

# Papa Concluye Gira Americana con Visita Pastoral a San Luis

por Delia Millán

San Luis (Misuri), 26 ene.- El Papa Juan Pablo II concluyó una gira americana visitando una ciudad estadounidense de rancia tradición católica, San Luis, Misuri, donde abogó por un nuevo milenio de "solidaridad,



libertad y justicia" para Estados Unidos y para las Américas.

El pontífice llegó a San Luis, procedente de México, donde cerró el sínodo de los obispos de las Américas que, dijo, "ha sido una importante reunión en la que se ha preparado a la Iglesia para entrar en un nuevo milenio, con un nuevo sentido de la solidaridad para el continente".

Su visita a San Luis, es, afirmó el

Papa, una oportunidad de divulgar este mensaje desde el "corazón de Estados Unidos".

En su primer discurso, pronunciado nada más llegar, en una nave de la parte militar del aeropuerto de Lambert, el Papa arremetió contra uno de los aspectos de la sociedad estadounidense que más condena, las leyes que permiten el aborto.

"Hay que elevar la moral para motivar la elección por la vida", dijo el Papa ante el presidente Bill Clinton que apoya la interrupción voluntaria del embarazo, y su esposa Hillary, que este mismo viernes defendió ese derecho en un discurso.

Bill Clinton y su esposa, que llevaba un traje de color muy apropiado, morado oscuro, recibieron, no obstante, al Papa con mucha cordialidad y este declaró su alegría de estar por séptima vez en EEUU.

En su discurso de bienvenida, Clinton dijo al Papa que su visita "es una alegría no sólo para los católicos sino para todos los que han oído su mensaje de paz y caridad".

Elogió al pontífice por haber "configurado, en gran parte" el final de siglo, y acabó su discurso en polaco deseando al Papa "100 años de vida".

El público recibió al Papa al grito de "John Paul II, we love you", "Juan Pablo II te amamos", mientras Clinton iba presentándole al pontífice

miembros de su gabinete.

Algunos, como el secretario de Energía Bill Richardson, que es en parte de origen mexicano, se inclinaban o se arrodillaban ante el jefe de la Iglesia Católica.

En el acto participaron distintas familias de San Luis, entre ellas una cubano-americana. En San Luis, viven unos 60.000 hispanos.

El presidente y el Papa se retiraron después para una entrevista privada en la que debían hablar de Irak y de Cuba, temas sobre los que tienen diferencias, pero no de los problemas personales de Clinton, cuyo juicio en el Senado llega a una fase decisiva.

Inmediatamente después de la entrevista, el Papa se desplazó a San Luis para empezar a cumplir un programa que comprende una reunión con jóvenes, una misa en un estadio y una oración en la catedral.

Pero San Luis empezó a celebrar la visita del Papa Juan Pablo II, horas antes de su llegada, con una multitudinaria marcha de jóvenes por el centro de la capital adornado con pancartas de bienvenida,

algunas en polaco o italiano.

Se calcula que un millón de personas han acudido a San Luis para la visita del Papa.

Entre los visitantes, un cura polaco, Marian Kencik, cuenta que fue alumno de Karol Wojtyla, en la Universidad Católica de Lublin, Polonia, a finales de los años 50 y principios de los 60.

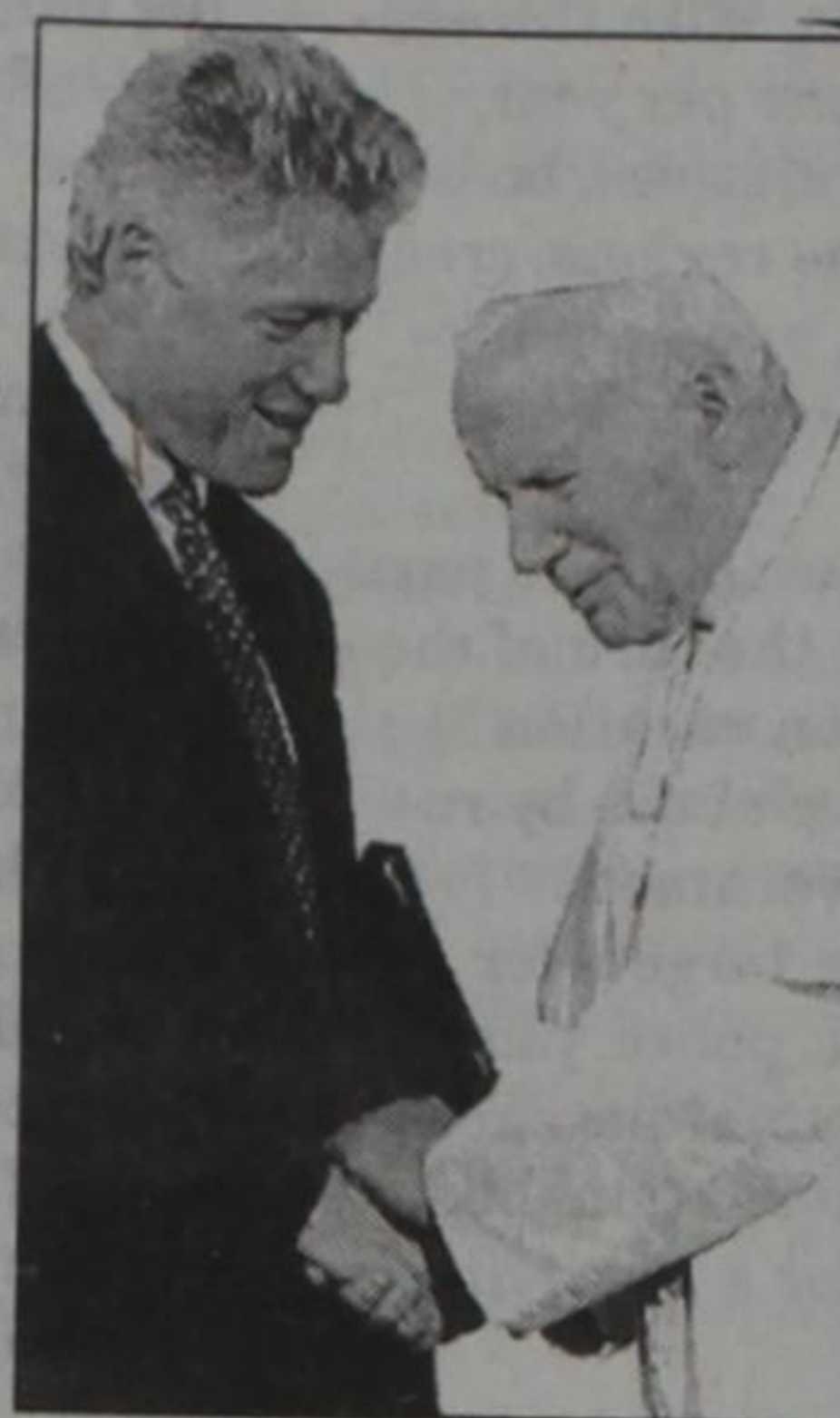
Kencik, que ha viajado desde Michigan acompañando a un grupo de feligreses de la importante comunidad polaca de esa región, recuerda que Wojtyla contaba a sus alumnos sus viajes al Occidente y era "muy comunicativo, espontáneo e interesante".

Sus feligreses están "ansiosos", dice Kencik, por ver al Papa y "orgullosos de que sea polaco".

En la marcha de los jóvenes lamó la atención un grupo de

monjas novicias, encabezadas por Catherine Mary, directora de vocaciones, quien explicó que sus hermanas han venido desde Nashville

Sor Catherine Mary, que ronda los 35 años, asegura que no ha notado un descenso de las vocaciones -la tercera parte de su comunidad de 160 monjas dominicas son novicias- porque los "jóvenes se están empezando a dar cuenta de que la verdad existe". En el mismo sentido abundó un grupo de jóvenes de aspecto moderado que participaban en la marcha. Sean Normile, de 17 años, contó que va todos los domingos a reuniones con jóvenes católicos en que se organizan debates sobre diversos temas, y asegura que eso no quita para que también sepa divertirse. "Se puede ser católico y rockero", dijo.



## News Briefs Jobs for Welfare Program to Benefit Hispanics

By Mary Gonzalez

Washington, Jan 25 (EFE).- President Bill Clinton's proposal to allot 1.3 billion dollars to incorporate 200,000 welfare recipients into the workforce will have a positive impact on the U.S. Hispanic population.

"It's a step in the right direction," said Rep. Ruben Hinojosa (Dem.-TX), who attended the White House ceremony, where Clinton provided the details of the proposal he made during his State of the Union address.

The federal program will establish a tax credit of 520 million dollars for private companies that hire people on welfare, Clinton said.

It would also free up 420 million dollars in housing aid for low-income people.

"It's not charity," Clinton said. "It is good for the families, but it's also good for the communities."

In his State of the Union speech, Clinton said that with his proposed budget, which he must turn in to Congress on Feb. 1, some 200,000 people may be able to get off welfare.

To that effect, he proposed that 150 million dollars of the one billion dollars destined for the states go to help low-income fathers pay for child support.

As an example of how the program works, the White House introduced Carlos Rosas, a divorced 32-year-old father who lost his job at a maintenance company and his part-time paycheck, which only covered half of his required child-support.

"I am here to talk as a father," Rosas said. He explained how the program helped him "get a good job" and resume his child support payments.

The number of people who depend on welfare has declined for the past 30 years in the United States. In September of last year, some eight million people were on welfare, the lowest level in recent years.

## White House Proposes to Restore Immigrant Benefits

Washington, Jan 25 (EFE).- The White House on Monday proposed spending 1.3 billion dollars in the next five years to restore to legal immigrants benefits that were cut in 1996.

Vice President Al Gore also said Congress would be asked to provide 70 million dollars for disbursement to the states for English language instruction to immigrants.

Gore said that should the initiative be approved, some 150,000 people would benefit in the year 2000.

The White House proposal to Congress to restore benefits includes health, nutrition and disability programs, said Gore.

Last year, the U.S. government reestablished disability and health benefits to 420,000 legal immigrants - at a cost of 11.5 billion dollars - who had entered the United States before the welfare reform law on Aug. 22, 1996, Gore said.

He added that the government will try to reestablish Supplemental Social Security Insurance and the Medicaid program for foreigners who arrived in the United States after the welfare reform and became disabled subsequently. The cost will be 930 million dollars and will help an estimated 54,000 legal immigrants by the year 2004.

Another 220 million dollars would be given to states to provide health coverage to 55,000 legal immigrant children who entered the country after Aug. 22, 1996, Gore said.

The government would also give states 105 million dollars to provide Medicaid coverage to about 23,000 legal immigrant women who entered the country after the welfare reform.

## Hispanic Leaders Welcome White House Proposal

Washington, Jan 25 (EFE).- Hispanic leaders welcomed a White House initiative on Monday to improve the quality of education for U.S. Hispanics, who make up 14 percent of the public school population of the country.

The federal measure would allot 480 million dollars to schools and education programs for Hispanic students, said Vice President Al Gore, who explained the White House's proposed 2000 fiscal budget, which will be sent to Congress on Feb. 1.

"We are very happy that they are meeting the needs of Hispanics," said Celine Walsh, spokesperson of the League of United Latin American Citizens. Walsh, however, warned that the Education Department and the school districts must take responsibility for implementing the programs and improving the academic performance of U.S. Hispanics.

Gore said the initiative will "assure that Hispanic students will receive the education they need and deserve to succeed in the 21st Century."

Rep. Ruben Hinojosa (Dem.-TX), who is in charge of education issues in the Hispanic Caucus of Congress, said he supports the initiative. "We have to double our efforts to make sure that our children obtain the education they need to compete in the market of the future," he said.

A recent study of the National Council of La Raza revealed that only 60 percent of Hispanic students graduate from junior high school, compared to 90 percent of white and black students.

Approximately 320 million dollars, of the eight billion dollars in the program, would be destined to assist disadvantaged students in elementary and senior high schools, while 35 million dollars would help out students with limited proficiency in the English language.



