

Bill Would Make EPA Rules Fit Kids

Senator Barbara Boxer yesterday introduced legislation that would require environmental standards to take into account the unique vulnerabilities of children, reports The San Francisco Chronicle.

"Children are not little adults, they are more vulnerable than adults," said Boxer. "Every day, whether in school, day care or home, children are exposed to unnecessary and preventable health risks."

Boxer's Children's Environmental Protection Act would require that Environmental Protection Agency standards be set at levels that protect children. It would also require the EPA to publish a list of products that are safe for children and to conduct research on the health effects of pesticides and other pollutants on children.

Representative James Moran, D-Va., who introduced a companion bill in the House, said a malignant tumor was found in his now 5-year-old daughter when she was 3. He said that in the neighborhood where he lived, six other children had brain tumors.

"Were they caused by spraying for gypsy moth, or by pesticides in the shed out back, or by weed-killers, or by paint thinner?" he said. "We do not know."

Boxer said that at least 11 federal laws -- including the Pollution Prevention Act, the Clean Water Act, the Solid Waste Disposal Act and the Ocean Dumping Act -- do not address the health needs of children.

"Not taking care of our children is costing our nation a fortune," said Boxer, noting that a bone-marrow transplant for a child with cancer can cost as much as \$100,000. "In the overall scheme of things, it would cost us a pittance to keep a child out of the hospital by preventing them from getting sick in the first place."

Ad Cos Propose Rules on Net Marketing to Kids

An advertising industry group will release new voluntary guidelines Monday for "responsible marketing to children" on the Internet, reports Associated Press.

Christine A. Varney, a member of the Federal Trade Commission, challenged the industry last June to come up with satisfactory voluntary regulations.

The guidelines by the industry group, the Children's Advertising Review Unit, expand on those that the industry has used for 23 years to help regulate advertising to children in all media.

The older guidelines were also published by the industry group, known as CARU, which is part of the Council of Better Business Bureaus and also associated with the National Advertising Review Council.

The industry guidelines include asking advertisers to make "reasonable efforts" to get children to ask their parents for permission before purchasing a product or service through the Internet, or before children answer any personal questions about themselves or their families.

Under the guidelines, advertisers are urged to disclose why information is being requested and how it will be used ("We'll e-mail you with information," or "We'll add you to our mailing list"), and to give parents an opportunity to cancel further e-mail exchanges.

Researchers at the Center for Media Education, in contrast, believe no personal information should be solicited from children unless the solicitor can verify that the child has a parent's permission -- even if such verification is difficult to obtain.

"Until we reach a point where parents really know what's being collected, why and how it will be used, they should not be collecting this information," said Kathryn C. Montgomery, the center's president. "We should err on the side of caution, of protection of children."

In June, the FTC will hold a four-day public workshop to review the matter further.

Daschle: No More Medicare Savings

Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said today that he probably would oppose any additional Medicare savings offered by the Clinton administration, reports Associated Press.

Daschle said he has been assured by White House officials that they will not propose additional savings beyond the \$100 billion over five years that they already offered during budget talks with Republicans.

But Democrats involved in the talks said that offer might increase if a budget-balancing deal draws near. Republicans have been insisting on savings from the health insurance program for the elderly in the \$110 billion to \$130 billion range.

Daschle also said he likely would oppose a package that exceeds \$100 billion in tax cuts over five years. President Clinton proposed \$98 billion in reductions, Republicans initially proposed twice that amount, and bargainers have been discussing figures in the \$140 billion range, participants said. He dismissed Republican insistence that a deal come this week.

A day earlier, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott said the "magic moment" has come for a budget deal with the White House but that it could quickly disappear without progress by midweek.

Documented Immigration Up 27 Percent

Nearly a million foreigners were granted documented permanent residency in the United States last year, a 27 percent increase over the number given green cards the year before, reports Associated Press.

Some 915,900 people immigrated here in 1996, up from 720,461 in 1995, the Immigration and Naturalization Service said Tuesday.

Last year's increase is due in part to a 1986 law that provided amnesty to nearly 3 million undocumented immigrants. As those immigrants became citizens after five years of documented residency, they in turn have been bringing spouses, children and parents to the United States.

Other reasons for the increase include delays in processing applications in 1995, which pushed many into 1996, and a one-time gain in family preference visas in 1996.

The debate focuses on whether immigration provides economic, social and cultural benefits to the United States -- or is a drain on society.

Continued Page 5

By YARA I. ALMA-BONIL-
LA and LOUIS AGUILAR
WASHINGTON, D.C. --
The cherry trees have blossomed here in the nation's capital, and President Clinton is holding hands with Hispanic leaders on the hill once more.



It must be springtime. Following months of public and private confrontation over the president's welfare and immigration agendas and his seeming inattention to Latinos as he assembles his second-term team, romance reigns again.

At least until summer, when the humidity and the legislative realities surrounding welfare and immigration settle in.

What happened to assuage an irate Congressional Hispanic Caucus that only a month before had joined with a broad coalition of Latino organizational leaders in a press conference blasting the administration?

As an ice-breaker, the president met with 14 members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus at the White House April 16. With him were Vice President Al Gore, White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles and personnel chief Robert Nash, the new Latino Cabinet-level trio of Energy Secretary Federico Peña, U.S. Ambassador to the United Na-

tions Bill Richardson, Small Business Administrator Aida Alvarez, plus several other Latinos and Latinas who have key positions in Clinton's second-term administration.

They talked for more than an hour and left smiling. Their trust was apparently restored, particularly on the staffing issue. The caucus had charged previously that Latino representation in top administration posts was dipping to 5 percent after having reached a high of 8 percent during Clinton's first four-year term. National Latino leadership wants an administration that is at least 10 percent Latino, more reflective of the nation's 12 percent Latino population.

Charts and promises of

many good people in the pipeline did the job. On exiting, Caucus Chairman Xavier Becerra, D-California, is one who appeared impressed. He told us waiting scribes that the White House statistics were "a couple percentage points" higher than the ones the CHC had. "It's pretty fluid. We'll have to take a look at their numbers," he said.

The White House is now working to fill 100 of 255 open positions that require Senate confirmation in Cabinet agencies. About 190 other presidentially appointed posts are also open. Beyond that, there are vacancies on part- and full-time boards and commissions, judgeships and ambassadorships, plus U.S. Attorney and Marshal positions. Such a high turnover rate is common between administrations.

"The White House is going to be browner. You can take it to the bank," assured once-skeptical Luis Gutierrez, D-Illinois.

Gutierrez said he felt that the president fully understood the critical importance of placing Latinos in policymaking roles, especially for immigration and welfare changes that have major impact on scores of Latinos.

As the CHC was talking to the president, dozens of Latinos representing virtually

every major Latino organization were protesting outside the White House, occasionally chanting both in Spanish and English: "What do we want? No more 5 percent!" Many promised to stage further pickets and protests at specific federal agencies that have low numbers of Latino appointments.

Given the president's expressed commitment to have an administration that looks like the country, such representation is due, they contend.

Then there's the political reality of special importance to Vice President Gore, who wants to replace his boss in the year 2001:

-- In November 1992, 4 million strategically located Latino voters gave 61 percent of their presidential ballots to Clinton, 25 percent to Bush, and 14 percent to Perot.

-- In November 1996, nearly 5.5 million Latinos split their ballots 72 percent for Clinton, 21 percent for Dole and 5 percent for Perot.

-- In the year 2000, at least 7 million Latinos -- another 1.5 million increase -- are expected to vote, most of them in big, key electoral states.

Small wonder that the White House wants to court the Latino vote. The amazing thing is that the Republican Party continues to sound and act like it could care less.

"El Respeto Al
Derecho Ajeno
Es La Paz"

Lic Benito Juarez
ESTABLECIDO 1977
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EL EDITOR

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Vol. XX No. 30

Week of April 24 thru April 30, 1997

Lubbock, Texas

Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero

A group of people calling themselves "Kids First" came to Lubbock this week

wanting to get support for school vouchers.

School vouchers would enable

parents to get vouchers for their child's education so that they might attend a private school.

The group claims that school vouchers would allow a child to attend a better school and thereby get a better education.

Sounds good, huh?

Well many, including myself don't think it's a good idea.

The newly formed Texas Hispanic Families Coalition is one group that is standing up against the effort.

The coalition took a stand against private school vouchers and in support of efforts to soften the blow of Hopwood decision on minority students. The group believes that private school vouchers proposals would, in the short run, seriously weaken public education for hispanic children by diverting much needed funds away from public schools in order to subsidize private schools. In the long-run, voucher proposals would lead to the resegregation of Texas schools. Al Kauffman, Regional Counsel for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, said "the Texas Legislature can best serve the hispanic community by defeating private school voucher proposals and reducing the negative impact of the Hopwood ruling on minorities college admissions."

The Lubbock Chamber of Commerce were the hosts of the "Kids First" group. Perhaps the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber should look at hosting the "Families Coalition" so that the real effects of school vouchers can be exposed.

Comentarios Sobre
Comentarios?
Escribanos

El Editor

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Los Latinos y Clinton Son Una Pareja Nuevamente

Por Yara I. Alma-Bonilla y Louis Aguilar

Los cerezos han florecido acá en la Capital de la Nación, y el Presidente Clinton está agarrado de manos con los líderes hispanos en la colina una vez más.

Debe haber llegado la primavera.

Después de meses de enfrentamiento público y privado debido a la agenda del presidente respecto a la asistencia económica pública y la inmigración, así como su aparente falta de atención a los latinos a medida que reunía su equipo para el segundo término, el amor reina nuevamente.

Por lo menos hasta el verano, cuando la humedad y las realidades legislativas que rodean los asuntos de la asistencia económica pública y la inmigración vuelvan a asentarse.

¿Qué sucedió que aplacó al airado Cauco Congresional Hispano que sólo un mes antes se había unido a una amplia coalición de dirigentes de organizaciones latinas en una conferencia de prensa, censurando a la administración?

