

# Census Data Says Hispanics Emerging as Poorest of US Poor

Census data show that for the first time the poverty rate among Hispanics in the United States has surpassed that of blacks. Hispanics now constitute nearly 24 percent of America's poor, up 8 percentage points since 1985, reports The New York Times.

Of all Hispanics, 30 percent were considered poor in 1995, meaning they earned less than \$15,569 for a family of four. That is almost three times the percentage of non-Hispanic white people in poverty. Of the poorest of the poor, those with incomes of \$7,500 or less for a family of four, 24 percent were Hispanic.

"It is the American nightmare, not the American dream," said Arturo Vargas, who heads the National Association of Latino Elected Officials, based in Los Angeles. Though the Hispanic middle class has been growing, Vargas said, most Hispanics are caught in jobs like gardener, nanny and restaurant worker that will never pay well and from which they will never

advance. Discrimination among employers who see Hispanic immigrants, particularly those who speak poor English, as disposable workers.

Experts acknowledge that the influx of millions of Latin American immigrants over the last 20 years -- 2 million between 1990 and 1994 alone, the Census reports -- have pulled income numbers down because

immigrants tend to be poor.

The arrival of so many job-hungry new workers, many of them undocumented and willing to work for pennies, has also driven down wages in low-skill professions like janitor, hurting other Hispanics in those fields, Myers added.

But for many scholars and community leaders, the main explanation for Hispanics' plight is education -- or the lack of it. A 1994 study by Frank D. Bean, a University of Texas demographer, and his colleagues found that in several age groups, Mexican-Americans whose families had

lived in the United States for three generations or more received slightly less schooling than their parents did. And people of Mexican origin account for the biggest portion of the Hispanic population.

"There's a strong work ethic within Latino families," she said, "and we keep telling them education is the tool to get out of poverty, but

their immediate needs overtake it."

Because so many businesses have moved to suburbs, "finding their way outward has become harder for many urban-dwelling poor and minorities," Rebecca Morales and Frank Bonilla write in "Latinos in a Changing U.S. Economy" (Sage, 1993). And Hispanics are already more urbanized than most, they note, with 90 percent living in cities compared with 75 percent of the population at large.


The general problem of Hispanic poverty, researchers agree, begins with the low education and skill levels with which most Hispanic immigrants arrive in the United States. But the most critical barrier to immigrants' success, numerous studies suggest, is language. A Rand Corp. study released over the summer found that Hispanic immigrants come to America speaking less English than their European or Asian counterparts, and never catch up.

"Limited English proficiency is the single most important obstacle to upward mobility among Mexican immigrants," said Wayne Cornelius, the director of the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies at the University of California at San Diego.

Without a command of English, Cornelius and other scholars said, it matters little how industrious a Hispanic person is. "Clearly," researcher Vilma Ortiz commented in "Ethnic Los Angeles," a just-published UCLA study, "the traditional ethnic saga of hard labor followed by rewards does not apply to Latino immigrants."



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## News Briefs

### Documented Immigrants Warned of Aid Cuts

Federal authorities will begin mailing notices Monday to about 1 million elderly and disabled documented immigrants who now receive Supplemental Security Income, informing them their monthly benefit checks will be terminated this summer if they have not attained U.S. citizenship or do not otherwise qualify under special exemptions, reports The Los Angeles Times.

The four-page letters, accompanied by a fact sheet on how to apply for citizenship, formally launch the notification process for one of the new federal welfare overhaul's most controversial mandates: the removal of hundreds of thousands of documented immigrants from the SSI rolls.

Although word of the cuts has already rippled through immigrant communities and has been closely chronicled in the ethnic press, the mass mailing will be the first formal notification of recipients about the impending cutoffs. Most noncitizen immigrants will also become ineligible for food stamps this summer.

The cuts will hit hardest in Los Angeles County, the nation's most concentrated immigrant mecca, where officials estimate some 99,000 recipients will fall off the SSI rolls by this summer unless Congress reverses its action.

Although many current recipients have already applied for citizenship, some are unlikely to qualify because their mental or physical conditions would make it difficult if not impossible for them to become sufficiently proficient in English and knowledgeable about U.S. civics.

Noncitizens who remain eligible for SSI under special exemptions include refugees in their first five years in the United States, U.S. military personnel and veterans, and people who have worked in the United States for the equivalent of 10 years.

The Clinton administration has proposed restoring some aid for documented immigrants, but the fate of the White House plan is unclear in the Republican-controlled Congress.

Statewide, federal authorities project that 220,000 Californians will have their SSI benefits terminated this summer. That would represent a staggering loss of more than \$1 billion a year in federal funds now directed at California that will be returning to the federal Treasury.

Moreover, many recipients losing SSI are expected to sign up and qualify for general relief, the county-funded welfare program.

Although several governors, including Republicans, have urged restoring SSI and food stamp cuts to documented immigrants, Gov. Pete Wilson has yet to take a public position on the matter.

## La Enseñanza Bilingue De Doble Via Cobra Favor En las Escuelas

Por EDUARDO A. ENCINA  
Cuando las dos organizaciones principales de enseñanza bilingue realicen sus conferencias anuales este mes, una estrategia de enseñanza relativamente nueva será por cierto un tema importante en los debates.



### Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Aguero

Many of questions are being asked as to why Centro Aztlan was not funded for the Viva Aztlan Festival. The questions are not only coming from Lubbock residents but from those as far as San Antonio and Colorado who have attended the Festival and know of the value of the event in order to promote our culture, history and a healthy attitude in our young persons so that they might appreciate their participation in Mexican folkloric dance groups.

A question from one particular group from San Antonio: "What do they want? We try and involve our kids in something that is beautiful but yet they don't want to give us a tenth of the money they spend on putting our kids in jails... why?"

It's not easy to answer these questions. Only to say that we will try and do the best we can with our own resources and with the help of our friends. One individual donor has already pledged \$1,000. El Editor has promised to match the donation. One of our friends on a fixed income promised \$25.

A major fundraiser to raise money will be next Friday at the Four Points Sheraton. Maybe more of our friends will come join us to give these kids a reason to shout "Viva Aztlan!"

For information on February 14th's "Canto del Corazon" read page 6 to find out about the program or call 806-763-3841.

Los dirigentes de la Asociación Nacional para la Enseñanza Bilingue -- NABE en inglés -- (en Albuquerque entre el 4 y el 8 de febrero) y la Asociación de California para la Enseñanza Bilingue -- CABE en inglés -- (en San Diego entre el 26 de febrero y el 1x de marzo), cuyas reuniones se espera que atraigan un total combinado de 14,000 maestros de todo el país, ya proclaman a los cuatro vientos la "enseñanza bilingue de doble vía."

Según las estadísticas más recientes del Centro para la Linguística Aplicada, recopiladas durante el año escolar de 1994 a 1995, existen 182 programas de "doble vía" en 100 distritos escolares, representando 18 estados y al Distrito de Columbia. Hace diez años, habían solamente 30 programas en la nación.

Dichos programas tratan de matricular tantos estudiantes monolingues en inglés como estudiantes monolingues en otro idioma -- más comúnmente el español. Trabajan para obtener un dominio completo en ambos idiomas, comparados con programas de "salida rápida" usados ampliamente, que tratan de llevar a la corriente principal a los estudiantes lo más pronto posible, sólo para adentrarse en un ambiente de inglés solamente.

Los conversos más recientes al sistema de "doble vía" señalan un importante estudio de investigación publicado en 1995 por Virginia Collier, catedrática graduada en enseñanza de la Universidad George Mason de Virginia, como la autoridad para medir el valor de este método de enseñanza. El análisis de Collier incluyó 42,000 estudiantes, usando entre 8 y 12 años de datos recopilados en cinco distritos escolares urbanos y suburbanos geográficamente diversos. Un hallazgo fue que los estudiantes que asistieron a los programas de enseñanza bilingue de doble vía desde el kindergarten hasta el 8x grado se desempeñan un 10 por ciento mejor que el alumno promedio nativo de habla inglesa.

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Ysleta, en la zona de El Paso, Texas, donde el 70 por ciento de los 42,000 estudiantes son hispanos, ha venido empleando los programas bilingues de doble vía por años. El Superintendente Anthony Trujillo se propone hacerlos disponibles en todas las escuelas este otoño próximo. Trujillo usará una combinación de fondos locales y estatales, además de un subsidio federal de \$3.5 millones, para apoyar dichos programas.

Valley Center Union, una zona rural en las afueras de San Diego con una numerosa población de migrantes, los programas de enseñanza bilingue han sido parte del currículo desde 1982. Ahora, más de 900 de los 2,700 estudiantes del distrito -- el 30 por ciento de los cuales son hispanos -- están participando en el programa bilingue de doble vía.

Irma Amezcua, directora de programas catedráticos en Valley Center, acredita el interés de su distrito a un estudio que el mismo efectuó hace cinco años, sobre programas bilingues, por todo el Estado de California. Dicho estudio halló también que los estudiantes de "doble vía" estaban logrando un éxito sobresaliente en los puntajes de los exámenes normalizados.

Collier continúa analizando los niveles de éxito de los estudiantes en diversas clases de programas de enseñanza bilingue, siguiendo sus adelantos desde el kindergarten hasta el 12x grado. Sus hallazgos hasta la fecha demuestran que la clave para un desempeño superior en las aulas de clases bilingues es el logro de la excelencia cognoscitiva y académica en el idioma nativo de un(a) alumno(a) antes de incorporar un segundo idioma para completar.



# Celebrating Black History Month

## Latinos Must Show the Way in Respecting Afro-Americans

By PETER OLIVERA NICKS

Jesus "Chucho" Valdez's fingers travel over the keys fluidly, producing notes that are an extension of his identity as an Afro-Cuban. Valdez, who founded his band Irakere in 1972 while playing with the Orquesta Cubana de Musica Moderna, is considered a national treasure in Cuba, the Duke Ellington of his country.

In the glossy pages of Puerto Rico's public relations pamphlets, Roberto Clemente wields the bat that propelled him to baseball's Hall of Fame. His name is revered in Pittsburgh and still respected across the United States.

Both achieved recognition in their lands of origin and in the United States as well.

These and more contemporary icons in entertainment and sports such as singer Celia Cruz and baseball star Bernie Williams leave us wondering about those whose work fails to attract the attention of Madison Avenue or find its way into the hearts and dreams of young boys and girls.

Many observers of the Afro-Latino experience say that if we take the relatively simple step of looking beyond sports and entertainment, we can begin to understand the true history of a people that for centuries have struggled against attitudes about them based on skin color, class and ignorance.