Bill Clinton

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

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## Latinos Legislators Like Clinton's Social Security Proposals

By Patricia Guadalupe

Hispanic legislators in the U.S. Congress are generally reacting favorably toward President Clinton's plan to ensure the economic solvency of the Social Security system by placing a portion of the funds in the U.S. stock market.

Among his stronger supporters is Lucille Roybal-Allard, head of the 20-member Congressional Hispanic Caucus. The Los Angeles Democrat, whose district is 84 percent Latino, emphasizes the reality that "Protecting Social Security is an important issue for our community."

Almost 90 percent of the incomes of Hispanics 65 and older come from Social Security, she notes, pointing out quickly that the financial viability of the system is increasingly dependent on contributions from the paychecks of the growing Hispanic population entering the work force.

The Social Security issue was the centerpiece of Clinton's Jan. 19 State of the Union speech. The president's plan calls for transferring \$2.7 trillion of the projected \$4 trillion government surplus over the next 15 years into the Social Security system, with up to a quarter of the funds to be invested in the U.S. stock market.

The proposal is part of the fiscal year 2000 budget that the president will present to Congress Feb. 1. "This is paid for in the budget," stresses Xavier Becerra, Roybal-Allard's predecessor as CHC chair. "What the president proposes can be accomplished if the Congress is willing."

Like Roybal-Allard, Becerra is a Los Angeles Democrat with a large Hispanic - 62 percent - constituency.

Clinton says one of his main motivations for moving a portion of the Social Security system's money into the stock market is to improve the rate of return on the system's funds.

Since only up to \$60,000 of an individual's yearly earnings are considered taxable for Social Security purposes, less affluent workers bear a greater burden than do those with fat salaries. Thus, the latter have greater opportunities to invest their earnings beyond the \$60,000 cap. To date, attempts in Congress to raise the cap have been unsuccessful.

Hispanic Republicans are also open to giving the president's plan consideration.

"There's a possibility of working with him," Henry Bonilla, whose district covers San Antonio, Texas, tells Hispanic Link. "Everyone wants to save the system without raising payroll taxes. The decision on how to invest it in the market will be scrutinized. It won't be just one person making the decision."

In disagreement with the president is Alan Greenspan. The Federal Reserve Board chairman commented Jan. 20 during a congressional hearing that while he supported Clinton's proposal to place almost two-thirds of the federal surplus into the system, placing a portion of the funds into the stock market could invite problems and threaten the economy. The federal government would own 4-5 percent of

the value of shares on Wall Street. Greenspan said he fears that "political pressures" could lead to inefficient investments and a lower rate of return.

President Clinton also proposed reserving 15 percent of the surplus -- \$650 billion -- for the Medicare system, the federal health care program for older Americans on fixed incomes.

As a percentage of the general population, older Hispanics are actually under-represented in

the program, say Latino health-care experts.

"Many Latinos don't even know about the program, and the government needs to do more outreach," says Jane Delgado, CEO and president of the Coalition of Hispanic Health and Human Services Organizations. The coalition has been working with the U.S. Health and Human Services Department's Health Care Financing Agency on several outreach programs.

## Gore, Bush Moves Underline Growing Clout of Hispanic Voters

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26, 1999 -- Hispanic leaders say they believe the Clinton administration has finally gotten the message that Latinos, soon to be the largest bloc of ethnic voters, want something more than empty gestures from the nation's political leaders.

But with the exception of Gov. George W. Bush of Texas, the Hispanic leaders wonder whether the Republican Party, which took control of Congress in 1994 with sometimes harsh anti-immigrant rhetoric, also recognizes how important Hispanic voters will be in coming years.

"It's not enough to show up at Hispanic events, wear a sombrero, eat a burrito and speak a few words in Spanish," said Lisa Navarette, spokeswoman for the National Council of La Raza, the largest Hispanic interest group. "We just don't want to be marketed to - we want policy changes."

Navarette's comments in an interview Monday were prompted by Vice President Al Gore, who, for the second time in two days, outlined administration proposals aimed at the Hispanic community.

Gore, who plans to seek the Democratic Party's presidential nomination next year, announced Monday that the administration will request \$1.3 billion over the next five years to restore disability, health and nutrition benefits that legal immigrants lost under the 1996 welfare reforms.

On Sunday, Gore announced that the federal government would spend an additional \$480 million next year on schools and educational programs serving Hispanic students.

"Clearly, the vice president has gotten the message," added Navarette.

These initiatives "didn't just happen in a vacuum," said Arturo Vargas, head of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) and chairman of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda, an umbrella organization for dozens of Hispanic advocacy groups.

"We've been pushing this administration for two years for these initiatives," added Vargas. "So, in many respects, (the Clinton administration) is actually responding rather than initiating something on their own."

Gore, who met with Vargas and other Hispanic leaders last Friday to put the final touches on the administration's initiatives, is also responding to the changing demographics of the United States.

The Census Bureau projects that in 2009, Hispanics will surpass African Americans as the largest ethnic group in the country. Hispanics currently represent about 11 percent of the U.S. population, just behind African Americans, who are 12.8 percent. Significantly for electoral politics, they are concentrated in the huge states of California, Texas, Florida and New York.

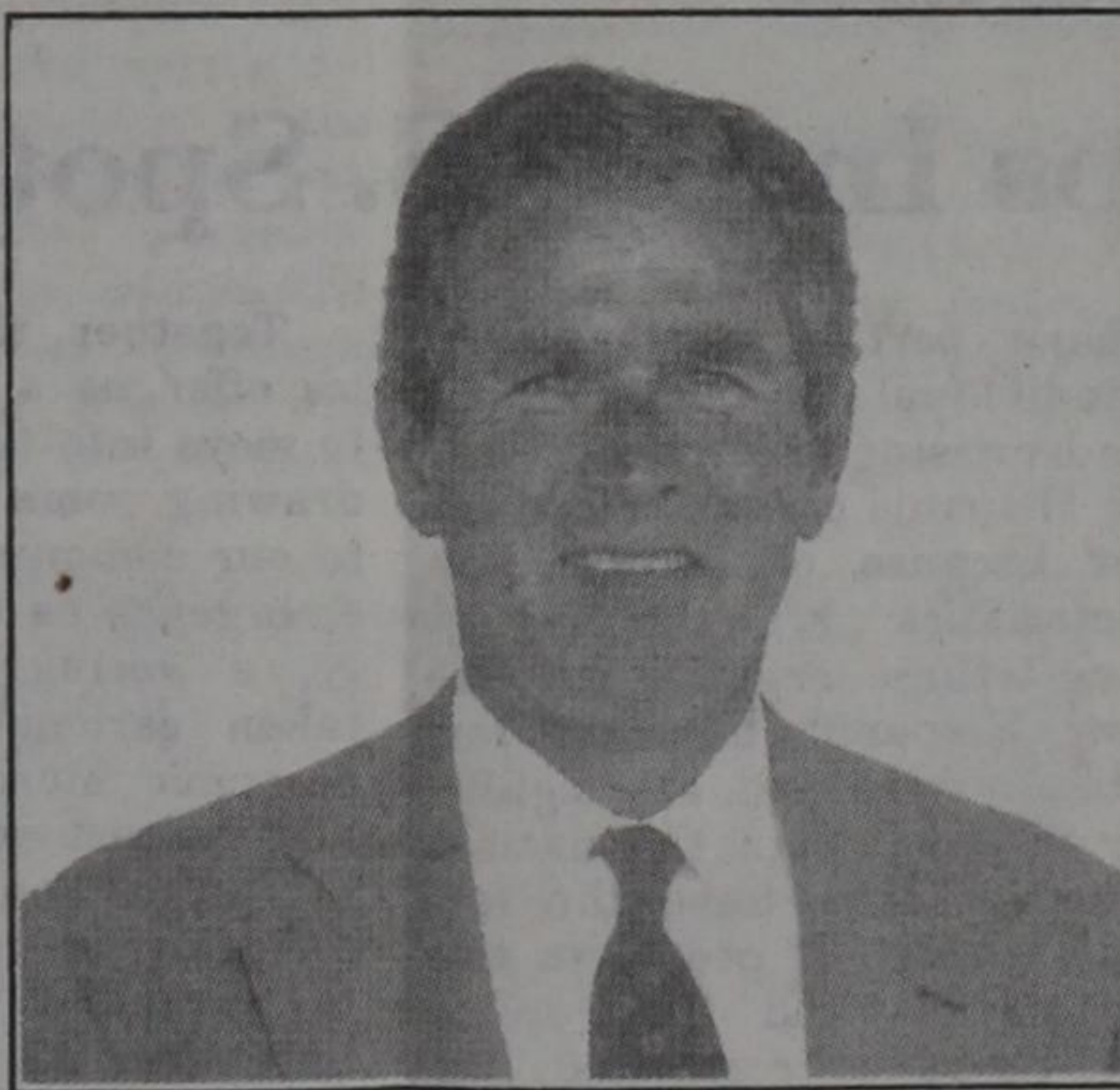
The country's changing demographics have also gotten the belated attention of the Republican Party, which until recently has shown little empathy for immigrants. Much of the party followed the lead of Pete Wilson, who, as governor of California from 1991 to 1999, pushed hard for statewide initiatives to curb the rights of immigrants.

But Bush, who distanced himself from some of his party's harsher stands, won nearly 50 percent of the Hispanic vote in his re-election bid in Texas last year while the party was winning only 11 percent of Hispanics nationally, according to network exit polls.

"There's no way we can cede the Latino vote to the Democrats and win," said Mike Madrid, former political director of the California Republican Party and now a top aide to Rod Pacheco, the first Latino to head the Republican caucus in the California state assembly. "You cannot win anything in California without carrying at least a third of the Hispanic vote."

Bush, who is widely regarded as the front-runner for the GOP presidential nomination in 2000, has already contacted Pacheco to discuss issues of importance to Hispanics. He is the only one in the likely GOP presidential field who has, according to Madrid.

But Dan Stein, executive director of the Federation for American Immigration Reform, warned that any Republican back-pedaling on the party's immigration reforms would be politically disastrous. "One of the reasons the Republican Party took control of Congress for the first time in 40 years was its commitment to reform immigration and welfare," Stein said. "Now, the president wants to buy the immigrant vote for his vice president with welfare. Can the Republican Party really go along with that?"



VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE



## Debate over Mexican Immigrants Right to Vote Questions Democracy & Accountability

By Jesus Martinez, Pacific News Service

MEXICO CITY — An intense debate has surfaced here involving the country's relationship with its citizens — approximately 10 million of them — who live in the United States.

To some, the debate concerns only the right of these nationals to vote in presidential elections, beginning in the year 2000 — a right unanimously approved by the Mexican Congress in 1996, with the express support of President Ernesto Zedillo as part of an ambitious package of electoral reforms.

Since then, however, the President and members of his ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) have made every effort to impede the exercise of this right. It has been suggested that they fear the migrant vote will heavily favor candidates of the rapidly rising opposition parties.

Some government and PRI officials argue that implementing the vote would be too costly for a nation facing economic crisis and call for delaying the program until the 2006 election.

Some party hardliners say flat out that the right to vote should not be extended as it represents a threat to Mexican national sovereignty — despite the fact that scores of other nations offer this right with no visible damage to their sovereignty. A scholarly study found that migrants support it overwhelmingly — 83 percent of migrants surveyed want to participate in the next presidential election.

The issue is not simply one of suffrage

rights. At stake as well are the definition of the nation itself, and the future of democracy in a country that has seldom found ways to make authorities accountable to citizens.

The question of what it means to be part of the Mexican nation has been tested particularly since 1994, when an armed guerrilla movement — the Zapatista Army of National Liberation — emerged in the state of Chiapas to claim rights promised to all citizens in the 1917 Constitution. This forced Mexico to begin to recognize that indigenous peoples have never enjoyed equality or benefited proportionately from the country's economic development.

