

# ional De la Camara Americana De Comercio

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## News Briefs

### Affirmative Action Changes Planned

The Clinton administration will change the way it awards government contracts to curb race-based preferences for some minority businesses and "ensure that affirmative action is used only where warranted," reports Associated Press.

The proposed regulations will change the way \$200 billion in annual federal contracts are awarded.

The Justice Department, which is coordinating the effort, said the new rules will be consistent, the department said, "with the president's commitment to 'mend,' rather than 'end,' affirmative action."

In a 1995 speech that followed an intensive internal administration review, Clinton vowed to mend, but not end, affirmative action programs. He promised to establish legal measures to help disadvantaged businesses to compete fairly with more established companies without imposing "reverse discrimination" on white-owned concerns.

The new rules will rely on an industry-by-industry review aimed at determining where minority groups are experiencing discrimination in the awarding of government contracts.

Justice Department officials said the government will look at 80 industries that account for the bulk of federal procurement. It will review industry statistics, census data and federal procurement spending to determine where minorities have suffered apparent bias.

A 1995 Supreme Court decision limited the ability of federal programs to award benefits on the basis of race or sex. The case involved a white-owned Colorado company that lost a federal highway guardrail construction job to a Hispanic-owned business that had submitted a higher bid.

The Supreme Court ruled that race-based preference programs were constitutional only in response to quantifiable evidence of discrimination against an affected party.

Minority-owned businesses, as well as those that qualify as economically disadvantaged, account for 6.6 percent, or \$11 billion of annual federal procurement of goods and services.

### Congress to Eye Entitlement Reforms

Associated Press reports today White House officials and Republican congressional leaders say their next great challenge is bringing long-term solvency to Social Security and Medicare.

White House budget director Franklin Raines predicted Sunday that the budget deal announced Friday should keep federal spending and income roughly in balance for the next 15 to 20 years. But, he said on CBS' "Face the Nation," the two sides should begin now to address the larger problem of the future of the government's huge benefits programs.

Meantime, on NBC's "Meet the Press," White House chief of staff Erskine Bowles said: "We do have to face the generational problems and go forward with some kind of bipartisan process that really will solve the long-term problems associated with Medicare and Social Security."

The balanced budget deal requires \$115 billion in Medicare savings and \$15 billion in Medicaid savings through 2002. The deal also proposes \$85 billion in net tax cuts and reducing the deficit by \$350 billion over five years. Much of the savings for Medicare, the health care plan for the elderly, comes from trimming fees paid to doctors and hospitals.

"This is a giant first step that is going to allow us to stabilize these entitlement programs," House Budget Committee Chairman John Kasich, R-Ohio, a key negotiator on the GOP side, said on ABC's "This Week." But next, he said "Congress is going to have to permanently reform major entitlement programs."

Once the current balanced budget agreement is in place, "we need to have a real bipartisan process around entitlement reform," Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said on ABC.

### Disabled Immigrants Retain Benefits

President Clinton began his second term promising to restore welfare benefits that documented immigrants lost in last year's welfare overhaul. Republicans promised to stop him.

It's now clear that Clinton has largely won, and disability checks will keep going out to hundreds of thousands of immigrants.

"We met with the governors. We learned of some of the problems that were being experienced in the states and in the cities," said Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi.

Republican governors from New York, Illinois and California made it clear that cutting benefits would leave their states to care for elderly, sick documented immigrants who came to this country under federal rules.

Such pressure helped persuade Lott, who originally ruled out restoring benefits, to accept Clinton's position in the balanced-budget deal announced last Friday.

Congressional Republicans also were affected by accounts in newspapers and on television about elderly immigrants being cut off the rolls, immigrant advocates say. The Wall Street Journal wrote about an elderly Mexican immigrant who killed himself, possibly in fear of losing support.

"Republicans have been hard hit with the reality that the general public is angry," said Cecilia Munoz, deputy vice president of the National Council of La Raza, a Hispanic rights group.

Politically, she and others argued, it could only hurt the GOP with immigrants who had become voting citizens and with Americans who wanted welfare reform but didn't want to see old people thrown onto the streets.

Officials estimate about 500,000 immigrants - most of them disabled - would have been kicked off SSI under last year's welfare changes.

Last week's budget deal helps about two-thirds of them with \$10 billion to continue SSI and Medicaid for immigrants in the United States on Aug. 22, 1996, when the welfare law was signed. That includes noncitizens already on the rolls and those who may become disabled in the future. It doesn't include those who are elderly but not disabled.

Confusion remains whether the deal allows immigrants who arrived after the welfare law was signed to qualify for SSI. Congressional Republicans say no. Administration officials say yes, but only after considering the income of their immigration sponsors.

There is also confusion whether future documented immigrant children will be covered by Medicaid, another Clinton proposal.

Immigrant groups, still unhappy, plan to rally Wednesday in Washington, Los Angeles, Detroit, Chicago, Houston, New York, Minneapolis and Portland, Ore.

Por Francisco Reynoso

El Tratado de Libre Comercio de Norteamérica está funcionando con éxito.

En México es piedra angular de la recuperación económica. Y en Estados Unidos soporta 2 millones de empleos además de que propició la apertura de 700 mil nuevos. Los primeros efectos de progreso ya son evidentes. Y es el primer paso para llegar al TLC de las Américas en el año 2005.

Ante los empresarios estadounidenses con negocios en nuestro país, afiliados a la American Chamber, la secretaria de Estado, Madeleine Albright hizo hincapié en que el gobierno de su país y el mexicano trabajan arduamente en la liberalización comercial con miras a llegar al libre comercio en el hemisferio. Y es que se ha comprobado que el TLC ha arrojado, hasta ahora, resultados satisfactorios. Albright se refirió a las reuniones sostenidas con sus contrapartes de México en la binacional y consideró que



Ernesto Zedillo.

en dos días se lograron más avances que en los dos últimos años. Actualmente el TLC, dijo la secretaria de Estado, a los empresarios estadounidenses, afecta positivamente a un número muy importante de ciudadanos de ambos países. Se continuará trabajando para que la cobertura de beneficios cada vez



sea más grande. Madeleine Albright se refirió a la labor del embajador James Jones, la cual calificó de extraordinaria. Y anunció que el presidente Clinton ha expresado su compromiso de mantener un primerísimo nivel en la representación de su gobierno en México. De ello, dijo, se dará cuenta con la llegada del nuevo representante de la Casa Blanca.

A pregunta del auditorio sobre cuál es la función de Estados Unidos al finalizar la Guerra Fría, la secretaria de Estado dijo que tiene decidido compromiso con la paz. Y para cumplirlo busca alianzas con naciones como México. Señaló que en la política exterior del presidente Clinton, América Latina está en primer plano, aunque, aclaró, Estados Unidos no puede dedicarse a una sola región. Por ello reestructura sus relaciones con Europa, Asia, Rusia y China. Pero en esa visión, reiteró, América Latina está al frente.

### Sin aranceles, 80 por ciento del comercio México-EU

El secretario de Comercio William Daley dijo a los empresarios estadounidenses establecidos en nuestro país, que en 1998 dos terceras partes del comercio entre México y Estados Unidos estarán libres de derechos. Del TLC de Norteamérica, aseguró, son evidentes los efectos de progreso que ha generado. Destaca el

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**"El Respeto Al  
Derecho Ajeno  
Es La Paz"**  
Lic Benito Juarez  
ESTABLECIDO 1977  
ESTABLISHED 1977

EL EDITOR

Celebrating 20 years of Publishing  
Texas' Oldest Hispanic Owned Newspaper

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### Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero

Mother's Day has always been a very special day for Chicanos.

Many refer to their home as "Mi Tierra Madre" or their church as "Mi Madre Iglesia", the references are endless. There are thousands of songs that refer to one's mother and all of these speak dearly and with all respect.



This in itself has probably contributed very much to all of us holding very sacred the respect shown toward our mothers and wives.

It's very sad to see many of our younger kids listening to songs referring to mothers in a very obscene manner. And many of our kids using the "M" word very casually in the streets. This probably lends very much to the deterioration of the family structure, something that has been sustained for many years.

So what can be done. Actually the only answer is to speak to our kids and make them realize that when one offends another person's mother in actuality they are also disrespecting themselves and their mother.

During my youth, using the "M" really meant fighting immediately. Now, it seems to spring up in every other sentence among kids.

To me, that's wrong. We at El Editor hope that all Mothers will enjoy their day. That their children will give them all a big hug from us. And tell them "Thank You for Being So Good"

**Feliz Día de  
La Madres  
Para Todos**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Happy Mother's  
Day to Olga  
From Marisol,  
Joe Adam,  
Amalia, Zenaida  
and Me**

**Happy  
Mother's  
Day**

### 'Mi Madre'

## No Greater Gift

BY MARISA ARBONA-RUIZ

My great American childhood was confusing. It was a time when heavy doses of racism challenged my cultural pride and left me struggling with my own self-worth. I am a mestiza. Mixed blood. In school I encountered violence and relentless taunting from classmates and bigot teachers who arrogantly forecasted no future for me. Parents monitored my acquaintances with their kids. One friend's father told me to stay out of the sun, if I got any browner he wouldn't let me in. I didn't understand hatred, but I knew it hurt.

That was also a time when my mother's love and stories became the Band-Aids that held my heart together. Sitting at mami's side, I learned to weave on a loom and pain while her Spanish and Nahuatl (Aztec) songs came softly to my ears.

