim said. "I don't think that (conservatism) fits with our offense, with the abilities our players have. We can score from any part of the field. I don't necessarily like to say we're going to be conservative."

Minnesota made the mistake of making the NFC divisional playoff game in St. Louis a shootout. The Rams scored so early and often they cut into local Domino's Pizza profit margins. The St. Louis Domino's outlets offer a dollar off for each

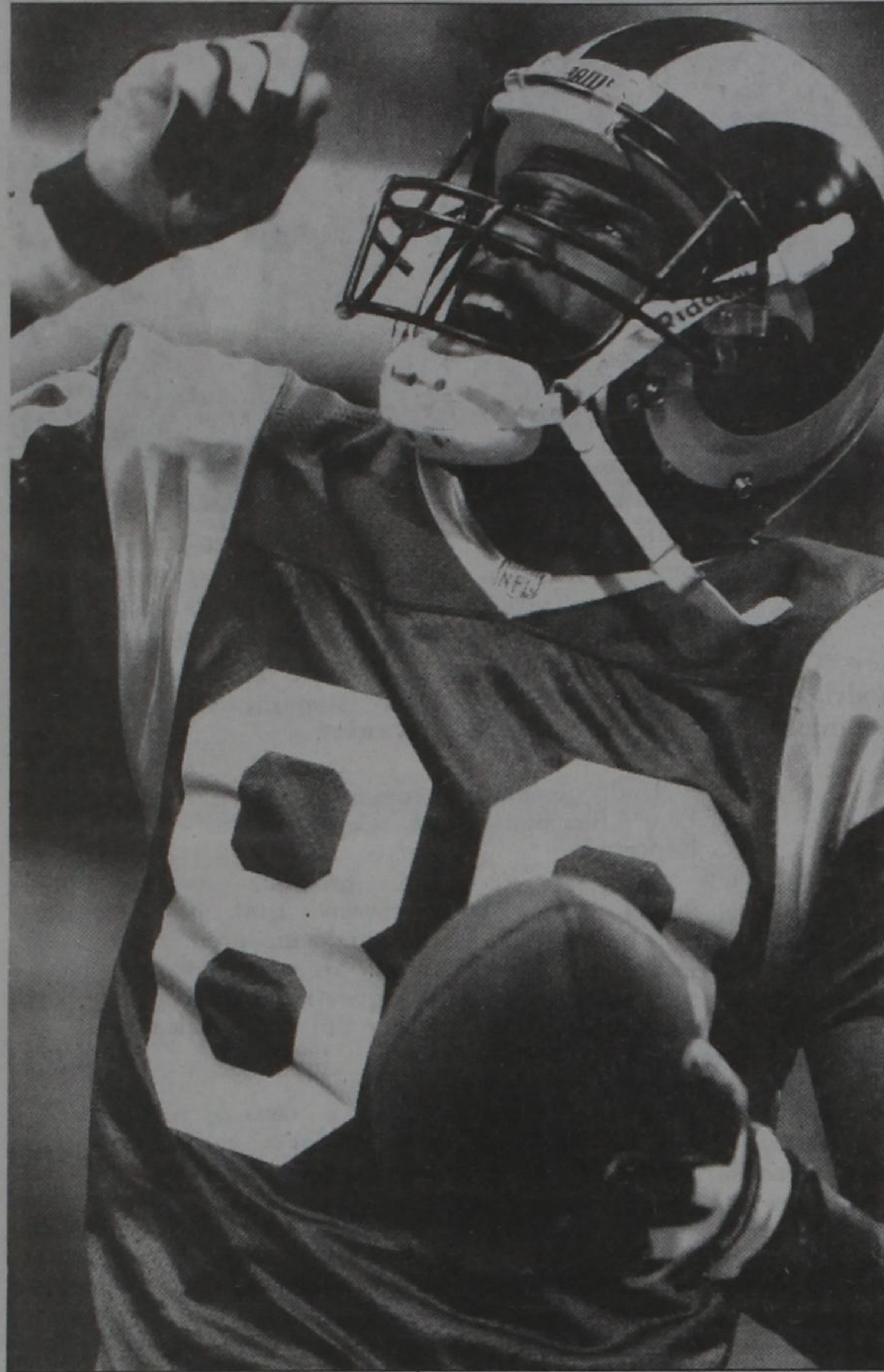
than the Rams Kurt Warner. The new "triplets" -- Warner, running Marshall Faulk and receiver Isaac Bruce -- all made the Pro Bowl.

It was so good that the offense's architect -- offensive coordinator Mike Martz -- was promised Vermeil's job after he retires. It is fast-break football. The Rams probably use more shifting and motion than any NFL team. It's all about getting the ball to the best guys at the best time.

For example, running back Marshall Faulk had only 21 yards Sunday against Minnesota. There was a simple explanation. The Rams couldn't get him the ball because they were scoring so fast. Faulk eventually got 15 touches, scoring on a screen pass that developed into a 41-yard catch and run.

"When we're cooking ... it's impossible (to stop)," tight end Roland Williams said. "I remember back when I was little, watching NFL football. I think the Redskins one year had a pretty good offense. I remember Dallas was good for a while. Oh, and the 49ers of course. Our offense is comparable to anybody."

Actually, it's incomparable. Guys like Williams don't have many historical reference points because the oldest starter on



residue left behind by circus elephants.

The world's most dangerous offense will go conservative Sunday against Tampa Bay, Vermeil said. The Buccaneers defense is that good, Vermeil said. The Rams can't automatically chuck it downfield the way they have against the rest of the league, Vermeil said.

Cue the pachyderms? If Vermeil were bluffing about putting the shackles on his offense, it wouldn't be the first time an NFL coach had tried to get the edge prior to a championship game. The two outstanding features of Sunday's game are the Rams' No. 1 offense and the Bucs' No. 3 defense.