Mexicans living in the United States argue that they have a constitutional and moral right to participate in elections. With the estimated \$6 billion they send home per year, migrants support millions of relatives, boost economic activity in their home regions, create jobs, reduce political tensions, and help provide the government much needed foreign currency.

The need for greater accountability is particularly evident to migrants at the turn of the year, when they return home on vacation — and are subjected to systematic abuse by representatives of numerous government agencies as they become prime targets for unscrupulous customs, transit, police, judicial, and even army officers. The numerous checkpoints located between the international border and central Mexico becomes a terrifying

gauntlet that can cost migrants their hard earned money, clothes, electronic appliances, and even automobiles.

It is probably impossible to find a migrant who has not suffered humiliation and extortion on the way home. Needless to say, the same perils appear on the return trip to the United States.

The situation has become so scandalous that even some government controlled organizations such as the National Peasant Confederation have denounced the abuses. In Guanajuato state a confederation delegate traveled to the international border in an attempt to help some migrants arrive home safely. Representatives from Hidalgo state have denounced local, state and federal authorities for violating human rights.

Unfortunately, these pleas are doomed to failure. Authoritarian political systems, such as Mexico's, tend to lack mechanisms that ensure the efficacy of citizen influence on government. Mexican citizens in general, including migrants, feel disempowered and unable to eliminate official corruption. It is no surprise that academic studies consistently find that government institutions have absurdly low levels of credibility.

Without the right to elect authorities, Mexicans who migrate to the United States will lack the means to hold government officials accountable. Extortion, robbery, violations of human rights and other forms of corruption are therefore likely to continue — at least until democracy triumphs in Mexico.

## Dabate Sobre Derecho al Voto de Inmigrantes Mexicanos Se Ubica en la Democracia y Responsabilidad

Por Jesus Martinez, Pacific News Service

CIUDAD DE MÉXICO - Un intenso debate ha surgido aquí en torno a la relación del país con los aproximadamente 10 millones de ciudadanos mexicanos que viven en Estados Unidos.

Para algunos, el debate se limita simplemente al derecho de estos nacionales a votar en las elecciones presidenciales a partir del año 2000; un derecho unánimemente aprobado por el Congreso mexicano con apoyo expreso del presidente Ernesto Zedillo como parte de un ambicioso paquete de reformas electorales.

Desde aquel momento, no obstante, el presidente y miembros de su Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI) han hecho todos los esfuerzos posibles para impedir el ejercicio de este derecho. Se ha sugerido que [el gobierno y su partido] tienen temor de que el voto inmigrante favorezca de modo significativo a candidatos de los partidos de oposición, rápidamente en ascenso.

Algunos funcionarios gubernamentales y del PRI argumentan que la puesta en vigor del voto sería demasiado costosa para una nación enfrentando una crisis económica, y llama a posponer el programa hasta las elecciones del año 2006.

Algunos de los representantes más duros del partido han expresado lisa y llanamente que el derecho al voto no debiera extenderse, ya que representa una amenaza para la soberanía nacional de México — a pesar de que montones de otros países ofrezcan este mismo derecho sin mostrar daño visible alguno a su soberanía. Un estudio universitario encontró que la reforma es técnicamente viable y que los inmigrantes apoyan esta medida de modo contundente: 83 por ciento de los inmigrantes encuestados desean participar en las próximas elecciones presidenciales.

El tema vá más allá que el simple derecho al voto. También están en cuestión la definición misma de la nación y el futuro de la democracia en un país que raramente ha encontrado la forma de hacer que las autoridades respondan frente a sus ciudadanos.

La cuestión de qué significa ser parte de la nación mexicana ha sido puesta a prueba especialmente desde 1994, cuando un movimiento guerrillero armado — el Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional — emergiera en el estado de Chiapas para reclamar derechos prometidos a todos los ciudadanos en la Constitución de 1917. Este hecho forzó a México a comenzar a reconocer que los pueblos indígenas no han gozado jamás de igualdad ni se han beneficiado proporcionalmente del desarrollo económico del país.

Los mexicanos viviendo en Estados Unidos argumentan que tienen el derecho moral y constitucional de participar en las elecciones. Con los 600 millones de dólares que, se estima, estos ciudadanos envían a casa cada año, los inmigrantes mantienen a millones de familiares, impulsan la actividad económica de sus regiones de origen, crean empleos, reducen tensiones políticas, y ayudan a proveer al gobierno con la más que necesaria divisa extranjera.

La necesidad de exigir mayor responsabilidad (a los funcionarios del gobierno) es particularmente evidente para los inmigrantes al final de cada año, cuando vuelven a casa para las vacaciones y son sujetos al abuso sistemático por parte de representantes de varias agencias gubernamentales que los convierten en el blanco principal de inescrupulosos agentes de aduanas, tráfico, policía, judiciales, e incluso del ejército. Los numerosos puestos de control entre la frontera internacional y el centro de México se convierten en el aterrador guantelete que puede costar a los inmigrantes el dinero por el que han trabajado

arduamente, sus ropas, aparatos electrónicos, e incluso automóviles.

Es probablemente imposible encontrar algún inmigrante que no haya sufrido humillación y extorsión en su camino a casa. No hace falta decir que los mismos peligros aparecen en el viaje de regreso a Estados Unidos.

La situación se ha convertido en algo tan escandaloso que incluso algunas agencias controladas por el gobierno tales como la Confederación Nacional de Campesinos han denunciado los abusos. En el estado de Guanajuato una confederación delegada viajó a la frontera internacional con la intención de ayudar a algunos inmigrantes a llegar a casa sanos y salvos.

Representantes del estado de Hidalgo han denunciado a las autoridades locales, estatales y federales por la violación de derechos humanos.

Desafortunadamente, tales súplicas están condenadas al fracaso. Los sistemas políticos autoritarios — tales como el mexicano — tienen la tendencia a carecer de mecanismos que aseguren la eficacia de la influencia de los ciudadanos sobre el gobierno. Los ciudadanos mexicanos en general, incluyendo a los inmigrantes, se sienten sin poder alguno y sin capacidad para eliminar la corrupción oficial. No es ninguna sorpresa que estudios académicos encuentren, de modo consistente, que las instituciones del gobierno cuentan con niveles de credibilidad absurdamente bajos.

Sin el derecho a elegir sus autoridades, los mexicanos que emigran a Estados Unidos carecerán de los medios para hacer que los funcionarios del gobierno sean imputables por sus acciones. Así pues, es muy probable que la extorsión, el robo, las violaciones a los derechos humanos y otras formas de corrupción continúen — al menos hasta que la democracia triunfe en México.

## New Dynamics Edge Latinos Into U.S. Spotlight

By José Armas

Could it be that the veil of invisibility covering Hispanics is beginning to be lifted? Hispanics have been part of the Americas for 506 years, but our history, our contributions and our culture are still for the most part unknown.

Several dynamics are making Hispanics hot and are pulling at that veil.

Our surging numbers is one dynamic. According to the Census Bureau, Hispanics now number more than 30 million, or about 11 percent of the population. Others say that if you add the undercount of Hispanics, plus the undocumented population that — voilá! — the total numbers may run closer to 40 million, or 14 percent. Even conservative demographers suggest that Hispanics will outnumber blacks early in the new millennium.

The second dynamic receiving national attention is our political power. This past November, Hispanics helped determine key elections in eight states — California, New York, Illinois, Florida, Texas, Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico.

The third exciting dynamic is the economic muscle Hispanics are flexing. According to Hispanic Business magazine, this consumer market earned almost \$280 billion in 1998, up more than 40 percent since 1992.

Corporate America is discovering that \$280 billion buys a lot of tacos — and pizzas and diapers and TVs and T-shirts and cars and homes and — well, you get the picture. Corporate America

was a little slow at first, but it has smelled the green and is scrambling for us.

Between 1993 to 1998, the top five advertisers to Hispanic consumers have made dramatic increases in addressing this prime consumer market. Procter & Gamble outspends the rest by far. It increased its advertising spending by 33 percent. Sears, second on the list, increased its spending 400 percent. Advertising by AT&T — No. 3 — increased 184 percent. Fourth place General Motors soared an astonishing 775 percent and MCI/Worldcom spending to lure Hispanics jumped 673 percent.

Hispanics consider themselves proud citizens, but they are also fiercely proud of their culture. They look to the mediums that provide the most inclusive, positive pictures of their community. So it's understandable that Hispanic television, newspaper, magazine and radio advertising revenues all have posted impressive yearly increases in this decade. Univisión, the Spanish television network, is No. 1 — outdrawing English viewing audiences — in the Los Angeles and Miami markets.

In many cases the language is exclusively Spanish, but not always. Not all Hispanics speak Spanish, so bilingual formats and English formats continue to emerge. There are twice as many Hispanic radio stations today as there were five years ago. New publications are being launched almost monthly. An interesting phenomenon is Low Rider magazine, one of the few in the industry that continually makes

the major portion of its profits from individual sales rather than from advertising or subscriptions.

The Hispanic consumer market is hot because of several key characteristics: It's the fastest growing ethnic segment in the country. Hispanics have the largest family size and are significantly younger than the national average. They have the largest percentage of people in the work force — and they spend money. Hispanics comprised 70.9 percent of the nation's first-time homebuyers in 1997. They also tend to buy more quality products and are more brand loyal. Who wouldn't love this consumer profile?

Together, these three dynamics offer us a great opportunity to move into the new millennium drawing some positive attention to our community. Our projected emergence as the largest minority, a voting contingent to be taken seriously and using our economic muscle could bring us new respect and attention.

The challenge for Hispanics is to make the most of this opportunity to become known and to improve what has been our second-class standing in U.S. society.

(José Armas of Albuquerque, N.M., is a long-time social critic and author.)

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## Nuevas Dinámicas Destacan A Los Latinos En Los EE.UU.

— la cifra total puede llegar más cerca de los 40 millones, o sea el 14 por ciento. Aún los demógrafos conservadores sugieren que los hispanos superarán en cantidad a los negros a principios del nuevo milenio.

La segunda dinámica que está recibiendo atención nacional es nuestra fuerza política. En noviembre pasado, los hispanos ayudaron a determinar elecciones claves en ocho estados — California, Nueva York, Illinois, Florida, Texas, Arizona, Colorado y Nuevo México.

La tercera dinámica emocionante es la capacidad económica que los hispanos están demostrando. Según la revista "Hispanic Business", este mercado de consumidores ganó casi

\$280,000 millones en 1998, un aumento de más del 40 por ciento desde 1992.

Los empresarios estadounidenses vienen descubriendo que esos \$280,000 millones pueden comprar una gran cantidad de tacos — y de pizzas, pañales, televisores, camisetas, automóviles y casas — y bueno, ustedes entienden. Las empresas estadounidenses fueron algo lentas al principio, pero han oído las "hojas verdes" y están peleando por nosotros.

Entre 1993 y 1998, los cinco anunciantes principales para los consumidores hispanos han hecho aumentos dramáticos en sus enfoques sobre este mercado de consumidores importante. Procter & Gamble sobrepasa con

## Sittin' Here Thinkin' Bunch Of Amateurs

by Ira Cutler

What with Michael Jordan's retirement, the end of the National Basketball Association lock-out, and an upcoming Super Bowl, a lot of people may be missing the most interesting sports story in a long time. And it is a story with implications far beyond sports.

It has now come to light that the organizers who hoped to bring the 2002 Winter Olympics to Salt Lake City were not plotting by what are at least the written rules. These folks apparently thought a good way to convince Olympic officials that Salt Lake was the place to be was to bribe the decision makers. Earlier stories suggested that the form of the bribes was first class airline tickets and the best of Salt Lake's famous cuisine, but it is now clear that the real bribery was done the old fashioned way: plenty of money changed hands.

In fact, so far the folks investigating this matter believe somewhere around a million dollars was involved, with some individuals on the International Olympic Committee getting more than \$100,000. Like a tumbling house of cards, more is being found every day.

Did it work? You bet. Salt Lake City was not only chosen as the site for the 2002 Winter Olympics, but it is still the site even after the discovery of the bribery and foul play. It seems that, with only three years to go, it is too late to move the Olympics elsewhere, although I would think a couple of snowy hills and a skating rink would pretty much do it.