Last summer's presidential race in the Dominican Republic between Jose Francisco Pena Gomez and eventual winner Leonel Fernandez had all the elements of what in the United States would be considered a juicy story -- race, politics and class.

The campaign was complete with toy monkeys and gorillas allegedly meant to depict Dr. Pena, who was dubbed a voodoo doctor by

his opponents. Pena Gomez's ebony skin contraposes Fernandez's own light complexion. Neither Fernandez nor the man he succeeded, Juan Balaguer, believe a racial problem exists in the Dominican Republic. According to an article in London's The Guardian, Fernandez denied any racial problem and suggested that the toy monkeys merely implied that Pena Gomez was "not very handsome."

The article claimed that Balaguer has written that black people are lazy, have lax morals and poor personal hygiene. Balaguer rejected charges of racism. "Those who are racist," he said, "precisely in relation to us, are our Haitian neighbors."

To argue who is and who is not racist at this point would provide satisfaction for no one.

History speaks for itself. Many Afro-Latinos have contributed to the advancement of nations throughout the Americas. Today's historians and social researchers emphasize the need to look at the continuing contributions of blacks in Latin America in the realms of literature, law, business and politics, rather than in the restricted and

stereotypical forums of sports and entertainment.

Richard L. Jackson, in his book "Black Literature and Humanism in Latin America," explores a tradition of black Hispanic literature that sheds light on its larger culture and on the role Afro-Latin Americans have played

throughout history.

He cites individuals such as Zapata Olivella, Carlos Guillermo Wilson, Quince Duncan and Nelson Estupinan Bass as writers who realize that "black humanism arose from Afro-Hispanics' discovery of their own humanity and the realization that over the years they had become not only defenders of threatened cultures but also symbolic guardians of humanity."

Closer to home, in Washington, D.C., Ricardo Urbina and Jose Lopez represent Afro-Latinos as judges in the D.C. Superior Court. Business owner Daniel Bueno presides over Zodiac Records in the capital's Adams Morgan district.

In New York, Miriam Jimenez Roman sits as the curator at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and Marta Vega heads the Center for Caribbean Studies.

These names are among many in this hemisphere's Afro-Latino communities that are the legacy of a people who should not be ignored. In recognizing their contributions as Afro-Latinos, we treat ourselves to the fruits of a culture previously underrepresented in our social and political dialogue.

If U.S. society is ever to acknowledge their existence, our Latino communities must lead the way in celebrating an African history that is a major part of the foundation of a proud Hispanic identity.

(Peter Olivera Nicks is a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C. He will graduate from Howard University in May with a degree in Literature and Journalism.)

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## Latinos Deben Guiar El Camino Para Que Se Respeten Contribuciones de Afro-Latinos

Por PETER OLIVERA NICKS

Los dedos de Jesús "Chucho" Valdez viajan sobre las teclas rápidamente, produciendo notas que son una extensión de su identidad como afro-cubano. Valdez, fundador de su banda "Irakere" en 1972 mientras tocaba con la Orquesta Cubana de Música Moderna, es considerado un tesoro nacional en Cuba, el Duke Ellington de su país.

En las relucientes páginas de los panfletos de relaciones públicas de Puerto Rico, Roberto Clemente esgrime el bate que le impulsó hasta el Salón de la Fama del béisbol. Su nombre se dice con reverencia en Pittsburgh y aún se le respeta por todos los Estados Unidos.

Estos han logrado reconocimiento, inmortalizados por las masas de la cultura popular. Sin embargo, no son los únicos nombres de afro-latinos que han aportado a las culturas de América Latina y de los Estados Unidos.

Estos y otros ídolos más contemporáneos en los campos del entretenimiento y el deporte, tales como la cantante Celia Cruz y Bernie Williams de los New York Yankees, nos dejan preguntándonos sobre aquellos cuyo trabajo no llega a atraer la atención de la Avenida Madison, ni se abren paso hacia los corazones y los sueños de niños y niñas.

Muchos observadores de la experiencia afro-latina dicen que, si damos el paso relativamente sencillo de mirar más allá de los deportes y el entretenimiento en busca de los orígenes de los afro-latinos, podremos comenzar a comprender la verdadera historia de una cultura y un pueblo que ha luchado por siglos superar prejuicios sobre el color de la piel, la clase social y la ignorancia.

La contienda electoral del pasado verano en la República Dominicana entre José Francisco Peña Gómez y el ganador final Leonel Fernández tuvo todos los elementos de lo que en los Estados Unidos se consideraría una buena historia. Raza, política y clase. La campaña estuvo completa con monos y gorilas de juguete, presuntamente destinados a describir al Dr. Peña Gómez, a quien sus oponentes tildaron de "médico brujó. La piel de ébano de Peña Gómez contrasta con la tez clara de Fernández. Ni Fernández ni el hombre a quien reemplazó, Juan Balaguer, creen que exista un problema racial en la República Dominicana. Según dijo un artículo en The Guardian, de Londres, Fernández negó cualquier problema racial y dió a entender que los monos de juguete se referían solamente

a que Peña Gómez "no era muy bien parecido." El artículo apuntó que Balaguer ha escrito que los negros son perezosos, tienen una moral floja e higiene personal defectuosa. Balaguer rechazó las acusaciones de racismo. "Los que son racistas," dijo él, "precisamente con respecto a nosotros, son nuestros vecinos haitianos."