Her sweet voice brought me

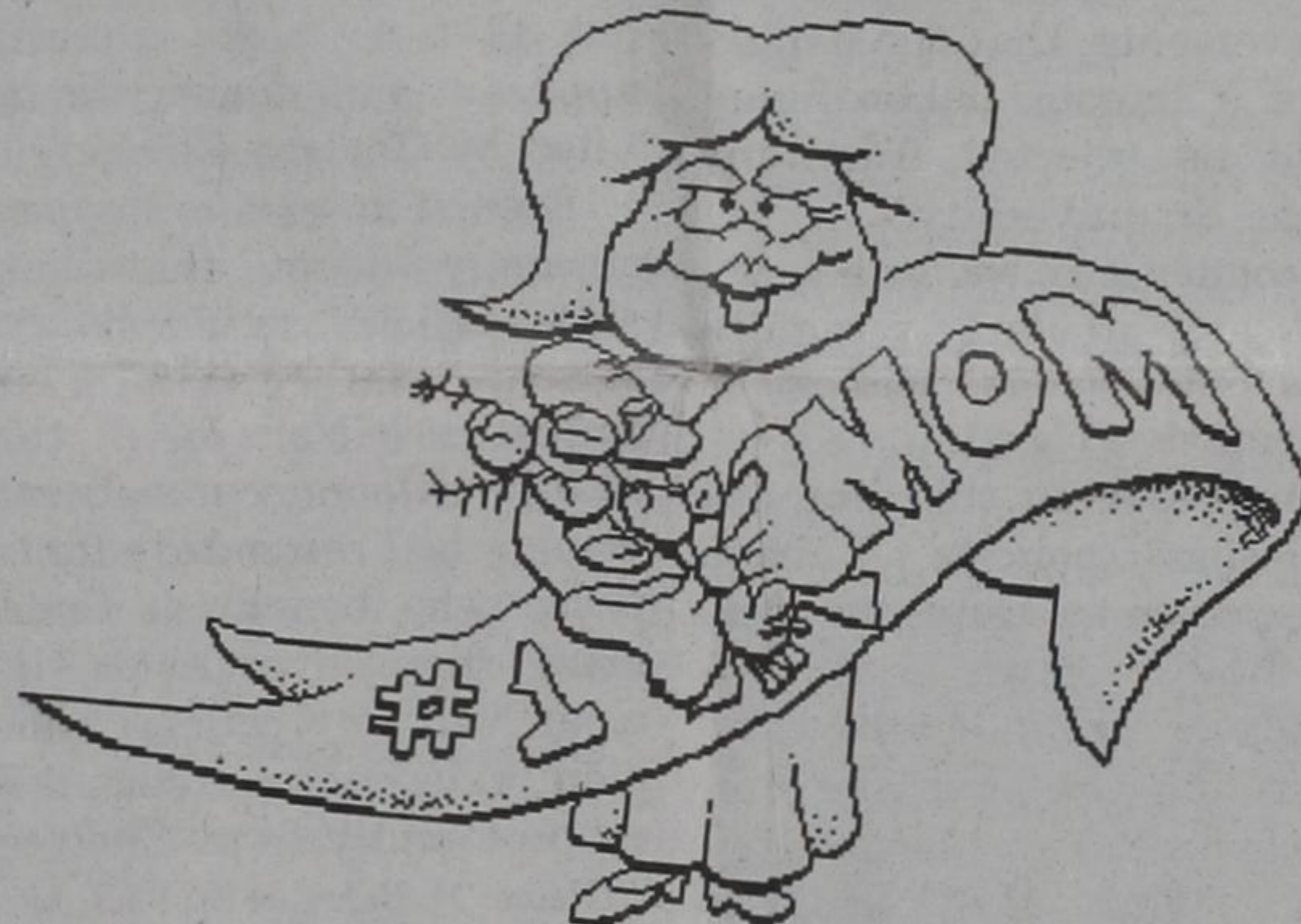
warmth and beauty I later clung to in moments of despair. The stories of her heritage and family and the mountains she grew up among, Popocatepetl (smoking mountain) and Iztlacihuatl (sleeping woman), became my power.

She often spoke of her feminist mother, who fearlessly traveled the mountains on horseback, delivering babies;

and her father, who was "borrowed" (taken) by Pancho Villa as a boy to play guitar and sing for his men.

In those early days I never talked about school. I never talked much at all. But my self-esteem grew with the yarn that we transformed into tejidos -- weavings -- and the plain paper that came alive with our beautiful shapes and

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### 'Mi Madre'

## El Regalo Mejor

Por MARISA ARBONA-RUIZ

Mi gran niñez estadounidense fue confusa. Fue una época en que las fuertes dosis de racismo desafiaron mi orgullo en mi cultura y me dejaron luchando con mi valor personal.

Soy una mestiza (persona de sangre mezclada). En la escuela me enfrenté a la violencia y a burlas interminables de parte de mis compañeros de clase y de los maestros intolerantes que pronosticaban arrogantemente que yo no tenía un futuro. Los padres y las madres vigilaban mis relaciones con sus hijos. El padre de un amigo me dijo que me quedara fuera del sol, si me ponía más parda, él no me dejaría entrar a su casa. Yo no comprendía el odio, pero sabía que lastimaba.

Hubo también una época en que el amor y los relatos de mi madre se convirtieron en las "curitas" que mantenían mi corazón de una pieza. Sentada al lado de mami, aprendí a hilar en un telar y a pintar, mientras que sus canciones en español y náhuatl (azteca) llegaban suavemente a mis

oídos. Su voz dulce me trajo calor y belleza, a los que me agaré después, en los momentos de desesperación. Los relatos de su herencia y su familia y las montañas entre las que ella creció, el Popocatepetl ("la montaña que humea") y el Iztlacihuatl ("la mujer dormida"), llegaron a ser mi poder. Ella hablaba a menudo de su madre feminista, que viajaba sin temor por las montañas a caballo, ayudando a los niños a nacer, y de su padre, que fue tomado "prestado" (llevado a la fuerza) por Pancho Villa cuando era un niño, para tocar la guitarra y cantar para sus hombres.

En aquellos días tempranos yo nunca hablaba sobre la escuela. Nunca hablaba mucho del todo. Pero mi auto estima aumentó con las hebras que transformábamos en tejidos y el papel liso que cobraba vida con nuestras formas y dibujos bellos. Todo con los colores del arco iris. La auto estima de mamá aumentó también, ya que ella se convirtió en una artista experimentada y llenó nuestro hogar de bellas

pinturas. Nuestros espíritus florecieron a través de nuestras manos, y antes de mucho tiempo nacieron mi orgullo y mi auto-determinación.

Crecí para llegar a ser una artista, ejecutante de música, productora de televisión y activista, pero mi madre no vivió para verme completamente florecida. Yo tenía 23 años cuando ella regresó al mundo de los espíritus. Yo tenía un bebé de 10 meses y pronto me quedaría sola. Fue devastador. Pero después de entristecerme mucho por mi "pérdida", empecé a darme cuenta del tesoro que había tenido todo el tiempo... el rico legado de mi madre, que vive en mí.

Su profunda influencia sobre mí continúa desarrollándose de muchos modos, y todavía puedo escuchar sus enseñanzas en mi mente. Alimentada por sus relatos y su sabiduría, he caminado muchas millas y superado muchos obstáculos para seguir mis sueños y aspiraciones. Y con cada paso, recuerdo siempre a mamá por el

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## La Accion Afirmativa En Funcionamiento: Chelsea Es Aceptada En La Universidad

Por NAOMID M. BARRY

Realmente, ¿Fue noticia que Chelsea Clinton fuera aceptada en todas esas escuelas? Aunque sea ella una estudiante refinada y talentosa, los comités de admisiones ¿Tuvieron realmente que revisar sus solicitudes? ¿Escrutaron los comités sus materiales, como lo hacen con la mayoría de los demás?

Lo dudo. Como muchas otras personas que han tenido que pasar por ese trámite, yo esperaba ansiosamente enterarme de la selección de Chelsea. Cuando me enteré, recordé mi propia experiencia de ingreso a la universidad. Aunque Chelsea descartó una universidad para mujeres, como el alma mater de su madre, yo todavía tenía la esperanza de que ella sorprendiera al país al seleccionar mi institución, la Universidad de Mount Holyoke, en Massachusetts.

Pero poniendo el capricho y la nostalgia a un lado, llegué a darme cuenta de que nuestras experiencias al solicitar ingreso a las universidades fueron considerablemente distintas.

Mientras el ingreso de Chelsea no es escrutado como miembro de una población minoritaria, mi selección y mis cualificaciones han sido cuestionadas muchas veces. Aún entendiendo este aspecto del debate sobre la acción afirmativa, me sentí, asombrada y angustiada, al escuchar el veredicto de los Regentes de la Universidad de California respecto a la acción afirmativa en 1995. Desde entonces, he seguido con tensión el debate.

La eliminación de la consideración afirmativa de la raza en el sistema de la Universidad de Texas ya está produciendo su pronosticado efecto áspero sobre los estudiantes de color.

Como alguien interesada en los derechos civiles, esperé desesperadamente por un método nuevo de seleccionar un cuerpo estudiantil diverso y amplio que produjera una representación proporcional. En vez, como si el sistema educativo no resultara ya en bajas razones de matrícula para las minorías, los estudiantes de color virtualmente han desaparecido bajo el nuevo método.

## Affirmative Action At Work: Chelsea Is Accepted To College

BY NAOMI M. BARRY

Was it really any news that Chelsea Clinton was accepted to all those schools? While she is an accomplished and talented student, did admission committees actually have to review her application? Did the committees pore over her materials as they do most others?

I doubt it. Like many others who have been through the process, I anxiously waited to learn of Chelsea's choice. As I did, I fondly recalled my own college admission experience. Although Chelsea ruled out a women's college like her mother's alma mater, I still held hope that she would surprise the country by selecting my institution, Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts. But whim and nostalgia aside, I came to realize that our experiences in applying to colleges were significantly different. While Chelsea's admission is not scrutinized,

as a minority, my selection and qualifications have been questioned many times over.

I sat stunned and anguished hearing the verdict of the University of California Regents regarding affirmative action. Since then, I have tautly followed the debate.

The obliteration of affirmative consideration of race in the Texas Law School is already having its predicted harsh impact on students of color. As someone concerned with civil rights, I had desperately hoped that the new method for selecting a "diverse" body of students would produce a somewhat proportionate representation. Instead, as if the country's educational system didn't already result in egregiously low matriculation rates for racial and ethnic minority students, under the new method, these students have virtually disappeared.

I've given a lot of thought to what affirmative action is.

He pensado mucho en lo que es la acción afirmativa.

Las escuelas superiores y universidades reclutan activamente a los estudiantes "legados" -- es decir, a los hijos de antiguos alumnos. Las preocupaciones fiscales han sido el impulso para prohibir los cursos de acción ciegos a la necesidad de ingresos, de modo que las instituciones puedan traer a más estudiantes "que paguen."

Y, ¿quién discutiría, con todo el debido respeto a los logros individuales de Chelsea, que la hija de una figura pública famosa sería rechazada por cualquier universidad?

