

# Latinos Back Census Plan, Fear Congressional Interference

By Joseph Torres

As the U.S. Census Bureau prepares for the year 2000, agency officials are striving to produce a more cost-effective, accurate population tally by abandoning the notion of achieving a 100 percent head count and increasing the use of "sampling."

To prevent a repeat of the bureau's controversial 1990 undercount, when an estimated 1.2 million Latinos were not included, Hispanic leaders generally support its strategy. But they fear congressional interference could disrupt the process.

This time, using sampling methods designed to protect against undercounts that disproportionately affect poor, urban and immigrant communities, the bureau plans to release a single, final census figure. And this time, it says, it won't need to hire thousands of extra workers to pursue those who fail to mail in a census form.

To increase response rates, the bureau is attempting to make census forms more "user-friendly." It plans to print them in Spanish, and make them available in public areas -- libraries, schools

and other places.

Arturo Vargas, executive director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, sees its proposals as good for the Latino community. "Some of the changes are on track with what was learned from the 1990 census," he says.

UCLA Professor David Hayes-Bautista, who was once courted by the Clinton administration to head the Census Bureau, agrees that enumeration, an actual head count, can miss too many people.

Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, who met last month with Census Director Martha Farnsworth Riche and U.S. Commerce Undersecretary Everett Ehrlich to discuss bureau plans, concur.

But the bureau's proposals are already encountering opposition from the GOP leadership in Congress. U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers (R-Ky.), chairman of the House appropriations subcommittee on commerce, says sampling will lead to lawsuits because of its complexity and "sophisticated guesswork." He calls the bureau's budget request too

costly. Bureau officials estimate they'll need \$3.9 billion if sampling is used, or \$4.8 billion without it.

The 1990 Census cost \$2.6 billion. More than 300,000 additional census employees were hired in an attempt to count the 37 percent of the population that did not initially respond. The bureau admitted that despite its efforts, more than four million people, mostly people of color, were not counted. In some cases, workers were reluctant to enter certain neighborhoods.

Post-enumeration sampling was used to determine the size of the undercount, but then-Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher, whose agency oversees the Census Bureau, refused to implement the adjustment. Several states sued, but the U.S. Supreme Court recently rejected their appeal.

Hispanic leaders fear that this time some in Congress will exploit the nation's current anti-immigrant sentiment to raise such issues as whether undocumented residents should be counted (just as the issue of whether African Americans should be

counted was raised last century) and over the use of Spanish or other languages to reach as many people as possible.

Harry Pachón, president of the Tomás Rivera Center in California, says the intensity of the debate could be affected by the country's economic situation, noting that undocumented immigrants are often viewed as dragging down our living standards.

UCLA's Hayes-Bautista says that although the U.S. Constitution requires the Census to count every person living in the country, he foresees Congress debating what exactly constitutes "a person."

Vargas notes that some members of Congress raised questions about counting undocumented residents in 1990. They will do so again, he feels certain. Others also predict that Official-English proponents will rail against using multilingual census forms.

Vargas suggests that lawmakers who tamper with the bureau's methodology do so because it is an "excellent

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## News Briefs

### Bill Targets Youth Gangs

President Clinton said Monday the "terrifying face" of organized youth gangs demands a tougher approach to juvenile violence, reports Associated Press.

He called for stiffer penalties and improved cooperation by police. Authorities should exchange information, work together on investigations and keep better track of gang members, the president said.

He also proposed legislation to restore a ban on guns in schools and allow juveniles to be prosecuted as adults for drug conspiracy, violent crimes and crimes involving guns.

Clinton repeatedly has spoken of a need to address an alarming increase in crimes by children and teen-agers at a time when overall crime in the nation is going down.

Clinton asked Congress to reauthorize \$160 million in law enforcement funds for fighting juvenile crime and gang violence. "I hope Congress will join us in a bipartisan commitment to save our neighborhoods and our children," he said.

The president's plan, with portions already introduced by Rep. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., calls for longer prison terms for selling drugs to children or for luring children to sell drugs. Juvenile detention would be lengthened to 10 years, and young offenders would face fines, supervised release and mandatory restitution.

The bill also calls for two grant programs, one to build jails for children who repeatedly commit violent crimes, and the other to help set up special courts for juvenile drug crimes and drug treatment for nonviolent young offenders.



United People for the Betterment of Llano Estacado hosted a reception honoring Mr. Ramon Abarca, the newly hired Slaton Schools Superintendent. He is the first Hispanic School Superintendent in the South Plains. Special thanks goes to Hispanic Agenda a correlation of organizations and individuals, your sponsorship and support made this reception very successful.

### Boomers Face Future Shortage of MDs

A Senate panel in Washington was told Tuesday next century America faces a critical shortage of doctors trained to care for the elderly, reports the Chicago Tribune.

"Fifty years ago, the United States first met the postwar Baby Boom without enough pediatricians, schools, jobs or housing. Today, just 15 years before the first Baby Boomers become eligible for Social Security and Medicare, the nation does not have enough physicians trained in geriatrics," said Daniel Perry, executive director of the non-profit Alliance for Aging Research.

"This acute shortage will reach far more serious proportions when 76 million people of the Baby Boom generation reach or approach retirement age in the next 20 years. The senior boom could be a ticking time bomb of inadequate medical care," Perry said.

Less than 1 percent of the nation's physicians - fewer than 6,800 out of 684,000 - are certified geriatricians, meaning - a tax credit for employers who hire welfare recipients and other disadvantaged workers.