El argumentar quién es y quién no es racista a estas alturas del debate no sería de provecho para nadie.

La historia habla por sí misma. Muchos afro-latinos han aportado al adelanto de las naciones en todas las Améri-

cas. Los historiadores e investigadores sociales actuales enfatizan la necesidad de mirar a las contribuciones constantes de los negros a América Latina, en los campos de la literatura, el derecho, los negocios y la política, antes que en los foros limitados y estereotípicos de los deportes y las diversiones.

Richard L. Jackson, en su libro titulado "La Literatura y el Humanismo Negros en la América Latina", explora una tradición de literatura hispano-negra que arroja luz sobre su cultura mayor y el papel que los afro-latino-americanos han desempeñado a través de

la historia.

El menciona individuos tales como Zapata Olivella, Carlos Guillermo Wilson, Quince Duncan y Nelson Estupinan Bass como escritores que se dan cuenta de que "el humanismo negro surgió del descubrimiento de los afro-hispanos de su propia humanidad y de la toma de conciencia de que, durante años, ellos habían llegado a ser no sólo defensores de las culturas amenazadas, sino también guardianes simbólicos de la humanidad."

Más cerca de nosotros, en Washington, D.C., Ricardo Urbina y José López representan a los afro-latinos como

Jueces del Tribunal Superior del Distrito de Columbia. El comerciante Daniel Bueno preside en Zodiac Records en el distrito de Adams Morgan de la capital. En Nueva York, Miriam Jiménez Román es la conservadora del Centro Schomburg para la Investigación de la Cultura Negra, y Marta Vega dirige el Centro para Estudios del Caribe.

Estos nombres se hallan entre muchos de las comunidades afro-latinas de este hemisferio que son el legado de un pueblo al que no debería pasarse por alto. Al reconocer sus aportes como afro-latinos, nos regocijamos con

los frutos de una cultura anteriormente negada en nuestro diálogo social y político. Si la sociedad estadounidense ha de reconocer alguna vez su existencia, nuestras comunidades latinas deben abrir el camino para celebrar una historia africana que es una parte importantísima de los cimientos de una identidad hispana orgullosa.

(Peter Olivera Nicks es reportero de Hispanic Link News Service en Washington, DC. Él se graduará de la Universidad de Howard en mayo próximo, con un título en Literatura y Periodismo.)

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## Leaders Call For Action On Plight Of Latin-American Blacks

By PETER OLIVERA NICKS

When light-skinned Dominican Republic native Carlos Perez arrived in the United States, he was stunned to find himself considered "black." According to author Peter Winn, who profiled Perez in his book "Americas: The Changing Face of Latin America," the concept of "black" is very different in the Dominican Republic than it is in the United States.

"For North Americans," Winn writes, "...race is biological, and biology is destiny. In Latin America, on the other hand, where the issue is color...class and culture also play a part in a region where money whitens, and the colonels are never black, no matter how dark their skin."

Global Studies lists 33.5 million persons of African descent living in the 18 Spanish-speaking countries of Latin America. Blacks and mulattos are acknowledged to comprise at least 11.1 percent of the region's total population of more than 301 million. Additionally, there are 3.8 million predominantly mixed-blood residents of Puerto Rico, reflecting their black, indigenous and European origins.

When taking into account non-Spanish-speaking nations such as Brazil, Haiti and Belize, the number of blacks in the region jumps to almost 150 million.

That total compares to the 33.1 million (12.6 percent) African Americans in the 1995 U.S. population of 262 million.

Africans were first imported to Latin America as slaves and often conscripted as soldiers by the conquistadores early in the 16th century. Many participated in the conquest of countries such as Chile. History texts record that fugitive slave Juan Valiente received an "encomienda" (commendation) in the 1550s for his bravery in battle.

Today, black and mulatto populations range from majorities in the Dominican Republic and Cuba to barely a percentage or two in Mexico, El Salvador and Argentina.

Winn is just one of many who are taking a closer look at Latin America with a particular interest in the social, political and economic status of blacks there. Rolando Roebuck, president of the Coalition of Afro-Americans and Latino Unity (CAALU), has worked for the last several years to increase the awareness of Afro-Latinos.

"They live in subhuman conditions," Roebuck told Hispanic Link. "And the further south you go, the worse it gets."

Roebuck, who was born in New York City but spent most of his childhood in Puerto Rico and St. Croix, has traveled extensively in the Caribbean and spent time in Central America. He sees a universal pattern that the lighter you are, the better off you are economically and socially.

Roebuck himself remembers being called "negro sucio" -- the Spanish equivalent of "dirty nigger" -- as a young boy. He notes that a denial of racism in the Americas, combined with a lack of initiatives to address a very real problem, contribute to the ongoing social and economic inequality faced by blacks.

He acknowledges an identity problem among many Latinos like Carlos Perez, who may not even consider themselves black. "Racism in the United States is scientific and precise. You are either black or white. This is not so in Latin America."

The Virginia-based Organization of Africans in the Americas (OAA), headed by Michael Franklin, facilitates meetings among black leaders from both hemispheres. Franklin claims that the only thorough socio-

economic assessment of black communities in Latin America was done by the Inter-American Development Bank in a 1996 study of that region.

However, there is no dearth of attention to the subject. Last year, a five-member panel of black human rights advocates from across Latin America gathered at the Bunche International Affairs Center at Howard University to consider cultural politics in the Americas and their implications for the United States and Afro-Latin American movements.