Me pregunto por qué nosotros, como sociedad, no reconocemos de igual modo estas tácticas de ingreso como acción "afirmativa."

Observando la ironía de las políticas de ingresos, he llegado a entender la premisa básica de la controversia referente a la acción afirmativa. Dependiendo de nuestras circunstancias, se nos conceden derechos distintos. Mi reclamo a la enseñanza no fue decretado al mismo nivel que el de un(a) estudiante que puede

pagar los altos costos de la educación universitaria.

Si nuestros reclamos fueran los mismos, ¿por qué no se presentan demandas para obligar a las escuelas a defender las capacidades de estos estudiantes, comparándolos con solicitantes con "mejores" capacidades que no lograron admisión?

¿Se consternaría la comunidad nacional al hallar que a un(a) solicitante más capacitado(a) se le denegó la plaza concedida a Chelsea Clinton?

Aunque sucediera, dudo sinceramente que todos los cursos de acción estatales serían re-orientados para frenar la "injusticia." Ni tampoco creo que a todos los que se beneficiaron de ella se les negaría la membresía a la meritocracia. Considerando estas hipocresías, está clara la razón por la cual mi experiencia de ingreso a la universidad pudo diferir tan profundamente de la que tuvo Chelsea.

(Naomi M. Barry, de Saint Paul, Minn., es Becada del Grupo Hispano Congresional)

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Colleges and universities actively recruit "legacy" students -- that is, the children of alumni. Fiscal concerns have been the impetus for abolishing need-blind admissions policies so the institutions can bring in more "paying" students. And who would argue, with all due respect for Chelsea's personal achievements, that the daughter of a famous public figure would be rejected from any college or university?

I wonder why we, as a society, do not similarly recognize these admissions tactics as "affirmative" action.

In observing this irony of admissions policies, I have come to understand the fundamental premise of the affirmative action controversy. Depending on our circumstances, we are afforded different rights. My "claim" to an education was not decreed to the same degree as was that of a student in the previously

cited circumstance.

If our claims were the same, why wouldn't discrimination suits be filed forcing schools to defend the qualifications of these students, comparing them to unsuccessful applicants with "better" qualifications?

Would the national community be dismayed to find out that a "more qualified" applicant was denied the spot filled by Chelsea Clinton?

Even if it were to happen, I sincerely doubt that entire state policies would be redirected to curtail the "injustice." Nor do I think that meritocracy membership would be rescinded for all those who benefited. Considering these hypocrisies, it is clear why my college admission experience could differ so profoundly from Chelsea's.

(Naomi M. Barry, of St. Paul, Minn., is a 1996-'97 Congressional Hispanic Caucus Fellow in Washington, D.C.)

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## Language Purists Have Nothing To Fear From Change

By RAYMOND RODRIGUEZ

Individuals in the United States who speak Spanish in addition to English are fortunate. They can benefit by relating one language to the other -- and to additional tongues, too.

I became aware of that early in life, while still in elementary school. Regularly, I would outscore my classmates in the word identification portion of standardized tests. For example, I knew what the bulky English word "pulmonary" meant because in Spanish the term for lungs is "pulmones." When I was learning French, I used to drive my professor to distraction by proclaiming that "good French is nothing but poor Spanish."

I also enjoyed Japanese because the vowels are pronounced basically the same as they are in Spanish.

A prime reason for the facility of learning most languages is the interaction of words and cultures. You can find words among the ancient Indian civilizations of Latin America that are remarkably similar to those of civilizations that once flourished in the Middle East.

Thus, the richness of any language is enhanced not only by the infusion of ideas but by the spawning of new words and phrases.

That's why I've had it not only with the English-Only crowd but with those in the U.S. bilingual community

who oppose the use of Tex-Mex, Calo and Spanglish, who believe the purity of Spanish must be preserved because it forms a bond among Spanish-speaking Latinos who live here.

As a Latino conversant in English and Spanish, I reserve the right to express myself in the medium best suited to the audience or the situation.

Those who hold forth in the French- and Spanish-language academies decry this leveling effect, or what they consider the bastardization of the mother tongue.

Who anointed them to determine what is best for the rest of us? I am always alarmed by those who assume the mantle of infallibility in matters of political correctness, cultural purity, socio-mores, religious conscience or language usage.

In truth, they have nothing to fear from growth or change. The surest way for any language to wither and become obsolete is for it to fail to adapt to the changing needs and interests of those it purports to serve.

If it is true that only thing certain is change, then language too must change. Rather than demeaning it, as the purists claim, changing it makes it more vibrant.

Think how barren the English language would be if the revered Bard of Avon had not coined and contributed more than 2,000 new words and

phrases to the language we cherish.

We in the United States have added so many more words of our own in our 220 years of existence that the United States and England are sometimes described as two countries separated by a common language. I like that.

Which aspect of the language they call Spanish are the purists who want to protect it from the inroads of Spanglish, Tex-Mex or Calo talking about? Many words now accepted as being in proper use as Spanish did not exist in the Iberian Peninsula. They were incorporated in the so-called New World. In other words, they were Indian terms. Many are of Mexican origin.

I would advise the proponents of English-Only as well

as the opponents of Spanglish to allay their fears by reading a marvelous book, "The Mother Tongue: English and How It Got That Way," by Bill Bryson. I recommend the book to anyone who loves and appreciates the beauty of the English language. After reading it myself, I harbor no fears and see no need for legislation to protect English from evil spirits transported across our southern border.

As has happened for generations, Latin American immigrants to the United States will strive to master English because it's in their best interest to do so. No one has to legislate that insight.

(Raymond Rodriguez of Long Beach, Calif., is a retired university professor.)

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### El Editor Newspapers

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## El Editor Happy Mother's Day

## Sittin' Here Thinkin'

Newt  
by Ira Cutler

Newt Gingrich, for now the Speaker of the House of Representatives, has the highest negative ratings in the history of political polling. He is more disliked than Lyndon Johnson at the height of the Vietnam war, Richard Nixon following Watergate or Spiro Agnew when he was convicted for taking bribes. Gingrich is not going to recover from this -- he will soon disappear and become a trivia question. But, before he goes, we should think about Newt Gingrich and about what his rise and fall really means.

There is actually a lot that is positive about the Speaker, traits and accomplishments that we would normally be expected to admire. Certainly he is knowledgeable, hardworking and intelligent. His political ideology, for the most part, has broad appeal. Gingrich is associated ideologically with term limits, balanced budgets, smaller government, more state and local autonomy, lower taxes, more self-reliance and traditional values. He is, if you listen to him, a far better speaker than just about any other current politician and certainly he is better at putting forth a coherent message than Clinton.

Gingrich successfully re-invented the practice of using a Congressional majority to counter-balance the power of a President from the opposing political party. This is no small feat and certainly something that the Democrats failed to accomplish during both the Reagan and Bush administrations. While the Democrats during the 1980's were only able to periodically block the President's agenda, Gingrich, with a far smaller majority, demonstrated how Congress could get out in front and force the action. Gingrich successfully forced an opposition President to compromise frequently, to adopt Republican ideas and, in some instances, to capitulate. No one since Sam Rayburn has so effectively used the Speaker's office to wield power.

And yet, while he has been so successful in so many ways, he has utterly failed in terms of personal politics and is today in near disgrace. Why is that?

Well, we all know that he did something wrong with campaign funds and that he lied about it and got caught. But not one in a hundred of us can accurately describe whatever it was that he did wrong. It had something to do with mixing different kinds of funds, I think, none of which wound up in his personal pocket. But whatever it was, it pales in comparison to President Clinton's campaign fund scandals. Yet Gingrich is ruined.

The explanation for this, as simple as it seems, is that Newt Gingrich is a thoroughly unappealing person. We simply do not like him.

Gingrich is too strident, too ungraceful in victory and too whiny in defeat. He reminds us of the kid in class that we hated -- the one who carried a briefcase and who we terrorized and frequently sent home without his pants. Most important, we sense that he is, underneath it all, not a nice man.

Even in a time when the media bombards us with the personal details of the lives of the rich, famous and powerful, most of us know very little about Newt Gingrich as a person. In fact, we know only two personal stories, each highly unflattering. The first is that he has a half-sister who is a lesbian, which is widely seen as a joke-on-Newt story, since he is presumed to be anti-gay. The second is that he came to the hospital where his first wife was gravely ill and told her he wanted a divorce. There is something about the guy that makes us immediately believe these stories, that makes us see Newt as just the sort of guy who would shun a gay sister and dump a sick wife.

And, to be frank, Gingrich is physically unappealing as well. He has funny hair, seems to be frequently sweaty, is portly and does not have a suit that fits him right. He has beady little eyes and a smug little smile that turns into a Cheshire Cat grin when he is winning. Like Nixon he has a serious five o'clock shadow and, like Nixon, he does not look like someone from whom you would buy a used car. The press exaggerates all this and photographers and cartoonists have been particularly harsh. I remember one Time magazine cover that was such an extreme close-up that it took you deep into Gingrich's facial pores and you do not want to go there.

To top it off, poor fellow, he has a name that is straight out of Charles Dickens. "Newt Gingrich" is a name that Dickens would give to a character who was a skinflint, someone who ran an orphanage and made a few extra pennies by starving the children.

Timing is everything in politics and Gingrich also comes along at a tough time for an agenda and a personality like his. Leading from the legislature has been so rare in recent history that it seems to many to be almost illegitimate. Many do not really understand the separation of powers in our governmental system and view a strong Congress as obstructionist. To these folks, Gingrich's legislative success is instead pushy and nifty -- who is Congress to oppose the President and block progress?

And this is a time when compromise, not principle, is highly valued and just doing "whatever works" is treasured. Gingrich has a consistent political point of view, an ideology, and many today are hostile to any ideology of any sort. Gingrich had the bad luck to come along at a time when the personalities of politicians is paramount, a time when the media treats the major issues of the day as though they were dramatic conflicts among soap opera characters. Gingrich, for all the reasons stated above, makes a much better villain than a hero. Having written about his rise, and milked that story dry, the press is now engineering and writing about his fall.

Personally, I do not mind it a bit that Gingrich is going down in flames. I do not like him or his ideas and, for a while in 1995, it was scary that he looked like he was headed for the White House. I will not shed a tear for Newt as he disappears.

