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Lubbock, TX USA

Bush Tax Cuts Leaves Behind Millions of Hispanic Children

By Fresia Rodríguez Cadavid

Nine out of 10 Latino children will gain nothing from the \$330 billion tax cut package approved by Congress on May 23, according to a study released by the Children's Defense Fund. CDF based its findings on the Census Bureau's March 2002 Current Population Survey.

Ninety-six percent of the package -- \$318 billion -- will go, over the next 10 years, to cuts on dividends, while 4 percent -- \$12 billion -- will go toward child-credit refunds. The package includes an additional \$20 billion in state aid.

CDF noted that Latino children are disproportionately concentrated in working-class families with limited

access to health insurance, child care, and other programs and services that are threatened by the cuts. It said that 94 percent of Latino families have no dividend income.

"The irresponsible Bush tax and spending plan will force government to abandon children, forget families and ignore communities," CDF press secretary Toby Chaudhuri told Hispanic Link. "The Bush tax cut leaves no millionaire behind -- just millions of Latino children."

When Bush presented his tax proposal in January, he had sought a \$726 billion reduction.

According to the Urban Institute-Brookings Tax Policy Center, with the elimination of the tax on stock dividends in 2004, millionaires will receive on average a reduction of nearly \$30,000 each.

CDF found that among the small number of Latino children (775,000) whose families did report dividend income in 2001, the average tax savings per year would be less than \$16 per child.

Rea Hederman, tax policy expert at the Heritage Foundation, offered a different analysis. He told Hispanic Link that the dividend tax cut is "a positive thing not only for the Hispanic community but also for the entire American community. It lowers costs of business and encourages job growth at

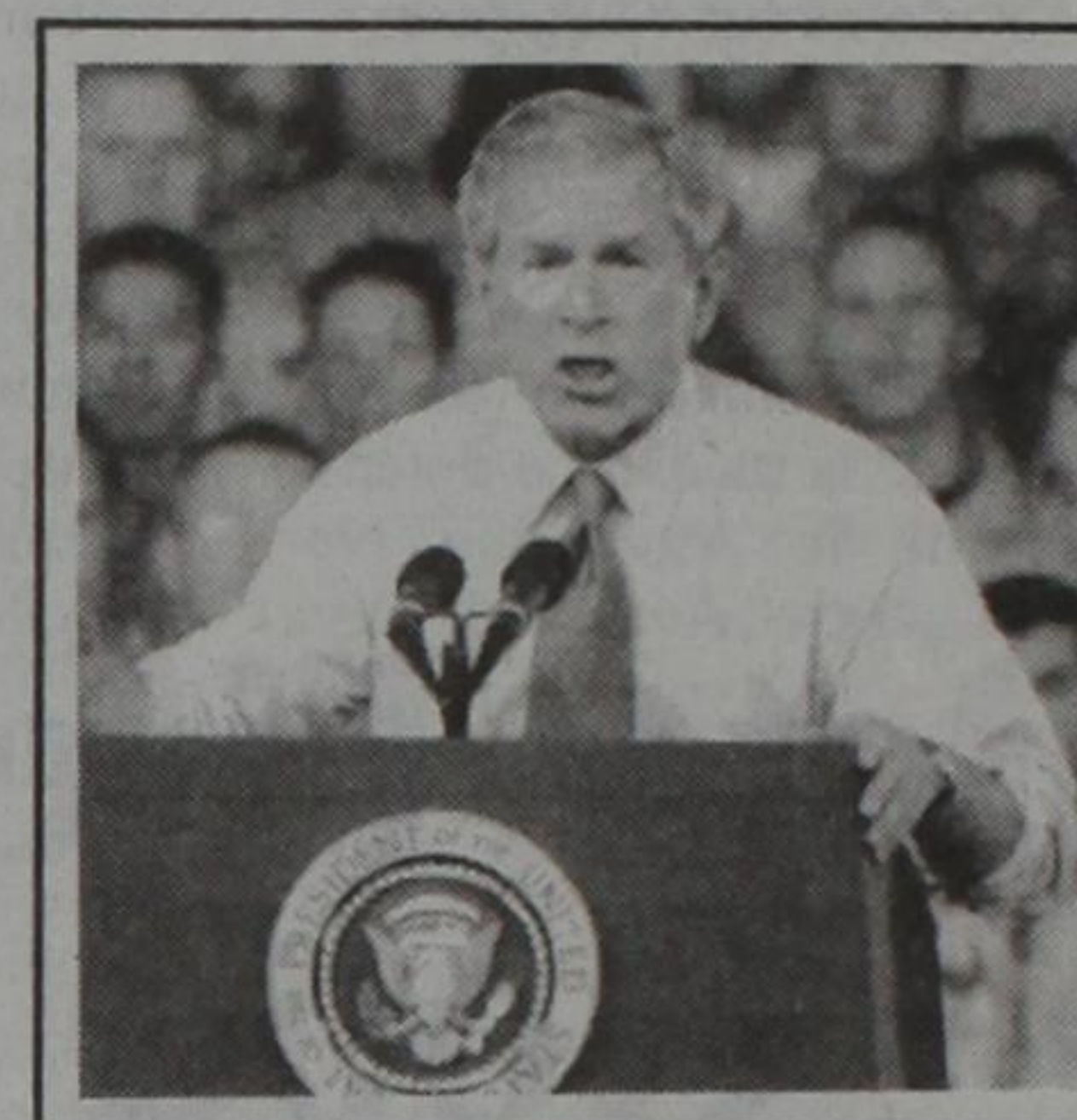


all levels of the economy."

The president and other proponents of the bill state that cutting taxes will stimulate the economy and create more jobs because businesses will have more money to spend. Hederman quotes research that shows that in 2001, more than a million Hispanics earned dividend income.

Hederman maintained, would allow parents to invest more toward housing and their children's education.

National Council of La Raza president Raúl Yzaguirre emphasized to Hispanic Link that the tax cut package will put a negative strain on



the federal budget, thereby forcing cuts in some of the programs Hispanics largely access, such as Head Start and employment training.

Despite President Bush's attempts to woo Hispanic voters, his economic package sends a different message, Yzaguirre said. "(Latinos) need to demand substance," he said. "You just can't say you are pro-Hispanic because you have mariachis in the White House and piñatas on the South Lawn."



Comentarios

de Bidal Agüero

I received several telephone calls and personal inquiries this week asking me why there were no endorsements for the recently held District 19th Congressional District race in our newspaper

Although one of the main reasons was that little space was left after printing all the Chicano graduates, I must say that the other main reason was that I didn't really see a real choice presented in who was elected. Obviously many people felt that it was important that the person elected be from their city. West Texans either voted for the candidate from Lubbock or the candidate from Midland-Odessa.

During the run-off neither candidate addresses the problems facing our community. Neither candidate discusses health, how millions of people are without health insurance. Neither candidate discussed how seniors are made to choose between medicine and food. Neither candidate discussed how young persons are faced with thousands of dollars in debt in order to get a good education. Neither candidate discussed how even those who defend our country are forced to live in poverty.

When both candidates persist in saying that he agrees with President Bush even though reports such as the one reported in our top story persist how can we be expected to endorse.

No, I did not vote in the last election. Why, because I refuse to support a candidate who refuses to address the issues. I refuse to vote for a person who will be elected that will be responsible for the welfare of our community yet he gives no direction as to how he will make his decisions. Now that Mr. Neugebauer has been elected we can only hope and pray that our community will not be neglected. If he is not, we can only wait until the next election.

'Meanspirited' Budget Passes, Not Everyone Happy

By Gary Susswein

Nearly four dozen Democrats and a lone Central Texas Republican took one last futile stand last week against a \$117.4 billion state budget that protects Texans from new state taxes by reducing services, eliminating 10,000 jobs and allowing college tuition to go up.

The bill, probably the most enduring legacy of the 78th Legislature, was approved on the last full day of the session as the threat of an immediate special legislative session loomed.

"With this budget, we mark the passage in Texas from compassionate conservatism to just plain old meanspiritedness," said Sen. Eliot Shapleigh, D-El Paso. "We don't make the investment in Texans so Texans could lead productive lives into the future."

He and other critics of the budget bitterly complained that it hurts programs for the state's children and elderly and disabled, especially Hispanics, and will force local governments to raise taxes to pay for more services. Most lawmakers dismissed such talk as rhetoric. But they acknowledged that the state's estimated \$9.9

billion budget hole forced them to make cuts they're not happy about. Overall, they said, the spending plan is better than the alternative of raising taxes and better than the original budget proposals they considered in February and March.

"The unprecedented freedom you enjoy today was not to guarantee your security but to give you opportunity," said Sen. Steve Ogden, R-Bryan, who represents Williamson County. "This state has always been about giving people opportunity. I don't think anyone can honestly say that in this budget, we deny people the opportunity to improve themselves."

The Senate approved the measure 24-7, with Sen. Jeff Wentworth, R-San Antonio, joining six urban and border-region Democrats in opposing the measure.

The House approved the measure 105-41. Members appeared to delay a vote on the budget until they were sure the Senate had passed a bill to allow state colleges and universities to set their own tuitions next year.

House leaders had said tuition deregulation was needed to offset a 1 percent cut in the all-purpose state money for higher education. (Total funding for higher education will grow by 1 percent.)

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Nuevos Reducciones en Impuestos Abandonan a Millones de Niños Hispanos