Early on, Vermeil is sounding like he'll submit. He made the Bucs cover two deep-zone defense seem like it could stop Patton.

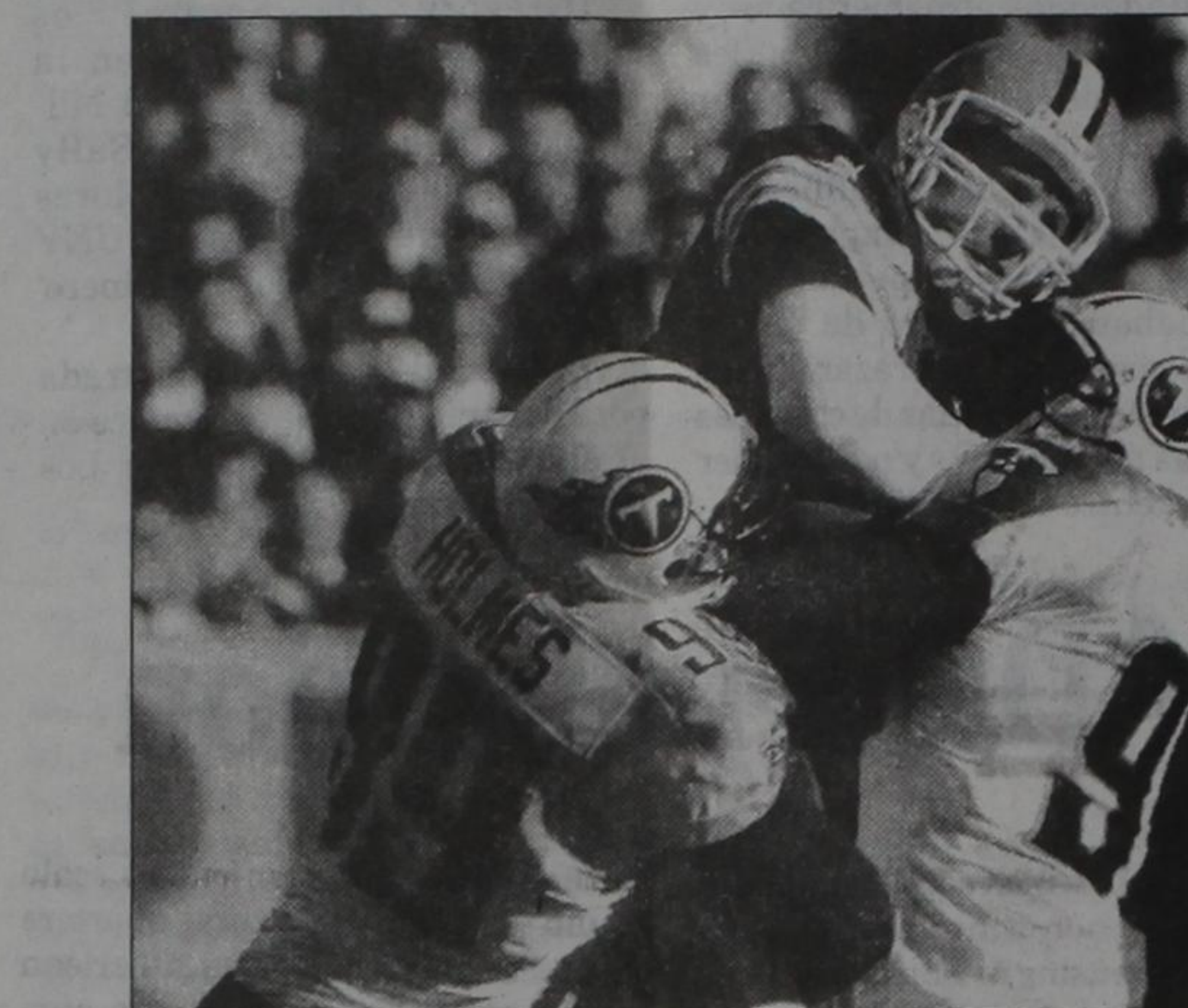
mistake and try to be as aggressive as we have, it could explode in your face."

True, Tampa Bay has allowed only eight rushing touchdowns. But the Rams' Marshall Faulk has scored seven by himself. The Bucs' defense has given up 11 passing touchdowns. Isaac Bruce has 12 for the Rams.

Tampa Bay won four games despite turning the ball over more than the opponent. Against Kansas City, the Bucs coughed it up six times and still won.

"Their defense almost says, 'All right offense, turn it over we'll still shut them down,'" Vermeil said. "It won't be the kind of game we played last week against Minnesota. We anticipated an explosive game last week. We anticipated being able to attack. This week, it's not our style."

It adds up to a form of poor



Rams touchdown. That meant a medium cheese that sells for \$7.99 went for 99 cents on Sunday.

The St. Louis offense is simply one of the best offenses in league history. Only the 1998 Vikings and '83 Redskins have scored more points in a season. The Rams scored at least 30 points in 12 games, breaking the record (11) jointly held by those Minnesota and Washington teams.

Only Dan Marino threw more touchdown passes in a season

offense is 28. New century, new offense, old ploys by Vermeil.

"You've got to be very careful," Vermeil said. "You don't want to play into their hands. You've got to be very, very intelligent about your approach."

Sapp is the emotional leader of the entire team. His 1212 sacks were No. 4 in the NFC. Linebacker Derrick Brooks made 180 tackles. Lynch is one of those head-hunting safeties. Cornerback Donnie Abraham

Continued on Page 5

Noticias Breves

Trabajadores Agrícolas Piden Fecha Oficial Para Cesar Chavez

Los Angeles, - Grupos de trabajadores agrícolas lanzaron el viernes en varias ciudades de California una campaña para recolectar firmas en apoyo a una propuesta de ley que oficialice el 31 de marzo como el Día de César Chávez.

En esa fecha se conmemora el nacimiento de Chávez, que logró una serie de beneficios para los campesinos estadounidenses, especialmente los de California.