But I fear the very same politics of personality that is doing Newt in. I fear that someday soon a well funded actor, war hero, matinee idol, heartthrob, cleverly disguised as a national leader, with no experience or record to speak of, will rise and we will be powerless to oppose him. I fear that a political personality with really awful ideas, but with the right look -- a total wacko with Reagan or Kennedy charm -- will come along and dazzle the media and the public. I fear that, by then, we will be so used to making political decisions based on looks and personal charm that we will no longer know how to talk about, or even think about, politics as being about ideas, policies, priorities, points of view and philosophy.

We have been lucky so far.

# Poetas Latinos Obtienen Mayor Voz En El Mundo Literario

Por LOUIS AGUILAR

A principios de este año, el poeta Martín Espada recitó algunas de sus obras en un gimnasio de boxeo ante un grupo de puertorriqueños aspirantes a boxeadores en Windham, Connecticut.

Espada, que también es puertorriqueño, leyó un poema sobre un tío que le enseñó a boxear. Su tío le golpeó la cara y entonces Espada, que es corpulento y pasó una parte de su niñez en un proyecto de vivienda de Brooklyn, le rompió la nariz.

Los boxeadores se convirtieron instantáneamente en fanáticos de la poesía.

"Mis sentimientos son lo que yo hago como poeta... Soy parte de un movimiento mayor para democratizar la poesía en los Estados Unidos," dice él. "Llevo las obras al pueblo y no prejuzgo al auditorio. No espero el beso de aprobación del grupo literario selecto."

Espada es parte de un número cada vez mayor de poetas y escritores latinos que están obteniendo ese beso de aprobación. Eso parece, algunas veces, un territorio extranjero en mayor medida que un gimnasio de boxeo, dicen Espada y otros poetas lati-

nos. El profesor de inglés de la Universidad de Massachusetts ha publicado cinco libros de poesía. Su obra publicada más reciente, *Imagine the Angels of Bread* (Imaginen a los Angeles del Pan) ha sido nominada para un prestigioso Galardón del Círculo Nacional de Críticos.

La semana pasada, él estuvo entre 12 poetas y escritores latinos aclamados por los críticos, que se reunieron en Washington, D.C., en un Festival Literario Latino de cuatro días en la Asociación de las Artes de Washington.

Detrás de la clara señal de adelante, muchos autores latinos se inquietan. Muchos participantes del evento del Distrito de Columbia se preocupan de por cuánto tiempo más permanecerá la atención sobre los escritos latinos.

Muchos alegan que muchos obstáculos institucionales tienen que ser quitados aún, especialmente en las empresas publicitarias y el medio académico, y se preguntan si alguna vez se derrumbarán.

"No estoy seguro de dónde está procediendo la aceptación, o de si esto es sólo lo que está de moda en estos

lugares," dice el cubano-americano Pablo Medina, que escribe poesía y prosa. "Me preocupa el que en la etiqueta de 'poeta latino' tenga prioridad sobre el verdadero trabajo. Yo lo llamo la 'tiranía del adjetivo'. Cuando se dice 'poeta latino, uno se concentra sobre lo latino y no sobre la palabra poeta.'"

Pat Mora, poetisa chicana y autora de libros para niños, dice que ella ve mucha exageración por parte de los publicistas y académicos acerca de cómo los latinos y otros autores de color han sido abrazados.

"Sigue siendo difícil que se publiquen las obras de los latinos," dice ella. "En este momento, veo un puñado de autores que se ha beneficiado. Todavía es cierto que no estamos viendo la diversidad en las filas editoriales de los publicistas. El cambio es mucho más lento que lo que sugeriría la charla. Cuando se mira a los miembros latinos del profesorado en los departamentos de inglés, ese adelanto es muy, pero muy lento."

Hay algunos que se quejan de que acontecimientos como el Festival Literario Latino de Washington, D.C., equivale al "enclaustramiento" del talento latino -- que los latinos obtienen un acontecimiento especial y después no se les invita nuevamente.

Ninguno de los poetas comparte ese punto de vista. Marjorie Agosin, poetisa chilena, está encantada de ser parte de un acontecimiento poético latino. "Hace sólo unos pocos años, se me habría considerado una escritora suramericana y no una latina del todo. Durante los ocho años recientes, ha habido realmente una revolución de lo que significa ser americano(a)."

"Esta es una época de nacionalismo intenso, así como de ideas universales profundas. Eso ha producido una mayor apertura y no veo que eso cambie pronto," dice ella.

(Louis Aguilar, de Washington, D.C., es el editor del semanario nacional *Hispanic Link Weekly Report*.)

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# Latino Poets Gaining Bigger Voice In Literary World

By LOUIS AGUILAR

Earlier this year, poet Martín Espada recited some of his works in a boxing gym to a group of aspiring Puerto Rican fighters in Windham, Conn.

Espada, also Puerto Rican, read a poem about his uncle teaching him to box. His uncle slapped his face and then the burly Espada, who spent part of his childhood in a Brooklyn project, broke his uncle's nose.

The boxers instantly became poetry fans. "My feeling is what I do as a poet... I am part of a larger movement of the democratizing of poetry in the United States," he says. "I take the words to the people and I don't prejudice the audience. I don't expect the kiss of approval by the literary elite."

Espada is part of the growing number of Latino poets and writers who are getting that kiss of approval. That sometimes seems more a foreign territory than a boxing gym, Espada and other Latino poets say.

The English professor at the University of Massachusetts has published five books of poetry. His latest release, *Imagine the Angels of Bread*, has been nominated for a prestigious National Critics Circle Award.

Last week, he was among 12 critically acclaimed Latino poets and writers who gathered in Washington, D.C., for a four-day Latino Literary Fest at the Arts Club of Washington.

Behind the clear sign of progress, many Latino authors fret. Many participants in the D.C. event worry how long attention will remain on Latino writing.

Many contend institutional barriers have yet to be removed, particularly in pub-

lishing companies and academia, and wonder if they ever will fall.

"I'm not sure where the acceptance is coming from, or whether it's just a fad some of these places are going through," says Cuban-American Pablo Medina, who writes poetry and prose. "I'm concerned the label 'Latino poet' takes precedence over the actual work. I call it the tyranny of the adjective. When you say Latino poet, you concentrate on Latino and not the word poet."

Pat Mora, a Chicana poet and author of children's books, says she sees a lot of hype by publishers and academia of how Latinos and other authors of color have been embraced.

"It remains difficult for Latinos to be published," she says. "At this point, I see a handful who have benefited. It's still true that we are not seeing the diversity in the editorial ranks of publishers. The change is much slower than the talk would suggest. When you look at Latino

faculty members in English departments, that progress is very, very slow."

There are some who grumble that events like the Latino Literary Fest in Washington, D.C., amount to the "ghettoization" of Latino talent -- that Latinos get a special event and then don't get invited again.

None of the poets share that point of view. Marjorie Agosin, a Chilean poet, said she was elated to be part of a Latino poetry event. "Just a few years ago, I would have been considered a South American writer and not a Latino at all. In the past eight years, there's really been a revolution of what it means to be American."

"This is a time of intense nationalism as well as profound universal ideas. That has made it more open and I can't see that changing soon," she says.

(Louis Aguilar, of Washington, D.C., is editor of the national newsweekly *Hispanic Link Weekly Report*.)

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crecimiento en las exportaciones estadounidenses a México y Canadá; son por arriba de las expectativas que se tenían. Subrayó que el TLC está funcionando perfectamente y ha cumplido sus primeros objetivos. Uno es que actualmente 80 por ciento de las ventas externas de Estados Unidos son a México y Canadá. Y esas exportaciones, además de que permitieron abrir 700 mil nuevos empleos, soportan 2 millones de puestos de trabajo permanentes. William Daley aclaró que Estados Unidos no se hace a un lado del mercado global mundial. De ninguna manera. Pero sí pone especial atención y esfuerzos para fortalecer y perfeccionar el mercado liberalizado de la región americana.

### El TLC de las Américas en el 2005

Thomas McLarty, consejero del presidente Clinton y enviado especial a las Américas, dijo a los empresarios asociados de la Cámara Americana de Comercio que el TLC de las Américas se hará realidad en el año 2005. Afirmó que el TLC de Norteamérica funciona con tanto éxito que es, de facto, piedra angular en la recuperación económica de México. Por lo que se refiere a Estados Unidos, indicó, los beneficios del libre comercio se pueden medir por el hecho de que, hoy en día, 40 centavos de cada dólar que exporta tienen como destino los mercados del hemisferio. McLarty destacó la importancia que tiene Latinoamérica para el gobierno de Washington y la función preponderante de "su socio y amigo" México. Y

de allí que el periplo del presidente Clinton por el hemisferio se inicia en este país. Es interés de Estados Unidos, por seguridad nacional, destacó el enviado de Washington a las Américas, comprometerse con sus vecinos del hemisferio en el libre comercio y en la lucha contra el narcotráfico, el crimen y la pobreza. Esa lucha, señaló finalmente Thomas McLarty, "no podemos hacerla solos. Necesitamos colaboración. Y ése es el mensaje de esta gira de trabajo: respeto común y colaboración."



## Un Rayito De Luz

por Sofia Martinez

Hay veces que se puede, sin pecar, descubrir las faltas o defectos de otras personas. A veces no sólo es lícito, sino obligatorio, descubrir esas faltas o defectos del prójimo a las autoridades, cuando el bien público o el bien moral del individuo lo exige y cuando con eso se pueda evitar un daño mas grave.

Un niño puede revelarles a sus padres o a sus maestros las faltas de sus hermanos o de sus compañeros, no por eviadia, o por venganza, etc; sino para prevenir el peligro de que se cometan otras faltas más grandes. También se puede descubrir las faltas de otra persona, sin que cometamos

## EL EDITOR

pecado, cuando nos expandemos a ser injustamente acusados de ella.

Y, también, debemos dar a conocer las faltas y defectos de otras personas cuando, por ley, estamos obligados a hacerlo; así, por ejemplo, los representantes o los agentes, o los jueces deben denunciar a los criminales.

Pero, se juzga temerariamente cuando se cree sin fundamento razonable, que tal o cual persona tiene algún defecto o ha cometido alguna falta. El juicio temerario puede ser muy grave. (S Mat 7, 1) (I Cor. 13, 5).

