

Senate Panel Approves Immigration Bill

The Senate Judiciary subcommittee on immigration approved a drastic reduction in legal immigration to the U.S.

The measure reduces the number of legal immigrants other than refugees the U.S. would accept from the current 675,000 annually to 525,000. Of these, 75,000 would be those coming to fill jobs, and 450,000 would be relatives of U.S. citizens. Adult children and siblings of U.S. citizens no longer would be allowed to enter the country under their relatives' sponsorship. The measure now goes to the full committee. A similar bill awaiting a vote on the House floor would cut the annual total to 595,000 by 2001.

Senator Alan Simpson, (R-WY) said he wrote the bill because too many foreigners compete with U.S. workers for jobs and overcrowd some areas of the country.

Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) who, with Paul Simon of IL, opposed the bill, rejected Simpson's assertion that



many immigrants come to the United States to gain welfare and other public benefits. The subcommittee adopted a Kennedy amendment that would prohibit employers from

bringing in immigrants to work if they had laid off any U.S. citizens in the previous six months. "It would be a mistake ... to allow the nation's concerns about illegal

immigration to create an unjustified and unwarranted backlash in Congress over legal immigration," said Kennedy, the panel's senior Democrat.

News Briefs

"Radical Center" Party Forming

Seven prominent politicians forming a "radical center" group have been meeting secretly on alternatives to the two major parties' solutions for the nation's problems, reports Associated Press. The group, which includes New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley and former Massachusetts Sen. Paul Tsongas, both Democrats, feels "disenfranchised at this point" by current ideological trends in the Democratic and Republican parties, said Tsongas.

"There is a center in this country - whether you call it the passionate center, the radical center, the sensible center - that is basically socially inclusive, fiscally conservative, pro-environment, pro-campaign reform, and those people feel rather disenfranchised at this point," said Tsongas.

Meanwhile, a published report said the seven - five Democrats and two independents - are planning the mechanics of an independent presidential campaign. In addition to Bradley and Tsongas, the members of the group are former Colorado Sen. Gary Hart, former Colorado Gov. Dick Lamm and former Minnesota Rep. Tim Penny, all Democrats, and former Connecticut Gov. Lowell Weicker and Maine Gov. Angus King, both independents.

"There are a group of us who share a similar philosophy, that is socially inclusive, fiscally conservative, pro-environment and pro-campaign reform," said Tsongas.

Budget Talks Off to Slow Start

Balanced budget talks between the White House and Congress resumed Wednesday, with little evident progress at the first session beyond a decision to meet daily for the rest of the week, reports Associated Press.

Republicans said they would formally send the balanced budget legislation Congress passed last week to Clinton later this week. It calls for hundreds of billions of dollars in cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and other programs, along with a \$245 billion tax cut over seven years.

Clinton's own balanced budget plan, designed to wipe out red ink in 10 years, relies on a rosier economic forecast than Republicans used for their own. Using the same forecast as Republicans employed, Clinton's proposal fails to achieve a balanced budget.

Hours before the discussions began, White House spokesman Mike McCurry suggested the issue may not be resolved before next year's presidential and congressional elections.

GOP Retreats from Denying Education Aid to Immigrants

After protests from colleges and universities, Congressional Republicans have backed off a plan to deny higher education aid to legal immigrants, reports The New York Times. GOP welfare legislation would limit, and in some cases deny, the right of legal aliens to receive most kinds of federal aid, including financial aid for higher education. It was instead decided to require that immigrants have a citizen co-sign their federal college loans.

Still included in the welfare legislation, however, is a plan to limit access to the Head Start preschool program for the youngest legal aliens. It was an issue that faced little organized opposition. The House-Senate conferees agreed that legal immigrants could take part in Head Start, but that their access should be restricted by counting not only their parents' income, but the income of whomever sponsored them as immigrants, in determining whether they were poor enough to be eligible. It is part of the budget reconciliation bill, which President Clinton has promised to negotiate with GOP leaders this week.

House Passes Lobbying Bill

The House on Wednesday sent President Clinton a bill that would force thousands of Washington lobbyists to register and to disclose their clients and how much they are paid, reports Associated Press.

The bill was approved, 421-0. Clinton has said he will sign it into law.

On a series of roll-call votes Tuesday night, the House defeated amendments that would have banned executive branch use of grass-roots lobbying techniques to influence Congress and prohibited certain U.S. trade officials from later lobbying for foreign interests.

The executive-branch lobbying ban, proposed by Rep. Bill Clinger, R-Pa., sought to impose new civil penalties for administration officials who seek to influence Congress through grass-roots techniques - organizing citizens to contact their lawmakers through ads, pamphlets, mailings, speeches and the like. Despite GOP leadership support, it failed on a 238-190 vote.

The current law is so full of loopholes that relatively few lobbyists register, and those who do disclose only minimal information about their activities and how much they are paid. Some 6,500 lobbyists and firms are registered, but independent estimates say there are 10 times that many people in Washington whose primary job is to try to influence government policy.

Inmates' Lawbook Use Debated

With complaints in Congress about frivolous prisoner lawsuits as a backdrop, an Arizona case led to a Supreme Court debate Wednesday about how much access inmates must have to prison law libraries and legal help, reports Associated Press.

Arizona's attorney general asked justices to throw out a lower court order requiring a detailed law library plan for the state's prisons. But a lawyer for inmates insisted the current state system denies inmates the right to meaningful access to the courts.

A Supreme Court ruled in 1977 that inmates have a constitutional right to meaningful access to the courts and must be provided with law libraries or legal assistance. But yesterday Justice David Souter said it "seems utterly senseless" to provide libraries without adequate additional help to illiterate or non-English speaking inmates.

Some members of Congress are seeking to limit prisoners' ability to go to court. A Senate bill would require inmates who file lawsuits to pay full court costs and let judges immediately dismiss cases deemed meritless.

The case is Lewis vs. Casey, 94-1511.

Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero

Well it's political season again. Be prepared to see dozens of politicians or would be politicians to be announcing their intentions to run for office. One thing for sure is that Montford will not run for the U.S.

Senate. His reason -- Not enough money.

The race that will take the spotlight in the minority community will be the race for County Commissioner Precinct 3. Rumors have it that up to 4 persons will challenge incumbent Gilbert Flores.

Ysabel Luna, a candidate in the last election for the post has already delivered a press release to our office saying that he will announce this coming Monday.

Luna says that he "will strongly concentrate on equal representation and service to our rainbow of citizens in pct. 3, our county roads in which children and mothers travel to and from on a daily basis, the spending of tax dollars, our economic development, county parks, and finally the most important fact of our future which is youth, crime, and violence."

He goes on to say that he has "been told that money wins elections, and that I haven't a chance. Which only tells me that sometimes certain individuals can indeed be bought."

Can we see a hint of a mud-slinging campaign?

To be sure there is much to be discussed as to how the County Commissioner's Court is currently working.

Other rumors surfacing are that T.J. Patterson might be interested in running for the Commissioner's post. That could prove real interesting.

Of course Gilbert will be looking for re-election but his intentions have not been publicly stated. Perhaps soon?

As to the other possible candidates maybe they'll come out of the bushes this coming week.

Pico de Gallo
Lubbock Centro Aztlan's production of the Alvarado film "A Good Old Fashion Cabrito Cooking Contest" will be shown on public access TV (Cable Channel 14) this coming Monday December 4 at 11:30 P.M. The film was made here in Lubbock by Rudolfo Alvarado and is based on a short story written by...you guessed it...me. Tune in.

New Billboards In Honor Of Hispanic Veterans

WASHINGTON D.C.

Amid the political rhetoric and the anti-immigrant posturing coming out of Washington aimed at cutting off programs and benefits to legal Hispanic residents, the Hispanic community reminded the Nation of the military contributions, honor and valor Latinos have paid to this country in time of war and need. Hispanic Americans have distinguished themselves

above and beyond the call of duty since the Civil War, earning the Nation's highest award, the medal of Honor, for military valor 38 times.

On November 10 at a national press conference in Washington, DC, the American GI Forum unveiled a Veteran's Day collaborative billboard program that celebrates the military contributions of Hispanic Americans. The billboards, which tell viewers "America's Hispanic Heroes, Saluting Two Centuries of Service and Sacrifice", are to be posted in seven states with large Hispanic populations. Starting this month and continuing into '96 as space becomes available, the billboards will be placed in Texas, California, New Mexico, Arizona, Illinois, New York, and New Jersey.

