

Field Hands Voice Complaints

KERMAN, Calif. - Hispanic migrant workers told the nation's labor chief their stories about poor working conditions at the hands of growers who groused about complaints.

One field hand recounted in Spanish that after he complained of conditions, a farmer told him: "If it isn't convenient for you to work for me, work for someone else."

Against the backdrop of the farm-rich San Joaquin Valley on Tuesday, Labor Secretary Robert Reich listened to eight Hispanic farm workers recount the ways they have been cheated.

They told of growers who failed to provide proper pay documentation or pay as much as promised.

During his visit, Reich announced that the Labor Department assessed nearly \$2.1 million in penalties and back wages for 2,700 migrant workers nationwide during the six months ending in March.

Reich pledged to continue a



crackdown on labor law violations in the fields.

"If laws are being broken, we want to change that," he told the farm workers. "We are absolutely determined. It's simply not tolerable in

this country."

In California, the crackdown is focusing on onion and garlic fields where the Labor Department thinks there are minimum-wage violations.

Don Christopher of Gilroy, the state's largest garlic of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators, which has 250 members. It opened an office in Washington, D.C.,

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Established
Establecido
1977

"El respeto al
derecho ajeno
es la paz"
Lic. Benito Juárez



EL EDITOR

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Grants Worry Latinos

By Jonathan J. Higuera

As the Republican-led Congress fulfills its promise to shrink the federal government's role in domestic programs, Latino politicians at state and local levels are sounding the alarm at what they predict will be an impending disaster for their communities.

"The role of local government will be made almost impossible," Angel Ortiz, the lone Latino on the 17-member Philadelphia City Council, describes it. "The federal government says it's giving power to localities, but in reality they are not because you need resources to be powerful."

Mary Rose Wilcox, the only Hispanic on the five-member Maricopa County Board of Supervisors which includes Phoenix, concurs: "We tried this a decade ago. It was supposed to lead to a bigger bang for your buck and spur partnerships and private-sector investment."

"Well, none of that happened. In our state, people on the local level are trying to 'out-conservative' Washington so they want to cut back even more. It just means poor people are going to be sold down the river."

Wilcox, whose district is predominantly low-income, is concerned about housing programs targeted for state block grants. "It's been my experience that state grants become too political in nature. The grants that come directly from federal government are more flexible and better able to deliver services."

Regardless of their effectiveness, state block grants will be a reality and Latinos should gear up to ensure they get their fair share, say others.

"If Hispanic legislators aren't more forceful, we will get hanged twice," says New Jersey state Rep. Rudy García (D-Union City). "Our role as state legislators will be to make sure block grants go toward what they are intended for. It's not unusual for a governor to try to use those funds to fill gaps."

García is first vice president

earlier this year. The group's president, Ephraim González, Jr. (D-New York), is more optimistic. "When there's a crisis, there's opportunity. We're coming together here to work at it in a more united fashion. We've got 435 representatives, 100 senators and more than 3,000 staff members we have to educate about our communities' needs."

In state legislatures with larger Hispanic delegations, the opportunities may be greater to receive a fair share, some speculate. For example, in Texas the 26-member Hispanic caucus built a coalition with the African-American caucus last session that helped it defeat proposed education vouchers and fend off challenges to bilingual education and student-teacher ratios. "Now we're fighting to get our members chairmanships on various committees," says



state Rep. Roberto Alonzo (D-Dallas), who heads the Mexican American Democrats, a statewide group. "A lot of the work is done at the committee level before it hits the House floor."

Jim St. George, an analyst with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a Washington, D.C.-based research group, says there is no historical precedent that Latinos will be able to capitalize on the new

distribution methods. He suggests that Latino state and local politicians begin prioritizing community needs and re-evaluating revenue streams: "It's hard to imagine a scenario where Hispanics come out winners. The question is will they be massive losers or just losers."

He sees caps to state block grants being bounced around in Congress as exacerbating the hits Hispanics could take because the fastest-growing states or those with the most needs may face rapid funding losses.

"Reaganomics is a minor-league version of what could happen," he says. "When the economy slows down, people go on welfare, need food stamps and Medicaid. In the past, the federal government has said 'we're willing to help you provide that.' Now they

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Las Subvenciones Conjuntas Preocupan a los Latinos

Por Jonathan J. Higuera

A medida que el Congreso dominado por los republicanos cumple su promesa de disminuir el papel del gobierno federal en los programas domésticos, los políticos latinos a los niveles estatal y local están dando sonar la alarma por lo que ellos pronostican que es un desastre inminente para sus comunidades.

"El papel del gobierno local será hecho casi imposible", según lo describe Angel Ortiz, el único latino en el Consistorio Municipal de Filadelfia, compuesto por 17 miembros. "El gobierno federal dice que está dando poder a las localidades, pero en realidad no es así, porque se necesitan recursos para ser poderoso".

Mary Rose Wilcox, la única hispana en la Junta de Supervisores del Condado de Maricopa, en Arizona, concurre diciendo: "Probamos esto hace un decenio. Se suponía que llevara a un mayor rendimiento por cada dólar y a fomentar asociaciones e inversión por parte del sector privado."

"Bueno, nada de eso ocurrió."

En nuestro estado, la gente al nivel local está tratando de "ser más conservadores" que Washington, de modo que quieren rebajar aún más. Eso quiere decir solamente que a los pobres los van a dejar desamparados."

Wilcox, cuyo distrito está formado por personas de bajos ingresos primordialmente, está preocupada sobre los programas de viviendas señalados para subvenciones conjuntas estatales. "Mi experiencia ha sido que las subvenciones estatales llegan a ser demasiado políticas por naturaleza. Las subvenciones que van directamente del gobierno federal son más flexibles y más capaces de prestar servicios".

Irrespective de su eficacia, las subvenciones conjuntas estatales serán una realidad, y los latinos deberían prepararse para obtener su proporción equitativa, dicen otros.

"Si los legisladores hispanos no son más enérgicos, nos colgarán dos veces", dice el Representante Estatal Rudy García, de Nueva Jersey

(demócrata por Union City). "Nuestro papel como legisladores estatales será el asegurarnos de que las subvenciones conjuntas se empleen para lo que fueron destinadas. No es inusitado el que un gobernador trate de usar esos fondos para llenar brechas".

García es primer vicepresidente del Grupo Nacional Hispano de Legisladores Estatales, que tiene 250 miembros. El mismo abrió una oficina en Washington, DC., a principios de este año.

El presidente del grupo, Ephraim González Jr. (demócrata por Nueva York), es más optimista. "Cuando hay una crisis, hay una oportunidad. Estamos reuniéndonos aquí para trabajar en eso de modo más unido. Hay 435 representantes, 100 senadores y más de 3,000 miembros de su personal a quienes tenemos que enseñar acerca de las necesidades de nuestras comunidades".

En las legislaturas estatales que tienen delegaciones hispanas mayores, las oportunidades pueden ser más numer-

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News Briefs Infant Mortality Rate-Race Gap Grows

The New York Times reports the National Center for Health Statistics found infant mortality in the United States declined to a record low last year. However, the gap between rates for blacks and whites is growing and is not expected to narrow in the next fifteen years. Biomedical researchers and sociologists say infant mortality is an important indicator of the overall health and well being of a population.

Preliminary data shows that there were 7.9 infant deaths for every 1,000 live births in the United States in 1994. The figure for 1993 was 8.3 and 8.5 for 1992. The rate first fell below 12 per 1,000 in 1981.

Researchers, Gopal Singh and Stella Yu, said the nation's infant mortality rate in the last four decades has declined faster for whites than for blacks, so the longstanding disparity between the races has increased. In 1950, the rate for blacks was 1.6 times the rate for whites, but in 1991, it was 2.2 times the rate for whites.

The researchers said that assuming current trends continue, the racial disparity is likely to continue through 2010. They described their forecasts as statistical extrapolations, with no allowance for possible changes in behavior, medical technology or health insurance coverage.

Singh said blacks accounted for 17 percent of live births but 33 percent of infant deaths in 1992. In that year, he said, births for all races totaled 4,065,014, and infant deaths totaled 34,628.

Black babies are 2.3 times as likely as white babies to die in the first month of life, (neonatal mortality) while in 1950 they had been 1.4 times as likely. Postneonatal mortality saw a narrowing of black-white differentials. The authors attributed this factor to advances in medical technology. Singh theorized that "blacks may have less access to advanced neonatal intensive care."

The study also analyzed differences in infant mortality corresponding to the education levels of the mothers. "The gap in infant mortality between the most and the least educated increased significantly from 1964 to 1987," Singh said. The study also found that "the black-white disparity was greater at higher levels of education."