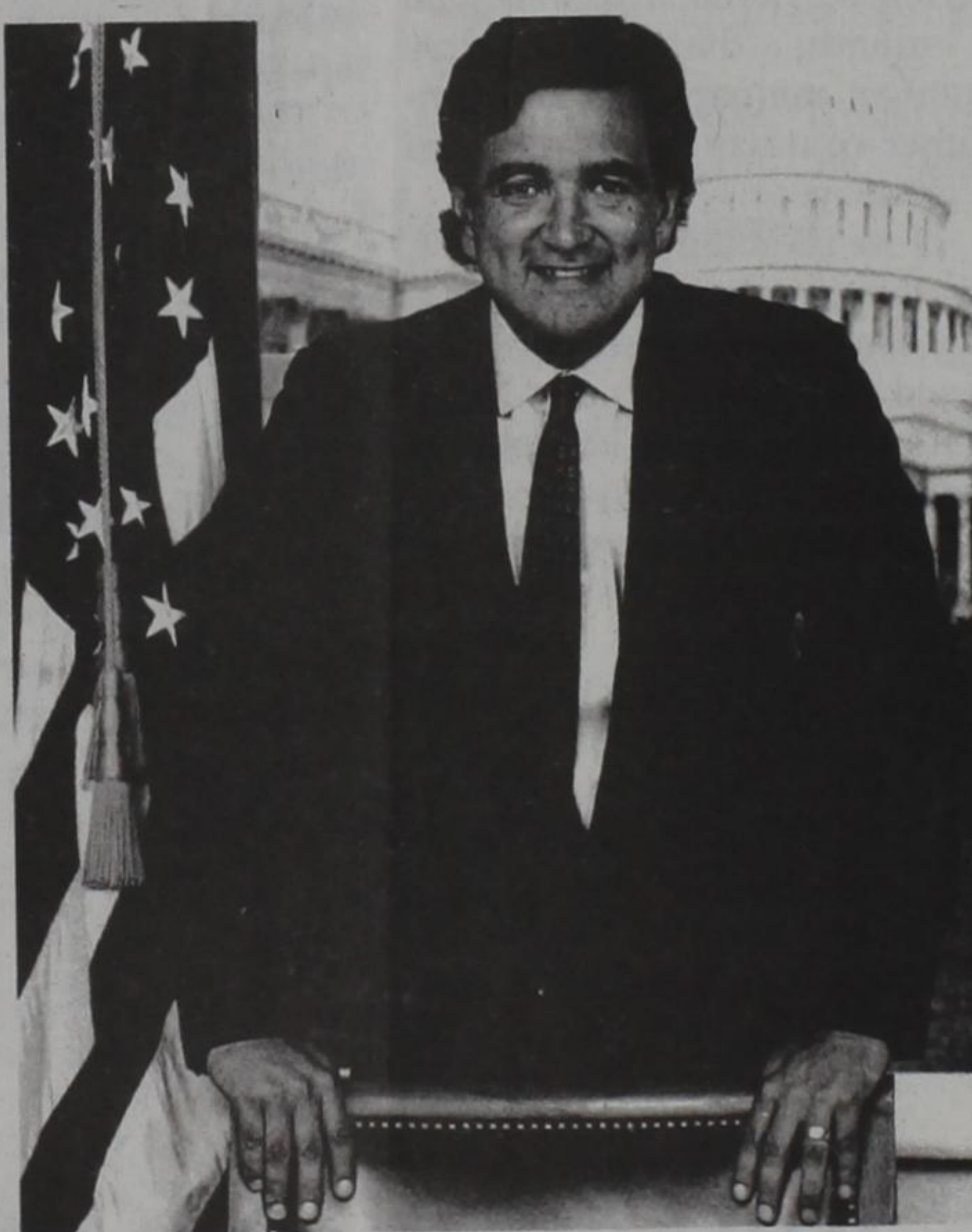
Para romper el hielo, el presidente se reunió con 14 miembros del cauco en la Casa Blanca el 16 de abril.

Con él se hallaban el vice-presidente Al Gore, el Jefe de Personal de la Casa Blanca, Erskine Bowles, y el jefe de personal Robert Nash, el nuevo trío Latino de nivel ministerial -- formado por el Secretario de Energía Federico Peña, el Embajador Estadounidense ante las Naciones Unidas Bill Richardson y la Administradora de Pequeños Negocios Aida Alvarez, y varios otros latinos de ambos géneros que tienen posiciones claves en el gobierno del segundo término de Clinton.

Hablaron por más de una hora y salieron sonriendo. Su confianza quedó restablecida aparentemente, especialmente sobre el asunto de los nombramientos y el personal. El grupo había denunciado anteriormente que la representación latina en las plazas principales del gobierno estaba disminuyendo al 5 por ciento después de haber llegado a una cifra alta de 8 por ciento durante el primer cuatrienio de Clinton.

El liderato latino nacional quiere un gobierno que sea por lo menos un 10 por ciento, que se asemeje más a la población latina de la nación, que es del 12 por ciento.

Los cuadros estadísticos y promesas de que hay muchas personas buenas en trámite hicieron el trabajo. Al salir, el presidente del cauco, Xavier Becerra (demócrata por California) es uno que pareció estar impresionado. El nos dijo, a los periodistas que esperábamos, que las estadísticas de la



Casa Blanca estaban "un par de puntos porcentuales" por encima de los que tenía el cauco. "Es bastante fluido. Tendremos que echar un vistazo a sus números," dijo él.

La Casa Blanca está trabajando ahora para cubrir 100 de 255 plazas abiertas que exigen confirmación del Senado en las dependencias del gabinete. Hay también abiertas otras 190 plazas de nombramiento presidencial. Más allá de eso, hay muchas vacantes en juntas y comisiones de tiempo completo y parcial, así como plazas de jueces y de embajadores, además de plazas de fiscales y marshals federales. Una tasa de cambios de personal de esa clase es común en los cambios de gobierno.

"La Casa Blanca va a ser más morena. Pueden llevarlo al banco", aseguró el una vez escéptico Luis Gutiérrez, demócrata por Illinois.

Gutiérrez dijo que él creía que el presidente entendía plenamente la crítica importancia de situar latinos en papeles donde se adoptan decisiones sobre cursos de acción, especialmente en materia de inmigración y de los cambios en la asistencia económica pública que tienen un efecto mayor sobre muchos latinos.

Mientras que el Cauco Congresional Hispano estaba hablando con el presidente, docenas de latinos que representaban virtualmente todas las organizaciones latinas importantes, se hallaban protestando frente a la Casa Blanca, cantando en ocasiones

Continua Pagina 3

'Paro Verbal' - Una Crisis Nacional Inventada

Por JONATHAN J. HIGUERA

Una amiga me contó hace poco su experiencia durante una visita a Carolina del Norte. En un restaurante de allí, un mesero le preguntó si le gustaría beber algún "tey."

Al no comprender, ella le pidió que lo repitiera.

"Tey" (se escribe "tay") contestó el mesero, luciendo impaciente por la incapacidad de ella para comprender. Sólo después de que el esposo de mi amiga le dijo que el hombre estaba preguntándole si ella quería "té", ella comprendió por fin.

Pensé en esto el otro día después de leer un informe de primera plana en "USA Today" sobre el "paro verbal" de este país, producido por los altos niveles de inmigración.

Dudo que el redactor, Gary Strauss, tuviera un dialecto sureño en mente cuando escribió sus artículos, que ocuparon dos planas completas e incontables gráficas y cuadros para enseñarnos que "la falta de dominio del inglés cuesta a los negocios miles de millones de dólares."

El tratamiento dado por "USA Today" al asunto plantó percepciones falsas en las mentes no aptas para discernir -- y con consecuencias reales. No estoy sugiriendo que nosotros, los que trabajamos en los medios informativos, debamos ser los sanadores de las divisiones sociales. Pero, ¿tenemos que crearlas o empeorarlas?

Los relatos incluidos en la historia se basaban en los ci-

mientos más débiles. Es muy fácil de hacer. Se toma la premisa debatible, se habla con personas que la apoyen y después se les da pocas palabras a los hechos que socavan su verosimilitud.

De modo que, ¿en qué forma llegó Strauss a la conclusión de que el "paro verbal" está costándonos miles de millones de dólares?

Bueno, él habló con un profesor que señaló que los sueldos medianos de los inmigrantes son un 30 por ciento menos que los de trabajadores nacidos aquí. Debido a eso, los primeros pagan menos impuestos. De ahí sale una disminución de \$90,000 millones.

¿Como?

Me imagino que deberíamos asumir que si todos los inmigrantes hablaran mejor inglés, serían banqueros remunerados con abundancia, administradores empresariales y programadores de servicios auxiliares para computadoras. No importa que los inmigrantes tengan una tradición de satisfacer la necesidad de mano de obra barata del país hasta que ellos, o sus hijos, empiecen a subir por la escala económica.

En vez de elogiar a los inmigrantes por hacer los trabajos que la mayoría de nosotros no aceptaríamos, Strauss propone que empecemos a verlos como productores ambulantes de disminuciones en los impuestos.

El menciona la teoría del mismo profesor, de que se pierden otros \$40,000 millones en la falta de productividad de los trabajadores ocasionada

por las dificultades idiomáticas. Ustedes saben, demoras de tiempo, producción defectuosa, errores cometidos por los trabajadores que no entienden ni hablan el inglés.

El llega hasta a proponer un ejemplo en el cual Johnny se quedó sin cabello, porque el barbero, que no hablaba inglés, no pudo entender que el chico sólo quería que se lo emparejaran.

Aunque algunos de nosotros podamos relatar encuentros negativos con personas que no hablen inglés, ello difícilmente resulta un "paro verbal nacional."

Como señaló un amigo, si uno de cada cuatro consumidores tuvo problemas el año pasado porque un compañero de trabajo o un empleado del comercio al detal hablaba inglés defectuosamente, como lo halló una encuesta de USA Today/CNN/Gallup, eso significa que el 75 por ciento no tuvo NINGUN problema.

La encuesta no precisó cuántos encuentros negativos tuvo cada uno de los miembros del 25 por ciento. Aún si fuera uno por mes, esa es una cifra insignificante al compararse con los contactos de consumidores que tenemos todos en un año dado.

Si vamos a ser honestos, debemos admitir que acostumbramos a reaccionar al acento de una persona basándonos en su aspecto. Muchos encuentran elegante un acento francés o británico; un acento asiático o latino puede provocar la reacción opuesta. Es asunto de poder.

Hace poco entrevisté al presidente y funcionario ejecutivo principal de una cadena hotelera importante. La cadena se halla en una fase de expansión rápida, comprando propiedades por todo el mundo. Aunque él ha sido ciudadano de los Estados Unidos durante muchos años, el funcionario, nacido en Alemania, habla inglés con acento y emplea frases que la mayoría de los estadounidenses considerarían extrañas. Sin embargo, sus empleados y asociados de negocios lo entienden notablemente bien.

¿Está él contribuyendo a nuestro "paro completo"? Sus colegas en verdad no hallan que su lenguaje sea intolerable.

El caso más evidente de la desilusión actual con las habilidades idiomáticas se halla en las propias palabras de Strauss:

"Hoy, la discriminación contra los inmigrantes es más sutil. Pero se destacan las diferencias idiomáticas: Anteriormente, las habilidades idiomáticas no eran tan importantes, porque la mayoría de los inmigrantes efectuaba trabajos de fábricas, agrícolas, de construcción o de minería que no exigían la habilidad de hablar con el público."

(Jonathan J. Higuera es redactor de negocios en el "Tucson Citizen" de Tucson, Arizona.)

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'Verbal Gridlock' - A Contrived National Crisis

By JONATHAN J. HIGUERA

An acquaintance recently told me about her experience during a visit to North Carolina. At a restaurant there, a waiter asked if she would like some "tay." Not understanding, she asked him to repeat it. "Tay," the waiter replied, appearing exasperated by her inability to understand. Only after my friend's husband told her the man was asking if she wanted tea, did she finally understand.

