

HISPANICS ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY ON CONGRESSIONAL STAFFS

By Joseph Torres

Hispanic congressional staffers are barely visible working in Washington, D.C., or in the state offices of U.S. senators. Most hold low-level, low-paying positions, according to a survey disseminated Dec. 8 by the Congressional Management Foundation.

Sixty of the 100 Senate offices responded to the survey, which found only 2.5 percent of their staffers are Hispanics. That figure dipped from 3.5 percent in 1995.

Overall, Congress employs some 16,000 persons on its member staffs and committees. Of those, 6,000 work for the Senate, 10,000 for the House.

Based on a 1996 CMF survey that received no press attention at the time, the figure is better on the House side -- 5.2 percent.

The House record is higher because there are 18 Hispanics among the 435 voting representatives there. None serve in the 100-member Senate. But both figures remain extremely low for a group that constitutes nearly 12 percent of the nation's population.

Cuauhtémoc Figueroa, director of policy and communication for the League of United Latin American Citizens and long-time aide to Rep. George Brown Jr. (D-Calif.), points out that the number of Hispanics working on the hill is even smaller when committee staffs are included. Hispanics working for committees in either chamber of Congress could probably be counted on one hand, he says.

The Senate survey found that Hispanics, 61 percent of whom are female, more often work in their bosses' state offices than in Washington, D.C. And, on average, they earn \$6,000 less annually than white staffers: \$34,325 compared to \$40,598. Survey authors attribute the wage disparity to the lower-level positions held

by Hispanics.

The foundation conducts a yearly survey on the make-up of the offices on Capitol Hill, alternating each year between the House and Senate.

The 1996 survey of House members found that Hispanics also held lower-level positions and that most worked in the district offices. Two-thirds of them were female.

While Hispanic presence on House staffs edged up between 1992 and 1996 -- from 3.6 percent to 5.2 percent -- it fell dramatically for blacks -- from 9.9 percent to 6.8 percent.

Hispanic leaders suggest that advocates who have been pressuring the Clinton administration to appoint more Hispanics to the administrative branch of the federal

government haven't focused enough attention on increasing job opportunities for Hispanics within Congress.

Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-Calif.), chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, notes that a high percentage of Hispanics working in the House are employed by Hispanic members. Many non-Latino members representing large Hispanic districts should have Hispanic staffers but don't, he observes.

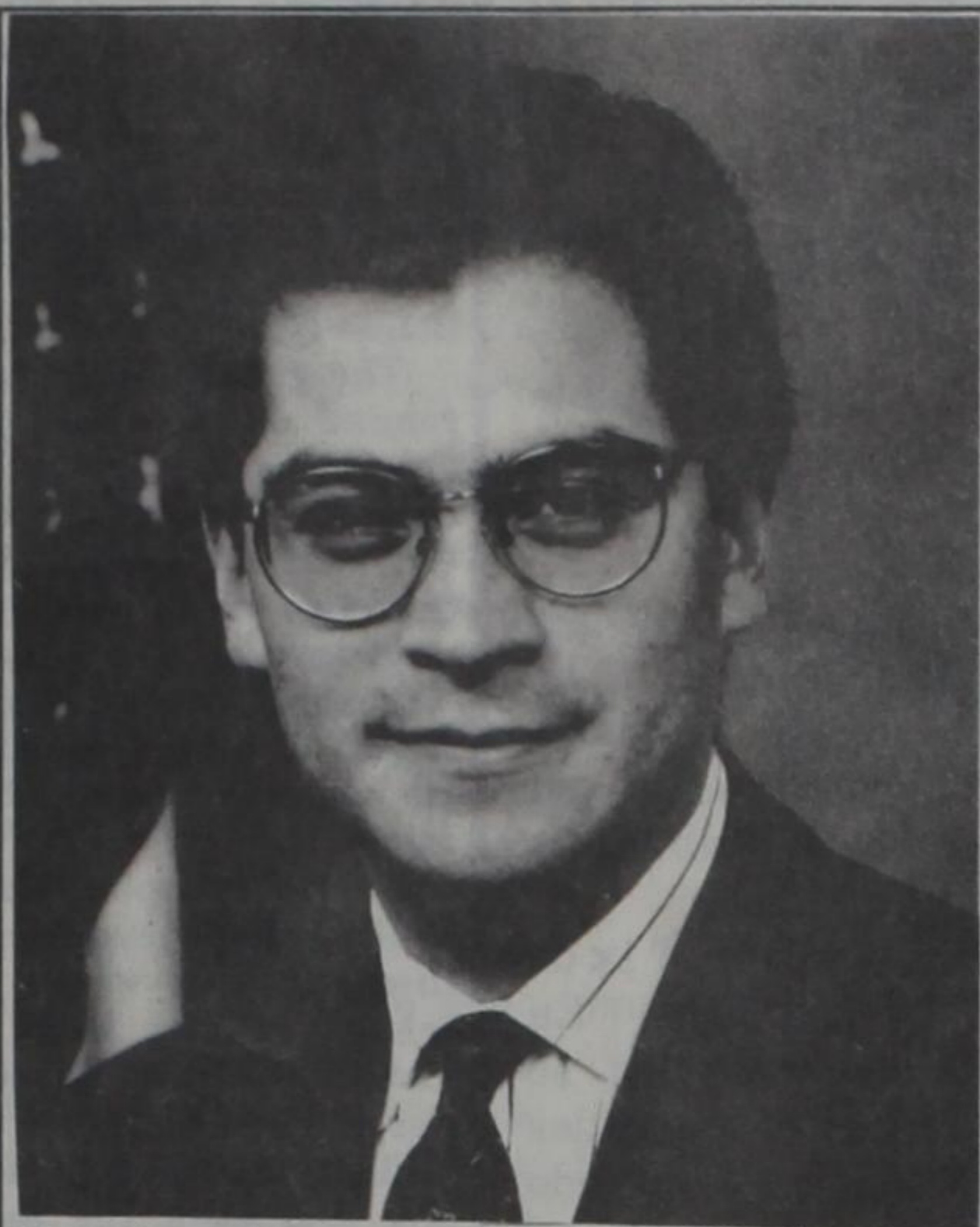
Becerra also concludes that Latinas outnumber Latinos on the hill because they are willing to take jobs that pay less and have longer working hours.

According to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, 110 members of Congress represent districts that have a Hispanic population of at least 10 percent.

Figueroa, who recently joined LULAC and is the immediate past president of the Congressional Hispanic Staff Association, says most members of the House and Senate have no outreach efforts to find qualified Hispanics. He adds that it is vital to have more Hispanics interning on the hill, saying this can serve as a pipeline for a future job.

Ingrid Duran, assistant director for policy development for the National Association of Hispanic Elected and Appointed Officials, comments that more Hispanics work in the district offices because members make a greater attempt to have their home office reflect their community.

Duran and others say that only a handful of non-Hispanic congressional members who represent large Hispanic districts, such as Gene Greene (D-Texas), make an effort to employ Hispanics in key positions. She stresses it can make a major difference on whether a senator or congressman understands or shows concern about issues affecting his or her Hispanic constituents and the nation's 32 million Hispanics.