"We are exchanging strategies of liberation," says Dr. Ron Waters, Howard political science department chair and panel moderator. "We are exchanging histories."

At the forum, heads of five Afro-Latin American movements discussed conditions of blacks in their respective countries, often producing passionate appeals from the assembled leaders.

"We want to arrive at a certain awareness," said Lucia Molina of Provincia de Santa Fe, Argentina. "The idea is that there are not blacks in Argentina. We must make our presence known."

Molina and husband Mario Luis Lopez founded the Casa de la Cultura Indo-Afro-America in the province of Santa Fe in 1988 and have since worked on a national and international level to increase awareness of Afro-Argentinean culture. Neither the Argentine Embassy nor Global Studies data recognize a black population in that country.

Juan de Dios Mosquera, president of the Bogota, Colombia-based Movimiento Cimarron, a political movement fighting for the rights of blacks, cited statistics that are common throughout Latin America. According to Mosquera, only 60 percent of 15

million Afro-Colombians are able to receive schooling of any kind. Of that number, only two out of 100 will go on to the college level.

African World Organization of Uruguay President Romero Jorge Rodriguez said that the situation in Uruguay is no different. He noted that of the 80,000 blacks in Uruguay, only about 80 have college degrees. He cited geographic isolation and a lack of social movement as the primary factors affecting the status of blacks in his country.

Many feel that because Afro-Latinos south of the border do not have a distinct identity, there is limited racially defining discourse there. In the United States, "black" and "white" are clearly separated, whereas in Latin America, "black" and "Hispanic" are not.

Jesus Chucho Garcia, president of the Foundation of Afro-Americans of Venezuela, feels that no distinction should be made between North and South America. Garcia told the Bunche Center panel, "We must extend and broaden the concept of the African American to the south and the Caribbean."

He added that as with blacks in the United States, "There is a culture of Afro-Venezuelans based upon violent uprooting of people from their country."

**Congratulations on The Celebration of Black History Month**  
from your friends at El Editor



# Two-Way Bilingual Education Gaining Favor

By EDUARDO A. ENCINA

When the two largest bilingual education groups in the country hold conferences this month, the relatively new "two-way" bilingual education strategy is certain to be a major topic of discussion.

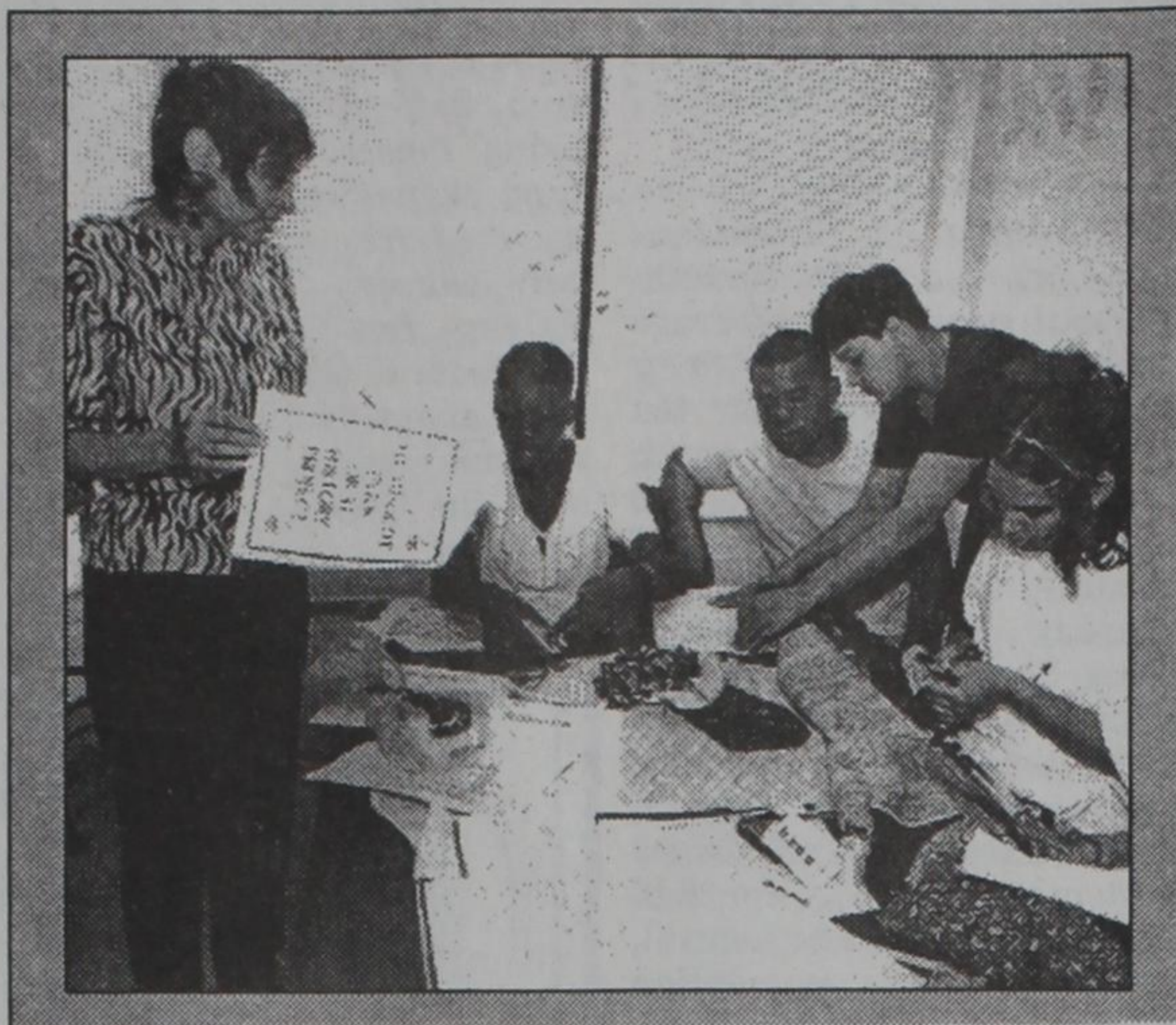
A combined total of 14,000 educators from across the country are expected to attend the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) meeting Feb. 4-8 in Albuquerque, N.M., and the California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE) meeting Feb. 26 in San Diego, Calif.