In a recent development it now appears that Sydney, Australia bidders made \$70,000 payments for two African votes the night before they won the Summer Games for 2000 — by two votes. But the Games must go on. And the hypocrites who refer to the Olympic "movement," rather than the Olympic "business" it clearly is, are still very much in charge.

The Olympics in particular, and amateur sports in general, are very big business and everybody makes money except the athletes. The hypocrisy is that by keeping the athletes from making money the amateur standing of these sports, their heroic purity, is protected from the taint of money. So the gymnastics coach makes money but the gymnasts do not. The television networks, the advertisers, the sportscasters, the Olympic committees in every country, the bureaucracy, everybody makes money but the athletes. A few, it is true, make money later when they turn professional, but for every amateur turned professional there are thousands who do not or cannot, either because they lack the talent or because their sport simply does not make money — picture professional luge.

The same sad story can be told of American collegiate athletics, where in basketball and football particularly, young kids work themselves near to death to put on a show that gets everyone else rich. They play, of course, for the "sheer love of the game," as we are told by the sportscasters who comment on these games while their limo waits outside. Their coaches get television shows, book deals and fat contracts with sneaker companies for having the players wear their shoes, but the players get little more than scholarships and some do not even get that.

The "beyond sports" implications of this seedy story are twofold.

First, it is important to note that in American college sports the players, the performers who everyone pays to see, are disproportionately inner city African Americans. And it is intolerable that so few of them actually get an education or graduate, and that the enticement of maybe becoming a pro and getting rich is statistically insignificant. Most of these kids work hard to pursue a fantasy, live on next to nothing while others get rich, and at the end of it are neither college graduates nor professional athletes.

The other implication, perhaps more to the point in the social welfare business, is that we too call upon people of little means to do lots and lots of work without compensation while we make comfortable livings out of trying to solve their problems. We ask them to be on boards, to get more involved in community affairs, to be foster parents and mentors and to do all sorts of volunteering and often, we think that to pay them would taint the process.

We are a country in love with volunteerism, which is analogous in some ways to our love affair with amateurism, both based on the idea that the participants should be motivated solely by pure thoughts and non-financial goals. Even if we, the paid organizers of the show, are not.

The fairness of this is made even more important by the recent trendy thought that professionals, i.e. anyone with credentials, experience and knowledge, actually know nothing at all and that all wisdom resides with the poor and often uneducated people who live in our most distressed communities and neighborhoods. Now that we finally recognize their wisdom, it seems that we have even more unpaid work for them to do, while their sons and daughters play for free on our favorite college basketball teams.

Doesn't it seem that, when billions are spent to watch athletic performances, those doing the performing should get some of the profits? Doesn't it seem that when community residents are asked to do the work that is otherwise done by professionals, they ought to get paid? Shouldn't we be uncomfortable when an unpaid community activist comes to speak at a convention full of paid, sometimes very well paid, agency executives, philanthropists, and academics and we all cheer about how insightful he/she is? If we believe that wisdom and knowledge resides in these communities, why do we expect them to share their expertise without charge?

Or would paying them be too tainting and cost them their amateur standing?

Ira Cutler, HN4072@handmet.net, 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. More recently Ira has become involved in communicating in another way, through speeches which he calls Standin' Here Talkin'.

## El Editor Newspapers

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# Noticias Breve

## Rechazan Imagen Negativa de Los Repatriados

Nueva York, 26 ene (EFE).- Varias organizaciones dominicanas en Nueva York mostraron hoy su preocupación por la imagen negativa que se proyecta de los compatriotas que son extraditados, a quienes presuntamente se responsabiliza del aumento de la criminalidad.

Las organizaciones culturales "Club 27 de Mayo" y "Bohemia Arte Vivo", "Estudiantes dominicanos del Hunter College" y el "Colegio de Periodistas", entre otras, señalaron hoy que hay una "tendencia de algunos sectores de la iglesia y de los medios de comunicación de Santo Domingo de responsabilizar a los dominicanos que viven en Nueva York de los brotes de violencia en los barrios del país".

El abogado dominicano Víctor Espinal, portavoz de estas entidades, cuestionó en conferencia de prensa que hasta el momento las autoridades dominicanas no han podido señalar "cuántos de los repatriados, de los deportados han reincidido" al llegar a su país.

"Que no se generalice. Eso es lo que pedimos", dijo el abogado y experto en asuntos de emigración.

Según Espinal, el Gobierno dominicano no ofrece alternativas que le permitan a dominicano que es obligado a regresar, a encontrar trabajo y rehacer su vida.

"No tienen trabajo, no saben cómo insertarse nuevamente a la sociedad por lo que al final, muchas veces, tienen que regresar" a Nueva York, agregó.

Por su parte, el presidente del Colegio de Periodistas, Leonardo Mezquita, recordó que la emigración es causada por los problemas económicos y que hasta el momento, ninguna administración ha logrado resolver los problemas de los dominicanos.

"Allá no se le busca solución a los problemas. No hay un problema que haya sido resuelto porque la violencia es institucional", argumentó.

"Se quiere culpar al dominicano ausente que haya sido deportado, como el responsable número uno del incremento de la delincuencia y estamos en contra de eso", sostuvo.

Mezquita aseguró que hay que empezar a cambiar la mentalidad de sus compatriotas que viven en la República Dominicana para que vea a los que viven en Nueva York como personas que trabajan honestamente, no como delincuentes.

También señaló que no se debe juzgar de igual forma al que tiene que retornar a la patria "porque no se le está dando la oportunidad para que se integren a la sociedad, donde quizás no han cometido delitos".

Las organizaciones coincidieron además en que la comunidad dominicana en el exterior tiene que empezar a trabajar para resolver los problemas que les afectan desde la diáspora.

## Vicepresidente Anuncia 480 Millones Ayuda Educación Para Hispanos

Washington, 24 ene (EFE).- El vicepresidente estadounidense, Albert Gore, anunció hoy que al menos 480 millones de dólares serán destinados a mejorar los programas educativos dirigidos a los estudiantes hispanos en EEUU.

"Nada hay más importante para el futuro de EEUU que invertir en la educación de toda nuestra gente", ha declarado el vicepresidente Gore, para quien esta iniciativa garantizará que los hispanos tengan la educación que necesitan para el siglo 21.

El anuncio de estas ayudas, efectuado desde la oficina de la vicepresidencia, indica que, en las próximas semanas, tanto Gore como el presidente Bill Clinton podrían anunciar nuevas iniciativas en torno a este plan.

De los 480 millones anunciados, 320 millones se destinarán a reforzar la capacidad de lectura, habilidad matemática y a elevar los niveles académicos.

Otros 35 millones de dólares se destinarán a la formación de los profesores y a mejorar las técnicas que permitan a los estudiantes aprender inglés más rápido y mejor.

Los jóvenes con discapacidades verán reforzada su capacidad de acceder a los centros educativos y a obtener en ellos el éxito con una aportación de 80 millones de dólares, según contempla el plan.

Para mejorar los programas de educación para jóvenes y adultos inmigrantes se destinarán 44 millones de dólares y se estimularán los esfuerzos para ayudar a los adultos a aprender inglés, especialmente con la concesión de créditos ventajosos y descuentos para costear los estudios.

Los hispanos que viven en EEUU, casi 30 millones entre personas con residencia legal e inmigrantes que no poseen permisos de residencia, son la minoría que más crece en Estados Unidos y, para el año 2005, se convertirá en la primera de EEUU, por delante de los negros.

Pese a ello, los estudiantes hispanos se encuentran entre los más desaventajados en la educación, con altas tasas de fracaso escolar y muy baja asistencia a las clases.

Los programas educativos para hispanos han demostrado ser especialmente polémicos en California, donde existe una seria controversia acerca de si deben perseguir una total inmersión en inglés o una educación bilingüe que enriquezca a los estudiantes a la vez que respeta su propia cultura.

Recientemente, el presidente estadounidense, anunció que nuevas medidas de mejora serían establecidas para la colectividad hispana de EEUU, pero enfatizó el hecho de que la integración plena de esta minoría pasa por el aprendizaje del idioma inglés.

Según distintas estadísticas, el número de hispanos que reside en EEUU desde hace varios años sin tener conocimientos mínimos de inglés es de varios millones de personas.

# Justices Rule Against Statistical Sampling In 2000 Census

By STEVE LASH

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26, 1999 - A sharply divided Supreme Court on Monday struck down President Clinton's controversial proposal to use a statistical formula to complement the traditional head count of the U.S. population in the 2000 census.

The Clinton administration, stung by the decision, might try to conduct two counts of the U.S. population next year to ensure a true result, Commerce Secretary William Daley said.

That would depend on whether the Republican-led Congress, which opposes statistical sampling, provides enough money for the Census Bureau to conduct two counts.

Daley, whose department conducts the census, said he was "obviously disappointed" with the court's decision. He said that enhancing the head count with a statistical sampling is the best way to prevent a repeat of the 1990 census, when 8 million people were not counted.

Daley said an additional survey, independent of the constitutionally required Census, would be more accurate and ensure that federal aid to the poor will be spent in the most needy areas.

In its 5-4 decision, the high court ruled that Clinton's effort to achieve a truer count through statistics runs afoul of the federal Census Act, which the court said prohibits the federal government from using statistics in addition to the standard head-count census of the United States.

The Census is conducted every 10 years to determine how the 435 seats in the House of Representatives will be apportioned among the 50 states.

Daley, seizing on the court's finding that statistics may not be used for apportionment, said the justices held open the legality of using mathematical formulas for other purposes, such as finding poor people who qualify for federal aid.

"A census based upon the old method will produce tremendous undercounts," Daley said. "We (at the Census Bureau) are committed to having the most accurate census."

Rep. Gene Green, D-Texas, assailed the high court's ruling, saying statistics are the most effective way to prevent a repeat of the undercount of Houston's population in 1990. That undercount, he added, cost the city much needed federal assistance for social programs.

More than 66,000 people in Houston were not counted in the 1990 census.

"We're going to have to redouble our efforts to count everyone in Houston," Green said. "We pay the tax dollars, and we should receive the benefits from them. If we're undercounted, those tax dollars will go someplace else."

The Supreme Court's decision marked a victory for the House and 16 people who sued the Clinton administration. The private citizens wanted to force the president to abandon his proposal to use statistics in addition to the traditional head count of the U.S. population.

House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., hailed the court's decision as an affirmation of the constitutional principle that people should be counted, not scientifically polled. "The administration should abandon its illegal and risky polling scheme and start preparing for a true head count," he said.

Rep. Dan Miller, R-Fla., chairman of the House Government Reform Subcommittee on the Census, also praised the high court's decision for ensuring that "no administration would be permitted to manipulate the census for its own political gain."

Congressional Republicans have said Clinton wants to curry favor with minorities and poor people, groups that are historically undercounted and a traditional Democratic constituency.

The Clinton administration expects 67 percent of the U.S. population to return completed census forms, which will be mailed nationwide next year. The population would then be divided into census tracts of about 4,000 people that have "homogenous population characteristics, economic status and living conditions."

Census Bureau agents would then visit a randomly selected sample of the housing units that did not submit census forms. The sample's population numbers and characteristics would be added based on the statistical results.

The Clinton administration argued that a statistical estimate is needed for an accurate count. But the House Republicans and the individuals countered that the Census Act and the Constitution permit only an "actual enumeration," or head count, for the census.

Federal district courts in Washington and eastern Virginia agreed that the act prohibits statistical samples. The courts, having decided the case on statutory grounds, did not reach the issue of whether the Constitution permits statistics.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, writing for the majority, agreed with the lower courts and said Congress has prohibited the use of statistics ever since the first census in 1790, when lawmakers required census takers to swear to make "a just and perfect enumeration" of every person in their districts. While federal law permits statistics to be used to measure demographic data at other times, the Census Act expressly prohibits their use for "purposes of apportionment" of House members, O'Connor added.

