

# \$700,000 Grant Aimed At 79415 Youth

by Bidal Aguero & Eliseo Solis

Seven hundred thousand dollars, better realized if spelled out in numbers - \$700,000, is a lot of money. Eyes and ears of local community organizations perked up last November when stories that this large amount of money was to be awarded to the 79415 area, then known as the Arnett Benson and Jackson Barrios, for projects as mandated by the State Legislature to achieve goals that would allow the community to "implement service programs to support the prevention and reduction of juvenile crime."

The program was mandated by the 74th Texas Legislature in 1995 which allocated \$10.5 million to the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (TDPRS) for the development of Community Youth Development (CYD) Projects. Grants were to be awarded to targeted communities with high rates of juvenile crime.

The initial funding included 11 targeted communities, identified by zip codes, in counties which included Bexar (San Antonio), Cameron (Brownsville), Dallas, El Paso, Galveston, Harris (Houston), Hidalgo (McAllen), Nueces ( Corpus Christi), Potter (Amarillo), Tarrant (Fort Worth) and Travis (Austin). Communities were chosen on a non-competitive basis purely based on each counties' high numbers of violent arrests and juvenile referrals. Lubbock was not included.

In the 75th legislature held January 1998 until May 1998, lawmakers expanded the programs to include two more counties, Lubbock and McLennan (Waco). An additional \$1.9 million was appropriated for Fiscal Years 1998 and 1999.

The Lubbock Barrios (79415) qualified because records show that in 1996 there were 330 referrals to the Juvenile Probation Department with 32 of those being violent crimes. This in comparison to the lowest community referred in the initial funding of 303 in the Galveston 77550 zip code. (See table below).

The Arnett Benson Barrio is an 1 square mile area populated by approximately 3,000 families, 90% of whom are Mexican Americans and are low income with a median income of \$20,891 in Arnett Benson and \$15,486 in Jackson.

Included in the area are many community activists who have worked continually toward change. The area was home to key members of Raza Unida, the Mexican American Youth Organization and the Brown Berets. In 1973 Lubbock saw the first school boycott with some 100 students walking out of Matthews Junior High to protest discriminatory practices by the administration.

Very influential in the community was Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church whose members spearheaded the election of

Lubbock's first and only Chicano State Representative, Froy Salinas, and Lubbock's first City Councilperson, Maggie Trejo. The Church support to civil rights efforts were afforded to the community through the cooperation of Father Curtis Halfmann.

The problems of an inner-city type area like those encountered in larger cities such as New York, L.A. and Chicago seemed to creep into the Arnett Benson Barrio as housing conditions deteriorated and unemployment rose. Although the unemployment rate in Lubbock remains low at 3.7%, underemployment continues to be a major problem thereby forcing both parents to work and consequently leaving many youths to wander streets in the barrio.

In a report filed by the Lubbock Gang Task Force it is estimated that there are as many as 500 gang members in the 79415 area which are primarily responsible for the high incidence of crime committed by juveniles.

It was because of this high incidence of crime in Lubbock that the area qualified for the Community Youth Development Program as funded by the Texas Legislature which is based upon the principle assumptions that:

- communities know best what they need
- we can define meaningful and measurable outcomes; and
- we can put a structure in place to collect data to measure the outcomes.

It was in December of 1997 that the notice from Senator Robert

County	Zip Code Selected for CYD Project	Juvenile Population In Zip Code	Number of Juvenile Referrals In Zip Code
Bexar	78201	19,838	646
Cameron	78520	17,168	1,105
Dallas	75216	16,491	696
El Paso	79924	18,073	376
Galveston	77550	7,921	303
Harris	77081	9,215	419
Hidalgo	78501	16,899	754
Nueces	78415	12,776	779
Potter	79107	9,788	612
Tarrant	76106	15,467	467
Travis	78744	8,370	840

**There are 1706 youth under 18 in the 79415 area.**

Duncan's office was made public that \$700,000 would be available through the CYD Program specifically to address the needs of the 79415 Barrio.

The grant called for technical assistance to be provided by Texas Tech University to identify and contact community representatives; develop publicity to ensure community awareness of the program; identify and arrange meeting locations; organize and facilitate community meetings and assist with the development of a community steering committee; and assist with preparation of Community Action Plans. Tech began working on the project in mid-January under the direction of Janet Schmidly in the Office of Special Projects under the President's office. In a letter to community leaders, dated January 20, 1998, Schmidly stated that "funds will be used for the promotion of collaborative efforts by neighborhoods, civic groups, police, churches, schools, and public and private agencies to reduce negative factors impacting children". She went on further to state that "This partnership will enable the community to design comprehensive approaches to support families and enhance the positive development of youth in the designated area."

The first community meeting was arranged by Tech to take place on January 31st. More than 100 persons attended the meeting held at Cavazos Junior High to hear an overview of what the program was and its goals. It was also explained that a steering committee was to be elected in order to be the governing body of the program. Much emphasis was placed on the fact that the neighborhoods involved would assume decision making authority in the development and implementation of the program as explained by Michelle Duhart, LSW, of the TDPRS. This statement was questioned, however, by local Attorney, Emilio Abeyta, when the many restrictions to local decision-making were outlined in the ensuing presentation.

According to guidelines of the CYD program, "the steering committee was to reflect the diversity of the community with at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the Steering committee members having to reside in the 79415 area. In addition, at least one adult member of the Steering Committee must provide ongoing leadership and guidance to the Youth Advisory Committee."

The meeting to elect the members of the steering committee was held in late February. Six persons were elected from a slate of 20 nominees. Those elected were Juan Peralez, Louis Trejo, Jesse Molinar, Frank Gutierrez, Blas Mojica and Josh Ortiz. The week following the election members met to consider

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

## EL EDITOR

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### Comentarios de Bidal

One of the most effective tactics used against the masses throughout the years as a method to emasculate or at least to neutralize has been to give in to demands but then to subvert populare programs so as to make them fail.



In the 60's and 70's, two programs stand out that reek of familiarity to the present situation in the 79415 case. The Bilingual Education Program promoted by Senator Ralph Youbrough and passed by congress in 1967, had good objectives and righteous aspirations. It was designed to fail and as such evolved into the debate 30 years later that hasn't been settled yet. Community Action Programs were designed to make people dependent rather than teach them to do for themselves.

Conservatives nowadays profess that the only solution to the crime situation is to build more warehousing for criminals. It is somewhat ironic that these same people are proposing a program destined to fail once you analyzes the deficiencies in the 79415 program design. The community was never expected to have any real power in the development, implementation or control of the program. Could it be that these alert conservatives have the design to use the results of these failed programs to justify the concept that these criminals (read Black, Brown and Poor White) will not respond to prevention or intervention, therefore, we should continue to build more and more prisons.

(Eliseo Solis Contributed to this comentary)

## Analistas Republicanos Dicen Al Partido: Despierten o Perderan

Por Patricia Guadalupe

Dos reconocidos analistas republicanos han unido sus voces a lo que muchos dicen es una creciente preocupación en el partido republicano sobre el voto latino.

Los analistas Dick Wirthlin y Mike Murphy, compartieron con el liderazgo del partido una encuesta que realizaron y la que calificaron de "llamada urgente" para que el partido republicano haga las paces con la comunidad hispana.

"La población hispana está aumentando, tanto en número como en fuerza política, y el partido Demócrata busca con fervor ese voto," dijo Murphy.

Enlazando sus comentarios a los resultados de otras recientes encuestas, él agregó que el voto hispano en varios estados claves - California, Nueva York, Texas, la Florida e Illinois -- podría determinar el resultado de las próximas elecciones presidenciales. Murphy no reparó en obstáculos al criticar a los republicanos ultra-conservadores por "calumniar" a la comunidad hispana al apoyar legislación que muchos estiman contrarios a la comunidad latina.

"Los partidos no pueden ganar sin el voto hispano y las personas como Pat Buchanan son las mejores armas del partido demócrata", dijo Murphy. "Las iniciativas, especialmente en contra de los inmigrantes legales, son el camino equivocado para tomar. La retórica nacionalista y reaccionista de Buchanan es muy mala para nosotros, y no representa el punto de vista de una mayoría en el partido", agregó.

El sondeo, efectuado en todo el país y en Puerto Rico para un grupo con sede en la isla que mayormente favorece estadidad, analizó las actitudes de los electores estadounidenses sobre la situación política de la isla. Los encuestados en Puerto Rico fueron entrevistados en español.

De los que respondieron en Estados Unidos, el 63 por ciento contestó a favor que el Congreso aprobara la legislación sobre un plebiscito en la isla para escoger entre la estadidad, la independencia y el actual estado libre asociado.

Y en la isla, el plebiscito resultó favorecido por un 97 por

ciento. Al igual que los resultados de anteriores plebiscitos, que al llevarse cabo otro plebiscito, el 46 por ciento apoyaría el actual estado libre asociado, mientras que el 42 por ciento apoyaría estadidad. Los encuestadores dijeron que esta brecha "no representa una diferencia estadística importante" y aseveraron que aún entre aquellos que favorecen el estado libre asociado, el 30 por ciento cree que la isla llegará a ser un estado en diez años.