NAACP: Racism is in Full Force

The Washington Post reports that NAACP Chairperson Myrlie Evers-Williams said that we still needed affirmative action programs because racism is in full force in America.

"We may have thought that we were free of racism and prejudice, but we are finding that it was just sleeping for a while and it's back in full force now," Evers-Williams said in reaction to recent Supreme Court decisions.

One goal of the NAACP in the next fifteen months will be to improve voter registration and turnout for the 1996 elections. Evers-Williams said, "We fell far short of what we should have done. If we had voted as we should have, we would not be having the problems that we are now having with the Supreme Court."

The Associated Press reports that the NAACP will release the audit of the NAACP's troubled finances during the group's national convention. They scheduled the board of directors to receive the report Wednesday and will make it public the next day.

Children Unprotected by Lead Guidelines

The Associated Press reports that a federal task force recommended landlords be given protection from lawsuits over lead paint poisoning if they follow basic guidelines to protect children.

The report recommended safety standards that include prompt repair of deteriorated paint, warnings to tenants about the dangers of lead-based paint, specialized cleaning when lead paint is disturbed during maintenance, and safety training for maintenance workers.

The report said the group had to balance the need to protect children with the need to provide low-income housing, because the problem is most prevalent in old, poorly maintained buildings that house the poor. The report said that safety standards must not be so strict that they would force owners of low-income housing to raise the rent or board up their properties, the report said.

Four dissenting members of the 39-member panel condemned the report saying it endorsed standards so weak they would roll back existing protections for children. The dissenters charged that the panel, created by Congress to find ways to reduce children's exposure to lead-based paint, was dominated by the interests of landlords, insurance companies and government officials. The four said, "The report is so stripped of protection for the victims of lead paint that the report's many tradeoffs are morally repugnant."

The task force, appointed by Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros to meet a 1992 law, includes members of the building industry, landlords, tenants, banks, insurance companies, advocates for the poor, and public housing agencies.

Almost 9 percent of the nation's twenty million children under age six have enough lead in their blood to cause concern under federal health guidelines, the report said. Children living in poverty are four times as likely to have elevated blood lead levels as other children.

AARP Poll - Social Security and Medicare

The Associated Press reports that the American Association of Retired Persons released a survey Tuesday to mark this summer's 60th anniversary of the creation of Social Security and the 30th anniversary of Medicare.

The group conducted a similar survey in 1985. Since then confidence in the future of Social Security's dropped from 45 percent to 36 percent. Sixty-three percent now have little confidence that the program will be there for them when they retire, up from 52 percent in 1985. Confidence in Medicare, remained at 53 percent.

Madelyn Hochstein, president of DYG, Inc., the firm that conducted the survey, said, "Americans have become more cynical toward large institutions and more worried about

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La Decision Nos Hace Regresar a Los Dias de 'La Carga del Hombre Blanco'

Por Ray Gonzales

El hecho de que el Tribunal Supremo de Justicia de los Estados Unidos haya vuelto sobre sus pasos acerca de la redemarcación posterior al censo y del mérito de la Ley de los Derechos electorales, no debería resultar sorprendente, dado el éxito de Reagan y Bush para llenar al tribunal con una mayoría conservadora agresiva. La última ironía es quizás el voto de Clarence Thomas, quien nunca habría sido postulado para el tribunal de no haber sido un afroamericano seleccionado para sustituir al jurista negro Thurgood Marshall, que se jubilaba. Este último, desde luego, fué el campeón de la imparcialidad y la protección igual, habiendo ganado la decisión del caso Brown vs. Junta Escolar, que puso fin a la segregación en las escuelas, como asesor legal principal de la Asociación Nacional para el Adelanto de las Personas de Color (NAACP en inglés).

El aspecto más hipócrita del dictamen del alto tribunal fué la noción de que, de algún modo, la raza era diferente que las demás normas de la "comunidad de intereses", que usó el tribunal en decisiones anteriores como directrices para determinar la constitucionalidad de los planes de redemarcación. El Magistrado Anthony Kennedy, al redactar la decisión de la mayoría, declaró: "Cuando el estado asigna a los electores sobre la base de su raza, se dedica a la asunción ofensiva y degradante de que los electores de una raza en particular, debido a su raza, piensan igual, comparten los mismos intereses políticos y preferirán a los mismos candidatos en las elecciones".

Anteriormente, el tribunal permitió la creación de distritos extremadamente arbitrarios en sus demarcaciones, que desafiaban a la lógica sobre la presunción de que la comunidad de intereses de las personas pobres o ricas, de las personas demócratas o republicanas, o de las personas ciudadanas o rurales, o de las clases trabajadoras o acomodadas, deberían ser puestas en un sólo distrito, basándose sobre lo que tenían en común.

En California, con la que estoy primordialmente familiarizado por haber prestado servicios en su legislatura y presidido un comité hispano de redemarcación, puedo decir que, anteriormente, la única comunidad real de intereses en la redemarcación o redistribución era la protección de los titulares. Todo el trámite de la redemarcación, que se produce después del censo al final de cada decenio, siempre ha sido únicamente político.

La dirigencia de ambos partidos políticos se adentra en el trámite de la redemarcación con un principio de orientación -- debe protegerse a todo titular de cada partido. Si hay distritos que no tengan titulares que participen en la elección siguiente debido a jubilaciones o personas que procuran otros cargos, el partido mayoritario de costumbre llevará la ventaja en las inscripciones de estos nuevos distritos. Este es un trato político generalmente acordado por ambos partidos en la mayoría de las legislaturas estatales.

En el decenio de 1970, en California, la legislatura controlada por los demócratas, con la concurrencia de los republicanos, bosquejó un distrito para la asamblea en el Condado Orange, conservador, para el auxiliar demócrata del Presidente de la Asamblea, Jesse Unruh. Los límites del distrito eran tortuosos por todo el Condado Orange, abarcando a casi todas las residencias demócratas y minoritarias en una docena de ciudades. Al distrito se le calificó jocosamente de "corredor", por el apellido de su nuevo Asambleísta, Ken Cory. El mismo se asemeja al distrito congresional de Georgia que fué objeto de la actual decisión del Tribunal Supremo.

En mi propio caso, después que el entonces Gobernador Ronald Reagan vetó el plan de redemarcación de 1971, elaborado por la dirigencia demócrata y republicana de la legislatura de California (y debe señalarse que lo vetó por sobre las objeciones de los republicanos miembros de la legislatura), el tribunal per-

mitió que se efectuaran las elecciones de 1972 usando los límites anteriores a 1970. Así, cuando yo ingresé a la legislatura en 1973, nos enfrentamos nuevamente con la tentativa de aprobar un plan de redemarcación.

En uno de los planes más extravagantes elaborados alguna vez por una legislatura, la dirigencia demócrata y republicana bosquejó un plan que hacía que mi propuesto distrito atravesara la línea del Condado Kern hacia el oeste, adentrándose en la parte costera del Condado de Santa Bárbara en una franja de 12 pies hasta la playa. El distrito propuesto estaba destinado a proteger al titular republicano del Condado de Santa Bárbara, que no deseaba al recinto costero de la Universidad de Santa Bárbara ni al entonces radical colegio de Isla Vista, contrario a la guerra de Viet-Nam, en su distrito. El problema era que él necesitaba la parte fuerte republicana del Condado de Santa Bárbara al norte del recinto. Para llegar a esta población, el límite occidental del distrito habría de ser la línea de la marea alta para el demócrata y la línea de la marea baja para el titular republicano, de modo que él pudiera dar la vuelta y llegar a la población del norte a fin de mantener la contigüidad.

Como yo era el demócrata más cercano al recinto, a través de una cadena de montañas y en otro condado, la dirigencia de ambos partidos acordó, por sobre mis objeciones debido a lo absurdo del diseño, que yo debería representar al recinto y a Isla Vista. El Gobernador Reagan vetó el plan, no debido a los muchos distritos legislativos y congresionales demarcados arbitrariamente, sino porque él creyó que no se había dado suficientes distritos a los republicanos.

El hecho de que el Tribunal Supremo proclame súbitamente que no podría aceptar "principios tradicionales de demarcación neutrales en cuanto a la raza" es una burla a la justicia. ¿Dónde estaba el tribunal cuando básicamente todas las

legislaturas masculinas totalmente blancas diseñaban distritos durante decenios, que protegían a los blancos varones titulares, sin perjuicio de a qué partido pertenecieran? ¿Dónde estaba el tribunal cuando cinco varones blancos reiteradamente distribuyeron a las poblaciones minoritarias del Condado de Los Angeles para beneficiar a los cinco supervisores blancos varones de ambos partidos?