The high court, like the district courts, did not address the issue of whether the Constitution bars statistics in calculating the census, having resolved the legal issue based on the federal law. Joining O'Connor's opinion were Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justices Anthony M. Kennedy, Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas.

In a vehement dissent, Justice John Paul Stevens said Congress in 1976 amended the Census Act to permit the type of statistical sampling the president wants to use next year. Stevens derided as "an unusual tour de force" the court's conclusion that the 1976 amendment did not change the federal government's authority with regard to the census.

"If the court is correct, prior to 1976 the commerce secretary could have used sampling for any census-related purpose except apportionment, and after 1976 he retained precisely the same authority," Stevens wrote. "Why, one must wonder, did Congress make this textual change in 1976?"

Joining Stevens were Justices Stephen G. Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and David H. Souter. Breyer also wrote separately to say the Census Act permits statistics to be used to complement a traditional head count but not to substitute for one.

O'Connor, in her majority opinion, alienated Scalia and Thomas in one part of her decision where she examined the legislative history of the Census Act. O'Connor, in further explaining why the Census Act bars statistics, wrote that no member of Congress during the debate on the 1976 revision to the law ever said the amendment would allow statistics to be part of the decennial population survey.

Scalia, an outspoken opponent

of the use of legislative history to determine what Congress intended, said such silence is meaningless.

"I join the opinion of the court, excluding, of course, its resort ... to what was said by the individual legislators and committees of legislators - or more precisely (and worse yet), what was not said by individual legislators and committees of legislators," Scalia wrote in comments that Thomas joined.

## Census 2000: Supreme Court Rules Against Statistical Sampling

Washington, Jan 25 (EFE).- The U.S. Supreme Court ruled on Monday that statistical sampling cannot be utilized for the 2000 census because it violates the Census Act.

The Supreme Court justices, in a vote of 5-4, ruled that "the Census Act prohibits the proposed uses of statistical sampling in calculating the population for purposes of apportionment," Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote for the court majority.

The Constitution calls for a census to be administered every 10 years. In 1990, the population of the United States totaled 249.5 million people, including 29.3 million African Americans and 22.6 million Hispanics.

The Democratic Party supports statistical sampling because it maintains that the 1990 census did not accurately count minorities and impoverished groups, which negatively impacts these groups' representation in Congress.

The same rhetoric is expressed by organizations like La Raza and the United League of Latin American Citizens who support a method that calculates the percentages of different ethnic groups based on the sampling of a geographic area.

Republicans oppose statistical sampling and have called for a stricter accounting of the population.

The Census Bureau estimates that in the United States there are currently about 271 million people, including 33 million African Americans and 31 million Hispanics.

An incomplete census of the Hispanic population in areas where they are prevalent could result in setbacks in the allocation of funds for education, medical care and other social services.

## California Biggest Loser in Census Struggle

Los Angeles, Jan 26 (EFE).- The State of California will suffer the greatest economic and political losses as a result of the Supreme Court decision to eliminate sampling for the year 2000 survey, analysts have said.

According to preliminary figures released by State Legislative Assembly spokesman Antonio Villaraigosa, California will lose "some three billion dollars in federal assistance in the next decade."

Analysts believe the last census failed to include more than four million people, mostly poor and minorities.

A scientific sampling, Villaraigosa said, allows for a more accurate count and primarily favors Democrats who rely on minority support.

The majority of Republicans were opposed to scientific sampling, alleging that it could be a target for political manipulation by minorities.

Villaraigosa said because the federal funds are allocated to each state in proportion to the population, California would receive less funding and "the amount would not reflect the true number of residents."

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## El Editor



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# Elway Not So Quick To Make Retirement Plans



By Ray Buck  
MIAMI -- Not so fast. I heard him. John Elway might not be quite ready to ride off into the sunset after all.

Elway, 38 and already "retired" in the minds of most of us, still won't say one way or the other what he plans to do, although Tuesday he sounded an awful lot like a man who would be willing to come back next season ... if the Denver Broncos can repeat as Super Bowl champions Sunday.

In fact, he sounded as if an unprecedented "three-peat" opportunity would downright ruin his plans for retirement.

"Yeah, no question, that would (put) a kink in it," Elway admitted at Media Day at Pro Player Stadium. "That's why I've said all along that I don't want to make a decision right now. That's why I want to weigh it ... (but winning Sunday) that would definitely change the thinking a little bit."

Terry Bradshaw and Joe Montana each won four Super Bowl titles. Troy Aikman has three Super Bowl rings. But none has won three Super Bowls in a row.

This hedging by Elway is quite a departure from the position he took last June when he decided not to retire after the Broncos' Super Bowl XXXII victory over Green Bay, emphasizing, "OK, one more year."

Nobody associated with the Broncos had any reason to think anything differently -- until now.

I mean, from owner Pat Bowlen to coach Mike Shanahan to Joe Six-Pack, especially following that heartfelt Mile High send-off two Sundays ago against the New York Jets, everyone felt that Elway was gone. We've watched Elway, listened to Elway, and heard Elway say he is 99.9 percent sure that he will retire after this Super Bowl.

Now we learn that this is exactly what Elway wanted us to hear.

"I said that I wouldn't be asked that question," Elway explained. "Now people keep asking me about that one-tenth of a percent."

Will he take as long as he did last year to decide what he'll do?

"I don't think so," Elway said. "I would like my heart to tell me one way or another quickly. Last year, I put it off because I didn't

want to think about (retirement). I wanted to enjoy the Super Bowl victory. I wanted to enjoy what comes along with being a world champion."

Last year, the Broncos were a franchise that had never won a Super Bowl, representing a conference that had lost 13 Super Bowls in a row.

"It's a lot easier now," Elway said. "It's so much more positive this year because I do have a Super Bowl ring."

With Terrell Davis in the same backfield, Elway knows he could have a second Super Bowl ring in less than five days, and a third Super Bowl ring about this time next year. He would be 39.

After the AFC championship game -- somebody actually counted -- Elway was asked 31 questions about retirement.

"(Retirement) is a question that won't go away," Elway said Tuesday. "I want people to understand that I never want to retire, but I know -- physically -- the day will come that I won't be able to do this anymore. I want to be able to chase my kids. I don't want to crawl to them."

With Davis, Elway no longer has to "win the game" for the Denver Broncos, and that in itself represents a career-extender. How much of one? Only Elway knows.

His backup is Bubby Brister, a 36-year-old journeyman. Atlanta QB Chris Chandler's backup in this Super Bowl is 44-year-old Steve DeBerg, who helped Elway break in with the Broncos in '83.

The NFL's QB talent level is the thinnest it has ever been, prompting Elway to observe: "No one is pushing us out. That's why we're able to hang around this long."

So if he retires or returns, it will be strictly Elway's call. But what until now seemed like a foregone conclusion has become a wait-and-see ... wait and see if the Broncos win.

"Which would make it easier (to reach a decision) -- if you won or you lost?" a reporter asked Elway.

"It would be much easier if we won," he replied, "because I don't want to lose this game."

Suddenly you get the feeling that Elway would like to be in Atlanta a year from now ... answering retirement questions in Super Bowl XXXIV.

# Falcons Chandler Rises Out of the Shadows

By Mike Lurie

Eight days ago, quarterback Chris Chandler walked with an unassuming gait down a hallway in the basement of the Metrodome. There were 30 minutes to kickoff as he dodged a reporter or two who had sneaked downstairs to access a pay phone. Chandler's road-white Atlanta Falcons jersey was pristine and, as usual, his shoulders were stooped.

Now if you spot John Elway under similar circumstances, there comes with him an aura. Particularly in conference championship games, where Elway has staked a reputation for remarkable fourth-quarter comebacks. There have been 47 in his career. The most famous being 'The Drive' against Cleveland in the 1986 AFC Championship Game, a 98-yard march that forced overtime and helped vault the Broncos into the Super Bowl.

Chandler had no such history. He was embarking on the first conference championship game of an 11-year career that had included exactly zero postseason appearances before 1998. It figured to be the end of his year, given that the Minnesota Vikings were 11-point favorites.

But the man nicknamed "Crystal Chandelier" because of the continuous injuries he'd sustained during his career orchestrated a drive Elway would be proud of and launched the Dirty Bird into the nation's consciousness.

CHANDLER USED THE SAME EFFICIENCY and guile as Elway had on so many occasions for a late touchdown drive to force overtime against the Vikings. It was 71 yards of beauty, the capper to a day in which he outperformed Minnesota's Randall Cunningham by completing 27 of 43 passes for 340 yards. Not to be outdone in overtime, Chandler marched the Falcons 70 yards to set up Morten Andersen's 38-yard winning field goal.

"That ranks right up there with the drive we had in Cleveland," said Falcons coach Dan Reeves, who presided over the Elway drive against the Browns. "Chris did a great job. And the pass to Terance (Mathis, for the touchdown to force overtime), he didn't have much of an area to throw it in and he drilled it in there."

Elway has the resume: No. 1 pick from Stanford, stubbornly drafted by the Baltimore Colts, who had to trade him to Denver

amid Elway's insistence he'd sooner play in the New York Yankees' farm system than for the late Bob Irsay. Since he's played in four Super Bowls, including a title last year after three futile attempts, to highlight a career that will take him from Denver to Canton.

It could be argued that Chandler has a resume, too, but it kind of reads like that of a truck driver.

Follow this map, if you will. A 1988 third-round draft pick from the University of Washington, with a strong arm and mind but questionable durability, lands in Indianapolis. The '88 Colts go 9-7. That's the last winning season Chandler sees until this year's 14-2 Falcons. He goes from Indy to Tampa Bay to Arizona, then moves from the Rams to Houston.

THE FALCONS TRADED FOR HIM two years ago, sending a fourth- and sixth-round draft pick to the Oilers. Atlanta coach Dan Reeves recognized that given the right support, Chandler can be as good as any quarterback in the league. That wasn't an easy sell considering Chandler had never survived an entire 16-game season.

His fragility led to his nickname and his new teammates greeted the news of Chandler's arrival with something between a shrug and general exasperation.