In the Ways and Means Committee, Republicans defeated Democratic attempts to add breaks to the bill, including Clinton's proposed \$5,000 deduction for college tuition and a provision permitting the unemployed to make penalty-free withdrawals from Individual Retirement Accounts and 401(k) accounts.

### Panels OK \$53B in Welfare Cuts

The May 10 issue of the Community Nutrition Institute newsletter reported congressional panels approved plans to cut \$53 billion in projected spending from welfare during the next six years.

President Clinton was cool to the plan, urging Republicans to avoid combining "poison pills" with welfare reform legislation. The bill will likely be introduced this week.

Although new welfare reform plans are touted as more moderate than the welfare legislation vetoed by Clinton, total savings will actually be the same, said David Super of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (HN0026). The Congressional Budget Office recently recalculated the vetoed welfare reform bill, estimating that it would have cut \$53 billion - the same amount as the new goal, points out Super.

Discretionary food programs would also be affected by the congressional budget plans. The Commodity Assistance Programs would follow the president's recommendation through 2000 and freeze at that level, a \$140 million decrease in projected growth in 2002. Food Program Administration funds would drop about \$90 million.

### Project Builds Community Nutrition

The May 10 issue of the Community Nutrition Institute newsletter reports a project aimed at changing the poor nutrition and sedentary lifestyles of children is focusing on long-term community involvement to guarantee the program's success.

The Eat Well & Keep Moving Project is a joint effort between Baltimore City Public Schools and the Harvard School of Public Health to promote healthy eating and active lifestyles among children. In operation since 1993, the project will run through 1997 as a demonstration program in 17 Baltimore City schools.

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# EL EDITOR

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## Latinos Respaldan Plan Del Censo Y Temen A La Interferencia Congressional

Por Joseph Torres

A medida que la Oficina del Censo de los Estados Unidos se prepara para el año 2,000, los funcionarios de esa dependencia están esforzándose para producir un censo de población más eficaz en cuanto al costo y más exacto, al abandonar la noción de lograr un censo del 100% y aumentar el uso del "muestreo".

Para evitar una repetición del controvertido sub-censo hecho por la oficina en 1990, cuando se dejó de incluir a un estimado de 1,200,000 latinos, los dirigentes hispanos apoyan dicha estrategia por lo general. Pero ellos temen que la interferencia congressional podría trastornar al trámite.

Esta vez, empleando métodos de muestreo diseñados para protegerse contra los sub-censos que afectan desproporcionadamente a las comunidades pobres, urbanas y de inmigrantes, la oficina se propone publicar una cifra única y final del censo.

Y esta vez, dice la misma, no necesitará reclutar a millares de trabajadores adicionales para encontrar a los que dejen de enviar por correo un formulario del censo.

Para aumentar las tasas de respuesta, la oficina está tratando de hacer que los formularios del censo sean más "amistosos" para los usuarios. La misma se propone imprimirlos en español y tenerlos disponibles en lugares públicos -- bibliotecas, escuelas y otros.

Arturo Vargas, director ejecutivo de la Asociación Nacional de Funcionarios Latinos Electos y Designados (NALEO en inglés), ve que esas propuestas son buenas para la comunidad latina. "Algunos de los cambios se derivan de lo que se aprendió del censo de 1990", dice él.

El profesor David Hayes-Bautista, de la Universidad de California, recinto de Los Angeles (UCLA en inglés), que fué cortejado una vez por el gobierno de Clinton para dirigir la Oficina del Censo, está de acuerdo en que la enumeración, que es un censo real de personas, puede dejar de contar a demasiadas de ellas.

Los miembros del Grupo Hispano Congressional que se reunieron el mes pasado con la Directora del Censo, Martha Farnsworth Riche, y con el Sub-Secretario de Comercio Everett Ehrlich, para tratar de los planes de la oficina, concurren en ese parecer. Pero las propuestas de la oficina ya están encontrando oposición de la dirigencia republicana en el Congreso.

El Representante Hal Rogers (republicano por Kentucky), presidente del sub-comité de asignaciones de fondos de la Cámara sobre Comercio, dice que el muestreo llevará a demandas judiciales debido a su complejidad y "trabajo de adivinación complicado". El califica a la solicitud presupuestaria de la oficina del Censo como "demasiado costosa". Los funcionarios de la oficina estiman que necesitarán \$3,900 millones si se usa el muestreo, o \$4,800 millones si no se usa.

El Censo de 1990 costó \$2,600 millones. Se contrató a más de 300,000 trabajadores adicionales para el censo, como gestión para tratar de contar al 37% de la población que no respondió inicialmente. La oficina reconoció que, a pesar de sus esfuerzos, más de cuatro millones de personas, primordialmente personas de

color, no fueron contadas. En algunos casos, los trabajadores se mostraron renuentes a adentrarse en ciertas vecindades.

El muestreo posterior a la enumeración fué usado para determinar la magnitud del sub-censo, pero el entonces Secretario de Comercio, Robert Mosbacher, cuya dependencia supervisa a la Oficina del Censo, se negó a poner en práctica el ajuste citado. Varios estados iniciaron demandas judiciales, pero el Tribunal Supremo de los Estados Unidos rechazó esas apelaciones hace poco.