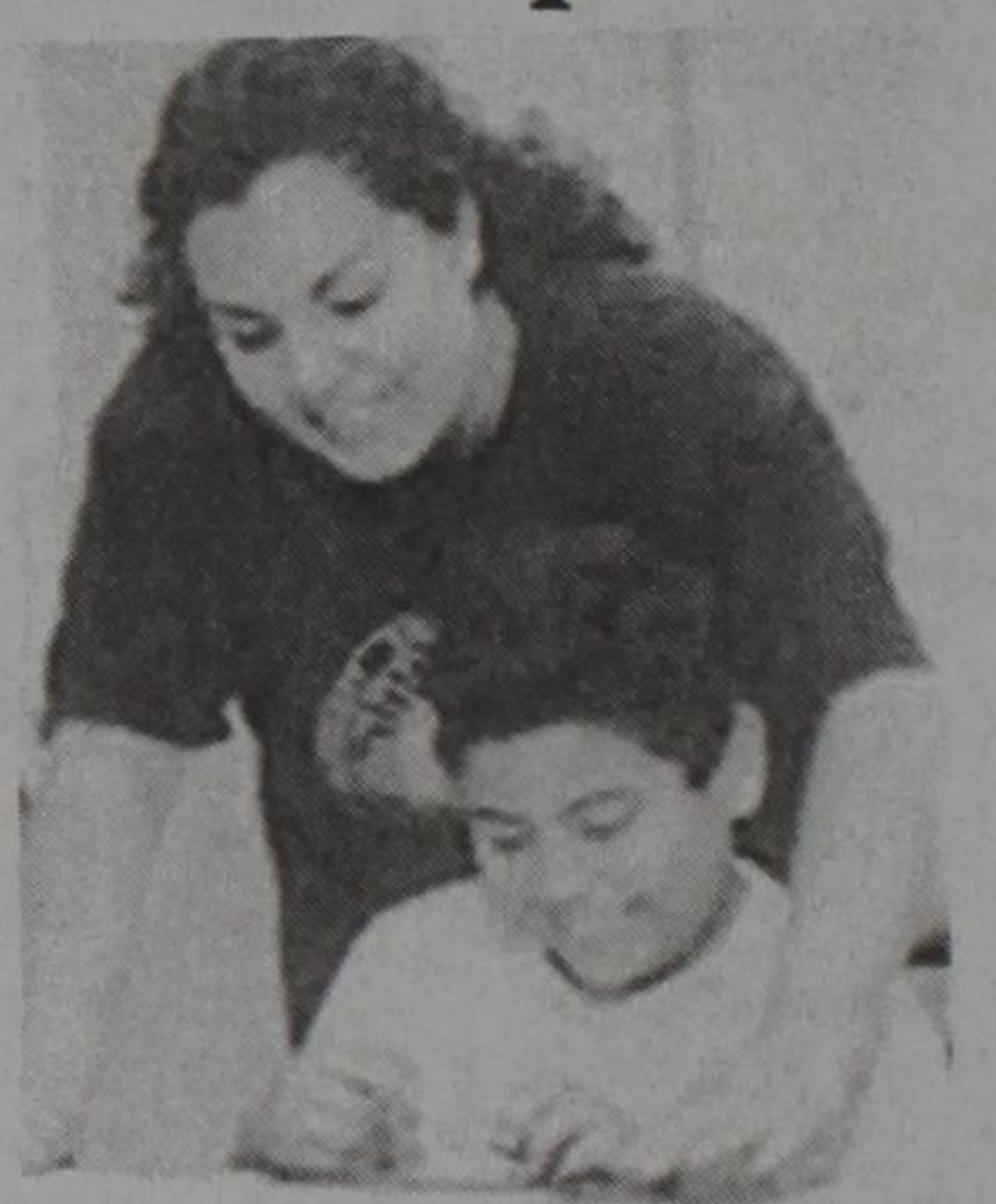
Por Fresia Rodríguez Cadavid

De cada diez niños latinos, nueve no ganarán nada del paquete de la reducción de impuestos de \$330 mil millones que aprobó el Congreso el 23 de mayo, informa un estudio por el Fondo de Defensa de los Niños, CDF por sus siglas en inglés. El fondo basa su información en la encuesta 2002 de la población actual realizada por la Oficina del Censo.

Un noventa y seis por ciento del paquete -- \$318 mil millones -- se destinará, en los próximos 10 años, a reducir el impuesto a los dividendos en acciones, mientras que el cuatro por ciento -- \$12 mil millones -- se destinará a devoluciones del crédito impositivo por niño.

El paquete incluye además \$20 mil millones en asistencia estatal.

El CDF notó que se concentran desproporcionadamente los niños latinos en familias de la clase obrera



cuyo acceso a seguros de salud, cuidados de niños y otros programas y servicios amenazados por las reducciones es limitado. Informa que el 94 por ciento de las familias latinas no deriva ingresos de dividendos.

"El irresponsable plan de reducción y gasto de Bush obligará al gobierno a abandonar a los niños, olvidar a las familias y las comunidades", expresó Toby Chaudhuri, secretario de prensa de CDF a Hispanic Link. "Con la reducción de impuestos de Bush no quedará ningún millonario atrás -- sólo millones de niños latinos."

(Continúa en la Pagina 3)

Republicanos atacan matrícula consular mexicana

Washington- Varios legisladores republicanos acusaron al Departamento del Tesoro y al sector bancario de EE.UU. de ser "cómplices" de México en el uso de matrículas consulares y pidieron que los bancos dejen de aceptarlas como documento válido para transacciones financieras.

El congresista republicano Tom Tancredo (Colorado), acompañado de otros miembros del grupo legislativo de reforma migratoria, pidió en una resolución conjunta que el Congreso anule los reglamentos que emitió el Tesoro el pasado 30 de abril para que bancos e instituciones financieras acepten la matrícula consular y otros documentos extranjeros "no verificados".

El sector bancario y el Departamento del Tesoro, "se han convertido en cómplices del Gobierno mexicano, en su intento por minar

las leyes migratorias de EE.UU.", dijo Tancredo, para quien los inmigrantes indocumentados representan un peligro para la seguridad nacional.

Los nuevos reglamentos del Tesoro entrarán en vigor el próximo 30 de mayo y a partir de esa fecha, el Congreso tendría 60 días para vetarlos.

El año pasado, México emitió 1,04 millones de matrículas consulares, ahora aceptadas en más de 700 comunidades y departamentos policiales y al menos 70 bancos de EE.UU.

Tancredo incluso alienta a los estadounidenses a boicotear a bancos, como Wells Fargo, que las aceptan.

Para algunos expertos, los esfuerzos de Tancredo reflejan la creciente marginación de los cerca de nueve millones de inmigrantes indocumentados, miles de los cuales viven al borde de la indigencia.

Tancredo y otros 73 legisladores que le apoyan temen que otros países, entre ellos

Guatemala, República Dominicana y Polonia, también quieren impulsar el uso de estos documentos.

"¿Estamos listos para bregar con los riesgos a nuestra seguridad cuando los gobiernos de Irán, Arabia Saudí, Pakistán, Siria, Egipto o China quieran también emitir matrículas consulares?", preguntó Tancredo.

La matrícula de Fox

Por segunda vez este año y para efectos de reconstrucción, Tancredo mostró un ejemplar de la que sería la matrícula consular del presidente mexicano Vicente Fox, destacando la "ciudadanía desconocida" de sus progenitores.

El Gobierno mexicano se defiende de las acusaciones de Tancredo y grupos conservadores como la Federación para la Reforma Migratoria de EE.UU. (FAIR), indicando que la matrícula consular - expedida bajo un riguroso proceso de verificación- se extiende a los mexicanos



en el exterior desde el siglo XIX para efectos de contabilización y protección de sus migrantes.

(Continúa Pagina 3)

Pete Tijerina-Se Entrego:

A La Lucha Para Los Latinos

Por Raymond Rodriguez
"Nos estamos haciendo pocos" es una frase apta para conmemorar el reciente fallecimiento en San Antonio de Pete Tijerina, fundador del Fondo Mexicano Americano de Defensa Legal y Educación (MALDEF por sus siglas en inglés).

Nació en 1968, MALDEF es la mayor agencia de defensa legal de los intereses de los hispanos en los EEUU. Cuenta hoy con 22 abogados y diez analistas de políticas legislativas.

Tijerina, de 80 años al fallecer, no acabó los estudios de derecho. A pesar de esto, aprobó el examen del Colegio de Abogados del estado de Texas. Al comenzar a ejercer, se dio cuenta rápidamente que el proceso judicial trataba injustamente a su clientela hispana.

Uno de los problemas era la exclusión tradicional de los latinos para formar parte de los jurados, con lo cual era prácticamente imposible constituir un jurado de sus congéneres.

Furioso con los fallos resultados de prejuicio racial que con regularidad acecaban a los hispanos en su Texas natal, Tijerina se reunió con los dirigentes de la unidad de defensa legal de la Asociación Nacional para el Avance de Per-

sonas de Color, NAACP por sus siglas en inglés. En base a este modelo, Tijerina creó MALDEF, con la ayuda crítica de una subvención de \$2.2 millones de la fundación Ford.

El principio que guiaba a MALDEF, y que lo guía aún, es asistir a los hispanos con el cumplimiento de sus derechos, más allá de su estatus como residente o no de los Estados Unidos. Son pocos los asuntos de derecho civil en los que MALDEF no se ha visto envuelto, en algunos casos como la única agencia o en concierto con la Liga de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos Unidos (LULAC por sus siglas en inglés), el Concilio Nacional de La Raza, o el Proyecto para Registrar Votos y Educación del Suroeste.

Tijerina se dedicó a fomentar la misión de la agencia hasta que se jubiló en 1992. El que continúe la labor de MALDEF es, sin duda, el mayor tributo que se le puede hacer.

Pedro Tijerina nació y se crió en Laredo, Texas, donde su padre ganaba una vida modesta de camionero independiente. Cobraba por lo general 75 centavos por sus servicios, sea con la mudanza de familias o el transporte de lo que su clientes quisieran. Eran momentos difíciles.

A los quince años Pedro salió de su casa. Se alistó al cuerpo de entrenamiento militar ciudadano, en el que ganó un total de \$15 por las seis semanas de entrenamiento intensivo. Entonces se alistó en el ejército estadounidense, pero lo regresaron a casa al descubrir que no tenía edad suficiente para servir.

En agosto de 1941, se alistó en la fuerza aérea del ejército estadounidense, en la que sirvió cuatro años.

Cuando volvió a casa en diciembre de 1945, su padre insistió que estudiara. Aunque había desertado la escuela secundaria, Pedro aprobó el examen de entrada a la universidad y fue admitido a la Universidad de Texas en Austin. Fue después de leer un libro sobre el famoso abogado litigante, Clarence Darrow, que decidió postular a la escuela de derecho. Le faltaban 12 unidades para completar su título universitario cuando caducaron sus beneficios derivados del servicio militar, el llamado GI Bill en inglés, y por consiguiente completó los cursos requeridos en una universidad comunitaria.

La escuela de derecho de la Universidad de St. Mary en San Antonio no lo aceptó. No le convalidaría los créditos que

quería transferir. No obstante, se dedicó al estudio de la ley por su cuenta, presentándose al examen del Colegio de Abogados, el cual aprobó. Le encantó saber que recibió una nota más alta que algunos de los graduados de la escuela de derecho de St. Mary's.

Desde este comienzo humilde y tras contados obstáculos, Pedro Tijerina se armó de la tenacidad necesaria para sobreponerse a cualquier adversidad que se le presentara. Su dedicación a su objetivo de por vida merece un honor duradero a su memoria y resultó en un gran beneficio para todos los hispanos. Una de las primeras prioridades que tuvo fue objectar el sistema prejuicioso de la constitución de jurados en el condado de Bexar.

Dentro del establecimiento hay quienes todavía se oponen a los esfuerzos realizados por organizaciones como MALDEF para realizar transformaciones esenciales. Falta mucho para ganar la batalla, pero con la ayuda de una estructura como la de MALDEF, los jóvenes siguen dedicándose a la lucha en memoria de Pedro Tijerina.

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Mexico's Women Join Migrant Procession

By Marisa Treviño

Along our shared border with Mexico, a new time bomb has been activated from which not even the \$25 million ratified by Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge for new anti-terrorism tools can diffuse. This bomb doesn't tick seconds; it keeps time with the deaths of every person whose dreams of a better life in the United States are not enough to stave off the elements, geographic barricades or sinister smugglers. What makes this bomb's detonation particularly notable today is not so much the recent tragic deaths of 5-year-old Marco Villaseñor, 31-year-old Augusto Vargas or any of the other 17 immigrants who died in the back of an abandoned 18-wheeler at a Victoria, Texas, truck stop. What makes it notable is the fact that demographic experts predict there will be a major shift in who will constitute the majority of victims in the next abandoned 18-wheeler.

According to a Princeton University Office of Population Research study, "Engendering Migrant Networks: The Case of Mexican Migration," the international migration of women north of the border will grow faster in the near future than that of male international migration.

The study's authors, Sara Curran and Estela Rivero-Fuentes, discovered that though male migration relies on a destination support network comprised of friends, distant relatives and close family members, female migration depends solely on ties to close family members who have already migrated.