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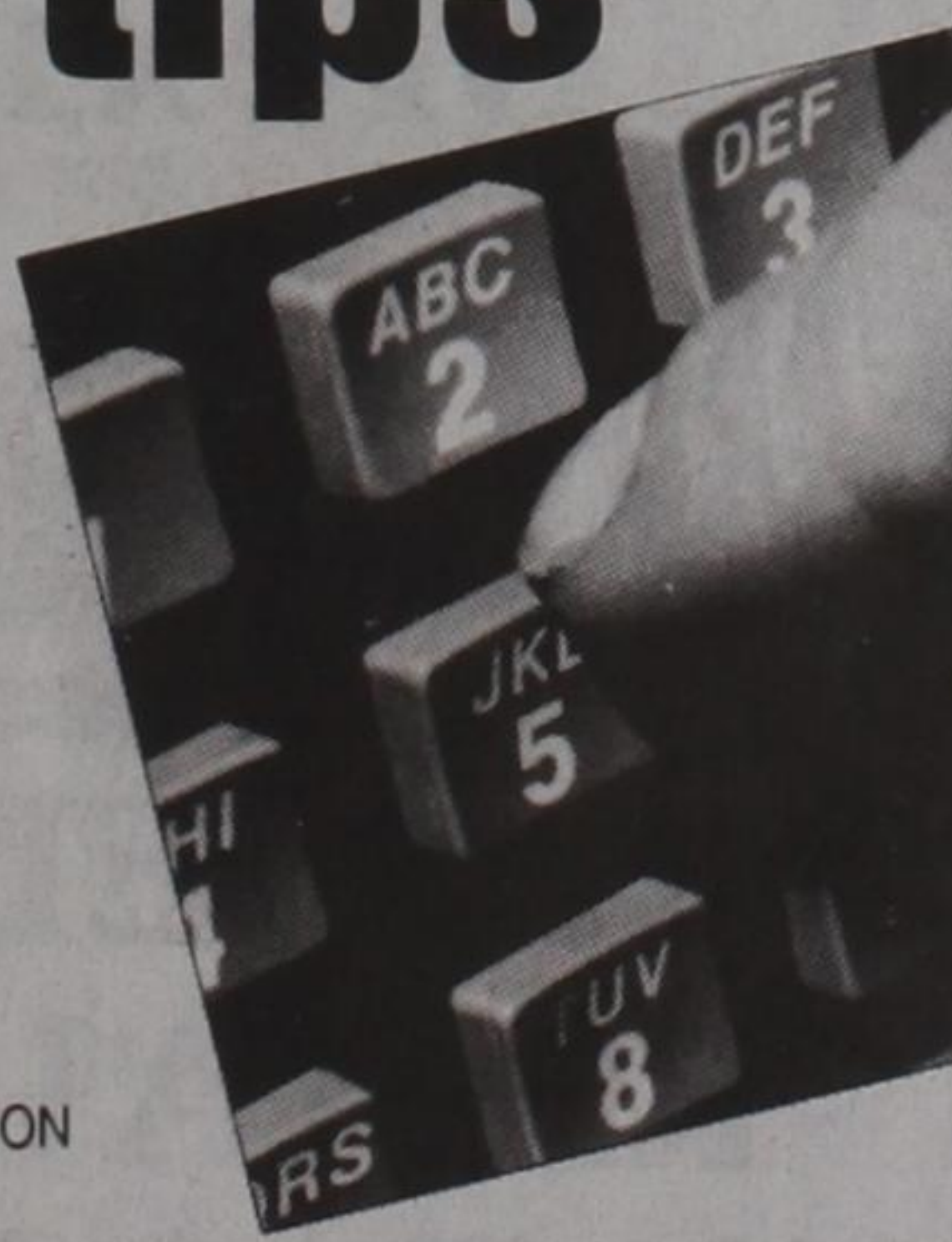
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News Briefs

Hundreds Riot In Colorado

BOULDER, Colo. - For the second night in a row, hundreds of people threw rocks and bricks at police, sending about a dozen people to the hospital and several others to jail.

"There were about 500 people, definitely in a mood to be really aggressive and in a mood to come at police," Boulder spokeswoman Leslie Aaholm said Sunday.

In Denver, a 17-year-old boy was killed in crossfire Saturday between suspected gang members after celebrations for the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo, or Fifth of May. Police and Hispanic leaders appealed to parents to keep their children off the streets on Sunday night.

On Friday night, a crowd of about 1,500 young people gathered on a Boulder street after firefighters arrived to put out a large bonfire apparently set by students celebrating the end of classes at the University of Colorado. They confronted police into Saturday morning. Eleven people were arrested and 20 were injured.

Early Sunday, a large crowd spilled out of a show at the Fox Theater in a popular student area near the university known as "the Hill."

The crowd began lighting bonfires and setting fire to dumpsters and breaking windows, Aaholm said. Police responded with rubber bullets and tear gas, until the crowd was brought under control.

About a dozen people were injured. Six officers suffered minor injuries.

Several arrests were made, Aaholm said, but details were not available.

Although the crowd was smaller than Friday, "They seemed just very very committed to ... that they want to be allowed to party," Aaholm said.

The university has its own disciplinary proceedings for students in addition to any pending criminal charges.

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N.J. Mayor Candidate Sues Newspaper

CAMDEN, N.J. - A 34-year-old ex-Marine trying to become the city's first Hispanic mayor sued The Philadelphia Inquirer for \$33 million Friday, saying it wrongly identified him as a suspect in a 9-year-old murder case.

The stories, published Wednesday and Thursday, contained false and defamatory statements and were printed with a reckless disregard for the truth, Milton Milan said in his lawsuit.

Inquirer Editor Maxwell King said the newspaper stood by its stories. The Inquirer interviewed Milan and included his statements denying any role in the killing, King said.

"Our article was based upon information provided by persons we trust and who have been reliable in the past," King said in a statement. "We have gone back to the persons on whom we relied and no one has backed away from the information provided."

The Inquirer reported that the 1988 slaying of Francisco "Poncho" Chamorro has been reopened and Milan is one of three suspects. It also said Milan was questioned in January 1989 after acquaintances told police he and two friends admitted killing Chamorro in a dispute over drugs.

Chief William Hill has denied Milan is under investigation.

"The department is not now investigating Mr. Milan, nor does it consider him a suspect," Hill said in a statement issued Wednesday.

Milan, who is City Council president, says the stories damaged his chances in the May 13 mayoral election and caused him extreme humiliation and emotional distress. He is one of four challengers seeking to unseat Mayor Arnold Webster.

His lawsuit also names Philadelphia Newspapers Inc., which publishes the Inquirer and the Philadelphia Daily News; its parent company Knight-Ridder Inc.; and reporters Dwight Ott, Nancy Phillips, John Way Jennings and Herbert Lowe.

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drawings. All with the colors of the rainbow.

Mama's self-esteem also grew as she became an accomplished artist and filled our home with beautiful paintings. Our spirits blossomed through our hands, and before long my pride and self determination were born.

I grew up to become an artist, musician, television producer and activist, but my mother would not live to see me fully bloom. I was 23 when she returned to the Spirit world. I had a 10-month-old baby and was soon to be single. It was devastating. But after much grieving over my "loss" I began to realize the treasure I'd had all along -- my mother's rich legacy, which lives within me.

Her profound influence on me continues to unfold in many ways, and I can still hear her teachings in my mind. Fueled by her stories and wisdom, I've walked many miles and overcome many obstacles to follow my dreams and aspirations. And with every step, I am forever reminded of mama by the smell of tortillas, the taste of good flan, and the hearth of my kitchen. By the splendor of her artwork, or a rebozo around my shoulders. By the presence of flowers, and always, always, by the colors of

the rainbow.

There is something to be said about the power of Latina mothers -- they're among the strongest women I know. They are the heartbeat of their families and the backbone of their communities as valiant leaders, peacemakers, nurturers, healers, teachers and visionaries.

We know them as crusaders breaking barriers and fighting for justice and equality. They're artists sharing a rich heritage and family matriarchs who throughout it all, carry a reverence for life and all its blessings. They teach us that the road is smoother than it seems, because we already have so much within us. Our only limitations are those we create for ourselves and allow others to create for us.

On Mothers Day, I'll take a moment to honor our mothers and grandmothers, who gave us life and sacrificed so much for us. To my own mama, I proudly say thank you for your love and light, and for letting me carry on your legacy.

(Marisa Arbona-Ruiz is a television writer/producer in Silver Spring, Md., and president of Circle of Life Productions. Her mother's artwork lives on in her "Three Generations" cultural greeting cards. 301.680.8488.)  
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olor de las tortillas, el sabor del buen flan y el fogón de mi cocina. Por el esplendor de su trabajo artístico, de un rebozo alrededor de mis hombros. Por la presencia de las flores y siempre, siempre, por los colores del arco iris.

Hay algo que decir sobre el poder de las madres latinas -- están entre las mujeres más fuertes que conozco. Son los latidos de los corazones de sus familias y la espina dorsal de sus comunidades como dirigentes valerosas, forjadoras de paz, alimentadoras, sanadoras, maestras y visionarias. Las conocemos como pioneras que rompen barreras y combaten por la justicia y la

igualdad. Son artistas que comparten una herencia rica, y matriarcas de familias que, a través de todo, llevan una reverencia por la vida y todas sus bendiciones.

Elas nos enseñan que el camino es más suave que lo que parece, porque ya tenemos mucho dentro de nosotros. Nuestras limitaciones son sólo aquellas que creamos para nosotros mismos y que permitimos a otros crear para nosotros.

En el Día de las Madres, me tomaré un momento para homenajear a nuestras madres y abuelas, que nos dieron la vida y sacrificaron tanto por nosotros. A mi propia mamá, le digo orgullosamente gracias por tu amor y por tu luz, y por permitirme continuar adelante con tu legado.



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Los Puristas Del Idioma No Tienen Nada Que Temer Del Cambio

Por RAYMOND RODRIGUEZ

Las personas de los Estados Unidos que hablan español además de inglés son afortunados. Pueden beneficiarse de relacionar un idioma con el otro -- y con otras lenguas adicionales también.

Yo descubrí esto muy temprano en mi vida, mientras estaba todavía en la escuela primaria. Periódicamente superaba en puntaje a mis compañeros de clase en la parte de la identificación de las palabras en los exámenes normalizados.