Los dirigentes hispanos temen que, en esta vez, algunos miembros del Congreso explotarán el sentimiento actual contra los inmigrantes en la nación para plantear asuntos tales como si se debe contar a los residentes indocumentados (igual que se planteó la cuestión de si debía contarse a los afroamericanos en el siglo pasado) y el uso del español u otros idiomas para comunicarse con tantas personas como sea posible.

Harry Pachón, presidente del Centro "Tomás Rivera" en California, dice que la intensidad del debate podría verse afectada por la situación económica del país, haciendo notar que a menudo se ve a los inmigrantes indocumentados como que disminuyen nuestros niveles de vida.

Hayes-Bautista, de UCLA, dice que aunque la Constitución de los Estados Unidos exige que se cuente a toda persona que viva en el país, él prevé que el Congreso debatirá sobre qué constituye exactamente "una persona". Vargas hace notar que algunos miembros del Congreso plantearon preguntas sobre el censo de los inmigrantes indocumentados en 1990. El se siente seguro de que volverán a hacerlo. Otros predicen que los proponentes del Inglés Oficial protestarán contra el uso de formularios del Censo en varios idiomas.

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## Home Test Kit for HIV OK'd

The Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday approved the first at-home test kit for detecting the virus that causes AIDS, reports the Chicago Tribune.

The test kit system, called the Confide HIV Testing Service, was developed and is being marketed by Direct Access Diagnostics, a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson. Initially, the company will make the kit available for over-the-counter purchase in Texas, the FDA said.

The kits also will be sold through a toll-free number in Texas and Florida, for people who would prefer having the kits mailed confidentially to their homes. Pricing was not announced.

Until now, the FDA noted in a statement, all tests for the HIV virus, whether using blood or saliva samples, were done under the supervision of health professionals at medical facilities, clinics, physicians' offices or blood establishments.

The new testing system comprises three integrated components -- an over-the-counter home blood collection kit, HIV-1 antibody testing at a certified lab, and a test result center that provides test results, counseling and referral anonymously.

More than 60 percent of Americans at risk for contracting HIV, which causes AIDS, have not been tested, according to estimates by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

## House Dems Forcing Wage Vote

House Democrats are planning an unusual parliamentary maneuver to again force a vote on the minimum wage, reports Associated Press.

House Minority Whip David Bonior, D-Mich., said Republicans failed to table a Utah land bill in December, providing the opening to call up the bill and force a vote on a proposed substitute that includes an increase in the minimum wage. House GOP leaders planned to bring the bill to the House floor next week.

Meanwhile, Senate Democrats intent on raising the minimum wage temporarily blocked a Republican measure to cut the gasoline tax by 4.3 cents a gallon.

In the House, Democrats and moderate Republicans have enough votes to approve the minimum-wage increase. The Clinton administration continued to insist on a separate vote on the minimum wage increase it wants, even though it also supports several tax breaks in the House bill, including:

- Renewal of an exemption for employer-paid tuition. The exemption would be renewed in 1996 for undergraduate tuition only.

- Tax-exempt organizations would be allowed to offer their employees 401(k) plans. they have been trained to handle the complex medical needs of the elderly.

In a report released Tuesday, the Alliance estimated that 20,000 physicians with geriatric training are now needed - 13,000 more than are currently available. By 2030, the Alliance estimates nearly 37,000 geriatric-trained physicians will be needed.

But if present trends continue, only 8,880 will be available. Members of the Alliance and experts in geriatrics say that unless the elderly are treated by doctors with special training, they can be misdiagnosed, misunderstood, or unnecessarily put in nursing homes.

## Fight to Ban Junk-Guns May Be Illegal

With several major California cities rushing to endorse local bans on the sale of "Saturday night specials," there are questions about whether the cities can legally enact or enforce this fight against handgun violence, reports The San Jose Mercury News.

Officials in San Jose, San Francisco and Oakland are promoting legislation similar to that in West Hollywood, which earlier this year became the first city in the state to enact such a ban.

But West Hollywood's ordinance faces a serious legal challenge from gun advocacy groups, including the California Rifle and Pistol Association and the National Rifle Association. The challenges are based on a state law that gives the Legislature exclusive control over "regulation of the registration or licensing of" firearms.

West Hollywood attorneys argue that the state's pre-emption does not also include the "sale" of such weapons. But the state Legislative Counsel, in a non-binding opinion, agrees with the gun groups that such local ordinances are invalid because pre-emption is implied by the language of the state law.

A Los Angeles County judge is expected to hear the challenge to the West Hollywood ordinance sometime this summer.

The West Hollywood law establishes definitions of guns based on their characteristics, but the ban applies only to a brand-name list of guns published by the city. The list includes six of the 10 guns on the ATF's list of weapons most frequently traced for local police departments. Such traces are ordered almost always for guns involved in crimes, ATF officials say.

But critics note that manufacturers can get around ordinances that specify brand names simply by changing the name. And definitions based on physical characteristics can also be a problem, as manufacturing specifications can change.

## Study Finds For Affirmative Action

# Minority Physicians Fill Need

SAN FRANCISCO-Black and Hispanic physicians in California care for a disproportionately high share of the state's minority patients, suggesting that care for these patients could be threatened by policies that might reduce the number of these doctors, UCSF researchers conclude in a new study.

Using state data and results from physician surveys, the researchers found that in black physician practices, 52 percent of the patients are black, while in non-black physician practices, the number of black patients is only 9 percent.

In Hispanic physician practices, 54 percent of patients are Hispanic, while in the practices of non-Hispanic doctors, the number of Hispanic patients is 20 percent. The study also found that black and Hispanic physicians are more likely to care for the state's poor patients.

