

# Hispanic Rights Chief Quits Clinton Panel

A leading Hispanic civil rights advocate has resigned from a presidential commission on Hispanic education, reports The New York Times.

In his letter of resignation, dated April 12, Raul Yzaguirre, president of the National Council of La Raza, said he was stepping down as chairman of the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans because it had become too entangled in partisan politics and had lost



its independence.

He also complained that a comprehensive report depicting how the federal government responds to the needs of

Hispanic students - supposedly the centerpiece of the commission's work - had been delayed.

Yzaguirre said he and some other commissioners were frustrated with the panel's inability to get cooperation from federal agencies that were asked to provide information on programs intended to improve the educational performance of Hispanic students.

Yzaguirre emphasized that his frustrations with the 25-member panel, which was

established by President George Bush, pre-date the Clinton administration. He said some aspects of the commission were worse when the Republicans controlled the executive branch.

"This is not an anti-Clinton issue," Yzaguirre said. "We're not anti-Clinton."

Still, his resignation is likely to embarrass the administration among Hispanic voters, a minority group that, unlike blacks, has historically been much up for grabs.

# News Brief

## Minorities At Papers Increases

WASHINGTON - The number of newspaper people who are black, Hispanic, American Indian or of Asian origin grew by 3.2 percent in the past year, the American Society of Newspaper Editors reports in its annual survey of newsroom diversity.

Minority journalists number 6,100 this year, up from 5,900 in 1995, the survey said. Overall, the number of people employed in editorial jobs on daily newspapers has grown to 55,000, an increase of 2 percent.

Still, the growth in minority employment is slow. Minorities account for 11.02 percent of the people who work in newsrooms, up from 10.91 percent a year ago.

When ASNE first looked into minority employment on dailies, in 1978, members of racial minorities represented 3.95 of newsroom employees. The percentage has increased slowly each year, reaching 10 percent in 1993.

Minorities account for 18 percent of people in supervisory jobs, no change from a year ago.

As usual, the largest newspapers are those with the highest number of minorities. Papers with circulations over 500,000 report that 17.2 percent of newsroom employees are members of minority groups; the smallest papers, those with circulations under 5,000, report employing 5.5 percent of their staffs from minority groups.

No newspapers with a circulation over 50,000 reported having no minority staff members. But 70 percent of those with circulations of 10,000 or less had no minority staff members.

Editors from smaller papers said it was hard to recruit minorities.

"On the hires I was responsible for, efforts were made to find minority candidates," said an unidentified editor from a small Midwestern daily. "No applicants. That is an unfortunate plight of small newspapers."

The editor of a Texas newspaper with a circulation between 50,000 and 100,000 offered a suggestion: "Ask us how many minority applicants we've had (zero) and how many we've unsuccessfully recruited (six)!!!"

Among minority journalists on newspapers, 2,980 are black, 1,768 are Hispanic, 1,088 are of Asian background and 224 are American Indians, ASNE said.

Sixty-six percent of the nation's dailies participated in the survey. The were projected to represent all papers.

## GOP Mods Break Ranks; Call for Min Wage Raise

Moderate House Republicans called Wednesday for an election-year increase in the minimum wage despite efforts by Sen. Bob Dole and other GOP leaders to prevent a vote, reports Associated Press.

House Majority Leader Dick Armey said through an aide that he had no plans to schedule the bill for the floor. But with Democrats also clamoring for a vote on a daily basis, other lawmakers and aides in the GOP leadership said the issue was virtually certain to reach the floor of the House, and conceded it may have enough support to pass.

The proposal would provide for two separate increases of 50 cents an hour, one to take effect 90 days after the bill is signed by President Clinton, and the second boost a year after that. Clinton and congressional Democrats support a 90-cent-an-hour increase over two years in the current federal minimum of \$4.25 an hour.

Public opinion polls, including some taken for Republicans, show widespread support for raising the minimum wage. Organized labor favors the proposal, and Democrats have made it a central tenet of their attempt to appeal to workers whose standard of living hasn't kept up in recent years.

"The Republican leadership is stifling the majority of the American people by refusing to raise the minimum wage...(they) won't even allow a vote," Vice President Al Gore charged.

Rep. Christopher Shays of Connecticut, cited studies that he said showed the last increase in the minimum wage, in 1989, did not result in lost jobs, as opponents have charged. Shays also said more than 60 percent of minimum wage workers are women supporting families.

## Panel Offers Ways to Save Social Security

The nation's advisory council on Social Security soon will issue plans on how to assure the solvency of the retirement system, which is expected to become bankrupt in 2029, reports the Los Angeles Times.

A dilemma in the Saturday meeting centered on whether the federal government, which has little money invested in private sector stocks and bonds, should be allowed to become the nation's largest investor.

One of the competing approaches would maintain the current system of payroll tax withholding, which takes 12.4 percent of the first \$62,700 in salaries, but have the government invest 40 percent of the total annual surplus in stocks. Another plan leaves a smaller percentage of the withholding intact, and allow individuals make the investment decisions. This represents a new level of risk, however, for millions of workers, who may lack experience with investments.

The third proposal keeps the current system and adds a new personal retirement account, equal to 1.6 percent of the worker's salary. The money would be invested by the worker, but funds could only go into government-approved investments.

## Immigration Bill Debate Halted

Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole abruptly halted consideration of a landmark immigration bill yesterday, accusing democrats of using the bill to try to force a vote on the minimum wage, reports the San Francisco Chronicle.

The legislative stalemate revealed how the campaign strategies of both parties are likely to drive the legislative agenda for the remainder of the year, and could make it difficult to resolve some of the most important issues facing Congress.

Democrats have been trying to attach the minimum wage issue, as well as a vote on protecting Social Security trust funds from the GOP balanced budget amendment, to almost any bill that comes up on the Senate floor.

Senate rules allow this strategy, but Dole exploded when

# Study: Hispanics' TV Image Up

WASHINGTON - Negative portrayals of Hispanics on television have declined, but Latinos are still underrepresented and stereotyped, says a study released Tuesday by a Latin group.

Offensive images of Hispanics declined by almost half from the 1992-93 to 1994-95 TV seasons, from 18 percent to 10 percent of the characters shown, said the study by the Center for Media & Public Affairs. The study was done for the National Council of La Raza, a group that represents more than 100 Hispanic community organizations.

The survey is a follow-up to a check of programs aired by ABC, CBS, NBC and FOX during the 1992-93 season that found Hispanics with a minuscule and largely unflattering presence on entertainment shows.

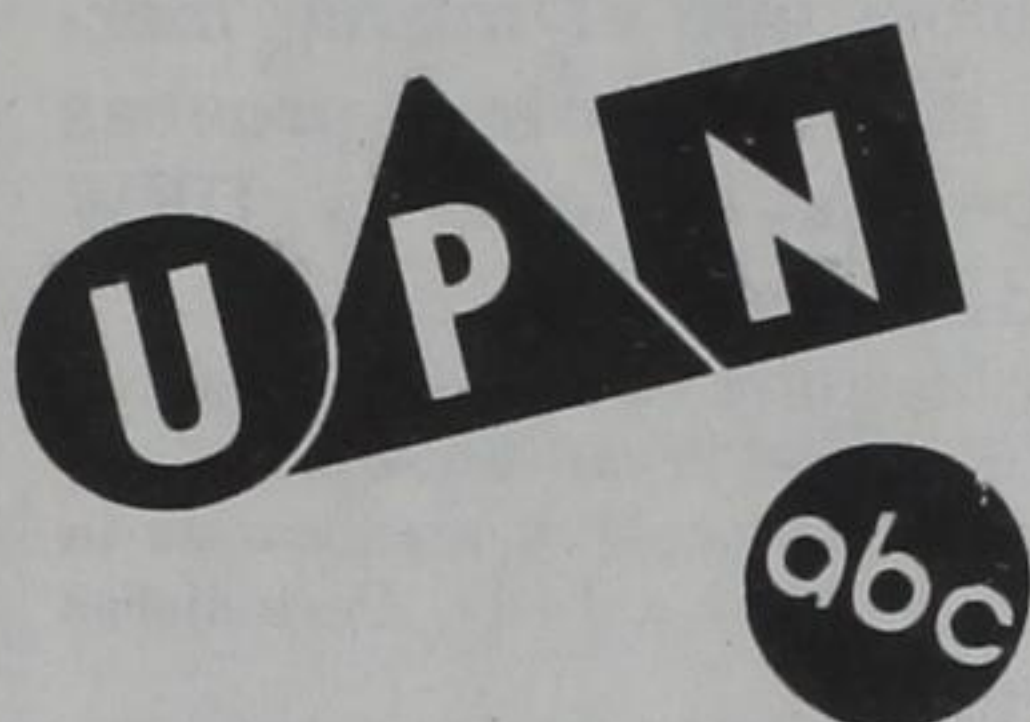
The newest study covers more than 500 episodes of entertainment programs on the four networks in the 1994-95 season and by WB and UPN, two emerging networks that went on the air in January 1995.