En una de las preguntas, cuando a los encuestados en Estados Unidos se les dijo que los residentes de la isla no pagan impuestos federales y reciben más de \$9,500 millones en ayuda federal; el 73 por ciento respondió que Puerto Rico debería ser estado para que los residentes de la isla "paguen impuestos federales como los demás, a cambio de la ciudadanía estadounidense". El 16 por ciento favoreció el 'dejar las cosas como están'.

Otros resultados fueron semejantes a los de una reciente encuesta realizada por la cadena televisiva "Univisión", la cual halló que, mientras una mayoría de los encuestados se identifican con el partido demócrata, estos también apoyan tema actualmente asociados con el partido republicano, tales como una defensa nacional fuerte, valores

colares, y el poder orar en las escuelas públicas del país. "Fue importante para nosotros el incluir a Puerto Rico, porque algunos que piensan que Puerto Rico votaría por el partido demócrata si llegara a ser estado. Pero ése no es el caso", dijo Wirthlin. "(Los encuestados en la isla) se parecen políticamente a las coaliciones tradicionalmente republicanas, semejantes a los estados del sur, en el sentido que el registro demócrata es alto, pero eligen republicanos debido a las posturas conservadoras".

Y Murphy agregó: "Las gestiones del partido republicano para atraer el voto hispano fallarán si nos encontramos al lado equivocado de este asunto (la estadidad)".

Los asesores republicanos urgen a los senadores republicanos que apoyen el proyecto de ley sobre el plebiscito, auspiciado por el congresista Don Young (republicano por Alaska). La legislación que obligaría a que el Congreso federal respete el resultado de un plebiscito en la isla, permanece estancada en el Senado de los Estados Unidos.

(Patricia Guadalupe es correspondiente en Washington de varios medios de prensa escrita y radial.)

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### US Underestimated Kids' Medicaid Eligibility

A new government study finds previous assessments vastly underestimated how many uninsured children qualify for Medicaid. The new count of 4.7 million children -- up from the nearly 3 million previously calculated -- comes as states begin to enroll children in a new health insurance program meant to cover those missed by Medicaid.

The earlier estimates did not account for children who became eligible for the program because of states' efforts to expand eligibility beyond the federal minimums, said a co-author of the study.

"We are taking a broader view," said Thomas M. Selden, an economist at the government's Agency for Health Care Policy and Research and a co-author of the study published in this month's issue of the journal Health Affairs.

With about 10 million uninsured children, Congress and President Clinton agreed last year to a new program for children who are not poor enough for Medicaid but whose families cannot afford to buy insurance on their own.

The program is attractive to states because the federal government pays a larger percentage of the cost of insurance than it does under Medicaid, which is also funded by a combination of federal and state money.

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## News Briefs

### CA Gov. Vetoes Bilingual Plan

California Gov. Pete Wilson vetoed a bill Monday that would have let schools in the nation's most populous state choose how to teach 1.3 million "limited English-proficient" children.

Under the current system, immigrant children are taught primarily in their first language, and English is gradually introduced. The bill from Sen. Dede Alpert, a Democrat, would have allowed school districts to keep that system, use the "English immersion" technique advocated by Proposition 227 or develop their own approach.

Wilson, a Republican, instead backed Proposition 227, which is on the June 2 ballot.

Alpert criticized Proposition 227 for imposing a one-size-fits-all solution for California, where schools recognize 55 languages and even more dialects are spoken on playgrounds and in cafeterias.

"This veto is simply shortsighted," she said. "Yes, some of these children will survive academically, and anecdotal evidence will be that one or two may even excel. But too many will fall hopelessly, and unnecessarily, behind their classmates."

The backers of Proposition 227 were less than thrilled to have Wilson's support.

Wilson alienated many immigrants with his support of Proposition 187, a 1994 ballot measure denying most social services to undocumented immigrants. In contrast, recent polls find Proposition 227 is supported by about half of the Latino households surveyed.

### Texas Affirm Action Ruling Appealed

The University of Texas will appeal a federal court ruling that ended affirmative action programs at Texas state colleges.

"The long-term social, cultural and economic vitality of Texas is irrevocably linked to its ability to recruit and graduate minority students," university chancellor William Cunningham said Wednesday.

Attorney General Dan Morales today approved the school's request for a private lawyer to conduct the appeal of the ruling in the case known as Hopwood. The school's board of regents had unanimously approved the appeal Wednesday.

He said he disagreed with the university's support of affirmative action and favors "race-neutral criteria" to select students, but decided "not to allow my objections to prevent the university from exercising its will in this instance," Morales said.

The university has until Monday to bring its case before a federal court. Texas dismantled affirmative action policies at state universities after the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals found that a law school policy meant to boost minority enrollment discriminated against whites.

That ruling, named after Cheryl Hopwood, one of four plaintiffs who sued for admission into the school, was allowed to stand in 1996 by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The school cannot appeal the legality of its former affirmative action program, but will try to persuade the court that the ruling is unfair and harming the system's ability to recruit students on a level playing field with colleges in other states.

"Right now, there's one standard for Texas and a standard for all the other 49 states. We think that's unfair," said Donald Evans, board chairman.

### Students Cited for Affirmative Action Protest

More than 80 students at the University of California, Los Angeles were cited for failing to disperse during a peaceful but noisy protest against Proposition 209, the state's anti-affirmative action measure.

About 200 students participated in the demonstration Tuesday afternoon. Most of the protesters walked into one of the main buildings on campus, sat in the hallways and chanted.

After several hours, campus police cited the students for misdemeanor failure to disperse, and they were released on their own recognizance, UC police Sgt. Jim Vandenberg said.

No violence was reported, but Los Angeles police officers in riot gear lined up outside Royce Hall.

The protest was organized by the UCLA Affirmative Action Coalition and the African Student Union. Proposition 209, passed in 1996, ended affirmative action in state hiring and contracting and in admissions to state universities.

"The administration's compliance with Proposition 209 has put UCLA into a state of crisis," said Stacy Lee of the Affirmative Action Coalition.

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Look For It! El Editor's Graduation Special Edition / May 28

# Los Electores De California Deberian Conocer Los Menores

Por Thomas R. Martinez

El grande del ténis, Arthur Ashe, definió así su fórmula para el éxito: "Para alcanzar la grandeza, comience donde esté. Entonces haga lo mejor que pueda con lo que tenga".

No hay atajos ni remedios sencillos. Sólo hay realidades duras.

Cuando nosotros los electores de California vayamos a las urnas el 2 de junio, debemos preguntarnos: ¿Estamos verdaderamente comprometidos a la enseñanza de todos los niños? Y, de ser así, ¿estamos dispuestos a emplear todos los métodos disponibles para lograr ese fin?

El mero hecho es que, para tener éxito, nuestro estado y nuestra nación, cada vez más diversos, deben satisfacer las necesidades de enseñanza y los estilos diferentes de aprendizaje en nuestra población. Las supuestas "soluciones" sencillas no ayudarán a los estudiantes a realizarse, ni harán que desaparezcan los problemas. La Propuesta 227 de California, de "una talla sirve para todos", es el remedio más reciente que se pregona al público para mejorar las habilidades idiomáticas del 12 por ciento de los niños de nuestras escuelas que tienen una habilidad limitada en el inglés.

El multimillonario comerciante y ex candidato para gobernador de California, Ron Unz, está gastando su propio dinero en un plan de "inglés solamente" que todos los expertos, desde el Secretario de Educación de los Estados Unidos, Richard Riley, hasta las maestras en escuelas

locales del estado dicen rotundamente que no funcionará. Es malo para los estudiantes y malo para la sociedad, aseguran. Hasta los candidatos a gobernador, tanto del partido republicano como del demócrata, dicen lo mismo.

Pero las encuestas muestran aún que más de la mitad de los californianos que leen esta columna marcarán el "Si" cuando voten sobre el plan de Unz, asutatamente nombrado "Inglés para los Niños".

Para aquellos electores comprometidos a votar que "Si", los que creen que ninguna palabra de cualquier columnista cambiaría su selección, no les pediré que continúen leyendo. Pero, por favor, tengan la bondad de conocer los por menores de la propuesta de Unz.

La Propuesta 227 exige que un alumno que ingrese a la escuela con un conocimiento limitado, o sin conocimiento alguno del inglés, reciba sólo 180 días (un año escolar) de enseñanza en un programa de "inmersión limitada" de inglés solamente. Durante ese espacio de tiempo, el alumno no recibirá enseñanza alguna en otros clases, tales como matemáticas o historia.

Al acabar el año, el alumno debe ser ubicado en un salón de clase de habla inglés, ya sea que haya aprendido o no suficiente inglés como para funcionar académicamente. Los maestros tendrán que esforzarse para poner al alumno a la misma velocidad que el resto de la clase en todas las asignaturas.