INS Anuncian Plan Para Acelerar Naturalización

(Notimex).- El Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización (SIN) de Estados Unidos, anunció hoy que pondrá en marcha un programa que facilitará los trámites para obtener la ciudadanía estadounidense en el área de Los Angeles.

Richard Rodgers, director distrital del SIN, informó que para tal efecto se ha abierto una nueva oficina de tramitación de ciudadanía en Laguna Niguel y el mes próximo se inaugurarán dos centros más en El Monte y Bellflower.

El anuncio de Rogers se produjo luego de que varias organizaciones y congresistas latinos han acusado al SIN de practicar "tortuismo" en la tramitación de miles de solicitudes de ciudadanía presentadas por inmigrantes mexicanos y latinos.

El director distrital del SIN explicó que con el nuevo programa denominado "Ciudadanía USA", para el próximo verano, la dependencia procesará las solicitudes en un plazo no mayor de seis meses.

Ese trámite, que actualmente puede durar hasta dos años, será acelerado mediante la contratación de personal, la apertura de nuevos centros de tramitación y la modernización del equipo de cómputo del SIN.

Rogers señaló que tan solo en el distrito del SIN en Los Angeles se cuadruplicará el número de empleados que atienden las solicitudes de ciudadanía.

En agosto pasado, la comisión nacional del SIN, Doris Meissner, anunció en Los Angeles que se pondría en marcha a nivel nacional el programa "Ciudadanía USA", a fin de hacer frente al rezago en la tramitación de solicitudes de naturalización.

La funcionaria federal reconoció que el incremento que han registrado

las solicitudes de ciudadanía responde al clima antiinmigrantes que se ha apoderado de Estados Unidos.

Reportes oficiales señalan que tras la aprobación de la Ley 187 en California, en noviembre pasado, se incrementó en 300 por ciento el número de mexicanos y latinos que solicitan la ciudadanía estadounidense.

El sentimiento anti-inmigrante y los recortes de ayuda social para ese sector de la población, que se discute en el Congreso federal, provocó un sustancial incremento en las solicitudes de naturalización.

Según proyecciones oficiales del SIN, durante 1995 unos 900 mil inmigrantes legales -la mayoría mexicanos y latinos- solicitarán la ciudadanía estadounidense, mientras que el año pasado la cifra fue de 555 mil.

El Foro de Asuntos Latinos (FAL) había denunciado que a pesar del aumento de las solicitudes de naturalización, el porcentaje de presupuesto que el SIN destina para tramitar esas aplicaciones se ha reducido este año en un tercio, respecto a 1990.

Porello "será difícil, si no imposible" que el SIN tramite de manera eficaz las 900 mil solicitudes de ciudadanía que se esperan para este año", advirtió en un estudio el FAL.

Los líderes latinos sostienen que el retraso en los trámites provocará que miles de inmigrantes hispanos que esperaban registrarse como votantes al obtener su ciudadanía estadounidense, queden al margen del proceso electoral de 1996.

Según estadísticas del SIN, las solicitudes de ciudadanía en el distrito de Los Angeles -el más grande del país y el de mayor población latina- ascendieron en noviembre anterior a 735 diarias en promedio, contra dos mil 500 en abril pasado.

"Miles de mexicanos están solicitando ahora su naturalización como estadounidenses porque es así como adquieren su derecho al voto en este

país", dijo a Notimex el dirigente de One Stop Immigration, Juan José Gutierrez.

El activista proinmigrantes señaló que la numerosa comunidad mexicana y latina de Estados Unidos se ha dado cuenta, "a raíz de la propuesta 187, que solo ejerciendo sus derechos políticos podrá contrarrestar los efectos de la guerra que le han declarado".

Según las estadísticas del SIN, en el distrito de Los Angeles se han incrementado en 10 veces las solicitudes de ciudadanía en los últimos 18 meses, aunque el principal salto se registró tras la aprobación de la Ley 187.

En octubre anterior, un promedio diario de 768 residentes -la mayoría mexicanos- solicitaron su naturalización en el distrito local del SIN, según las estadísticas.

En diciembre, tras la aprobación de la suspensión de ley que niega educación y salud a los inmigrantes ilegales, el promedio de solicitudes diarias aumentó a 877 y para marzo anterior la cifra se ubicó en mil 960.

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The Balanced Budget Debate Shifts--To Joe And Josefina

By Maria Echaveste

Every time he gets his paycheck, he swallows hard. His gross wages aren't why. It's his take-home pay. Joe makes a little more than minimum wage. With a family to support, he is one of the 17 million U.S. laborers who make up what is called the working poor.

Joe, or Josefina, can be any one of these men and women who work full-time. They are laborers, clerks, field hands, child-care providers; they perform a myriad of other essential services. But try as they may, they fall short of reaching the middle class on the pay they take home.

Poor or not, Joe takes seriously his responsibilities -- his job, his family, his taxes. Like almost everyone else who receives a regular paycheck, Joe pays federal taxes. They're taken from his check before it reaches his hands. For the working poor, any withholding is especially noticed, because there was less to start with.

Sometimes, that leaves Joe wondering: Does work pay?

President Bill Clinton wants Joe to keep working, to stay off welfare, and to support his family. The President expanded a program called the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which is less complicated than it sounds. It simply

means that Joe gets some of his taxes back to help his family with basic living expenses.

The tax credit reduces the amount taken out of Joe's paycheck so he's able to take home more of his pay. That makes him a better provider, a better parent and a better worker.

For the 20 years it's been around, the EITC has been doing that for millions of U.S. workers. President Clinton could call it "the best anti-poverty, the best pro-family, the best job-creation measure to come out of Congress," except that President Ronald Reagan said that first. Yes, this worthy program has always had support across party lines.

But now things have changed -- one of them being the Congress. Now Joe, a married worker with two children and a near-poverty income of \$16,500, is about to lose a big part of his disposable income. He will have to pay more in taxes.

Last year, the expansion of the tax credit by President Clinton meant that Joe's paycheck has considerably less shrinkage. His tax credit totaled \$2,532, money that he took home.

The Republican proposal would reduce that amount, in effect raising Joe's tax bill

steadily over the next seven years.

Joe is confused. Who wouldn't be?

According to the Office of Tax Analysis at the Department of the Treasury, 12.6 million working-poor families, with a total of 14.5 million children, would lose on average \$332 of their tax credit in 1996. The 4.2 million families with two or more children would lose even more -- on average \$534. Hispanics will be particularly hard hit because, with their strong work ethic, they are disproportionately represented among the working poor.

Now here's the confusing part. At the same time that Joe and others in his boat hit Congress' tax iceberg, families in the top 1 percent of income distribution, those with incomes over \$349,000, would receive an average tax benefit of almost \$8,500 per family.

The President has often said, "If you work a full-time job and you have dependent children, you and your family should not have to live in poverty." It's the working people like Joe who need some relief.

So, even while we balance the budget, as we must -- and we will -- we need to keep in mind all the Joes, Josefinas and everyone who works hard to do right by his or her fami-

ly.

The debate now is not whether to balance the budget, but how?

It is wrong-headed to clobber the people who can least afford to take a hit, like the working poor. That's the same reason it shouldn't hit so hard on people who need and depend on Medicare and Medicaid.

President Clinton wants to make sure that we balance the budget in a way that reflects common sense and common principles, and so he is fighting on these fronts, as well as for education and protections for the environment.

The budget debate isn't just something that is going on in Washington. It should be taking place everywhere there are people who breathe air and drink the water. It should be taking place anywhere people have parents, children or other loved ones who need affordable health care, or anywhere there are parents concerned about their children's education.

It should take place anywhere there are people like Joe who work hard every day, collect a paycheck, give it a hard look, and wonder if they can hold onto what little they have.

(Maria Echaveste is administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department of Labor.)

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En El Debate Sobre El Presupuesto Se Discuten Cambios Para Joe Y Josefina

Por Maria Echaveste

Cada vez que él recibe su cheque del sueldo, traga con dificultad. No es por el salario neto que gana, sino por la cantidad que lleva a su casa. Joe recibe un poco más del salario mínimo. Con una familia que sostener, él es uno de los 17 millones de trabajadores de Estados Unidos que forman lo que se llama trabajadores pobres sin asistencia pública. Joe, o Josefina, pueden ser cualquiera de esos hombres y mujeres que trabajan a tiempo completo. Son jornaleros, oficinistas, braceros, cuidadores de niños.

Ellos integran una fuerza de trabajo en otros innumerables servicios esenciales. Pero aunque tratan como puede, no logran alcanzar el salario que gana la clase media.