I thought of this the other day after reading a headline report in USA Today on this country's "verbal gridlock" brought on by high immigration levels.

I doubt that the writer, Gary Strauss, had a southern dialect in mind when he wrote his articles, which took two full pages and myriad charts and graphs to teach us that "the lack of English-language proficiency costs businesses billions of dollars."

USA Today's treatment of the subject planted false perceptions into less discerning minds -- and with real consequences. I'm not suggesting that we in the media must be the healers of societal divisions. But do we have to create or exacerbate them?

The stories were built on the flimsiest of foundations. It's so easy to do. You take the shaky premise, talk to people who support it, then give short shrift to facts that undercut its credibility.

So just how exactly was Strauss to arrive at the conclusion that "verbal gridlock" is costing us billions of dollars?

Well, he talked to a professor who pointed out that immigrants' median salaries are about 30 percent less than those of native-born workers. Because of that, they pay less taxes. Thus, a \$90 billion shortfall.

Hello.

I guess we should assume that if all immigrants spoke better English, they'd be richly compensated bankers, corporate managers and software programmers. Never mind that immigrants have a tradition of filling this country's need for cheap labor un-

til they or their children move up the economic ladder.

Instead of lauding immigrants for doing the jobs most of us wouldn't accept, Strauss proposes that we start viewing them as walking tax shortfalls.

He cites the same professor's theory that another \$40 billion is lost in worker productivity caused by language deficiencies. You know, time delays, poor output, mistakes by workers who can't understand or speak English. He even throws in an example like Little Johnny got his hair whacked off because the non-English-speaking barber couldn't understand that the boy just wanted a trim.

While some of us may be able to relate to negative encounters with non-English-speakers, it's hardly national verbal gridlock.

As a friend pointed out, if one in four consumers encountered problems in the past year because a coworker or

retail employee spoke poor English, as a USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Poll found, that means 75 percent had NO problem.

The poll didn't elaborate on how many negative encounters each of the 25 percent experienced. Even if it were one a month, that's a paltry number compared to the consumer contacts we all have in a given year.

If we're going to be honest, we should admit that we usually react to a person's accent based on appearance. Many find a French or British accent elegant; an Asian or Latino accent may evoke the opposite response. It's a power thing.

I recently interviewed the president and CEO of a major hotel chain. The chain is in a rapid expansion mode, buying up properties all over the world. Although a U.S. citizen for many years, the German-born CEO speaks Eng-

lish with an accent and use phrases most native speakers would consider awkward. Yet his employees and business associates understand him remarkably well.

Is he contributing to our "gridlock"? His colleagues certainly don't find his speech intolerable.

The most obvious cause of today's frustration with language capabilities is found in Strauss' own words:

"Today, discrimination against immigrants is more subtle. But language differences are highlighted. In the past, language skills were not as important because most immigrants took factory, farming, construction or mining jobs that didn't require an ability to converse with the public."

(Jonathan J. Higuera is a business writer for the Tucson Citizen in Tucson, Ariz.)

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Strawberry Workers March Reinigorates Labor Movement

By MARINA MALIKOFF

The voice of worker solidarity was ratcheted up to full blast this month when thousands and thousands of people marched through a small agricultural town on the central coast of California demanding justice and dignity for strawberry workers.

Some came from Ivy League schools; others from the surrounding agricultural fields where they toil. Still others came from union halls and Hollywood and national political offices. In all, organizers say an estimated 25,000 marched in a colorful, spirited stream through Watsonville's Main Street in support of the United Farm Workers' attempt to unionize the state's 20,000 strawberry workers.

Strawberry pickers are among the most exploited agricultural workers in the nation. The average wage is \$8,500 per season for 10-12 hour days of stoop labor in a \$650-million-a-year industry. Many claim to work in fields with filthy restrooms and dirty drinking water.

Few have health insurance.

They are fired at whim, and the women face sexual harassment, workers contend. Due to the migrant nature of the work and immigration status of workers, it is nearly impossible for state and federal agencies to enforce workplace standards.

"Today we make history," said UFW president Arturo Rodriguez, evoking cheers from the crowd. The daylong event kicked off the 1997 strawberry harvest and announced the resurgence of the UFW's campaign, which began last spring, to organize California's strawberry workers.

Union leaders claim the campaign is the biggest current organizing drive in the nation. It has received support and financial backing from the AFL-CIO. Even the UFW's old nemesis, the Teamsters, aided in the march.

Anti-unionists had vowed earlier to counter with a large rally of their own. When the day came, only a handful of

supporters huddled in a local eatery where they tried to woo in media as they followed the massive march on the street.

Chanting (ITAL) "Si, se puede" (UNITAL) to the cadence of a thunderous drumbeat, the throng hoisted flags representing Mexico, the United States and unions across the nation as the marchers zigzagged for two and a half miles through the streets of Watsonville.

At the head of the march sporting a straw cowboy hat was UFW co-founder Dolores Huerta. She was flanked by AFL-CIO president John Sweeney, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Arturo Rodriguez and actor Martin Sheen. Marchers followed closely behind, carrying portraits of the Virgin of Guadalupe and Cesar Chavez, the UFW's founder who died in 1993.

As they passed the UFW headquarters on Main Street, marchers and onlookers were two- and three-deep as they shouted and applauded wildly as an enormous crimson flag emblazoned with UFW's tra-

Letter to the Editor

I entered the work force many years ago when you were required to do a days work for a days pay. A few years later, I joined the management team. The instructions I received from my boss was: You can delegate authority, but not responsibility. This policy, I complied with for 35 years.

I do not understand why some of our elected officials cannot accept responsibility. When the County Commissioners delegated their authority to the County Judge to hire a Maintenance Engineer, his salary was increased \$8000 per year. After he was indicted on a felony charge, no one wanted to accept responsibility. Unaware of the possible shortage in this department, an in depth audit and inventory of merchandise had not been conducted, a standard procedure when you have a change of the guard, who is responsible for this audit. (The County Commissioners).

When a county employee was booked into the County Jail on a drug possession charge, why did they remain on the County Payroll? The person involved is now employed by the Sheriff's office. Why have a drug policy if you are not going to enforce it? A Lack of Responsibility.

When the County decided to update our computer system, proposals were sent out for bids. One of the requirements for companies submitting bids was that you must have 5 years experience in the installation of computer systems for County Governments. The County received two bids, one for 1.2 Million, and the other for 1.8 million. Both proposals were rejected. The normal procedure would have been for the County to request new proposals. The Court elected to award the contract to an employee of one of the companies that had bid on the contract. The contract was awarded for a two year period at a cost of \$69,000 per month. The County was to provide the equipment. The installation had not been completed at the end of 2 years. The contract was extended 3 years at a cost of \$79,000 per month. Three years and seven months later, Lubbock does not have an acceptable computer system. An afterthought? Why does the installer have patent rights on the system he is designing? Lubbock County should hold all patent rights.

One of the Commissioners remarked that this was the State of the Art computer System that would take us into the 21st Century. How could the Court arrive at this conclusion when 5 Counties in the State of Texas and one in Missouri had tried the system and it did not work. The Court was aware of this. Why did they think it would work in Lubbock County?

Why fault the District Attorney or other Elected officials for failure of a system that was not designed for County Government? Bill Sowder did not have a say so in the purchase of this system, his office was not receiving any complaints under the old system.

Why fault any Department? Regardless of how many dollars the County continues to pour into this operation, the results are going to be negative. Time required for imputing and recovering data, response time of 15 minutes or more, is far from acceptable.

The taxpayers of Lubbock County should not have to bear the burden of the many miscues created by our Elected officials. A 1.8 million judgment by an ex-employee that could have been awarded, a \$350 hospital bill for mistreatment of a jail inmate, plus possible damages of millions, several suits filed by Bail Bond companies for overcharges, should not fall as a burden to the taxpayer.

If those in command cannot accept their responsibilities, a change of the guard may be the solution to our problems.

Randall Carpenter
Ex-Lubbock Commissioner

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El Editor

demark black eagle was unfurled from the top of the building.

"Our march today is over, but we have left our footprints on the soul of this community and on the conscience of the nation," said Sweeney at an ensuing rally. "Farmworkers need the union probably more than any other worker in the nation."

Arturo Arevalo, a 27-year-old strawberry picker from Miyasaka Farms, said he has not been called back to work yet this season because of his union activism. "The growers say that the union is bad and the workers who support the union won't get their jobs back," he said, adding that normally he would have been rehired by now.

In the past, when strawberry workers have tried to improve conditions, the industry has laid off workers, plowed under fields and shut down operations.

While much of the spirit and pageantry of the march was reminiscent of the farmworker movement led by Chavez

more than three decades ago, the bid for social and economic justice is as meaningful today as it was then.

At a time when wages are shriveling, benefits are being chipped away and even the eight-hour work day is threatened, the march signals the reinvigoration of the labor movement. It has given farmworkers and all of the nation's working class something to hope for.

(Marina Malikoff of Santa Cruz, Calif., is a free-lance writer.)
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MDA

Multiple Sclerosis Association

Government Ponders Race Categories

By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
WASHINGTON - Should the census have categories for Creoles or Arabs? Are Hawaiians Pacific islanders or native Americans? How can people with parents of different races be categorized?

With the next national census less than three years away, federal officials are struggling to develop questions that will help characterize the nation's increasingly diverse population.

"It is difficult to resist pointing out the example of Tiger Woods here," said Rep. Stephen Horn, R-Calif., chairman of the House Government Reform and Oversight management subcommittee, which took up the question Wednesday.

Woods, the young golfer who won the Masters Tournament this month, combines Asian, black, American Indian and white ancestry, a blend that would be hard to categorize on current federal forms.

"For a multiracial couple to be asked to choose a racial category for their child flies in the face of the racial harmony their marriage represents," said Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney, D-N.Y.

The Office of Management and Budget sets government policy on racial categories and has been reviewing the four choices it established in 1977 - American Indian or Alaska native, Asian or Pacific islander, black and white.

If changes are to be made, recommendations will be issued this summer, and a decision will follow in October, the administrator of OMB's office of information and regulatory affairs, Sally Katzen, told the subcommittee.

Her office has received more than 800 comments and suggestions and held a workshop to collect data. In addition, four congressional hearings were held in 1993.

The current categories, Katzen pointed out, are the product of the social and political history of the United States and should not be seen as having any anthropological or scientific meaning.

"This is a very sensitive subject," she told the subcommittee. "The meaning and importance of categories become very personal matters."

Whatever the decision, the Census Bureau's statistics will not include all Americans. As with other federal forms, census forms give respondents the option of refus-

ing to give their race.

For people of mixed race, Katzen said, being asked to pick one category may be perceived as denying the other.

On the other hand, simply having a multiracial category would make it impossible to compare new statistics with those of the past or to track various minority groups, she said. Among possibilities are to provide a list of categories and allow people to check all that apply or to ask them to write in their background.