Sin embargo, se prohibirá a los maestros y a sus escuelas locales que suministren la ayuda necesaria al alumno si eso incluye el uso del idioma natal del alumno. A medida que estos niños se retrasen cada vez más, demorarán por supuesto al resto de la clase.

No hay debate -- todos los padres, incluyendo a los de los niños con capacidad limitada en inglés, quieren primordialmente que sus niños aprendan inglés tan bien y rápidamente como sea posible. Y el aprendizaje del inglés es el objetivo de los programas bilingües vigentes.

Estos programas basados en la investigación didáctica permiten la flexibilidad local a fin de llevar a la práctica los mejores métodos para que los niños de distintos antecedentes y pautas de aprendizaje lleguen a tener dominio del inglés a medida que adelantan en otras asignaturas importantes, en clases dictadas por maestros que puedan comunicarse con ellos.

La Propuesta 227 niega este derecho fundamental a los estudiantes. La misma ordena un enfoque estatal no sometido a prueba para la adquisición del dominio en el idioma inglés. A los padres y las madres, los maestros y las escuelas locales no se les permitirá dar sus opiniones sobre lo que funcione mejor.

Si se aprueba la iniciativa de Unz, ni siquiera una votación mayoritaria de nuestros legisladores puede cambiarla si resulta desacreditada, de igual modo que una propuesta similar fué hallada defectuosa hace algunos

años. Hasta el Gobernador Pete Wilson se pregunta de qué modo un costo de \$50 millones, incorporado a la iniciativa para un programa no sometido a prueba, podrá ser financiado.

¿Son perfectos los programas actuales? Desde luego que no. Algunos son excelentes. Y necesitamos mejorar los demás.

Los opositores de la Propuesta 227 reconocen que los niños reaccionan a distintos métodos de enseñanza y que nuestras escuelas locales deben tener la libertad para desarrollar y refinar continuamente esos métodos.

Atrapados en un sentimiento divisivo contra los inmigrantes y contra la enseñanza pública, algunos que abogan por la iniciativa manifiestan abiertamente su enojo hasta por la mera existencia de los niños inmigrantes. Parecen creer que, si no se les dan enseñanzas, desaparecerán.

A fin de lograr la grandeza que deseamos para nuestras escuelas, debemos reconocer que los niños con conocimiento limitado del inglés sí existen, y debemos hacer todo lo que sea necesario para enseñarles.

Deberíamos esforzarnos por hacer que nuestro sistema de enseñanza pública fuera lo mejor, y no deberíamos dejar a un niño o niña atrás.

(Thomas Martínez es profesor de política y administración en la Universidad Estatal de California, recinto de Bakersfield.)

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# How to Ensure College Diversity

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The most recent figures on the number of minority students admitted to the University of California show a startling drop -- a drop administrators say they cannot act to correct under an anti-affirmative action initiative passed by California voters. But the existing grounds for admission do in fact discriminate, writes PNS commentator Ron Takaki, who suggests a way to ensure more diverse admissions that stays within the law. Takaki is Professor of Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley, and author of "A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America."

By Ron Takaki, Pacific News Service

BERKELEY -- They've changed the rules at the University of California.

As a result, 800 minority students who charged through high school with all "A" records will have to continue their education someplace else -- if they want to go on at all.

In other words, the best -- a 4.0 grade point average -- is no longer good enough. The reason, according to UC administration, is that these students were "Not competitive." It is only fair to point out, however, that they were not competing on a level playing field.

High-school students can now achieve a GPA beyond 4.0 by taking "advanced placement courses" which can award a score of 5.0. This privileges students from schools with the money to pay for AP courses -- most of them in suburban areas.

Students from these schools also benefit from the use of Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores as a criterion for admissions. These scores are directly correlated with family incomes -- they go up together. One reason for this is that students from wealthy families can afford to take the exams more than once and to enroll in expensive SAT prep courses.

The 800 students, not coincidentally, are African American and Latino. Another 791 students from these two groups were admitted. This means that African American and Latino students are only 10 percent of the university's newest freshman class, compared to 23 percent in 1997.

According to Jesus Mena, spokesperson for the University, admitting the 800 minority students with 4.0 averages would be "seen as racial preference" which is explicitly prohibited by Proposition 209, passed by California voters in the last election.

Thus the UC system, which presents itself as "color-blind" when it comes to admissions, is in fact offering preferential treatment for students from the suburbs. Even those minority students who attend suburban schools commonly report that they find themselves tracked away from college prep and AP courses.

What can be done about this unfair system?

If we believe in evaluating the students as individuals, we can eliminate bonus points for courses offered only in more prosperous districts. We can also abolish, or give less weight to, SAT scores.

Then we can try to create an individual picture of each applicant -- using a comprehensive range of categories, including grades and SAT scores, the personal statement, letters of recommendation, evidence of special talents and interests, and an interview.

At that point, we can take all students ranked in the top third, assign a number to each one, and choose from among them by using a lottery.

This admission procedure would be "race blind" but it would give African American and Latino -- and white working class -- students with a 4.0 average a "competitive chance."

UC Berkeley is unlikely to recover the diversity it has enjoyed in recent years until and unless Prop. 209 is overturned. But we can do some things to level the playing field at least a little.

If we don't, hard-working minority students will be discouraged from even applying.

## El Editor Newspaper

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# GOP Analysts To Party: Wake Up Or Lose The Latino Vote

By Patricia Guadalupe

Two more respected Republicans have added their voices to a GOP crescendo of concern about the Latino vote.

Leading GOP strategists Dick Wirthlin and Mike Murphy shared a survey with party leaders May 12 that they labeled "an urgent wake-up call" for the GOP to make peace with the Hispanic community.

"Hispanics are increasing in both numbers and political strength and they are being actively courted by the Democratic Party," said Murphy.

Tying his comments to the results of other recent polls, he added that the Hispanic vote in several key states -- California, New York, Texas, Florida and Illinois -- could determine the outcome of the next presidential election. He pulled no punches as he criticized ultra-conservative Republicans for "vilifying" the Latino community by supporting issues that many consider anti-Latino.

"The parties can't win without the Hispanic vote and people like Pat Buchanan are the Democratic Party's best weapon," Murphy said. "Initiatives especially against legal immigrants are the wrong way to go. Buchanan's nativist, knee-jerk rhetoric is very bad for us and doesn't represent the majority viewpoint in the party."

The poll, conducted nationwide and in Puerto Rico for an island-based group that largely favors statehood, looked at attitudes among U.S. voters about the island's political status. Respondents in Puerto Rico were interviewed in Spanish.

Among U.S. respondents, 63 percent answered in favor of the U.S. Congress approving legislation for a plebiscite on the island to choose among statehood, independence and commonwealth.

Among island respondents, the plebiscite was favored by 97 percent. Similar to the results of past votes, 46 percent said they would support commonwealth, while 42 percent support statehood. The pollsters said that the gap represents "no statistical

difference" and asserted that even among those who favor commonwealth, 30 percent believe the island will become a state in 10 years.

In one question, when U.S. respondents were told that island residents pay no federal income taxes and receive more than \$9.5 billion in federal aid, an overwhelming 73 percent favored either "strongly" or "somewhat strongly" that the island should become a state so that residents will pay federal income taxes "like the rest of us in exchange for being U.S. citizens." Sixteen percent favored "leaving things the way they are."

Other results were similar to those of a recent poll commissioned by the Spanish-language television network Univision which found that while a majority of those questioned identify with the Democratic Party, Latinos strongly support positions such as school prayer, strong defense, anti-abortion, education vouchers, traditionally associated with the Republican Party.

"It was important for us to look at Puerto Rico because there is a view that Puerto Rico would vote Democratic should it become a state. That's not the case," said Wirthlin. "Island respondents represent traditional Republican coalitions similar to traditional Southern states where Democratic registration is high but where Republicans are elected because of popular conservative positions."

Added Murphy, "GOP efforts to attract Hispanic support will falter if we are on the wrong side of this issue (statehood)."

The report urged Republican senators to support passage of the plebiscite bill, sponsored by U.S. Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska). Legislation that would mandate a political-status plebiscite in Puerto Rico remains stalled in the U.S. Senate.

(Patricia Guadalupe covers Washington politics for several print and broadcast outlets.)

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## Proposition 227:

# California Voters Should Read The Small Print

By Thomas R. Martinez

Tennis great Arthur Ashe defined his formula for success. "To achieve greatness, start where you are. Then do the very best you can with what you have."

There are no short-cuts, no silver bullets, no feel-good remedies. Only hard realities.

As we California voters go to the polls June 2, we must ask ourselves: Are we truly committed to the education of all children? And if so, are we willing to use every method available to achieve that end?

The simple fact is that to succeed, our increasingly diverse state and nation must meet the differing educational needs and learning styles of our diverse student population. Simplistic bumper-sticker "solutions" will not help the students achieve, or make them go away. Drop out, probably. Go away, not likely.