Anteriormente, cuando el Tribunal Supremo afirmó la Ley de los Derechos Electorales de 1965, lo hizo con la esperanza de poner fin para siempre al diseño de distritos que disminuyeran al mínimo intencionalmente la fuerza electoral de los grupos no blancos. El decir que no hay comunidad de intereses entre los afroamericanos, el decir que quienes apoyan a los distritos basándose en la raza se dedican a "presunciones ofensivas y degradantes", equivale a negar el hecho de que virtualmente todos los miembros no blancos del Congreso y de las legislaturas estatales proceden de distritos predominantemente no blancos y que es virtualmente imposible para alguien que no sea blanco el resultar electo en un distrito mayoritariamente blanco.

Según el punto de vista del tribunal, parece no haber comunidad de intereses en ser representado por alguien que es igual que uno con respecto a la raza, mientras que hay una comunidad de intereses si alguien es como uno con respecto al nivel de ingresos, la ocupación, la selección del lugar donde vivir, la afiliación a un partido y así por el estilo. Bastante evidentemente, el Tribunal Supremo, como el Congreso controlado por los conservadores, nos está llevando de regreso en la historia, a una época en que la "carga del hombre blanco" era dirigir y controlar a los pueblos infortunados más oscuros del mundo, porque en verdad ellos no podían ser dirigidos por uno de los suyos.

(Ray Gonzales es un funcionario federal. Los puntos de vista expresados en esta columna son personales.)
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Court Takes Us Back to Days of White Man's Burden

By Ray Gonzales

That the U.S. Supreme Court should reverse itself on post-census redistricting and the merit of the 1965 Voting Rights Act should be no surprise, given the success of Reagan and Bush in stacking the court with an aggressive conservative majority.

The ultimate irony is perhaps the vote of Justice Clarence Thomas, who would never have been appointed to the court had he not been an African-American selected to replace the retiring black jurist Thurgood Marshall.

Marshall, of course, was the champion of fairness and equal protection, having won the Brown v. the Board of Education decision which ended school segregation, as lead counsel for the NAACP.

The most hypocritical aspect of the high court's ruling was the notion that somehow race was different than other standards of "community of interest," which the court in previous decisions used as guidelines in determining the constitutionality of redistricting plans. Justice Anthony Kennedy, writing for the majority, stated, "When the state assigns voters on the basis of race, it engages in the offensive and demeaning assumption that voters of a particular race, because of their race, think alike, share the same political interests, and will prefer the same candidates at the polls."

for the creation of extremely gerrymandered districts that defied logic on the assumption that the community of interest of poor people or rich people, or Democratic people or Republican people, or city people or rural people, or blue-collar people or white-collar people, should be put into a single district, based on what they had in common.

Years ago I served in the California legislature and chaired a Hispanic redistricting committee. I can tell you the only real community of interest in redistricting or reapportionment was the protection of incumbents. The entire redistricting process, which comes about after the census at the end of each decade, has always been solely a political process.

The leadership of both parties go into the process with one guiding principle -- every incumbent shall be protected. In districts with no incumbents because of retirements or individuals seeking other offices, the majority party will usually get the party registration advantage. This deal is generally agreed to by both parties in most state legislatures.

In the 1970s in California, the Democrat-controlled legislature, with Republican concurrence, drew an Assembly district in conservative Orange County for a Democratic aide to Speaker Jesse Unruh. Its boundaries meandered to pick up nearly every Demo-

cratic and non-white household in a dozen cities.

The district was jokingly called the "Corridor" after its new Assemblyman, Ken Cory. It resembles the Georgia congressional district which was the object of the present Supreme Court decision.

In my own case, after then-Gov. Ronald Reagan vetoed the 1971 redistricting plan worked out by the Democratic and Republican leadership of the California legislature (and it should be pointed out, vetoed over the objection of Republicans in the legislature), the court allowed the 1972 elections to be held using the pre-1970 boundaries. Thus, when I entered the legislature in 1973, we were again faced with attempting to pass a redistricting plan.

In one of the most bizarre plans ever concocted, the Democratic and Republican leadership had my proposed district cross the Kern County line west into coastal Santa Barbara County on a 12-foot path to the beach.

It was designed to protect the Republican incumbent in Santa Barbara County who did not want the coastal campus of the University of California at Santa Barbara or the then-radical anti-Vietnam War Isla Vista neighborhood in his district. The problem was that he needed the Republican-strong portion of Santa Barbara County north of the campus.

To reach that population, the

western boundary of the district was to be the high tide line for the Democrat and the low water line for the incumbent Republican. As I was the closest Democrat to the campus, across a mountain range and in another county, the leadership of both parties agreed -- over my objections

because of the absurdity of the design -- that I should represent the campus and Isla Vista. Governor Reagan vetoed the plan, not because of the many gerrymandered legislative and congressional districts, but because he felt that too few districts had been given to the Republicans.

That the Supreme Court should not suddenly proclaim that it cannot accept "traditional race-neutral districting principles" is a mockery of justice. Where was the court when basically all-white-male legislatures designed districts for decades that protected incumbent white males regardless of party?

Where was the court when five white males repeatedly carved up the African-American and Hispanic populations of Los Angeles County to benefit the five white male Supervisors of both parties?

In the past, when the Supreme Court upheld the 1965 Voting Rights Act, it did so hopefully to end forever the drawing of districts which purposely minimized the voting power of non-white



Sittin' Here Thinkin'

Who's Who

By Ira Cutler

Is there a word in the English language that has been more cheapened than the word "reform"?

It seems that every little idea, every effort that tinkers, or adds, or takes away, or fine tunes is today called a reform. The cheapening of the term may stroke the egos and bolster the reputations of those who want to be known as reformers, but we all know that conditions today warrant real reform. We know that little changes around the edges are not enough. Perhaps we tend to call what we are doing today "reform" because we know that anything less is unworthy of the seriousness of our problems.

Anyone who doubts that real reform can happen need only look to our history. In the last century there have been at least five child-related reforms that impacted on our society in fundamental ways. In each case much more than the lives of individual children were changed. These reforms and the thinking behind them resulted in new definitions of children, of what constitutes acceptable adult conduct towards children, and of the state's right to intrude in what previously had been nobody's business.

The five reforms I have in mind are these:

The child labor laws, which determined that the well being and development of children was a higher priority than their short term economic value.

The child protection laws, which reflected a new understanding of acceptable adult conduct, of the role of the state, of the role of discipline and punishment, of the limits of parenting and parental authority.

The establishment of free and compulsory public education, which entitled children to an education without regard to their parents' ability to pay, and established a societal stake in the quality of that education.

The passage of public welfare legislation, establishing the principle of an economic floor under children, regardless of their parents' behavior, means or character.

The creation of juvenile courts, acknowledging the special circumstances and needs of children, and the later extension of due process rights to children in those courts to assure protection against injustice.

These were BIG changes, worthy of being described as reforms.

So successful were these reforms that, until very recently, there was virtually no debate about their essential principles: that small children should not have to work, that parents should not abuse their children (and that the state should stop them if they do), that children should have schooling available to them even if their parents cannot afford it, that even the children of bad parents should not starve, and that kids in court were different than adults. Even in today's political climate nobody argues about these things very directly. The reforms have been institutionalized not only in our laws but, much more powerfully, in our culture. The underlying principles are so entrenched that assaults come hidden in messages of fiscal restraint and distaste for government intervention in private matters.

We will see what the next several years hold, however, before we declare these reform efforts to be completed. We will see what the national reaction is when, in a post-block grant world, some state completely eliminates public welfare as a sop to racists and as a boost to their Governor's Presidential aspirations. In time we will see how far states are willing to go in pandering to public sentiment, how far they will go as they execute children (Florida is now leading the pack, having executed a 17 year old), and learn whether meaningful juvenile status will survive.

But beyond trying to hold on to some semblance of what was valuable in these five reforms, we need to invent a sixth and a seventh and beyond. Today the plight of American children, and therefore the future of the nation, calls out for

minimum standard of decent and fair human behavior.

Personally, I would argue that the next stage in reforming and perfecting our society is to establish a minimum standard of living that comes as a matter of birthright, a societal inheritance that we receive as citizens of an astonishingly wealthy nation, a basic standard of living that does not have to be merited or earned. This is a very different proposition from the hodgepodge of WIC, Earned Income Tax credit, Food Stamps and AFDC that cobbled together with hoops, applications, forms and humiliation might add up to a decent standard of living.

My case is that today we all routinely and without shame share the costs of schooling, of health care for the elderly, of police, and of highways. Social justice lies in the direction of expanding the list of shared costs to include basic housing, food, and health care. I think that is the future that needs to be.