Katzen said that in seeking advice from the public, OMB officials have met a variety of suggestions including requests for such additional categories as Arabs-Middle Easterners, Creoles, Cape Verdeans, European-Americans and German-Americans.

Native Hawaiians have asked to be removed from the Asian-Pacific islander category, she added. Some want a separate category while others asked to be included in the American Indian-Alaska native group so that all indigenous people of the United States would be counted together. American Indian and Alaska native groups have said they oppose bringing Hawaiians into their category.

Some people also urge elimination of racial categories altogether, Katzen said, though the purpose of the question is to allow operation of programs for minorities and prevent racial discrimination.

Some fear a multiracial category would result in fewer people listing themselves under specific minorities and reduce their influence in American society.

Katzen said that in tests where the multirace choice is offered 1 percent to 1.5 percent of people pick that category and a "substantial proportion" of those are Asians and Pacific islanders.

She said tests were also conducted to determine which term racial groups preferred. "White" and "Hispanic" the choice of a clear majority of those groups. More than half of black Americans chose "black," although a "substantial proportion" preferred African-American. About half of "American Indians" picked that term with one-third preferring native American.

Latinos In Clinton Administration Stress Value of Their Insights

By YARA I. ALMA-BONILLA

Latinos presently serving in the Clinton administration are bringing critical understanding and insights about the community to national policy decisions, three of the most influential Latino appointees stressed in interviews with Hispanic Link News Service this month.

The trio -- Department of Energy Secretary Federico Pena, Small Business Administration head Aida Alvarez and White House Director of Public Liaison Maria Echaveste -- all were present April 16 at President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore's lengthy meeting with Congressional Hispanic Caucus members.

Latino appointments to the administration was the first agenda item.

Alvarez and Pena, along with U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Bill Richardson, comprise 12 percent of the president's Cabinet. That is equal to Hispanic representation in the population and the highest percentage of Latinos ever selected by any president.

In conversations with Hispanic Link News Service, Pena, Alvarez and Echaveste affirmed the president's commitment to diversity and to the Latino community.

Pena, who served as Secretary of Transportation during Clinton's first term, pointed to several ways decisions made at both departments affect large communities that embrace the nation's 22 million Latinos.

In leading the electric industry's deregulation, the Energy Department determines how people living in rural areas and the elderly pay their electricity bills, he said.

The SBA affects the lives of millions of Latinos, who make up the fastest-growing segment of the small-business community, Alvarez stressed. She said she plans to measure how the agency responds to the needs of Latinos.

El Editor Newspapers

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Editor/Publisher

Bidal Aguero

Los Latinos Del Gobierno De Clinton Destacan El Valor De Sus Discernimientos

Por YARA I. ALMA-BONILLA

Los latinos que prestan servicios en el gobierno de Clinton llevan comprensión y discernimientos críticos sobre la comunidad a las decisiones sobre cursos de acción nacionales, según destacaron tres de los latinos designados más influyentes en entrevistas con Hispanic Link News Service este mes.

El trío -- el Secretario de Energía Federico Peña, la directora de la Administración de Pequeños Negocios Aida Alvarez y la directora de Enlace Público de la Casa Blanca María Echaveste -- estuvo presente el 16 de abril en la extensa reunión del Presidente Bill Clinton y el Vice-Presidente Al Gore con los miembros del Cauco Congresional Hispano. Los nombramientos de latinos al gobierno fueron el primer punto en la agenda.

Alvarez y Peña, junto al Embajador de los Estados Unidos ante las Naciones Unidas, Bill Richardson, forman el 12 por ciento del gabinete presidencial. Eso es igual a la representación latina en la población y el mayor porcentaje de latinos que haya sido designado alguna vez por cualquier presidente.

En conversaciones con Hispanic Link News Service, Peña, Alvarez y Echeveste

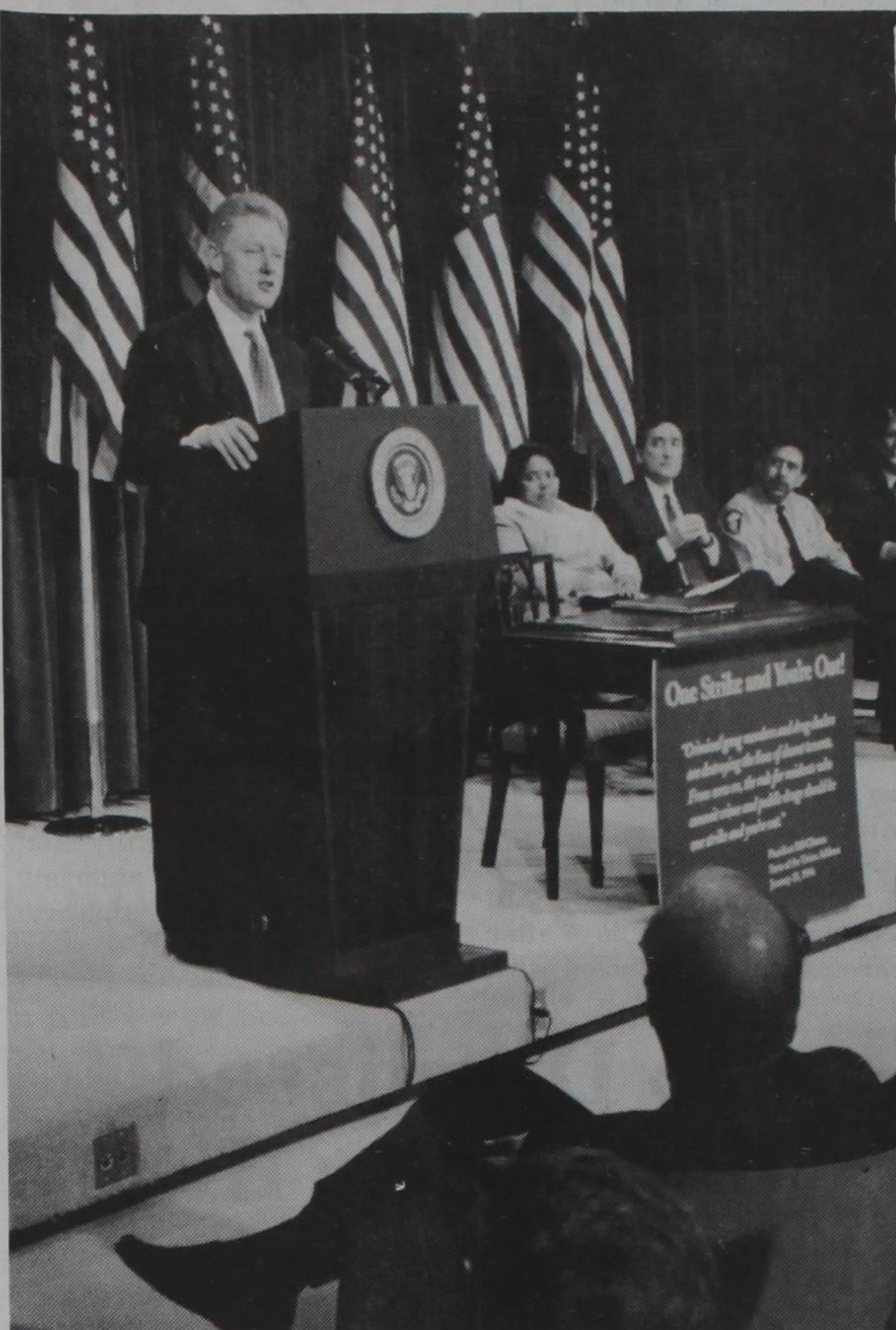
afirmaron el compromiso del presidente hacia la diversidad y la comunidad latina.

Peña, quien prestó servicios como Secretario de Transportación durante el primer cuatrienio de Clinton, señaló los varios modos en que las decisiones adoptadas en ambos departamentos afectan a grandes comunidades que abarcan a los 28 millones de latinos del país.

Al dirigir la reducción de reglamentos de la industria eléctrica, el Departamento de Energía se presta a determinar cómo las personas que viven en zonas rurales y los ancianos, van a pagar sus cuentas de electricidad una vez se complete la transición, dijo él. Muchos latinos viven en áreas rurales del suroeste del país y, claro está, los latinos mayores y ancianos van a ser afectados por estos cambios.

La Administración de Pequeños Negocios afecta las vidas de millones de latinos, especialmente tomando en cuenta que los pequeños negocios latinos forman el segmento de crecimiento más rápido de la comunidad de los negocios pequeños, destacó Alvarez. Ella dijo que se propone medir cómo su dependencia responde a las necesidades de los latinos.

A medida que la Casa Blanca prepara sus propuestas para



As the White House prepares its proposals to increase national education standards, Echaveste commented that she has had the opportunity to explain to the president how standardized tests have been used to exclude Latinos from educational opportunities.

Across the board, Pena said, "Latino appointees bring an understanding about the Hispanic community (and) sensitivity to the policies."

He changed the complexion of the Department of Transportation during his tenure there and expects to do the same at Energy, he said, adding that President Clinton had agreed to afford him "considerable discretion" regarding the people he brings to work with him at his new agency.

Before leaving Transportation, Pena said, he shared

with his successor, Rodney Slater, and Slater's chief of staff, Michael Huerta, his concern about continuing to improve the agency's diversity at all levels.

(Yara Alma-Bonilla is a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C.)
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tanto en español como en inglés, "¿Qué queremos? No más 5 por ciento!" Muchos prometieron montar piquetes y protestas sucesivas en dependencias federales específicas que tienen cantidades bajas de empleados latinos.

Dado el compromiso manifestado por el presidente de tener un gobierno que refleje "la cara de la nación," le debe a la comunidad latina una representación de 10 por ciento, argumentan ellos.

Después viene la realidad política de importancia especial para el Vice-Presidente Gore, que quiere reemplazar a su jefe en el año 2001:

En noviembre de 1992, 4 millones de electores latinos situados estratégicamente, votaron 61 por ciento por Clinton, 25 por ciento por Bush, and 14 por ciento Perot.