Miembros del Sindicato de Trabajadores Agrícolas (UFW), que fundó Chávez en los años sesenta, planean aumentar las 20,000 firmas de apoyo que ya ha recibido en los últimos meses una propuesta que en la actualidad analizan los legisladores estatales.

El autor de la propuesta de ley es el senador estatal Richard Polanco, quien encabeza en Los Angeles una movilización de trabajadores agrícolas.

Polanco busca que los legisladores respalden su medida, que será presentada a la legislatura de California la próxima semana.

En la localidad de Escondido el dirigente Josué Veceril dijo que este año los campesinos pueden conseguir una doble reivindicación, porque se haría oficial el Día de César Chávez y asimismo sería aprobada la misma iniciativa que vetó el exgobernador Peter Wilson en 1993, el mismo año en que murió el líder hispano.

El sindicato AFL-CIO del condado Imperial presentó un documento en que opina que "el presupuesto del estado no debe ser un impedimento cuando se trata de reconocer a César Chávez".

En la movilización a nivel estatal participan entre otros los comités de UFW en Visalia, Fresno, Madera, Prundale, Los Angeles, los condados de San Diego e Imperial y de Sacramento.

Chavez nació en 1927 en Yuma, Arizona, e inició la movilización pacífica de los campesinos en California, donde murió el 23 de abril de 1993.

Patrulla Fronteriza Lanza Nueva Ofensiva Contra Indocumentados

Douglas - La Patrulla Fronteriza ha emprendido la llamada "Operación Salvaguarda Cochise", con un refuerzo de 110 agentes en Douglas (Arizona), para atajar el paso de inmigrantes indocumentados hacia EEUU.

El portavoz de la Patrulla Fronteriza en Arizona, Rob Daniels, dijo a EFE que la operación tiene como objetivo frenar el creciente flujo de indocumentados que se ha registrado en la zona en los últimos días.

En lo que va de año, los agentes han detenido en Douglas -una ciudad de 17,000 habitantes- a unos 11,577 indocumentados, 5,222 más que el año pasado en el mismo período.

El número total de detenidos en toda la línea divisoria con México supera los 21,000, según el portavoz.

Daniels señaló que sólo el jueves último los agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza detuvieron a 2,902 inmigrantes indocumentados, la mitad de ellos en las cercanías de Douglas.

Con la llegada de los 110 agentes, procedentes de San Diego, San Clemente y el estado de Washington, la Patrulla Fronteriza en Douglas contará con un total de 400 agentes, mientras que en el sector de Tucson hay más de 1,300, dijo Daniels.

Los nuevos agentes designados a Douglas permanecerán en esta ciudad entre cuatro y seis semanas, para fortalecer la vigilancia en un punto que se ha convertido en el lugar predilecto de los indocumentados desde hace dos años.

Las autoridades esperan que con la "Operación Salvaguarda Cochise" se disminuya el tráfico de indocumentados en la zona, tal como ha sucedido en Nogales, San Diego y El Paso, dijo.

"Aunque desconocemos en cuánto tiempo, todo depende de la reacción de los 'coyotes' (guías de indocumentados)", agregó el portavoz.

Daniels predijo que con los retenes ubicados en forma estratégica en la frontera, el mayor número de agentes, dos nuevos helicópteros y equipo de alta tecnología, los extranjeros indocumentados desistirán de sus intentos por entrar a Estados Unidos.

Dijo que agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza sobrevuelan, con dos helicópteros, las 24 horas del día en toda la zona de Douglas para detectar a los grupos de indocumentados.

El incesante tráfico de estas personas tiene preocupados a los gobiernos locales de Douglas y de la ciudad mexicana de Aguaprieta en la frontera, ya que consideran que pone en peligro la seguridad pública en la zona.

El alcalde de Aguaprieta, Vicente Terán, dijo que uno de los problemas es que la mayoría de los indocumentados detenidos permanecen en la zona fronteriza con la intención de reingresar a EEUU.

La "Operación Salvaguarda Cochise" forma parte de la estrategia iniciada en 1994 contra la inmigración ilegal en la frontera entre México y Estados Unidos.

George López, jefe de la Patrulla Fronteriza, declaró que en abril llegarán otros 83 agentes a la zona.

Notas: McDonald's Rendirá Tributo a la Cultura Hispana

Miami, - La cadena estadounidense de comida rápida McDonald's rendirá un tributo a la cultura hispana con la campaña "Motivos de legítimo orgullo", que será lanzada hoy en los Estados Unidos.

El vicepresidente de comercialización de McDonald's, Larry Swain, informó que la campaña comenzará con un especial de televisión donde estarán presentes el cantante puertorriqueño Ricky Martin, la actriz mexicana Salma Hayek y el actor español Antonio Banderas.

El especial, que será transmitido por la cadena hispana de televisión "Telemundo", tiene por título "Lo máximo del espíritu latino" y rinde tributo a los nuevos artistas hispanos que se han impuesto como figuras importantes en música, cine, deportes, televisión y artes.

El programa también le hace un reconocimiento a las leyendas hispanas que "allanaron el camino a todas estas superestrellas nuevas, entre ellos Carlos Santana, Ricardo Montalban y Desi Arnaz".

La campaña incluye una serie de comerciales de televisión que presentan las contribuciones de los hispanos al mundo en general, que serán transmitidas a través de cadenas hispanas de televisión como Galavisión, Univisión y Telemundo.

Otros programas que forman parte de la iniciativa de McDonald's son un sitio bilingüe en la Internet, que será inaugurado hoy, donde se publicarán las biografías de hispanos que han realizado contribuciones significativas; un calendario de eventos; deportes e información sobre becas y noticias de la compañía.

También la "Noche McDonald's de Carnaval", un evento que constituye el lanzamiento de las festividades del carnaval de Miami y de la famosa calle Ocho, que es el mayor concierto hispano que presentará EEUU el 4 de marzo de este año.