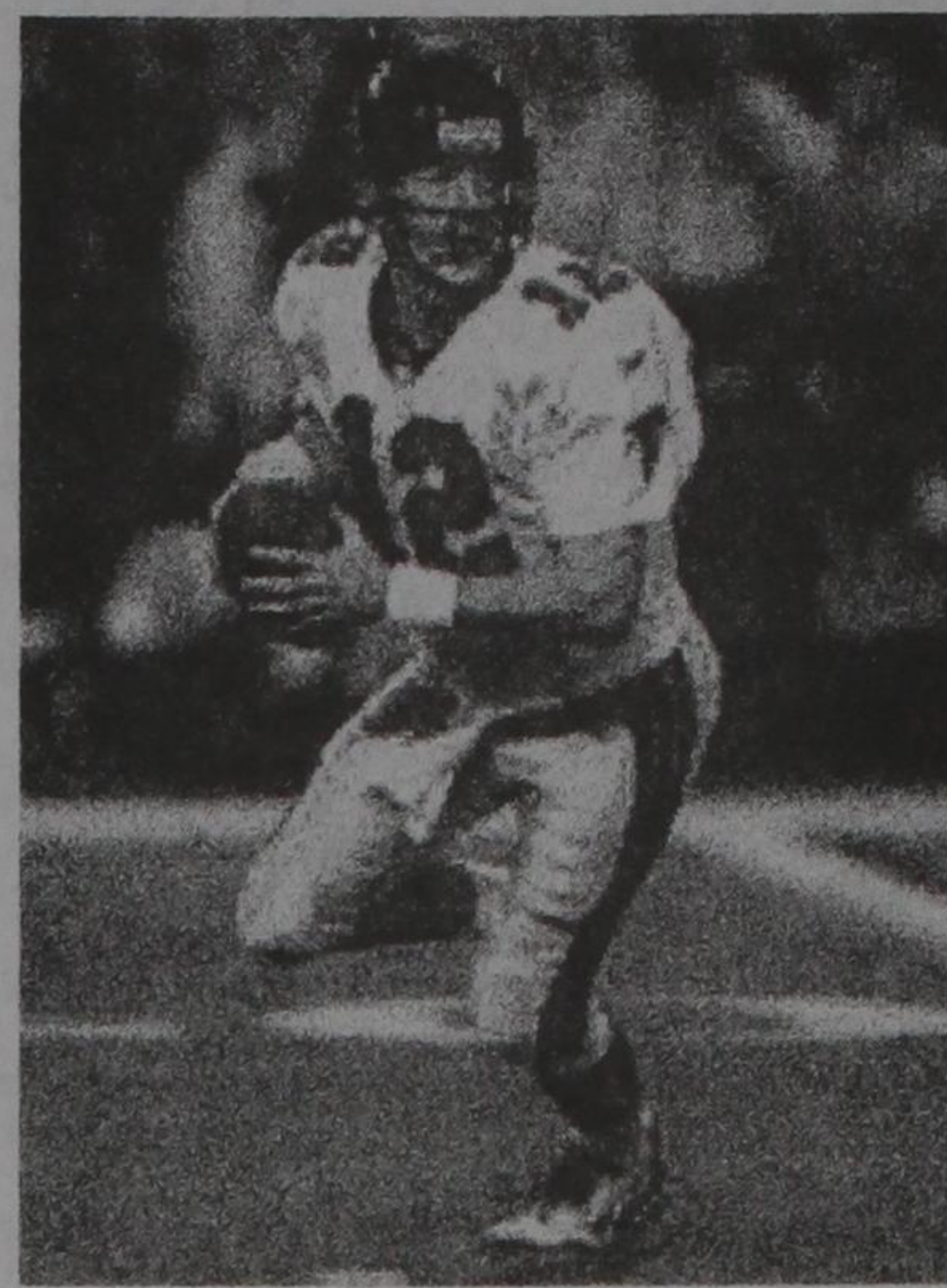
"When he arrives here, we're all like, 'We traded for him? He's going to be our quarterback?'" said running back Jamal Anderson.

Chandler quickly won them over. The Falcons were 7-3 in games Chandler started and finished last year. But injuries cropped up again as a thin offensive line left him exposed. Chandler at various points had a bruised sternum, a high ankle sprain and two concussions.

"I had no idea he was this good," Robinson told Sports Illustrated last summer. "Chris throws such a beautiful, accurate ball and does a lot of little things that Brett (Favre) does. Keeping him healthy will be paramount."

Staying mostly healthy this season, Chandler has put up better numbers than Denver's future Hall of Famer. His 100.9 quarterback rating was seven points better than Elway's.

Not until now has Chandler had such a solid offensive line



Chris Chandler finally has found an offense he can excel in. (Allsport)

around him. Some of his supporters include father-in-law John Brodie, the 49ers' fixture at quarterback for 16 years beginning in 1957. Brodie has said his son-in-law was one of those players people were just counting on to fail.

"It's still hard to realize I've gotten this far," he said after the Falcons ensured their Super Bowl appearance. He said later, "It was a very special thing ... the way we won that football game. You look back at the way our season went and this game symbolizes our season. We had to overcome a lot of things to win."

THE ONLY THING MORE UNLIKELY than the Falcons' appearance in this Super Bowl is that Chandler has led them here.

But, then, perhaps expectations would have been different had Chandler simply played with better support. Now he has that in the form of a strong offensive line and the NFC's top rusher in Anderson. Wide receivers Mathis and Tony Martin know how to find openings. And Tight end O.J. Santiago is mentally tough. He got over the fumble that led to a Vikings score in the first half and came back with a pivotal reception in the Falcons' overtime field-goal drive.

"That is the Chris Chandler that we are used to," Santiago said in Minneapolis. "Chris Chandler doesn't make mistakes."

He finds the open man, and he hits them. He has been doing it all year. He is a tough guy. He is a good quarterback. We know that in Atlanta.

Chandler's cool under duress might be his most impressive quality. And the reason why he has led the league in red-zone passing the past two seasons.

"It's like a round of golf. With any shot, you can lose the whole round by hitting one bad shot. You never know when that one bad shot or good shot may come," Chandler said. "It's the same with football. Whether it's the last drive or the third drive, they're all important. I think treating them all the same and not getting caught up in the fact that it's the last drive is important. You work on the drive play by play and don't worry about the situation."

ALL THAT'S KNOWN NOW is that he is a special breed. There is something to be said for the survivor.

Last week, three days after the upset of the Vikings, Chandler and his wife, Diane, were set to have their third daughter. But first, while Diane was in labor, Chandler honored a commitment to stick to an appearance on Live with Regis and Kathie Lee.

How many Super Bowl quarterbacks can claim that kind of calm under such circumstances?

# Scouting Report

By Derek Harper

The numbers on the Denver passing game are pretty straight forward. The Broncos come out firing, outscoring opponents 144-54 in the first quarter this season. Much of that is due to a passing game ranked No. 7 in the NFL with 226.5 yards per game this season. Denver's 30 touchdowns through the air ranked second in the AFC.

John Elway will try to make a Michael Jordan-esque departure, winning one more title before riding into retirement sunset. If he does so, it will come against one of the few defenses capable of containing the Broncos. Atlanta boasts the league's No. 2 overall defense, with the passing defense ranked 10th, doing it playing a primarily man-to-man defense.

The quarterback Elway's "I love you" statement following the AFC title game was likely his farewell to Denver fans at Mile High Stadium.

At 38, he is showing signs of deteriorating skills and has

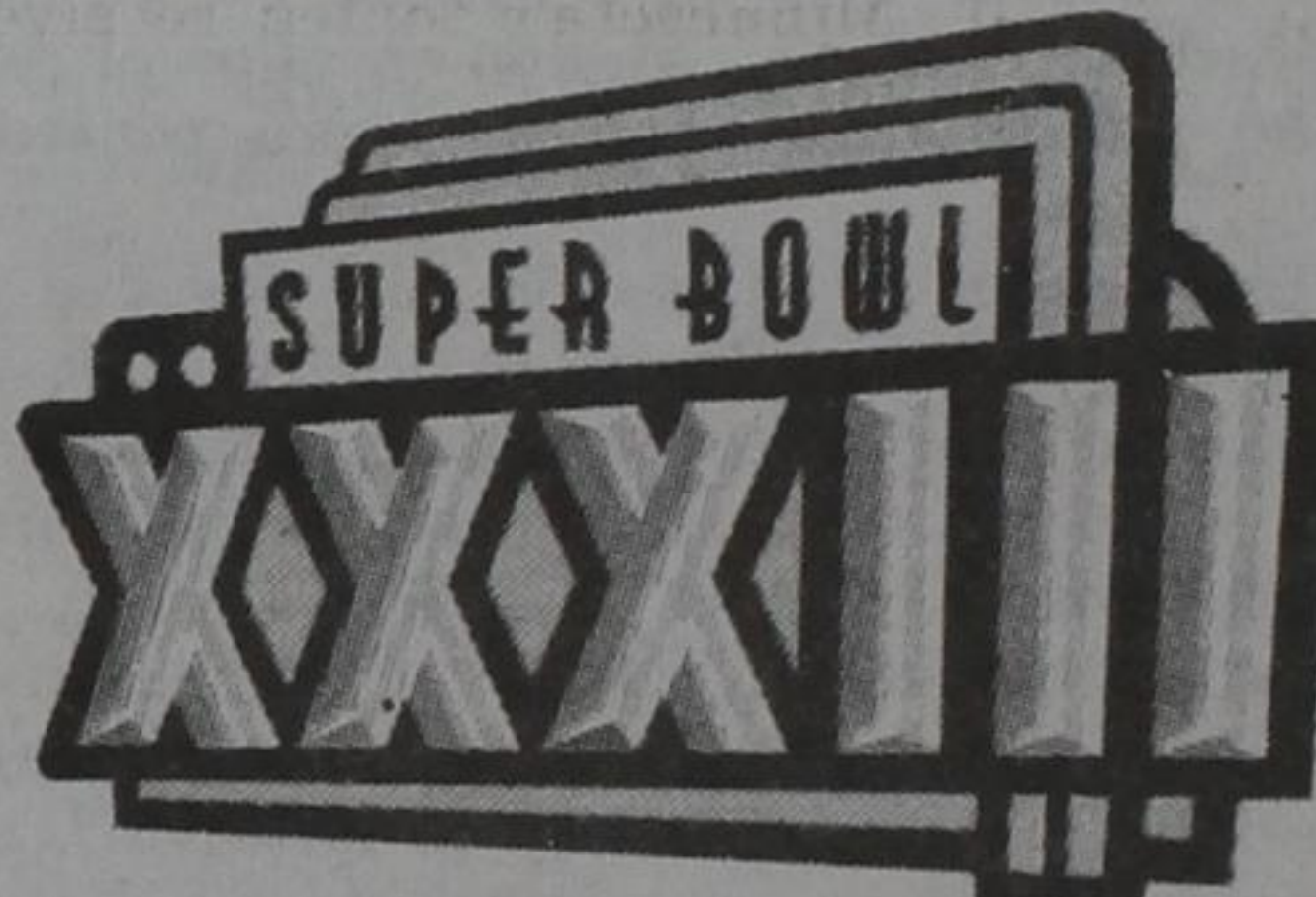
struggled down the stretch. He finished the regular season with a 93.0 QB rating, but has dipped to 79.2 in the playoffs. His 6.2 yards per attempt was the worst among any quarterback in the conference championships and he failed to get Denver on the board in the first half against the Jets.

It's a symptom of the slow-down of Denver's dominance this season. In the Broncos' consecutive losses in December, Elway completed just 32 of 72 passes and threw 3 interceptions with no touchdowns.

If he hasn't bought Terrell Davis a 10-room mansion by now, shame on him.

Davis' presence is the driving force behind the entire offense and allows Elway live off play-action passes. With Davis a threat to run on any down, Elway rarely has to deal with schemes predicated on stopping the pass.

One of his biggest assets remains his scrambling ability. He might not turn it upfield as quick as he once did, but Elway was



only sacked 18 times this season - the least of any quarterback in the league with at least 12 starts.

## Up front DENVER

Denver lost 40 percent of its line from last year's championship team, with only two players starting in the same spot -- and arguably got better. Broncos quarterbacks were sacked only 25 times, fifth best in the NFL.

Gone: Left tackle Gary Zimmerman (Retired).

In: Tony Jones shifted from right tackle.

Gone: Right guard Brian Habib (Free agent).

In: Second-year pro Dan Neil.

Gone: David Diaz-Infante (Knee injury cost him starting job).

In: Harry Swayne took over for Jones at right tackle.

The biggest benefactor of the new arrangement was Jones, who moved back to the pivotal left tackle position. He protects Elway's blind side and claims he wasted last season on the right side.

Left guard Mark Schlereth and center Tom Nalen have 15 years of experience between them and are the only starters on the offensive line in the same position as last season.

Hogs or snobs?: The '99 Bron-

continued on page 5

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**From Page 4**

cos' line won't soon be confused for the Redskins' "Hogs" of the 1980s. The line was fined a total of \$5,500 in kangaroo court for various infractions during the season. The money was put into a slush fund used to have three stretch limousines pick up the players, drive them to Miami's famous Joe's Stone Crab restaurant and then out for a night on South Beach Monday.

The delinquents who contributed to the party (in fines): Schlereth (\$1,115), Swayne (\$670), tackle Matt Lepsis (\$640), offensive line coach Alex Gibbs (\$620), Nalen (\$535), tackle Trey Teague (\$355), Neil (\$320), guard Chris Banks (\$285), Jones (\$205) and center K.C. Jones (\$130). Jones was fined another \$500 for slipping the story to the Denver Post.

**ATLANTA**

The Falcons boast one of the best defensive lines in the game. The front four combined for 2912 sacks and Atlanta finished No. 16 in the NFL with 38 sacks during the regular season.