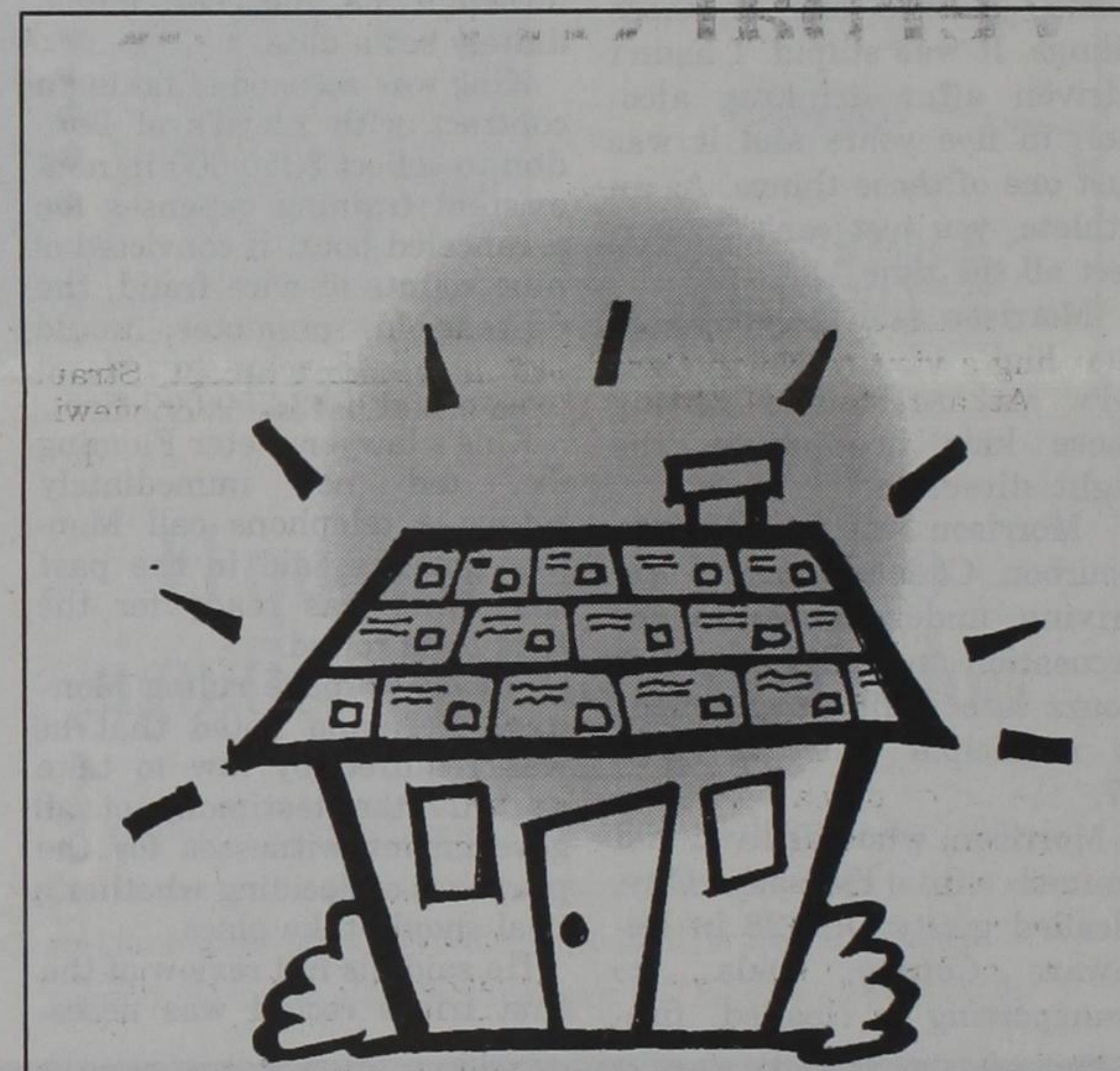
En noviembre de 1996, casi 5.5 millones de latinos dividieron sus votos a razón de 72 por ciento para Clinton, 21 por ciento por Dole, y 5 por ciento por Perot.

En el año 2000, por lo menos 7 millones de latinos -- otro aumento de 1+ millón -- se espera que voten, la mayoría de ellos en estados grandes que son claves para las elecciones.

Es de poco de extrañar que la Casa Blanca quiera cortejar al voto latino. Lo asombroso es que el Partido Republicano continúe sonando y actuando como que no le importa un pito.

(Yara I. Alma-Bonilla y Louis Aguilar escriben para el semanario nacional Hispanic Link Weekly Report en Washington, DC.)

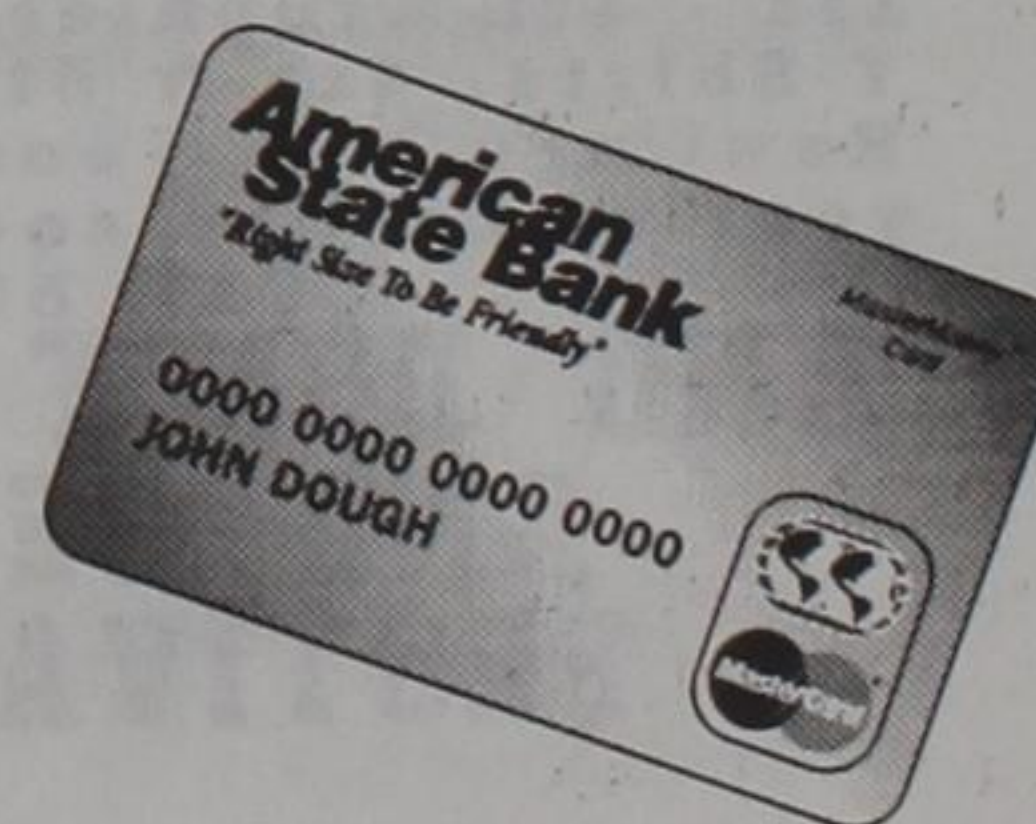
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El Editor
#1 In News

Boxer Arrested on DUI Suspicion

FORT SCOTT, Kan. - Boxer Tommy Morrison, arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol, characterized his actions as proof that "as an athlete you just can't be perfect all the time."

The arrest early Thursday could mean Morrison has violated the terms of a suspended sentence he received in October for carrying a loaded handgun.

The 28-year-old fighter, who is HIV positive, said he spoke to a group of high school students about HIV and AIDS the day before.

"It was a great, great speech that day," Morrison told The Associated Press Thursday night. "Here I am teaching about responsibility and then I pull something stupid like that. It kind of makes me feel uncomfortable."

Morrison, of Jay, Okla., said that after he spoke to students at Appleton City High School in Missouri, he had "a few glasses of wine" with dinner at a friend's house.

Morrison was pulled over about 3 a.m. for driving 52 mph in a 30 mph zone, police chief Larry Dixon said. Morrison was the only person in the pickup truck near downtown Fort Scott, which is in southeast Kansas near the Missouri border.

"The officer originally observed the vehicle, with radar, speeding," Dixon said. "It weaved across the center line a couple of times and weaved back."

Dixon said the alcohol level in Morrison's blood was 0.16. The legal limit in Kansas is 0.08.

"I had three or four drinks and got pulled over driving home. It was one of those things. It was stupid. I hadn't (driven after drinking alcohol) in five years and it was just one of those things. As an athlete, you just can't be perfect all the time."

Morrison said the speech at the high school was "about HIV and AIDS and getting those kids heading in the right direction."

Morrison was booked into Bourbon County Jail on the driving under the influence accusation and released a few hours later. His arraignment in municipal court is April 17.

Morrison, who has lived and trained in Kansas City, pleaded guilty Oct. 28 in Delaware County, Okla., to transporting a loaded fire-

arm. He received a six-month suspended sentence and a \$100 fine in that case. He also was ordered to spend 30 hours of community service talking to schoolchildren about AIDS.

That sentence was to run concurrently with a plea bargain in March, when he pleaded no contest to two counts of assault and battery against a Delaware County woman.

Thursday's arrest is a violation of Morrison's suspended sentence, said Loretta Kirby, a secretary for the Delaware County District Attorney's office. Kirby said prosecuting attorneys would file a motion to revoke the suspension once the office is formally notified.

Morrison said Thursday his "lawyers are handling that."

"We'll try to work it out and see what we have to do," he said.

Morrison returned to boxing in September after retiring in February 1996, just days after learning he was infected with

the AIDS-causing virus.

His retirement announcement was followed by a flurry of new HIV testing regulations by U.S. state licensing boards and a ban on fighters found to be carrying the virus.

Morrison said he decided to return to pro boxing once he became certain the disease could not be spread in the ring. He also said he wanted to raise money and awareness to fight AIDS.

He knocked out Marcus Rhode in the first round of a fight in Japan in November and donated his estimated \$500,000 winnings to an AIDS charity.

Morrison said Thursday he is training a female boxer, and is involved in color commentary for various boxing matches.

"Everything's going good and going in the right direction. I'm staying healthy, and that's why it's so annoying for something like this (to happen)," he said.

No Dismissed Charges for King

By LARRY NEUMEISTER

NEW YORK - A federal judge on Monday refused to toss out insurance fraud charges against boxing promoter Don King, clearing the way for a second trial after a jury in the case could not reach a verdict more than a year ago.

U.S. District Judge Lawrence McKenna said in a written ruling that there was sufficient evidence to permit a retrial, although he did not immediately set a date.

King was accused of faking a contract with Lloyd's of London to collect \$350,000 in non-existent training expenses for a canceled bout. If convicted of nine counts of wire fraud, the 65-year-old promoter would face up to 45 years in federal prison and a \$2,250,000 fine.

King's lawyer, Peter Fleming Jr., did not immediately return a telephone call Monday but has said in the past that King was ready for the next legal round.

In his 45-page ruling Monday, McKenna noted that he was required by law to take as true the testimony of all government witnesses for the purposes of deciding whether a trial should take place.

He said his full review of the first trial's record was neces-

sary because an extensive case by prosecutors that included 18 witnesses and more than 300 exhibits was "almost entirely dependent on inferences."

McKenna seemed to make several criticisms of the prosecution's case.

At one point, he quoted from the trial record where prosecutors said that King, as the sole shareholder of his company, was the only person who would benefit from its success.

"A desire for money is a very general motivation to which, one may assume, most of the population is subject, and a very doubtful basis on which to find criminal intent," the judge said.