Latino characters committing crimes on television declined from 16 percent in

1992-93 to 6 percent in 1994-95, the study found. But that was still higher than the percentage of white or black characters who broke the law, said Robert Lichter, co-director of the center and co-author of the study.

The percentage of Latinos shown as criminals on "reality-based" programs, such as "COPS" and "America's Most Wanted," also dropped, from 45 percent to 16 percent.

"Things are better than they were a couple of years ago, but the bad news is things are still pretty awful," Lichter said.



Although Hispanics comprise 11 percent of the U.S. population, at 27 million, they represented only 2 percent of all prime-time characters on the air during the 1994-95 season, according to the study.

Of the 139 network and syndicated programs reviewed, 18 had continuing Hispanic characters, and most of their roles were minor. Fifty-five percent of the characters were poor or lower-status working class people.

Noteworthy exceptions are Jimmy Smits, a detective on ABC's "NYPD Blue," and Hector Elizondo, who plays a

doctor on "Chicago Hope" on CBS.

Network officials declined to comment.

Raul Yzaguirre, president of the National Council of La Raza, said the situation was "distorting reality" by contributing to society's negative view of Hispanics.

"There are Hispanic doctors, teachers and (chief executive officers). On television, however, we are consistently stereotyped into roles as maids, illegal immigrants and gang members," he said.

"For the entertainment industry, those are the only roles for which we seem qualified," Yzaguirre said.

The study lauded FOX, which got the most criticism in the last survey, for showing sensitivity toward the issue. The network earned the highest grade, a "B," in La Raza's prime-time report card.

FOX has introduced "House of Buggin," a new Hispanic comedy show and also aired La Raza's 1995 awards program. "We wish that the other networks were as willing to consider the more than 14 million Hispanics in their viewing audience," Yzaguirre said.

# More States Trying Youth Offenders As Adults

Responding to a steep escalation in youth crime, politicians in every state are trying to enact laws that make it easier to try young people as adults, reports the Boston Globe.

But by doing so, child advocates say a century-old principle of U.S. jurisprudence is being undermined: that juveniles are so moldable that all but the exception can be rehabilitated.

New Hampshire reformed its statutes only a few months ago, and already a 16-year-old and a 17-year-old face life sentences if they are convicted as adults on murder charges. And the Massachusetts House approved a bill last month that would require criminal trials for youths 14 and older who are charged with first- or second-degree murder. Four states have also lowered the age for capital punishment to 17, and at least 21 states allow 16-year-olds to be executed.

Almost every state has signed on to some version of the get-tough approach for first-degree murder. Most give judges discretion on which route to take, but a growing number of states are making adult trials automatic or empowering prosecutors to choose - a controversial policy because judicial decisions are being placed in the hands of elected

officials.

"There's been a ton of activity lately...maybe because it's an election year, maybe because conservative thinking has more sway now-days," said Melissa Sickmund, senior researcher at the National Center for Juvenile Justice in Pittsburgh. "But this isn't really a conservative-liberal issue; for better or for worse, it's a response to soaring youth crime."

Some experts have hailed the study as ground-breaking, but Gov. George Pataki's own aides have now disavowed it. The study found that from 1990 to 1992, one out of every three minority defendants given time in local jails - where sentences of less than a year are served - would have received more lenient sentences if they had been white. It estimated that this disparity led to 4,000 extra jail sentences a year for minority

Meanwhile, child welfare advocates and many judges complain that the reform not only robs courts of their ability to tailor punishments to specific cases, but also represents society's abandonment of redeemable youths. Critics also say there is no evidence to demonstrate that trying teenagers as adults deters or cuts the crime rate.

Dan Macallair, associate director of the San Francisco-based Center on Juvenile and

Criminal Justice, argued that a more productive and cheaper long-term solution - given the high cost of adult jury trials and long incarcerations - would be for states to channel resources into prevention and intensive rehabilitation.

"A 14-year-old is not an adult, and there's still a period of significant development yet to occur," Macallair said. "I think it's awful, awful that we're collectively deciding to give up on them."

# Minorities Get Harsher Sentences

A little-noticed study released last fall in New York by the Pataki administration concluded that black and Hispanic people sentenced for minor felonies or misdemeanors in the state were treated more harshly than whites in similar circumstances, reports The New York Times.

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defendants in the state.

The study, which examined all felony arrests in the state from July 1, 1990, through June 30, 1992, did not draw any conclusions about whether racial or ethnic bias was the reason why the minority defendants faced different treatment, but it did call for more investigation into what was causing the disparity.

A copy of the study was obtained from several Democratic state senators, who contended that the Pataki administration was trying to discredit the state's own research because the governor saw no political gain in talking about the rights of minority defendants.

Paul Shechtman, who heads the Division of Criminal Jus-

tice Services and is Pataki's top criminal justice adviser, denied contentions that the administration was criticizing the study out of political considerations.

Shechtman said his major concern about the study was that it did not take into account the incomes and community ties of the defendants because such data do not exist. Black and Hispanic people tend to have lower incomes, so it is difficult to determine whether minority defendants receive longer sentences because they cannot afford bail and private lawyers or because of prejudice, he said.

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# EL EDITOR

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# La Primavera Trae Una Sonrisa A Los Trabajadores Agricolas Unidos

Por Rick Martínez

Parece que fué solamente ayer cuando estuve entre aquella multitud de 30,000 personas que llegaron para sepultar a César Chávez y elogiarlo por tres decenios de dirigencia en el Sindicato de los Trabajadores Agrícolas Unidos (UFW en inglés).

Había calor y polvo en aquel camino desde Delano, California, a las oficinas del sindicato a tres millas de distancia. Príncipes y méndigos compartieron el deber de llevar el féretro de pino que contenía el cadáver de César Chavez hace tres años. Willie Brown, presidente de la Asamblea Estatal de California entonces, lo llevó durante unos pocos pies para que lo captaran las cámaras de televisión, y entonces regresó de prisa a Sacramento. Jesse Jackson caminó en silencio todo el trayecto.

Los reporteros y activistas se preguntaron por igual si estábamos enterrando también a los Trabajadores Agrícolas Unidos. Aparentemente, no fué así.

El sindicato, reviviendo una resistencia que le instiló su fundador, ha ganado silenciosamente dos victorias importantes en las semanas recientes que lo han proyectado una vez más a ser una fuerza de negociación con la que hay que contar. El 11 de abril, el Tribunal Supremo de California dejó intacta una decisión del Tribunal de Apelaciones que sitúa eficazmente al sindicato de regreso en el asunto de piquetear a los supermercados de California como parte de su estrategia.

Es difícil creer que la UFW no haya estado en una línea de piquetes durante cinco años, después de una victoria legal de la Comisión de Uvas

de Mesa de California referente a las protestas del sindicato contra los insecticidas que se usan para cultivar uvas.