Xavier Becerra, CHC chairman

News Briefs

Abused Children's Underground Reported

Two newspapers report about 200 children who claim they've been abused by a parent vanish every year into organized undergrounds, to be disguised and sheltered by strangers who risk arrest to keep them safe, reports Associated Press.

In a joint five-part series that began Sunday, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and The Blade of Toledo, Ohio, identified four underground networks that have emerged over the last decade -- two in the South, one in the Northeast and one in the West. The four operate independently of one another and, except for one, are very secretive.

In many cases the children and often the mother flee when a judge grants partial or full custody to the father after authorities reject allegations that the father had sexually abused the children. The angry mother and her bewildered children feel they have no place to turn, so they defy court orders and become fugitives from the law.

"Think about it from a human perspective," said Linda Girdner, author of several studies on parental abduction for the U.S. Department of Justice. "Is it more believable to a judge that a woman would act in a vindictive manner during a divorce -- or that a man would sexually assault a 3-year-old child?"

Only a small percentage of contested custody cases involve sexual abuse allegations.

A 1988 study by the Denver-based Center for Policy Research involving 9,000 contested custody cases found that sexual abuse allegations were made in 169 of them -- not quite 2 percent -- and were substantiated in 50 percent of those cases. The remaining cases, the study found, either lacked sufficient evidence to back up claims or were false.

Overall, at least 140,000 reports of child sexual abuse are substantiated in the United States each year, most of them in families, according to a 1994 report by the federal Department of Health and Human Services, the newspapers said.

When a woman and her children enter one of the undergrounds, they agree to assume new identities and disguises and leave at a moment's notice for unknown cities, states or even countries to avoid capture. The children lead nomadic lives, often missing school and sometimes suffering emotional and psychological trauma.

Clinton Plans Child-Care Initiative

President Clinton plans to soon propose new federal subsidies and tax breaks intended to make it easier for working families to obtain child care, The New York Times reported Sunday.

The proposals, to be included in the president's State of the Union message in late January and in his budget request to Congress a few days later, are aimed at increasing the supply of child care and improving its quality, the newspaper said.

[For action on this proposal, see Children's Defense Fund's posting, "Child Care/Freedom Schools Update" in Hands-Net's Alerts!]

Clinton's proposals, which would require congressional approval, would include an increase in the federal income tax credit parents can take for child-care expenses, a new tax credit for businesses that build or operate child care centers for employees and an increase in federal money given to states to subsidize child care, the Times said.

The proposals would also call for a new federal program to help states check the criminal history of day care center employees and scholarships for child-care workers to subsidize their training and increase their pay, the story said.

The paper said Clinton has decided not to propose national child care standards, an issue that has provoked bitter clashes in the past.

A bipartisan group of Senate aides has been meeting to draft child care legislation since Congress adjourned for the year Nov. 13.

Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., who is coordinating the meetings, said he hopes to give Clinton the group's proposals before the State of the Union address.

Kennedy: Dems to Push for Workers, Kids in '98

Sen. Edward Kennedy says Democrats will try to force the Republican-led Congress next year to help workers and children by cutting Social Security taxes and raising cigarette prices, reports Associated Press.

"If this country can't fulfill the hopes and answer the needs of average families in a time of peace and prosperity, when will we ever do it?" Kennedy, D-Mass., asked in a speech Thursday before the National Press Club. He unveiled a 10-point legislative agenda for election-year 1998.

On tax relief, Kennedy proposed lowering the payroll tax that finances Social Security so lower- and middle-income wage-earners would pay less. To pay for that, wealthier Americans would be required to pay the tax on every cent they earn, unlike the current system.

Now, virtually all wage-earners pay a tax of 6.2 percent on wages up to \$65,400 a year, an amount matched by their employers. Kennedy proposed removing the cap, so that all wages would be subject to the payroll tax. He said that would permit the tax rate to be reduced to 5.3 percent, and provide a tax cut for everyone earning less than \$80,000 a year.

For an employee making \$30,000 a year, Kennedy said, the annual tax break would be \$276. For someone earning \$60,000 a year, it would amount to \$552.

To curb teen smoking, Kennedy proposed raising cigarette prices by \$1.50 a pack as part of comprehensive tobacco legislation. That would provide \$20 billion a year for medical research and child development initiatives, including an expansion of Head Start.

On education, Kennedy called for giving "every academically qualified American" \$3,000 worth of federal aid for college, at a cost of \$10 billion per year. That would be paid for by eliminating a range of subsidies for mining, timber and other industries.

Next year, Kennedy wants Congress to enact three annual increases of 50 cents an hour to bring the minimum wage up to \$6.65 an hour by Sept. 1, 2000. After that, the minimum wage would rise automatically, every year, as the cost-of-living increases.

Kennedy said Congress should require every employer to contribute to the cost of health insurance for workers and their families. He later said he would consider a compromise to exempt very small businesses, such as those with no more than 10 or 12 workers.

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

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Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero

Last week's meeting of Chancellor Montford with members of the Hispanic Agenda and others, really brought no surprises.

The Chancellor stressed that his doors were always open, that students would not be rejected from the University just because they scored low and that any problems encountered in admission should be brought to his attention via the Cultural Diversity office.

Montford also stressed that recruitment of students was not going to be the only mission of the Cultural Diversity office. He mentioned that recruitment of administrators and faculty would also be of prime importance.

His promises - if we dare to call them that - seemed to be well received by those attending and will probably be well received by most of the community.

Except those students that are turned down from admission.

Ironically, the day following the meeting, one of my friends came and informed me that he had received a letter from the admissions department at the Business Administration School that he had just been refused admission to the graduate program.

The student had made the Deans list throughout his undergraduate career, he has been continually involved in the community but...he didn't make a high enough score on his graduate entrance exam.

How many more of these cases of students being refused admission are around, would probably not be hard to document with a concentrated effort by some organization to find and identify them.

The Chancellor's doors are open but what about the individual College's doors.

*****Pico de Gallo*****
A short commentary sub-mitted by Alberto Peña

What does Clay Abbott do when a member of the Greeks at Texas Tech is accused of rape - Nothing!

What does Clay Abbott do when a member of the Greeks at Texas Tech steal \$2,000 worth of lumber from a construction site - Nothing!

What does Clay Abbott do when members of the Greeks at Tech trash a historical house to the tune of \$100,000 - Nothing!

What does Clay Abbott do when a Hispanic organization makes some bookkeeping errors?

Los adultos le dicen El Barbon.

Pero los chiquitines todavía lo conocen como Pancho Clos. El hombre que llega a Lubbock cada Navidad en su carretón estirado por burritos y gritando "Ah-Juuuaa".

Por mas de veinte años Pancho Clos a llegado a Lubbock con ayuda del American GI Forum para traerle dulces y regalos a todos los niños. Este año no sera diferente.