"Minority physicians, particularly black and Hispanic, serve minority populations to a greater degree than white physicians in the same communities. So training members of minority groups for medical careers is going to be extremely important to get care to underserved populations," said Miriam Komaromy, M.D., UCSF assistant professor of medicine and chief author of the study. The study appears in the May 16 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

The results suggest that dismantling affirmative action programs, which have been under attack at both the national and state level, could

jeopardize care for minority patients, Komaromy said.

"Affirmative action is an important policy to address the health needs of the public in California. If we, as a society, are interested in making sure there is an adequate distribution of physicians in minority communities, an important goal is to train minority physicians since they are more likely to care for patients in these communities," Komaromy said.

When affirmative action programs were introduced in the late 1960s and early 1970s, minority enrollments in medical schools doubled, according to the researchers. Enrollments then leveled off following the 1978 U.S. Supreme Court decision in the Bakke case, in which a white student successfully claimed that race-based quotas prevented him from being admitted to medical school at the University of California.

Minority admissions began to rise again beginning in 1990, largely as a result of an Association of American Medical Colleges' project that is credited with boosting the number of minority graduates from medical schools by 37 percent, according to AAMC data.

However, minorities still remain underrepresented among physicians, the researchers say. Blacks make up 12 percent of the U.S. population but only 4 percent of physicians. Hispanics account for 9 percent of the general population but only 5 percent of physicians.

To find out what role these minority physicians play in

serving patients, the researchers examined 1990 American Medical Association data for primary care doctors throughout the state. Those communities with high numbers of black and Hispanic residents were found to have fewer physicians per resident overall, the researchers reported.

"What was most striking is that we found there were fewer physicians available in affluent minority communities than in poor, non-minority communities. So what determines the number of available physicians in a community is race and ethnicity, not income levels," said Kevin Grumbach, M.D., UCSF assistant professor of family and community medicine and a co-author on the study.

The researchers also surveyed 1,008 primary care physicians about where they practiced and the kinds of patients they served. They found black physicians provided care in communities where the percentage of black residents was nearly five times as high as in areas where other physicians practiced. A similar trend was noted for Hispanic physicians. Moreover, both black and Hispanic physicians were found to care for more uninsured patients or patients on Medi-Cal, the researchers reported.

The researchers noted it was possible that discrimination played a role in where the minority physicians located their practices. To help address this issue, they reviewed records from 1969 to 1984 for the 275 black, Hispa-

nic and Native American graduates of the UCSF School of Medicine, which has the highest proportion of graduates from underrepresented minorities of any U.S. medical school other than traditionally black schools, according to the study. Minority graduates of UCSF were more likely than non-minority graduates to locate in black and Hispanic communities, the researchers found.

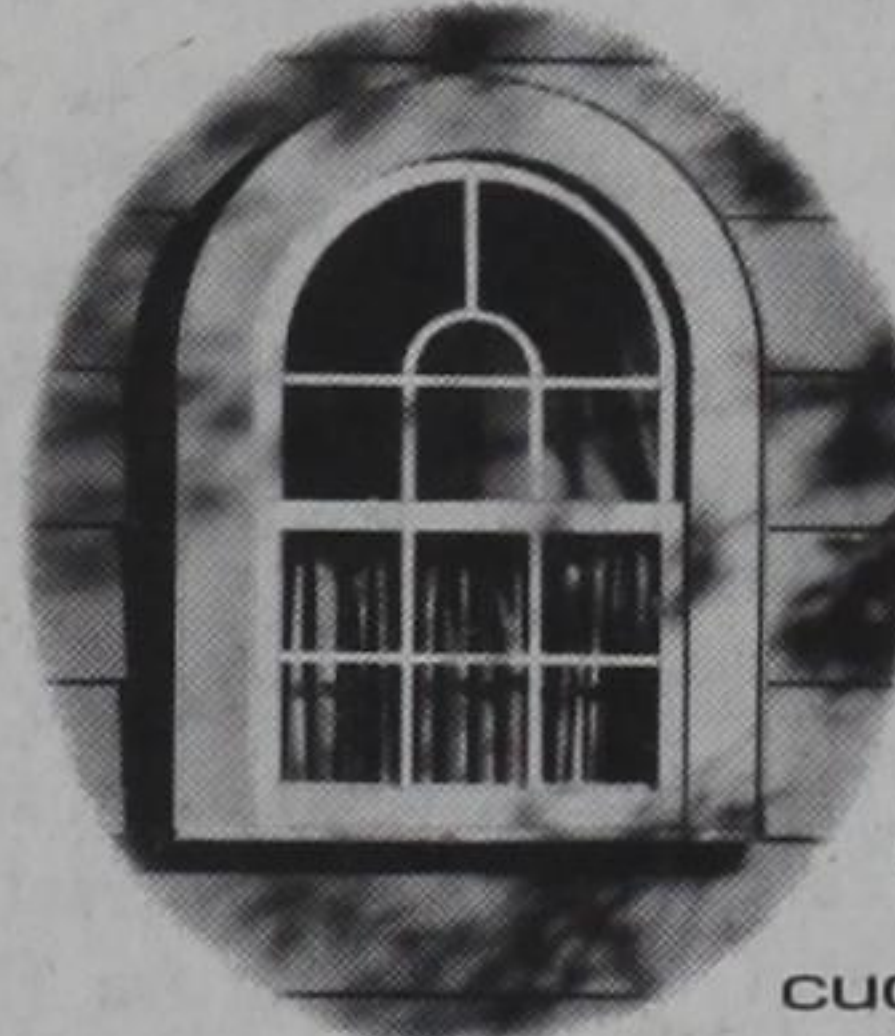
"These graduates are among the most competitive in the country, so if they are going to these communities, that implies it's a matter of choice, rather than discrimination," Komaromy said.