Una semana antes, el 4 de abril, la UFW y el gigante del negocio agrícola Bruce Church, Inc., de Salinas, arreglaron una disputa que se remontaba a dos decenios atrás. Church desistió de su demanda que alegaba prácticas injustas y accedió a un contrato para los trabajadores de Salinas. Se espera que los trabajadores agrícolas voten pronto sobre la ratificación.

Con un abril enorme, el presidente del sindicato Arturo Rodríguez, yerno de Chávez, ha respondido con éxito a la pregunta que se ha formulado desde que murió Chávez: ¿Puede alguien llenar sus zapatos New Balance y revivir lo que había sido a su muerte un sindicato agonizante?

La decisión del Tribunal Supremo de California es crítica porque devuelve al sindicato de la UFW un arma que atrae titulares y hace volverse a los compradores -- la línea del piquete. Los mercaderes la odian. Es difícil lucir simpático cuando las noticias televisadas captan a los gigantes empresariales enfrentándose a los campesinos que llevan sombreros de paja y letreros hechos en casa.

Al vencer a un pez gordo como Church con un contrato, eso da al sindicato una influencia tremenda con otros cultivadores. Además, en una época en la que tantos campos son de propiedad de las empresas, ¿por qué usarían los grandes negocios subterfugios acerca de lo que es mano de obra increíblemente barata? Los operadores familiares, por otra parte, continu-

arán con toda probabilidad resistiéndose a la UFW como lo hicieron sus padres antes que ellos.

Adicionalmente, el arreglo con Church tiene igualmente matices espirituales. El mismo resuelve la última lucha de Chávez. El murió en Arizona mientras se preparaba para una audiencia en un tribunal durante la prolongada batalla.

Rodríguez empezó la recuperación hace dos años al subirse las mangas de su camisa y regresar a los métodos de organización de estilo antiguo, en contraste con lo que pareció ser la inclinación de Chávez para recaudar fondos y pronunciar discursos en los recintos universitarios en sus últimos años.

Desde mayo de 1994, Rodríguez ha negociado 10 contratos nuevos y vuelto a negociar otros 18. Eso significa 6,300 trabajadores para el sindicato, que tiene su sede en Keene, California.

Rodríguez aprendió con el mejor -- junto a Chávez durante 20 años. Rodríguez se halla siempre pronto a señalar que, en la mayoría de los casos, él sólo ha trabajado el suelo que Chávez aró hace mucho tiempo.

En verdad, su estrategia actual está pautada por la de Chávez -- procurar el dominio ciertas cosechas en ciertas regiones. Por ejemplo, el sindicato mantiene que representa al 67 por ciento de los trabajadores de los hongos a lo largo de la Costa Central de California; al 50 por ciento de los trabajadores de la industria de las rosas en el Condado de Kern.

Las uvas de mesa serán un asunto diferente. El sindicato tiene actualmente sólo un contrato sobre uvas de mesa --

con David Freeman Co., de Coachella (200 trabajadores). Queda por ver aún si la Comisión de Uvas de Mesa de California continúa combatiendo a la UFW con la misma vehemencia que ha mostrado en los últimos 10 años. El asunto del piqueteo amenaza con volcar las mesas sobre la comisión.

Pero quizás si el mayor indicador de la situación renovada de la UFW provenga del Asambleísta Estatal de California George House (repúblicano por Modesto), que es un rancharo. El ha presentado el Proyecto de Ley 2717 a la Asamblea, que pretende revocar la ley actual y dar a los cultivadores el derecho de pedir unas elecciones para descertificar al sindicato.

A la luz de 13 victorias seguidas de la UFW, y de la temporada cumbre de cosecha que se aproxima, la intención parece ser evidente -- mantener a la UFW ocupada luchando para mantener los contratos actuales en vez de organizar agresivamente a más trabajadores por todo el Estado Dorado.

Los observadores dicen que el proyecto de ley no tiene probabilidad de convertirse en ley. Pero ya que el proyecto de ley AB2717 no se necesitaba indispensablemente hace dos años, debido a la situación débil de la UFW en aquel momento, el proyecto del Asambleísta House y cada audiencia que el mismo merezca, aparecen como pruebas adicionales de que la UFW está de regreso.

Rick Martínez es redactor de editoriales de "The Press Enterprise" en Riverside, California, y tesoroero de la Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Hispanos.

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## It's April Flowers For The United Farm Workers

By Rick Martínez

It seems like only yesterday that I was among that throng of 30,000 people who came to bury César and to praise him for three decades of leadership of the United Farm Workers.

It was hot and dusty on that road from Delano, Calif., to the UFW compound three miles away. Princes and paupers shared the duty three years ago of carrying the pine casket bearing the body of César Chávez.

Willie Brown, California Assembly speaker at the time, carried it a few feet for TV cameras, then quickly headed back to Sacramento. Jesse Jackson quietly walked the whole way.

Reporters and activists alike wondered whether we were also burying the UFW. Apparently, we did not.

The union, reviving a resilience instilled in it by its founder, has quietly won two major victories in recent weeks that has catapulted it once again into a bargaining force to be reckoned with.

On April 11, the California Supreme Court let stand an appellate court decision that effectively puts the union back in the business of picketing California supermarkets as part of its strategy.

It's hard to believe the UFW has not been on a picket line in five years, after a legal victory by the California Table Grape Commission regarding UFW protests over pesticides used in growing grapes.

A week earlier, on April 4, the UFW and the Salinas-based agribusiness giant Bruce Church Inc. settled a feud that dated back two decades. Church dropped its suit alleging unfair practices and agreed to a contract for workers in Salinas. Farm workers are expected to vote on ratification soon.

With one huge April, UFW President Arturo Rodríguez, Chávez's son-in-law, has suc-

cessfully answered the question that has been asked since Chávez died. Can anyone fill his shoes and revive what had been at his death a union on the ropes?

The state Supreme Court decision is pivotal because it gives back to the UFW a weapon that grabs headlines and turns away shoppers -- the picket line. Grocers hate it. It's hard to look sympathetic when TV news captures corporate giants pitted against campesinos with straw hats and homemade signs.

By landing a contract with a big fish like Church, the union gains tremendous leverage with other growers. Plus, in an era when so many fields are corporate-owned, why would big business quibble over what is incredibly cheap farm labor? The family-owned operators, on the other hand, will in all likelihood continue to resist the UFW as their daddies did before them.

Additionally, the Church settlement also has spiritual overtones. It settles Chávez's last fight. He died in Arizona while preparing for a court hearing in the long battle.

Rodríguez started this turnaround two years ago by rolling up his sleeves and going back to old-fashioned organizing, a contrast to what seemed to be Chávez's penchant of fund-raising and college-campus speechmaking in his later years.

Since May 1994, Rodríguez has negotiated 10 new contracts and renegotiated 18 other contracts. That's 6,300 UFW workers for the Keene, Calif.-based union.

Rodríguez learned from the best -- alongside Chávez for 20 years. Rodríguez is always quick to point out that in most instances he has simply tilled soil plowed long ago by Chávez.

Indeed, his current strategy is patterned after Chávez's -- seek to dominate certain crops

in certain regions. For instance, the UFW maintains it represents 67 percent of the workers in the mushroom industry along California's central coast; 50 percent of the workers in the rose industry in Kern County.

Table grapes will be a different story. The UFW has only has one table grape contract -- with David Freedman Co. of Coachella. Two-hundred workers are affiliated. It remains to be seen if the California Table Grape Commission continues to fight the UFW with the same vehemence it has exhibited in the last 10 years. The picketing issue stands to turn the tables on the commission.

But perhaps the most significant indicator of the UFW's renewed status comes from California Assemblyman George House (R-Modesto), a rancher. He has introduced Assembly Bill 2717 that portends to reverse current law

and give growers the right to call a union decertification election.

In light of 13 straight secret-ballot victories by the UFW, and the peak harvest season around the corner, the intent seems obvious -- keep the UFW busy fighting to maintain current contracts instead of aggressively organizing more workers across the Golden State.