Some will disagree, will argue about incentives and the innate morality associated with earning wages. Some will call a minimum standard of living unaffordable, and others will fall for the baloney about global competition. The argument itself would be worth having -- if it was held at a level which bespoke competing political philosophies and ideas.

This week and last we celebrate the 4th of July and Bastille Day, commemorating the American and French Revolutions. Throughout the world today we see dramatic changes proposed or underway on virtually every continent, including courageous attempts to bolster social justice. Meanwhile in America, once the most revolutionary of countries, we see politicians portray themselves, proudly, as not being tied down by any fixed set of beliefs or ideas. They brag of being in favor of "whatever works" and of being willing to compromise on anything in order to allow what they call progress.

As we eat our hot dogs and watch the parade, let's remind ourselves that we deserve better and think about how we can get the point across that serious problems require serious actions, not just piddly little things with impressive sounding names and clever slogans.

Ira Cutler, says he's seeking a semi-legitimate outlet for thoughts and ideas too irreverent, too iconoclastic, or just too nasty for polite, serious, self-important company. He promises us a Monday column most weeks.

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News Briefs

their own financial futures. The drop in confidence in Social Security is a reflection of that phenomenon."

Other findings included:

- 62 percent said Social Security was one of the most important government programs, down from 65 percent in 1985.
 - 50 percent rated Medicare one of the most important government programs.
 - 87 percent said they should continue Social Security, down from 88 percent.
 - 11 percent felt that phasing the program out would be better, up from 9 percent.
 - 89 percent said they should continue Medicare; 8 percent supported phasing it out, 3 percent were unsure.
 - 92 percent agreed with a statement that Medicare is the only way older Americans could possibly get health care.
 - 19 percent said most of the people they knew on Medicare could do very well without it.
 - 23 percent of non-retirees said they would get out if Social Security were optional.
 - 73 percent said they would stick with Social Security.
 - 50 percent believed that everyone should save for their own retirement.
 - 33 percent thought people should pay for their own health insurance when they retire.
 - 55 percent expressed doubt that the country can still afford Social Security.
 - 45 percent had doubts about whether Medicare was affordable.
- Margaret Dixon, president-elect of AARP, said the survey showed that Americans regard Social Security and Medicare as "pillars of economic security, not only for older persons, but also for their families."

Administration Cuts Medicare Red Tape

The Associated Press reports that the Clinton administration is discarding a form doctors had to sign before Medicare would pay patients' hospital bills.

Vice President Al Gore said the move would save physicians 200,000 hours of time each year, eliminate eleven million forms, save hospitals \$137 million and help them collect up to thirty days faster from Medicare. Physicians had to sign the "attestation form" certifying the accuracy of each patient's diagnoses and procedures, though it duplicated information on the patient's charts.

The Health Care Financing Administration, which runs Medicare and the federal side of Medicaid, will take other steps to cut red tape and ease the regulatory burden on doctors, hospitals, laboratories and nursing homes. They include:

- Easing clinical laboratory inspection requirements, especially for physicians' in-office labs and those that perform simple, automated tests.
- Revising rules for hospitals, home health agencies and kidney dialysis centers to focus on outcomes instead of procedural requirements.
- Requiring all health insurers that cover federal workers and their families to adopt the common Medicare claim form.
- Proposing legislation to eliminate a redundant annual re-assessment of each mentally ill or retarded resident in nursing homes.

nivel del comité antes de que llegue al pleno de la Cámara".

osas para recibir una proporción equitativa, especulan algunos. Por ejemplo, en Texas el grupo hispano de 26 miembros elaboró una coalición con el grupo afroamericano en la última sesión, que le ayudó a derrotar la propuesta de comprobantes para la enseñanza y a mantener a raya a los desafíos a la enseñanza bilingüe y a las proporciones entre estudiantes y maestros.

Ahora estamos luchando para obtener para nuestros miembros las presidencias de varios comités", dice el Representante Estatal Roberto Alonzo (demócrata por Dallas), quien dirige a los demócratas méxicoamericanos, un grupo estatal. "Gran parte del trabajo se hace al

Jim St. George, analizador del Centro sobre Prioridades de Presupuesto y Cursos de Acción, un grupo de investigación con sede en Washington, DC., dice que no hay precedente histórico de que los latinos podrán ser capaces de acostumbrarse a capitalizar sobre los nuevos métodos de distribución. El recomienda que los políticos latinos estatales y locales comiencen a fijar prioridades para las necesidades comunitarias y a re-evaluar las corrientes de ingresos: "Es difícil el imaginar un escenario en el que los hispanos sean los ganadores. La cuestión es si serán perdedores impresionantes o sólo perdedores".

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VACUNAS CONTRA LA NEUMONIA

La Asociación Americana del Pulmón (American Lung Association of Texas) dá énfasis a la importancia de vacunarse para personas a alto riesgo

Austin.- Mientras muchos Americanos tienen la necesidad de recibir la vacuna contra la gripe cada otoño, muchos otros no están conscientes de la importancia de la vacuna contra ciertos tipos de la neumonía bacterial.

[La neumonía es la complicación más común de la gripe y la primer causa de mortalidad por enfermedades infecciosas en los Estados Unidos.] explicó el Dr. William Paul Glezen, epidemiólogo del Centro de Investigación contra la Influenza (Influenza Research Center) de la Baylor College of Medicine.

"Trágicamente, la combinación de la gripe y la neumonía están en el cuarto lugar de mortalidad entre mujeres Americanas y en quinto lugar entre los Americanos mayores de 65 años" expresó el médico. [Podemos ayudar a eliminar esta situación trágica con el seguro y simple medio de prevención que es la vacunación. Hoy en día todos tienen acceso a la vacunación contra la gripe y la neumonía.]

Generalmente, la vacuna contra la neumonía neomococal, que es la causada por bacteria, se dá un vez cada diez años. Esta vacuna se recomienda particularmente para personas mayores de 65 años y personas con condiciones de salud crónica, como enfermedades pulmonares.

La vacuna contra la neumonía neomococal esta cubierta por Medicare y otros planes de salud. Neumococcus es la causa de la neumonía más común. Cuando las defensas del cuerpo se debilitan, la bacteria puede causar un serio daño. La prevención al vacunarse salva vidas y evita futuras y costosas hospitalizaciones, al mismo tiempo previene el pasar días en cama.



Esta vacuna se recomienda particularmente para personas mayores de 65 años y personas con condiciones de salud crónica, como enfermedades pulmonares.

Las enfermedades pulmonares, incluyendo la gripe y la neumonía, son la tercer causa de mortalidad en los Estados Unidos. Entre 1979 y 1991, la mortalidad por causa de enfermedades pulmonares aumentó más rápido de la mortalidad por otras causas.

[Como cualquier otra enfermedad, el prevenir la neumonía es vital] explicó el Dr. Glezen. [Sabemos como prevenir este tipo de neumonía. La neumonía es infecciosa y si usted corre un alto riesgo de contraer la enfermedad, debe vacunarse contra la neumonía.]

La Asociación Americana del Pulmón puede informarle más sobre las vacunas contra la gripe y la neumonía. Para obtener panfletos y más información sobre las vacunas llame al 800-252-5864.

La misión de la Asociación Americana del Pulmón es la prevención, control y erradicación de las enfermedades pulmonares, que son la tercer causa de mortalidad en Texas. La Asociación lucha

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El ve a los límites de las subvenciones conjuntas estatales que se pelotean en el Congreso como que agravan los golpes que los hispanos podrían recibir porque los estados de crecimiento más rápido o los que tienen las mayores necesidades pueden enfrentarse a pérdidas rápidas de financiamiento.

"La economía al estilo de Reagan es una versión de liga menor de lo que podría suceder", dice él. "Cuando la economía desacelera, la gente se acoge a la asistencia económica pública, necesitan cupones para alimentos y Medicaid. Anteriormente, el gobierno federal ha dicho que estamos dispuestos a ayudarles a ustedes a proporcionar eso. Ahora está diciendo: "No, les daremos lo que obtuvieron en 1994".

En el Condado de Los Angeles, que está enfrentándose a un déficit de \$1,300 millones, las rebajas del financiamiento federal ya han empezado a hacerse sentir, llevando a una propuesta para cerrar el Centro Médico de la Universidad del Sur de California y del Condado, que tiene una clientela hispana en un 90%.

"El cambio de mandatos sin financiamiento esposará a los condados de todo el país para prestar los servicios gubernamentales vitales", advierte Michael Bustamante, portavoz de la Supervisora del Condado de Los Angeles Gloria Molina. "El dinero del fondo general que se habría empleado para financiar a las bibliotecas tendrá que dedicarse a la policía y a las obras públicas".