Because of the efforts of the Immigration and Reform Control Act of 1986, which encouraged family reunification, more women have made the journey. Now those same women are the lifelines to a new generation of females who, out of necessity, will trace the perilous steps of those who went before them.

If economists are right, the migration flow will not be stopped with new high-tech, anti-terrorism border measures, or even the fact that 96 people have died crossing the U.S.-Mexico border since last Sept. 30.

Until Mexico's economy can generate more than the 250,000 jobs it created this past year for a work force that grows by more than a million people a year, more and more women will put their faith in the goodness of humanity to the test.

It's a troubling concept since the Population Research study found that when a mother migrates, the likelihood that her sons and daughters will do the same is higher. Whereas a father's migration significantly influences only the sons to follow, rather than the daughters.

It would be a troubling situation for Mexico, which has already experienced the loss in great numbers of men from rural towns. If the women too were to leave, the impact on both Mexico and the United States could be staggering.

For that reason, the Bush administration, while dispatching Mr. Ridge to the border to implement new control measures, must also do away with the grudge-bearing because Mexico didn't support the Iraqi war effort and use their foresight to begin the dialogue for a migration agreement -- an agreement that will save lives, ensure the future prosperity of the economies of both countries and disable a bomb that's ticking ever faster.

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Pete Tijerina-He Fought the Good Fight for Latinos

By Raymond Rodriguez
"Nos estamos haciendo pocos" is a phrase that could aptly be applied to the recent passing in San Antonio of Pedro Tijerina, the founder of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, or MALDEF.

Created in 1968, MALDEF is the largest legal advocacy agency working in behalf of the interests of Hispanics. On its staff today are 22 attorneys and 10 legislative policy analysts.

Tijerina, who died at age 80, didn't finish law school. Nonetheless, he passed the Texas bar exam. And as he started his law practice, the awareness grew quickly within him that his Hispanic clients did not receive due process by the courts.

One major problem was that Latinos were traditionally excluded from jury duty. It was virtually impossible to convene a jury of their peers.

Incensed at the racially biased verdicts regularly rendered against Hispanics in his native Texas, Tijerina met with the

leadership of the NAACP's legal defense unit. With a model to work from, he ended up creating MALDEF, aided by a crucial \$2.2 million grant from the Ford Foundation.

The guiding principle for MALDEF was, and remains, to assist Hispanics secure their rights, regardless of whether they enjoy legal residency. There are few civil rights issues in which MALDEF has not been involved, either alone or in concert with the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the National Council of La Raza or the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project.

Tijerina devoted his time and energy to fostering the agency's mission until he retired in 1992. That MALDEF's work continues on undoubtedly is the greatest tribute that could be paid to him.

Pedro Tijerina was born and raised in Laredo, Texas, where his father earned a modest living as a self-employed truck driver. He usually charged 75 cents for his services, either moving families or transport-

ing whatever people wanted hauled. Times were hard.

At the age of 15, Pedro left home. He joined a Citizen's Military Training Corps, where he was paid a total of \$15 for the six weeks of intensive training. He then enlisted in the Army but was sent home when it was discovered that he was underage.

In August 1941, he enlisted in the Army Air Force, where he served for four years. When he returned home in December 1945, his father urged him to go to school. Although he was a high school dropout, Pedro passed the college entrance exam and was admitted to the University of Texas in Austin. It was after reading a book about famed trial lawyer Clarence Darrow that he decided to apply to law school.

He still lacked 12 units to earn his bachelor's degree when his GI Bill benefits ran out, so he completed the required course work at a community college.

Pedro was turned down for admission to law school at St. Mary's University in San An-

tonio. The university wouldn't accept his transfer credits. Undaunted, he studied law on his own, taking the bar exam and passing. It delighted him to know that he receive a higher mark than some St. Mary's law school graduates.

It was from such humble beginnings and repeated setbacks that Pedro Tijerina developed the tenacity to overcome whatever adversities stood in his way. To his lasting credit and benefit of all Hispanics, he pursued his aim in life. One of his earliest priorities was to challenge in court the biased jury system in Bexar County.

Within the establishment, there are still those who decry the efforts of organizations like MALDEF to bring about essential change. The battle is far from over, but with a structure like MALDEF to work within, young men and women continue to dedicate themselves to fighting the good fight in Pedro Tijerina's memory.

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Environmental Justice Is a Latino Civil Right

By Javier Sierra
Prior to invading Iraq, U.S. troops conducted intense chemical weapons training, wearing suits and masks that insulated them from the outside world and overwhelmed them in the stifling heat of the Kuwaiti desert.

But so much sweat was for nothing. The search for those feared Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, so far, has yielded little more than a collection of vacuum cleaners.

Ironically, those suits and

masks are very much needed in another city halfway around the world. The place is called San Bernardino, Calif., and there, just next to Ramón Alessandro Elementary School, in a overwhelmingly Latino barrio, sits the world's largest natural gas refueling station.

The municipal transportation company owns the facility, and each day, dozens of buses fill their tanks with this toxic substance, which causes several respiratory diseases, including asthma.

It turns out gas alarms are only available at the station, and not in the rest of the barrio. The two sons of Marilyn Alcantar, a local community activist who has been fighting the station for five years, have asthma, as do most of the children in the community.

"Bringing this station to this barrio was a great injustice," Alcantar says. "If we were not Latinos and poor, this would not be happening. But they picked the wrong mom to gas her children."

Alcantar and several other mothers have mobilized the community and convinced the state authorities to conduct an ecological study at the station. Its findings will be released in July.

The San Bernardino example is but one more of the many hundreds of environmental injustices imposed on Hispanics, the national community that most severely suffers the effects of environmental degradation. According to the Environmen-

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Mexicanas se Unen a la Procesión Migrante

Por Marisa Treviño

A lo largo de la frontera que compartimos con México, se ha activado una nueva bomba de tiempo que ni siquiera los \$25 millones ratificados por el Secretario de la Seguridad Territorial, Tom Ridge, para nuevas armas contra el terror podrán desarmar.

El cronómetro de la bomba no cuenta los segundos; lleva el compás de las muertes de cada persona cuyos sueños de una mejor vida en los Estados Unidos no la protegen de la intemperie, las barricadas geográficas o los contrabandistas siniestros.

Lo que hace particularmente notable de la detonación de esta bomba hoy, no reside tanto en las recientes muertes trágicas de Marco Villaseñor, de cinco años, de Augusto Vargas de 31 años ni de los otros 17 inmigrantes que murieron encerrados en el camión de 18 ruedas abandonado en un paradero de Victoria, Texas. Lo que lo hace notable es el hecho que los expertos en la demografía proyectan que habrá un gran cambio en quienes constituirán la mayoría de las víctimas del próximo camión abandonado de 18 ruedas.

Según el estudio "Engendering Migrant Networks: The Case of Mexican Migration" de la oficina de investigaciones sobre la población de la Universidad de Princeton, el movimiento migratorio de mujeres de México aumentará con mayor rapidez en un futuro próximo que el de la migración internacional de hombres.

Las autoras del estudio, Sara Curran y Estela Rivero-Fuentes, descubrieron que si bien la migración de los hombres se fía de una red de apoyo que cuenta con amigos, parientes lejanos y familiares cercanos, la migración de mujeres depende solamente de los lazos con familiares cercanos que ya han migrado.

Han viajado al norte más mujeres desde la promulgación del Acta de Control de la Inmigración y Reforma de 1986 que impulsa la reunificación familiar. Hoy son estas mismas mujeres las que sirven de apoyo a una nueva generación de mujeres que, por necesidad, seguirán los pasos por el peligro de las que las precedieron.

Si aciertan los economistas, el flujo migratorio no cesará con las nuevas medidas de alta tecnología anti-terroristas ni el hecho estadístico que han muerto 96 personas al cruzar la frontera entre los Estados Unidos y México desde el 30 de septiembre último.

Hasta que la economía mexicana no genere más que los 250,000 empleos que creó el año pasado para una fuerza laboral que crece en más de un millón de personas por año, habrá más mujeres que pondrán a prueba su fe en la bondad de la humanidad.

Es un concepto preocupante ya que el estudio encontró que cuando la madre emigra, es más probable que lo hagan también sus hijos e hijas. De lo contrario, cuando emigra el padre, resulta en influenciar más a los hijos varones, y no a las hijas.

Será una situación problemática para México, que ya se ha visto con grandes pérdidas de hombres de los pueblos rurales. Si también fueran a emigrar las mujeres, el efecto que sentiría tanto México como los Estados Unidos sería impactante.

Por esta misma razón, la administración de Bush, al despachar al Sr. Ridge a la frontera para implementar las nuevas medidas de control, debe además deshacerse de los resentimientos contra México por no apoyar su posición con la guerra contra Irak. Debe implementar su proyección para comenzar el diálogo en torno a un acuerdo sobre la migración -- un acuerdo que salvará vidas, asegurar la futura prosperidad de ambos economías y desarmar la bomba que está por estallar.

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A Chance to End Barbarity On the Farm

By Dick Meister

Imagine having a job that requires you to work bent in half. Imagine that it requires you to move swiftly between narrow rows of plants, constantly stooping to ground level to snatch up a weed with your bare hands -- then another and another, scarcely pausing to straighten up. And doing it for hours at a time.

Many thousands of farm workers across the country do have such jobs. That's why many have the serious back ailments that are among the worst of the health and safety problems that make harvesting our food one of the most dangerous of all occupations.

The growers who impose such primitive working conditions claim that's the way it has to be. They say allowing workers to stand upright and use long-handled hoes for the essential task of weeding would increase crop damage, decrease production and require more use of hazardous weed-killing pesticides.

But above all, they worry that it might lower their profits.

Those who put the welfare of workers first have other concerns. They are demanding that government authorities protect farm workers by banning hand-weeding, starting in California, the nation's leading agriculture state.

"We're trying to get at what fundamentally is a human-rights abuse. ... There is an alternative tool that is safe and available, but that workers are not permitted to use it," says Mark Schacht of California Rural Legal Assistance.

His organization, a longtime advocate for farm workers, has joined with the United Farm Workers union and the AFL-CIO's California Labor Federation to petition the state's Oc-

cupational Safety and Health agency for a ban.

They want growers to provide workers with hoes at least 4 feet long to do the work now done by hand. Those who fail to do so would face fines of at least \$500 per worker for each violation.

The petitioners base part of their argument on a memorandum from the state agency's medical unit that said hand-weeding "constitutes a continuing threat to the health and well-being" of workers.

Similar findings led California officials to ban use of the once widely used short-handled hoe in 1975. They cited physicians' reports of workers who suffered ruptured spinal disks, arthritis of the spine and other often irreparable injuries because they were forced to use what the UFW called "this despised tool" -- known unaffectionately among workers as *el cortito*.

Yet 28 years later, farm-worker advocates are still waging a struggle to shield the workers in the fields from debilitating back injuries. As the safety and health agency's medical unit reported, workers today face the "same unsafe conditions that the short-hoe legislation attempted to rectify."

Actually, hand-weeding is even harder on workers than using short-handled hoes, for it requires them to bend down up to 1 foot more in order to reach the ground. Many growers turned to hand-weeding after the hoe ban went into effect, even though using longer hoes can do the job without harming workers.

The demand for the state safety and health agency to ban hand-weeding will get its first hearing this month by an advisory board of union, grower, agency and academic represen-

dos es "una cosa positiva no sólo para la comunidad hispana sino para toda la comunidad estadounidense. Reduce el costo del comercio y alienta el crecimiento de empleos en todos los niveles de la economía".