According to statistics compiled by the Center for Applied Linguistics, 182 two-way programs were in operation in 100 school districts encompassing 18 states and the District of Columbia during the 1994-95 school year. Ten years ago, only about 30 such programs existed.

In two-way programs, students who speak only English and students who speak languages other than English, most commonly Spanish, are placed in the same class. The idea is for each set of students to become proficient in the others' language. This differs from the widely used quick-exit programs which attempt to mainstream students into an English-only environment.

To bolster their arguments in favor of two-way programs, many converts point to a research paper published in 1995 by Virginia Collier, a graduate education professor at Virginia's George Mason University. Collier's analysis involved 42,000 students and drew from 8 to 12 years of data from five geographically diverse urban and suburban districts. One finding was that students in two-way programs from kindergarten to grade 8 perform about 10 percent better than the average native English speaker.

The Ysleta Independent School District in the El Paso, Texas area, where 70 percent of the 42,000 students are Hispanic, has been using two-way bilingual programs for five years. Superintendent



Anthony Trujillo plans to make the program available in every school this fall. Trujillo will use a combination of local and state monies, plus a \$3.5 million federal grant, to support the fall programs.

In the Valley Center Union School District, a rural area outside San Diego, Calif., with a large migrant population, bilingual education programs have been part of the curriculum since 1982. Now more than 900 of the district's 2,700 students -- 30 percent of whom are Hispanic -- are participating in two-way programs.

Irma Amezcua, director of categorical programs at Valley Center, credits her district's interest to a study it conducted five years ago on bilingual programs throughout California. It, too, found that students in two-way programs scored well on standardized tests.

Collier continues to analyze student success levels in vari-

ous types of bilingual education programs, following their progress from kindergarten through 12th grade. Her findings to date show that a key to superior performance in bilingual classrooms is the achievement of cognitive and academic excellence in a student's native language before incorporating a second language to complement the first.

By integrating youngsters with differing languages, the students motivate and learn from each other, she says.

"The same value is put on the language-minority student's native language as is put on English," said NABE executive director Jim Lyons.

Josefina Villamil Tinajero, president of the Texas Association for Bilingual Education, said: "Some individuals attack bilingual education because, in the majority of programs, students exit into English programs too quickly, before they have enough proficient academic and intellectual develop-

ment in their native language. Children are not going to be able to learn as much that way."

CABE President Rosalia Salinas concurs: "By implementing this program, we will be creating so many students who are bilingual, and that will make a tremendous impact on the next century. They will become incredible assets to their communities."

Another topic sure to arise at the two conferences will be the availability of bilingual education instructional materials. One of the major suppliers of these materials has been Scholastic Publishing Co.

According to Merri Gutierrez, Scholastic's national director of biliteracy, Scholastic Publishing was one of the first companies to enter the bilingual market. Scholastic's goal, she says, is "to give all students the necessary materials they need to excel, whether their native language is Spanish or English. For them to grasp all the concepts, they also need to learn at a rate comfortable to them."

Meanwhile, university programs offering degrees in bilingual education are increasing. Tinajero, assistant dean of the school of education at the University of Texas at El Paso, lists the University of Houston, and Universities of Texas at San Antonio, Brownsville, Austin and El Paso as schools with such programs. Yet many of these schools are facing cuts in federal funding for these programs.

Tinajero directs two federal Title VII programs that provide grants for students to get their bachelor's and master's degrees in bilingual education. The master's program has graduated 60 teachers in the last three years.

This year, her Title VII funds for professional development have been eliminated. But, she says, "Our academic programs will stay and thrive. Educators are realizing their value, even if others are not."

(Eduardo A. Encina is a reporter for the national newsweekly Hispanic Link Weekly Report in Washington, D.C.)

## De La Primera

mentar al primero. El integrar a los jóvenes con distintos idiomas los motiva a aprender unos de otros, dice ella.

El director ejecutivo de NABE, Jim Lyons, observa: "Se pone el mismo valor sobre el idioma nativo del estudiante de idioma minoritario como sobre el inglés. Eso es crítico."

Josefina Villamil Tinajero, presidenta de la Asociación de Texas para la Enseñanza Bilingüe (TABE en inglés), apunta: "Algunas personas atacan la enseñanza bilingüe porque, en la mayoría de los programas, los estudiantes pasan a los programas en inglés con demasiada rapidez, antes de que tengan un desarrollo completo, académico e intelectual, en sus propios idiomas. Los niños no van a poder aprender tanto de ese modo".