Pancho vestido en su sombrero, zarape y huaraches llegara a el Parque Rodgers a las 2 de la tarde montado en una troca de bomberos.

"No traigo mis burritos al Rodgers por tengo que dejarlos que descansen para que puedan hacer un buen trabajo el mero día de Navidad para entregar todos los regalos a los chiquitines," dijo Pancho Clos.

El programa Pancho Clos es presentado cada año por el American GI Forum con ayuda financiera de Lubbock Power and Light y LULAC 281.

Escasean Los Hispanos En El Personal Del Congreso

Por Joseph Torres

Los miembros hispanos del personal del Congreso son escasamente visibles trabajando en Washington, D.C., o en las oficinas estatales de los senadores estadounidenses. La mayoría desempeña plazas de nivel bajo y de paga aún más baja, según una encuesta divulgada el 8 de diciembre por la Fundación para la Administración Congressional (CMF en inglés).

Sesenta de las 100 oficinas senatoriales respondieron a la encuesta, la cual halló que sólo el 2.5 por ciento de su personal es hispano. Esa cifra

disminuyó desde el 3.5 por ciento en 1995.

En conjunto, el Congreso emplea a cerca de 16,000 personas en la dotación de personal y los comités de sus miembros. De esas, 6,000 trabajan para el Senado y 10,000 para la Cámara.

Basándose en una encuesta de la CMF de 1996 que no recibió atención alguna de la prensa en aquel momento, la cifra es mejor en el lado de la Cámara: 5.2 por ciento.

El historial de la Cámara es mejor porque hay 18 hispanos entre los 435 representantes con voto de allí. No hay nin-

Adults call him "El Barbon" or the Bearded One but to kids he is always known as Pancho Clos. Pancho will arrive in Lubbock riding his wooden wagon pulled by burritos and yelling "Ah-juuaa".

For more than twenty years Pancho Clos has come to Lubbock with the help of the American GI Forum to bring candies and presents to children. This year will be no different.

Pancho dressed in his sombrero, zarape and sandals will arrive at Rodgers Park at 2 pm riding a fire truck. "I don't bring my burritos to the park because I have to let them rest for their hard job to deliver presents on Christmas to all the kids," said Pancho.

The Pancho Clos program is presented by the American GI Forum with financial help from Lubbock Power and Light and LULAC 281.

Everyone is invited to the event.



Continued on page 4

Aprendiendo De Un Lider Latino

Por Juana Bordas

Era un día soleado de fines de octubre. Recogí a Bernie para almorzar en uno de sus lugares chinos o mexicanos favoritos. Raras veces hablábamos mucho sobre cosas serias. Sólo nos visitábamos. Casi a modo de nueva ocurrencia, le hice la pregunta sobre liderazgo.

En las culturas tradicionales, el modo que uno aprende de una persona mayor es sólo estando alrededor de ella y haciendo cosas ordinarias, tales como comer burritos o "egg rolls". Pero recordé que estaba con Bernie Valdéz y que yo debería estar aprovechándome de su experiencia y su sabiduría.

Yo había regresado hacía poco de visitar a varios dirigentes en Washington, D.C. Me sentía incómoda con lo importantes que estas personas creían ser y con cuánto énfasis daban a ir a recepciones y estar con otras personas que eran "influyentes."

Bernie siempre escuchaba cuidadosamente, pero él tenía un modo de devolverme la seguridad. Yo erminaba pensando que éste no era el gran asunto que yo había temido que fuera. Desde el punto ventajoso de su edad y experiencia, él ponía las cosas en perspectiva.

Bernie nació en Nuevo México en 1912. Durante la depresión, fue al norte de Colorado a trabajar en los sembrados de remolacha de azúcar. Se unió al Cuerpo Civil de Conservación en 1933. Sus programas de enseñanza le permitieron graduarse de la escuela superior a la edad de 24 años.

Lo que me impresionaba

acerca de él era que, siempre que se enfrentaba al conflicto o al desafío, él era gentil y ocurrente. Esta es una de las razones por las que él pudo continuar involucrado en las crisis de nuestra comunidad durante tantos años.

Cuando él prestó servicios en la junta escolar de Denver, durante el período explosivo de la desegregación de las escuelas, a principios del decenio de 1970, dos bombas explotaron frente a su casa. El permaneció en la lucha y dos años después fue electo presidente de la junta.

Liderazgo. Apremié a Bernie un poco más. "Cuáles cree usted que sean las cualidades verdaderas de un dirigente?" Para entonces estábamos de regreso a su casa en North Denver.

"Bueno, primero", dijo él, "un líder tiene que estar realmente seguro. Hay que saber quién es uno y tener respeto hacia sí mismo."

"Y, desde luego, hay que trabajar arduamente y no darse por vencido. Pero hay que estar dedicado a algún ideal -- algo mayor que uno mismo."

Ya yo había sacado un pedazo de papel y estaba escribiendo en él. "Y, ¿qué es eso para usted?" pregunté. Estábamos finalmente adentrándonos en algún territorio importante.

"Bueno, yo me siento motivado por mi familia, por el deseo de hacer un aporte y de poder compartir lo que se me ha dado."

En el espacio de su vida, a Bernie se le "dió" poco, pero logró mucho. Mientras aún trabajaba en los campos, asistió a Colorado A&M -- ahora la Universidad Estatal de Colorado. Antes de jubilarse del Departamento de Serv-

icios Sociales de Denver en 1980, él edificó un historial de lucha por la comunidad hispana en asuntos que iban desde la vivienda al trabajo agrícola, hasta la enseñanza. El ayudó a fundar grupos, tales como la Dependencia Latino-Americana de Investigación y Servicio (LARASA en inglés) y la Fundación Latino-Americana para la Enseñanza, que ha concedido cientos de becas para estudios superiores a jóvenes merecedores. Y después que se "jubiló", continuó su dedicación al encabezar proyectos tales como la Comisión de Colorado para la Prevención de la Deserción Escolar.

Así, ¿qué es lo que define al liderazgo? Bernie hizo una pausa momentánea. "Para que se hagan las cosas, hay que ser sensible a lo que necesita la gente y tener sentimientos legítimos hacia ellos."

Llegamos a su casa en la Calle Elliott y entramos en ella. El me dió un "abrazo" cálido que reflejaba su preocupación por las personas.

A medida que yo me alejaba de la casa, recordé la primera vez que visité su casa. Puesto que él era un gran dirigente, yo había esperado que la casa reflejara su estatura en la comunidad. Sin embargo, aquí estaba este estadista respetado -- quizás uno de los dirigentes hispanos más notables de Colorado en este siglo -- que vivía en una casita detrás del estadio, la casa en que él y su esposa Dora habían criado a sus hijos.

El sólo visitar su casa de nuevo me mostró por qué me molestaban las contradicciones que ví en el liderazgo de Washington. El liderazgo

no significa tener una casa grande, ni los atavíos de la riqueza y la influencia. No significa recepciones fastuosas ni conocer a personas importantes, aunque Bernie había hecho éso ciertamente durante los años.