Por ejemplo, yo sabía lo que significaba la voluminosa palabra inglesa "pulmonary," porque en español existe la palabra "pulmones."

Cuando estuve aprendiendo francés, acostumbraba distraer a mi profesor, al proclamar que "el buen francés no es nada más que el español malo."

También disfrutaba del japonés, porque las vocales se pronuncian básicamente igual que en español.

Una razón primordial de la facilidad de aprender la mayoría de los idiomas es la interacción de las palabras y las culturas. Se pueden encontrar palabras entre las antiguas civilizaciones indígenas de la América Latina que son notablemente semejantes a las de las civilizaciones que una vez florecieron en el Oriente Medio.

De modo que la riqueza de cualquier idioma queda realzada, no sólo por la infusión de ideas, sino por la producción de palabras y frases nuevas.

Esa es la razón de que me sienta disgustado, no sólo con los partidarios del inglés solamente, sino con los miembros de la comunidad bilingüe de los Estados Unidos que se oponen al uso del texmex, el caló y el spanglish, y que creen que la pureza del español debe ser protegida porque forma un vínculo entre los latinos de habla hispana que viven aquí.

Como latino que habla en inglés y español, me reservo el derecho a expresarme en el medio que se acomode mejor al auditorio o a la situación.

Los que trabajan en las academias de habla francesa y española fustigan este efecto

nivelador, o lo que ellos consideran la bastardización de la lengua madre.

¿Quién los ungió para determinar qué es lo mejor para el resto de nosotros? Me siento alarmado siempre por aquellos que asumen el manto de la infalibilidad en asuntos de corrección política, pureza cultural, costumbres sociales, conciencia religiosa o uso del idioma.

En verdad, ellos no tienen nada que temer del crecimiento ni del cambio. El modo más seguro de que cualquier idioma se marchite y tome obsoleto es que deje de adaptarse a las necesidades e intereses cambiantes de aquellos a quienes pretende servir.

Si es cierto que lo único seguro es el cambio, entonces el idioma también debe cambiar. Antes que degradarlo, como alegan los puristas, el cambiarlo lo hace más vibrante.

Piensen cuán árido sería el idioma inglés si el reverenciado Bardo de Avon no hubiera acuñado y aportado más de 2,000 palabras y frases nuevas al idioma que apreciamos.

Nosotros, en los Estados Unidos, hemos agregado tantas palabras más de nuestra cosecha en nuestros 220 años de existencia, que a los Estados Unidos e Inglaterra se les describe a veces como dos países separados por un idioma común. Me gusta eso.

¿De qué aspecto del idioma que ellos llaman español están hablando los puristas que quieren protegerlo de las incursiones del spanglish, texmex o caló? Muchas palabras que ahora se aceptan como de uso apropiado en español no existían en la Península Ibérica. Fueron incorporadas en el llamado Nuevo Mundo. En otras palabras, eran términos indígenas. Muchas son de origen mexicano.

Aconsejaría a los proponentes del Inglés Solamente, así como a los opositores del spanglish, que calmaran sus temores leyendo un libro maravilloso titulado, "The Mother Tongue: English and How It Got That Way" (La Lengua Madre: El Inglés y Cómo Llegó a Ser Así), por Bill Bryson. Recomiendo el libro a cualquiera que ame y aprecie la belleza del idioma inglés. Después de leerlo yo mismo, no abrigó temores ni veo la necesidad de legislación para proteger al inglés de los espíritus malignos transportados a través de nuestra frontera del sur.

Como ha ocurrido durante generaciones, los inmigrantes de la América Latina a los Estados Unidos se esforzarán por dominar al inglés porque el hacerlo se ajusta a sus mejores intereses. Nadie tiene que legislar esa perspectiva.

(Raymond Rodríguez de Long Beach, California, es catedrático universitario jubilado.)  
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# Latinos Expanding Baseball's 'Color Line' 50 Years After Jackie

BY JOSEPH TORRES

As Major League Baseball celebrates Jackie Robinson's 50th anniversary of breaking its color line, Latino ballplayers are enjoying a prosperity on the playing field that is unprecedented, despite language and cultural barriers that exist.

When Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947, only 45 Latinos had ever played major league ball. In 1950, there were just four playing in the major leagues. Their presence climbed to 14 percent in 1992 and advanced further to 20 percent -- about 160 players -- last year. Meanwhile, the percentage of African-American players declined from 1995 to 1996 from 19 percent to 17 percent. Twenty-five are U.S. Latinos, about 130 come from Latin America, led by the Dominican Republic (57), Puerto Rico (28) and Venezuela (20).

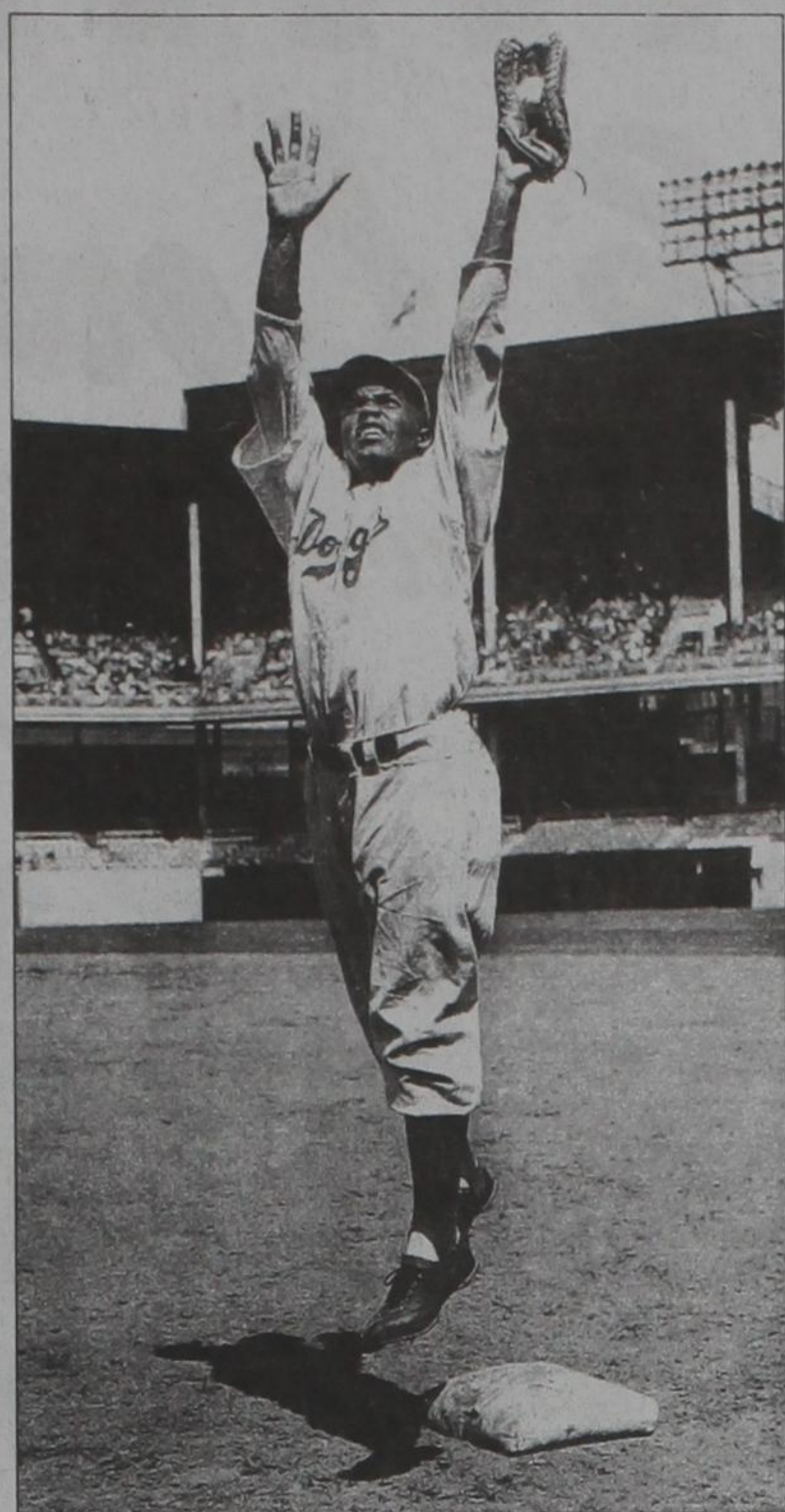
"The future of American baseball is in Latin America," Alan Klein, an anthropologist at Northeastern University in Boston and author of two books on Latin American baseball, believes.

As more Latino ballplayers such as Juan Gonzalez, Roberto Alomar and Alex Rodriguez reach superstar status, their salaries are on par with their African-American and Anglo counterparts, according to Art Taylor, associate director for program development at Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sports in Society.