California's one-size-fits-all Proposition 227 is the latest remedy being hawked to the public to improve the language skills of the 12 percent of our public schools' children who are limited-English-proficient.

Multimillionaire businessman/political wannabe Ron Unz is pouring his pocketbook into a restrictive "English-only" scheme that all the experts, from U.S. Secretary of Educa-

tion Richard Riley down through the ranks, say flat-out won't work. It's bad for kids and bad for society. California's gubernatorial candidates from both the Republican and Democratic parties even agree on that.

But the polls still show that well over half of the Californians reading this column will check "Yes" when they vote on Unz's cleverly named "English for the Children" scheme.

For those committed "yes" voters who feel no columnist's words will sway their choice, I won't ask you to read further. But, please, read the small print in Unz's proposition.

Proposition 227 requires that a child who enters school with little or no English be provided only 180 days (one school year) of instruction in a "sheltered immersion" English-only program. During that time, the child will receive no instruction in other subjects such as math or history. After that year, the child must be placed in a regular English-speaking classroom whether or not he or she has learned enough English to function academically. Teachers will have to struggle to bring the child up to speed with the rest of the class in every subject area. However, teachers and their local schools will be pro-

hibited from providing needed assistance to the child if it includes use of the child's native language. As these children fall further behind, they will, of course, hold back the rest of the class.

There is no debate -- all parents, including those of limited-English-speaking children, want first and foremost for their children to learn English as well and as quickly as possible. And learning English is the goal of current bilingual programs.

Current research-based programs allow local flexibility in implementing the best methods for children of varied backgrounds and learning patterns to become proficient in English as they progress in other important subjects in classes taught by teachers who can communicate with them.

Proposition 227 denies students this basic right. It mandates an untested statewide cookie-cutter approach to English-language acquisition. Parents, teachers and local schools won't be allowed input on what works best.

If the Unz initiative is passed, not even a majority vote of our legislators can change it when it is discredited, just as its "sink-or-swim" ancestor was found badly flawed decades ago. Even

principal felt she had been ambushed. "I was in shock," she recalls. "The conflict was not here in the school. The complaints were initiated by Alice Callaghan, not by the parents."

Before Vargas Page arrived five years ago, Ninth Street had been a troubled school. It still faces huge obstacles in serving an impoverished community, where half of the 460 students are classified as homeless and 92 percent are limited in English.

By 1996, however, improvements were clearly evident. Children's scores on English-language achievement tests were rising -- up 35 percent in four years. The bilingual program was providing at least two hours of English each day, with the amount of Spanish decreasing until students were ready for regular classrooms, usually by fourth or fifth grade.

Vargas Page invited the boycotting parents to come and talk about bilingual education -- its rationale and its results in teaching English -- so they could make an informed decision for their children.

But Callaghan advised them to stay away rather than face "harassment" by school personnel. Instead, she circulated a consent form in English among the Spanish-speaking parents. Then -- several days into the boycott, Callaghan concedes -- she submitted their signatures demanding English-only classrooms. Even after the school agreed, she held the students out for two more days.

No doubt some parents were sincerely convinced that bilingual education was to blame for their children's academic problems. But others, according to

# The Ninth Street Myth: Who Speaks For Latino Parents?

By James Crawford

Anecdotes can be powerful. Unlike academic research or statistics, they highlight the human impact of public policy decisions.

But they can also be dangerous. What if the anecdote is just an isolated event, a misleading story that fails to represent the larger truth? And what if the anecdote itself is untrue?

"Bilingual Schooling Is Failing, Parents Say"... "80 Students Stay Out of School in Latino Boycott"... "Parents Seek More English-Only Classes"...

Such headlines, describing a 1996 confrontation at the Ninth Street School in Los Angeles, have appeared throughout the country.

According to news accounts, immigrant parents were so frustrated with a mostly Spanish curriculum and an unresponsive bureaucracy that they pulled their children out of school to demand English instruction.

Two years later, we're still hearing about the Ninth Street boycott. It has been featured in countless news stories about Proposition 227, the campaign to "eliminate bilingual education in California by June 1998."

For Yes on 227 proponents, this incident was a godsend. Multimillionaire Ron Unz says it inspired him to sponsor the "English for the Children" ini-

tiative. He launched his campaign and established his headquarters in the Ninth Street neighborhood. In radio commercials, Unz quotes a parent who participated in the boycott to illustrate Latino opposition to bilingual education.

As political theater, the Ninth Street story could not have been more useful to English-only advocates if they had scripted and stage-managed it themselves. In fact, that's just what they did.

The protest against bilingual education was spearheaded by Alice Callaghan, a local activist who runs a daycare center near the school. Virtually all the parents involved were low-paid garment workers, recently arrived from Mexico, who depended on Callaghan's services.

Prior to the boycott, every one of these parents had signed forms consenting to bilingual instruction, according to principal Eleanor Vargas Page. If only they had come and asked, she says, they could have enrolled their children in the school's alternative, intensive English program. After all, parents' right to make this choice is guaranteed under California law.

Of course, this simple solution would not have produced a confrontation -- or the sensational headlines that followed. The

# 'Un Poquito De Tu Amor'

By Sandra Cisneros

When my father died last year, a week before Valentine's Day, a piece of my heart died with him. My father, that supreme sentimental fool, loved my brothers and me to excess in a kind of over-the-top, rococo fever, all arabesques and sugar spirals, as sappy and charming as the romantic Mexican boleros he loved to sing. "Dame un poquito de tu amor siquiera, dame un poquito de tu amor nomas..."

"Music from my time," Father would say proudly, and I could almost smell the gardenias and Tres Flores hair oil.

Before my father died, it was simple cordiality that prompted me to say, "I'm sorry," when confronting the bereaved. But with my father's death, I am initiated into the family of humanity. I am connected to all deaths and to their survivors. "Lo siento," which translates both as "I am sorry" and "I feel it" all at once. *Lo siento*. Since his death, I feel life more intensely.

My father, born under the eagle and serpent of the Mexican flag, died beneath a blanket of stars and stripes, a U.S. World War II veteran. Like most immigrants, he was overly patriotic, exceptionally hard-working, and, above all, a great believer in family. Yet I'm aware my father's life doesn't count, he's not "history," not the "American" politicians mean when they talk about "American."

In part to make his life count, I worked with community volunteers to create a gathering of Latino MacArthur Fellows in my city. For three days last November, San Antonio hosted free workshops, lectures and discussions among the "MacArturos" whose genius ranges from creating afford-

able housing to labor organizations.

It was during the culmination of this weekend that I realized this truth: our community may be poor and *bien fregados* politically, but we have two extraordinary gifts... the gift of generosity, which engenders more generosity, and the gift of spirituality -- two powerful forces we sometimes forget we have.

The MacArthur weekend was a beautiful outpouring of these twin blessings. A cultural anthropologist learning from kid muralists; an audience of theater lovers -- actors, writers, seniors and teenagers -- sparked by designer's experiments with set; a voting-rights lawyer sharing strategy with young law students; life histories exchanged between a room full of Latina activists and an art critic... and I catch a glimpse of the new millennium.

If we're ever to get anywhere, I'm convinced we need to organize like this, across disciplines, across generations, across sexualities, across everything. It makes perfect sense.

After that success, anything seemed possible. Then we heard the news. On Christmas Eve, 45 unarmed Mayans were slain while they prayed in a chapel in Acteal, Chiapas, 21 of them women, 14 children. The Mexican president was shocked and promised to hold all those responsible accountable. The Mexican people aren't fools; everyone knows who was responsible, but it's too much to wish for the Mexican president to fire himself.

I know the deaths in Chiapas are linked to me here in the United States. I know the massacre is connected to removing native people from their land, because although the people are very poor, the

land is very rich, and the government knows this. And the Mexican debt is connected to my high standards of living, and the military presence is necessary to calm U.S. investors, and the music goes round and round and it comes out here.

I have been thinking and thinking about all this like a person with *comezon*, a hankering, an itch I can't quite scratch. What is my responsibility as a writer in light of these events? As a woman, as a mestiza? As a U.S. citizen who lives on several borders? What do I do as the daughter of a Mexican man?

Father, tell me. *Lo siento*. I have been searching for answers.

Between Christmas and New Year's, I attended a Latino leadership conference in Scottsdale, Ariz., a first-ever gathering of U.S. Latino leaders modeled after the Renaissance weekend that President Clinton annually attends. It was a rare opportunity for Latino leaders across the country to meet one another.

Forty-five are dead in Acteal. My father is gone. I read the newspaper and the losses ring in my heart. More than half the Mexican-American kids in this country are dropping out of high school -- *more than half* -- and our politicians' priority is bigger prisons. I live in a state where there are more people sentenced to death than anywhere else in the world.