Ortiz, de Filadelfia, lo califica de "gobierno creativo en

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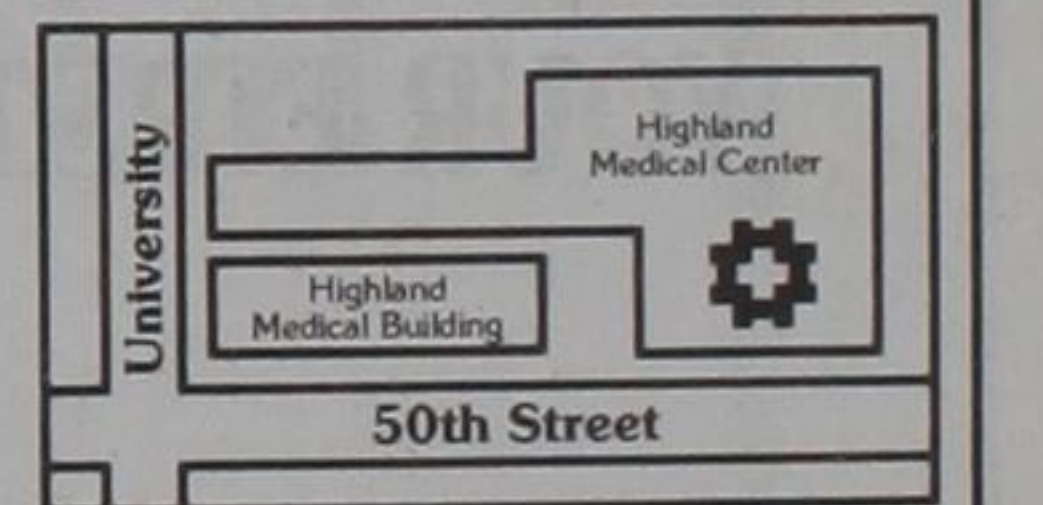
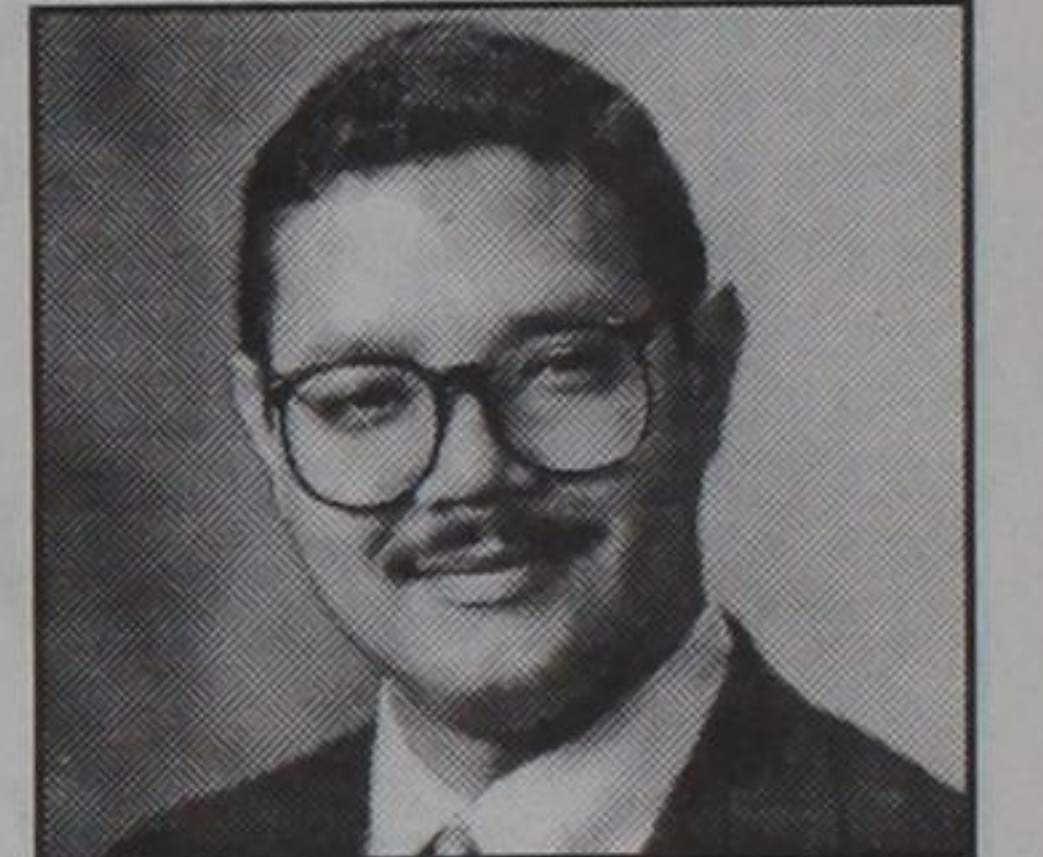
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GOP Rebuts Demo Bias Charge

WASHINGTON (AP) - A House Republican leader says it's "outrageous" for Democrats to accuse the GOP of picking on black, women and Jewish lawmakers just because they were included on fund-raising "wanted poster" targeting 28 liberal Democrats.

The National Republican Congressional Committee poster includes photographs of 12 white men, one Hispanic man, five white women, four black women and six black men.

Republicans said they were chosen for "Project 28" because each voted against 70 percent or more of the items in the House GOP's "Contract With America."

"Project 28 is a fund-

raising vehicle, nothing more," Rep. Bill Paxon, R-N.Y., the NRCC chairman, said Monday. "It is about ideology and voting records. Any insinuation that it is anything other than that is outrageous."

But Democrats insisted the Republicans are playing on "prejudice and fear" by singling out blacks, women and Jews.

In a statement, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee said 22 of the 28 lawmakers either were black, Jewish, Hispanic or female.

"Once again, Republicans are turning to their tried and tested appeals based on race, prejudice and fear," said Rep. Martin Frost of Texas, the

DCCC chairman. "With their 'Wanted' poster, Republicans have put Willie Horton-style politics back on center stage. ... These Republican tactics are despicable, have no place in the political discourse and should be condemned by (Speaker) Newt Gingrich and terminated by Bill Paxon. ... This is race-baiting pure and simple."

It is not unusual for political parties to use the names - and sometimes faces - of prominent opponents in fund-raising appeals. Democrats, for example, are routinely condemning Gingrich in their direct-mail appeals, including one that likened the speaker to a terrorist.

But such letters rarely trigger the angry rhetoric that Democrats used in condemning the GOP "Wanted" poster.

The GOP letter, as first reported by the New York Post, said the lawmakers were "wanted for voting against at least 7 out of 10 provisions of the Contract With America and for aiding and abetting President Bill Clinton's big government, pro-tax, anti-family, anti-military agenda in the House of Representatives."

The poster also pictures Clinton. Among the House members pictured are included House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt and his top deputy, Rep. David Bonior of Michigan. Among the black Democrats pictured were Reps. John Lewis and Cyn-

thia McKinney of Georgia, Charles Rangel of New York, Corrine Brown and Carrie Meek of Florida and Maxine Waters and Ron Dellums of California. Liberal Democratic Reps. Pat Schroeder of Colorado and Nita Lowey of New York also were pictured.

From Page One US Sues Chicago Suburb in Hispanic Case

WASHINGTON (Reuter) - The Justice Department Friday accused a Chicago suburb of violating the federal fair housing law by demolishing homes in two Hispanic neighborhoods.

The lawsuit charged that the Village of Addison had sought to reduce the number of Hispanic families living in the community.

In 1990, there were 4,287 Hispanics residing in Addison, representing 13 percent of the population. The number of Hispanics had more than doubled in the 1980s.

At issue was a state financing program that allows cities to use eminent domain proceedings to acquire blighted private property. The property then is demolished and turned over to private builders for redevelopment.

Last year, Addison tore down eight apartment complexes, displacing 32 families, the department said. The two areas targeted had the highest number of Hispanics in the village.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Chicago, charged that village officials realized that more Hispanic families would be forced to leave and that there would be insufficient affordable housing remaining.

"This is not urban renewal. It is urban destruction motivated by the national origin of the residents," Assistant Attorney General Deval Patrick said in statement.

The Softball FANATIC

by Mike "M&M" Medrano

Can you believe 104 degrees, and it's only July 11! Well Softball fans nobody can argue that summer is here and that softball is in full swing. The City started their second session this week. It's going to be interesting. This is M&M again, the softball fanatic talking at you directly from Billy's Auto Sales on 19th and Q. Our phone is ringing off the wall with teams calling about our.... not only big...but GIGANTIC MENUAZO. Calls from Snyder, Dallas, Amarillo, Midland and all over West Texas are coming in. Better call in today. More about his later.