The researchers conclude that: "Our data suggest that physicians who are black or Hispanic fill an important role in caring for poor people and members of minority communities. Changes that result in a decrease in the number of physicians from minority groups are also likely to result in poorer access to health care and may ultimately result in reduced health and well-being for a substantial portion of the population."

The other researchers involved in the study are Michael Drake, M.D., UCSF associate dean for admissions and student programs and professor of ophthalmology; Karen Vranizan, M.A., UCSF biostatistician; Nicole Lurie, M.D., MSPH, professor of medicine at the University of Minnesota; Dennis Keane, MPH, UCSF staff research associate; and Andrew Bindman, M.D., UCSF assistant professor of medicine and epidemiology.

**El Editor  
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# Entertainment

## POW! PAU! Latino Superheroes Muscle Into Comic Book Mix

By Fernando Trulin IV

Comic books have entertained millions of U.S. readers for years, letting their fans' imaginations transport them to alien worlds where superpowered beings routinely perform heroic deeds. To their readers, half of whom fall into the 13-to-25 age range, characters like Batman, Spiderman, Superman and Captain America have become cultural icons.

Yet these heroes represent only one element of our society -- the Anglo male. Only in the past few years have Latino superheroes become a bit more visible in English-language comics to provide identifiable role models for Hispanic children.

But unlike popular titles such as X-Men and Sovereign 7, available in just about every drugstore and supermarket, the majority of Latino comics are independent titles found only in comic book specialty stores. Most are self-published, forcing creators to assume extra responsibilities to market their books.

In an industry that generates nearly \$1 billion a year in comic books and merchandising, "We're still only about one-thousandth of one percent of the market," figures Carlos Saldaña, creator and publisher of the critically acclaimed comic book Burrito.

"We fall in this gray area -- too big for local (Latino) businesses and too small for nationals, so it's hard finding advertisers." Independent titles must compete with major companies such as Marvel Comics, DC Comics and Image, which can afford to flood the market. Last year, Image's sales totaled \$100 million. Marvel Comics bought out Hero's World, a major comic distributor, and set up exclusive distributing

rights, forcing some of the small retailers who handle independent titles out of business.

Saldaña says the main reason Latino superheroes aren't more popular is lack of exposure. "The editors of the established presses didn't know how to read the Latino market. They were waiting for the next guy to tap into it, and if it worked they would jump in."

Fernando Rodríguez, owner/creator of the comic Aztec of the City, agrees. "The industry just doesn't see Latino kids as comic book readers and buyers."

A few titles that have crossed over successfully, such as Love and Rockets, frequently depend on barrio-gang story lines. Just as many Latino teenagers blend English and Spanish in their daily speech, most English-language Latino comic books incorporate occasional words or phrases in Spanish.

In some, English translations are provided in the margins. Last year, a group of Latino artists and writers met at the San Diego Comic Convention, one of the largest events in the industry, and formed PACAS, the Profesional Amigos of Comic Art Society.

Identifying itself as an "all-for-one-and-one-for-all" organization, PACAS serves as an informal network among its 42 members.

"We're all struggling, but even if we have to Xerox the damn thing, we'll make it because we have the talent," vows José Martínez, creator of The Chosen. Martínez spent \$12,000 last year to produce his first issue. He sold 3,000 copies and grossed \$7,000. Of

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that, 60 percent went to distributors.

"We're the barbed-wire people (of comics), so the kids behind us won't have any trouble with the industry. We risk our beliefs and our own characters for the love of the medium of comic art," says Saldaña.

Currently, there are no prominent Latina superheroes. But Martínez plans to introduce a major heroine in upcoming issues of The Chosen.

Marvel Comics characters such as Rictor and Sunspot, and Milestone's Fade and Third Rail are of Mexican, Brazilian and Puerto Rican descent. They speak a mix of English, Spanish and Portuguese. However, according to many Hispanic comic creators, these characters don't reflect Latino culture.

"I grew up on comics and only saw americanos as the superheroes. There were not that many Latinos, and usually they were either supporting characters or got killed off," recalls Richard Domínguez, creator of El Gato Negro.

"They were created by (non-Latinos) who didn't know our culture and heritage and failed to capture the true essence of our community."

The current line of Latino superheroes attempts to rectify this problem. "We have to get young people excited about their culture," says Martínez. "What better way to show them what their ancestors did than through comic books."

Fernando Trulin IV is a reporter with the national newsweekly Hispanic Link Weekly Report. Copyright 1996. Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate

## Usan a Los Tigres del Norte Para Detener Ilegales!

"Los de la Migra aprovechan nuestras presentaciones en USA para detener a cientos de paisanos al terminar los bailes". Jorge Hernández!



Los Tigres del Norte apoyarán musicalmente a los indocumentados.

CIUDAD DE MEXICO.- La tristeza y la impotencia son los principales sentimientos que surgen en Jorge Hernández, integrante de Los Tigres del Norte, cuando escucha hablar del tema de los indocumentados.