El presidente y otros promotores del proyecto de ley declaran que la reducción en los impuestos estimulará la economía y creará más trabajo porque las empresas dispondrán de más dinero para gastar. Hederson cita investigaciones que muestran que en el 2001, más de un millón de hispanos tuvieron ingresos de dividendos.

Las provisiones al proyecto de ley de reducción de impuestos incluyen eliminar la sanción matrimonial, acelerar las reducciones en el impuesto sobre la renta y aumentar el crédito por niño de \$600 a \$1,000 por dos años.

Hederman también señaló que el crédito por niño es un beneficio para los hispanos. Por cada niño, la familia podrá adjudicarse el crédito de \$1,000. El dinero extra, mantiene Hederman, permitirá que los padres inviertan más en la vivienda y la educación de sus hijos.

Presidente del Concilio Nacional de La Raza Raúl Yzaguirre enfatizó a Hispanic Link que el paquete de reducción de impuestos será una carga negativa para el presupuesto federal, con el resultado de obli-

tatives.

Whatever the result, farm-worker advocates are likely to follow up with an attempt to get the State Legislature to enact a ban. They tried that in 1995 and again last year, only to be blocked by California's powerful agricultural lobby.

But this time they will have, if not the backing of the state's Occupational Safety and Health Agency, then certainly much new evidence of the compelling need to end finally the barbarous practice that has done such great harm to some of our most exploited and valuable workers.

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La Oportunidad de Acabar con el Barbarismo en el Sector Agrícola

Por Dick Meister

Imagínese tener un trabajo que requiera que se doble por la cintura. Imagine que su oficio requiera que se despliegue rápidamente por angostas filas de cultivo, agachándose constantemente a arrancar de la tierra la maleza con las manos desnudas -- una tras otra tras otra, sin pausas para enderezarse -- durante horas enteras.

Muchos miles de trabajadores agrícolas por todo el país tienen este tipo de trabajo. Por eso es que tantos sufren de dolores de espalda y asuntos de seguridad serios que hacen del cultivo de nuestra comida uno de los oficios más peligrosos de todos.

Los agricultores que les imponen tan primitivas condiciones de trabajo alegan que así tiene que ser. Dicen que permitir que los trabajadores estén erguidos, de pie, utilizando azadones para la tarea esencial de sacar aumentaría el perjuicio al cultivo, disminuiría la producción y requeriría mayor uso de peligrosos pesticidas para matar la maleza.

Pero, sobre todo, les preocupa que disminuiría sus ganancias.

Los que ponen primero el bienestar de los trabajadores tienen otras preocupaciones.

gar cortes en algunos de los programas a los que tienen acceso los hispanos, tales como Head Start y capacitación para empleos.

A pesar de los esfuerzos del presidente Bush por atraer a electores hispanos, su paquete económico envía un mensaje contrario. Yzaguirre dijo, "(Los latinos) deben exigir sustancia. No es suficiente decir que eres pro-hispano porque tienes mariachis en la Casa Blanca y piñatas en el jardín meridional".

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Están exigiendo que las autoridades gubernamentales protejan a los trabajadores agrícolas al prohibir quitar la maleza a mano, empezando en California, el mayor estado agrícola de la nación.

"Estamos tratando de llegar a lo que es fundamentalmente un abuso de derechos humanos. ... Existe una herramienta segura y disponible, pero a los trabajadores se les prohíbe usarla", explica March Schacht de la organización California Rural Legal Assistance.

Esta organización, pro trabajadores agrícolas por muchos años, se ha unido al sindicato de Trabajadores Agrícolas Unidos y la Federación Laboral de California, perteneciente al sindicato AFL-CIO, para solicitar que la agencia estatal de Seguridad Ocupacional y Salud emita una orden de prohibición.

La coalición quiere que los agricultores den a los trabajadores azadones de un mínimo de cuatro pies de largo para hacer el trabajo que ahora hacen a mano. Los que no lo hagan se verían con multas de un mínimo de \$500 por trabajador por cada violación.

Los solicitantes basan parte de su argumento en un memorando que emitió la unidad médica de la agencia estatal que

decía que quitar la maleza a mano "constituye una amenaza continua a la salud y al bienestar" de los trabajadores.

Hallazgos similares llevaron a los funcionarios en California a prohibir el uso del azadón de mango corto de amplio uso antes de 1975. Citaron informes de médicos que describían a trabajadores que sufrían de hernias de los discos vertebrales, artritis de la columna dorsal y otras heridas muchas veces irreparables por lo que los obligaban a usar lo que el sindicato de Trabajadores Agrícolas llamaba "esta herramienta odiada" -- conocida sin amor por los trabajadores como "el cortito".

No obstante, 28 años más tarde, los abogados de los trabajadores agrícolas siguen luchando por protegerlos en los campos de cultivo de heridas a la espalda debilitadoras. Como informó la unidad médica de la agencia de seguridad y salud, los trabajadores hoy se enfrentan con "las mismas condiciones perniciosas que la legislación contra el azadón corto trató de rectificar".

En realidad, quitar la maleza a mano es peor que usar azadones cortos para los trabajadores,

por lo que requiere que se doblen por la cintura hasta un pie de distancia más para llegar a la

tierra. Muchos cultivadores han optado por quitar la maleza a mano al efectuarse la prohibición del azadón corto, a pesar de que el uso de azadones de mango más largo puede cumplir el cometido sin perjuicio a los trabajadores.

La solicitud por que la agencia estatal de seguridad y salud prohíba el quitar la maleza a mano tendrá su primera vista judicial este mes frente a un consejo de representantes sindicales, de cultivadores, de agencias y de académicos.

De cualquier manera, los abogados pro trabajadores agrícolas seguirán con intentar hacer que la legislatura estatal promulgue una prohibición. En 1995 lo intentaron, y volvieron a hacerlo el año pasado, pero fueron trabados por el cabildeo poderoso agrícola de California.

Sin embargo esta vez tendrán, si no el apoyo de la agencia estatal de Seguridad Ocupacional y Salud, de hecho mucha evidencia nueva de la imperante necesidad de finalmente acabar con la práctica bárbara que tanto daño ha causado a algunos de nuestros trabajadores más explotados y valerosos.

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Impuestos

viene de la primera

Según el Centro de Políticas Impositivas del Urban Institute-Brookings, al eliminar los impuestos sobre los dividendos en acciones en el 2004, los millonarios recibirán un promedio de \$30,000 en reducciones cada uno.

El CDF encontró que entre el reducido número de niños latinos (775,000) cuyas familias tuvieron ingresos por dividendos en el 2001, el ahorro impositivo promedio por año llegaría sólo a \$16 por niño.

Rea Hederman, experto en políticas impositivas de la Fundación Heritage ofreció otro análisis. Informó a Hispanic Link que la reducción en impuestos sobre los dividen-

Matrícula

viene de la primera

"Es lamentable y reprobable que un congresista recurra a este tipo de actitudes con las que no estamos de acuerdo. Si hay organismos públicos e instituciones financieras que las aceptan es porque comparten nuestra opinión de que se trata de documentos seguros", dijo Miguel Monterrubio, portavoz de la embajada mexicana en Washington.

Para el congresista Rubén Hinojosa y grupos como el Consejo Nacional de La Raza (NCLR), EE.UU. tiene que ir más allá de los asuntos secundarios de grupos "restriccionistas", y reconocer que las tragedias de los inmigrantes indocumentados en los desiertos y carreteras del país reflejan las raíces económicas de un problema mayor.

"Hay una enorme diferencia entre un inmigrante que viene a ganarse la vida y un terrorista que viene a destruir. Los inmigrantes que pagan impuestos y obedecen las leyes tienen derecho a usar los bancos para mejorar la vida de sus familias", dijo Hinojosa, en claro rechazo al "grupúsculo" encabezado por Tancred.

Hinojosa presentó en febrero pasado una medida en favor de las matrículas consulares, que será analizada en una audiencia en el Congreso el próximo mes de julio.

"Este sería un país más seguro si permitimos que los inmigrantes indocumentados cuenten con canales legales para salir de las sombras, en vez de meter su dinero debajo de un colchón o recurrir a situaciones desesperantes. Lo que necesitamos es una verdadera reforma migratoria", resumió Michelle Waslin, analista de NCLR.

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Duncan does it all as Spurs rock Nets in Game 1

The rebound came off the rim, Tim Duncan grabbed it and fired a 60-foot pass ahead of the field to Stephen Jackson for an uncontested dunk.

It was a pass that would have made Jason Kidd proud. But this one was thrown by Duncan, and it put a flourish of a finish on a decisive third-quarter run that led San Antonio to a 101-89 victory over the New Jersey Nets on Wednesday night in Game 1 of the NBA Finals.

If Tim Duncan keeps playing like this, the Spurs can't lose. San Antonio outscored the Nets 32-17 in the third period to break open a close game, with Duncan's long pass capping a 15-2 run.

"One bad quarter in the playoffs can kill you, and the third quarter for us was a killer," Nets coach Byron Scott said.

Unlike five previous times in this postseason, the Spurs managed to hang onto that double-digit lead, although the Nets did manage to get within nine points.

Duncan had a stat line worthy of his MVP status with 32 points, 20 rebounds, seven blocks, six assists and three steals as San Antonio snapped the Nets' 10-game postseason winning streak and handed them their first loss in 39 days.

Game 2 of the best-of-7 series is Friday night.