El liderazgo quiere decir hacer un compromiso vitalicio de quedarse con los suyos y servirles, y de tener la humildad para continuar siendo fiel con uno mismo mientras hace cosas extraordinarias. A lo mejor comer burritos con él era, después de todo, la mejor manera de aprender.

No fueron las palabras de Bernie sobre la dirigencia las que me enseñaron. Fue el modo en que él vivía su vida y continuaba siendo asequible para que las personas como yo pudiéramos conocerle y seguir su ejemplo.

El no perseguía los reconocimientos. Estos llegaban a él -- el Centro de la Herencia Hispana de Denver, ahora en construcción, y la biblioteca nombrada en su honor.

Bernie Valdéz murió el 1x de noviembre último. En muchas culturas antiguas, se dice que cuando los grandes dirigentes entraron al mundo de los espíritus, sus esencias se quedaron con las personas a quienes ellos amaban. Ellos partieron para ayudar a sus pueblos desde un lugar más elevado. Y así es con Bernie Valdéz.

(Juana Bordas, de Denver, es la presidenta de "Mestiza," una organización que se especializa en el desarrollo de liderazgo y fue la primera presidenta y directora del Institucional Nacional Hispana de Liderazgo. Fué ingresada en el Salón de la Fama de las Mujeres de Colorado el pasado octubre.)

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Learning From A Latino Leader

By Juana Bordas

It was a sunny day in late October. I picked up Bernie for lunch in one of his favorite Chinese or Mexican places. Seldom did we talk much about serious things. We just visited. Almost as an afterthought, I asked him the question about leadership.

In traditional cultures, the way one learns from an elder is just to hang around and do ordinary things like eat burritos or egg rolls. But I remembered that I was with Bernie Valdez and I should be taking advantage of his experience and wisdom.

I had just come back from visiting with several leaders in Washington, D.C. I felt uneasy with how important these people thought they were and how much they stressed going to receptions and being with people who were "influential."

Bernie always listened carefully, but he had a way of reassuring me. I usually came away thinking this was not the big deal I had feared it was. From the vantage point of his age and experience, he put things in perspective.

Bernie was born in New Mexico in 1912. During the depression, he came to northern Colorado to work in the sugar beet fields. He joined the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1933. Its education programs enabled him to graduate from high school at age 24.

What impressed me about him was that whenever he faced conflict or challenge, he was gracious and humorous. This is one of the reasons he was able to remain involved in our community's crises for so many years.

When he served on Denver's school board during the volatile period of school desegregation in the early '70s, two bombs exploded outside his home. He stayed with the battle and two years later was elected board president.

Leadership. I pressed Bernie

some more. "What do you think the real qualities of a leader are?" By this time we were driving back to his home in North Denver.

"Well, first," he said, "a leader has to be really secure. You have to know who you are and have respect for yourself."

"And of course you have to work hard and not give up. But you must be committed to some ideal -- something greater than yourself."

By now I had taken out a piece of paper and was writing down words. "And what is that for you?" I asked. We were finally getting into some important territory.

"Well, I'm motivated by my family, by wanting to make a contribution and being able to share what I've been given."

In his lifetime, Bernie was "given" little but achieved much. While still working in the fields, he attended Colorado A&M -- now Colorado State University. Before he retired from the Denver Social Services Department in 1980, he built a record of fighting for the Hispanic community on issues ranging from housing to farm labor to education. He co-founded such groups as the Latin American Research and Service Agency (LARASA) and Latin American Education Foundation, which has awarded hundreds of college scholarships to deserving youth. And after he "retired," he continued his commitment by heading such projects the Colorado Commission for Dropout Prevention.

So what defines leadership? Bernie paused a moment. "To get things done, you have to be sensitive to what people need and have genuine feelings for them."

We pulled up to his house on Elliott Street and went inside. He gave me a warm abrazo that reflected his caring for people.

As I drove away, I recalled the first time I visited his home. Because he was such a

great leader, I had expected it to reflect his stature in the community. Yet here was this respected statesman -- perhaps one of the most noted Colorado Hispanic leaders of this century -- living in a little house behind the stadium, the house where he and his wife Dora had raised their children.

Just visiting his home again showed me why I was bothered by the contradictions I saw in the leaders in Washington. Leadership is not about having a big house or the trappings of wealth and influence. It is not about fancy receptions or meeting important people, although Bernie had certainly done that over the years.

Leadership is about making a lifelong commitment to stay with your people and to serve them, and having the humility to stay true to yourself while doing extraordinary things. Maybe eating burritos with him was the best way to learn, after all.

It was not Bernie's words about leadership that taught me. It was how he lived his life and remained accessible

to people like me could know him and follow his example.

He didn't go after the tributes. They came to him -- Denver's Hispanic Heritage Center, now under construction, and the library named in his honor.

Bernie Valdez passed away Nov. 1. In many old cultures, it is said that when great leaders entered the spirit world, their essence stayed with the people they loved. They departed to help their people from a higher ground. And so it is with Bernie Valdez.

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"NO Way - We Won't Pay"

by Alberto Pena

Which category of voter may be expected to oppose the new 3/8 cent sales tax on January 17, 1998

CONSERVATIVES: Lubbock is a politically conservative city. Conservatives reject "redistribution of wealth" and espouse the old anti-tax slogan - "No city ever taxed itself into prosperity." Since the sales tax attempts to tax the city into prosperity, true conservatives will oppose it.

BUSINESS OWNERS: Local men and women who built successful businesses in fiercely competitive markets without government handouts should feel insulted by the sales tax proposal. They are being asked to collect taxes

from their long time friends and customers for the purpose of paying multimillion dollar corporations to come to Lubbock to compete against them and possibly drive some out of business.

THE ELDERLY, THOSE LIVING ON FIXED INCOMES OR SOCIAL SECURITY, AND THE LOW INCOME WORKER: These voters are being asked to finance Lubbock's economic development. However, these are the people who can least afford to provide corporate welfare for multimillion dollar corporations.

CITIZENS WHO DO NOT OWN PROPERTY: The City Council has proposed a 3 cent reduction for property owners but have offered nothing to

Sittin' Here Thinkin'

Kurt Vonnegut by Ira Cutler

Kurt Vonnegut's latest novel - "Timescape" - has just been published and it is simultaneously a sad and a glorious moment.

It is sad because Vonnegut says that it will be his final novel. He discovered that he "evidently couldn't write publishable fiction, after trying and failing for many years." The original conception for Timescape was typically wacky: the Universe goes through a time-space contraction and everyone has to live a 10 year period for a second time, doing exactly what they did the first time. In the process, they sort of forget what free will used to be.

Unfortunately, Timescape turned out to be what Vonnegut describes as "a novel which did not work, which had no point, and which never wanted to be written in the first place." Realizing that, Vonnegut - who is 75 years old now - scrapped the original book, saving only the good pieces and adding his observations on what was happening to him, and to the world, while he was struggling to make the novel work. And so that is what the book Timescape is: a little fiction, a little essay, a few ironic jokes, a little of this and a little of that.