Pobres o no, Joe toma muy en serio sus responsabilidades, su trabajo, su familia, sus impuestos. Igual que casi todo el mundo que recibe un cheque regularmente, Joe paga impuestos federales. A ellos se les deducen los impuestos de su cheque regular antes de que llegue a sus manos. Para el trabajador pobre, cualquier retención de impuesto se nota mucho, porque hay menos con que empezar.

Algunas veces esto deja a Joe asombrado y se pregunta si vale la pena trabajar.

El presidente Bill Clinton quiere mantener a Joe trabajando, que no tenga que necesitar del Bienestar Social, y mantenga a su familia. El Presidente amplió un programa llamado el Crédito de Impuestos de Ingreso Ganado (EITC), el cual es menos complicado de lo que suena. Esto significa que Joe recibe parte de sus impuestos para ayudar en el mantenimiento de su familia.

El crédito de impuestos reduce la cantidad que le quitan a Joe en su cheque y de esta manera él puede llevar un poco más de dinero a su casa. Esto lo convierte en un mejor proveedor, un mejor padre y un mejor trabajador.

Durante los 20 años que se ha estado aplicando este programa, el EITC ha favorecido a millones de trabajadores en Estados Unidos.

El presidente Clinton lo calificó como, "el mejor método anti pobreza, la mejor medida pro familia, el mejor sistema de creación de trabajo que ha salido del Congreso", solamente que eso lo dijo antes el

presidente Ronald Reagan.

Sí, ese meritario programa siempre ha tenido el apoyo de los dos partidos. Pero ahora las cosas han cambiado. Una de ellas ha sido el Congreso.

Ahora Joe, un trabajador casado, con dos niños y en el límite de la pobreza, con un ingreso de \$16,500.00, está por perder una gran parte de su ingreso disponible. dDI tendrá que pagar más impuestos. El año pasado, por la expansión del crédito de impuestos del presidente Clinton, el cheque de Joe tenía considerablemente menos reducción. Su crédito en total era de \$2,532.00, dinero que llevaba a su hogar.

La propuesta republicana reduciría esa cantidad, aumentando la cuenta de impuestos constantemente en los próximos siete años...

Joe está confuso. ¿Quién no lo estaría?

De acuerdo a la oficina de Análisis de Impuestos del Departamento del Tesoro, 12,600,000.00 familias de trabajadores pobres que no dependen de la asistencia pública, con dos o más niños, perderían un promedio de \$332.00 dólares de su crédito de impuestos en 1996. Los 4,200,000. familias con dos o más niños perdería aún más; un promedio de \$534.00 dólares.

Los hispanos serán golpea-

dos especialmente con esta medida porque, con su tradición de ética del trabajo, están representados de forma desproporcionada entre los trabajadores pobres.

Ahora, esta es la parte confusa. Al mismo tiempo que Joe y otros en su mismo bote chocan con el iceberg de los impuestos del Congreso, las familias del sector más alto que forman el uno por ciento de distribución del ingreso, aquellos con ingresos sobre los \$349,000.00 dólares, recibirían un promedio de casi \$8,500.00 dólares por familia.

El Presidente ha dicho con frecuencia: "Si usted trabaja a tiempo completo y tiene niños dependientes, usted y su familia, no deberían tener que vivir en la pobreza". Es la gente trabajadora como Joe la que necesita algún alivio.

Así, aún mientras nosotros balanceamos el presupuesto, como tenemos que hacerlo, y lo haremos, necesitamos tener en mente a todos los Joes, Josefinas y a todos los que trabajan duro por sus familias.

El debate ahora no es balancear el presupuesto, sino cómo hacerlo.

Es un error afectar la economía de la gente que menos puede soportar el golpe, como los trabajadores pobres. Esa es la misma razón por la cual no se debe golpear de esa

manera a la gente que necesita y depende del Medicare y el Medicaid.

El presidente Clinton quiere asegurarse de que nosotros balanceamos el presupuesto de una manera que refleje el sentido común y los principios comunes, y por eso está luchando en esos frentes, como también por la educación y la protección del medio ambiente.

El debate del presupuesto no es solamente algo que está ocurriendo en Washington. Esto sucede en cualquier parte donde hay personas que respiran el aire y toman el agua. Esto ocurre en cualquier parte donde la gente tiene padres, niños y otros seres queridos que necesitan el acceso al cuidado de la salud, o donde hay padres preocupados por la educación de sus hijos.

Esto sucede en cualquier lugar donde hay personas como Joe, que trabajan duro todos los días, reciben un cheque y se preguntan si podrán sobrevivir con lo poco que tienen.

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To Immigrant Bashers: An Offer of Conciliation

By Miguel Pérez

She asked me if I loved this country, and I thought this was clearly understood. She suggested I have "an obsession" with the Hispanic community, and again I thought everyone knew that writing about Latinos is my assignment as a newspaper columnist.

She seemed disturbed by my offering an opinion, and I had assumed everyone knew that this is what a columnist does.

A reader was on the telephone wailing about something I wrote, and I was reminded that when Hispanics complain about anti-immigrant sentiments, civil rights violations, or efforts to thwart our political empowerment, we may give the impression that we are ungrateful.

When we foreign-born citizens of the United States try to

preserve our language and culture, when we refuse to cut the umbilical cords to our homelands -- and especially when we write about immigrants for a newspaper -- somehow, some people assume we are being "un-American."

With Thanksgiving behind us and a fresh, new year approaching, this is an appropriate time to set the record straight for my caller and others who may be tired of our whining for equal treatment in this society.

First, they should know that on Thanksgiving Day, most U.S. immigrants gave thanks for the opportunities we enjoy here -- opportunities that so many U.S.-born citizens take for granted -- and for the privilege of living in the greatest nation in the world. As a native of Cuba, I certainly carry that senti-

ment with me.

Should we tone down the whining and devote more time to expressing the positive emotions we feel? Maybe this is the way to make mean-spirited immigrant bashers see that the people they are attacking exemplify the patriotic principles they claim to be defending.

Ironically, many of the U.S. patriots who won't let us forget that we are foreigners are the same people who insist that we refuse to assimilate. Maybe our conciliation can make them see that theirs is "an unhealthy form of nationalism" which, according to Pope John Paul II, is "the antithesis of true patriotism."

Perhaps better than some native-born U.S. residents, most immigrants know the difference between true patriotism, which according to the pope,

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Where Have all the Advocacy Groups Gone?

The New York Times reports that as the government lurches toward its Dec. 15 budget deadline for resolving how much to spend on Medicare, education, the welfare system, and other social programs, the advocacy landscape seems dramatically silent.

In part, the nature of advocacy has changed, becoming less a matter of mass protests and grass-roots coalitions than an expensive amalgam of focus groups, paid television ads, E-mail and faxes put together by highly paid Washington lawyers.

And the sheer breadth of the battles to be fought has stunned many liberal advocacy groups: welfare, legal services, Medicare and Medicaid are all under attack. Some advocates say they have felt compelled to cooperate with the Republicans rather than lose all by fighting.

Contributing to the silence is the difficulty of mobilizing their own members at a time when so many Americans have lost faith in government.

Some Republicans in Congress are attacking the advocacy groups themselves. Rep. Ernest Jim Istook Jr., R-Okla., and others are seeking to make nonprofit groups ineligible for federal grants if they engage in significant advocacy. The Istook amendment, which delayed the budget resolution for 10 weeks and galvanized opposition from advocacy groups, is dead for now, but is likely to be reintroduced as part of a lobbying disclosure bill.

As to mobilizing mass support, advocacy groups say, it is not that they are keeping quiet, but that no one much is listening -- and that outside Washington, there is little understanding of the profound social changes the Republicans propose.

"If there's a silence, it's the silence of trees falling in the forest unheard," said James Weill, general counsel of the Children's Defense Fund.

"Like all the trees cut down to print our excellent report on the state of America's children, which passed unnoticed across many, many desks. Between March and September, we did all kinds of reports, press releases, and events on welfare, but they just didn't get the attention they did in the past. Part of it is that people in this country don't have the foggiest idea of what's coming at them. When the congressional cuts begin to bite, we'll start seeing reaction."

Meanwhile, though, advocacy groups are spending most of their time defending old ground.

"Most of the advocacy work these days is trying to defend the hard-won victories of 10 or 20 years ago, or even back in the New Deal," said David Cohen, co-director of the Advocacy Institute, a Washington group that teaches citizen groups how to influence policy. "We had to fight the Istook amendment. There's no choice about that. It had to be done. But it's not a substitute for a vision. There isn't a vision right now."