What did I tell you last week about the Crickets. Those fellas from the Rio Grande are tough. But give the Crickets a little credit. There're still fighting for first place. Chrip..chrip...chrip. got a few call this week about my proposed promotion. ...Eat a Cricket...get a ticket...Trouble is it's been so hot...we can't find any crickets. Has!

The tournament to report on that we was the the Sacred Heart Church tournament in Plainview held on July 7, 8, and 9 at the Running Water Draw complex. No surprises... Miller Lite took it again. The Knights from New Mexico came in second and to tell you the truth, I don't even know who came in third? Joe and the the people at Sacred Heart want to thank everyone who participated. There's another tournament in Plainview this week to benefit a little girl who has a tumor in her head. Call Bidál at 763-3841 for more information.

Peter's next tournament is this weekend at Dusty Diamonds for Men's class B/C, D, E mens teams and Co-ed teams. Call Peter at 763-6707 to enter.

Ta..Ta..Ta..Ta...Ta...Let's talk again about THE GIGANTIC ONE! El Menudazo. Like I said teams are calling in from Big D, New Mexico, Amarillo, Midland and Snyder. Not to worry...Como dice el Niki Sinck.. these teams will be placed in their respective division. We don't do like others and let big teams play against teams not in their division. The Menudazo will be held this year at Burl Huffman, MacKenzie and Mose Hood parks. More than 100 teams will come in to compete. Remember that the the Menudazo will be both a Hispanic State Qualifier and a USSSA qualifier. The fun starts July 21st with receptions and parties for the teams and going through the 23rd. Divisions will include an open division, a competitive division with 3 homeruns and a recreational division with no home runs for men. There will also be recreational divisions for both women and co-ed. For those teams that enter by July 14th, they can get their rooms for the discount price of \$58 at Lubbock's Best Western Regency. That pretty cheap for a hotel with jacuzzi, work out room and an indoor pool. el Editor always provide over \$5,000 worth of prizes for those teams competing. an remeber...It's a State Qualifier for the Hispanic tournament to be held in August ...right here in Lubbock. Call 763-3841 today for more information on El Menudazo which will include all kinds of other tournaments plus a Music festival which will feature some top notch bands. Listen to all the Chicano radio stations for more information.

Es todo this week sports fans. Hope to talk to you again next week. Come by and buy a car from me, I need the money. This column is updated every Tuesday. Talk to you again next week.... Take me out to the ball game.

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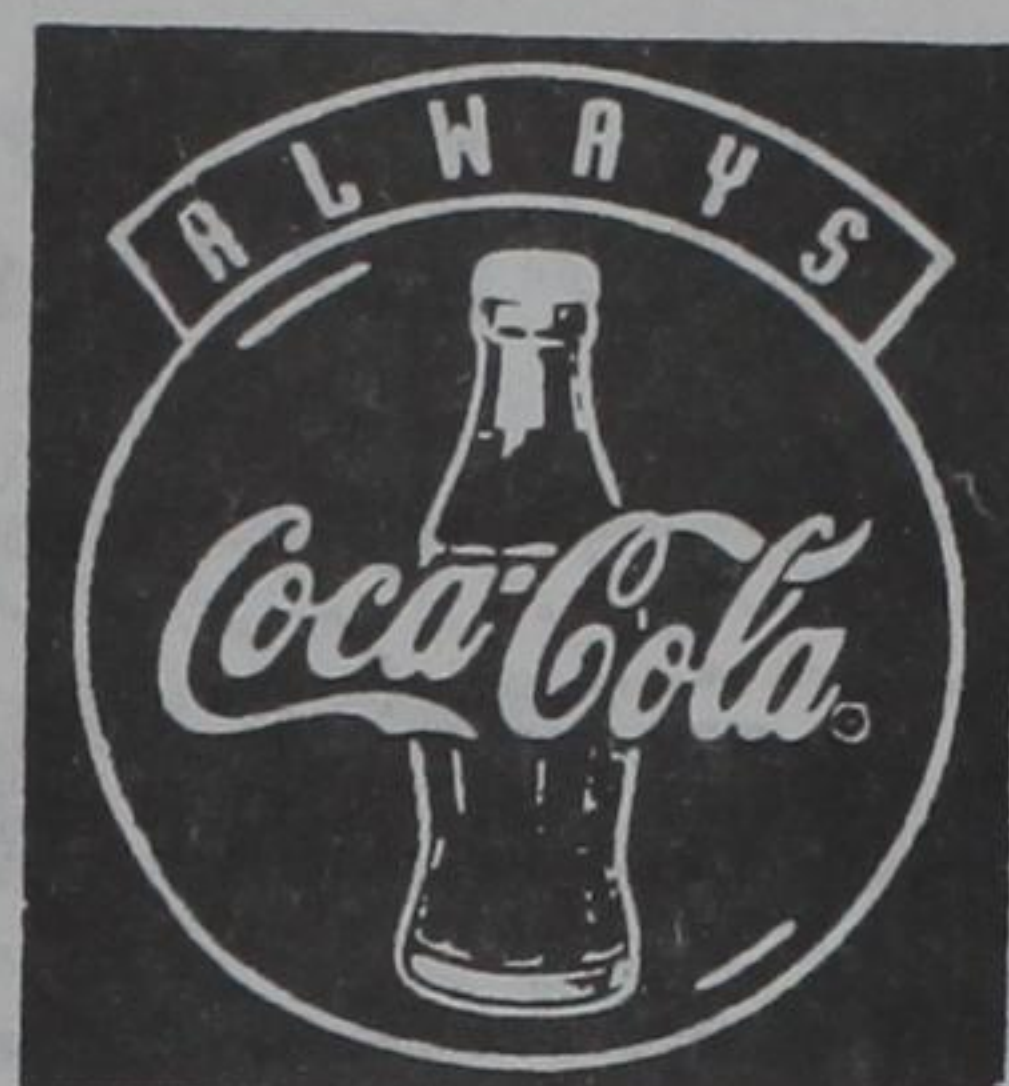
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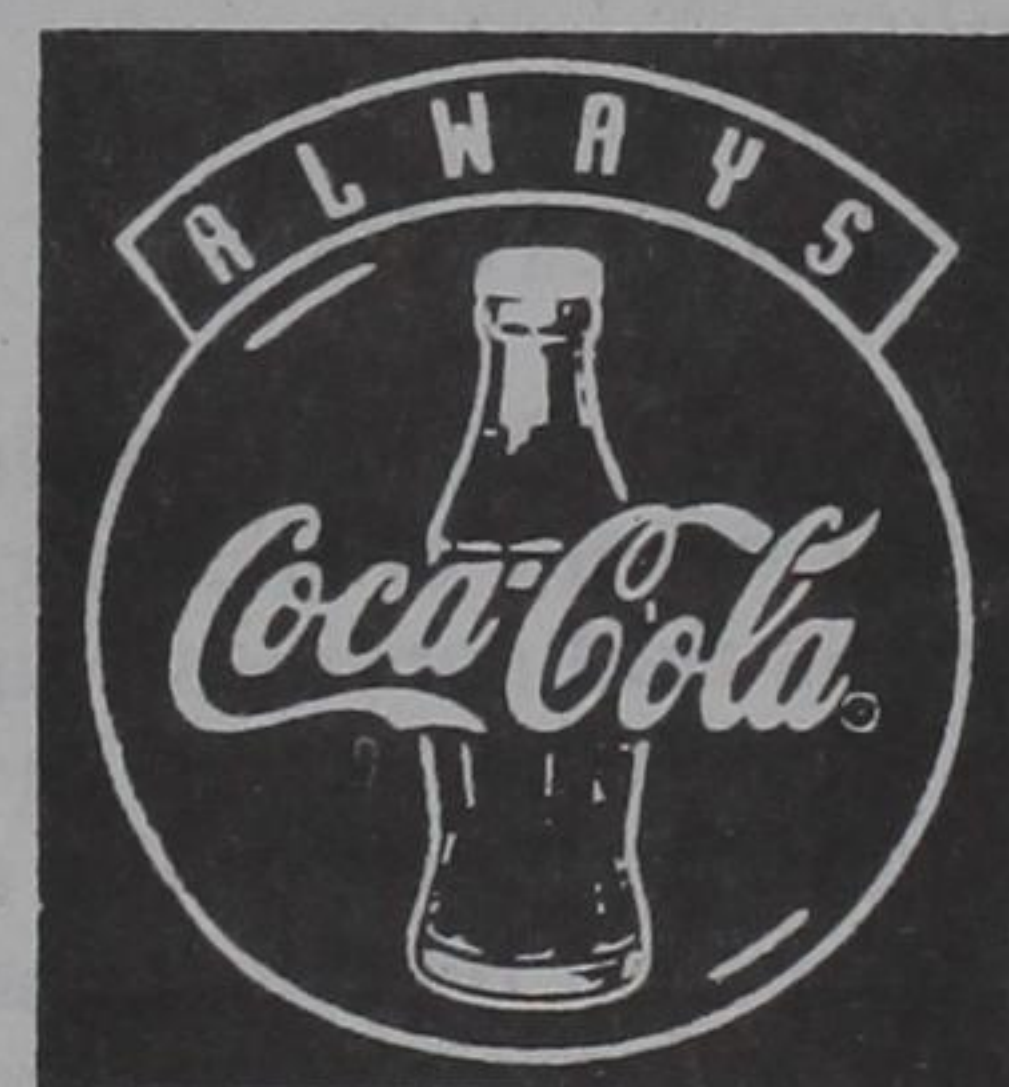
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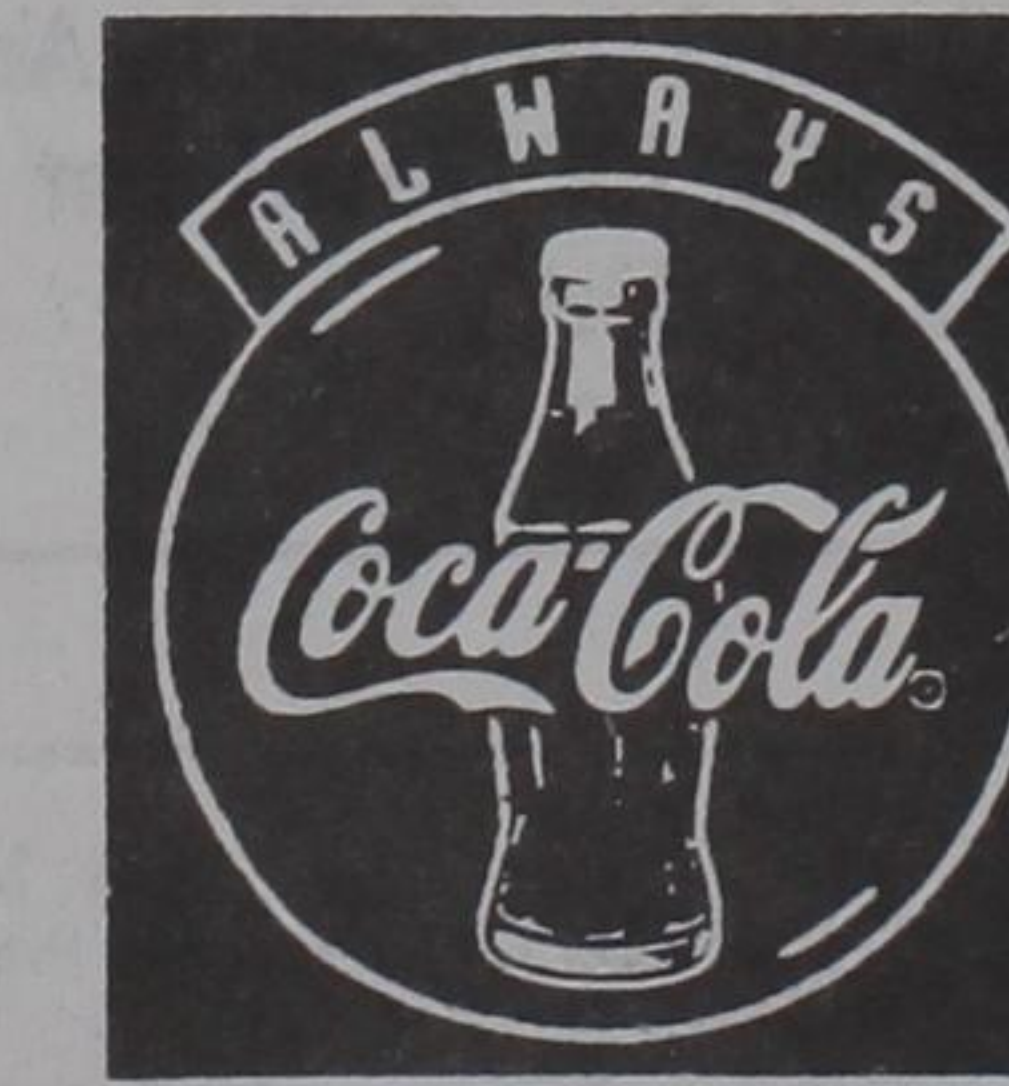
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\$50 per team