Alamo Heights, the affluent, white neighborhood of my city, values Spanish as a second language beginning in the first grade, yet elsewhere lawmakers work to demolish bilingual education for Spanish-dominant children. Two hours away from my home, the U.S. military is setting up camp to protect us, they say,

from bandits and drug lords, but I'm not stupid; I know who they mean to keep away. *Lo siento*. I feel it. I am reverberating like a bell.

I'm thinking this at the conference in Scottsdale. I don't know what I expect from this gathering, but I know I don't want to leave without a statement, at least about what happened three days before in Acteal. Surely the Latino leaders recognize the 45 are our family. It is like a family, one Arizona politico explains. But understand, to you it may be a father who's died, but to me it's a distant cousin.

Is it too much to ask our leaders to lead? You're too impatient, one Latina tells me. I'm so stunned I can't respond. A wild karaoke begins, and a Chicano filmmaker begins to preach -- There's a season to play and a season to rage. He talks and talks till I have to blink back the tears. After what seems like an eternity, he finally finishes by saying: "You know what you have to do, don't you?" And then it hits me, I do know what I have to do.

I will tell a story.

When we were in college, my mother realized investing in real estate was the answer to our economic woes. Her plans were modest: to buy a cheap fixer-upper in the barrio that would bring us income. After months of searching, Mother finally found something we could afford, a scruffy building on the avenue with a store that could serve as father's upholstery shop and two apartments above that would pay the mortgage. At last my mother was a respectable landlady.

Almost immediately a family on the third floor began paying their rent late. It wasn't an expensive apartment, something like \$100, but every first of the month, they

were \$5 or \$10 short and would deliver the rent with a promise to pay the balance the next payday, which they did. Every month it was the same -- the rent minus a few dollars promised for next Friday.

Mother hated to be taken advantage of. Do they think we're rich or something? Don't we have bills, too?

She sent Father, who was on good terms with everybody.

"You have to talk to that family. I've had it."

And so Father went, and a little later quietly returned.

"I fixed it," father announced.

"Already? How? What did you do?"

"I lowered the rent."

Mother was ready to throw a fit. Until father said, "Remember when \$10 meant a lot to us?"

Mother was silent, as if by some *milagro* she remembered. Who would have thought that father was capable of such genius. He was not by nature a clever man. But he inspires me now to be creative in ways I never realized. I don't wish to make my father seem more than he was. He wasn't Gandhi; he

lived a life terrified of those different from himself. He never read a newspaper and was naive enough to believe history as told by *la television*.

And, as my mother keeps reminding me, he wasn't a perfect husband either. But he was very kind and at some things extraordinary. He was a wonderful father.

Maybe I've looked to the wrong leaders for leadership. Maybe what's needed are a few outrageous ideas.

Something absurd and genius like my father, whose kindness and generosity teach me to enlarge my heart.

Maybe it's time to lower the rent.

*Dame un poquito de tu amor siquiera, dame un poquito de tu amor nomas...* Ever since the year began, that song runs through my head; my father just won't let up. *Lo siento*. I feel it. Give me just a little bit of your love at least, give me just a little bit of your love, just that...

(Sandra Cisneros of San Antonio, Texas, is an author.)

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The higher number of potential Medicaid children may have financial implications for states who aggressively recruit children into the new program. If states find children who are Medicaid-eligible, they must enroll them into Medicaid.

States nonetheless want to find these children and get them insurance and therefore health care, said Joan Henneberry, who directs the National Governors Association's material and child health program.

She noted that the uninsured children eligible for Medicaid are traditionally very hard to find because they typically are not on other welfare programs and therefore do not usually interact with state and country agencies.

Even before the higher estimates surfaced, the Clinton administration was concerned that so many eligible children have not enrolled in Medicaid.

Its 1999 budget, for instance, included a proposal to help states inform parents losing welfare that they may remain eligible for Medicaid.

The administration is also encouraging states to make it easier for children to sign up. Among the suggestions: simplify the Medicaid application, establish a toll-free hot line for enrollment information, allow application by mail, allow application during evening and weekend hours at convenient sites and publicize information about the program.

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**LA HISTORIA:**  
Los 17 miembros del Grupo Salvaje compraron sus boletos como grupo. Después del sorteo se reunieron en casa de Jimmy para revisar todos los boletos. Al revisarlos, descubrieron que habían igualado tres de seis números en algunos boletos. Para asegurarse, Nora y Jean decidieron volver a revisar. Fue entonces cuando descubrieron que no sólo habían igualado tres números, ellos habían igualado los seis números.

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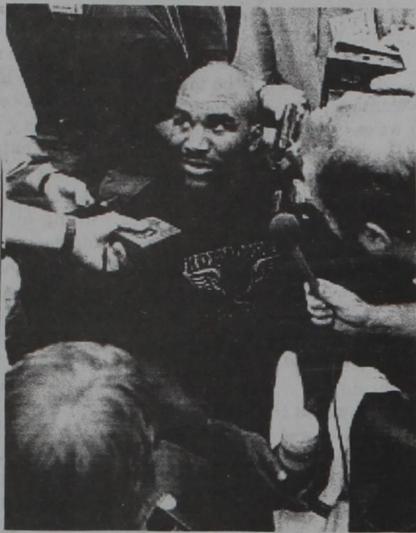
**LOTTO TEXAS**

MÁS DE 290 MILLONARIOS  
Y LA CUENTA SIGUE...

# Does Akinwande stand a chance against Holyfield?

**Akinwande's trainer considers title bout a Holy happening**  
 NEW YORK -- A lot of people would be surprised if Henry Akinwande upset heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield. His trainer is surprised Akinwande is even getting the chance.

"It's a miracle," Evander Holyfield will defend the heavyweight title against Akinwande at Madison Square Garden on June 6. (Allsport) "he's getting a championship fight," Emanuel Steward said of Akinwande's challenge to Holyfield, the WBA-IBF champion, June 6 in Madison Square Garden.



**Evander Holyfield will defend the heavyweight title against Akinwande at Madison Square Garden on June 6. (Allsport)**

When somebody mentioned that Akinwande has a habit of making dull fights, Steward said, "You don't have to tell me."

Steward, who will be working with Akinwande for the first time, also trains WBC champion Lennox Lewis and was in his corner when Lewis retained his title on Akinwande's fifth-round disqualification for holding last July 12.

"He's taught me to use the ring more and just relax," Akinwande said of Steward. "He gives me a lot of confidence."

STEWART REPLACED DON TURN, who also trains Holyfield. Speaking before Akinwande worked out Monday at Penn Station under Madison Square Garden, Steward was optimistic.

"If he shows the same determination he showed that night against Jeremy Williams, if he comes in with that attitude, the fight is going to be much better than people think," he said.

The 32-year-old Akinwande, born in England of Nigerian parents and now living at Orlando, Fla., won the WBO title by knocking out Williams in the third round. He defended that title twice before relinquishing it to get a shot at Lewis.

On Dec. 13, Akinwande outpointed Orlin Norris Jr. in a court-ordered match to determine who should get the WBA mandatory challenge to Holyfield.

"I'm just happy to be here," said Akinwande, who was about two hours late for the sparring session because he missed a flight from Orlando. He said he was given the wrong flight number. Other people said he overslept.

While waiting for Akinwande, the crowd was entertained by a sparring session involving Thomas Hearns, a holder of world titles in five weight classes who was the longtime star of Steward's once powerful stable at Detroit's Kronk Gym.

## Los buscones tras nuevos valores hispanos

# "Nos explotan como si fuéramos una mina"

Robert Pepen, quien debutará en las ligas menores este verano, firmó con los Mets en 1996 por \$7,500 cuando tenía 17 años. El pitcher Rafael Gómez, de 20 años, también firmó con los Mets por \$2,000 cuando tenía 17 años. Gómez dijo que a él lo descubrieron los buscones, individuos que llevan a los peloteros con los scouts. Los buscones son una especie de operadores freelance que andan por todo el país buscando talentos jóvenes.

"\$2,000 no es mucho", dice Gómez, quien estará lanzando en la Clase A este año. Sin embargo, Gómez asegura no sentirse explotado, dice que todo lo que quiere es jugar al béisbol.

Otras personas creen que esa mezcla de desesperación y gratitud es explotación.

"Mucha gente se aprovecha de la situación", dice el puertorriqueño Tony Bernazard, ex jugador de las Grandes Ligas y oficial del sindicato. "Los equipos se justifican diciendo que le dan una oportunidad a los muchachos. Pero los muchachos tienen talento y eso es lo que buscan los clubes".

Uno de los jóvenes talentosos es Martín Genao, pitcher dominicano de 19 años que en 1994 recibiera \$13,000 de parte de los Dodgers.

"Nos explotan como si fuéramos una mina", dijo Genao, quien ahora se recupera de una lesión en el hombro. "Aquí tú ves gente jugando en los basureros, en los callejones, en todos lados. Por eso la veda de peloteros dominicanos nunca se va a acabar".