King was indicted after his company submitted an insurance claim asking Lloyd's of London for \$350,000 in non-refundable training fees paid to Julio Cesar Chavez for a 1991 cancelled bout with Harold Brazier.

Chavez, former World Boxing Council super lightweight champion, testified that King paid him only \$80,000 to train and never told him about an insurance claim.

A decade ago, King was acquitted of skimming \$1 million from Don King Productions.

Los Premiers Horados



El grupos musical de Los Premiers fueron horados esta pasada semana con fijarse una placa de conmemoracion en el "Buddy Holly Terrace." El grupo de Los Premiers fue activo en la musica en entretenimiento por todo el oeste de Tejas ademas de el Suroeste de los Estados Unidos. Ellos fueron activos desde el 1964 hasta el 1972.

El grupo fue fundado por el George Sulaica y Julian Orta. Los miembros originales fueron presentados un placas y los otros miembros con certificados. Mas de 30 músicos fueron miembros de Los Premiers.

Se planea una reunion de Los Premiers en el cercano futuro.

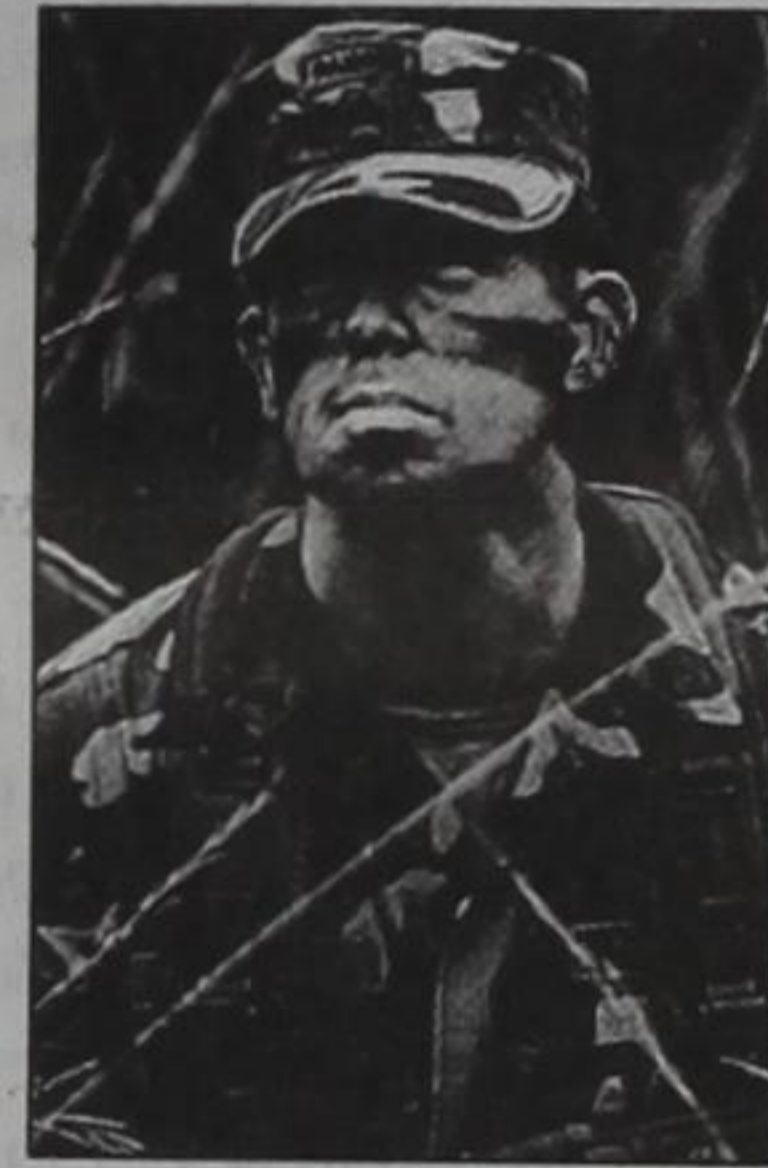


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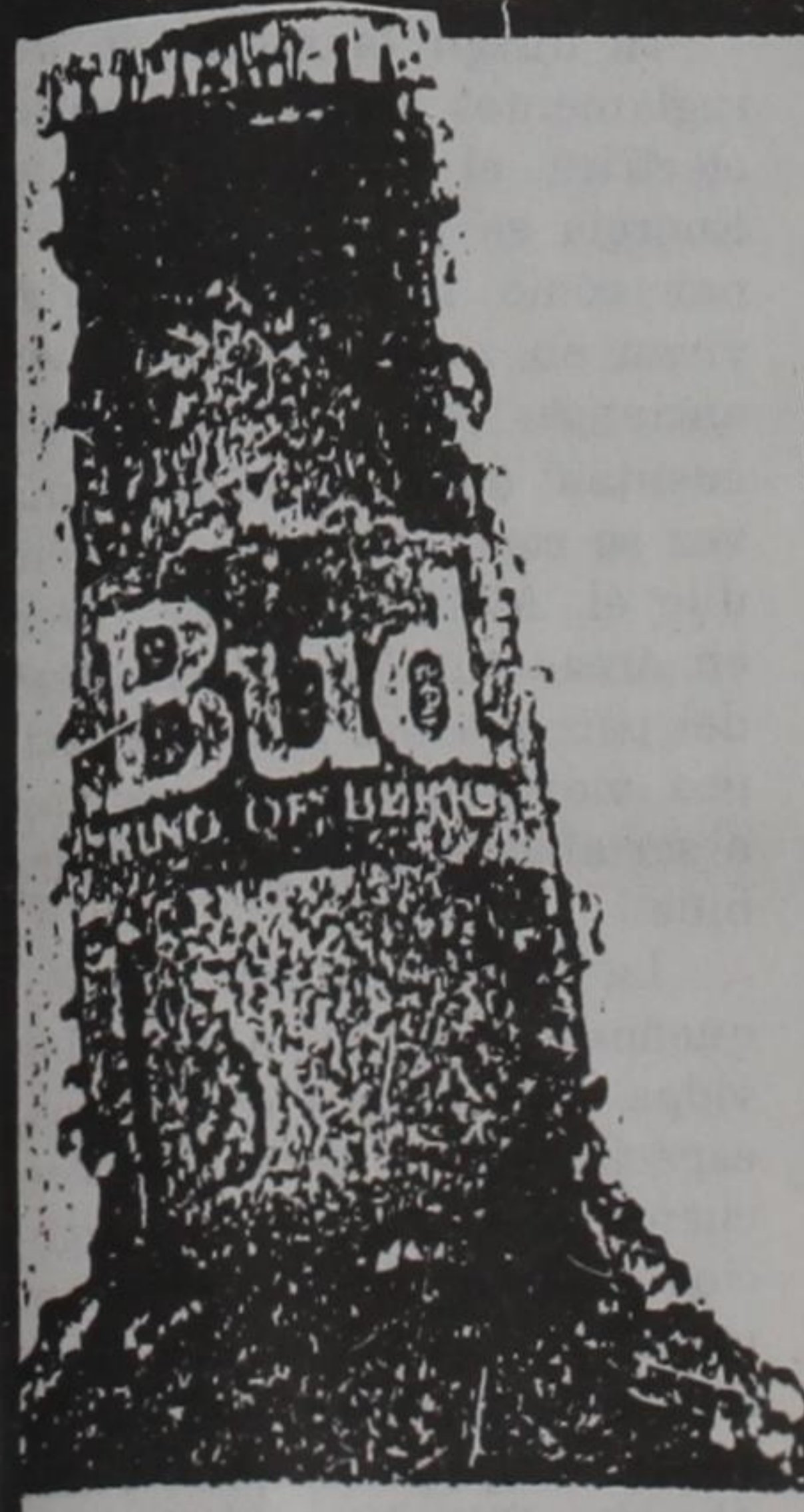
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News Briefs

"Immigrants are not just mouths to feed. They are productive hands and fertile minds," said the Cato Institute's Stephen Moore.

But Chairman Lamar Smith, R-Texas, chairman of the House Judiciary's immigration subcommittee, questioned the nation's immigration policies.

"Over the next five years, America will admit 2 million immigrants who lack a high school education and are unskilled," he said. "It makes no sense to force American citizens, many of whom are minorities, to compete with new immigrants for scarce unskilled jobs."

Health Care Centers Deny Care to Documented Immigrants

Bewildered by the new federal welfare law and fearful immigrants will default on their bills, some health care centers around the country are now requiring prospective patients to produce citizenship papers instead of residency papers upon admission, reports The New York Times.

"It's heartbreaking, but we're all too terrified to admit anybody who is not a citizen," said Sheryl Geminder, the director of admissions at the Sephardic Home for the Aged in Brooklyn, which now rejects all documented immigrants who need long-term care. "A green card was the ticket in six months ago, but now our attorneys are warning us not to take any chances."

Rep. E. Clay Shaw Jr., R-Fla., the chief sponsor of the new welfare law, called the situation "worrisome" and said he had never intended to deny care to eligible immigrants. He said that care centers needed better guidance from state and federal health officials and that his congressional committee would provide it if others did not.

"I can understand their confusion," Shaw said of the nursing homes. "But obviously, some elderly people have fallen through the cracks."

Paralyzed by a stroke that left empty spaces in her memory, Raisa Kinker, a 74-year-old documented immigrant from Ukraine, spent one month at Huntington Hospital on Long Island last month, rejected by one nursing home after another, until a Brooklyn center took her in.

And more than 30 documented immigrants from China, many of them too crippled to walk or brush their thinning hair, recently found themselves stranded with families who could not care for them when a Staten Island retirement home rejected their pleas for placement this month.

"I'm getting calls from nursing homes and they're saying, 'I have a documented immigrant here. What do I do?'" said Scott Sandford, director of regulatory affairs for the New York State Health Facilities Association, a trade group that represents 290 nursing homes. "We have been telling our members, 'You have to be really careful about someone who is not a citizen,'" Sandford said.

Plans to ease the new welfare law's impact have been bandied about for weeks. President Clinton wants to restore most benefits to elderly immigrants. Republicans in Congress want to give some states a lump sum to help them manage the transition.

But while the proposals fly, hospital administrators say some documented immigrants are already suffering. And they fear that the situation will only get worse as the summer deadline for cuts in benefits approaches.

Most States to Get More School Aid

Most states will get more federal aid to schools starting next fall because of changes in the number of poor children and how the money is targeted, reports Associated Press.

The Education Department said Tuesday that spending for two major grant programs operating as Title I will rise from \$6.7 billion to \$7.1 billion. Although that's a 7 percent overall increase, 16 of the states will get a boost of 10 percent or more.

Connecticut, where the gap between rich and poor districts is among the greatest in the country, will get nearly 30 percent more. The package will total \$67 million, up from \$52 million.

For 14 states and Puerto Rico, the amount of aid will drop. The biggest decline would be for Iowa, which will get 6.22 percent less.