Left defensive end Lester Archambeau is the leader of the group. The only player on either team to register double-digits in sacks (10), Archambeau's career has taken off since switching from tackle before the '97 season. He is complemented on the left end by Chuck Smith, who had a career-high 12 sacks in '97 and was second on the team with 8 1/2 this season and led the Falcons with 36 quarterback pressures.

Drafted No. 12 overall by Atlanta, Brooking appeared in 15 games this season and led the team with eight tackles in the NFC title game. Tackle Shane Dronett has extra incentive to wreak havoc on the Broncos. He spent four seasons with the Broncos before a knee injury limited his playing time in Denver. Reeves, who drafted Dronett in '92, rescued his career by bringing him to Atlanta, where he has flourished with 47 tackles and 61/2 sacks this season.

After becoming the first tackle in team history to record double-digits in sacks last season (101/2), left tackle Travis Hall dropped to 41/2 this season.

**THE LINEBACKERS OFFER A HOST** of support. Cornelius Bennett is seeking his first ring in his fifth trip to the Super Bowl and led the Falcons with 92 tackles this season.

Right behind Bennett was Jessie Tuggle with 85 tackles and three sacks. A native Georgian who attended Valdosta State, Tuggle is one of only 14 carryovers since Reeves took control two seasons ago and will play in his fifth Pro Bowl this year.

Bennett and Tuggle have taken second-year player Henri Crockett under their wing. Earning a reputation as a big hitter, Crockett made 28 tackles during the regular season.

Rookie backup Keith Brooking is the first native Georgian selected in the first round by the Falcons (No. 12 overall, Georgia Tech). From the small town of Senoia -- about 900 people 40 miles outside Atlanta -- Brooking was provided a personal escort to Falcons headquarters after getting drafted.

He's made an early impact, finishing the season with 31 tackles and led the team with eight tackles in the NFC title game.

Grounded by Chuck Smith's resume includes a five-sack, three-forced-fumbles performance against New Orleans and All-Pro tackle Willie Roaf in '97.

**Downfield DENVER**

Set up by Elway's play-action at the line, Denver's receivers often find themselves in man-to-man coverage.

That is especially pleasing to tight end Shannon Sharpe, who leaves defenses in a quandary. Too quick for most linebackers and too big for cornerbacks, Sharpe will line up in both the traditional tight end spot and as a third receiver. He is a favorite target of Elway's in third-and-short situations.

Buchanan rendered Randy Moss useless in the second half of the NFC title game. If Smith or McCaffrey start off strong against Ronnie Bradford, Buchanan will shift to cover the hot receiver in the NFL for tight ends with 64 receptions, Sharpe also tied Ed McCaffrey for the team lead with 10 touchdown catches.

Cut by two other teams, McCaffrey flourished in his fourth season in Denver. He set career highs in receptions (64), yards (1,053) and touchdowns (10). He leads the Broncos with six catches for 118 yards in the playoffs and will start in his first Pro Bowl this year.

Rod Smith is the shortest of the bunch at 6-0, but led the team with 86 receptions and 1,222 yards in the regular season. He has started 38 consecutive games and became the Broncos' most productive receiver after working his way up the ladder as a rookie free agent in '94.

Style points: Receivers Willie Green and Marcus Nash aren't trying to blend in with the masses in Miami. The pair combined for 20 catches during the regular season, apparently good enough to cruise South Florida in a \$1,900-a-day Lamborghini Diablo convertible.

Mr. Ed: McCaffrey began his career with the Giants, where he spent three seasons before being cut by then-New York coach Dan Reeves before the '94 season. He then joined the 49ers for a season, where he picked up his first ring in Super Bowl XXIX.

**ATLANTA**

Defensive coordinator Rich Brooks has no qualms about leaving his cornerbacks in man-to-man coverage with any receiving tandem in the league. With the season on the line, the Falcons allowed only seven points in the second half and overtime in the NFC title game, and none of Minnesota's touted receivers had more than 75 yards.

Ray Buchanan has emerged as one of the best corners in the

league. He was tied for second in the NFC with seven interceptions and carries the nickname "Big Play Ray" for his propensity for getting his hands on the ball. After Randy Moss caught a touchdown and 71 yards worth of passes on the opposite side of the field, Buchanan switched over to shut Moss down to one catch for four yards for the remainder of the title game.

The other corner position will likely feature a combination of Ronnie Bradford and Michael Booker. Bradford started 10 games this season, but missed the first playoff game with a slight shoulder separation. Booker has started in his place during the playoffs and his 6-2 frame makes him the Falcons' hardest-hitting corner.

Brooks said the 5-10 Bradford likely will regain his starting position for the Super Bowl, but will move over in the nickel package to make room for Booker. Bradford was second on the team with four interceptions and the Falcons ranked No. 10 in the NFL with 19 picks as a team.

Cut throat: Bradford is yet another with ties to both teams. He spent three seasons in Denver and was moved to safety his final season before being cut by coach Mike Shanahan in '95. He spent a season in Arizona before joining former teammate Dronett in Atlanta.

Sing-a-long with Ray: Buchanan, who has already guaranteed a Falcons victory, can be found in music stores around the country. He has a song featured on the "NFL Jams" CD, recorded his first album called "Favor" in Dallas and has worked with the Bengals' Ashley Ambrose and group Xscape on other projects.

**Last line of defense**

Atlanta safety Eugene Robinson will be playing in his third consecutive Super Bowl after signing as a free agent from Green Bay before the season.

The 16-year veteran is the opposite of Denver safety Steve Atwater. Not known for bone-jarring big hits, Robinson made his reputation with his hands and savvy. His five interceptions this season bringing his career total to 53.

He will be joined in the backfield by strong safety William White, third on the team with 67 tackles.

Bradford, who replaced the injured Devin Bush against the Vikings, will probably play in some nickel packages. Bush is expected to recover from a pulled hamstring and will back up both safety positions.

Crazy shirts: Bush owns a T-shirt business with friends from college at Florida State. What is the selling point? "3 And Out" -- Bush's defensive slogan -- is on all the shirts.

**Would It Be Too Much To Ask For ...**

By Ray Buck

OMIAMI -- Already we're desperately searching for something to write about. Something new, something fresh, something other than the exchange of insult and animosity between a couple of touchy coaches who used to work together seven years ago.

Welcome to the Miami Hyatt, main media center for roughly 3,200 accredited reporters and photographers from Tokyo to Tuscaloosa, where everyone receives a bag, a pin, a pen and an official Super Bowl XXXIII iron-on patch, just in case all this sitting around waiting for something to happen wears a hole in our Levis.

Maybe it wouldn't be too much to ask if:

Atlanta's Dan Reeves and Denver's Mike Shanahan would settle this little tiff of theirs once and for all. They could meet Monday -- it's a slow news day for us -- outside The NFL Experience at Pro Player Stadium, and square off, nose-to-nose, with Shanahan being allowed to stand on his Broncos playbook to make it even, then engage in a 60-minute, name-calling duel to the death.

Nobody would gloat over the estimated \$350-400 million that South Florida merchants stand to gain from this week's economic windfall, as long as there are still people sleeping on the streets and living under viaducts in downtown Miami.

Somebody would just hand Terrell Davis his second consecutive Super Bowl MVP award before the game, so that those of us on deadline Sunday night can give the story its proper due. No one has won the NFL MVP and Super Bowl MVP in the same year since Steve Young in 1994. Davis would join a very exclusive club: Young (1994), Emmitt Smith (1993), Joe Montana (1989), Terry Bradshaw (1978) and Bart Starr (1966).

**JUST ONE PLAYER ON THE** Falcons would say, "We haven't gotten any respect all year, but that's OK."

Just one player on the Broncos would say, "It's nice to be here, but I wish it could be Al Davis and the Oakland Raiders."

John Elway would arrive at Tuesday's media day and announce his retirement. He's the

only one who isn't saying it.

Jamal Anderson would come out any day this week and retire the "Dirty Bird."

Everyone in the media would take a vow not to ask one player, "If you were a tree, what kind of tree would you be?"

Somebody would, just once, watch the Super Bowl at home alone. Statistics say that 95 percent of Super Bowl TV viewers are joined by at least one other person, while the average number at a Super Bowl party is 17. Statistics also say that anti-cid sales increase 20 percent the day after a Super Bowl. Honest.

Cher would sing the national anthem normally. Nobody does that anymore.

**ATLANTA'S RAY BUCHANAN, WHO "GUARANTEED"** victory on HBO's Inside the NFL, would either stick by his prediction or concoct a wild story of how he was kidnapped by aliens and a clone was sent in his place to make such a dumb statement.

Anybody in the media who

asks a player the question, "What is the stupidest question you've been asked?" would be immediately stripped of his working credential or ... worse yet, banned from going to South Beach all week.

Everyone I know would not ask me for a Super Bowl ticket. Not only are Super Bowl tickets very expensive, but they're very unavailable to the average fan -- or sportswriter. Face value is \$325 ... up from \$275 a year ago ... up from \$100 at Super Bowl XXIII.

Denver's Ray Crockett, whose only response to Buchanan's Namathesque prediction was, "I don't comment on stupidity," that he wasn't talking for all the players on both teams here. Otherwise, it's going to be a very, very long week for all of us.

Then again, how many quarterbacks reach the Super Bowl with Chandler's track record? There is no empirical answer to that question. But, heavens to Jim Plunkett, it happens.

**Texas Tech Baseball Alumni Game Slated For Saturday**

LUBBOCK, Texas - The Texas Tech baseball program will play its annual Texas Tech Baseball Alumni game Saturday at 3 p.m. at Dan Law Field. The game is expected to see the return of 32 former Texas Tech baseball players.

Last year the current Texas Tech team defeated the Tech alumni team 16-6. The Red Raiders exploded for 11 runs in the second inning en route to its victory. "It's a great game for everyone involved, old guys and new guys," Texas Tech head coach Larry Hays said. "It's great for our new guys to see the older guys and see the tradition that's been established and it's good for the old guys to get a chance to see what's happening with the program."

Hays is also considering a home run hitting derby. Further details will be announced later.

Expected to highlight Texas Tech's list of alumni players include current Major League

Baseball players Mark Brandenburg (Texas Rangers) and Travis Smith (Milwaukee Brewers) along with Clint Bryant (one of two players at Texas Tech to have their jersey retired), Texas Tech home run champion Joe Dillon and Texas Tech strikeout king Monty Ward.

Admission for the Texas Tech Alumni Game is free. The game is sandwiched between two Texas Tech basketball games. The Red Raider men's basketball team plays at 12:45 p.m. while the Lady Raiders play at 7:00 p.m. in the Coliseum.

**Have A Safe & Happy Super Bowl Week-End! Go Falcons**

**Texas Tech Softball Games FREE for Lubbock Little Leaguers**

LUBBOCK, Texas - Lubbock Little Leaguers will receive free admission to all February Texas Tech baseball games and the entire Texas Tech softball schedule, the Texas Tech athletic department announced Monday. Little Leaguers will receive a free coupon when they sign-up for Little League play. Seating is reserved for the Little Leaguers down the

third base line of Dan Law Field and is free for all Little League participants eighth grade and under along with presentation of a coupon.

Admission is also free for all Texas Tech softball games. The softball team will play its games this season at Rigley Field on the Texas Tech campus, just south of the Texas Tech Medical Center.

Tickets for the entire 31 regular season home schedule at Dan Law Field are now available for \$125. Season tickets for faculty and staff members are \$100. To order tickets or more information, please call the Texas Tech ticket office at 888-GO BIG 12 or at (806) 742-4412.

There is also a Big 12 Conference package available for \$90. This package includes five three-game weekend conference series and 15 total home games. Big 12 schools visiting Texas Tech this season include Kansas (Feb. 26-28), Texas A&M (March 12-14), Iowa State (April 2-4), Nebraska (April 30-May 2) and Oklahoma State (May 14-16). Tickets for individual games will also go on sale by order following the first home series' against Howard (Feb. 5-7). Individual game tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students.