Algunos oficiales del béisbol defienden las reducidas cantidades que reciben los jóvenes. Sandy Alderson, presidente de los Atléticos de Oakland, dijo que algunas personas ven los bonos como una forma de explotación, "pero para los muchachos es una oportunidad".

"Digamos que al año tienes \$200,000 en bonos", dijo Alderson, cuya organización tiene una academia reconocida en la isla. "¿Cómo está mejor la sociedad? ¿Si contratamos a



**El jugador de Los Tigres Luis González (28) se barre hacia el "Home" en el partido ante el equipo Tampa Bay Devil Rays.**

fico epidémico de certificados de nacimientos falsos, ya que los peloteros más jóvenes quieren demostrar que ya uno o dos muchachos por \$200,000 o a muchos por \$200,000?"

Otros oficiales indicaron que el hecho de firmar a los jóvenes latinoamericanos por cualquier precio es abrirles espacios económicos que de otra manera no tendrían. En 1985, Sammy Sosa firmó con los Rangers de Texas por \$3,500; y el año pasado firmó con los Cachorros de Chicago un contrato por cuatro años por \$42.5 millones. Pedro Martínez firmó con los Dodgers en 1988 por \$5,000; y los Medias Rojas recientemente lo contrataron por \$75 millones por seis años.

"Ellos quieren dejar la isla para seguir jugando, y por eso firman a cualquier precio", dijo Howie Haak, scout retirado que llegó a adquirir reputación en América Latina.

Está de acuerdo Milton Jamail, profesor de estudios latinoamericanos en la Universidad de Texas. "La mayor parte de los jugadores con los que he hablado lo ven como una posibilidad para sacarse la lotería", dijo Jamail, experto en béisbol latinoamericano. "Sammy Sosa no recibió casi nada y ahora gana \$10 millones. Vale la pena entrar en el sistema".

Probablemente. Pero hay muchos retos tanto para el béisbol en sí como para los países latinoamericanos. En la República Dominicana, hay un trá-

tienen 16 años. Al mismo tiempo, los agentes estadounidenses han creado sus propias redes para contratarlos antes de que hayan negociado con los clubes para así poder pagarles mejor.

Por su parte, a los oficiales de las Grandes Ligas, al igual que a varios oficiales del béisbol de la República Dominicana, les incomoda que se lleguen a lograr tratos más justos. Temen perder la fuerza laboral barata. Y muchos oficiales aquí temen que si los precios de los contratos aumentan, se firmarán a menos peloteros y se acabará la piedra angular de su industria.

El dominicano José Cuello, cuyo hijo juega en los Rockies como segunda base, habló de lo difícil que se puede volver esa industria. "Estaba tan preocupado por la organización que se olvidó del dinero", dijo Cuello. "El dinero grande lo espera allá en las Grandes Ligas".

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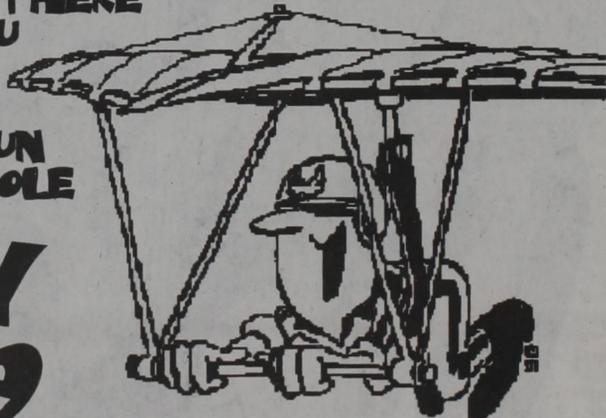
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# News Briefs

## Texas Democrats Introduce Affordable Child Care Plan

Austin American-Statesman--Democratic lawmakers presented a plan last week designed to make safe, quality child care more affordable for Texas parents.

The plan, announced in Austin, Houston, Fort Worth and El Paso by various lawmakers, recommends tax breaks for Texas businesses that invest in child care, faster criminal background checks of child-care workers, and pooling state and local money to attract the maximum amount of federal child-care dollars to Texas.

A spokesman for Republican Gov. George W. Bush agreed that child care is a top legislative concern but said some of the changes the Democrats proposed already are in place or are unworkable.

The Democrats' plan also recommends allowing accredited child-care centers to pay residential, rather than commercial, property tax rates.

The plan also calls for streamlining criminal background checks of child-care workers. "Children need a positive learning environment that is safe from the dangers of molesters, drugs and violence," said Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin.

Legislation passed last year required small child-care centers with three or fewer children to register with the state and submit their employees' names for criminal background checks. That has led to an increase in requests for criminal histories, as has another law requiring checks every two years, rather than just at the time of employment.

The state is processing about 14,000 criminal background checks per month for child-care workers. The searches turn up criminal records an average of 135 times per month, said Bill Carver, standards specialist for the agency. But the results can take four to six weeks to come back. In the meantime, the applicant is allowed to work with children.

Other points of the Democrats' plan include:

- Developing more after-school child-care programs.
- Requiring the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services and Texas Department of Health to provide health and safety information to child-care providers and parents through the Internet.

- Providing \$1,000 scholarships to train eligible Texans in child care.

- Reducing the college loan repayment burden for people who receive a college degree in early childhood development.

## Immigration Law Not Retroactive

In a landmark ruling on citizenship, a federal appeals court said the Justice Department cannot retroactively apply two 1996 laws that threatened thousands of immigrants with deportation.

In a ruling in favor of a Portuguese immigrant, the court on Monday also said the U.S. attorney general cannot block judges from reviewing deportation orders.

Similar cases are pending in several federal appeals courts around the country, but the court in Boston is the first to rule on the issue.

"If the Justice Department had prevailed, it would have been the first time in the history of this country that a legal resident could have been separated from his or her family, placed in detention and deported without any review by the courts to determine the deportation's legal validity," said Lee Gelernt, a lawyer for the immigrant, Raul Percira Goncalves.

Gelernt said the laws stripped many legal residents of fundamental rights and could have affected citizens as well.

Goncalves, 28, has been a legal permanent resident in the United States since he was three. He has earned a high school equivalency diploma, been married, had a child and held a steady job.

But he also was convicted of several nonviolent crimes -- including breaking and entering, larceny, and marijuana possession -- that subjected him to deportation.

He applied for a discretionary waiver of his deportation. An immigration judge denied the first request, so Goncalves appealed to the Board of Immigration Appeals, where his case languished for two years.

During that time, Congress enacted the two laws that requiring immigrants convicted of several types of crimes be automatically deported. Previously, immigrants like Goncalves could have asked for waivers for humanitarian reasons, such as if they had children who were U.S. citizens.

Attorney General Janet Reno said the law would apply retroactively and all pending waiver requests -- including the one from Goncalves -- were dismissed.

But the appeals court said Congress did not intend for the law to apply retroactively and ordered the Justice Department to review Goncalves' request. Agency spokeswoman Chris Watney said only that the ruling is being reviewed.

## Judge to Clinton Administration: Settle with Black Farmers

A federal judge urged the Clinton administration to settle a \$2.5 billion lawsuit filed by hundreds of black farmers over past discrimination complaints lodged with the Agriculture Department.

"I've always believed this case would be better solved through some sort of resolution, some sort of settlement," U.S. District Judge Paul Friedman said Wednesday. "Ultimately, we have to try this case or settle," he said. "Maybe it can get resolved and people will feel that justice is being done."

The judge heard arguments Wednesday on whether the case --

now expanded to 400 plaintiff black farmers from across the South -- should represent an entire class of farmers estimated at 2,500 who suffered discrimination through denial of farm loans, crop subsidies or other benefits from 1983 to 1997.

The lawsuit was filed last summer, shortly after the Agriculture Department admitted its own process of resolving discrimination complaints had been in disarray and caused a huge backlog of cases. USDA has acknowledged there was past discrimination.

Alexander Pires, the lead attorney for the farmers, said the date 1983 was chosen to define the possible class because it was the year President Reagan's Agriculture Department disbanded its civil rights investigation unit, meaning many complaints were ignored or lost.

Friedman has also been asked to waive the statute of limitations, which the Justice Department said bars most of the black farmers from receiving any cash settlements. Negotiations in Congress for legislation waiving the statute of limitations for black farmers have not yet proved fruitful.

## Survey: Sports for Girls Delays Sex

Girls who play high school sports delay becoming sexually active and are less likely to get pregnant than those who don't, according to a new study.

The study by the Women's Sports Foundation is based on an analysis of data gathered by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in surveying 11,000 high school students.

The study confirms a long-suspected conclusion, according to Paula Hunt, spokeswoman for the New York-based foundation, quoted in today's editions of The Dallas Morning News.

The study found that girls who played sports are:

- Less than half as likely to get pregnant as girls who didn't.
- More likely to begin sex later in adolescence.
- More likely to have fewer partners.
- More likely to use contraceptives.

"When girls participate in sports, it helps their self-esteem," Hunt said. "They learn how to set goals, to have discipline and to play on a team. They learn resiliency because you are bound to lose."