Observers say the bill doesn't stand a chance of becoming law. But since AB 2717 was essentially not necessary two years ago due to the weak state of the UFW at that time, Assemblyman House's bill and every hearing it merits stand as further proof that the UFW is back.

Rick Martínez is an editorial writer for The Press Enterprise in Riverside, Calif., and treasurer of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

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## Report: Hunger & Homelessness Rises

The March issue of the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies newsletter reports the U.S. Conference of Mayors annual report shows hunger and homelessness in America's cities increased during 1995.

Twenty-nine cities were surveyed to compile the status report, containing information including demand for emergency services, the capacity of the cities to respond, unmet needs for services, and funding sources.

The report's findings include:

- Requests for emergency food assistance increased by an average of nine percent, with 72 percent of cities registering an increase.

- On average, 18 percent of the requests for emergency food assistance are estimated to have gone unmet during the past year.

- Sixty-three percent of those requesting emergency food assistance were members of families -- children and their parents. One-third of the adults requesting food assistance were employed.

- Requests for emergency shelter increased by an average of 11 percent, with 63 percent of the cities registering an increase.

- An average of 19 percent of the requests for emergency shelter went unmet last year.

Officials predict the gap in services created by cuts in welfare, Medicaid, housing assistance, the Earned Income Tax Credit and other social services cannot be filled by private charitable organizations.

# Sittin' Here Thinkin' Smoke And Mirrors

by Ira Cutler

In my grade school days smoking cigarettes was more of a pose than a habit. I smoked every cigarette that I could get my hands on even though they made me cough, made my eyes water and made me dizzy. That is how badly I wanted to be cool and tough looking.

I was smoking cigarettes in earnest, and liking it, by the time I was about fifteen years old and I averaged two packs a day, always strong ones like Marlboros and then Kools, for the next 32 years. The math is forty cigarettes a day times 365 days times thirty two years which equals 467,200 cigarettes. My testimony, if I were suddenly under oath at one the many cigarette trials now going on, would have to be that every single one of those 467,200 times I knew I was doing harm to myself. And I lit up anyway.

There is a great scene, often quoted, from the movie Casablanca. Claude Rains, playing the corrupt police chief, pockets his winnings while declaring that he is SHOCKED, just SHOCKED to learn that gambling is going on at Rick's. And right now, all across America, a great fraud is being carried out as everyone in the drama -- life long smokers, cigarette executives, state attorneys general and even the government of the United States of America itself -- are pretending to be SHOCKED to discover that cigarettes are harmful.

As if their mothers had not told them so all along. There is a ton of hypocrisy in the current smoking drama.

The Attorneys General of a number of states are suing tobacco companies on behalf of their states by alleging that, since cigarette smoking has contributed to tremendous costs in the state's Medicaid program, the tobacco companies should pay up. What's wrong with that picture? Well, for years the state politicians, in the very same states, made themselves major partners in crime by heavily taxing the sale of every pack. Lacking the political courage to add income, sales or property taxes, the politicians exploited addicted smokers. They states made more money from the sale of cigarettes than the companies they are now suing. They cut themselves in on the profit to be made by poisoning the state's citizens and now they are SHOCKED to discover that the cigarettes were harmful.

If the states were sincere in this, and not just seeing still another way to float government costs without political risk, they could do a number of things beyond these lawsuits. They could treat tobacco like they now treat heroin: as a dangerous, harmful, addictive drug. They could require that nicotine be removed. They could sue the alcohol companies since drinking, too, contributes to tremendous health costs.

The federal government is no saint in this scenario, either. While the Food and Drug Administration and Surgeon General take the high road, threatening to declare nicotine a drug and requiring those nearly invisible warnings on the sides of each pack, they also continue subsidies for growing tobacco. The tobacco companies receive tax deductions for the cost of advertising and distributing their product and the federal government, too, is SHOCKED to learn that smoking is harmful.

I can remember when the very same federal government applauded the actions of tobacco companies for sending free cartons of Camels and Lucky Strikes to our boys overseas. It is a wonder that the states do not sue the federal government, too, since by contributing to the hooking of millions of soldiers the feds have been an obvious accomplice in the tobacco company's crimes. The federal government, by the way, just eliminated the 55 mile an hour auto speed limit despite unmistakable evidence that thousands of deaths and billions in medical costs will result. So much for acting in the public interest or on the basis of scientific study.

In the midst of all this tobacco angst Wall Street continues to be high on Phillip Morris and RJR Nabisco because it is clear that cigarette companies have only scratched the surface of profits which can be made by selling cigarettes to Asians, South Americans and Africans.

So the hypocrisy abounds but the top hypocrisy award has to go to the cigarette makers themselves who have gone beyond the bounds of even normal corporate amorality. The recent testimony is that nicotine, far from being an unfortunate by-product of otherwise pleasurable tobacco, was and is added, controlled and measured out to be certain to produce the right dosage to addict. While the harm of cigarettes is no news, the intentional and premeditated to addict is a genuine SHOCK, even to the most jaded of us.

Serious smokers know what it is to be addicted, to truly need a cigarette. We have dug around in ash trays looking for a usable butt to re-light while unbelieving non-smokers looked on. We have gotten up in the middle of the night and searched for an open store. We have in recent years stood outside of office buildings and froze our tails off to have a cigarette in one of the few remaining places where we could. We know the feeling, the tightness in the neck and shoulders, the irritability, when the meeting or flight gets beyond your nicotine window and you need a cigarette pretty soon or you are going to bust.

I have tried to describe this feeling to non-smokers, this build up of tension that only a hit on a cigarette can relieve. The closest I can come is that it is like being under water for longer than your lungs can handle and then bursting through and getting the air you need. The cigarette hit is, ironically, like getting that first burst of fresh air.

I make no excuses for my addiction. I sought it out and defended it and came to love it. But I did not know, and am really angry to learn, that there were companies coldly calculating the precise level of nicotine needed to make me an addict, to make me feel uncomfortable when I did not smoke and to assure that I would continue. No price increase, Surgeon General warning or morning cough was sufficient to overcome that addiction until I decided to quit and live a little longer. I have not smoked a cigarette for over two years and yet I still frequently want one. My body remembers how good that cigarette hit felt and it signals me to go for it again.

I hope that the politicians, as corrupt and phoney as they are, take a big bite out of cigarette profits and make it a lousy business to be in.

Ira Cutler, says he's seeking a semi-legitimate outlet for thoughts and ideas too irreverent, too iconoclastic, or just too nasty for polite, serious, self-important company. He promises us a Monday column most weeks. More recently Ira has become involved in communicating in another way, through speeches which he calls Standin' Here Talkin'.



# El Legado De Un Dirigente

Por José Antonio Burciaga

Las muertes trágicas recientes de ocho trabajadores indocumentados cerca de Temécula, California, traen al recuerdo una miríada de catástrofes dolorosas e innecesarias que han involucrado a trabajadores agrícolas mexicanos y méxicoamericanos. Documentado o indocumentado, ningún ser humano merece la suerte que estos trabajadores mexicanos recibieron.

Hay una canción antigua del decenio de 1940, una balada de Woodie Guthrie, que creo, que documentaba una tragedia acerca de un avión que se estrelló en California inmediatamente antes de Navidad, matando a cerca de dos docenas de pasajeros. La noticia corrió inmediatamente por todo el país; todos estaban preocupados por las víctimas, hasta que se supo que eran "sólo trabajadores agrícolas mexicanos..." Cuando este elemento fué agregado al relato, hubo un alivio inmediato y los medios informativos y el pueblo de los Estados Unidos continuaron atendiendo a sus asuntos.

En 1958, en Soledad, California, 14 braceros, trabajadores agrícolas invitados, murieron quemados cuando una lata de gasolina almacenada ilegalmente en la sección para pasajeros de un autobús de la granja se incendió. En las palabras del finado Ernesto Galarza, quien precedió a César Chávez como organizador de los trabajadores agrícolas, aquella tragedia de Soledad "terminó en un silencio respetuoso."