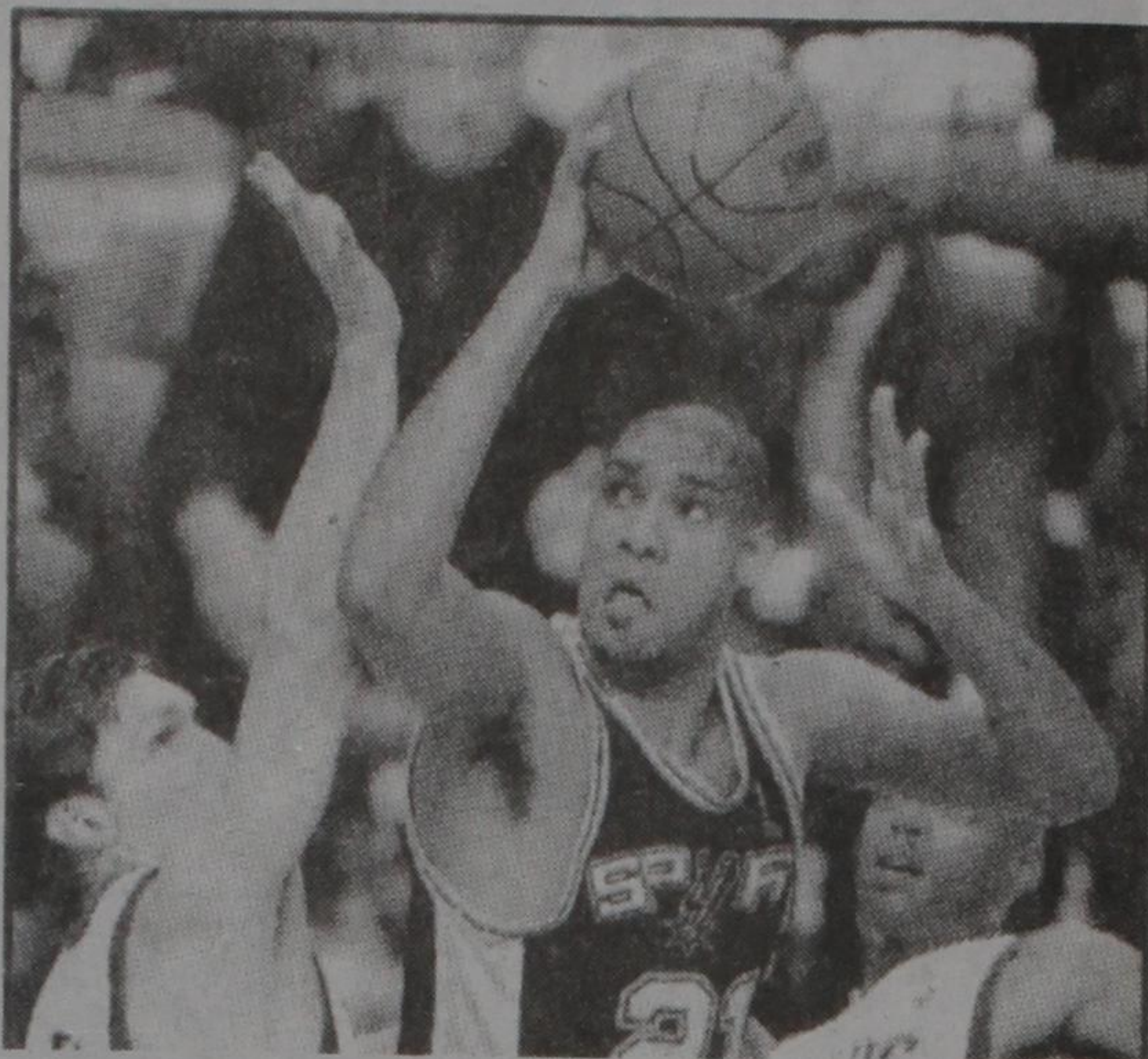
"It is a big confidence booster, knowing the kind of streak they were on and the kind of confidence they came in with," Duncan said. "It was big to get this win, but it puts that much more pressure on Friday. We really want to get that one and leave here 2-0 knowing that we have to go there and play three games."

Duncan's third-quarter line of 13 points on 4-for-4 shooting, five rebounds, three assists and two steals was spectacular all by itself. He missed his first shot of the fourth and then made his next four.

San Antonio also got an unexpectedly strong contribution from David Robinson (14 points, six rebounds and four blocks), along with an effort from Tony Parker that was better than Kidd's.

Kidd made his first two shots and missed his next 10 before breaking the slump midway through the third quarter on a driving layup. His next shot, however, was an airball. From there, Kidd was not a factor. Kenyon Martin also was a non-entity, sitting for a 7 1/2-minute stretch because of four fouls.

"There's no excuse for me personally," Kidd said. "I just didn't shoot the ball well, but



If Tim Duncan keeps playing like this, the Spurs can't lose.

that's not always what I'm known for."

By the time Martin returned, the Spurs led 82-66 with 6:56 left, and it was too late. New Jersey got within nine with 2:23 left, but Duncan fed Robinson for a dunk and then blocked his sixth shot, ending the threat.

Martin led New Jersey with 21 points and 12 rebounds before fouling out with 1:11 left. Kidd had 10 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds but shot just 4-for-17.

"Just missed shots," Nets coach Byron Scott said. "I think that had a lot to do with the (10-day) layoff. You're going to be a little rusty. Your timing is going to be a little off. Ten days is too long."

Parker had 16 points and five assists, while Malik Rose and Jackson added 12 points each.

Most importantly, the Spurs kept the Nets out of their running game a vast majority of the time. Kidd had three turnovers in the first quarter trying to force the issue, and he wasn't the same after that.

"We had opportunities to run, we just turned the ball over on the break a lot, and that's uncharacteristic of our team," Martin said.

The game was tied 42-42 at halftime, and the Spurs had the first big run of the game early in the second half, with Parker leading the way.

Parker hit a 21-foot jumper and a 3-pointer before feeding a pass to Duncan for a low-arching jumper than gave San Antonio the game's first double-digit lead -- 58-48 with 7:27 left in the third quarter.

"In the first half I tried to run the team, get confidence in everybody, and then in the third quarter try to be aggressive and look for my shot more," Parker said. "The pres-

sure is always there, especially when you're trying to win the championship. Playing against the best point guard in the league makes me want to do more and play my best."

Following a timeout, San Antonio dropped into a zone defense that befuddled the Nets.

Duncan had a steal and then made two free throws and an 8-foot turnaround before he rebounded Rodney Rogers' missed jumper and fired a two-handed pass ahead of everyone to Jackson for a dunk that sent the crowd into a frenzy.

"That was a great pass," Jackson said. "That's something J. Kidd would do."

The Spurs' 12 blocks was one short of the NBA Finals record, reached six times, most recently by the Los Angeles Lakers against Philadelphia in Game 2 of the 2001 series. Shaquille O'Neal had eight blocks in that game, setting the record that Duncan came within one of reaching.

Duncan finished the quarter with just two points to go along with three blocks and seven rebounds. After backup center Aaron Williams picked up his second foul early in the second quarter, little-used but highly paid veteran Dikembe Mutombo checked in for his first game action since May 9.

Several of the Nets bounded off the bench and patted Mutombo on the back after he blocked Duncan's shot and dived on the floor to retrieve the ball and call a timeout. But Mutombo never played in the second half as Duncan had his scoring binge.

"San Antonio came out after halftime and played their kind of basketball, and whoever is the aggressor in this series is going to win," Kidd said.

continued on page 5

Sosa's image in better shape Wednesday ... or is it?

All together now:

76 uncorked bats on the wall, 76 uncorked bats Take one down, pass it around, 75 uncorked bats on the wall

75 uncorked bats on the wall, 75 uncorked bats Take one down, pass it around ...

Let's start with this: After a whirlwind feeding frenzy that peaked before even 24 hours were up, Sammy Sosa's image is in better shape than it could have been. His personal guarantee was realized, none of the bats came back from the lab dirty.

Sammy Sosa flashes the peace sign at the media Wednesday. Now.

Do you take Sosa at his word that he's walloped 505 career home runs fair and square? That his three seasons of 60-plus home runs were come by honestly?

Or do you still smell a rat?

Do you believe Sosa that he simply kept the corked bat around to satisfy the batting practice cravings of power-starved fans?

Or do you suspect some of Slammin' Sammy's statistics are stuffed with cork, too?

Sosa has been called a lot of things over the years, most of them good. He has been part slugger, part icon and part ambassador to the game. And he has done it all with a smile and grace.

Now you have to throw cheater onto the resume, too. And though the smoking gun is simply one shattered and corked bat after more than 7,000 other at-bats, you have to wonder: Will this detract from his accomplishments? Should it detract from his accomplishments?

No, says Cubs president Andy MacPhail.

"I've seen a lot of broken bats in the 8 1/3 years I've been with the Chicago Cubs involving Sammy Sosa, and that's the first one I've seen cork come out of," MacPhail said at a news conference in Chicago on Wednesday afternoon.

Yes, say others. "It's unfortunate," said San Diego skipper Bruce Bochy, who has managed teams against Sosa's since 1995. "I don't think it's good for baseball. It's certainly going to tarnish things, not just with Sammy, but with some other guys, too."

Sosa, looking for the "If the glove doesn't fit, you must ac-

quit" escape hatch, has produced airtight alibis so far, right down to the batting practice explanation.

I know, I checked: Wrigley Field gates open two hours before game-time. Cubs' regulars begin their rounds of batting practice 2:10 before game-time.

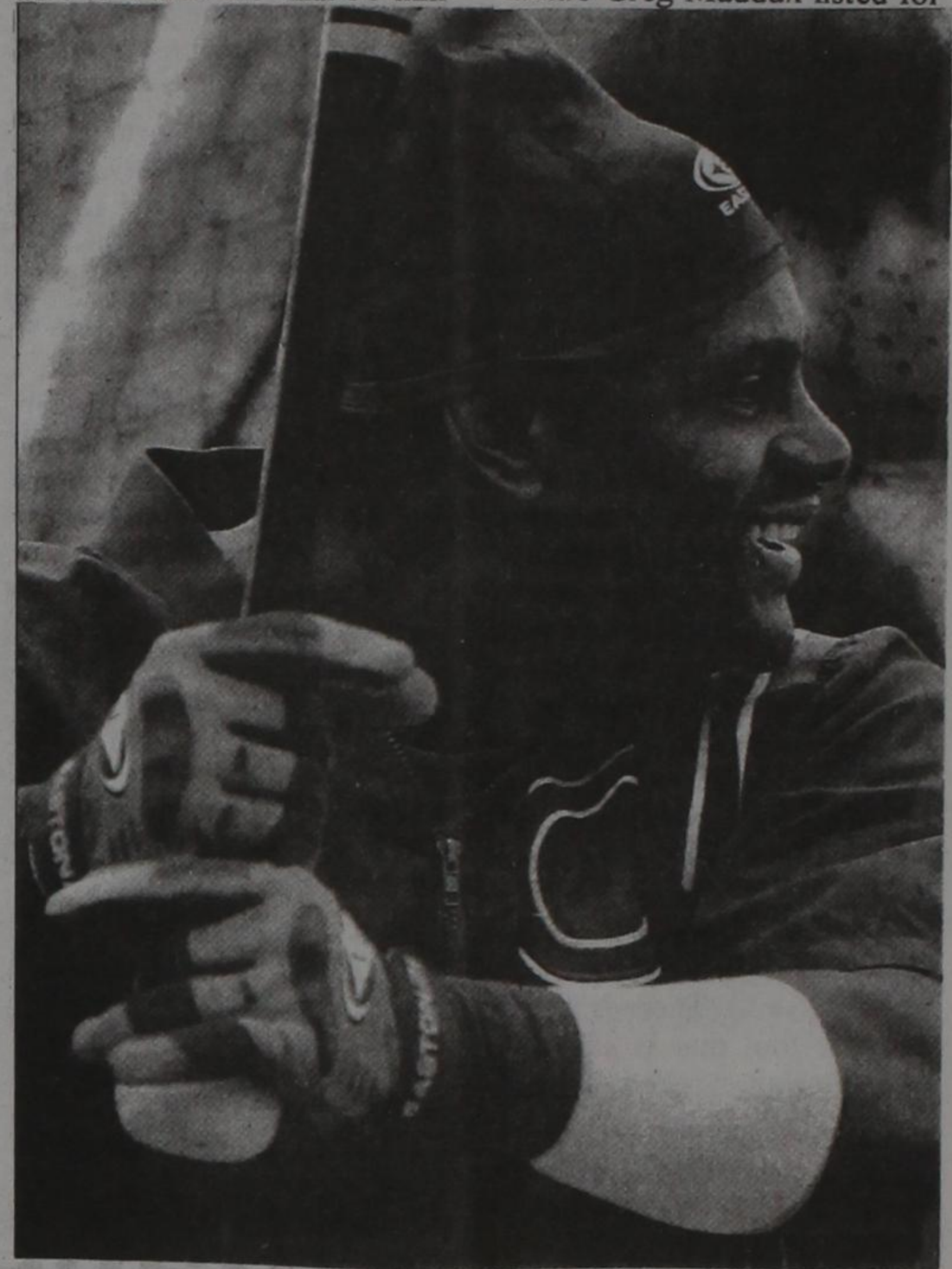
So if you're dying to see Sosa attempt to drill a hole through a distant Wrigley wall, here's the deal: You get to Wrigley the minute the gates open and scramble inside. You'll miss BP for the pitchers and extras, and you'll miss the first 10 minutes of BP for the Cubs' regulars. But you will be able to watch the final 30 min-

cork flying around this league for a lot of years and for a lot of teams.