The foundation's findings were based on the CDC's national study of youth risk behavior among students in grades 9 through 12. The statistics were released in September 1996; a new set of statistics are to be released this September.

The foundation's report also relied on a study of 699 families from western New York by the New York State Research Institute on Addiction. While the study focused mainly on girls, it found no consistent differences in sexual behavior between male athletes and nonathletes.

The private, nonprofit Women's Sports Foundation promotes the participation of women and girls in sports and lobbies for women's sports issues.

## Taxol Aids in Early Breast Cancer

The Washington Post--A cancer medicine that is already approved for use against ovarian cancer and advanced breast cancer has been shown for the first time to increase survival dramatically in women with early breast cancer, researchers report.

So substantial are the newfound benefits of the drug, called Taxol, that its use in women with early breast cancer should become routine immediately, several doctors said.

"This represents the single most significant advance in the treatment of early stage breast cancer in the past 20 years," said Richard L. Schilsky, director of the University of Chicago Cancer Research Center, speaking at a meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology in Los Angeles, where the data were presented.

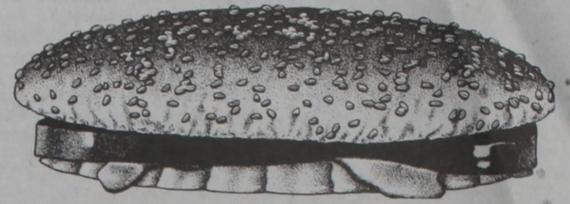
By adding Taxol to the standard regimen of chemotherapy drugs, doctors could save tens of thousands of lives a year worldwide, said Schilsky, who heads the federally funded cancer research consortium that oversaw the trial at more than 100 hospitals.

"This is a very big advance and it can be put into practice right now," said Larry Norton, director of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center's breast center in New York. "When the 19,000 cancer specialists leave this meeting," Norton said, "they are going to go home and widely use this therapy."

The Taxol findings are the latest in a spate of reports about experimental cancer therapies that have generated excitement among scientists and biotechnology investors and, at the same time, warnings that patients' hopes are being unduly raised.

Just yesterday, researchers in Los Angeles reported that a new drug called raloxifene appeared to substantially reduce women's odds of developing breast cancer, though they said it was too soon to say whether long-term use was justifiable in women. And two weeks ago two new anti-cancer compounds produced excitement because they looked extremely promising in experiments in mice, though their benefits in people remain unclear.

## Cuidado con la carne de la hamburguesa



(AFP) - El público debería acostumbrarse a devolver a la cocina la carne picada rosada, esas hamburguesas que no están bastante hechas, para evitar el riesgo de intoxicación alimentaria provocado por la bacteria E.coli 0157, según un especialista británico en la revista médica The Lancet.

Las series de envenenamientos, algunos mortales, obra de la bacteria Escherichia coli 0157, registrados sobre todo en Escocia, Japón y Estados Unidos, han reforzado las preocupaciones en materia de seguridad alimentaria, recuerda el equipo del doctor Salmon (servicios sanitarios públicos), que hizo un estudio en el País de Gales y en los condados ingleses vecinos.

Estos científicos sugieren asimismo la inspección de los establecimientos proveedores de restaurantes que sirven carnes y "beefburgers".

El estudio analiza 85 casos de infecciones esporádicas (aislados y no dentro de una epidemia) y 142

sujetos sanos, la comida, el agua, los animales y las granjas. Cuando los enfermos habían comido carne en restaurante, los locales correspondientes fueron visitados.

Los casos de infección se produjeron tras un consumo de carne picada siguiendo diferentes sistemas de restauración pública (bares locales, cadena de restauración, venta ambulante...). Sólo un caso se pudo relacionar con una cadena nacional de restauración rápida ("fast-food").

La visita de una granja, el contacto con una persona que se ocupa de animales, la cohabitación con un ser cercano que sufrió de diarrea durante los siete días anteriores a la intoxicación por la bacteria 0157, también aparecen como factores en los casos reportados.

La infección E.coli 0157 fue descrita por primera vez en 1982. De origen bovino, se propaga más que nada pasando por la carne picada poco hecha y la leche de vaca.



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# El Mito De La Calle Nueve:

## ¿Quién Habla Por Los Padres Latinos?

Por James Crawford

Las anécdotas pueden ser poderosas. A diferencia de la investigación académica o de las estadísticas, las primeras destacan el efecto humano de las decisiones sobre cursos de acción públicas.

Pero también pueden ser peligrosas. ¿Qué tal si la anécdota es sólo un acontecimiento aislado, un relato engañoso que deja de representar una verdad mayor? Y, ¿qué tal si la propia anécdota no es cierta?

"La Enseñanza Bilingüe Está Fracasando, Dicen los Padres". "80 Estudiantes Permanecen Fuera de la Escuela en un Boicot Latino" ... "Los Padres y las Madres Procuran Más Clases de Inglés Solamente"...

Esos titulares, que relatan un enfrentamiento en el 1996 en la Escuela de la Calle Nueve de Los Angeles, han aparecido por todo el país. Según los informes de noticias, los padres de familias inmigrantes se sentían tan desilusionados con un plan de estudios primordialmente en español y una burocracia irresponsable que sacaron a sus hijos de la escuela para exigir la enseñanza en inglés.

Dos años después, todavía estamos oyendo sobre el boicot de la Calle Nueve. Se le ha destacado en un sinnúmero de informes de noticias sobre la Propuesta 227, la campaña para "eliminar la enseñanza bilingüe en California para junio de 1998".

Para los que abogan por la propuesta, este incidente les cayó del cielo. El multi-millonario Ron Unz dice que eso lo inspiró a auspiciar la llamada iniciativa de "Inglés para los Niños". El lanzó su campaña y estableció sus oficinas principales en la vecindad de la Calle Nueve. En anuncios radiales, Unz cita a un padre que participó en el boicot para ilustrar la oposición de los latinos a la enseñanza bilingüe.

Como teatro político, el relato de la Calle Nueve no podría haber sido más útil a los defensores del inglés solamente si lo hubieran redactado y preparado ellos mismos. En verdad, eso es exactamente lo que hicieron.

La protesta contra la enseñanza bilingüe fue encabezada por Alice Callaghan, una activista local que dirige una guardería cerca de la escuela. Casi todos los padres involucra-

dos eran trabajadores de bajo sueldo, recién llegados de México, que dependían de los servicios de Callaghan.

Antes del boicot, cada uno de estos padres habían dado permiso por escrito para la enseñanza bilingüe, según dice la Directora, Eleanor Vargas Page. Si solamente hubieran llegado y preguntado, dice ella, podrían haber matriculado a sus hijos en el programa alterno de enseñanza intensa del inglés. Después de todo, el derecho de los padres para hacer esa selección está garantizado por ley en California.

Desde luego, esta solución sencilla no habría producido un enfrentamiento -- ni los titulares sensacionales que le siguieron.

La directora pensó que le habían tendido una emboscada. "Me sentí estremecida", recuerda ella. "El conflicto no era aquí en la escuela. Las quejas fueron iniciadas por Alice Callaghan, no por los padres de familia".

Antes de que la directora Vargas llegara hace cinco años, la escuela de la Calle Nueve había sido una con dificultades. Todavía enfrenta obstáculos enormes para prestar servicios a una comunidad empobrecida, en la que la mitad de los 460 estudiantes se hallan clasificados como "sin hogar" y el 92 por ciento tienen solamente conocimiento limitado del inglés.

Para 1996, no obstante, las mejoras eran claramente evidentes. Las calificaciones de los niños en los exámenes de logros en el idioma inglés estaban aumentando -- hasta un 35 por ciento en cuatro años. El programa bilingüe estaba proporcionando por lo menos dos horas de inglés cada día, con la cantidad de español disminuyendo hasta que los estudiantes estuvieran listos para las aulas de clases totalmente en inglés, normalmente para el 4x o 5x grado.

Vargas Page invitó a los padres del boicot a entrar y hablar sobre la enseñanza bilingüe -- su raciocinio y sus resultados para enseñar inglés -- de modo que ellos pudieran adoptar una decisión informada para sus hijos.

Pero Callaghan les aconsejó que se quedaran fuera antes de enfrentarse al "hostigamiento" por parte del personal de la escuela. Ella circulo' un permiso escrito en inglés entre los pa-

tres de habla hispana para que se dieran clases solamente en inglés. Después, a varios días de comenzar el boicot, Callaghan presentó estas firmas. Aún después que la escuela estuviera de acuerdo, ella mantuvo a los estudiantes fuera de la escuela durante dos días más.

Sin duda que algunos padres y madres estaban convencidos sinceramente de que la enseñanza bilingüe tenía la culpa de los problemas académicos de sus hijos. Pero otros, según dice Vargas Page, le confiaron que "no tenían otra alternativa" que realizar el boicot, "o de lo contrario perderían la guardería infantil gratis".