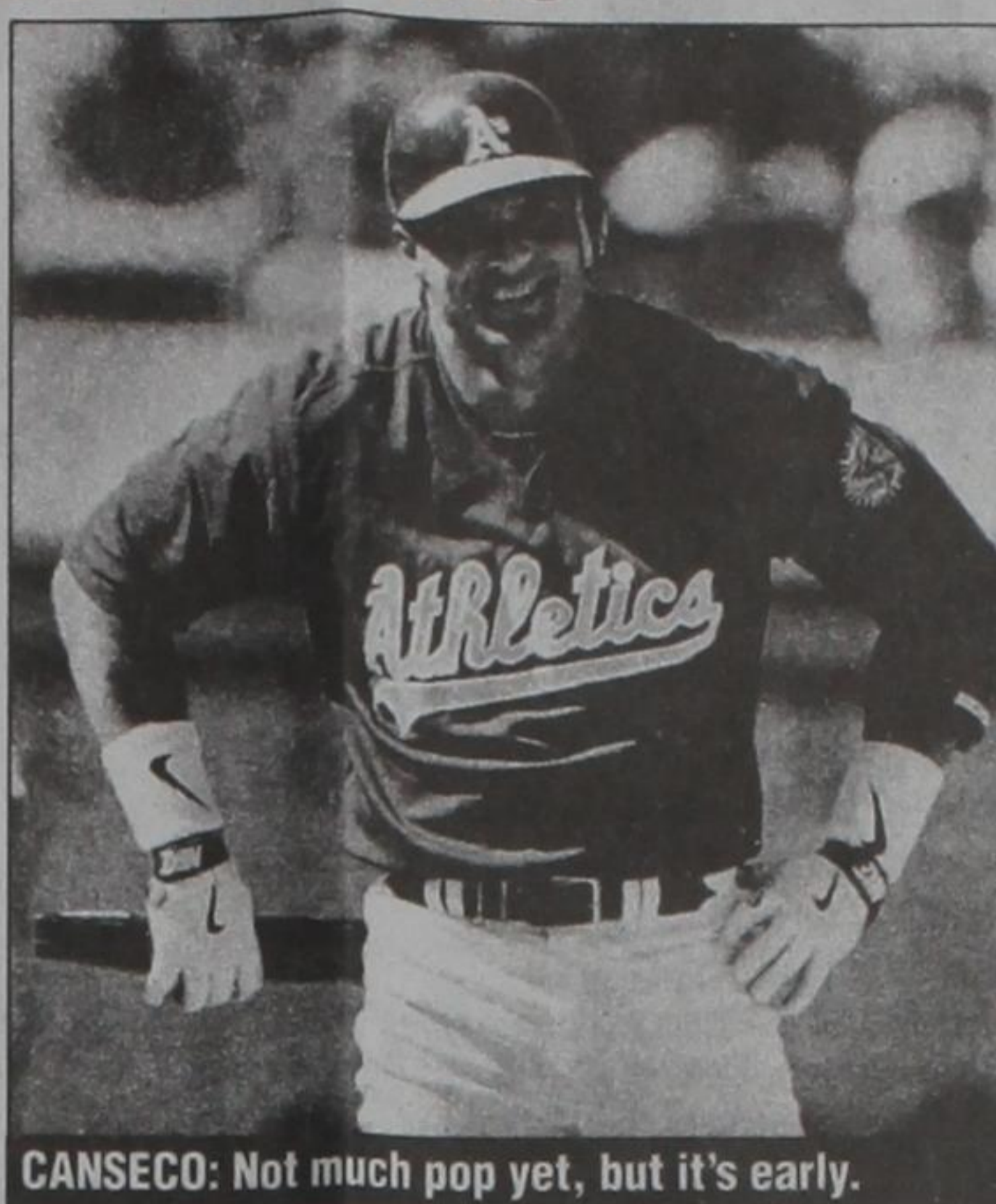
The average major league ballplayer's salary is \$1.1 million. But an immediate obstacle facing Latin American players is a visa quota system imposed in 1974. It restricts the number of visas that clubs can seek for them to play in the U.S. minor leagues.

U.S. teams have set up baseball academies in the Dominican Republic to cultivate talent and choose which players to sponsor for visas. This also enables them to develop potential major league talent for a cheaper cost.

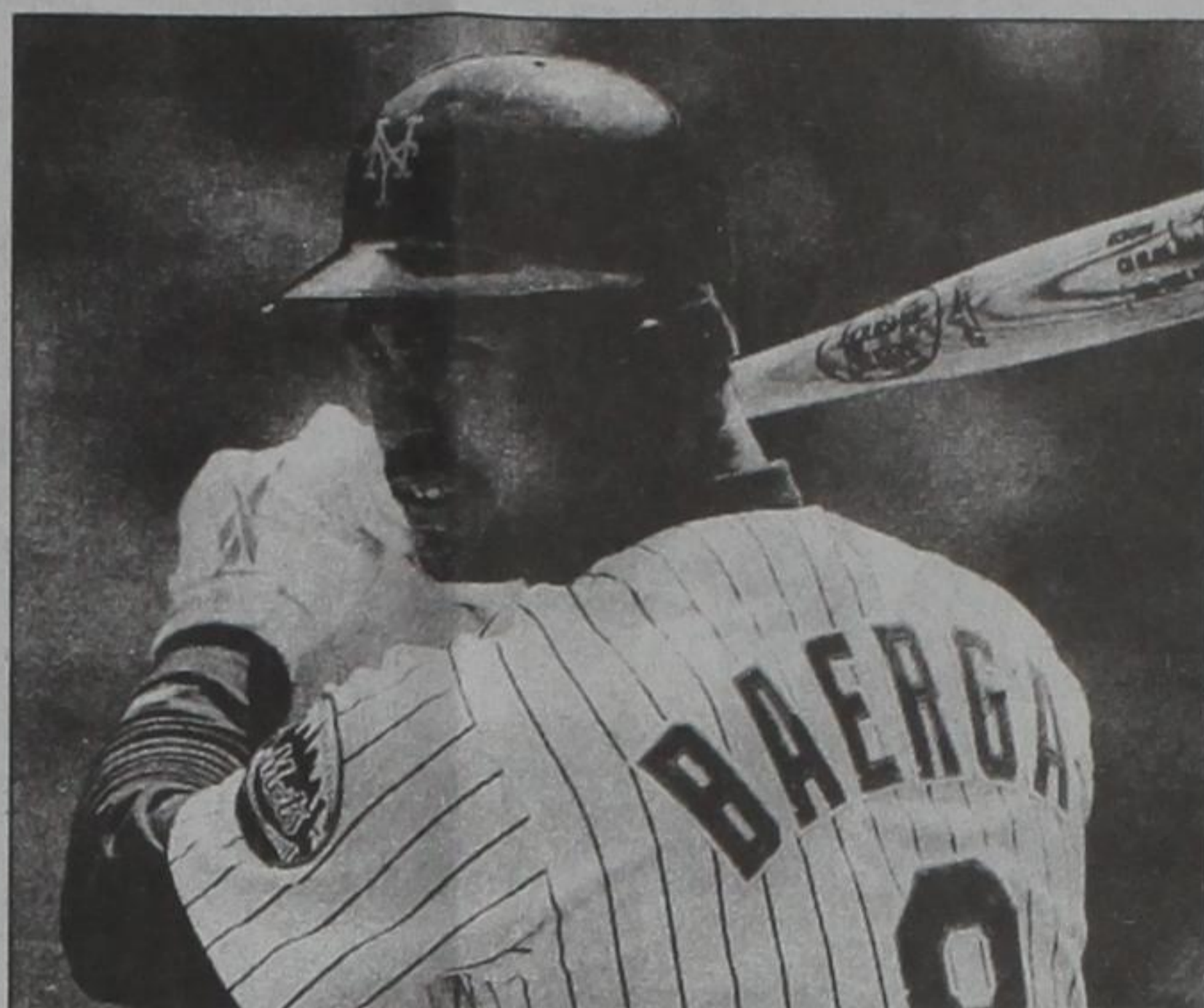
Milton Jamail, a professor at the University of Texas at Austin and a contributing writer for Baseball Weekly, describes the players as basically migrant workers who encounter difficulties adjusting to life in another country. Sacramento Bee reporter



New heights: Robinson conquered obstacles with his brilliance in the field, at the plate and on the basepaths.



CANSECO: Not much pop yet, but it's early.



Marcos Breton, who is writing a book about Latinos in baseball, sees the language barrier as preventing them from gaining the media recognition or advertising earnings of an Anglo or African American athlete of equal caliber.

Texas Rangers star Gonzalez once told him that if it weren't for his Spanish surname, he would receive greater recognition, Breton recounts.

Tony Bernazard, special assistant to the Major League Baseball Players Association since 1991, frames it: "The coverage (of Latinos) is practically nonexistent. It has nothing to do with language. They (reporters) are ignorant and lazy. It hurts Latino players."

Several teams, including the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Florida Marlins, have set up programs to help foreign-born players learn English. The Dodgers have one of the best reputations for handling foreign-born players. They have bilingual staff members throughout their major and minor league systems.

Bernazard, a Puerto Rican-born ex-major leaguer, also works with Latino players, helping them acculturate and informing them of their

rights as players. A recent agreement signed by the owners and the players' union calls for teams to pay for English classes.

The Florida Marlins, along with California and Texas teams, have made extra efforts to reach out to the Hispanic market. Julio Sarmiento, assistant media relations director for the Marlins, notes the team has opened a ticket office in Miami's Little Havana, advertises with the Spanish media, and regularly uses its Latino players in public relations events.

Bernazard comments that more Latino ballplayers are taking leadership roles on their teams. Several, including the Yankees' Bernie Williams and the Mariners' Dennis Martinez, were deeply involved in negotiating the recent contract agreement signed with the owners.

Sarmiento adds that the Marlins' Bobby Bonilla, a U.S. Latino, has become a personal mentor to Renteria and Dominican Luis Castillo, advising them on matters such as handling the press.

But, according to Taylor, despite many advances, baseball still hasn't done enough. He suggests that the league

should have career counseling for players to prepare them for life after baseball, including the option to find a job within baseball, and setting up programs in the minors to help Latino players become accustomed to living in the United States.

Taylor criticizes the lack of people of color working in management. There are currently two Latino managers, Dominican Felipe Alou of the Montreal Expos, and Lou Piniella of the Seattle Mariners, of Spanish descent.

Northeastern's 1996 racial sports report card lists three team vice-presidents who are Latino and no general managers, team presidents or majority owners.

Klein believes that Latin American players will take more of a leadership role in the future because many are more politically savvy about

# Latinos Expanden 'La Linea De Color' En El Beisbol 50 Años Despues De Jackie Robinson

Por JOSEPH TORRES

A medida que el beisbol de grandes ligas celebra el quincuagesimo aniversario de cuando Jackie Robinson rompió la línea de color en las ligas mayores, los jugadores de pelota latinos están disfrutando de una prosperidad sin precedentes en el campo de juego, a pesar de barreras idiomáticas y culturales.

Cuando Robinson se unió a los "Dodgers" de Brooklyn en 1947, sólo 45 latinos habían jugado alguna vez en las Grandes Ligas. En 1950 habían sólo cuatro jugando en las ligas mayores. Su presencia subió al 14 por ciento en 1992 y continuó aumentando hasta el 20 por ciento -- 160 jugadores -- el año pasado. Mientras tanto, el porcentaje de jugadores afro-americanos descendió del 19 por ciento en 1995 al 17 por ciento en 1996.

Veinticinco de los más importantes son latinos estadounidenses; 130 proceden de la América Latina, encabezados por la República Dominicana, con 57; Puerto Rico, con 28 y Venezuela, con 20.