El vocalista del grupo dijo que para él, el caso de los indocumentados que residen en los Estados Unidos es un motivo de tristeza pues siempre que finalizan sus presentaciones en ciudades de Norteamérica la gente de migración está en la salida al acecho de los ilegales.

"Me da mucha tristeza que siempre que nos presentamos en algún lugar de los Estados Unidos, la gente de migración detenga a tanta gente indocumentada. Siempre que se enteran que va a haber un evento mexicano, van y detienen a mucha gente pues allá les pagan una recompensa por las personas que detengan", explicó.

El intérprete de El Circo dijo que en una ocasión a Los Tigres del Norte les tocó ver que al final de uno

de sus bailes la "migra" se llevó alrededor de 800 personas.

"Una vez nos presentamos en Filadelfia y al salir de nuestra presentación vimos que estaban subiendo a mucha gente a camiones. Después nos platicaron que esa vez se llevaron a aproximadamente unas 800 personas. Fue algo muy lamentable", expresó Jorge.

Aunque a Los Tigres del Norte les parece que esa situación es demasiado triste, ellos no han podido hacer nada por sus compatriotas que residen en el norte de América y lo único

que han hecho es intervenir en algunos casos para tratar de que no se los lleven.

"Nosotros no podemos hacer nada pues son las leyes de allá. En una ocasión sí tratamos de que no se llevaran a una niña porque sus familiares nos lo pidieron, pero aún así se la llevaron."

"Esa vez la niña quería saludarnos y cuando trató de acercarse a nosotros lastimó sin querer a un policía. El policía se enojó, la tiró al suelo y la esposó. Nosotros lo vimos y nos acercamos para decirle que la dejara, que era una

bebé, pero contestó que lo había agredido y se la tenía que llevar."

"Los familiares de la menor nos pidieron que por favor hiciéramos algo. Entonces fuimos a hablar con el sargento para impedir que se la llevaran, pero como quiera la pasaron a otro departamento", recordó el vocalista.

El grupo norteño tiene planeado realizar próximamente un disco de corridos donde seguirán incluyendo temas que hablen del problema de los indocumentados y de la violación a sus derechos humanos.

Comics, P.O. Box 67368, Century City, CA 90067. (310) 276-7431.

EL GATO NEGRO: Social worker by day and crime fighter by night, El Gato Negro (The Black Cat) fights

drug traffickers along the U.S.-Mexican border. For a copy of issues 2 or 3, send \$2 plus \$1.25 shipping and handling to: Azteca Productions, P.O. Box 35833, Dallas, TX 75235-0833. (214) 871-0080; fax (214) 871-0086.

### How To Buy Latino Comics

BURRITO: A wise-cracking burro pokes fun at social problems facing Hispanics. Issues 2-4 are still available. For a copy, send \$2.75 per issue plus \$1 for shipping and handling to: Burrito/Accent Comics, P.O. Box 11581, Glendale, CA 91226. (213) 257-9101.

AZTEC OF THE CITY: A young construction worker suffers a near-fatal accident and becomes the vehicle for a crime-fighting Aztec warrior spirit. For a copy of issues 1 and 2, send \$2.50 plus 75 cents for shipping and handling per issue to: El Salto Comics, 2105 Sullivan Ave., San Jose, CA 95122. (408) 989-8800. Issue 1 is also available in Spanish.

THE CHOSEN: Five Latinos are given super powers by ancient spirits to fight evil through time and space. For a copy, send \$2.50 to: Chico

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A muchos padres les resulta imposible enviar a sus hijos a la universidad. Por eso muchos jóvenes invierten su tiempo en el Army. Allí ellos pueden ganar hasta \$30,000 para continuar sus estudios, si califican para el Montgomery GI Bill y el Army College Fund.

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Infórmese sobre los beneficios del Army con su reclutador local.

**ARMY. SEA TODO LO QUE PUEDE SER.**

From Page 2 way of undermining the Census to make sure that the U.S. population is not accurately counted."

The bureau is also experimenting with a new multiracial category on trial forms and with placing its Hispanic-origin question before the race question. Louis Nuñez, a member of its Hispanic Advisory Committee and former president of the National Puerto Rican Coalition, favors asking the Hispanic-origin question first, saying it clarifies for respondents which category applies to them. He adds that the committee is closely monitoring the trial multiracial category.

Census numbers shape the reapportionment of the U.S. Congress and provide the framework by which more than \$100 billion in annual federal government aid is disbursed to states. The states also use the Census to allocate funds to localities and establish their state political districts.

In the 1992 election, with redrawn boundaries based on the 1990 Census, six Latinos were elected in newly created congressional districts, raising the number of Latino voting members in the House of Representatives from 11 to 17. Congressional districts contain about half a million persons each.

Between 1990 and 1996, the U.S. Hispanic population has shot up from 25.5 million to 31.7 million, raising the probability that several new "Hispanic" districts will be created once again.