Cinco años después, un camión de plancha convertido en un autobús improvisado fué golpeado y arrastrado por un tren de carga de Southern Pacific en Chualar, California. Treinta y dos de los 58 trabajadores agrícolas mexicanos y méxicoamericanos murieron.

Para evitar que este acci-

dente desapareciera en un silencio respetuoso como la tragedia de Soledad, el finado Galarza -- trabajador agrícola, académico, intelectual con un doctorado, poeta y sobre todo activista comprometido -- salió inmediatamente a investigarlo.

Con la ayuda del Representante al Congreso Federal Adam Clayton Powell, presidente del Comité de la Cámara sobre Enseñanza y Trabajo, y afroamericano, Galarza pudo investigar la tragedia de Chualar. No fué fácil. Galarza tropezó con dificultades esperadas e inesperadas: Racismo, silencio y falta de cooperación por parte de los funcionarios locales, estatales y federales, los granjeros corporativos y los funcionarios del Ferrocarril Southern Pacific.

Sin embargo, con el poder y el apoyo del Representante Powell, la investigación fué terminada y se promulgó más de una ley federal para exigir medidas de seguridad en los cruceros de ferrocarril y el transporte de la mano de obra agrícola, incluyendo la prohibición de transformar camiones viejos en autobuses.

No puedo por menos que hacer una comparación con las dos tragedias recientes. La reacción a las muertes de los ocho trabajadores mexicanos ha sido también de corta duración. Los investigadores absolvieron rápidamente a la Patrulla Fronteriza por correr el riesgo de ocasionar un desastre al perseguirlos. La Patrulla Fronteriza "siguió" al vehículo, pero no lo "persiguió," informó la prensa, contradiciendo por lo menos el relato de un testigo.

Una semana antes de aquel accidente trágico, la nación presenció la golpiza racista brutal de dos trabajadores agrícolas a manos de los agentes del Alguacil de Riverside, California. A través de los medios impresos y electrónicos, las personas de todo

el país manifestaron opiniones fuertes: "Se lo buscaron... Deberían haberles abaleado... Más poder a la policía fronteriza..."

El racismo ciega a la lógica. La mujer y el hombre que fueron golpeados eran pasajeros inofensivos en la parte trasera del vehículo. A diferencia de los demás, ellos no corrieron, y pagaron el precio.

Menciono estas tragedias porque Ernesto Galarza habría estado en primera línea si estuviera hoy con nosotros. El era un hombre que movía a nuestra conciencia más mediante sus acciones que sus palabras.

Antes que organizar protestas frente a las ciudades del poder, él entraba en las oficinas de los políticos y con una decisión fría cambiaba las vidas de los trabajadores agrícolas. Sus acciones mejoraron las vidas de las generaciones de latinos que siguieron.

Demasiados académicos preferirían no involucrarse con el activismo, viéndolo

como inferior a su capacidad intelectual, temiendo la pérdida de la permanencia, una beca o una subvención. Galarza reconoció que uno no puede ser un intelectual sin ser un activista.

Antes de que él muriera, en junio de 1984, Ernesto Galarza nos recordó más de una vez que debemos continuar su trabajo, continuar la búsqueda de la justicia para aquéllos que son menos afortunados, menos privilegiados.

Puede que no seamos tan dotados como Ernesto Galarza para dirigir una investigación, entrar en la oficina de un congresista o aún escribir un poema, pero lo que él nos pidió fué que tuviéramos fe y el valor de estar presentes y ser contados, nunca rendirnos al silencio ni al rugido ensordecedor del racismo.

José Antonio Burciaga, de Carmel Highlands, California, es el autor de dos libros de ensayos sobre el Chicanismo: "Drink Cultura" y "Spilling the Beans," editados por Joshua Odell Editions, de Santa Barbara.)

Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 1996.

## ¿Que Pasa?

### Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Small & Minority Business Workshop

Small and minority businesses looking to expand or increase their profits can attend a workshop on Saturday, April 20, 8:00 a.m. - 12 Noon at Cavazos Junior High School, 201 North University. The theme for the seminar is "How to Improve Your Business Through Automation and Computers".

A panel of experts on automation and personal computers will participate in a general discussion.

Admission to the seminar is \$5.00. Any minority and small business owner looking to expand, modernize and upgrade information technology equipment should attend.

### 2nd Annual Secretary Appreciation Dinner & Fashion Show

The Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is having its second annual Secretary Appreciation Dinner and Fashion Show in honor of area secretaries and National Secretary's Day. The chamber invites all area employers to honor their secretaries at this special event on April 23rd at 5:30 p.m. with a wonderful meal followed by a fashion show. The event will be held at McInturf Conference Center at University Medical Center.

Area employers are invited to nominate their secretary for Secretary of the Year to be announced at the event. For further information about tickets, etc. please contact the chamber office at 762-5059.

## Pedro Infante Sigue Popular

México, (Ntx). A pesar de tener 38 años de haber perdido la vida en un fatal accidente aéreo, el idolo mexicano Pedro Infante, continua siendo el vendedor número uno de discos en México, afirma las disqueras que reproducen sus discos.

La más reciente producción de las firmas Peerless y Mastereo, titulada "Pedro Infante, el idolo de México, acompañado por la mejor banda sinaloense", vendió 100 mil copias a unos días de salir a los mercados de México y el sur de Estados Unidos.

La grabación del CD, que requirió de remasterización digital en un moderno estudio de grabación, unió la voz de Pedro Infante a la de una de las más tradicionales agrupaciones de su tierra natal Sinaloa

(al norte de México): la banda del Recodo de Cruz Lizárraga.

Para esta grabación se tuvo que eliminar el acompañamiento original del mariachi y aplicar el de la banda, por lo que ahora es posible escuchar canciones como "Amorcito Corazón" y "Cien Años" con banda, ritmo de candencia lenta y popular al norte de México.



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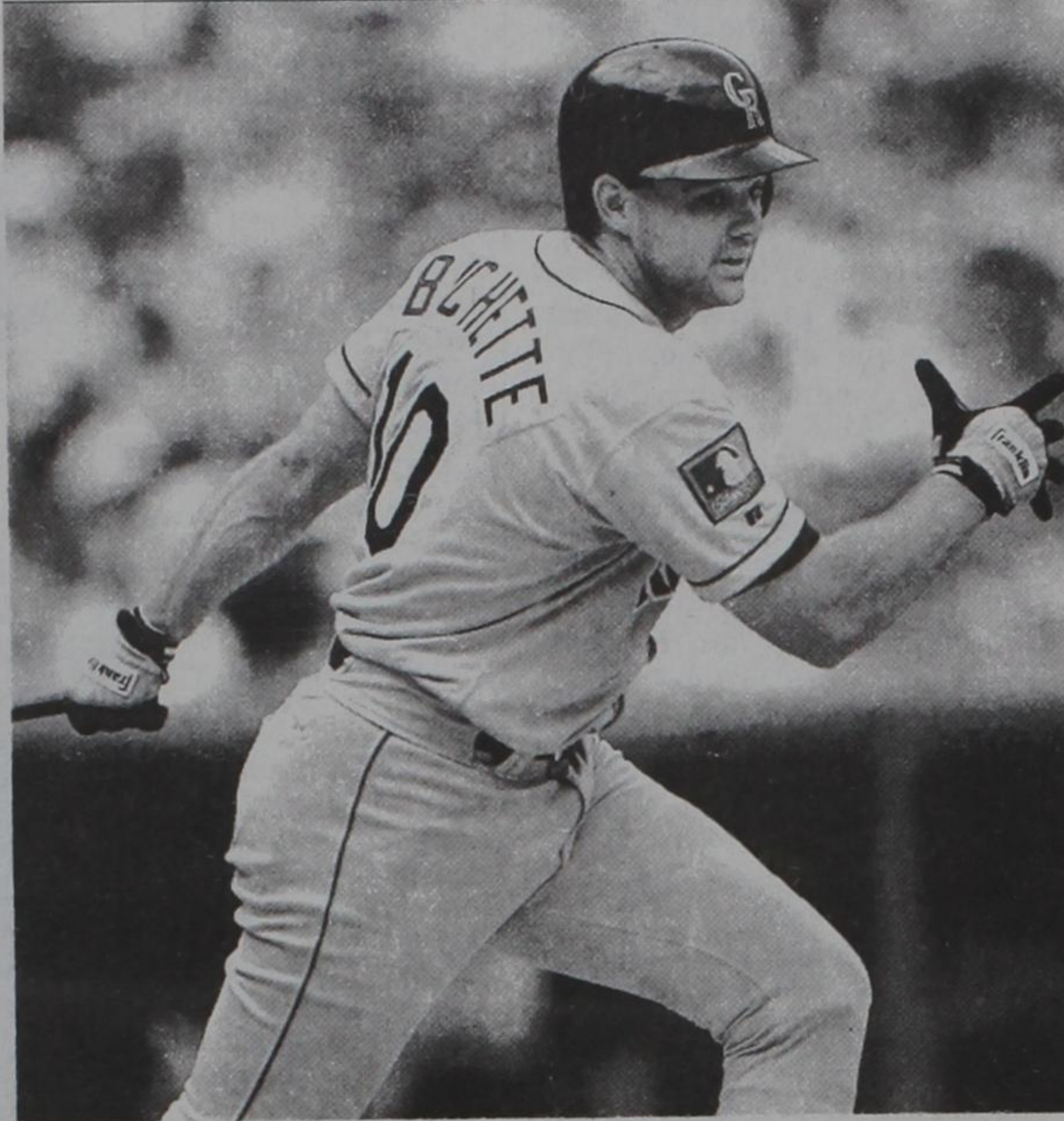
**Baseball Today SCOREBOARD**