The glorious part is that Timescape is good enough in places to remind us of how wonderful a writer Kurt Vonnegut used to be. For my money, he still writes better at 75, flying on one engine, than most of the people writing today.

But I am deeply biased. I have read everything of Vonnegut's that has ever been published in book form. Some things I have read several times and been delighted each time. I have a bust of Vonnegut's head in my office. I really do. Most people think it is Albert Einstein or Albert Schweitzer, but it is Kurt Vonnegut. He has made me laugh, and think, and his writing is a part of who I am.

A lot of people, especially those who are not old farts from the 1960's, have never read Vonnegut and it is hard to describe for them what he writes about or how he writes. He has an unmistakable written voice - you know it is Vonnegut you are reading and, if you love his work, you are glad to hear from him again. People have imitated and parodied him, most notably in a bogus MIT commencement address which was floating around the Internet, and even the fake things which pretend to be written by Vonnegut are really good! Go figure.

His books are a combination of social commentary, science fiction, humor, satire, and autobiography. If I were a better writer, perhaps I could convey to you what I find so special in Vonnegut's writing. There's a paradox for you!

He consistently, year after year, finds truth and meaning in the oddest places. I remember him writing about a performance of the Statler Brothers country music group and the truth he found there. And he goes on and on about volunteer fire departments. And he always talks about what he thinks it takes to get through life, which is people being supportive of each other in the way extended families used to be.

Here is the kind of thing Vonnegut might remark on: 96% of Americans say they believe in God; 87% say they are Christians or Jews; but 58% cannot name 5 out of 10 of the Ten Commandments and 10% think that Joan of Arc was Noah's wife. Somebody is asleep in the pews!

And he might take note of the recent newspaper report that Anne Frank's actual diary, on which they based the play and movie, was censored by her father and the Broadway people who produced the show. It seems that this very bright adolescent girl, like all adolescents, had thoughts and feelings about sex. Her father and the producers thought that people would be shocked by this, so they took the sex parts out. In a play about the slaughter of millions of people, a young woman's curiosity about sex was considered controversial and potentially offensive. Vonnegut's own masterpiece, the powerful anti-war novel Slaughterhouse 5, is periodically banned in schools and libraries run by right wing school boards because it contains an incidence of profanity. What kind of screwed up society finds mass murder more palatable than sex?

Vonnegut did not write about the Anne Frank story or the people who's faith outruns their knowledge, at least not yet. Those are my ideas of things to write about. But the point is that when I read Vonnegut I, too, start to see meaning in the strangest places and my mind is a little more alive and creative. What a gift he brings!

Here is a real Kurt Vonnegut joke, from Timescape: Two guys are at a wedding. One says to the other: "I don't bother with all this I simply find a woman who hates me, and I give her a house." And here is a Vonnegut thought: a Constitutional Amendment that reads "Every newborn shall be sincerely welcomed and cared for until maturity."

Also in Timescape he quotes Eugene Debs, who was the Socialist Party candidate for President five times and who no one knows about anymore. Debs said, "While there is a lower class, I am in it, while there is a criminal element I am of it, while there is a soul in prison, I am not free." Eugene Debs is so out of fashion these days that he does not even have a website - I checked - but Vonnegut reminds us of a time when politicians ran for office because they believed in things.

In another discussion, Vonnegut worries that people will increasingly do their reading on computer screens and give up books. He says: "...books, because of their weight and texture, and because of their sweetly token resistance to manipulation, involve our hands and eyes, and then our minds and souls, in a spiritual adventure I would be very sorry for my grandchildren not to know about." And that is in a bad Vonnegut book!

Listen: if you have never read Vonnegut, by all means make filling this hole in your education a priority. Do not start with Tiquaque, though. Vonnegut would not want you to. Start with Slaughterhouse 5; then the Sirens of Titan; God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater; Breakfast of Champions and so on. I envy you the experience of reading him for the first time.

This a major gift I am giving you, so take it seriously! Thank you for your kind attention. Ira Cutler, HN407@handsnet.org, says he's seeking a semi-legitimate outlet for thoughts and ideas too irrelevant, too iconoclastic, or just too nasty for polite, serious, self-important company. He promises us a Monday column most weeks. More recently Ira has become involved in communicating in another way, through speeches which he calls Standin' Here Talkin'.

thousands who do not own property. These voters have no reason to vote for higher taxes.

MEN AND WOMEN OF GOOD CONSCIOUS: Anyone with a sense of fairness should oppose the new sales tax. The City Council should seek economic development dollars from venture capitalists not from taxpayers. It's the American way.

CITIZENS FROM NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES: These people are not fools. They know the tax and spent crowd advocate raising the sales tax to get money from out of town shoppers. Lubbock voters will have to decide if this is the way they want to treat their neighbors.

MINORITIES: The tax backers have failed to include Blacks and Hispanics in planning. They have never asked for opinions or help of any kind from minorities. The tax and spend crowd want minorities to pay the tax and shut-up.

THE BIG LIE: Proponents of the new sales tax would have the voter believe that sales taxes are the sole reason for growth in Amarillo, Abilene and Wichita Falls. Growth is more accurately attributable to a low tax base, the availability of skilled workers, cheap water and power, and numerous other complex and diverse factors.

THE TRUTH: Without a sales tax, Lubbock has in recent years acquired a new Lowe's, a new Cinemark, a new Home Depot, two new Wal-Mart and the list goes on and on.....

U.S.'s Dirty Child Labor Secret

Fifty-nine years after Congress outlawed child labor in its most onerous forms, underage children still toil in fields and factories scattered across America, reports Associated Press.

In the past five months, the AP found 165 children working illegally in 16 states, from the chili fields of New Mexico to the sweatshops of New York City.

The AP was able to follow the work products of 50 children to more than two dozen companies including Campbell Soup Co., Chi-Chi's Mexican restaurants, ConAgra, Costco, H.J. Heinz, Newman's Own, J.C. Penney, Pillsbury, Sears and Wal-Mart.

All the companies that responded condemned illegal child labor. Many launched investigations when told of suppliers employing underage children.

"If they are, that's against the law and they're gone -- they don't supply to Campbell Soup Co.," said spokesman Kevin Lowery.

Although the number of children traced to any one company was small, no one knows just how many because no one, the federal government included, has tried to count them all.

To make an estimate, the AP had Rutgers University labor economist Douglas L. Kruse analyze monthly census surveys and other workplace and population data collected by the federal government.

His study estimates that 290,200 children were employed unlawfully last year. Some were older teens working a few too many hours in after-school jobs. But also among them were 59,600 children under age 14 and 13,100 who worked in garment sweatshops, defined as factories with repeated labor violations.

Other estimates:

* Close to 4 percent of all 12- to 17-year-olds working in any given week were employed illegally.

* Employers saved \$155 million in wages last year by hiring underage children instead of legal workers.

Kruse's study could not account for all children who work illegally because available data are limited. For example, census-takers, like labor enforcement agents, have trouble finding the very kids who are among the most easily exploited: children of migrant workers, illegal immigrants and the very young.