As advocacy groups run to stay in place, conservative groups march ahead with a clear agenda.

And the bloc of liberal mayors and governors who could be counted on to protest any attempt to cut back social spending in the years that the Republicans held the White House -- among them Mario Cuomo, David Dinkins, Michael Dukakis, Henry Cisneros and Ann Richards -- have been replaced by more conservative politicians.

If advocacy is less visible than it once was, it is in part because many groups have decided that in light of the political realities in Congress, their energies are better used on the inside, negotiating with legislators, than on the outside, organizing mass protests or letter-writing campaigns.

Some longtime Washington watchers, though, say that advocacy groups were slow to develop their tactics for fighting a Republican Congress and that they were stranded by a president who did not stand his ground.

"We're in an era when most political speech is bought, so we heard a lot during the health care debate two years ago from insurers and others whose economic interests were at stake," said Weill of the Children's Defense Fund. "The reason there isn't much now is that people with lots of money are perfectly happy about what's happening."

Group Starts Campaign on Affirmative Action

A national civil rights advocacy group started a campaign in San Francisco yesterday to save affirmative action, saying it is good for business, reports the San Francisco Chronicle.

The Boston-based Organization for New Equality, or ONE, cited evidence that firms engaging in such policies received an average return on their investments twice that earned by companies that did not pursue affirmative action.

Their report was based on finding from the Federal Glass Ceiling Commission, the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics and the General Accounting Office.

Companies in the top 100 of the Glass Ceiling Commission's ratings on affirmative action earned an average 18.3 percent return on investments compared to a 7.9 percent return for those companies that ranked in the bottom 100, according to the report.

IRS Questions Cost of Per-Child Tax Credit

Associated Press reports the Republicans' plan to use a separate form and filing deadline to award voters a per-child tax credit just before next year's election would cost more than \$300 million to administer, the Internal Revenue Service commissioner says.

The proposal also would undermine the agency's electronic filing program aimed at reducing the 2 billion pieces of paper it handles annually, IRS Commissioner Margaret Milner Richardson said.

The GOP tax bill, part of budget-balancing legislation that President Clinton has promised to veto, would provide a \$500 tax credit for children younger than 18, starting next year.

But, in a last-minute change aimed at giving parents an early taste of the refund, it would offer a \$125 credit for this year. Rather than allow parents to claim it on their regular tax return due April 15, the Republican legislation sets up a separate process.

It would require the IRS to mail a notice of the credit by Feb. 1 and then mail a special form for claiming the credit by June 1. Taxpayers would have until Aug. 15 to return the forms, and the IRS would mail out checks between Oct. 1 and Oct. 15, just weeks before the November presidential and congressional elections.

Bashers From Page 2

"is a proper love of one's country (that) never seeks to advance the well-being of one's own nation at the expense of others," while unhealthy nationalism "teaches contempt for other nations' cultures."

After all, it was those radical forms of nationalism that drove so many of us here. When we give thanks, it is for the freedoms of religion and expression we enjoy, for opportunities that many immigrants never were allowed in their own countries.

This is why immigrants identify with the Pilgrims. Many of us fled religious persecution, totalitarian regimes, economic privation, drug-related violence and other degrading conditions certainly much worse than the hardships we suffer here.

But that doesn't mean we should dissolve into the melting pot and forget our first languages or traditions and culture. It doesn't mean we should ignore the contributions to the United States of our own ancestors, such as the Spanish settlers who celebrated Thanksgiving here long before the Pilgrims.

To my caller and others who assume we are ungrateful, I answer that perhaps we immigrants don't express our gratitude more often because anything we say about this nation -- this great land that was and continues to be built by immigrants -- would be an understatement.

(Miguel Pérez is a columnist with the Bergen Record in Bergen, N.J. Readers may send comments to the author care of Hispanic Link News Service, 1420 N St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.)

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Una Oferta De Reconciliacion A Los Xenofobos

Por Miguel Pérez

Ella me preguntó si yo amo a este país, y yo pensé que eso estaba claramente entendido. Ella sugirió que yo tengo "una obsesión" con la comunidad hispana, y de nuevo pensé que todo el mundo sabe que escribir sobre los hispanos es mi trabajo como columnista de un periódico. Ella pareció molesta por que yo doy mi opinión, y yo suponía que todo el mundo sabía que eso es lo que hace un columnista.

Una lectora estaba en el teléfono quejándose sobre algo que escribí, y yo le recordaba que cuando los hispanos se quejan de los sentimientos anti-inmigrantes, de las violaciones a los derechos civiles, o de los esfuerzos por impedir nuestro fortalecimiento político, debemos dar la impresión de que somos ingratos.

Cuando nosotros, ciudadanos estadounidenses nacidos en el extranjero, tratamos de preservar nuestro lenguaje y nuestra cultura; cuando nos resistimos a cortar el cordón umbilical con nuestra tierra, y especialmente, cuando escribimos para un periódico sobre inmigrantes, de algún modo, algunas personas suponen que estamos siendo "anti americanos". Después de haber es un tiempo apropiado para aclarar de una vez por todas a mi lectora y a otros quienes pueden estar cansados de nuestros reclamos por un trato justo en esta sociedad.

Primero, ellos deberían conocer que el día de Acción de Gracias la mayor parte de los inmigrantes da las gracias por las oportunidades que dis-

frutamos aquí; oportunidades que muchos ciudadanos nacidos en Estados Unidos dan por sentado, y por el privilegio de vivir en el mejor país del mundo. Como nativo de Cuba, yo realmente siento de esa manera.

¿Deberíamos quejarnos menos y dedicar más tiempo a expresar las emociones positivas que sentimos?

Quizá esta es la manera de demostrarlos a los xenofobos malintencionados que la gente que ellos atacan representa los principios patrióticos que ellos dicen estar defendiendo. Irónicamente, muchos de los patriotas de Estados Unidos quienes no dejarán que nosotros olvidemos que somos extranjeros, son las mismas personas que insisten en que nosotros nos negamos a integrarnos. Tal vez nuestra reconciliación pueda hacerles ver que la suya es "una forma enfermiza de nacionalismo", el cual, según el Papa Juan Pablo II, "es la antítesis del verdadero patriotismo".

Quizá mejor que algunos nativos estadounidenses, la mayoría de los inmigrantes sabe la diferencia entre el verdadero patriotismo, que según el Papa, "el amor verdadero que uno siente por su país nunca busca aumentar el bienestar de su propia nación a expensas de otros", mientras el nacionalismo enfermizo "enseña el desprecio por

las culturas de otras naciones".

Después de todo, fueron esas formas radicales de nacionalismo las que obligaron a muchos de nosotros a venir aquí. cuando damos las gracias, es por la libertad de religión y de expresión que disfrutamos, por las oportunidades a las que muchos inmigrantes nunca tuvieron acceso en sus propios países.

Es por eso que los inmigrantes se identifican con los peregrinos los pioneros de este país. Muchos de nosotros huimos de la persecución religiosa, de regímenes totalitarios, de la privación económica, de la violencia relacionada con las drogas, y de otras condiciones degradantes realmente peores que las dificultades que sufrimos aquí.

Pero eso no significa que debemos disolvernarnos en el crisol de razas americano y olvidar nuestra primera lengua, tradiciones y cultura. Esto no significa que debemos ignorar las contribuciones que hicieron a Estados Unidos nuestros propios ancestros, como los colonizadores españoles quienes celebraron el día de Acción de Gracias aquí, mucho tiempo antes que los peregrinos.

A mi lectora que llamó, y a otros que suponen que somos ingratos, yo les contesto que quizá nosotros, los inmigrantes, no expresamos nuestra gratitud con más frecuencia porque cualquier cosa que digamos sobre esta nación, esta gran nación que fue y sigue siendo construida por inmigrantes, sería muy poco.

(Miguel Pérez es un columnista del Bergen Record, in Bergen, N.J. Los lectores pueden mandar sus comentarios al autor dirigidas a Hispanic Link News Service, 1420 "N" St., NW Washington, D.C. 20005.) Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 1995.



Un Rayito De Luz

by Sofia Martinez

La Sagrada Comunión es el alimento que Jesucristo nos dejó para darnos la fuerza suficiente para poder lanzarnos por el mundo. Jesús mismo nos envió a anunciar la Buena Nueva de Salvación, después de fortalecernos con el alimento de la Fe nos sentimos listos para ser testigos, de palabras y de obras, de la Verdad que conocemos: Jesucristo es la Verdad que conocemos y predicamos.