Prizes based on entrys
10 person roster

Bring Your Own Balls
Teams do not have to pay
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Call Today and Get The
Best Time! 763-3841!

Don't Miss It! - ¡No Falten!



Un Rayito De Luz

by Sofia Martinez

Hace casi dosmil años que el Emperador Romano, que estaba en Judea, dio la orden de hacer un censo. Todos tendrían que ir a registrarse a sus respectivas ciudades. Y como Jose era descendiente de David, fue a registrarse desde Nazaret de Galilea hasta Belen de Judea, la ciudad de David. Jose llevo a su esposa, que estaba embarazada. Y cuando ya estaba en Belen, se le llevo el momento en que tenia que dar a luz Su Hijo, la Bendita Madre, y lo envolvió en pañales y lo acostó en un pesebre, porque no habia lugar en ningun dormitorio. En aquellos dias habia pastores que vivian alli y que, por la noche, se turnaban para cuidar sus ganaditos. Y se les aparecio un angel del Señor Dios Todopoderoso, y los rodeo de claridad la gloria de Dios; ellos, por lo pronto, tuvieron miedo, muchos miedo. Pero el angel les dijo: "No tengan miedo, porque les traigo una Noticia Muy Buena, que les va a gustar mucho a todos: Hoy a nacido para ustedes, en la Ciudad de David, un Salvador que es el Cristo el Señor". El mismo angel les dijo: "Como señal, van a encontrar al Niño envuelto en pañales o acostado en un pesebre, de esos donde comen los animales de corral". Y en ese momento aparecieron muchos angeles mas, y todos alaban a Dios, diciendo: "Gloria a Dios en el cielo, y paz en la tierra a todos los hombres de buena voluntad". (Luc. 2, 13-14).

Aquel fue el mismo Cristo que, 33 años mas tarde, lo mataron clavado en una cruz, esa era la pena mas grande que existia en aquel tiempo entre los Romanos. Habia sido anunciado que El Hijo de Dios Altisimo iba a ocupar el trono de Su antepasado David, pero los judios "no lo aceptaron". Juan 1, 11. Pero a los poquitos que lo aceptaron y creyeron en El les concedio el privilegio de ser "hijos de Dios". Y todavia concede ese privilegio a los aceptan y luchan para hacer la voluntad de Dios. (Luc. 2, 1-18)

En aquellos dias, que nacieron tres Reyes Magos, que venian del Oriente, siguiendo una Estrella Milagrosa que los guio hasta esa Ciudad y luego desaparecio. Al llegar, preguntaron: "Donde esta el Rey de los Judios, que acaba de nacer? Porque hemos visto Su Estrella en el Oriente, y venimos a adorarlo". Cuando el Rey Herodes oyo eso se puso muy nervioso. Y les pregunto a los Doctores de la ley donde debia de nacer el Mesias. (Este indica que Herodes no sabia mucho, o no sabia nada, de estas cosas...) Pero aquellos le contestaron que debia de nacer en Belen de Juda, porque asi esta escrito por el profeta. Herodes les dijo a los Reyes Magos: "Vayan a ver a ese Niño, y cuando lo encuentren me dicen para ir yo tambien a adorarlo. Herodes queria matarlo, porque tenia miedo de que le quitara el puesto. Pero llemos en Juan 18, 36 que Jesus le dijo a Pilato: "Mi Reino no es de este mundo... todos andubieramos detras de Cristo, tratando de alcanzar algun "puestesito".

Es muy justo y muy necesario, que escuchemos a Jesucristo, y que le respondamos amorosamente, decididos a hacer la Voluntad de Dios. (Mat, 6, 10b. y 26, 39b. Luc. 1, 38. y 2, 49).

groups. To say that there is no community of interest among African Americans, to say that those who support racially based districts engage in "offensive and demeaning assumptions," is to deny the fact that virtually all non-white members of Congress and state legislators come from predominantly non-white districts and that it is virtually impossible for a non-white to get elected in a majority white district.

In the court's view, there seems to be no community of interest in being represented by someone who is like you with respect to race, while there is a community of interest if someone is like you with respect to income level, occupation, choice of dwelling place, party affiliation and the like.

Quite obviously the Supreme Court, like the conservative-controlled Congress, is taking us back in history to a time when the "white man's burden" was to lead and control the unfortunate darker peoples of the world, because certainly, they cannot be led by one of their own.