Even so, U.S. Labor Secretary Alexis Herman called the study more comprehensive than anything her department had produced.

Jim Sinegal, president of Costco Wholesale Corp., said his company has monitored overseas suppliers for years to avoid products made with child labor.

However, the company acknowledged buying cherries from a packing plant in Washington state where Flor Trujillo, 15, and six other child workers under 16 were sickened by carbon monoxide last July. Children under 16 are prohibited by federal law from working in such plants.

"We obviously have to take a look a little closer to home," Sinegal said.

Look to a bustling street in New York City's borough of Queens, where Koon-yu Chow, 15, was found stitching dresses at a garment factory sewing machine last summer. Dresses were being made for Betsy's Things, a label sold at Sears, until state labor investigators inspected the place and Betsy's Things took its business elsewhere.

Walk into Grayson Sewing in Sherman, Texas. There, Vieseese was one of seven children federal investiga-

tors found folding and bagging dresses up to 12 hours a day. All seven were under 14; the youngest was 9. J.C. Penney acknowledged making two purchases of garments from Grayson, a company investigators called a sweatshop.

4-year-old Angel and six other children under 12 rise before dawn to pick chilies in a New Mexico field.



Follow the chilies, and the trail leads to Texas, to a processor that makes Old El Paso salsa for Pillsbury. The processor also supplies a California plant operated by Cantisano Foods, which makes salsa for the Newman's Own label.

Actor Paul Newman, founder of the company, flew to New Mexico last weekend to investigate. Cantisano said that, at Newman's request, it had stopped doing business with the Texas supplier.

If his company can't ensure that ingredients are produced without child labor, Newman said, "we'll have to eliminate the product." Newman said the situation is ironic, considering that his company gave \$9 million to charities this year, much of it to help children.

A century ago, more than 2 million children labored in

America's factories, fields and mines. In 1938, Congress declared an end to "oppressive child labor," the most onerous forms of children's work, by enacting the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Since its passage, child labor has declined, although it is far from eradicated. Kruse's study, which began with 1970s figures, shows the number of illegal child work-

lies. "I like him to work in the fields with me because I want him to learn that this work is hard, hot and laborious," she said. "I want him to hate this, to stay in school and to study hard so he doesn't have to do this work."

The products of child labor can be found anywhere:

* Some Wal-Mart "supercenters" sell Sugar Lake Farms chicken nuggets and patties produced by Braselton Poultry in Braselton, Ga. That's where David Osorio, 15, used a fake ID saying he was 21 to get a job cutting up chickens instead of going to school. Asked about David last month, Braselton found that his ID was fake and fired him.

* H.J. Heinz buys some of its chicken from Chestertown Foods, according to Chestertown plant manager Jack Laird. Filomena Simon Perez, 15, worked cutting up chickens at the Maryland

processing plant, which also sells to Campbell. She was one of six undocumented workers under 16 found when U.S. immigration agents raided Chestertown in September.

* ConAgra, which makes Rosarita salsa, acknowledged buying chili peppers from a distributor supplied by a New Mexico farm where eight children, ages 3 to 11, were seen working in September. Chi-Chi's, a Mexican restaurant chain owned by Family Restaurants, said it gets chilies from the same source.

* Campbell confirmed it buys mushrooms from a farm in Chester County, Pa., which this fall employed Jose Ortiz, age 14. While other kids his age were in school, Jose picked mushrooms eight hours a day in a dark building that smelled of manure.

For some companies, this was not their first alert to child labor.

Poll: Consumers Against Child Labor

According to an Associated Press poll, most Americans would be willing to pay a 5 percent premium for products if they were guaranteed to be made without child labor.

Seventy percent of the adults polled said they would pay the extra price to spare children.

About 1,000 adults and 500 teen-agers were surveyed by ICR of Media, Pa., from Nov. 12-16. Results have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points for the adults, 4.5 points for the teens.

Seventy-three percent of adults and 80 percent of teen-agers in the two polls agreed that school-age children are better off if they have a paying job outside of the home. And one in nine teens said earning money is more important than getting good grades in school.

Most Americans polled said they consider child labor a historical problem in the United States, and an ongoing global problem, much more than a problem in their own country today.

Forty-five percent of respondents said exploitive child labor -- underage workers, too many hours or dangerous jobs -- occurs "very often" around the world, but only 15 percent of respondents felt it occurs "very often" in the United States.

Instead, most respondents -- 56 percent -- said exploitive child labor occurs only occasionally or almost never in the present day United States.

Respondents were split over whether the government does too little or about the right amount to prevent exploitive child labor -- 46 percent said the government does the right amount, 43 percent said the government does too little, and 6 percent said the government does too much. Five percent of respondents did not know or gave no answer.

Cuando Roy ganó LOTTO Texas, en lugar de comprar una camioneta, compró un camión.



LA HISTORIA:

Roy Gómez ha vivido toda su vida en Ranger, Texas. Por eso, él mejor que nadie conoce las necesidades que tiene el cuerpo de bomberos de su pueblo. Al ganar LOTTO Texas, él decidió ayudar a los bomberos donando un camión de bomberos nuevo en memoria de su hijo Leeroy Gómez.

EL DINERO:

\$3,400,000

LOS NÚMEROS:

7 10 11 23 34 43

CANTIDAD DE GALONES QUE EL CAMIÓN PUEDE BOMBLEAR POR MINUTO:

1,250



MÁS DE 290 MILLONARIOS Y LA CUENTA SIGUE.

From Page 1

do se incluye al personal de los comités. Los hispanos que trabajan en los comités en ambas cámaras del Congreso probablemente se podrían contar con una mano, dice él.

La encuesta del Senado halló que los hispanos, el 61 por ciento de quienes son mujeres, trabajan más a menudo en las oficinas estatales de sus jefes que en Washington, D.C. Y en promedio, ganan \$6,000 menos anualmente que los miembros blancos del personal: \$34,325 comparados con \$40,598. Los autores de la encuesta atribuyen la disparidad en los sueldos a las posiciones de nivel más bajo en que trabajan los hispanos.

CMF efectúa una encuesta anual sobre la composición de las oficinas del Capitolio, alternando en cada año entre la Cámara y el Senado.

La encuesta de 1996 entre los miembros de la Cámara halló que los hispanos desempeñaban también plazas de menor nivel y que la mayoría trabajaba en las oficinas de los distritos. Los dos tercios eran mujeres.

Aunque la presencia hispana en el personal de la Cámara aumentó entre 1992 y 1996 -- del 3.6 por ciento al 5.2 por ciento -- disminuyó dramáticamente para los negros -- del 9.9 por ciento al 6.8 por ciento.

Los dirigentes hispanos sugieren que los defensores que han estado apremiando al gobierno de Clinton para que nombre a más hispanos en la rama administrativa del gobierno federal, no han enfocado atención suficiente sobre el aumento de las oportunidades de empleo para los hispanos dentro del Congreso.