La Palabra de Dios nos llama a evangelizar alimentados con el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Jesucristo. En el libro de Proverbios 9, 1-3 leemos: La Sabiduría preparó Su mesa. Y mandó a

Page 3
Sus siervos a anunciar desde la parte mas alta de la ciudad: "Vengan, los sencillos y los humildes, y coman de este pan y beban de este vino que he preparado". Y en Mateo 22. Y Lucas 4, leemos "El banquete está preparado, vayan a las esquinas de las calles a inviten a todos los que encuentren"... El Nuevo Testamento nos hace "darle gracias a Dios" por haber preparado contanto cuidado, a través de los siglos, un pueblo de fe que compendió la "Mesa" servida como la abundancia de paz, y de gozo, y de plenitud, que Dios había prometido. En nuestro tiempo podemos ver la "Mesa" como el altar del sacrificio en el que el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Jesucristo, el Cordero Divino, es presentado a Nuestro Santísimo Padre para la salvación de la humanidad, desde el principio hasta el fin del mundo.

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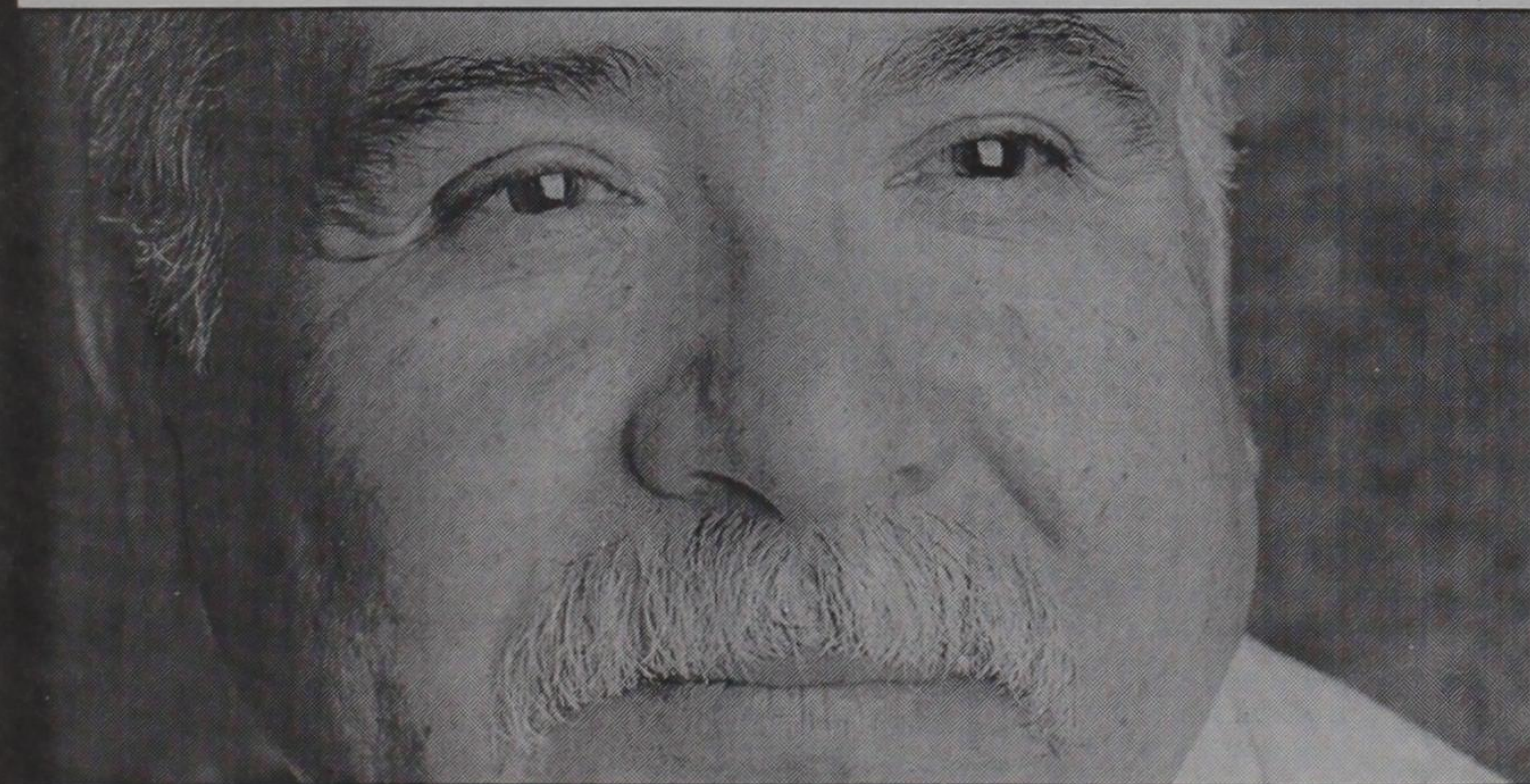
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The Story of One Immigrant Family

By Ray Rodriguez

When John Ortega was growing up in the Midwest, terms such as Hispanics or Latinos were unheard of. In fact, everyone thought the Mexicans were putting on airs if they referred to themselves in such lofty language. Anyone with a ruddy complexion or who spoke Spanish was considered a "Mexican."

Ortega, now an attorney in private practice in Compton, Calif., grew up in a barrio called Boxtown along the river on the outskirts of Des Moines, Iowa. His father took advantage of the fertile soil to raise vegetables and sell them

to local merchants.

He also made trips to the slaughterhouse and retrieved the tripe which in those days was being thrown away. After washing it thoroughly, he sold it to housewives in the barrio. Tripe is the basic ingredient in the exalted weekend delicacy known as menudo, a hearty (some would say potent) soup fortified with a variety of spicy condiments. It is reputed to cure hangovers and other ailments.

Ortega's parents, Mari'a and Blas, imbued their children with a can-do spirit. His mom instilled in them the desire to learn and the values of an education; his dad gave them the ethic of hard work and doing for oneself. Their efforts paid off. In addition to John, the family includes an aerospace planner, a daughter working on a Ph.D., a highway supervisor for the state of Iowa and an R.N. who is also a medical practitioner. Theirs is a classic success story, children of poor immigrants who fulfilled the American dream.

But the dream did not end there. In 1985, Ramona Ortega Liston was serving as assistant to the vice president of academic affairs at Arizona State University in Tempe. When NASA designated ASU as one of seven sites to set up a telescope to study the reappearance of Halley's Comet, Ramona was asked to contact community leaders and ask for donations to enable the university to acquire an 18-inch telescope.

That would have been the easy way out for most of us, but that is not the way the Ortega children had been raised. Ramona decided to ask her siblings to contribute the money to buy and install it. She convinced them that it would be not only a wonderful tribute to their parents to have the tele-

scope named in their honor, it would also be a way to pay back the educational system that had given them the opportunity to succeed in their chosen careers.

In trying to provide others the opportunity to further their education, the Ortegas insisted on one stipulation: The telescope was not to be limited to scientists and astronomers. So, for the past decade, other scholars have had access to it as well.

It was a proud moment indeed when Mari'a Ortega, then 72 years old, climbed the stairs to the roof of the math building, where the telescope is housed, for the dedication ceremony. There, surrounded by her children, she could take pride in the gleaming instrument poised to scan the heavens. More importantly, she must have felt the inner glow that a mother experiences in knowing the ideals she planted in the minds of her young brood had come to fruition.

I share this inspiring tale with you because it illustrates what can be accomplished if we have the resolve to rely on ourselves rather than depending on others to act in our behalf.

Yes, Ramona could have asked for donations, but her mother would never have known how much her children truly love her. The expression of esteem and devotion is worth any price.

Their feat exemplifies the many fine contributions to our society made by immigrants and their children.

(Ray Rodriguez, of Long Beach, Calif., is a retired university professor. Reader comments may be sent to him care of Hispanic Link News Service, 1420 N St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.) (c) 1995, Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Guadalupano Dance



The Guadalupanos of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church will be holding the annual Awards and Installation of Officers and Benefit Dance on Friday, December 1, 1995 at the Christian Renewal Center at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds from this event benefit the Ramon Orosco Scholarship Fund and our church building fund. We are requesting financial sponsorships for this event. Financial sponsors will assist us by underwriting the event expenses, i.e. the building rental, entertainment, and refreshments.