"El futuro del beisbol estadounidense está en la América Latina," dijo a Hispanic Link Weekly Report el antropólogo Alan Klein, de la Universidad Northeastern, en Boston, y autor de dos libros sobre el beisbol latino-americano.

A medida que más jugadores de beisbol, tales como Juan González, Roberto Alomar y Alex Rodríguez alcanzan el estatus de super-estrellas, sus sueldos van a la par con los de sus colegas afroamericanos y angloamericanos, según dice Art Taylor, director adjunto para desarrollo de programas en el Centro para el Estudio de los De-

class and race than their U.S. counterparts.

He says that the survival of baseball lies with its appeal to Latino and Latin American fans and players.

(Joe Torres is a regular contributing columnist to Hispanic Link)

portes en la Sociedad, de la Universidad Northeastern.

El sueldo promedio de las ligas mayores es de \$1.1 millones.

Pero un obstáculo inmediato al que se enfrentan los jugadores de beisbol de la América Latina es un sistema de cuotas para visas impuesto en 1994, que limita la cantidad de visas que los equipos pueden procurar para que ellos jueguen en las ligas menores de los Estados Unidos.

Los equipos han establecido academias de beisbol en la República Dominicana para cultivar el talento y escoger cuáles jugadores obtienen visas. Así, los equipos también pueden desarrollar talento potencial para las ligas mayores a un costo más reducido.

Milton Jamail, catedrático de la Universidad de Texas en Austin y redactor contribuyente del Baseball Weekly, dijo que los jugadores son básicamente trabajadores migratorios que enfrentan dificultades de adaptación a la vida en otro país.

Marcos Bretón, reportero del Sacramento Bee, que está redactando un libro sobre los latinos en el beisbol, dijo que los obstáculos idiomáticos evitan que ellos ganen el reconocimiento de los medios informativos u obtengan ganancias por anuncios como los que ganan los atletas angloamericanos o afroamericanos de un calibre semejante.

El agregó que la estrella de los Texas Rangers, González, le dijo una vez que si no fuera por su apellido hispano, él recibiría un reconocimiento mayor.

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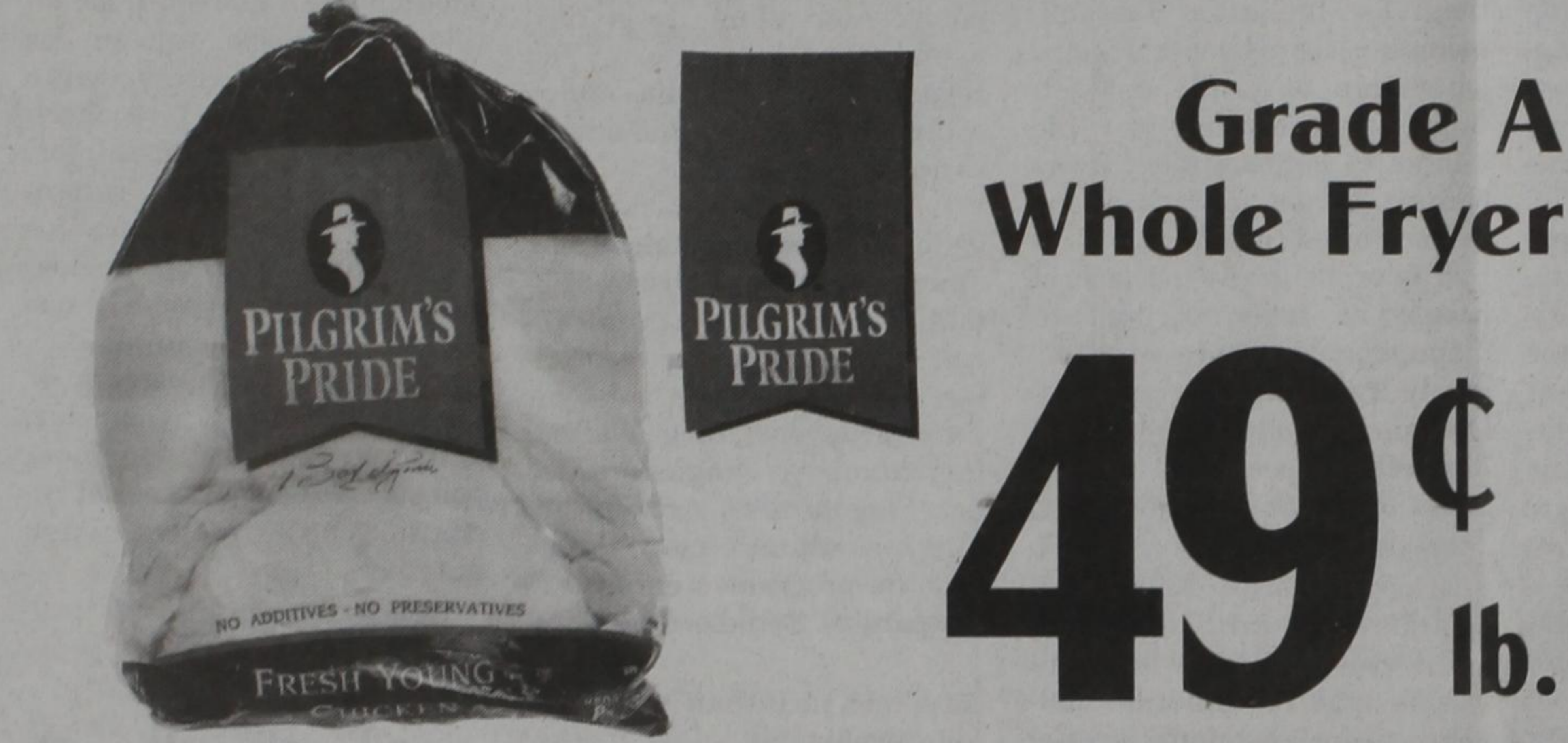
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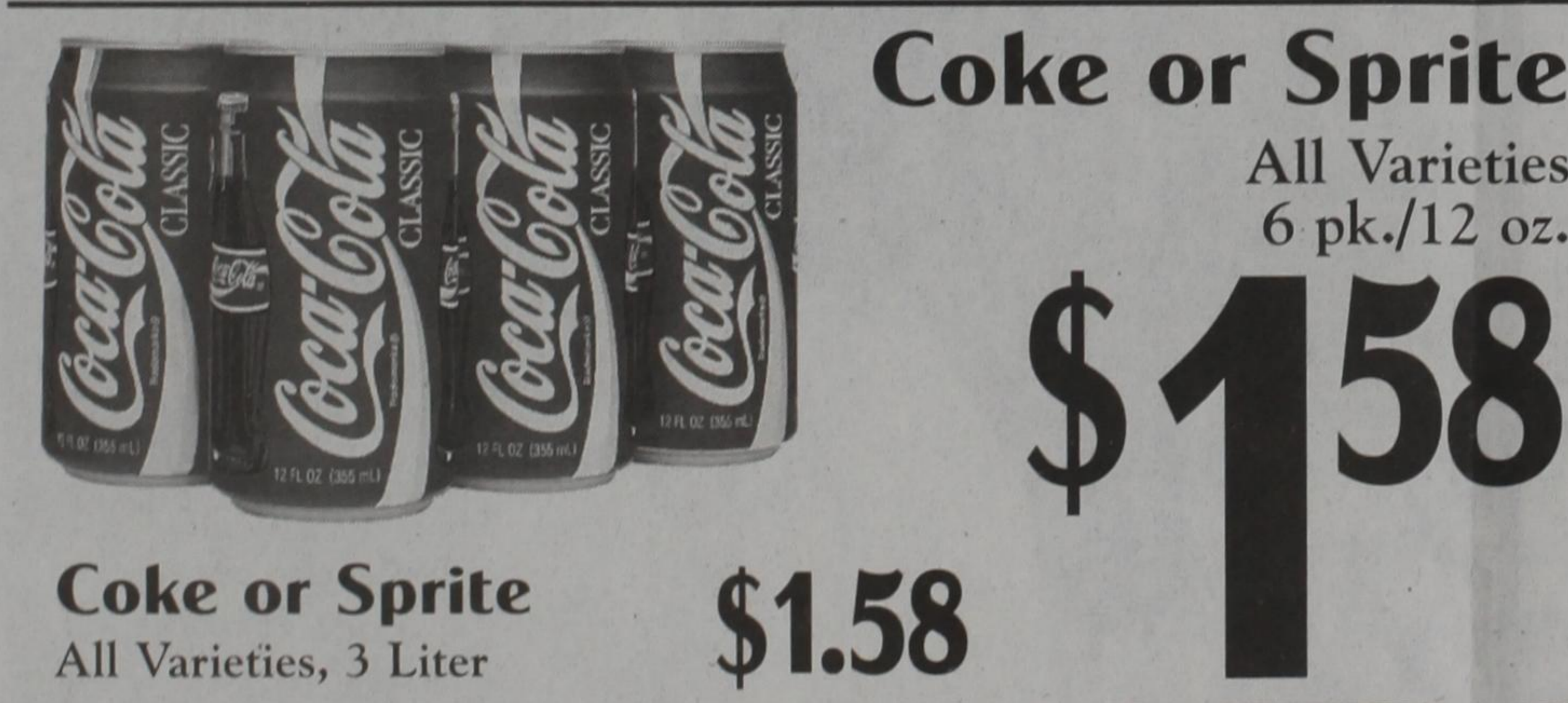
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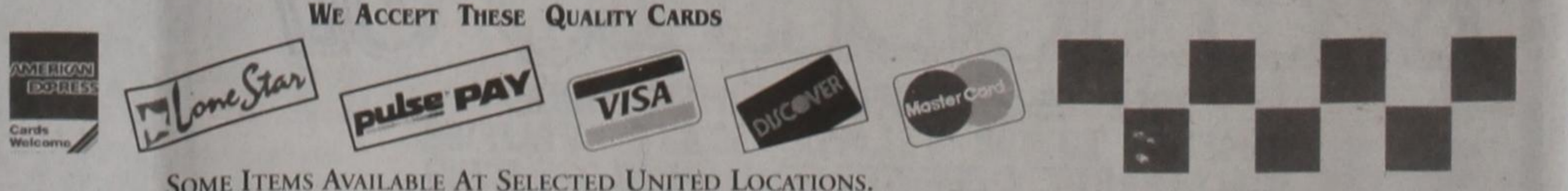
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