El Representante Xavier Be-

cerca (demócrata por California), presidente del Grupo Congresional Hispano, advierte que un alto porcentaje de los hispanos que trabajan en la Cámara son empleados de los representantes hispanos. Muchos miembros que no son latinos y representan a grandes distritos hispanos deberían tener empleados hispanos, pero no los tienen, observa él.

Becerra concluye también que las latinas superan en cantidad a los latinos en el Capitolio porque están dispuestas a aceptar los empleos que pagan menos y tienen horas de trabajo más largas.

Según el Grupo Congresional Hispano, 110 miembros del Congreso representan a distritos que tienen una población hispana por lo menos del 10 por ciento.

Figueroa, que se unió a LULAC recientemente y es el pasado presidente inmediato de la Asociación del Personal Hispano Congresional, dice que la mayoría de los miembros de la Cámara y del Senado no hacen gestiones de proyección al exterior para encontrar a hispanos capacitados. El agrega que es vital el tener a más hispanos en el Capitolio, diciendo que esto puede servir de conducto para un empleo futuro.

Ingrid Durán, directora auxiliar para desarrollo de cursos de acción en la Asociación Nacional de Funcionarios Hispanos Electos y Designados (NALEO en inglés), comenta que más hispanos trabajan en las oficinas de los distritos congresionales porque los miembros de la Cámara hacen un esfuerzo mayor para que sus oficinas de base reflejen a sus comunidades.

Durán y otros dicen que sólo un pequeño número de miembros del Congreso no hispanos que representan a distritos hispanos

grandes, tales como Gene Greene (demócrata por Texas), hacen un esfuerzo para emplear a hispanos en plazas claves.

Ella hace énfasis en que puede significar una diferencia importante el que un Senador o Representante comprenda o muestre interés por los asuntos



Un Rayito De Luz

Por Sofia Martinez

La Santísima Virgen es Madre de Dios. Es poderosa para nosotros y es poderosa para con Dios. También es madre nuestra, porque nos la dió por madre su Santísimo Hijo desde la Cruz, minutos antes de morir; ella sabía lo que le podría costar aceptar ser la madre del hijo Salvador del mundo; pero el Dios nos ama, Ella nos ama también. Por su mediación, Dios nuestro Padre nos mandó Su

que afectan sus electores hispanos y los 32 millones de hispanos de la nación.

(Joseph Torres es editor del semanario nacional Hispanic Link Weekly Report, con sede en Washington, DC.)

Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 1997. Distribuido por The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Hijo para que nos salvara; ¿Que no hará esta amorosa Madre por unos hijos entregados a su maternal cariño por su Santísimo Hijo? Los Santos Padres, basados en esta verdad, han dicho que la Santísima Virgen tiene para con Dios un poder omnipotente, no absoluto, sino suplicante, por eso la han llamado fiadora para con Dios, y nuestra mediadora para con el Divino Meidador. Nosotros, los Católicos, la hemos mirado siempre como a nuestra querida Madre, y como el camino seguro por donde se va a Jesucristo, que es Verdadero Dios. Muchísimos hombres han querido expresar estos mismos sentimientos, no pronunciando apenas el dulcísimo nombre de Jesús, sin agregar el nombre de la Madre. (Juan 19, 26-27).

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News Briefs

Despite Economy, Homelessness Growing

The U.S. Conference of Mayors released a report Monday concluding that despite the nation's robust economic performance, the ranks of the homeless are growing, reports Associated Press.

The study shows demands for emergency food and shelter are continuing to increase despite the booming national economy and low unemployment.

"We are seeing this year that a rising tide doesn't lift all boats," said Joseph Riley Jr., mayor of Charleston, S.C., and chairman of the task force on hunger and homelessness for the mayors' group. "Some aren't seaworthy, others leak and others have persistent problems that require support."

One positive note struck in the study was that requests for emergency housing rose this year by just 3 percent, the smallest increase in the survey's 13-year history.

However, demand for emergency food rose an average of 16 percent, the largest increase since 1992. Low wages and high housing costs were among the factors cited for the surge in grocery requests. Nearly all the cities expected demand for food and shelter to rise next year.

The study, based on self-reporting by the cities that varied widely in detail, found:

-Emergency food assistance requests increased in 24 of the 29 cities surveyed

-About one-fifth of emergency food requests were estimated to have gone unfulfilled. Only Alexandria, Va., and Charlotte, N.C., reported that no food assistance request went unanswered.

-Seventeen of the cities saw shelter requests rise, while the number of emergency shelter beds among all the cities decreased an average of 3 percent.

Charleston, S.C. was cited in the study as a success in reducing the ranks of the homeless. Officials there reported a 23 percent reduction in shelter demand by single adults by providing a "holistic effort" including job placement and drug-and alcohol-abuse counseling to reduce revolving-door homelessness, Riley said.

"These problems are solvable but it takes lots and lots of factors," Riley said.

More common in the report, however, are tales of reduced bed spaces and tougher eligibility requirements in some homeless shelters.

"Admission criteria to emergency shelter has been tightened, and the word is out that emergency shelter is not an option that a needy person can depend on," St. Paul, Minn., officials reported. "So many do not ask."

Things haven't gotten quite that bad in the nation's capital for Ralph, who said he's been on the streets for five years. Usually, he sleeps in the back of buildings along Washington's downtown K Street district. Only when temperatures nosedive does Ralph, 52, seek out shelters for the night, he said.

"I know I should put out a better effort," Ralph said. "It's hard to always be asking somebody for something. But I feel stuck."

Of the homeless population, about 47 percent are single men, 36 percent families with children, 14 percent single women and 4 percent minors, the survey found.

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No Mercy For Cowgirls!

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. - Taking it easy against the Dallas Cowboys isn't an option coach Jim Fassel is giving the newly crowned NFC East champion New York Giants this week.

Kicking the dog when he's down?

While that isn't on Fassel's agenda either, there are more than a few Giants who wouldn't have a problem doing that to the Cowboys (6-9) on Sunday at Texas Stadium.

"They've kicked a lot of dogs when they were down," Giants Pro Bowl defensive end Michael Strahan said of the Cowboys' tactics in winning the last five division titles.

"It's maybe about time to return the favor. We just want to win. They've been down a little and we want to continue to play hard."

The Cowboys have had the Giants' number most of this decade. They have won 8 of 11 games and they have not lost to New York in Texas since 1990.

However, this has been a year Dallas would like to forget. After winning three of their first four, they have only won three other games, a streak that began with a 20-17 loss to the Giants 20-17 in the Meadowlands.

Their playoff chances ended last week in Cincinnati with a loss to the Bengals.

"I don't feel sorry for them, no, no, no, no, no," said linebacker Jessie Armstead, a Dallas native who earned his first Pro Bowl berth this year. "I don't feel sorry for them at all. We were on the down end for five years and I gave them a lot of respect."

"I'll tell you one thing, they have to give me my respect now," Armstead added. "The tide changed this year."

While the Giants have won the last two games with Dallas, there have been a lot of one-sided contests in which the Cowboys ran it up.