"I tend to give him the benefit of the doubt if the X-rays come back and, of 77 bats, they only find one with cork (the one that shattered). He's a good dude, and a great teammate."

This much is true: Cheating in baseball is much more common than a corked bat used during batting practice. So in the Sosa matter, take that for what it's worth.

Ticking off reasons why there are fewer 300-game winners than ever these days, Atlanta's Greg Maddux listed for



utes of the Cubs hitting, which normally includes Sosa.

As for why a player with the strength of Sosa would bother corking a bat even for batting practice, well, that's where the gray area begins where the plausible meets the fantastical. You can tell this by all of the winks and grins you get when you ask baseball people whether or not they believe Sosa's explanation.

"Sammy was a great teammate," said reliever Rod Beck, who signed with the Padres this week and was a teammate of Sosa's in Chicago in 1998 and 1999. "Did he do it on purpose? Only he knows. Other than that, there's been

me two weeks ago the usual reasons -- five-man rotations, modern-day bullpen, etc. -- before adding one more:

"There are so many television cameras on the games that you can't cheat," he said. "You used to be able to. You used to not be able to on the Game of the Week, but you could during the other six games that week."

"Now there's five cameras on you every pitch."

Excellent point. That doesn't mean cheating doesn't happen anymore. It simply means guys must be smarter and more selective.

"Look at the Kentucky Derby," Beck said of the brief controversy that surrounded Jose Santos, Funny Cide's jockey, and whether he had something illegal in his hand during the race. "Look at the analysis that went into it. If he was trying to cheat, he couldn't. They drew that camera up so close you could see the shadow of his hand."

Santos was cleared, but only after his ride was reviewed from every single conceivable camera angle.

"Some guys use pine tar when they pitch, some guys know how to scuff, some guys know how to lube," Beck said. "That stuff belongs in here (the clubhouse), not in the newspaper."

Not, at least, until years later. Beck said he used a corked bat once during batting practice while he was with the San Francisco Giants and couldn't tell a difference. Bochy said he used a corked bat during BP when he was with San Diego in 1986 or 1987 with the same result.

So if you think Sosa's BP explanation is a taller tale than anything told by Pinocchio, the best we can do is: Maybe. But there is evidence of players using corked bats in practice but not in games.

There is far more evidence of flat-out cheating. Bochy tells of the time he was warming up a young pitcher named Tim Leary in the New York Mets' bullpen in 1983 when manager George Bamberger came down. "How's his spitball coming?" Bamberger barked.

Sammy Sosa admits he cheated but says it's a mistake. Can fans believe him though?

"That was unbelievable," Bochy said. "He wanted to teach him the spitball and he was just a (kid)."

Then there were the times when Bochy, who spent most of his career as a second-string catcher, was behind the plate for Ed Whitson's San Diego

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Acusan de fraude a Martha Stewart



Martha Stewart,

Martha Stewart, propietaria de un grupo de publicaciones y empresas de decoración, ha sido finalmente acusada por un delito de fraude en el mercado de valores, falso testimonio y obstrucción a la justicia, entre otros cargos.

Stewart llegó al mediodía de ayer a la Corte Federal del Sur de Manhattan, en Nueva York, donde le fueron comunicados los cargos.

Desde hace aproximadamente un año la empresaria era investigada por la venta, en diciembre de 2001, de un paquete de

acciones de ImClone Systems Inc., justo antes de que esta compañía farmacéutica reconociera que el gobierno había rechazado un nuevo medicamento desarrollado por la empresa contra el cáncer.

El auto de procesamiento que ha elaborado la Fiscalía también acusa al antiguo intermediario bursátil de la empresaria, Peter Bancanovic, por considerar que participó en la venta del paquete de acciones, formado por unos cuatro mil títulos, con un valor de unos 228 mil dólares.

La publicación del escándalo ha provocado un serio daño a la cotización de su conglomerado empresarial, que ha perdido cerca de un 50% de su valor en este periodo.

Si bien la empresaria defiende que no hubo ningún tipo de información privilegiada, pues había ordenado la venta de sus acciones de ImClone en el caso de que bajaran de 60 dólares, el caso es que esta operación le permitió a ella y a otros ejecutivos de su firma salvar unos beneficios de unos 79 millones de dólares.

J. Lo hará televisión en español

Después de su éxito arrollador en la música, el cine y la moda, Jennifer López se embarca en una nueva aventura: hacer televisión en español. La puertorriqueña criada en el Bronx recién firmó un acuerdo de producción a largo plazo con Telemundo. Su primer proyecto será una telenovela que relata la historia de una chica de barrio que sueña con ser estrella. Proyectos futuros incluyen un programa de variedades, música y baile.

López dijo que quería trabajar en español "porque estoy comprometida a crear producciones de alta calidad para nuestra cultura".

La visita de Ricky Martin a la Capital Azteca se vio totalmente opacada, pues al mismo tiempo llegó el George Bush, el papá del actual presidente Bush, a ver a Vicente Fox. En fin que Ricky presentó su disco ante un par de miles de admiradores en el Hipódromo de las Américas y dicen que estuvo prendido, aunque otros cuentan que no todas las canciones son pegajosas.

En el concierto que ofrecieron Alejandra Guzmán y su papá Enrique Guzmán, el veterano cantante se robó la noche. Aunque salió después de su hija, las ovaciones que el don recibió fueron mayores, y al final chicos, grandes y muy grandes quedaron fascinados. ¡Bien por ellos!

Finalmente se le hizo a Maribel Guardia tener una canción de su adorado tormento. En su nuevo disco tendrá una composición del meritito padre de su hijo, o sea Joan Sebastian. Hasta parecen que adultos civilizados: un mal amor terminó en una buena amistad.

El ridículo de la semana lo hizo Manuel "Loco" Valdés con los medios de comunicación que fueron a entrevistarle a su nueva obra de teatro. Resulta que de repente se soltó a decir groserías y dar empujones para no hablarles a los



reporteros cuando lo acorralaron con micrófonos y cámaras, esto porque según dice está hasta la coronilla de que le pregunten de Cristian y su boda... Aquí entre nos, tiene mucha razón de estar cansado, pero no de ser grosero.

Y hablando de "osotes", entérense del que se aventó Sofia Vergara por las dos portentosas razones que la hicieron famosa. Resulta que hace poco se publicaron unas fotos de ella tipo paparazzo, donde aparece con una sudadera que le cubre su amplia "pechonalidad" pero sin nada de soporte... es decir sin brassiere y temo decirles que las tiene hasta el suelo, o por lo menos así se le ven. Ni modo, la ley de la gravedad aplica a todos.

Government Puts Latinos' Rights Increasingly at Risk

By Raymond Rodriguez

Like many Latinos, I am concerned by the growing erosion of our legal and civil rights.

Using the 9/11 terrorist attack as justification, the federal government enacted the USA Patriot Act, allowing it to take drastic action in the name of national security. Not content with the powers already available to it, the government is seeking to expand them even further by enacting Patriot Act II.

If passed, the measure would authorize agencies such as Homeland Security, FBI, CIA and even the Pentagon to spy upon and usurp the rights of citizens and non-citizens alike. It would allow the agencies to gather all kinds of information and data.

The right of privacy as we know it would be a thing of the past. No personal files or records would be immune from government scrutiny. Medical records, bank accounts, utility bills, rental leases and nearly

any other activity you or I engage in could be accessed without our knowledge or permission.

Even phone conversations and computer usage could be placed under surveillance. Currently, agencies such as the FBI must get a court order to monitor phone conversations.

Under the proposed law, however, a court order would not be required. Phone calls to family back home could be recorded and analyzed. Latinos, regardless of their status, could be subjected to arbitrary harassment. Latinos and other suspects could even be profiled and arrested based on the way they walk, talk, act or with whom they associate.

Latinos are concerned because they remember what happened to many U.S. residents from the Middle East. They were detained indefinitely, not allowed to contact a lawyer, denied their day in court and deported even if they were naturalized citizens.

Immigrants can be stripped

of their U.S. citizenship without a trial. That could put many Latinos at grave risk.

Given the nation's conservative legal trend, the courts are no longer a bastion to protect our civil rights. A recent 6-3 U.S. Supreme Court decision involving farm worker Oliverio Martinez severely curtailed the guarantees against self-incrimination outlined in the Miranda decision.

Under Miranda guidelines, a suspect must be informed of his rights before being interrogated. He must be told that he has the right to remain silent, that anything he says can and will be used against him, that he is entitled to have a lawyer present during questioning, and if he cannot afford a lawyer, one will be provided for him, free of charge.

The requirements are intended to prevent a suspect from being intimidated or forced to confess to a crime. In a scuffle with the police, Martinez was shot five times, leaving him crippled and blind.

However, he was not read his rights, and the police continued to question him even as doctors tended his wounds.

When Martinez sued, claiming his civil rights had been violated, the Supreme Court ruled against him. It ruled that no great legal harm had been done by the failure of the officers to inform him of his rights.

This absurd ruling puts us all at risk.

Also under severe attack is the issue of affirmative action. Affirmative action stipulates that a good faith effort must be made in employment practices, college admissions and in awarding government contracts, in order to assure diversified representation.