Callaghan niega haber hecho tal amenaza. Cualquier cosa que fuera lo que se dijo, sin embargo, dichos temores no son difíciles de comprender entre un grupo vulnerable cuyas acciones estaban siendo usadas para fines políticos.

¿Qué quieren los inmigrantes realmente para sus hijos? Una encuesta reciente hecha por los medios informativos en español de Los Angeles halló que el 88 por ciento de los padres latinos de la ciudad que tienen hijos en los programas bilingües creen que los mismos son beneficiosos.

Empero, Unz y Callaghan procuran explotar un conflicto preparado de antemano -- que involucra a una minoría de padres de una sola escuela, de las 8,000 que hay en California -- para que se apruebe una medida que limitaría gravemente el derecho de todos los padres y las madres a seleccionar la enseñanza bilingüe. Con la Propuesta 227, ellos impondrían un enfoque de inglés solamente que no ha sido sometido a prueba, al prometer el dominio del inglés en un año.

¿Cómo funcionó este experimento en la Calle Nueve? Más de un año después que 74 niños fueran sacados de las aulas de clases bilingües, sólo dos de ellos -- menos del 3 por ciento -- fueron examinados y declarados diestros en inglés.

Según las mismas normas de Ron Unz, esa es una "tasa de fracaso" del 97 por ciento. También es un anticipo de lo que podrían esperar 1.5 millones de niños de California si se aprobara la propuesta.

James Crawford es un autor de libros sobre enseñanza y cursos de acción idiomáticos y reside en Washington, D.C.

## 79415 Grant

From Page 1

appointments to the steering community from interested community persons. Appointed were Jeanette Cruz, a probation officer, Donna-Hall-Mize, a homemaker, the Rev. Thomas Sawyer of Goodfellow Christian Church located, Cindy Rangel, secretary of Our Lady of Grace Church and Hank Dominguez, principal of Cavazos Junior High which is the school attended by most of the youth in the Arnett Benson Barrio.

In a letter asking for his appointment, Dominguez points out his interest in the program. "I am extremely familiar with the 79415 zip code for many years. I taught at Matthews Junior High in the mid 70's and now many of these former students have students here at Cavazos where I am the building principal. As a result, I have gotten to know the 79415 area and the stages it has gone through the last twenty years."

The steering committee's first tasks were to develop a Youth Advisory Committee and chose a fiscal agent to manage the monies that were allocated.

The Youth Committee was chosen through the fine efforts and work of Dominguez in asking area elementary school principals for nominations. By late March a total of 13 youth were selected to serve and Josh Ortiz and Blas Mojica were appointed as the CYD Program Steering Committee liaisons to the youth.

Guidelines for the CYD Program describe the functions of the Youth Advisory Committee as a method of showing "support and value of youth participation in the following manner by:

- allowing youth the opportunity to work within their community to improve local conditions;
- strengthening individual and community awareness of the positive attributes and contributions of youth;
- offering youth the opportunity to develop their strengths and talents in a supportive environment; and
- facilitating healthy peer, youth and adult relationships, and encouraging formation of youth-oriented community partnerships.

Although the YAC chair and one other YAC representative are required to serve on the CYD Steering Committee none have attended any of the meetings. Neither has there been a meeting between the entire CYD Board and the YAC. The second task for the Steering Committee was to conduct a needs assessment within the community. A Needs Assessment is conducted for the purpose of determining the needs present in a given time for the subject at hand, in this case, youth crime and possible solutions. The needs assessment was developed by Texas Tech and administered by the principals in

the schools in the targeted area. An Adult Focus Group, attended by about 50 people met to develop an Adult Needs Assessment.

The third charge of the Steering Committee was to select a Fiscal Agent. The guidelines called for the fiscal agent to be either a public or private entity which would be the primary contractor with the Dept. of Protective and Regulatory Services. The fiscal agent could not be directly involved in the actual provision of activities and services in the CYD Program.

Although during the bid process, several agencies inquired, only two submitted actual bids - 1) The Community Health Centers, a non-profit agency which provides health services and, 2) Caprock Home Health Services, a private for-profit company owned by Marciano and Martha Morales. Eventually the Steering Committee chose the latter to become the fiscal agent. Although the fiscal agent was solely responsible for the dispersion of funds and not required to be directly involved in the development of the plan or the actual provision of services, the fiscal agent locally was given the responsibility to advertise and screen applicants for the position of CYD Project Coordinator. The Coordinator reports to the fiscal agent and is responsible for coordination of services and implementation of the overall Community Action Plan.

Three applicants were selected to compose a short list for the Steering Committee to interview on May 13th. Only one of the elected members, Jesse Molinar, of the Steering Committee attended the interviews. Juan Peralez, Louis Trejo, Frank Gutierrez, Blas Mojica, and Josh Ortiz were absent. Four appointed members of the Steering Committee, Jeannette Cruz, Donna Hall-Mize, Hank Dominguez and Cindy Rangel attended the interviews. Two members of the Steering Committee, Frank Gutierrez and Blas Mojica have resigned since their election. Gutierrez resigned citing a possible conflict of interest in his running for City Council and Mojica resigned because of

health reasons. **Analysis**  
With all the above chronology and statements relating to the alleviation of conditions that lead to juvenile crime, several questions arise that would seem to conflict with the rosy overtures expressed in the rhetorical statements outlined in the literature and statements by the TDPRS.

- 1) The grandiose objective to "design comprehensive approaches to support families and enhance the positive development of youth in the designated area" is well and good. Promoting collaborative efforts by neighborhoods, civic groups, etc. is also well and good. How can this overwhelming task be accomplished in less than 120 days???
- 2) What type of orientation, training and resources were provided to the Steering Committee.
- 3) If youth is the main subject of this program, why hasn't the Steering Committee and Youth Advisory Committee met to discuss program development.
- 4) Why was no formal Request For Proposal (RFP) conducted other than a letter inviting groups to submit proposed programs. RFPs involving this kind of money usually require 3-4 months in themselves.
- 5) Why were there no formal provisions provided in the guidelines from the state outlining the duties, responsibilities and authority of the Steering committee, particularly when the regulations state that the coordinator reports to the Fiscal Agent and not to the Steering Committee.
- 6) Why was it necessary to submit a program for the total period (FY 98-99 and FY 99-00) for a supposedly innovative program that might require some adjustments as needed with experience.

These questions will probably take more than a week to investigate. In our next article scheduled for June 4th, El Editor will report on proposals that were submitted for consideration, which were accepted and why we think they were.

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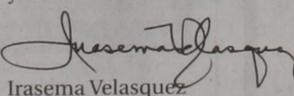
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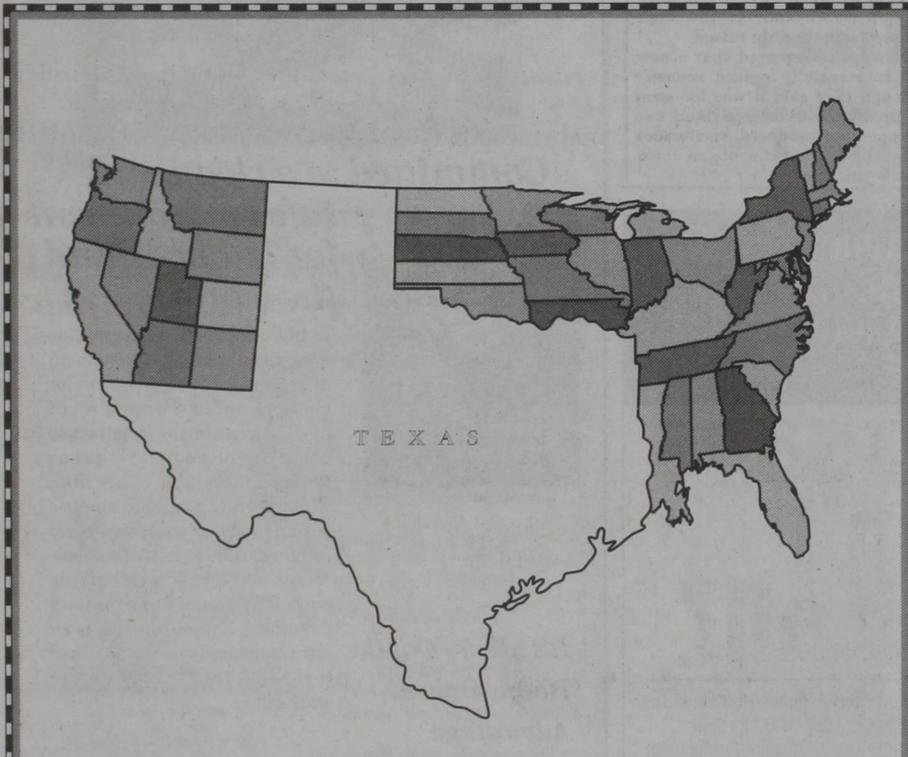
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