The money pays for teachers, summer programs, curricular changes and other efforts to help poor children with math and reading.

The poverty rate for school-age children was 17.5 percent in 1989, but 21 percent as of the Census update, the department says.

WI Rules on Child Protection Law

The state's child protection law does not cover fetuses, the Wisconsin Supreme Court said Tuesday, ruling that a pregnant woman should not have been confined because she used cocaine.

The woman's doctor had alerted authorities that she tested positive for cocaine, and a judge used the law to order the 25-year-old woman to be hospitalized.

She gave birth three weeks later. Her son is in foster care and she is attempting to regain custody, her lawyer said.

Waukesha County lawyers claimed that officials were applying reasonable measures to protect the woman's fetus from obvious risk of harm.

But in a 4-3 ruling, the state's high court said the Legislature did not intend to include fetuses when it wrote the child protection law and it overturned a lower court ruling that said a fetus is a child under the protection law.

The court ruled that many sections of the law cannot be applied to fetuses because it presumes the child is separate from the parent.

Lawyers for the woman, known in court records as Angela M.W., argued the detention was an unconstitutional violation of the woman's rights to privacy and physical integrity.

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La Manifestacion De Los Trabajadores De Las Fresas Refuerza Al Movimiento Sindical

Por MARINA MALIKOFF

La voz de solidaridad de los trabajadores subió a todo volumen este mes cuando millares y millares de personas marcharon a través de un pueblito agrícola en la costa central de California, exigiendo justicia y dignidad para los trabajadores de las fresas.

Algunos llegaron desde las escuelas de la "Ivy League"; otros de los campos agrícolas circundantes donde trabajan. Todavía otros vinieron desde los locales sindicales, de Hollywood y de las oficinas políticas nacionales.

En conjunto, los organizadores dicen que un estimado de 25,000 personas desfilaron en una corriente colorida y animada por la Calle Mainstream de Watsonville, en apoyo del intento de los Trabajadores Agrícolas Unidos de sindicalizar a los 20,000 trabajadores de fresas del estado.

Los recogedores de fresas se hallan entre los trabajadores agrícolas más explotados de la nación. El jornal promedio es de \$8,500 por temporada, por entre 10 y 12 horas de trabajo inclinado, en una industria que vale \$650 millones de dólares al año. Muchos alegan que trabajan en campos con servicios sanitarios asquerosos y agua sucia para beber. Pocos tienen seguro médico.

Los despiden a capricho, y las mujeres se enfrentan al hostigamiento sexual, dicen los trabajadores. Debido a la naturaleza migratoria del trabajo y a la situación de inmigrantes de los trabajadores, resulta casi imposible que las dependencias estatales y federales hagan cumplir las normas laborales.

"Hoy estamos haciendo historia," dijo el presidente de los Trabajadores Agrícolas Unidos (UFW en inglés), Arturo Rodríguez, provocando vítores en la multitud.

El acontecimiento que duró un día completo fue el comienzo de la cosecha de fresas y anunció la resurgencia de la campaña del UFW, que dió comienzo en la primavera última, para organizar a los trabajadores de las fresas de California.

Los dirigentes sindicales alegan que la campaña es el mayor movimiento actual de organización de la nación. Ha recibido apoyo y respaldo económico de la AFL-CIO. Hasta los antiguos enemigos del UFW, los Teamsters, ayudaron en la manifestación.

Los anti-sindicalistas habían prometido anteriormente contrarrestarla con una gran asamblea propia. Cuando llegó el día, sólo un puñado de partidarios se reunieron en un comedor local, donde trataron de atraer a los medios informativos a medida que seguían a la enorme manifestación que desfilaba por la calle.

Cantando "sí, se puede" a la cadencia del batir estruendoso de los tambores, la multitud

llevaba banderas que representaban a México, los Estados Unidos y los sindicatos de todo el país, mientras los manifestantes zigzagueaban por una extensión de dos y media millas a través de las calles de Watsonville.

A la cabeza de la manifestación, llevando un sombrero de vaquero hecho de paja, iba la co-fundadora del UFW, Dolores Huerta. Marchaba flanqueada por el presidente de la AFL-CIO, John Sweeney, el Rev. Jesse Jackson, Arturo Rodríguez y el actor Martín Sheen. Los manifestantes les seguían a poca distancia, llevando imágenes de la Virgen de Guadalupe y retratos de César Chávez, el fundador del UFW que murió en 1993.

Cuando pasaron por las oficinas del UFW en la Calle Mainstreet los manifestantes y los circunsdantes iban de dos y tres de ancho, mientras gritaban y aplaudían bulliciosamente a medida que una enorme bandera carmesí, que llevaba la distintiva águila negra del UFW fue desdoblada desde el techo del edificio.

"Nuestra manifestación de hoy ha terminado, pero hemos dejado nuestras huellas en el alma de esta comunidad y en la conciencia de la nación," dijo Sweeney en una asamblea que siguió a la marcha. "Los trabajadores agrícolas necesitan del sindicato probablemente más que cualesquiera otros trabajadores de la nación."

Arturo Arévalo, de 27 años de edad, recogedor de fresas de las Granjas Miyasaka, dijo que él no ha sido llamado aún para volver a trabajar en esta temporada debido a su actividad sindical. "Los cultivadores dicen que el sindicato es malo y que los trabajadores que apoyen al sindicato no regresarán a sus empleos," dijo él, agregando que, normalmente él ya habría sido contratado para esta fecha.

Anteriormente, cuando los trabajadores de las fresas han tratado de mejorar sus circunstancias de trabajo, la industria ha despedido a los trabajadores, arado sobre la cosecha -- destruyéndola-- y cerrado sus operaciones.

Aunque gran parte del espíritu y la escenografía del desfile hicieron recordar al movimiento de los trabajadores agrícolas dirigido por Chávez hace más de tres décadas, la gestión a favor de la justicia social y económica es tan importante hoy como lo fue entonces.

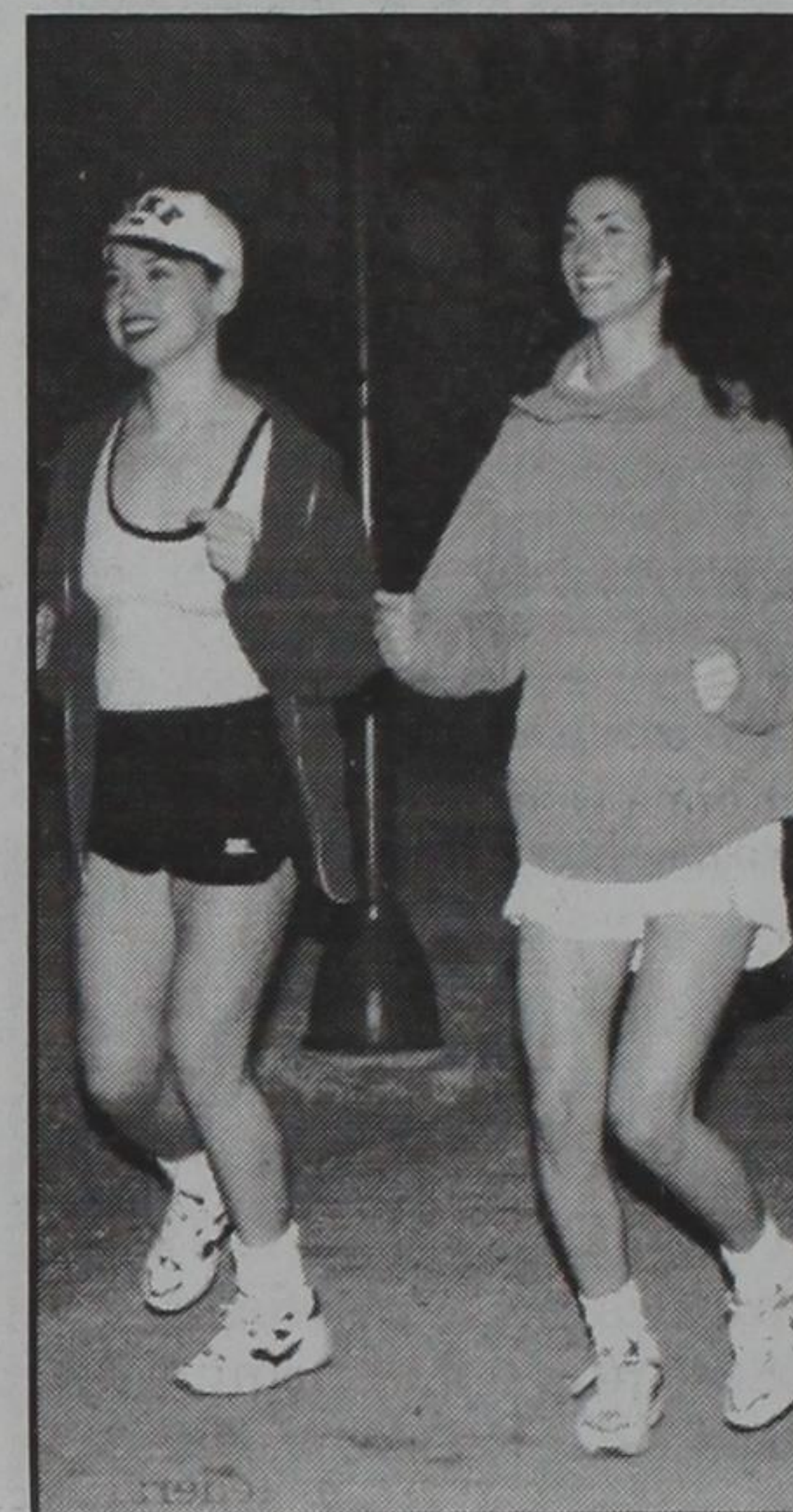
En una época en que los jornales vienen disminuyendo, los beneficios quedan recortados y hasta la jornada de trabajo de ocho horas está amenazada, la manifestación señala el refuerzo del movimiento sindical. Ha dado a los trabajadores agrícolas y a toda la clase trabajadora de la nación algo en que tener esperanza.

(Marina Malikoff de Santa Cruz, California, es una escritora por cuenta propia.)
 Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 1997. Distribuido por The Los Angeles Times Syndicate



Rubio Chosen For Up With People

The 1995 Señorita, Irma Carolina Rubio was recently chosen to participate in the Up With People program. The program is a one year program of intercultural learning experiences, musical performances, and community service. She will be one of 700 college-age students from 20 to 30 nations and from about 45 states that will travel worldwide in five Up With People casts. She is asking for donations in order to cover cost. Donations can be sent to Up With Caro 2416 39th St. Lubbock, Tx. 79412. Checks can be made out to Irma Carolina Rubio.