"As much as they beat the heck out of us, don't look for me to shed tears," defensive tackle Keith Hamilton said.

Linebacker Corey Miller said the team still has goals for the regular season even though this is a meaningless game. The team wants to win 10 games and to become the first team to go undefeated in the division during the regular season (6-0-1 now).

"I don't think they are just going to give us the game," Miller said. "They are going to be ready to play. I think they're going to want to make a statement because we're on the top and they want to say this is a fluke and come blow us out."

No one on the Giants is expecting that to happen, not the way the team is playing now. After opening the season with losses in three of the first four games, New York is 8-2-1.

"I think it would say a lot about our team and the way we focused if we went out and did what we have to do," cornerback Jason Sehorn said. "You never want to use something like this as a crutch or an excuse to lose a game."



Jerry Rice Makes Comeback

SANTA CLARA, Calif. - Jerry Rice came back just long enough to help the San Francisco 49ers gain the home field for the playoffs. Now, after another knee injury, the 49ers will be going the rest of the way without him.

Rice, 35, underwent season-ending surgery Tuesday to repair a fractured left kneecap, an injury he suffered Monday night in his first game back from reconstructive surgery last September to repair torn ligaments in the same knee.

"To not have the greatest receiver ever to play the game in the lineup, that definitely hurts," tight end Brent Jones said Wednesday.

"It was such an emotional high to have him back, and then to hear about that was tough. But guys are going to keep it on. I know Jerry wants us to win the Super Bowl. He wouldn't have come back if he didn't want us to win it."

The NFL's all-time leading receiver, Rice was hurt when he banged his knee on the ground after catching a touchdown pass in San Francisco's 34-17 win over Denver on Monday night.

"It's tough," running back Terry Kirby said. "But I think Jerry wanted to come out and contribute to this team, help us clinch home field advantage and

that's what we did. "But sometimes, if you wouldn't have had luck, you wouldn't have any luck at all and this is one of those situations. Who would've ever thought this would happen? We're definitely going to miss him but we still have games to play. That's just the way we have to look at it."

Steve Young said he wished Rice's comeback could have lasted a lot longer but the team also has experience playing without him.

"It was a great few plays and I was very excited to throw him the ball," Young said. "It seemed like riding a bike. It was very easy and I loved it while it was there. But it really was for such a short period, and we've been doing this (without Rice) for a long time."

San Francisco (13-2) wraps up the season Sunday night at Seattle in a meaningless game for both teams. The 49ers then have a first-round bye before playing their next meaningful game, a divisional playoff the weekend of Jan. 3-4 at 3Com Park.

Coach Steve Mariucci said the 49ers won 12 games without Rice while he recovered from his first injury suffered in the Aug. 31 season opener at Tampa, so the team should be able to ad-

just again to his absence. "Had Jerry been playing with us all along and - boom - now

he's out, I think there would be a greater possibility of this team saying, 'Oh, geez, what do we do without our star?' Mariucci said. "Would we want him? Absolutely. Does he help? Absolutely. Does he give us a spark. You saw it Monday night."

"He's a tremendous lift for everybody, but the reality is he's not with us any more."

Mariucci said the team's young wide receiving tandem of J.J. Stokes and Terrell Owens gained valuable experience in Rice's absence during the season and he expects that to pay off as the 49ers head into the playoffs.

"They're not young guys any more," Mariucci said. "They've grown up. The honeymoon's over. They've shown us what they can do. Now, we're going to have to rely on them."

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NFL Playoffs Set

The NFL playoff possibilities for the final week as released by the league.

AFC EAST
MIAMI: Can clinch AFC East title with a win. Can clinch playoff berth with either a N.Y. Jets loss OR a tie

against New England and a N.Y. Jets-Detroit tie.

NEW ENGLAND: Can clinch AFC East title with either a win or a tie and N.Y. Jets loss or tie. Can clinch playoff berth with either a tie or a N.Y. Jets loss.

NEW YORK JETS: Can clinch AFC East title with a win and a Miami-New England tie. Can clinch a playoff berth with a win OR with a tie if Miami-New England game does not end in a tie.

AFC CENTRAL
PITTSBURGH: Has clinched a playoff berth. Can clinch AFC Central title and a first-round bye with either a win or tie OR either a Jacksonville loss or tie OR Pittsburgh does not lose to Tennessee by 65 or more points.

JACKSONVILLE: Has clinched a playoff berth. Can clinch AFC Central title and a first-round bye with and a Pittsburgh loss to Tennessee by 65 or more points.

AFC WEST
KANSAS CITY: Has clinched AFC West title, a first-round bye and home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

DENVER: Has clinched a playoff berth.

NFC EAST
N.Y. GIANTS: Have clinched NFC East title and will be the host for a wild card game.

WASHINGTON: Can clinch a playoff berth with a win and either a Detroit loss or tie OR a Minnesota loss or tie.

NFC CENTRAL
GREEN BAY: Has clinched NFC Central title and a first-round bye.

TAMPA BAY: Has clinch a playoff berth.

MINNESOTA: Can clinch a playoff berth with a win OR a Washington loss.

DETROIT: Can clinch a playoff berth with a win OR either a Minnesota or Washington loss.

NFC WEST
SAN FRANCISCO: Has clinched NFC West title, first-round playoff bye and home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

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1996 Buick Regal, maroon, custom pkg, auto, \$12,400.
1996 Ford Contour, aqua, low miles, auto, 4 cylinder, \$9,900.
1996 Pontiac Sunfire, factory warranty, 5 speed, 4 cylinder, \$9,900.
1995 Mercury Mystique, light blue, super loaded, auto, 4 cylinder, \$9,900.
1994 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme, white, SL pkg, leather, auto, \$8,900.
1995 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab P/U, SL pkg, auto, Save Big!!
1995 Chevy Cavalier 2 dr, ground effects, 5 speed, 4 cylinder, \$8,900.
1995 Pontiac Grand AM, 2 dr, ABS, 5 speed, cassette, A/C, \$8,900.
1994 Chevy Cavalier, 2 dr, AM/FM Cassette, 4 cylinder, 5 speed, \$5,900.
1994 GMC Jimmy 4 dr, SLE pkg, 6 cylinder, auto, Blow Out!!!
1994 Nissan Quest mini van, GXE pkg, sunroof, leather, CD, cassette, Low, Low!!
1994 GMC P/U Ext Cab, Sierra pkg, 5 speed, 6 cylinder, SAVE BIG!!
1994 Mercury Cougar, XR7 pkg, leather, PW, P&L, Pets, \$8,900.
1994 Mercury Sable Wagon, G.S. pkg, 4 dr, super loaded, Low, Low Payments!!
1991 Pontiac LeMans, 4 dr, gray, auto, 4 cylinder, Credit Builders!!
1987 Olds Ciera, 4 dr, blue, 4 cylinder, auto, We Finance!!
1987 Chevy Celebrity 4 dr, burgundy, 6 cylinder, auto,
1985 Buick LeSabre 4 dr, white, 6 cylinder, auto, Buy Here! Pay Here!

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