(Ray Gonzales is a federal official. The views expressed in this column are personal.)

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FROM PAGE 1

su mejor estilo".

Pero no todos creen que los cambios serán ruina y penumbra. Jane Delgado, presidenta de la Coalición de Organizaciones Hispanas de Salud y Servicios Humanos, dice que los cambios son parte de una tendencia que ha venido ocurriendo durante algún tiempo. "En el decenio de 1960 aprendimos a venir a Washington para protestar. Pero una buena institución tiene que hacerse un examen de conciencia y darse cuenta de que las cosas cambian. La acción verdadera es a los niveles estatal y local".

(Jon Higuera es editor de Hispanic Link Weekly Report, una publicación nacional con sede en Washington, DC.)

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Dining Out?



Before you read the menu or the wine list... be sure to read the labels on any medicines you may be taking.

Because medicines can sometimes cause problems when taken with certain foods or beverages, or if you have certain existing medical conditions.

If you still have any questions about your medicines, check with your doctor and/or pharmacist.

It's Always Better To Be Sure.
A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL ON FAMILY HEALTH AND THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

FROM PAGE 1

are saying, 'No, we'll give you what you got in 1994.'

In Los Angeles County, which is facing a \$1.3 billion deficit, federal funding cuts have already begun taking a toll, leading to a proposal to shut down the County-University of Southern California Medical Center, which has a 90 percent Latino clientele.

"The shift of mandates without funding will handcuff counties throughout the country in delivering vital government services," warns Michael Bustamante, a spokesperson for L.A. County Supervisor Gloria Molina. "Money from the general fund that would have gone to pay for police and public works."

Philadelphia's Ortiz calls it "creative government at its best."

But not all believe the changes will be doom and gloom. Jane Delgado, president of the

Coalition of Hispanic Health and Human Services Organizations, says the changes are part of a trend that has been occurring over time. "In the '60s we learned to come to Washington to protest. But a good institution has to search and realize that things change. The real action is at the state and local level."

(Jon Higuera is editor of Hispanic Link Weekly Report, a national publication based in Washington, D.C.). Copyright 1995. Hispanic Link News

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Request application materials and submit SPC Employment Application, college transcripts, and resume to: Dr. Otto Schacht, Dean of Arts and Sciences, South Plains College, 1401 S. College Ave., Levelland, TX 79336. (806) 894-9611, ext. 338.

Application Deadline: August 4, 1995.

South Plains College reserves the right to extend search or not offer the position advertised.

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Public Notice

The City of Lubbock/Citibus has established an FY 1996 goal of 15.8% of funds to disadvantaged business enterprise participation (DBE) in contracted work and operational procurement, under DOT-assisted contracts. The goals and description of the City of Lubbock's DBE program are available for review between 8:30 and 4:30 p.m. at the address listed below for 30 days following this notice. Comments are for informational purposes only.

DBE DIRECTORY

The City of Lubbock and Citibus are interested in expanding their directory of DBE firms capable of providing goods and services required by the transit system. Firms interested in assuring inclusion of desiring to be listed in the directory should submit a letter of interest stating the firm's qualifications and area of service to the following address:

Citibus
801 Texas Avenue
P.O. Box 2000
Lubbock, TX 79457

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The Texas Department of Transportation anticipates District Engineer job vacancies at various locations in the State, effective Sept. 1, 1995. Applications are being accepted from registered professional engineers who meet minimum qualifications. Submission of applications indicates willingness to accept any open position.

Refer to TxTOT Listing Number 5-41-E430-008 for the following levels and locations with a salary range of \$5027.17-6240.58. These positions require licensing as a registered professional engineer with 5 years of progressively responsible experience as a professional engineer plus 5 years of managerial experience.

Director IV-Abilene, Amarillo, Atlanta, Brownwood, Bryan, Childress, Laredo, Lubbock, Lufkin, Odessa, Paris, San Angelo, Wichita Falls, Yoakum,

Director V-Beaumont, Corpus Christi, El Paso, Pharr, Tyler, Waco

Refer to TxTOT Listing Number 5-41-E430-006 for the following levels and locations with a salary range \$6240.59-6933.99. These positions require licensing as a registered professional engineer with 7 years of progressively responsible experience as a professional engineer plus 7 years of managerial experience.

Director VI-Austin, Fort Worth, San Antonio
Director VII-Dallas, Houston

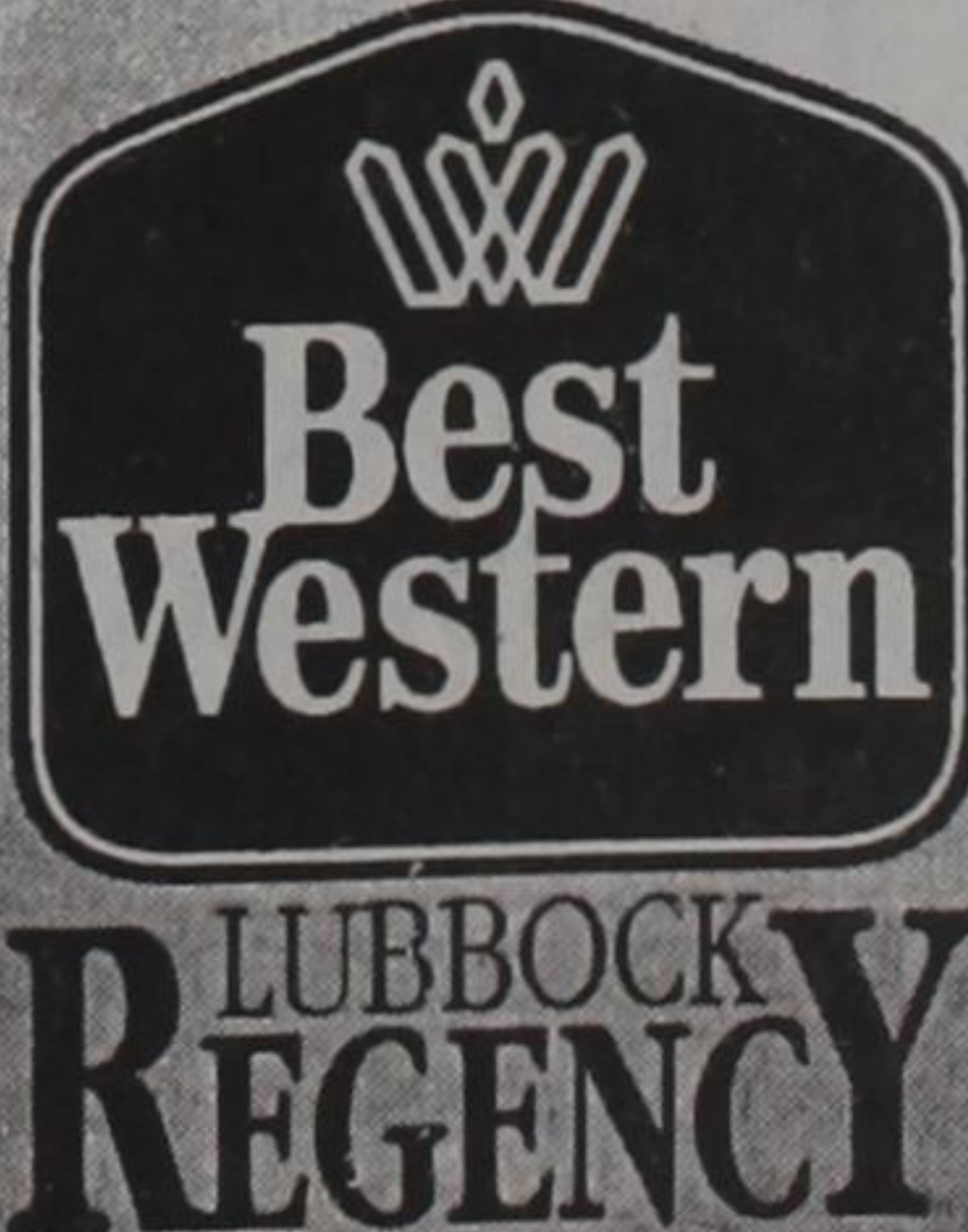
Each of the above positions involve executive-level direction and management of all engineering-related activities, programs and staff for a large area of the state comprised of several counties.

Applications and complete job vacancy notices are available at all TxDOT district offices or the TxDOT Employment Office in Austin. Out-of-state applicants may call (512) 416-2994 to obtain a copy of the job vacancy notice and application. Qualified applicants must submit a completed application.

RESUMES WITHOUT ACCOMPANY COMPLETED APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Applications will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., C.D.T., July 28, 1995. Applications mailed must be postmarked no later than July 27, 1995.

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