La presidenta de CABE, Rosalia Salinas, concuerda al decir: "Al implantar este programa, estaremos creando muchos estudiantes bilingües, y esto surtirá un efecto tremendo en el siglo próximo. Ellos llegarán a ser recursos increíbles para sus comunidades." Otro tema que seguramente surgirá en las dos conferencias será la disponibilidad de materiales instructivos para la enseñanza bilingüe. Uno de los principales proveedores de estos materiales ha sido Scholastic Publishing Co. Según dice Merri Gutierrez, directora nacional de Scholastic para alfabetización en ambos idiomas, su empresa fue una de las primeras en adentrarse en el mercado bilingüe.

La meta de Scholastic, dice ella, es "dar a todos los estudiantes los materiales que necesitan para alcanzar la excelencia, sin importar que su idioma nativo sea el español o

el inglés. Para que ellos capten todos los conceptos, también necesitan aprender a un ritmo que les resulte cómodo."

Los programas universitarios que ofrecen grados en la enseñanza bilingüe, aunque insuficientes todavía, están aumentando. Tinajero, de TABE, decana auxiliar de la escuela de enseñanza en la Universidad de Texas, El Paso, enumera a la Universidad de Houston y a los recintos de la Universidad de Texas en San Antonio, Brownsville, Austin y El Paso como escuelas que proveen dichos programas. Empero, dice ella, muchos de sus programas están siendo objeto de recortes en fondos federales.

Tinajero dirige dos programas federales del Título VII que proporcionan subvenciones para estudiantes que tratan de ganar grados de bachillerato y maestría en enseñanza bilingüe. El programa de maestría ha graduado a 60 maestros en los últimos tres años. En este año, sus fondos del Título VII para desarrollo profesional han sido eliminados totalmente.

Pero, dice ella, "nuestros programas académicos permanecerán y prosperarán. Los maestros están dándose cuenta de su valor, aunque otros no lo estén haciendo."

(Eduardo A. Encina es reportero del semanario nacional Hispanic Link Weekly Report, en Washington, D.C.)

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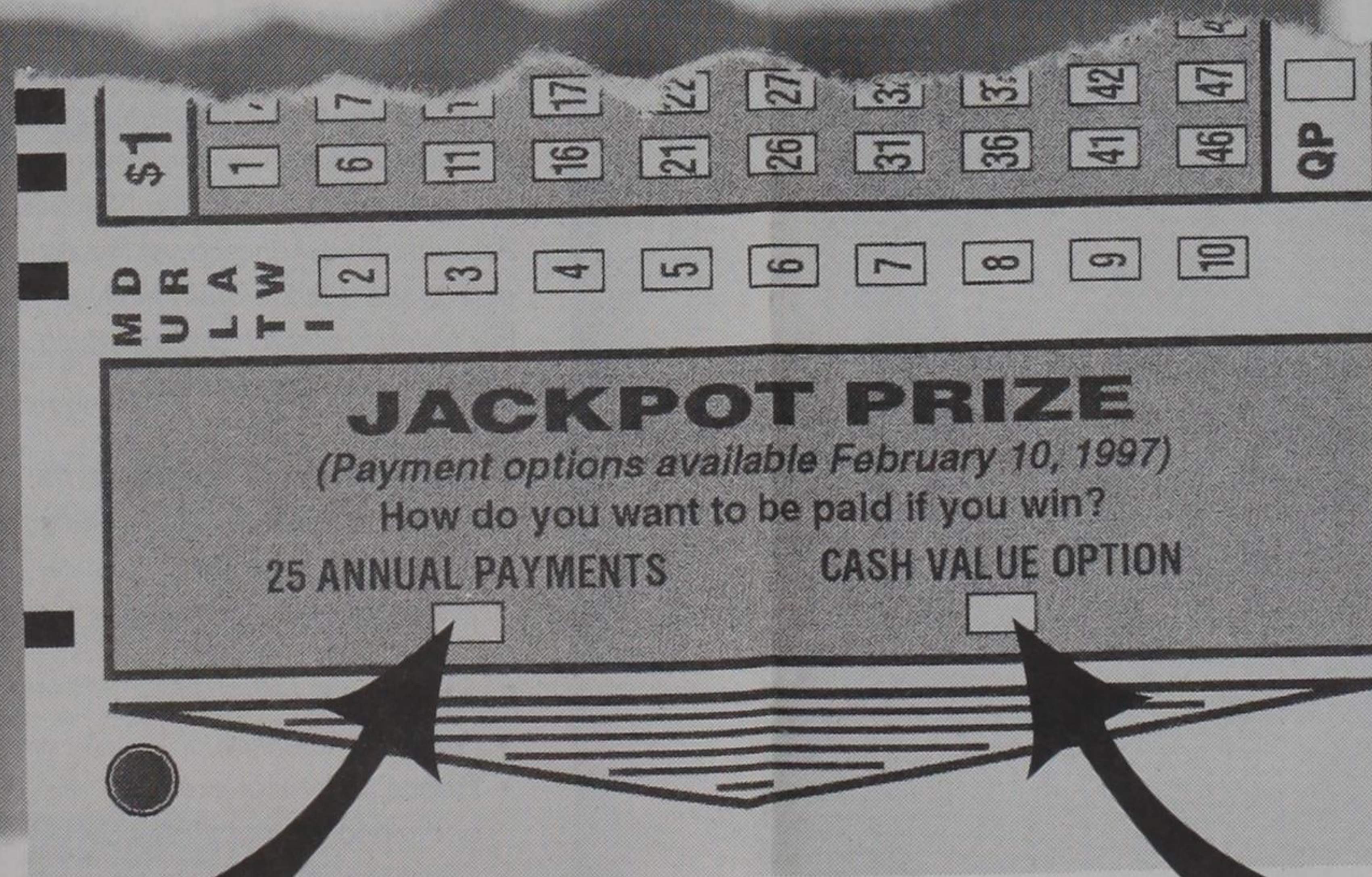
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# Nuevas esperanzas para los hispanos con problemas renales



crecimiento en los Estados Unidos, incrementándose a la alarmante tasa del 12 por ciento anual.