Texas Tech which finished 44-20 last year, won the Big 12 Tournament title and appeared in an NCAA Regional for the fourth consecutive year, will enter the season nationally ranked 13th by Collegiate Baseball, 19th by Baseball America and 20th by USA Baseball Weekly (coaches' poll). The final college baseball poll, selected by The Sporting News, has yet to be released. Two All America players in catcher Josh Bard and righthanded pitcher Shane Wright return to the squad.

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### "EL NORTE" Cumple 15 Aniversario en Festival Sundance

Los Angeles (California), 26 ene (EFE).- "El Norte", el primer largometraje de Gregory Nava y considerada una de las películas más importantes de la cinematografía hispana en Estados Unidos, celebró su 15 aniversario en el festival de Sundance, que tiene lugar estos días en la localidad de Park City.

La película también fue el primer filme salido de los laboratorios de Sundance hace 15 años así que el principal festival de cine independiente de Estados Unidos ha decidido honrar esta fecha.

Además de la proyección de una nueva copia de este largometraje, que centra su mirada en los emigrantes hispanos y en su ansia de emigrar al "norte", el filme de Nava recibió otros dos regalos de cumpleaños.

En primer lugar su reestreno en el festival será acompañado de una nueva distribución de "El Norte" a nivel nacional.

Además su director ha firmado un contrato por dos años con New Line que le permitirá producir una innumerable cantidad de películas, dirigidas al público hispano, mediante su compañía "El Norte Productions".

Todos los proyectos estarán escritos y dirigidos por Nava, que indicó sobre la periodicidad de sus planes que espera escribir y dirigir un filme al año y producir otro que ofrezca nuevas oportunidades a los talentos de su comunidad.

"Cuando "El Norte" fue estrenada, las compañías estadounidenses no tenían la capacidad de llegar al público hispano. Ahora, tras el éxito de filmes como "Selena" o "Mi familia" es conocido el gran potencial que el mercado latino tiene en la taquilla", señaló.

Entre los proyectos de Nava está la adaptación de la novela de Victor Villaseñor "Rain of gold", un drama fronterizo que protagonizará Jennifer López, una comedia sobre las diferentes culturas de Los Angeles y una historia sobre el equipo de beisbol de Monterey, México.

Nava aún cuenta con dos proyectos que está desarrollando en los estudios Warner y que incluyen la adaptación de "A tale of two cities", de Charles Dickens.

"En una era en la que la población hispana y su lengua forma parte de la cultura estadounidense, "El Norte" es más importante que nunca", afirmó Amir Malin, presidente de Artisan, compañía encargada de la reedición de el filme.

"El Norte" aspiró a un Oscar en 1984 y al premio al mejor guión del sindicato de guionistas de Estados Unidos, además de formar parte del registro nacional de filmes del Congreso.

## LOS LEGISLADORES LATINOS MAYORMENTE APOYAN LA PROPUESTA DE CLINTON

Por Patricia Guadalupe

Por lo general, los legisladores hispanos del Congreso de Estados Unidos están reaccionando favorablemente hacia el plan del Presidente Clinton de asegurar la solvencia económica del sistema de Seguro Social mediante la inversión de una parte de los fondos en el bolsa de valores de Estados Unidos.

Entre sus partidarios más fuertes se halla Lucille Roybal-Allard, presidenta del Grupo Congresional Hispano (CHC en inglés). La demócrata de Los Angeles, con 85 por ciento del distrito siendo población latina, enfatiza la realidad de que "la protección del Seguro Social es un asunto importante para nuestra comunidad".

Casi el 90 por ciento de los ingresos de los hispanos de 65 años y mayores se derivan del Seguro Social, ella precisa, señalando rápidamente que la viabilidad económica del sistema depende cada vez más de los aportes procedentes de los salarios de la creciente población hispana.

El asunto del Seguro Social fue el punto central del informe de Clinton el 19 de enero sobre el Estado de la Unión. El plan del presidente pide que se transfieran \$2,700 billones de los \$4,000 billones proyectados como superávit del gobierno durante los próximos 15 años al sistema de Seguro Social, y que se invierta hasta la cuarta parte de los fondos en la bolsa de valores de los Estados Unidos.

La propuesta es parte del presupuesto para el año fiscal 2000 que el presidente presentará al Congreso el 1x de febrero.

"Esto ya está pagado dentro del presupuesto", destaca Xavier Becerra, predecesor de Roybal-Allard en la presidencia del CHC. "Lo que el presidente propone puede lograrse si el Congreso está dispuesto".

Como Roybal-Allard, Becerra es un demócrata de Los Angeles, y con un electorado hispano de 61.4 por ciento.

Clinton dice que uno de sus motivos principales para invertir parte de los fondos del sistema de Seguro Social al mercado de valores es el de incrementar las ganancias de los fondos del sistema.

Como solamente sólo los primeros \$60,000 de los ingresos anuales de una persona se consideran sujetos a impuestos del Seguro Social, los trabajadores de menores sueldos llevan una carga mayor. Así, los últimos tienen mayores oportunidades para invertir sus ingresos más allá del límite de \$60,000. Hasta la fecha, las propuestas del Congreso para aumentar la cantidad sujeta al impuesto de Seguro Social han sido infructuosas.

Los republicanos hispanos también están dispuestos a dar consideración al plan del presidente.

"Hay una posibilidad de trabajar con él", dice Henry Bonilla, de San Antonio, Texas. "Todo el mundo quiere salvar al sistema sin aumentar los impuestos sobre la nómina. La decisión sobre el modo de invertir en la bolsa de valores será examinada. No será una sola persona quien adopte la decisión".

Bonilla recientemente participó en la Conferencia de la Casa Blanca sobre el Seguro Social, donde se revisaron las propuestas para evitar una posible quiebra de dicho sistema.

Pero Alan Greenspan, presidente de la Junta de Reserva Federal, no está de acuerdo con el presidente. El primero comentó el 20 de enero durante una audiencia congresional que, aún cuando él apoyaba a la propuesta de Clinton para situar casi los dos tercios del superávit federal en el sistema del Seguro Social, el poner una parte de los fondos en el mercado de valores podría provocar problemas y amenazar a la economía. El gobierno federal sería el propietario de entre el 4 por ciento y el 5 por ciento del valor de las acciones en Wall Street.

Greenspan dijo que él teme que las "presiones políticas" podrían llevar a inversiones ineficaces y a una tasa más baja de ganancias.

El Presidente Clinton propuso también reservar el 15 por ciento del superávit -- \$650,000 millones -- para el sistema de Medicare, el programa federal de cuidado médico para los estadounidenses de edad avanzada con ingresos fijos.

Como un porcentaje de la población en general, los hispanos de edad avanzada están realmente subrepresentados en el programa, dicen los expertos en salud latina.

"Muchos latinos ni siquiera conocen del programa, y el gobierno necesita comunicarse más", dice Jane Delgado, presidenta presidenta de la Coalición de Organizaciones Hispanas de Salud y Servicios Humanos. La Coalición ha estado desarrollando varios programas con la Agencia de Financiamiento de la Atención a la Salud del Departamento Federal de Salud.

(Patricia Guadalupe es editora del semanario nacional Hispanic Link Weekly Report. Pueden comunicarse con ella en 1420 "N" St. NW., Washington, DC. 20005, o por e-mail mediante: zapoteco(AT)aol.com)

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## Hispanos Y Afroamericanos Unidos En Defensa Sammy Sosa

Nueva York, 21 ene (EFE).- Representantes de la comunidad dominicana y afroamericana defendieron hoy, en una rueda de prensa, al jugador de béisbol Sammy Sosa de los ataques que hizo en su contra un conocido líder negro de Nueva York.

En la conferencia participaron la embajadora de la República Dominicana ante Naciones Unidas, Cristina Aguiar y el cónsul de este país en Nueva York, Bienvenido Pérez.

También asistieron el asambleísta Adriano Espallat y el concejal Guillermo Linares, ambos de origen dominicano; el reverendo Al Sharpton y el congresista Charles Rangel, así como varios empresarios dominicanos.

La controversia surgió en Nueva York esta semana, después de que el líder afroamericano Roy Innis, presidente del Congreso por la Igualdad Racial, criticara a la "estrella" del equipo "Cachorros" de Chicago, al que acusó de haber exigido compensaciones a cambio de asistir a una cena en honor a Martin Luther King.

Según Innis, Sosa exigió un avión privado que lo transportara desde República Dominicana hasta Las Vegas para asistir al combate de boxeo de Mike Tyson y 50.000 dólares para la fundación que preside.

Innis expuso sus críticas durante la cena, en la que varias personas, entre ellas el jugador, debían recibir un premio.

Aguiar dijo que se sintió ofendida por Innis, ya que éste le ha-

bía pedido que fuera copresidenta del evento, y que había usado el nombre de Sosa "como señoelo" para atraer público al acto, cuya entrada costaba 150 dólares.

Indicó que Innis nunca le informó de que había problemas con la asistencia de Sosa y que se sorprendió con los comentarios que hizo el afroamericano durante la cena, porque no respetó su rango como representante de su país ante Naciones Unidas ni a otros miembros de la comunidad dominicana presentes.

Todos ellos abandonaron el hotel donde se celebraba la cena tras los comentarios de Innis contra el pelotero, que, según la embajadora, trascendieron las fronteras de su país.

Por su parte, el asambleísta Adriano Espallat, que convocó la conferencia de prensa junto a la Cámara de Comercio Dominicana-Americana, señaló que Innis ha ofendido tanto a la comunidad dominicana, como a la negra e hispana en general.

La celebración conjunta de una rueda de prensa de representantes dominicanos y afroamericanos tenía, además, como objetivo demostrar que ambas comunidades están unidas.

El congresista Rangel aprovechó la ocasión para invitar a

Sosa a visitar Harlem, cuya comunidad es afroamericana e hispana.

Los participantes han acordado que enviarán una carta a los patrocinadores de la cena, firmada por todos, para exponer sus puntos de vista.

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proporcionan las representaciones más inclusivas y positivas de su comunidad. De modo que es comprensible el que los ingresos por concepto de publicidad de la televisión, los periódicos, las revistas y la radio hispanas hayan experimentado aumentos anuales impresionantes en este decenio. Univisión, la red de televisión en español, es la No. 1 -- superando a las teleaudiencias en inglés -- en los mercados de Los Angeles y Miami.

En muchos casos el idioma es exclusivamente el español, pero no siempre. No todos los hispanos hablan español, de modo que continúan surgiendo formatos bilingües y en inglés. Hay actualmente el doble de estaciones de radio en español que las que había hace cinco años. Aparecen nuevas publicaciones casi mensualmente. Un fenómeno interesante es la "revista Low Rider", una de las pocas de la industria que deriva continuamente la mayor parte de sus ganancias de las ventas individuales antes que de los anuncios o las suscripciones.

El mercado de consumo hispano está "caliente" debido a varias características claves: Es el segmento étnico de crecimiento más rápido en el país. Los hispanos tienen las familias de mayor tamaño y son considerablemente más jóvenes que el promedio nacional. Tienen el mayor porcentaje de personas en la fuerza laboral -- y gastan dinero.

Los hispanos comprendían el 70.9 por ciento de los compradores de casas por primera vez en 1997. También tienden a comprar más productos de calidad y son más leales a las marcas de fábrica. ¿A quién no le gustaría este perfil de sus consumidores?

El juntar a estas tres dinámicas nos ofrece una gran oportunidad para adentrarnos en el nuevo milenio atrayendo alguna atención positiva a nuestra comunidad. Nuestro surgimiento proyectado como la minoría más numerosa, que es una contingencia electoral a tomar con seriedad, y el usar nuestra fuerza económica, podrían traernos un nuevo respeto y una nueva atención.

El reto para los hispanos es sacar el mejor provecho posible de esta oportunidad para llegar a ser conocidos y para mejorar lo que ha sido nuestra posición de segunda clase en la sociedad de los Estados Unidos.

(José Armas, de Albuquerque, Nuevo México, es un comentarista y veterano autor.)

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