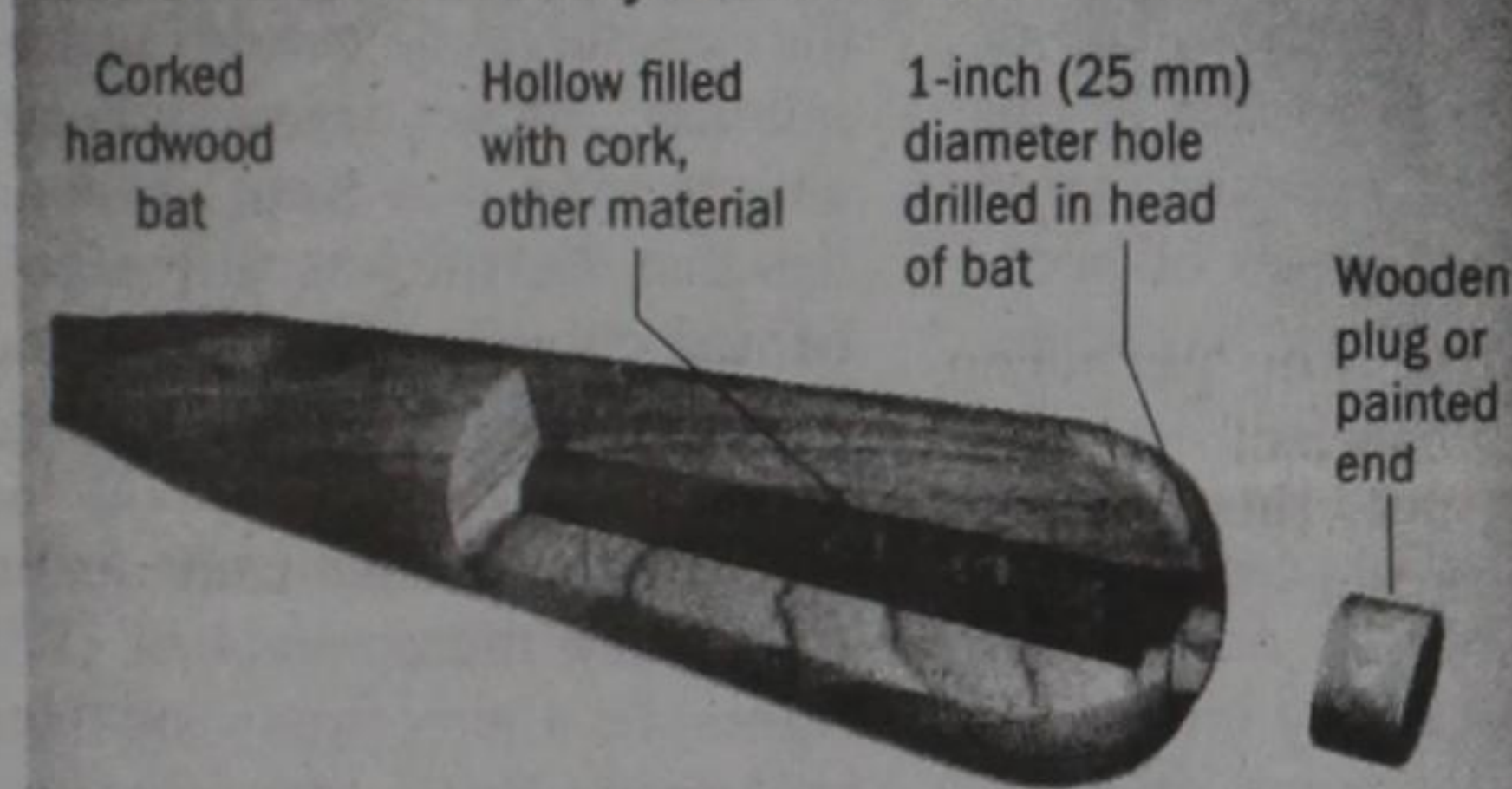
This practice increased the admission of Latinos, blacks, women and other groups to colleges and universities. Now affirmative action is under attack. Opponents accuse it of being discriminatory against white males. They conveniently overlook the fact that if there had been no discrimination in the first place, affirmative action laws wouldn't have been needed. In California, which often takes the lead in passing initiatives detrimental to the well-being of Latinos, a proposal is being promoted to prohibit public agencies from collecting racially oriented data, often known as racial profiling.

continued on page 6

Sosa's Image from page 4

CORKING A BASEBALL BAT

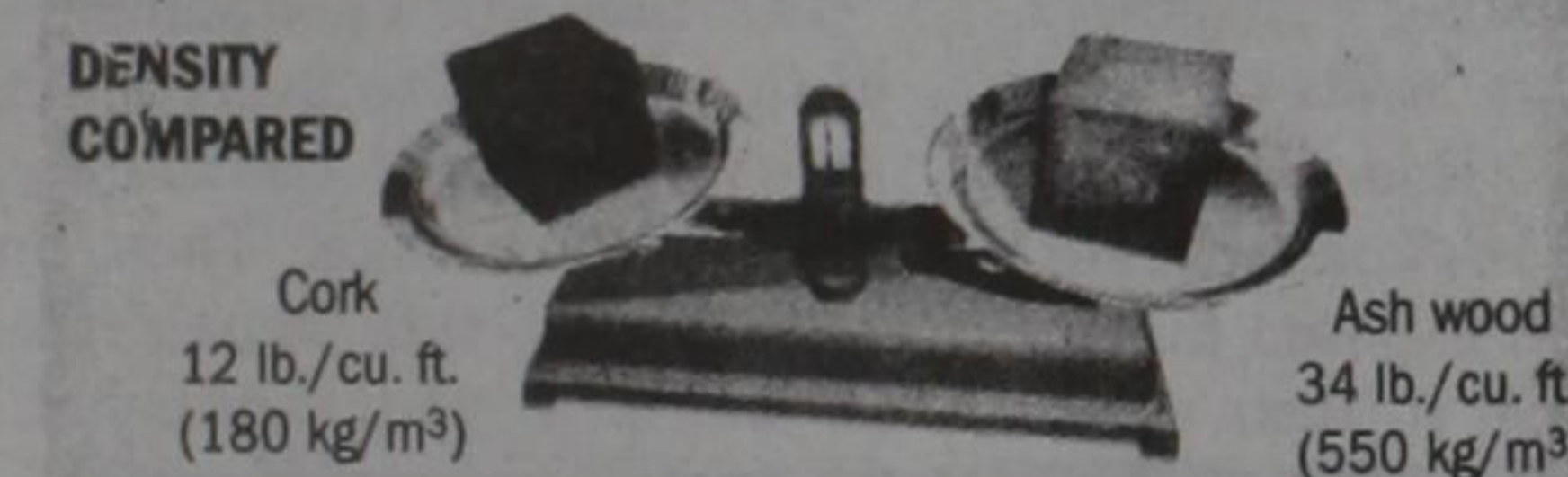
Major league rules forbid "corking" a bat, which some people believe increases its ability to transmit force to the ball.



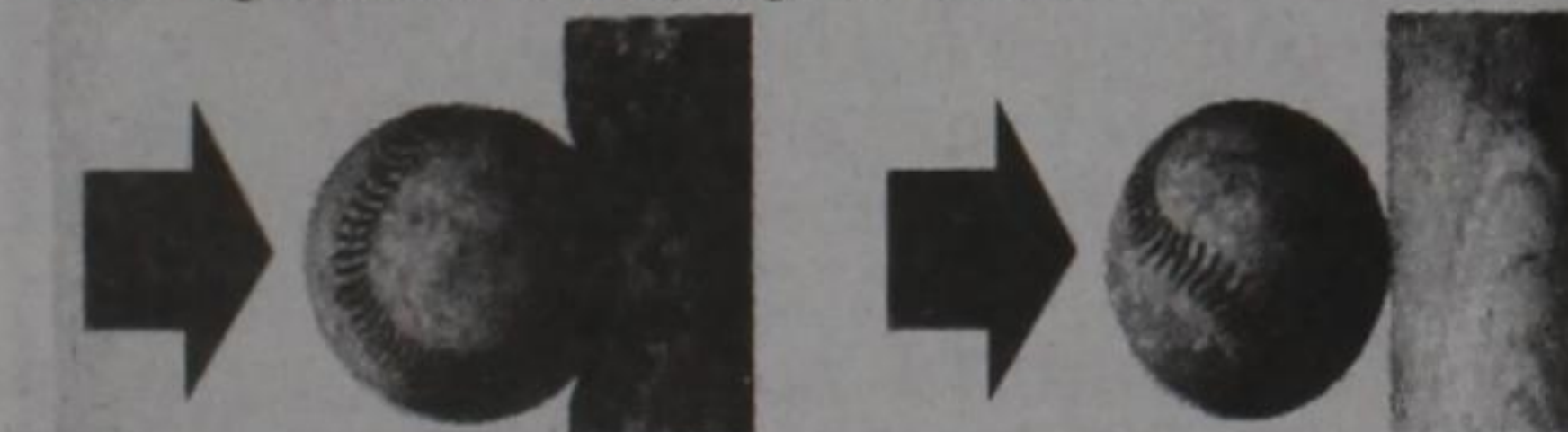
THEORY
Corking increases bat speed.

SOMEWHAT TRUE ...
Makes bat lighter, easier to swing without sacrificing length or width.

... HOWEVER
Reduces bat's momentum - and energy it can transfer to ball.



THEORY
Corking increases bat's springiness (elasticity).



SOMEWHAT TRUE ...
Cork compresses easily, feels more springy than hardwood.

... HOWEVER
Hardwood is also very elastic. In instant that bat is in contact with ball, it stores and releases energy much better than cork.

Source: AP, Sequoia Pocket Ref, "The Physics of Baseball" Graphic: Todd Lindeman Knight-Ridder graphic

lanta, on national television, scared to death that the center-field camera would zoom in a little too closely on his glove.

"That was as nervous as I've ever been," he said.

Undoubtedly, as Tuesday night got away from him, that probably was as nervous as Sosa has been, too. As he emphasized a day later, had he known he was using a corked bat, he certainly would have rushed back to pick up the broken pieces before anybody else could get to them.

Still, it will be a long time before we forget the sights of the shattered bat, Sosa's press conference and all those rent-a-cops hauling Sosa's bats away from Wrigley Field as if they were pieces of evidence headed for the Martha Stewart indictment.

And it will be longer still until the various components of this doozy of a blunder go away.

Among other aspects, managers can request once per game that the umpires check a bat. Will this kick off a rash of opposing managers demanding Sosa's bat be checked during games this summer? Even if only to rattle him?

"I doubt it," San Diego's Bochy said. "I don't think he'll risk trying it again. You get your hand caught in the cookie jar, you're probably not going to go back in there."

Sosa will have plenty of time to think about that during his coming -- and well-deserved -- suspension.

The larger problem for both Sosa and the game, though, is this: The suspicion and skepticism surrounding the boatload of modern home run records now has a very public face as a target.

Willing or not.



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Las Universidades y las Comunidades disfrutan de mayores lazos con los grupos estudiantiles Latinos

Por Victor Calderón

Los más de un millón de estudiantes hispanos matriculados en las universidades de los EEUU han ampliado la gama de organizaciones de estudiantes latinos y ahora representan una nueva diversidad.

Los intereses de los diversos grupos van desde la cultura y las artes dramáticas hasta una multitud de profesiones. Las organizaciones disfrutan de éxito tanto en los recintos universitarios como en las comunidades circundantes.

Los grupos de estudiantes latinos van cambiando el panorama no sólo en Los Angeles - sólo la UCLA cuenta con una docena de grupos - además están Austin,

Texas, donde la Universidad de Texas alberga a 10 grupos, y lugares como la Universidad de Kansas en Lawrence, con su Organización de Liderazgo Hispano-Americano, y University Park, en Pennsylvania, donde opera el Latino Caucus en la Pennsylvania State University.

En abril de 1969, se estableció el Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán en la universidad de Santa Barbara durante una reunión de estudiantes y dirigentes chicanos. Se fundó la organización con los principios de fortalecimiento y auto-determinación para todos los chicanos mediante la educación y el compromiso político.

Hoy MEChA es la mayor organización de estudiantes chicanos en los Estados Unidos, con cientos de capítulos universitarios y de secundaria divididos entre diez regiones por todo el país.

Hace diez años que MEChA es activa en la universidad de Georgetown, en Washington, D.C. Como parte del foro de estudiantes chicanos de la costa este, MEChA de Georgetown hace poco realizó una conferencia de tres días en la que se reunieron más de doce organizaciones latinas de otras universidades, incluyendo la Academia Naval estadounidense, con sede en Annapolis, Maryland.

Una de las razones por las que se estableció el grupo AHORA en la universidad de Brandeis, en Waltham, Massachusetts, es para llevar el sabor latino a los colegas universitarios, comenta co-presidenta del grupo, Diony Elias. El llamarlo AHORA recalca que sus miembros quieren acción ya. "Los latinos somos tan diversos", explica co-presidenta Sheralyn Diaz. "Tenemos tanto más que ofrecer que sólo cantantes sexy".