Asimismo, un certamen de música latina, mediante el cual se busca apoyar a los cantantes y compositores que "serán motivos futuros de orgullo".

Blacks, Latinos Account For More Than Half of U.S. Aids Cases

ATLANTA, January 14, 2000
More than half of the gay men and bisexual men diagnosed with AIDS in the United States in 1998 were either African-American or Hispanic, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The Atlanta-based CDC reported Thursday that the number of white men diagnosed with AIDS in 1998 showed the greatest decline. Blacks accounted for 33

Continued Page 5

From Page 3

also appropriated funds to hire bilingual enumerators that will visit those homes that failed to send the questionnaire by mail. Among the questions asked by the Census are annual household income, number of people living in each home, their age and level of education, among other socio-economic factors. The Census Bureau said that the data gathered will not be shared with any other government agency, however, this has not reassured many undocumented immigrants who believe they will be deported as a result of it.

To get Hispanics to participate and be counted, Rodriguez suggested "working with all local and neighborhood leaders. Not only those in politics, but all of them, including church preachers."

The census, conducted every 10 years as required by the U.S. Constitution, delimits electoral districts according to population density and determines the distribution of 180 billion dollars in federal funds for social programs.

According to Rodriguez, this

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From Page 4

... tied for the league lead with seven interceptions.

"I know people may think that St. Louis will beat them handily," Tennessee coach Jeff Fisher told reporters this week, "but with Tampa Bay's defense, don't count on it."

More coachspeak. It's obvious the game faces are on. Late last year Sapp referred to Vermeil as

last meeting, Jacksonville made stopping Eddie George a priority, so McNair beat them with a career-high five touchdown passes. The Titans can't expect the same pass defense Sunday, so McNair has to be disciplined enough to not force the ball into double coverage. He can also be a dangerous runner, which is the main reason he is the starter over Neil O'Donnell. Left tackle

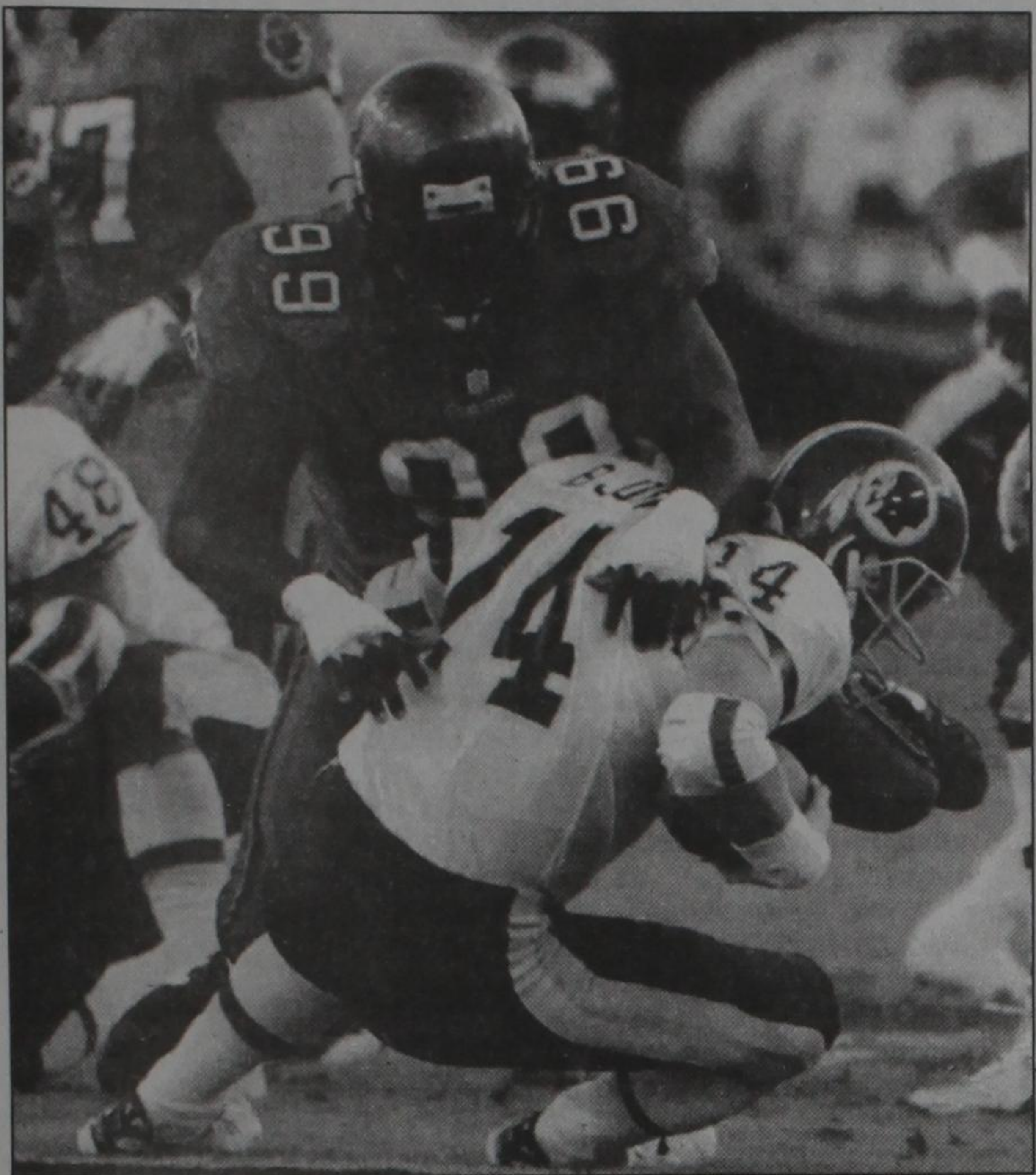
offensive touchdown in each. Kevin Hardy is a better linebacker than anyone the Colts tried to use on George, who rushed 26 times for 162 yards against Indianapolis. Using a linebacker to spy on McNair will prevent the Titans QB from breaking loose for a long gain on a quarterback draw.