Detroit at Seattle (10:35 p.m. EDT). Seattle's Sterling Hitchcock (3-0), traded to the Mariners from the New York Yankees in the Tino Martinez deal, goes for his fourth win against the Tigers.

**STARS**  
Tuesday  
Cecil Fielder hit three home runs as Detroit downed Toronto 13-8. He drove in five runs with the third three-homer game of his career.

**SLAMS**  
Pittsburgh tied a major league record for grand slams in a game - accomplished several times - when Orlando Merced and Jay Bell connected in a 13-3 win over St. Louis. Seattle's Dan Wilson also hit a grand slam Tuesday; the three slams in a day were one short of the major league record.

**SORRY START**  
At 2-11, the Red Sox matched their worst start since 1927.  
**SWINGS** The Red Sox, with former MVP sluggers Mo Vaughn, Jose Canseco and Kevin Mitchell in the lineup, have a total of eight home runs



this season. Cecil Fielder of Detroit has hit nine.

**STRUGGLING**  
Boston's Roger Clemens is 0-3 for the first time in his career.

**SLUGGERS**  
Cecil Fielder has a total of 13 hits this season - only two of them singles. He has nine homers and two doubles.

**SMOOTH**  
Toronto turned six double plays Tuesday against Detroit, one short of the major league record for a nine-inning game.

**SEEMS FAMILIAR**  
Seattle ace Randy Johnson gave up one run in eight innings Tuesday night against California. The run scored on a homer by his former minor league roommate, Rex Hudler.

**STATUS**  
Marty Cordova, the 1995 AL rookie of the year, returned to Minnesota's lineup Tuesday after missing seven games with a strained abdominal muscle.

**SIDELINED**  
Dean Palmer (back spasms) and Juan Gonzalez (pulled muscle) did not start for the third straight game for Texas on Tuesday.

**SPEAKING**  
"That's not the Roger Clemens I used to see on TV. When he was on a rehab assignment in Triple-A in '93, he threw harder." - Baltimore's Tony Tarasco on Roger Clemens.

**SEASONS**  
April 17  
1892 - In the first Sunday game in NL history, Cincinnati defeated St. Louis 5-1.  
1951 - In his first major league game, Mickey Mantle went 1-for-4 as the New York Yankees defeated the Boston Red Sox, 5-0.

1953 - Mickey Mantle cleared the bleachers at Griffith Stadium with a 565-foot home run off Chuck Stobbs.

1964 - The New York Mets lost their first game at Shea Stadium to the Pirates, 4-3. Pittsburgh's Willie Stargell hit the first homer at Shea.

1969 - Bill Stoneman of Montreal pitched a 7-0 no-hitter against the Philadelphia Phillies in only the 10th game of the Expos' existence.

1976 - Mike Schmidt of the Philadelphia Phillies hit four consecutive home runs and a single in an 18-6, 10-inning victory over the Cubs in Wrigley Field. Hitting .167 going into the game, he connected twice off Rick Reuschel, once off Rick's brother, Paul Reuschel, and once off Darold Knowles.

**Last Olympic Chance For Boxers**

AUGUSTA, Ga. - Augustine Sanchez, 18, is one win away from making the U.S. Olympic Boxing team, while 32-year-old Ronald Simms needs two victories to make the team in his third try.

Both will participate in the box-offs scheduled for Thursday through Saturday at the Augusta-Richmond County Civic Center.

There will be six bouts each Thursday and Friday nights. If an Olympic trials champion wins, he makes the team. If he loses to a challenger, they will box again Saturday afternoon, with the winner making the team.

As a challenger, Simms of the Air Force at Langley, Va., will box trials champion Roshii Wells of Riverdale, Ga., for the 165-pound berth on Thursday night. Wells, 19, outpointed Simms 6-2 in the trials championship two weeks ago at Oakland.

Simms then outpointed Benjamin McDowell of the Army 5-1 in the loser's bracket final. This is the first year the trials are being held as a double elimination tournament. Previously, the challengers to the trials champions in the box-offs were selected by committee.

Simms was a quarterfinalist at the 1988 and 1992 Olympic trials.

Sanchez, of Las Vegas, the youngest trials champion, needs to beat Floyd Mayweather, 19, of Grand Rapids, Mich., Friday night to become the 139-pound representative at Atlanta. Sanchez recorded a point on the last scoring punch of the fight and beat Mayweather 12-11 in the trials championship final.

While Simms is the oldest man in the box-offs, the youngest is Brian Mitchem of Augusta. Mitchem, 18 on July 3, will challenge Fernando Vargas, 18, of Oxnard, Calif., at 147 pounds. Mitchem lost early in the trials, then boxed his way through the loser's bracket to make the box-offs in his hometown.

Whoever represents the United States in the 12 weight classes at Atlanta, the team will be the most internationally inexperienced since the 1972 Olympics at Munich.

To give them a late jolt of experience, team members and alternates will participate in dual meets against the German and Russian Olympic teams before the Olympics. They will box the Germans May 17 at Portland, Ore., and May 23 at New Orleans and meet the Russians June 14 at Portland and June 17 at Miami.

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## News Briefs From Page 1

Senator Byron Dorgan, D-ND, sought a vote on a non-binding resolution that Social Security funds be put off-limits if the Senate passes a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget.

Although Dole blamed Democrats for derailing the bill, his maneuver may have been an attempt to buy time for GOP lawmakers to sort out their differences on several issues.

The GOP leadership has not yet decided whether it should support an amendment allowing states to exclude undocumented immigrant children from schools. Many Republicans are also opposed to legislation on the floor that would reduce legal immigration. And yesterday, 81 prominent conservatives, including former Education Secretary William Bennett, sent Dole a letter urging him to vote against a plan to set up a computerized system to verify job applicants' citizenship.

Also complicating the passage of the immigration bill was extreme pressure on Congress to pass a controversial anti-terrorism bill before Friday's anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing.

## Labor Department Report Blasts Immigrant Work Plan

A draft government audit says programs that lets hundreds of thousands of foreigners temporarily fill unique, high-skill U.S. jobs are lowering wages and pushing out American workers, reports Associated Press.

Labor Secretary Robert Reich said he hoped the Senate would make major reforms in the foreign worker program to better protect Americans when Congress takes up immigration legislation this week.