El grupo en esta universidad de 3,000 estudiantes patrocina eventos con el fin de crear un sentido de familia entre la comunidad circundante, también. Recientemente muchos de sus 45 miembros se dedicaron a preparar a adultos que estudian para dar el examen de ingreso a los estudios pos-grado (GRE por sus siglas en inglés).

Algunos grupos de estudiantes hispanos reflejan los países de origen. "Lo que hemos notado es que los grupos inclusivos se dividen en sub-grupos", explica el doctor Gumecindo Salas, vicepresidente de relaciones gubernamentales de la Asociación Hispana de Universidades, con base en San Antonio.

"(Las organizaciones más grandes) se dedican a enfrentar asuntos de envergadura a todos los grupos, pero no conviene que un grupo sea muy amplio. De lo contrario, se vuelve imposible comprender todas las necesidades de los miembros".

En la universidad de Harvard, la asociación de estudiantes cubano-americanos (CAUSA por sus siglas en inglés), envió el año pasado a dos miembros a Cuba para distribuir materiales médicos y de higiene a pacientes con SIDA. En la de Princeton, la Acción Puertorriqueña y AMIGOS colaboró con el Chicano Caucus de la misma para patrocinar una fiesta en honor a los em-

pleados latinos de la universidad.

En tales fiestas tanto los estudiantes como los profesores disfrutan de la alegría que traen los grupos artísticos. Se encuentran grupos del Ballet Folclórico en varias universidades incluyendo la Georgetown, UC Berkeley y Yale. Princeton cuenta con un grupo que practica la capoeira, un arte marcial de Brasil. Por todo el suroeste de los EEUU aumenta el número de grupos de mariachi universitarios. En la Universidad de Texas, en Austin, la Asociación Estudiantil Mariachi ha disfrutado de tanto éxito que se ha presentando en conferencias de mariachis en San Antonio, Texas, y en Tempe, Arizona.

El crecimiento de las asociaciones de estudiantes latinos cubre también las profesiones, desde los negocios hasta el derecho y la ingeniería. En la universidad de Santa Clara, el grupo Chicanos and Latinos in Engineering and Sciences (ChALESS por sus siglas en inglés) fue fundado en California en 1988 con sólo cinco ingenieros latinos que decidieron formar un club para reclutar a más latinos al campo de la ingeniería. Se formó como capítulo de la Sociedad de Ingenieros Profesionales Hispanos, pero cambió de nombre a ChALESS en 1996.

Belén Verduzco, presidente de la Asociación y estudiante de ingeniería civil lo considera un grupo de modelos profesionales latinos. Hay empresas en Silicon Valley tal y como Sun Microsystems y Agilent Technologies que colaboran con ChALESS para ofrecer talleres y prácticas profesionales. Los estudiantes también colaboran con la universidad para auspiciar el programa de verano FUSE, de apoyo para los estudiantes de ingeniería minoritarios entrantes.

Desde ChALESS en Santa Clara hasta Alianza Latina en la universidad de Pace en la ciudad de Nueva York, lo que une a los estudiantes hispanos con sus comunidades universitarias es el activismo, el servicio a la comunidad, las representaciones culturales y el profesionalismo.

Las organizaciones ofrecen la riqueza de la cultura latina a las universidades en un ambiente que promueve aprender sobre todas las culturas, eliminando los estereotipos y colaborando para lograr el progreso, al mismo tiempo que se realiza un cuerpo estudiantil más unido.

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Diverse Latino Student Groups Engage Campuses, Communities

By Victor Calderón

With more than a million Hispanic students now attending U.S. colleges and universities, the scope of Latino student organizations on campuses has evolved to represent a new diversity within their numbers.

Their interests range from culture and the performing arts to a multitude of professions. These student organizations are finding satisfaction and success on their campuses and in surrounding communities.

Latino student groups are changing the landscape not only in Los Angeles -- UCLA alone has a dozen -- and Austin, Texas, where the University of Texas is home to 10 groups, but also in places like the University of Kansas in Lawrence, with its Hispanic American Leadership Organization, and University Park, Pa., where the Latino Caucus at Pennsylvania State University is active.

In April 1969, the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (known as MEChA) was established at the University of California, Santa Barbara, during a meeting of Chicano students and community leaders. The organization was founded on the principles of empowerment and self-determination for all Chicanos through education and political involvement.

Today, MEChA is the nation's largest Chicano student organization, with a few hundred college and high school chapters divided into ten regions across the country.

At Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., the MEChA chapter has existed for 10 years. As part of the East Coast Chicano Student Forum, MEChA de Georgetown recently hosted a three-day conference that brought together more than a dozen Latino organizations from other colleges, including the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

Georgetown "Mechistas" also protested outside the Supreme Court during hearings on affirmative action April 1. As with most Latino student organizations, MEChA de Georgetown is open to all students interested in working for empowerment in the Latino community and learning about its rich heritage.

A sense of bringing the Latino flavor to fellow students is one reason that AHORA was founded at Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass., according to co-president Diony Elias. The name accentuates that its members want action *ahora* -- now. "We (Latinos) are so diverse," says co-president Sheralyn Diaz. "We have so much more to offer than sexy singers."

The group at this university of 3,000 sponsors events that build a sense of *familia* within the surrounding community as well. Most recently, many of its 45 members tutored adults studying for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

Some Hispanic student groups are geared toward specific countries of origin. "What we've seen is that the umbrella groups are

breaking down into sub-groups," says Dr. Gumecindo Salas, vice-president of governmental relations at the San Antonio-based Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities.

"(The larger organizations) must strive to work for issues that cross-cut all groups, but you don't want a group to be too broad. Otherwise you won't be able to understand the needs of all your members."

Harvard has the Cuban-American Undergraduate Student Association (CAUSA), which last year sent two members to Cuba to distribute medical and hygienic supplies to patients with AIDS. At Princeton, Acción Puertorriqueña y AMIGOS worked with the university's Chicano Caucus to host a party honoring the efforts of the school's Latino employees.

At such fiestas, the presence of performing arts groups brings a feeling of *alegría* to both students and faculty. Ballet Folklórico groups are found at several campuses including Georgetown, UC Berkeley and Yale. The Brazilian martial art of *capoeira* has a group at Princeton. And mariachi clubs are growing along the Southwestern United States. At the University of Texas in Austin, the Mariachi Student Association has enjoyed such success that it has performed at mariachi conferences in Tempe, Ariz., and San Antonio.

The growth of Latino student clubs also covers professions from business to law to engineering. Chicanos and Latinos in Engineering and Sciences at Santa Clara University (ChALESS) was founded in California in 1988 after the only five Latino engineers decided to form a club that would work to recruit more Latinos to the field. It was formed as a chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers but changed its name to ChALESS in 1996.

President Belén Verduzco, a civil engineering major, sees it as a support group of Latino role models. Silicon Valley businesses such as Sun Microsystems and Agilent Technologies work in conjunction with ChALESS to provide workshops and job internships. Students also work with the university to host FUSE, a summer program for incoming engineering students of color.

From ChALESS at Santa Clara to the Alianza Latina at Pace University in New York City, activism, community service, cultural performances and professionalism unite Hispanic students with their university communities.

These organizations bring the richness of the Latino culture to colleges in an environment that fosters education about all cultures, breaking down stereotypes and working together for progress, creating a more unified student body in the process.

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Meanspirited

From Page 1

Total spending on public education will grow 3.6 percent under the budget, thanks to a 22.8 percent jump in federal aid that will offset a decrease in state dollars going to public schools. Critics say that growth won't keep pace with inflation and enrollment growth.

Spending on health and human services will also rise 2.8 percent, despite a decrease in state money for the programs. Most of the new federal money, though, will be needed to pay for soaring Medicaid costs, and the state will reduce the Children's Health Insurance rolls by more than 160,000 by changing enrollment procedures, cut home health care hours for frail and elderly Texans by 15 percent, and shrink other social service programs.

Those cuts drew the most outrage from Democrats on Sunday and prompted them to renew their calls to raise the state's 41 cents-per-pack cigarette tax by \$1 and force more companies to pay the corporate franchise tax.

Many state leaders were elected on the promise not to raise any new taxes.

"Those campaign promises, in my judgment, have been overtaken by events of time," Wentworth said, noting that the anticipated gap between

projected income and what was needed to maintain services jumped from \$5 billion on election day to \$9.9 billion by the time lawmakers came to Austin in January.

"This budget is not a bad one, as such. I prefer to consider it a work still in progress. We can do it right, and we can do more if we stick around a few more days," said Wentworth, who represents part of Travis County.

Even without prolonging the session, lawmakers Sunday night were poised to approve some revenue-generating measures that had appeared dead earlier in the weekend.

Those included joining a multistate lottery, which would pump an estimated \$101 million into Texas coffers over the next two years. That money would be used for public education.

Shapleigh complained that more than \$10 million for university health centers along the border was taken out of the budget and lawmakers will have to try to get the money from the new Texas Enterprise Fund meant to attract new companies to Texas. He said it was political punishment to Democrats from those regions, a charge Republicans dismissed.

Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn will have 10 days to certify that the state has enough money for the budget. It will then go to Gov. Rick Perry for approval.

From Page 2

tal Protection Agency, three out of five Hispanics live in or near a toxic site, whether it is an incinerator, a refinery or a farm field. This is the new civil rights front.

In Watsonville, Calif., "the world's strawberry capital," a barrio school is surrounded by fields that have been fumigated for years with some of the most toxic pesticides known to man. The elementary school is called Salsipuedes (get out if you can).

The government of the U.S. commonwealth of Puerto Rico has requested that the island of Vieques be declared one of this nation's most contaminated places. After 60 years of bombardment, the Navy has abandoned its long-controversial Navy bombing range, leaving behind a legacy of thousands of unexploded bombs and coasts poisoned with heavy metals.

These are examples of a national crisis that is taking a very heavy toll on the Hispanic community's health and threatening its future. In the Southwest, asthma -- caused by air pollution -- is considered an epidemic among Hispanics. The dangerous levels of heavy metals, like lead and cadmium, that millions of Hispanic kids are exposed to constitute a threat to their mental

and physical development.

The incidence of cancer and genetic birth defects among Latino farm workers is alarming because of their almost constant exposure to pesticides.

There is strength in numbers. That is how, in the late 1970s, the environmental justice movement was born in Warren County, North Carolina, where the community, overwhelmingly poor and African-American, reinvented the strategies of the Civil Rights Movement to fight what today is known as environmental racism. In the courts and before public opinion, those activists were able to convince state authorities that racism was the reason behind choosing their community to build a toxic dump.

Ever since then, victims of environmental injustice have often used the concept of civil rights in their fights against polluters. Even the government joined in the fight in 1994, when President Clinton ordered all federal agencies to use the 1964 Civil Rights Act to address environmental injustices.

The fight for environmental justice belongs to everyone in the Hispanic community. They must be vocal. Then, on election day, they must register and speak with their ballot.

Latinos Rights at Risk

from page 5

Despite its misuse, racial profiling has many positive uses. It allows public agencies to determine patterns or areas of need and to respond to them more effectively. This includes the delivery of better educational services, health care and the deployment of public safety services, services relied upon by many Latinos.

In all candor, if we were truly a colorblind society, there

would be no need to gather racial information. Unfortunately, such is not the case. Therefore, until race is no longer an important factor in the way individuals are treated, such data can play a vital role in attempting to promote equal treatment for all.

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