**WHEN THE JAGUARS HAVE THE BALL
Tennessee Defense Jacksonville Defense**

DE Jevon Kearse gets most of the attention and deservedly so, but the Titans are not a one-man defense. If Jaguars QB Mark Brunell tries to throw swing passes to RBs Fred Taylor or James Stewart, he'll have to deal with Titans CB Donald Mitchell. Mitchell marked Colts running back Edgerrin James and held him to one eight-yard catch. If the Jaguars give too much attention to Kearse, as the Colts did, fellow lineman Kenny Holmes could be in for another big game. Brunell is a precision passer, but so is Peyton Manning. Manning completed 62 percent of his passes in the regular season. He wasn't sacked once in the playoff game, but he finished several plays on the ground and completed only 44 percent of his passes.

Fred Taylor set a playoff record with a 90-yard TD run against Miami. (AP)

The Jaguars are difficult to defend because they are so versatile. Taylor has the breakaway speed, and Stewart is the power runner inside. Brunell is staying in the pocket more, but if his left knee heals he'll still be quick enough to step up and avoid the rush. He likes to distribute the ball. Keenan McCardell is his intermediate target. Jimmy Smith goes long, but he also piles up the 15-yard catches on



a "recycled" coach. When reminded of that quote Wednesday, Vermeil could have opened up the offensive.

Surprise! Vermeil stayed conservative.

"There are times I feel like he's right," Vermeil said. "I broadcast a lot of Warren Sapp's

Brad Hopkins vs. defensive end Tony Brackens is the key matchup on the line. Hopkins will have to win that battle with his feet because Brackens is quick and he will not beat Brackens by leaning on him.

This much is obvious. They have to study the film of their



THE BOTTOM LINE

yards on five punts. Like the offense, the special teams are precise if not spectacular (excluding the lateral/kick return to win a playoff game against Buffalo, of course). If the game is as close as expected, field position will determine the winner. Derrick Mason returned a kick 47 yards against the Colts and three punts for 49 yards. The Jaguars have to find somebody who can cover Mason on kick and punt returns, otherwise they might lose their fourth consecutive game to Tennessee. He returned a punt for a touchdown in the last meeting, and his long return set up the Titans' only offensive touchdown against Buffalo in the wild-card game. Mike Hollis missed a 39-yard field-goal attempt against the Dolphins. Of course, it didn't matter, but that probably won't be the case Sunday. He'll have to make every kick count in what figures to be a very close game.

INTANGIBLES

Tennessee Jacksonville
The Titans have proven they can beat the Jaguars and they have proven they can win in Jacksonville. Nothing seems to bother this team. They're in another game they're not supposed to win. It should be close, and they have proven two consecutive weeks they can win close games. Yes, Jacksonville won its playoff game 62-7 over Miami, but the Dolphins were barely a .500 team in the regular season. Tennessee is 4-0 against the teams with the league

-- St. Louis (24-21), Jacksonville (20-19, 41-14) and now the Colts (19-16). No other team in the NFL can make that boast. The Jaguars can smell the Super Bowl now. They showed against the Dolphins what they can do when they truly focus. But how important is it that the Jags were already beaten twice by Tennessee this season? How true is it that it is difficult to beat the same team three times in one season? We're about to find out. In 1986, the Giants beat Washington 27-20 and 24-14 in the regular season. They then beat the Redskins 17-0 in the NFC Championship Game and went on to win the Super Bowl. In other words, if the Jags are counting on the third time being a charm, they better come up with a new strategy.

From Page 4

percent of new AIDS cases among homosexual or bisexual men, while Hispanics made up 18 percent and white men, 48 percent.

"The rate of AIDS cases among African-American men who have sex with men is now almost five times higher than that among their white counterparts, and the rate among Latino men is twice as high as among white men," said Dr. Helene Gayle, director of the CDC National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention.

The disproportion could be the result of limited access to AIDS prevention programs offered in the African-American

and Hispanic communities. The stigma attached to AIDS can also make it difficult to find help. A CDC survey of 8,700 AIDS patients revealed that 24 percent of African-Americans and 15 percent of Hispanics said they had bisexual relations, while 6 percent of the white patients said they were bisexual. The CDC report also noted that blacks and Hispanics tend to contract HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, at an earlier age than whites, leading CDC officials recommended that AIDS prevention efforts be geared toward the African-American and Hispanic communities.



games. I told the audience, 'This is the best football player I've seen at that position in a long time.' He's a character. He might be right. I hope he's not right Sunday."

TENNESSEE at JACKSONVILLE

After all the talk about the dominance of the AFC East, only Jacksonville and Tennessee are left standing, two Central teams under appreciated for perceived weak schedules this season. And they reached the AFC Championship Game by defeating Miami and Indianapolis, the two strongest East teams at midseason. So there's little doubt the AFC will be sending its most worthy representative to Atlanta. Jacksonville is coming off the most dominating performance of the season in its 62-7 pasting of Miami last weekend, but has suffered its only two losses against the Titans. Tennessee won a 20-19 rain-soaked affair in Jacksonville in Week 3 and routed the Jaguars 41-14 at Adelphia Coliseum on Dec. 26.