Sponsorships in the amounts of \$500 or less will allow the Guadalupanos to increase the number of scholarships given to worthy and needy college students, and also help to decrease the amount owed to the bank on the church's Activity Center, built over two years ago.

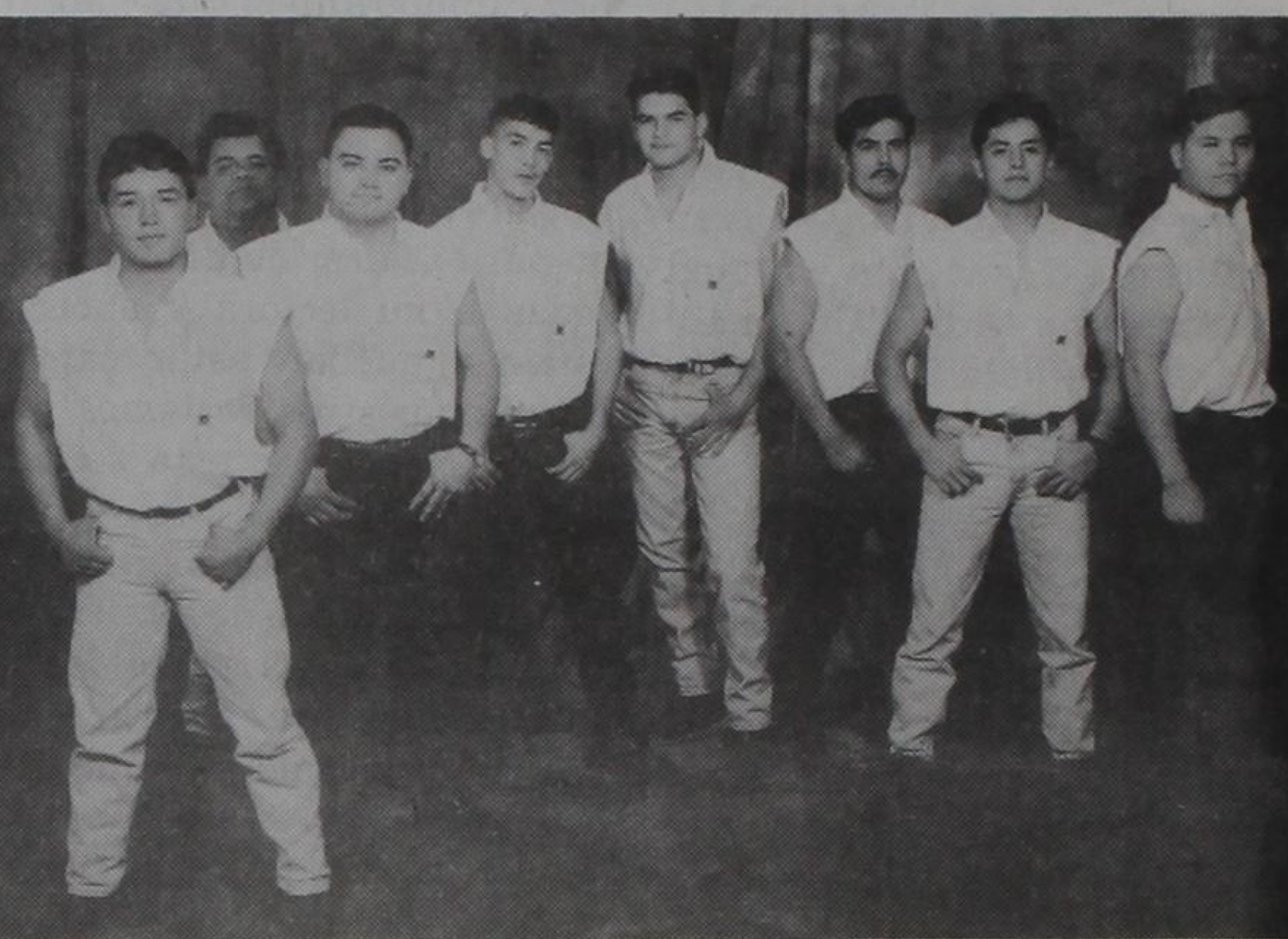
The Ramon Orosco Scholarship Fund was established in memory of a former Guadalupano member and lifelong Lubbock educator. Las July, two young adult church mem-

bers were awarded each a \$500 college scholarship based on their church involvement, academics, and financial need.

It is the vision of our organization to invest in the future of our community through college scholarship assistance.

Our church's Activity Center serves as a social and fellowship gathering place for the congregation as well as a neighborhood focal point for neighborhood association meetings, Boy Scout and Girl Scout meetings, and workshops.

Your financial support of our event will enable us to extend a helping hand to our youth and our church.



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Lubbock's Number 1 Newspaper

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¿Se "divorciará" Don King de JC Chávez?

Cuidado de México - Supuestamente molesto porque en vez de ayudarlo lo perjudicó al presentarse a declarar en una corte de Nueva York, el promotor Dong King se "divorciará" de Julio César Chávez.

El posible "divorcio" entre el polémico promotor norteamericano y el campeón mexicano superligero del CMB no fue anunciado por el propio King, sino por personas de su entera confianza, según informes de la Agencia informativa Sun.

De acuerdo a las leyes de Estados Unidos, una persona que enfrenta un juicio por determinado crimen tiene prohibido hacer declaraciones a los medios de comunicación. Con Don King no es la excepción.

Pero personas allegadas a él, de su entera confianza, si pueden manifestar el sentir de eel.

Y esas personas dejaron entrever a través de los medios electrónicos que King estaba muy molesto con Julio Cé-

sar cuando éste declaró que nunca había recibido 530 mil dólares de parte del promotor de los pelos erizados.

King enfrente un juicio por fraude en agravio de la firma Lloyd de Londres, quien lo acusa de haber cobrado esa cantidad alegando que tenía que pagar los costos de entrenamiento de una pelea de Chávez que no pudo realizarse por una lesión del campeón mexicano.

Sin embargo Chávez, al declara en una corte de Nueva York, negó haber recibido tal coantidad de manos de King, comprometiendo el futuro juridico del promotor.

Los allegados a King indicaron que el promotor se indignó mucho por la actitud de Chávez, "a quien estima como si fuera un hijo suyo".

"Es tanta la indignación de Don King, que ha decidido no saber más de Julio César. Lo unico que desea en estos momentos es que Chávez le pague un adeudo superior al millón y medio de dólares y olvidarse de él definitivamente", indican los informantes.

El adeudo mencionado ha sido aceptado

por el propio Chávez, quien dijo que usualmente pide dinero adelantado a King por cada pelea que va a efectuar, reconociendo que le debía entre 1.5 y 1.8 millones de dólares.

Las mismas fuentes informativas establecieron que de concretarse la rutura profesional enter King y Chávez, podrían venirse abajo las próximas peleas del campeón mexicano.

Como se sabe, Chávez tiene programado enfrentarse en diciembre a Miguel Angel González y en mayo de 1997 a Oscar de la Hoya antes de retirarse.

Pero sin el apoyo de King se cree poco probable que ambas peleas se lleven a cabo, al menos que King de marcha atrás en su "indignación".

El jurado en el caso de King no pudo llegar a un veredicto en dicho caso resultando en un "mistrial".

Si Peliara Contra Miguel Gonzalez

Los problemas legales por los que atraviesa Don King no impedirán que se leve a cabo la pelea entre Julio César Chávez y Miguel Angel González el 9 de diciembre próximo.

Al menos así lo asegura Rodolfo Cjávez, hermano del campeón super-ligero del CMB.

Rodolfo aseguró que King ya tiene todo arreglado para la pelea entre Julio y Miguel Angel y desechó la posibilidad de un "divorcio" ente el polémico promotor y su hermano.

"Hasta ahora las cosas siguen firmes," dijo Rodolfo Chávez.

El hermano de Julio César restó importancia a las declaraciones que hicieron allegados a King, quienes indicaron que el polémico promotor estaba muy indignado por la declaración que Chávez hizo en su contra en la corte.

"Los allegados a King dijeron que el promotor ya no quiere saber nada de Julio

po lo queéste declaró en la corte, pero a verdad es que Don no ha dicho nada al respecto y todo lo que se diga son especulaciones", comentó.

Tras descartar que se de el mentado "divorcio" entre King y Julio César, indicó que hasta ahora la pelea entre Chávez y Miguel Angel es un hecho para el 9 de diciembre.

"La única duda que persiste en torno al combate, es el lugar donde podría celebrarse. King quiere que sea en Las Vegas, mientras que Julio César está pugnando porque sea en México, específicamente en la Plaza de Toros México", añadió.