"In their current form, these programs are displacing American workers and dragging down wages in important high-wage, high skill jobs," said Reich.

The audit concluded that the program "allows aliens to immigrate based on their attachment to a specific job and then shop their services in competition with equally or more qualified U.S. workers without regard to prevailing wage."

The audit found that the advertisements for postings for 24,150 jobs resulted in 165,000 foreign and U.S. applicants, but in more than 99 percent of the cases, no Americans were hired.

The audit also found that:

- 10 percent of the foreigners in the program were treated as contractors, which means no payroll or administrative costs for businesses.

- 12.7 percent were paid below the advertised prevailing wage.

- 74.6 percent worked for employers who did not adequately document their wages.

The audit reviewed the Labor Department's Permanent Labor Certification and temporary H-1B Labor Condition Application programs from Oct. 1, 1992 through Sept. 30, 1993.

## Panel Offers Ways to Save Social Security

The nation's advisory council on Social Security soon will issue plans on how to assure the solvency of the retirement system, which is expected to become bankrupt in 2029, reports the Los Angeles Times.

A dilemma in the Saturday meeting centered on whether the federal government, which has little money invested in private sector stocks and bonds, should be allowed to become the nation's largest investor.

One of the competing approaches would maintain the current system of payroll tax withholding, which takes 12.4 percent of the first \$62,700 in salaries, but have the government invest 40 percent of the total annual surplus in stocks. Another plan leaves a smaller percentage of the withholding intact, and allow individuals make the investment decisions. This represents a new level of risk, however, for millions of workers, who may lack experience with investments.

The third proposal keeps the current system and adds a new personal retirement account, equal to 1.6 percent of the worker's salary. The money would be invested by the worker, but funds could only go into government-approved investments.

## Senate OKs Death-Row Appeals/Terrorism Bill

The Senate overwhelmingly approved an anti-terrorism bill Wednesday - two days before the anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing - after turning aside Democratic attempts to expand federal law enforcement powers, reports Associated Press.

The vote was 91-8 on the House-Senate compromise bill that now moves to the House for final congressional action.

The legislation would limit federal appeals by death-row inmates and other prisoners and provide for the death penalty in certain international terrorism cases and for killing a federal employee because of the employee's work.

The House was expected to take up the bill Thursday. The American Civil Liberties Union - which joined with the National Rifle Association in successfully persuading the House to strip its original bill of many law enforcement provisions - urged House members Wednesday to vote against the compromise bill. It warned of "dangerous and largely hidden changes" that would expand government wiretap powers, among other things.

Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., argued that those who opposed it didn't understand that the eavesdropping would be strictly limited to the target of the surveillance and that such wiretaps would require the approval of a top Justice Department official and a judge.

Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., took unsuccessful aim at what some Republicans consider the heart of the bill - its limits on death-row appeals to federal courts.

Many Republicans have touted the limits as a way to eliminate frivolous lawsuits that they say are filed in large part by death-row inmates to forestall executions. Hatch had argued that even if this were the bill's only provision, "it would be worth passing."

The provision in general would give prisoners one year to file federal appeals after their state court appeals are exhausted and would require federal courts in many cases to defer to state court rulings.

## Legacy Of A Leader

By José Antonio Burciaga

The recent tragic deaths of eight undocumented workers near Temecula, Calif., brings to mind a myriad of painful and unnecessary catastrophes involving Mexican and Mexican-American farm laborers. Documented or undocumented, no human being deserves the fate these Mexican workers received.

There's an old '40s song, a Woodie Guthrie ballad I believe, that recorded a tragedy about a plane crashing in California just before Christmas, killing some two dozen passengers. The news flashed instantly across the country; everyone was concerned for the victims until it was learned they were "only Mexican farm workers..."

When this element was added to the story, there was immediate relief, and the U.S. media and people continued about their business.

In 1958, in Soledad, Calif., 14 braceros in the country in a U.S.-Mexico "guest worker" pact burned to death when a can of gasoline illegally stored in the passenger section of a farm bus caught fire.

In the words of the late Ernesto Galarza, who preceded César Chávez as a farm labor organizer, that Soledad tragedy "ended in respectful silence."

Five years later, a makeshift bus converted from a flatbed truck was struck and dragged by a Southern Pacific freight train in Chualar, Calif. Thirty-two of 58 Mexican and Mexican-American farm laborers died.

To prevent this accident from disappearing into

respectful oblivion like the Soledad tragedy, Galarza -- a farm worker, an academic, an intellectual with a Ph. D., a poet and above all, a committed activist -- immediately set out to investigate it.

With the help of U.S. Congressman Adam Clayton Powell III, an African-American who chaired the House Committee on Education and Labor, Galarza was able to probe into the Chualar tragedy. It wasn't easy. Galarza ran into expected and unexpected difficulties, including racism, silence, and lack of cooperation from local, state and federal officials, corporate farmers and Southern Pacific Railway officials.

However, with the power and support of Rep. Powell, the investigation was completed and federal laws were enacted to require safety measures at railway crossings and farm labor transportation, including the prohibition of converting old trucks into buses.

I can't help but make a comparison with the two recent tragedies. Reaction to the deaths of the eight Mexican workers has also been short-lived. Investigators quickly absolved the Border Patrol of risking a disaster by giving chase.

The Border Patrol "followed" the vehicle but didn't "chase" it, the press reported, contradicting at least one witness's account.

A week before that tragic accident, the nation witnessed the callously racist beating of two Mexican nationals by

Riverside County, Calif., sheriffs deputies. Through print and electronic media, individuals across the country voiced strong opinions.

"They had it coming... They should have been shot... More power to the border police..." Racism blinds logic. The woman and man who were beaten were helpless passengers in the back of the truck. Unlike others, they didn't run, and they paid the price.

I mention these tragedies because Ernesto Galarza would have been at the forefront were he with us today. He was a man who moved our conscience more through his actions than his words. Rather than organize protests outside the citadels of power, he walked into the offices of politicians and with a cool resolve changed the lives of farm workers.

His actions changed for the better the lives of the Latino generations that followed. Too many academics would rather not involve themselves

with activism, seeing it as beneath their intellectual prowess, fearing loss of tenure, a fellowship or a grant.

Galarza recognized that one cannot be an intellectual without being an activist. Before he passed away in June of 1984, Ernesto Galarza reminded us more than once that we must continue his work, continue the search for justice for those less fortunate, less privileged.

We may not be as gifted as Ernesto Galarza to lead an investigation, walk into a congressman's office, or even write a poem, but what he asked from us was to have faith and the courage to be present and counted; never to give in to silence or the deafening roar of racism.

Jose' Antonio Burciaga, of Carmel Highlands, Calif., is the author of two books of essays on Chicanismo: "Drink Cultura" and "Spilling the Beans," Joshua Odell Editions, Santa Barbara.