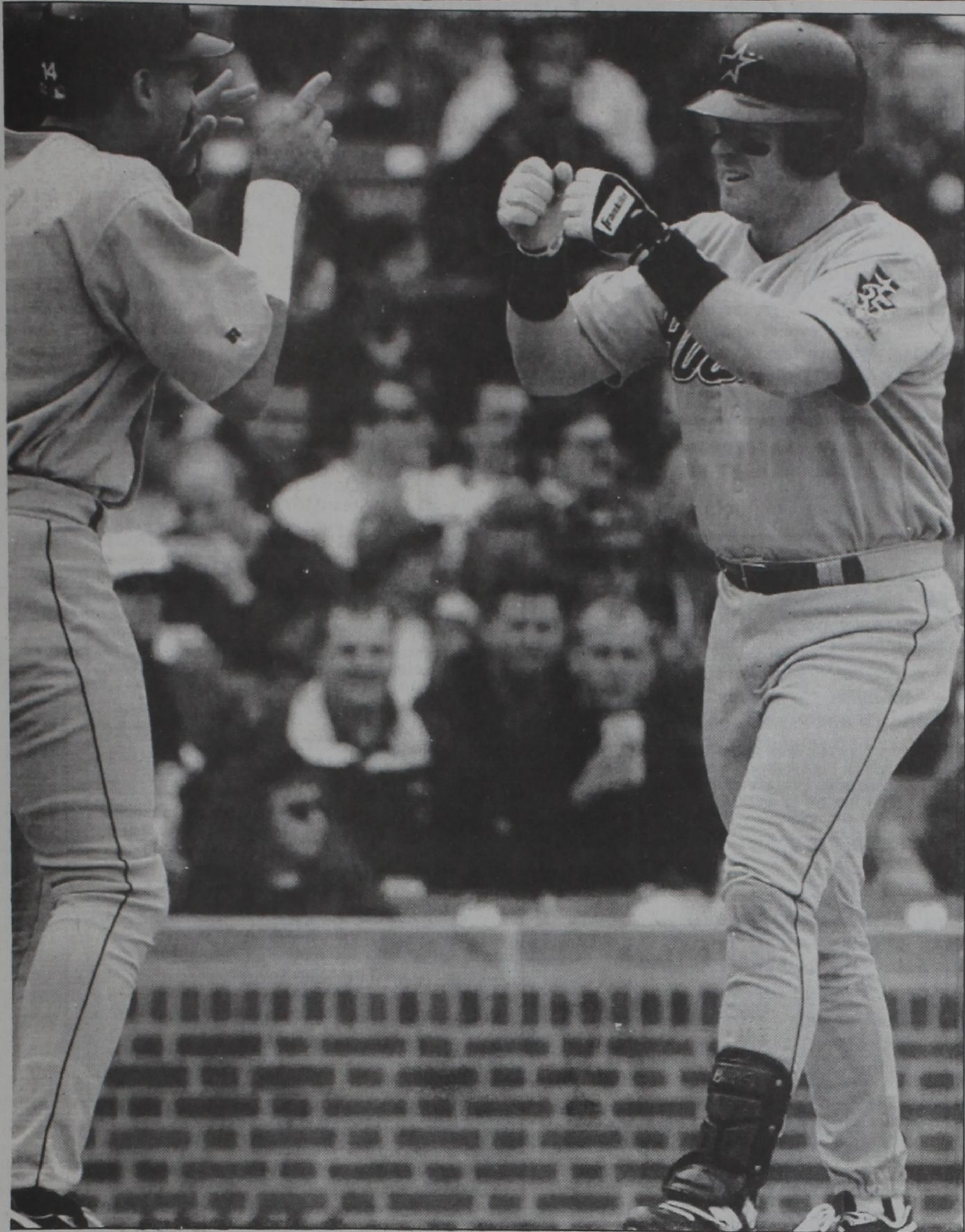
Joseph Torres is a reporter with Hispanic Link Weekly Report in Washington, D.C. Copyright 1996. Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate

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## Attendance Lagging For Astros

HOUSTON - The Houston Rockets have been eliminated from the NBA playoffs. School is almost out.

That places Houston baseball fans in the spotlight as attendance lags for the Astros despite a half-game lead in the NL Central.

The Astros are scheduled to play 15 of their next 21 games at home.

"We're in first place, and we're doing well," Astros owner Drayton McLane Jr.

said. "With a break or two, we could have a better record."

The Astros' showing at the gate this season is crucial to the future of the franchise, which McLane has threatened to move if attendance does not improve.

"This will be a key time for us because people are beginning to focus on baseball," McLane said. "This home-stand could set a positive trend for us."

"Of course, it could set a negative trend, but we look at the positive side, and we think attendance will be up."

Last year, McLane considered selling the Astros to a Virginia businessman who wanted to move the team to the northern Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C.

Earlier this spring, McLane said at least 2.7 million people must attend games this season. But his latest estimate is 2.2 million, meaning that the Astros must average about 27,100 per home game.

This year's first 17 home games drew an average of 21,700 fans, a marked increase from last year's average of 18,900 but far short of McLane's most recent goal.

"By early July, we will have a pretty good idea of what we will do," McLane said. "This should have provided a strong indication of what the fans want. The fans really need to make the decision. If baseball is that important to them, they need to support the team."

Amid the Astros' bid for a playoff position last season, home crowds were small during pivotal games, which some players said affected the team's performance.

Pam Gardner, who oversees Astros ticket sales, said sales generally increase 15 percent to 24 percent after school lets out for the summer. Houston public schools end classes May 31.

## Black Advocates Mad At Cowboys

DALLAS - Black civil-rights advocates said Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones fell short of fulfilling his pledge to award more Texas Stadium contracts to minority businesses.

"We're very frustrated with the Cowboys organization," said Anthony Bond, president of the Irving chapter of the NAACP. "It's been almost two years, and we don't have anybody working yet."