WHEN THE TITANS HAVE THE BALL

Tennessee Offense Jacksonville Defense

Steve McNair can beat you through the air or on the ground. (AP)

Steve McNair will be the most important player on the field for the Titans. It sounds clichéd, but he has to take what the Jaguars give him. In the

41-14 loss to Tennessee on Dec. 26 and make sure whatever they did, they don't do again. The Jaguars surrendered five touchdown passes to McNair, who except for that game, has been a mediocre passer. It is essential the Jags shut down George. They can do that by stuffing eight men in the box. It will be tempting to do otherwise, because stuffing the box dares McNair to beat them, but Tennessee has won two playoff games by scoring one

the sideline. A key player for the Jaguars will be TE Kyle Brady. Brady can go the entire game without a catch, but if he helps to keep Kearse out of Brunell's face, he'll have done his job.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Tennessee Jacksonville
If the AFC championship comes down to special teams, as it might, the edge belongs to Tennessee. Kicker Al Del Greco was 4-of-4 against the Colts. Craig Hentrich averaged 52

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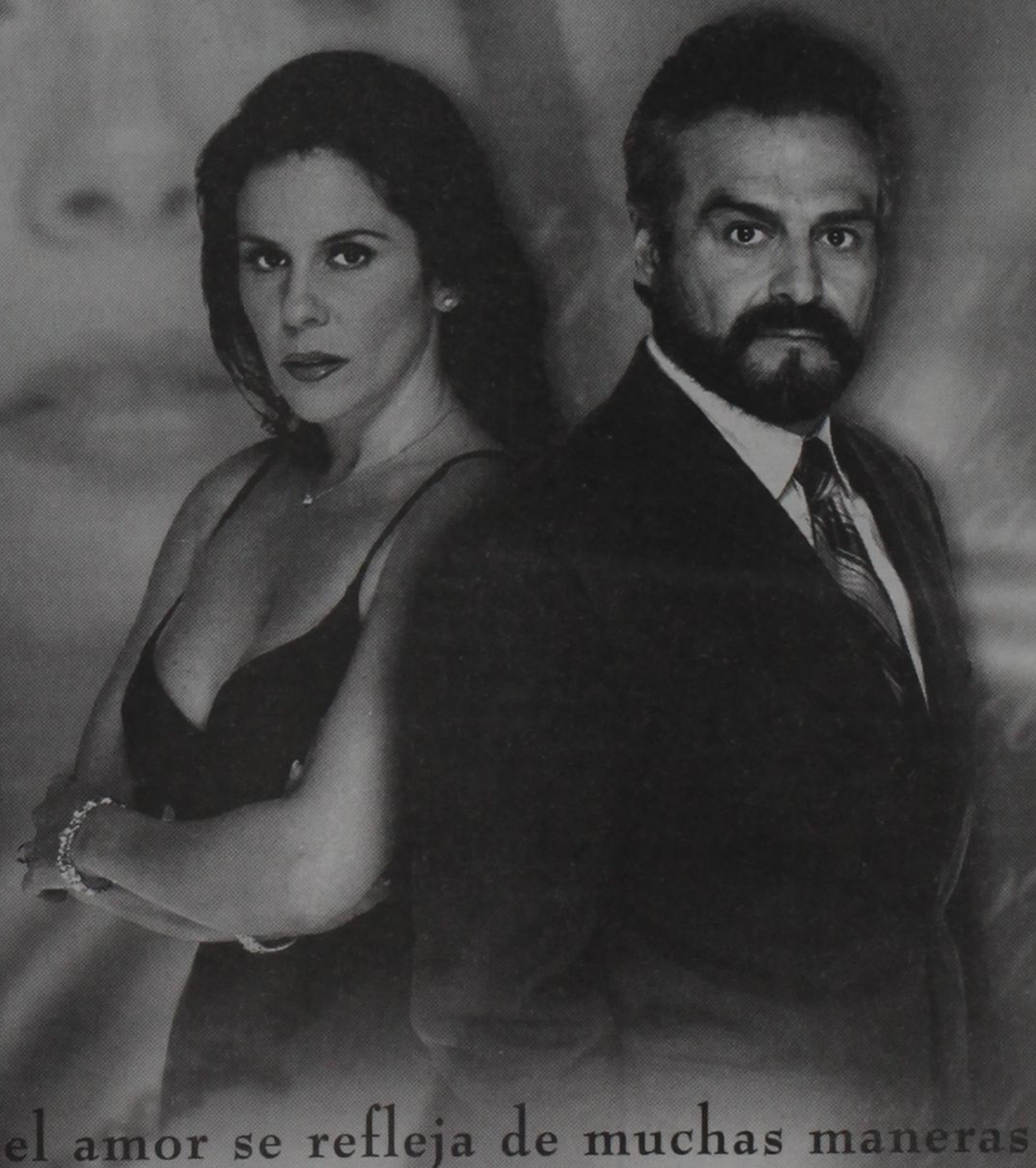
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An Open Letter To Elian Gonzalez

By Anthony M. Stevens Arroyo

Dear Elián:
I don't know if you will ever read these words of mine, but I write them because you should know that you are loved by millions of Latino people in the United States.

We are not involved in all the arguments that the people in the dark suits are making before judges and politicians. And even though we are not Cuban like you, we do understand the Spanish words "amigo," "amor" and "familia."

All of us want you to be able to go to school, to play with friends and to go to sleep at night with a smile on your face.

We hope that you will not be taken to Washington by the people who want to be in pictures with you, even though they do not know you.

Beware of strangers!
We don't want you to have to say that you don't love your popi or your tíos or your abuelos.

Little boys like you should be able to love everyone.

Elián, don't be afraid to grow up without lots of fancy toys or color television. We Latinos have children just like you who don't have these things. And we know that you would give anything to have your momi back rather than all those gifts. We know that having your family near you is more important than all the money in the world.

If you were a little boy from Mexico or Guatemala, Elián, you would have been at home with your popi and your abuelas already. But because you are from Cuba, you are being treated as if you were different from the rest of us.

Some people would say that it is good; some would say it is bad.

We just wish that you could live in a place where all boys and girls are treated the same, no matter what country they come from or the color of their skin, the language that



Gloria Estefan Expresa Preocupacion Por Situacion Elian Gonzalez

Los Angeles - La cantante Gloria Stefan, ganadora del premio al mérito artístico durante los galardones "American Music", tuvo palabras de recuerdo para el pequeño Elián González, objeto de disputa entre Cuba y Estados Unidos.