Confirmó además que Julio César está decidido a derrotar a Miguel Angel para pelear después contra Oscar de la Hoya en lo que podría ser el último combate de su carrera.



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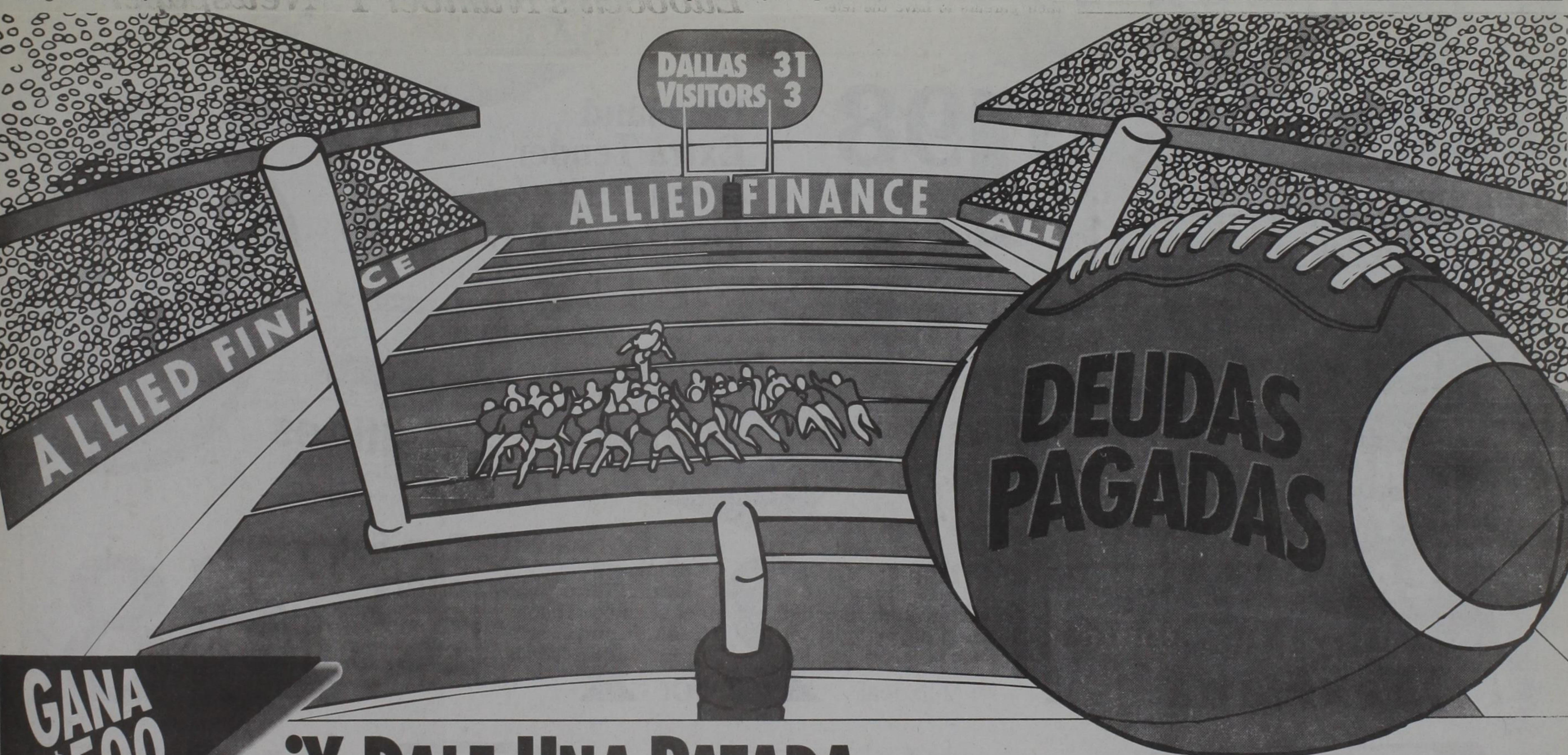
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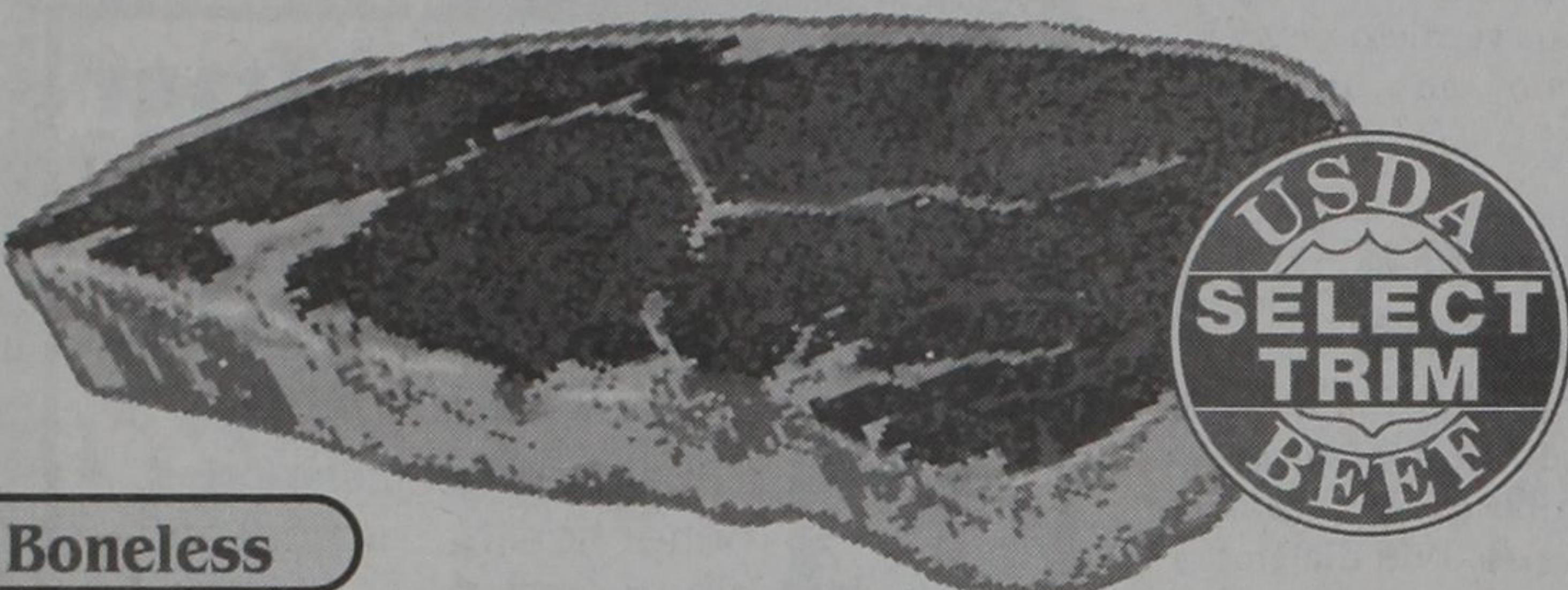
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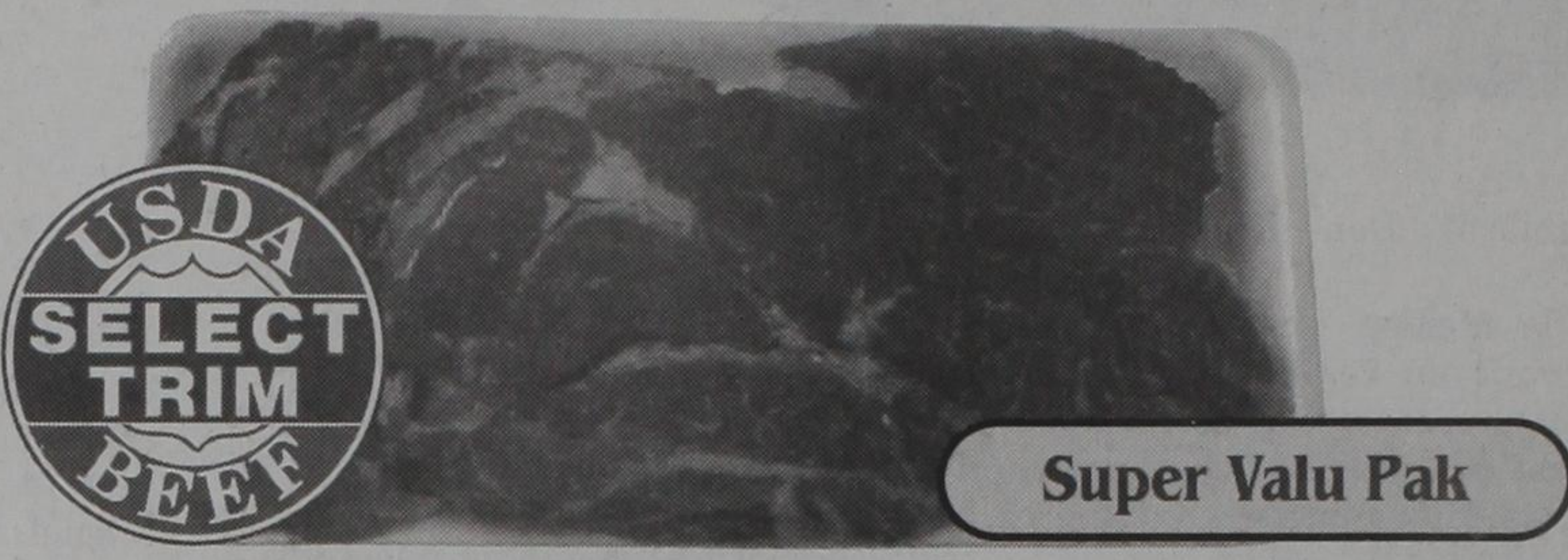