With 18 contracts worth millions of dollars due to be awarded later this month, local activists are asking for a meeting with Jones to discuss future business opportunities.

Cowboys spokesman Rich Dalrymple said he would not release figures on minority contractors until after the pending contracts are awarded. But he said the team is working to increase minority

participation. "We think we're making steps toward the achievement of those goals," he said.

In 1994, Jones signed a pledge to create three management positions for members of ethnic minorities in the Cowboys organization and to set a 35 percent minority contracting goal.

The agreement, widely hailed at the time as the best equal opportunity plan in the NFL, averted a proposed consumer boycott of the Cowboys by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Since then, change has come slowly, Bond said.

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## Baseball Today

Florida at Chicago (3:20 p.m. EDT). Al Leiter, coming off a no-hitter against Colorado on Saturday, pitches for the Marlins against Jim Bullinger.

### STARS

Thursday  
- Sammy Sosa homered twice during Chicago's eight-run seventh inning in a 13-1 win over Houston. He became the first Cubs player ever to hit two home runs in an inning.

- Amaury Telemaco made an impressive major league debut, allowing only one hit in seven shutout innings as the Cubs beat the Astros 13-1.

- Albert Belle hit two homers and drove in five runs after he was ordered to get counseling as the Cleveland Indians beat the Detroit Tigers 8-3.

### SEEK HELP

Cleveland's Albert Belle was ordered Thursday by AL president Gene Budig to undergo counseling and perform community service. If he fails to do so, he will face suspension. The decision followed an investigation of an April 6 incident in which Belle threw a ball that hit a photographer during a workout.

### SEETHING

Chicago White Sox outfielder Tony Phillips may face a battery charge and a possible jail term, the result of going into the stands and allegedly punching a heckler Wednesday night. On Thursday, he became angry after getting picked off at first base and had to be restrained from reaching umpire Chuck Meriwether. "It's not been a good 24 hours," Phillips said.

### SNAPPED

Brad Radke stopped his personal five-game losing streak, pitching Minnesota past Toronto 4-1 Thursday. He got off to a 3-0 start this season, but was winless in six starts since April 11.

### STREAKS

Albert Belle has hit in a career-high 17 games and the Cleveland Indians have won 12 straight home games.

### SLUGGERS

Padres third baseman Ken Caminiti, slowed by groin and left shoulder injuries, likely won't return to the lineup until Saturday night. He's missed three straight games and six of seven. Caminiti is batting .326 with 24 RBIs.

### SWINGS

Atlanta has been shut out five times this season. The Braves were blanked just four times last year.

### STARTERS

Milwaukee pitchers haven't thrown a complete game in their first 37 starts, which is a team record for the beginning of a season.

### SLUMPS

Ed Sprague is 1-for-17 in his last five games for Toronto.

### SWAPS

The Yankees announced Thursday they acquired pitcher Katsuhiko Maeda from the Seibu Lions for cash considerations. It was the first trade between U.S. and Japanese big league teams since the San Francisco Giants got pitcher Masanori Murakami from the Nankai Hawks in 1964.

### STATS

Albert Belle has hit 47 homers in 96 games since Aug. 1.

### STATUS

Chuck Knoblauch started at second base for the Twins on Thursday, his first appearance in the field since being sidelined May 5 with an injured middle finger on his left hand.

### SIDELINED

Cubs second baseman Ryne Sandberg left Thursday's game with a bruised right forearm after being hit by a pitch from Astros reliever Anthony Young. His was listed as day-to-day.

### STEADY STARTER

Jack McDowell of Cleveland has pitched into at least the seventh inning in all nine of his starts.

### SCOUTING

Tony Clark drove in Toledo's first three runs as the Mud Hens defeated the Rochester Red Wings 6-3 Thursday. Clark hit a run-scoring single in the first inning and a two-run homer, his sixth of the year, in the fourth.

### SPEAKING

"Everybody has a breaking point and I just reached mine last night. From now on, my breaking point will be a little further." White Sox outfielder Tony Phillips.

### SEASONS

#### May 17

1903 - In a game played at Columbus, Ohio, the Indians beat the New York Highlanders 9-2 behind Addie Joss. The game was played in Columbus because of Sunday restrictions in Cleveland. Clark Griffith was the loser.

1925 - Cleveland's Tris Speaker got his 3,000th career hit, connecting off Tom Zachry in a 2-1 loss to the Washington Senators.

1961 - Roger Maris hit his first home run of the season at Yankee Stadium and fourth overall on the way to a record 61.

1963 - Don Nottbart pitched Houston's first no-hitter as the Colt .45's defeated the visiting Philadelphia Phillies 4-1.

1970 - Hank Aaron scratched out an infield single against Cincinnati's Wayne Simpson for his 3,000th career hit and became the ninth man in baseball history to reach that plateau. The hit came in the nightcap of the Atlanta Braves' doubleheader loss to the Reds at Cincinnati.

1979 - Dave Kingman of the Cubs hit three home runs and Mike Schmidt of the Phillies hit two as Philadelphia beat Chicago 23-22 in 10 innings at Wrigley Field. The slugfest included 11 home runs and 50 hits.

1992 - Toronto surpassed the 1 million mark in attendance, faster than any team in major league history. It took the Blue Jays 21 dates to draw 1,006,294. The previous record was shared by the 1991 Blue Jays and the 1981 Los Angeles Dodgers.

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July 19-21 Last Chance Qualifier, Men's C,D,E & Women's Open  
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