La artista de origen cubano compartió su preocupación y sus rezos por este niño de seis años, rescatado el pasado 25 de noviembre de una balsa procedente de Cuba, en una travesía en la que su madre perdió la vida.

"Cada vez que veo su cara siento que está en una posición difícil... No creo que nadie salga ganando", afirmó la cantante en referencia a las reclamaciones de custodia del padre del niño, en Cuba, y de otros familiares, en Estados Unidos.

Su opinión fue compartida por el actor Andy García, también presente en la entrega de



GLORIA ESTEFAN

premios musicales y preocupado por un niño con el que comparte el mismo país de origen.

"La verdadera tragedia es que tuviera que huir en una balsa", declaró García, que llegó a Estados Unidos cuando tenía la misma edad que el pequeño González.

El niño ha recibido muestras de apoyo en diversas localidades estadounidenses, incluida Los Angeles, mientras en Cuba son continuas las protestas reclamando la devolución de Elián a su padre.

Innovative Anti-Cancer Method Gets U.S. Government Funding

Washington, - For the first time in the history of the United States, a doctor using unconventional methods to treat cancer - coffee enemas and up to 160 pills a day - has obtained federal funding to prove the validity of his treatment.

Dr. Nicholas J. Gonzalez, a practicing physician in New York, received a grant of 1.4 million dollars from the alternative medicine division of the National Institute of Health.

Although many specialists believe that his treatment is a fraud, the federal National Cancer Institute decided to take Gonzalez seriously after noting that survival rates among his pancreatic cancer patients are higher than among those receiving conventional treatment.

Pancreatic cancer is highly destructive and patients rarely survive for more than five months after it is diagnosed.

Gonzalez's method comprises coffee enemas, a rigorous diet and 160 pills and vitamins a day. He maintains that his treatment, based on "metabolic

therapy," works.

According to his studies, the survival rate of his pancreatic cancer patients virtually doubles that of patients undergoing conventional treatment.

In his search for funds, Gonzalez was endorsed by Rep. Dan Burton (Rep.-IN), whose wife received alternative medical treatment for breast cancer some years ago.

But according to The Washington Post's Tuesday edition, a New York jury ruled in 1997 that Gonzalez had treated a uterus cancer patient incompetently, causing her to become temporarily blind and to suffer bone marrow damage.

The woman, Julianne Charell, demanded 4.8 million dollars in compensation.

One of the most controversial aspects of Gonzalez's treatment is the "hair analysis," performed by him to assess the "total cancer ratio."

The test is performed by technicians, who maintain that this is an FDA-approved British method. However, U.S. Food and

PENSAMIENTOS DEL PREDICADOR
Por Pastor: Frank García
Lubbock, Texas



NO TODO EL QUE ME DICE: SEÑOR, SEÑOR, ENTRARÁ EN EL REINO DE LOS CIELOS: MAS EL QUE HICIERE LA VOLUNTAD DE MI PADRE QUE ESTÁ EN LOS CIELOS. MATEO 7:21.

DOS CLASES DE OYENTES CRISTIANOS

Nuestro Señor Jesucristo terminó el sermón del monte con una aplicación que penetra hasta lo más íntimo de la conciencia. Después de hablar de los falsos maestros, ahora pasa a tratar de los falsos discípulos. Y la primera lección que del pasaje se desprende es que una mera confesión externa del cristianismo es inútil. Pues hace claro, que "no todo el que diga Señor, Señor," entrará en el reino de los cielos. Parece ser que no todos los que profesen ser cristianos se salvarán. Pues para que una alma se salve se requiere mucho más que lo que comúnmente se cree. Bien que hayamos sido bautizados en el nombre de Cristo; bien que poseamos un conocimiento científico de las doctrinas religiosas, y que tal vez seámos maestros de nuestros semejantes. Mas ¿hacemos la voluntad de nuestro Padre celestial? ¿Nos hemos arrepentido verdaderamente? ¿Hemos puesto nuestra voluntad en la voluntad de Dios? Como nos dice el Sal. 91:14, "Por cuanto en mí ha puesto su voluntad, yo también lo libraré: pondrélo en alto, por cuanto a conocido mi nombre" (versión Antigua) Es que no se puede servir a Dios y seguir haciendo nuestra propia voluntad, y no podemos hacer la voluntad de Dios sin dejar la de nosotros. Pues hay que dejar una cosa para tener la otra. En este asunto no se puede chiflar y comer pinole a la misma vez. Hay que dejar nuestra voluntad para hacer la voluntad de Dios. Es lo que nos enseña la Palabra de Dios. Mire: lo que dijo el Señor en el Gethsemani: "Padre mío, si puede este vaso pasar de mí sin que yo lo beba, hágase tu voluntad." Mt. 26:42. ¿Nos hemos arrepentido verdaderamente? ¿Cremos con sinceridad, y llevamos una vida humilde y santa? Si así no fuere, apesar de todas las oportunidades que el Señor nos ha dado, dejaremos de entrar en el reino de los cielos, y oiremos las terribles palabras "Nunca os conocí." Pues el día del juicio revelarán cosas muy extrañas. En seguida: el Señor nos presenta un cuadro de dos clases de oyentes cristianos. El que oye los preceptos del cristianismo y los practica, es como el hombre prudente que edificó su casa sobre una roca. Se arrepiente y lleva a una vida santa. Oye y ejecuta. Santiago 1:22. Y ¿Qué resulta ahí? Que a la hora de la prueba su religión no lo abandona. Acaso las enfermedades, las pruebas, la pobreza, los desengaños y todo lo que venga sobre él, así como otras muchas tempestades; mas su alma gozará de calma y de consuelo. Puede haberle costado muchos sufrimientos y muchas lágrimas en echar los cimientos de la fe, mas su trabajo no ha sido en balde. Pues ahora cosecha los frutos, pues la religión que puede hacer frente a todos los contratiempos es la verdadera religión. Por otra parte, el que oye los preceptos cristianos y no los practica es como el hombre insensato que construyó su casa sobre la arena. Pues se contenta con oír y aprobar, pero no da un paso hacia adelante. Nunca se aparta del pecado, ni rompe los lazos que lo ligan al mundo. Nunca se allega a Cristo no toma sobre sí la cruz. Pues todo lo que hace es oír la verdad... ¡CUIDADO!