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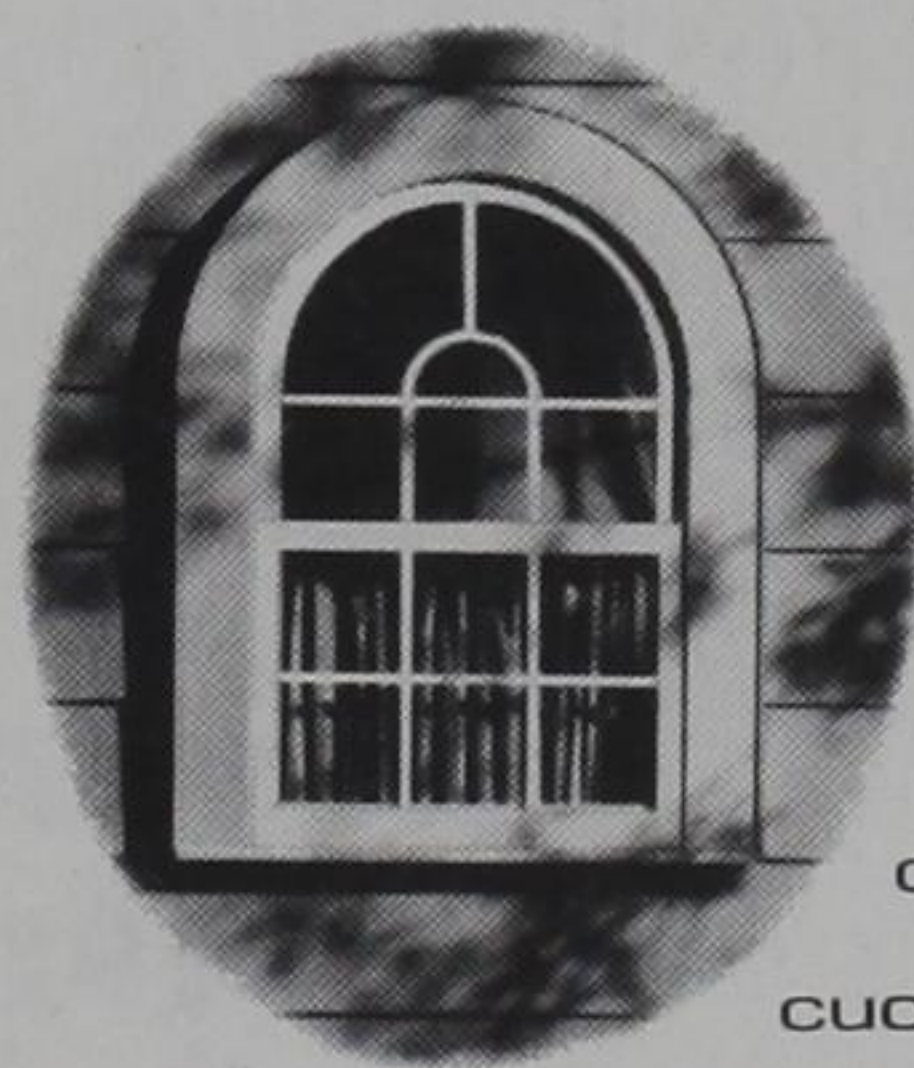
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EL EDITOR. Lubbock, April 18, 1996



## Un Rayito De Luz

by Sofia Martinez

Es necesario que todos los hombres y todas las mujeres, especialmente los, y las, que hayan recibido el bautismo, conozcan la doctrina de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo; porque si no tenemos conocimiento, no es posible llegar al fin para que Dios nos ha creado: Dios nos creó para conocerle, para amarle y para servirle, para que así lleguemos a la Vida Eterna.

Serviremos a Dios: Cumpliendo fielmente nuestros deberes, seamos solteros, o casados, o religiosos; trabajando por procurar la gloria de Dios con toda clase de buenas obras. Es muy importante servir a Dios, porque para eso nos ha creado y nos ha hecho Sus hijos. El que no sirve a Dios se expone a ser eternamente desgraciado en el infierno. Hay muchas personas que no sirven a Dios y que se apegan prefiriendo los bienes de este mundo. Dichas personas se apegan, en particular, a las honras por orgullo, o a las riquezas por avaricia, y a los placeres por la lujuria y por la

gula.

Pero no lograrán hallar la felicidad en esas cosas, porque el corazón de todas las personas está hecho para Dios y no podrían satisfacerlo todas las cosas de la tierra. Solo Dios puede hacernos eternamente felices, porque es el soberano bien. Desde esta misma vida, Dios procura la paz de la buena conciencia a los que le sirven: los protege en sus empresas, los consuela en sus trabajos, y los colma de toda clase de bienes.

Gozaremos de una felicidad perfecta cuando poseamos la Vida Eterna, es decir, cuando veamos en el cielo por toda la eternidad a Dios que nos creó porque nos ama desde la eternidad. (Luc. 12, 13-21). (Col. 2, 18-25). (mat. 5, 6 y 7.).

### EL EDITOR

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### PENSAMIENTOS DEL PREDICADOR

POR PASTOR FRANK GARCÍA  
Lubbock, Texas

#### LA RESURRECCION DEL CUERPO TODO SE DEBE AL PODER DE DIOS

"Está establecido a los hombres que mueran una vez" Heb.9:27 Este, presupuesto es el decreto de Dios. Es universal e ineludible. y este golpe de la muerte cae sobre toda la raza humana. Y como el cuerpo es una parte de la naturaleza compleja del hombre, entonces es asunto de no escasa importancia inquirir en qué viene a parar después de la muerte, y cual debe ser o será su destino final. Y en lo que se ha de convertir, lo sabemos por Eclesiastés 12:7 "Y el polvo se tornará a la tierra, como era ántes." (Esto es para cumplir la sentencia): "Eres polvo, y al polvo serás tornado" Gén.3:19. Y como el cuerpo fue tomado del polvo de la tierra, entonces se resuelve en su elemento original: y en el sepulcro, la obra de la desorganización es completa.

PREGUNTA: ¿pero permanecerá para siempre el cuerpo en el sepulcro? La filosofía y la razón contestarían por la afirmativa. Los filósofos paganos tenían alguna idea confusa acerca de la inmortalidad del alma, pero tratándose de la resurrección del cuerpo no tenían ningún concepto. Y nunca creían que algunos de sus dioses, y ni todos juntos, tenían poder para levantar de la tumba fría el polvo de la mortalidad. Por eso mismo cuando Pablo predicó en Atenas "la resurrección de los muertos, algunos se burlaban" según Hch.17:32 "Porque los saduceos dicen que no hay resurrección" Hch.23:8/a

CIERTAMENTE fuera de las enseñanzas de la Biblia, la resurrección del cuerpo es imposible. Por lo que vemos que lo que tiene que ver con la resurrección del cuerpo es el Poder de Dios y las Escrituras. Por esa mismísima razón Cristo dijo a los fariseos erráis, ignorando las Escrituras y el Poder de Dios" Mat.22:29

pero Pablo afirma por las Escrituras y el Poder de Dios, diciendo: "el cual transformará el cuerpo de nuestra baja, para que sea hecho semejante a su cuerpo glorificado, por la operación por la cual puede sujetar a sí, todas las cosas" Fil.3:21. El poder que "sujeta todas las cosas," puede levantar los muertos. Y Cristo dijo claramente a los sabios de sus días, y también lo dice a los de hoy día... Que "lo que es imposible para con los hombres, posible es para Dios" Luc. 18:27. Y además el Señor dijo ésto: "No os maraviléis de ésto; porque vendrá hora, cuando todos los que están en los sepulcros oirán su voz; y los que hicieron bien, saldrán a resurrección de vida; mas los que hicieron mal, a resurrección de maldición" Juan 5:28,29. Esta hora era anhelada por Pablo cuando dice a los hermanos en Fil. 3:11, "si en alguna manera llegase a la resurrección de los muertos".

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By Richard Kouri, President  
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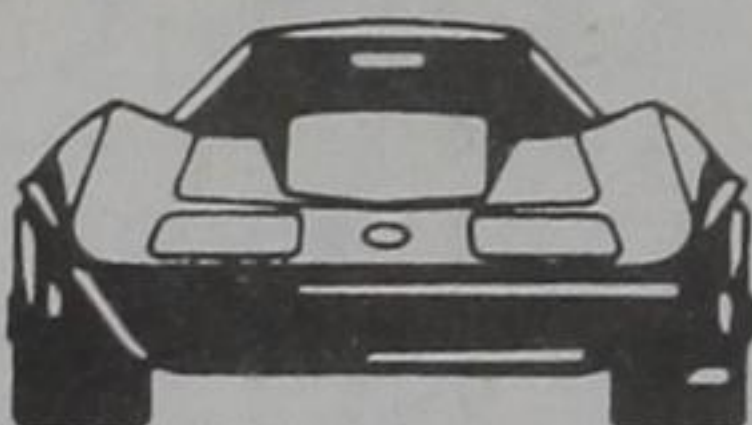
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