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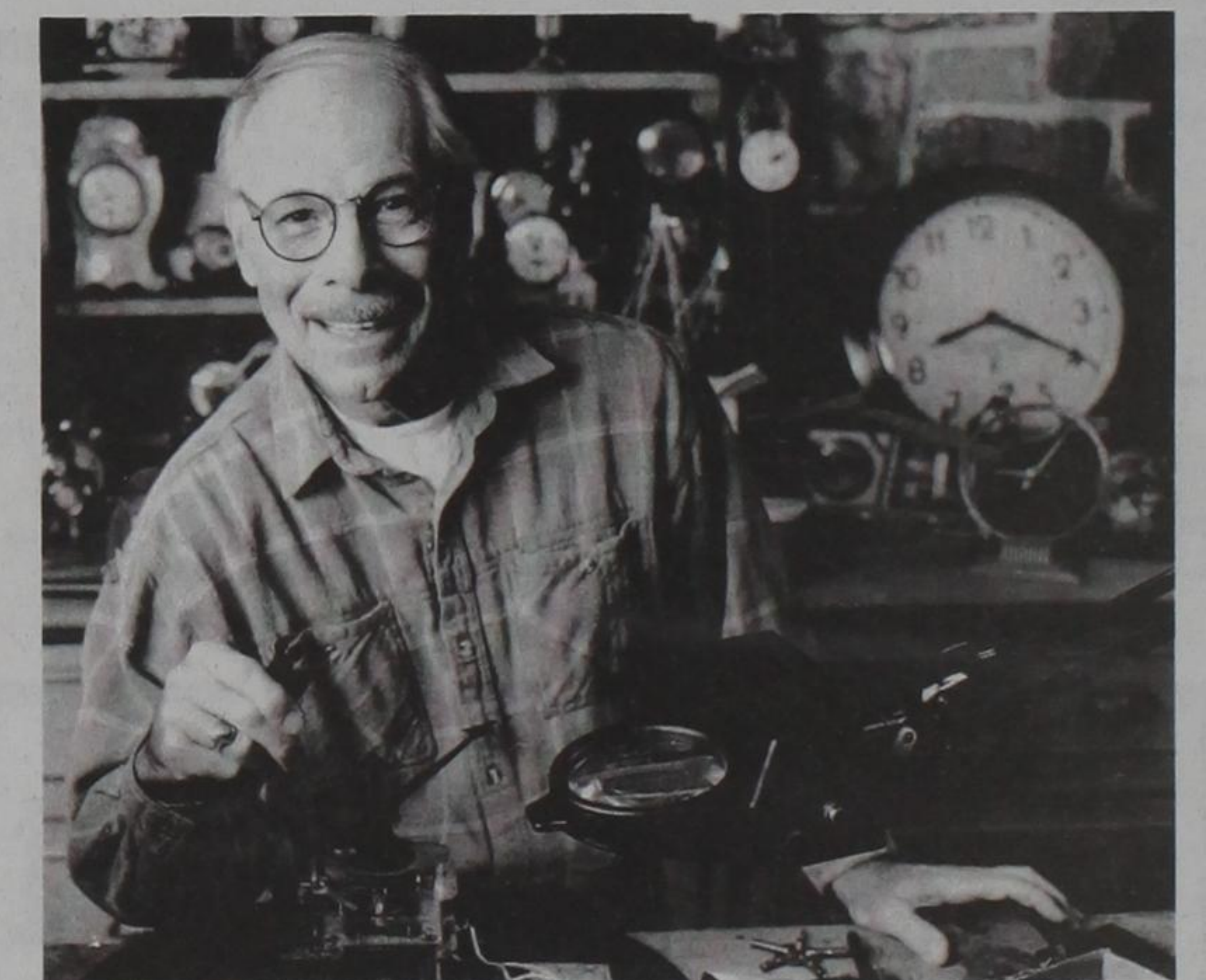
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Yo puedo identificarme con esa idea. Tal vez es la razón por la que nunca tengo prisa con estos relojes. Uno los lija y restaura aquí y allá... Pronto podré dedicarles mucho más tiempo, tal como ellos lo hacen por mí. Éste es el encanto de una buena jubilación. Y ya que me falta poco para eso, me



alegre de haber comenzado a planearla con tiempo...con los bonos de ahorro de los Estados Unidos. Comencé a adquirir bonos de ahorro cuando conseguí mi primer empleo, por medio de un plan de ahorro por nóminas. Cada día de pago apartaba una pequeña cantidad y así, poco a poco, mis ahorros fueron creciendo notablemente. Los bonos también están garantizados, son una inversión segura y acumulan intereses durante 30 años.

Con el paso de los años, me encontrarán aquí en mi taller con mayor frecuencia, arreglando una bisagra o puliendo la caja de un reloj. Sé que esos viejos relojes tienen todavía mucha vida por delante. Yo puedo identificarme con esta idea.

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REGALOS

Como Expandir la Mente de los Niños Con Juguetes Inteligentes

News USA

(NU) - "No importa cuán inteligente sea su niño, es todavía un niño."

Asegura la experta en juguetes Joanne Oppenheim, que ha invertido su vida profesional observando niños jugar, primero como maestra de grados pre-escolares y ahora como editora del boletín "Oppenheim Toy Portfolio."

Su consejo para los ayudantes de Santa Claus: Lea el empaque primero y seleccione los juguetes que son apropiados para la edad de su niño.

"Es mejor mantenerse en el lado de la precaución," indica Oppenheim. "Los juguetes diseñados para niños de más de tres años de edad generalmente tienen piezas pequeñas que no son apropiadas para niños menores."

Los fabricantes catalogan los juguetes basándose en las necesidades físicas, mentales y de desarrollo de los distintos grupos de edades, al igual que en asuntos de seguridad.

"Si usted compra un juguete que es muy sencillo o muy avanzado," asegura la Asociación de Fabricantes de Juguetes de Estados Unidos, "su niño podría frustrarse. Recuerde: El propósito de los juguetes es proveer diversión."

Los Juguetes de Construcción Funcionan

Hay compañías que prestan atención especial a la forma de jugar de los niños y a lo que es seguro o peligroso para ellos en varias edades.

En "Lego," donde los adultos convierten el juego de niños en una ciencia, los diseñadores han creado un sistema particular de juegos para cada grupo de edad.

Ellos han aprendido que los niños bien pequeños necesitan piezas grandes, fáciles de manipular y prefieren juegos de formas libres.

Mientras van creciendo, los niños disfrutan construyendo escenas para recrear objetos — un castillo,

por ejemplo, o una nave espacial. Cuando terminan la escuela elemental, éstos disfrutan construyendo objetos que funcionan — que tienen poleas, bombas y utensilios, como los mecanismos que se encuentran en la línea técnica de "Lego."

Con juguetes apropiados para la edad y que retan sus capacidades, indica Oppenheim, "los niños desarrollan verdaderas destrezas analíticas. Ésto es diferente a una máquina de juegos o algo que viene pre-fabricado en una caja."

Oppenheim evalúa cientos de juguetes cada año. Entre sus favoritos se encuentran juguetes de construcción, que desarrollan la imaginación, el lenguaje, las matemáticas y destrezas motoras y de solución de problemas.

Observando Relaciones de Espacio

Cuando los niños pequeños juegan con juguetes de construcción, inventan historias en el proceso, asegura Oppenheim. Y aprenden sobre conceptos de matemáticas mientras deciden si necesitan más piezas o piezas de distintos colores.

"Ellos pueden ver las relaciones de espacio y darle significado a estas palabras. Los niños pequeños no aprenden las abstracciones primero. Primero, aprenden el objeto o concepto concreto."

Cuando los niños entran a escuela elemental, "éstos construyen con un propósito definido — ellos deciden que quieren construir un puente o una torre."

Y cuando llegan a los nueve o diez años de edad, "los niños quieren crear algo con lo que puedan jugar o que puedan enseñar. Los juguetes de construcción le proveen este tipo de satisfacción."

"Éstos requieren concentración y análisis. Lo que es una tarea seria para niños pequeños."

Jugar, indican los expertos, es el trabajo de los niños.

Income Limit Bar to Uniting Immigrant Families

A new federal analysis has found that an immigration law adopted last fall will make it much more difficult for poor and working-class immigrants to bring documented family members to the United States, especially Mexicans and Salvadorans, whose incomes are generally lower than those of other immigrant groups.

The law, which is to go into effect later this year after regulations are finalized, requires immigrants sponsoring family members for admission to the United States to make at least 125 percent of the poverty level, or \$19,500 for a family of four.

Preliminary research, sponsored by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and based on a random survey of 2,160 statements signed by sponsors of family immigrants in 1994, found that about 3 in 10 of those sponsors had incomes below the new standard.

Another study conducted last year by the Urban Institute, a nonprofit research group in Washington, reached similar conclusions. Its examination of 1993 Census Bureau income data found that 40 percent of immigrant families in the United States and 26 percent of Americans born in the United States would not make enough to sponsor an immigrant under the new standard.

Based on the survey of statements signed by sponsors, immigration officials estimated that roughly half of the Mexicans and Salvadorans, one-third of the Dominicans and Koreans, one-fourth of the Chinese and Jamaicans and one-fifth of the Filipinos, Indians and Vietnamese would not have met the new income requirements.

One opponent of the new laws said the study showed that half of the documented permanent residents and about 3 in 10 of the citizens who sponsored their wives in 1994 would not have met the income standard.

New studies of the impact of last year's immigration law are being scrutinized because the issue of immigration is so politically charged and because legal changes so often have unanticipated consequences.

Complicating this debate is the disagreement among ex-

perts about just how much documented immigrants rely on public assistance. The Urban Institute says that 94 percent of immigrants do not receive welfare. George J. Borjas, a professor of public policy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, using a broader definition of welfare benefits, says that 21 percent of all immigrant households receive some type of public assistance, compared with 14 percent of native households.

Even with the data on the income requirements, it is difficult to predict exactly what impact the new law will have on immigration levels. For one thing, people who cannot immigrate legally may come anyway.

"The perverse effect of the law will be to encourage undocumented immigration," said Cecilia Munoz, a deputy vice president of the National Council of La Raza, a nonprofit Hispanic civil rights organization. "The ties between families are probably stronger than our laws."

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Notice to Bidders

Sealed proposals will be received by Chatman Memorial Center, Inc. until 4:00 p.m., May 1, 1997, to furnish all labor and materials to perform all work to construct three 1,280 square foot minimum homes at 2609, 2611, and 2613 Elm, Lubbock, Texas.

Sealed proposals will be received by Chatman Memorial Center, Inc. until 4:00 p.m., May 1, 1997 to furnish all labor and materials to perform all work to construct two 1,180 square foot minimum homes at 2601 and 2606 Elm, Lubbock, Texas.

These are federally funded projects subject to Equal Employment Opportunity provisions and HUD Section 3 regulations.

Beginning April 20, 1997, bid packets may be obtained by Chatman Memorial Center, Inc., at 2301 Cedar Avenue (basement) between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

All sealed bids will be opened May 2, 1997 at 9:00 a.m. Bidders will be notified of the results of the bidding process on May 5, 1997 before 5:00 p.m. by phone.

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