Drug Administration officials denied that this method had ever been approved, noting that assessing the cancer ratio in the body through a hair test "sounded too good to be true."

Nevertheless, the interest expressed by both the National Cancer Institute and the National Institute of Health in the effectiveness of this atypical method shows that alternative medicine is gaining ground in the United States.

Dr. Gonzalez conducted a thorough study of the evolution of his patients and submitted his findings to a supervisory committee, whose results were published in "Nutrition and Cancer" magazine.

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Carta Abierta A Elian Gonzalez

Por Anthony M. Stevens-Arroyo

Querido Elián:
No sé si leerás alguna vez estas palabras mías, pero las escribo porque tú deberías saber que millones de latinos en Estados Unidos te amamos. No estamos involucrados en todos los argumentos que están haciendo personas importantes con trajes oscuros ante jueces y políticos. Y aún cuando no seamos cubanos, como tú, sí entendemos las palabras españolas "amigo," "amor" y "familia."

Todos nosotros queremos que tú puedas ir a la escuela, jugar con tus amigos, e irte a dormir por la noche con una sonrisa en tu cara. Esperamos que no seas llevado a Washington por las personas importantes que quieren ser retratados contigo, aún cuando no te conozcan.

¡Ten cuidado con los extraños!
No queremos que tengas que decir que no quieres a tu papi, o a tus tíos o a tus abuelos.

Los niños como tú deberían ser capaces de querer a todo el mundo.

Elián: No tengas miedo de crecer sin muchos juguetes de fantasía, o sin un televisor a colores. Nosotros, los latinos, tenemos niños como tú que no tienen estas cosas. Y sabemos que tú darías cualquier cosa por tener ahora a tu mami, mejor que todos esos regalos. Sabemos que el tener a tu familia cerca de tí es más importante que todo el dinero del mundo.

Si tú fueras un niño de México, o de Guatemala, Elián, ya habrías estado en tu casa con tu papi y tus abuelos. Pero debido a que eres de Cuba, estás siendo tratado como si fueras diferente que el resto de nosotros. Algunas personas dirían que eso es bueno; algunas dirían que es malo.

Nosotros sólo deseamos que tú pudieras vivir en un lugar donde todos los niños y las niñas sean tratados de igual modo, sin que importara de qué país hayan venido, ni el color de su piel, ni el idioma que hablen o lo que ellos quieran decir.

Muchos de nosotros, tus primos latinos, hemos recibido visitas de hombres importantes con trajes oscuros: Algunas veces ellos se han llevado a las madres y los padres lejos de sus hijos. Ninguno de nosotros puede prometerte que todo resultará en lo mejor.

Elián: No dejes que nos has ayudado a todos nosotros a comprender cuán precioso es tener amigos, amor y familia.

Gracias, Elián.
Queda tuyo sinceramente tu amigo,
Antonio.

(El Dr. Antonio M. Stevens-Arroyo, que fué anteriormente vice-presidente del Comité del Estado de Nueva York para la Comisión de Estados Unidos sobre Derechos Civiles, es catedrático de Estudios Puertorriqueños y Latinos en la Escuela Superior de Brooklyn, Universidad Municipal de Nueva York y director de la Oficina de Investigación para la Religión en la Sociedad y la Cultura (RISC). Su correo electrónico es: stevens(AT SIGN)brooklyn.cuny.edu)

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This recipe is intended to be part of an overall healthful eating plan. Total fat intake should be less than 30 percent of your total calories for a day — not for each food or recipe.

Mesquite-Grilled Red Snapper
with Gingered Black Bean Salsa

Salsa	2 to 3 cloves garlic, minced, or 1 to 1 1/2 teaspoons bottled minced garlic
Vegetable oil spray	1 15-ounce can black beans, rinsed and drained, reserving 3 tablespoons liquid
1/4 cup chopped onion	1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup chopped carrot	1 medium tomato, seeded and chopped
1 to 2 jalapeño peppers, chopped*	1 pound red snapper fillets (about 1/2 inch thick)
2 tablespoons peeled and finely chopped gingerroot	

At least 1 hour before cooking, soak 4 to 6 mesquite wood chunks in enough water to cover. Lightly spray grill rack with vegetable oil spray. Set aside. Prepare grill.
For salsa, spray a medium saucepan with vegetable oil spray. Cook onion, carrot, jalapeño peppers, gingerroot, and garlic over medium-low heat for about 5 minutes, or until onion is tender.
Stir black beans, reserved bean liquid, and salt into onion mixture. Cook over medium-low heat about 1 to 2 minutes, or until heated through. Stir in tomato.
Meanwhile, drain wood chunks directly on medium-hot coals. Rinse fish and pat dry with paper towels. Place fish on prepared rack. Grill on an uncovered grill directly over medium-hot coals for 5 minutes. Turn and grill for 5 to 7 minutes, or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork. Place fish on serving plates. Serve with salsa.
Serves 4.

*Hot chili peppers contain oils that can burn your skin, lips, and eyes. Wear rubber gloves or wash your hands thoroughly with warm, soapy water immediately after handling peppers.

Nutrient Analysis per Serving

232 kcal	60 mg	0 gm
Calories	Cholesterol	Saturated Fat
29 gm	455 mg	1 gm
Protein	Sodium	Polysaturated Fat
25 gm	2 gm	0 gm
Carbohydrate	Total Fat	Monounsaturated Fat

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