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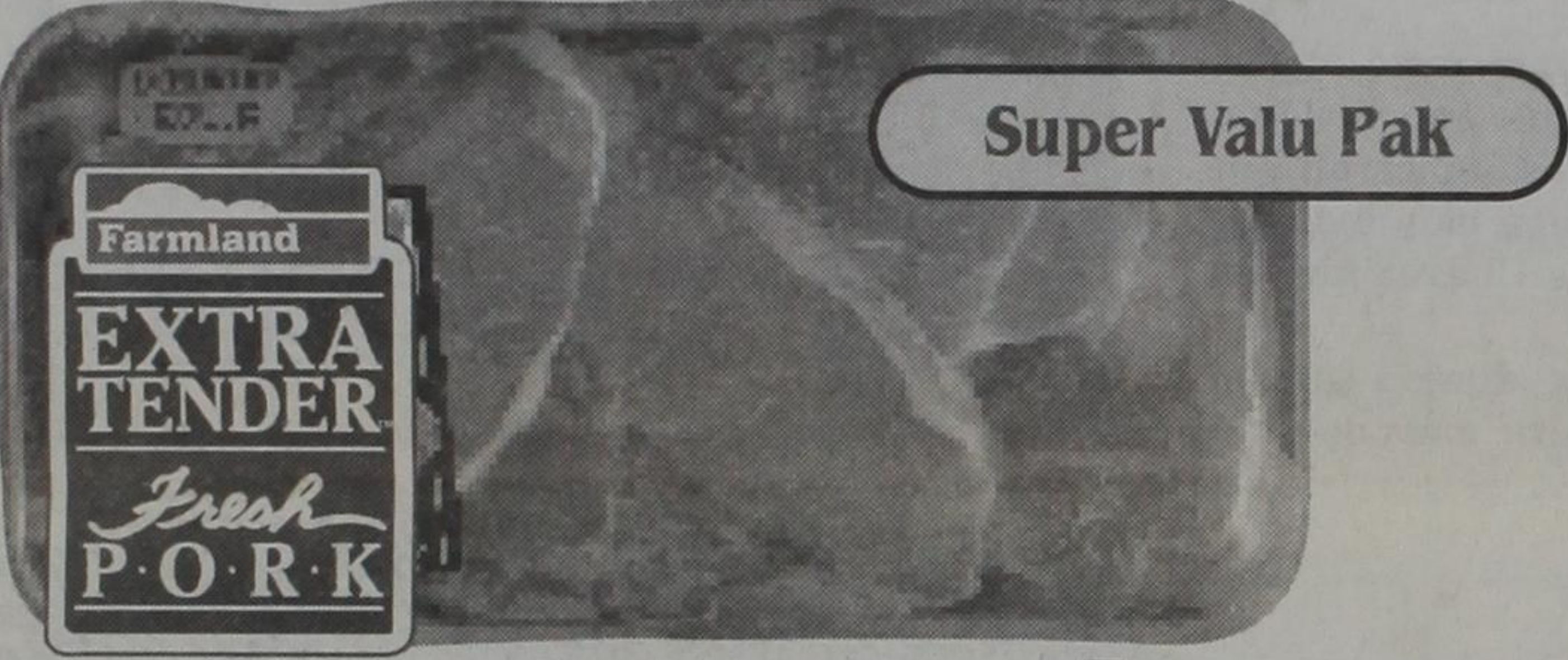
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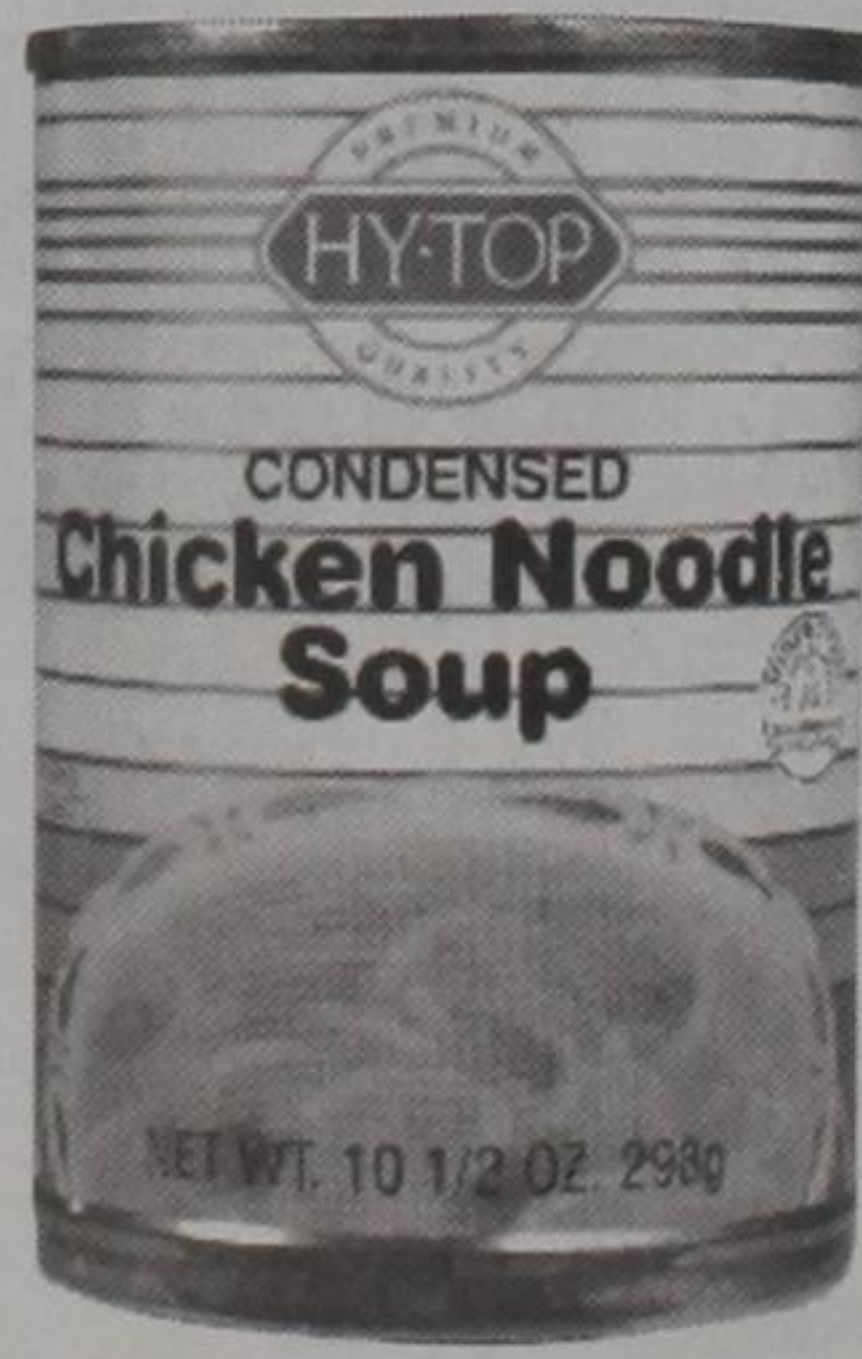
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