"Eso se debe a los altos índices de diabetes e hipertensión que hay en nuestra comunidad", comentó el médico German Ramírez, jefe de nefrología en el hospital de la Administración de Veteranos en Tampa, Florida quien formó parte del equipo de investigadores de un estudio reciente sobre la calidad de la vida de los pacientes en diálisis.

importante función de los riñones, la producción de la hormona eritropoyetina, sin ella la mayoría de los pacientes padecerían anemias graves.

En 1989 el gobierno federal dio su aprobación a Epogen, una versión de la eritropoyetina mediante ingeniería genética, como tratamiento para combatir la anemia asociada con diálisis renal. El uso periódico de la Epogen incrementa el recuento de glóbulos rojos y les ayuda a los pacientes a regresar a un modo de vivir más

Edward "Eddie" Comas no es muy diferente a los demás universitarios que cursan su último año de estudios. Sus metas son graduarse, conseguir un empleo, pasar más tiempo con su familia y sus amistades, y conseguir un apartamento propio. Pero para Eddie el futuro no siempre fue tan prometedor. Al igual que un número grande y alarmante de hispanoamericanos, padece de afectación renal terminal (o ESRD por sus siglas en inglés). Pero por suerte un nuevo estudio ha demostrado que si se someten a diálisis y a otras terapias, la vida de las personas con insuficiencia renal puede mejorar.

La afectación renal impide que los riñones realicen correctamente la filtración de los residuos del organismo, así como el mantenimiento de los niveles de líquidos, la regulación de la presión sanguínea y la generación de una hormona que le indica al organismo que debe producir glóbulos rojos. Se trata de un estado permanente e irreversible, que a menudo se asocia con enfermedades como la hipertensión y la diabetes.

Actualmente los hispanoamericanos son el grupo de pacientes con afectación renal terminal de más rápido



Por fortuna para los pacientes con afectación renal terminal, con el invento del tratamiento de diálisis, el cuerpo puede filtrar los desechos de manera artificial. Pero la diálisis no puede copiar la otra

normal.

Los 200 mil estadounidenses en diálisis renal comparten con Eddie—él tiene 33 años y lleva 18 en diálisis— un mejoramiento en la calidad de sus vidas.

## Welfare Case Loads Drop 18%

The steep decline in welfare caseloads that began nearly three years ago has accelerated in recent months, offering states a larger-than-expected financial windfall and a head start in carrying out the nation's newly restrictive welfare law, reports The New York Times.

The unprecedented exodus from the rolls follows a period of similarly explosive growth. After reaching a record high in March 1994, caseloads have dropped nearly 18 percent nationwide, and they have dropped in every state but Hawaii.

The declines have reached some of the nation's largest cities, where concentrations of poor and single-parent families have historically made the rolls hard to reduce.

In the past year alone, the number of people on welfare has dropped 19 percent in Milwaukee, 17 percent in Houston, 11 percent in Detroit and 9 percent in New York City.

It is unclear whether those leaving the welfare system are mostly moving out of poverty, as many governors have said, or whether some are simply losing benefits and slipping deeper into need.

But Wendell Primus, who resigned last year as a senior official at the Department of Health and Human Services to protest the new law, cautioned that some states may be dropping people from the rolls whether they have found work or not. "Offices can do things to make life more difficult for people seeking aid," he said, like penalizing them for missed appointments even when they lack child care or transportation.

And because the sudden welfare decline follows an equally startling rise, some of the current reduction may simply represent a natural readjustment. After remaining stable for more than a decade, caseloads shot up 25 percent during and after the 1990 recession, when 3.5 million people joined the rolls.

The reduction in caseloads

makes it easier for states to meet the new law's work requirements. The law requires states to enroll 25 percent of recipients in work programs this year, but they can reduce that percentage by cutting their caseloads. As a result, the average state will have to enroll just 18 percent of its recipients in work programs, according to an analysis by the Ways and Means Committee.

## California Gov. Endorses Aid to Immigrants

California Governor Pete Wilson said yesterday that he endorses the Clinton administration's proposal to ask Congress to provide billions of dollars for disabled documented immigrants affected by new welfare legislation, reports The San Francisco Chronicle.

The Clinton administration is expected to ask Congress this week to come up with \$11 billion to support documented

## HEALTH CARE ACCESS: POLL FINDS SUPPORT FOR INCREASED TAXES

"Two-thirds of Americans want Congress to do something about health care coverage for the uninsured and favor raising the federal excise tax on tobacco to fund improved, more accessible health care and biomedical research," according to a poll released yesterday by the American Cancer Society. According to the cancer society, the results, which came from two recent surveys conducted by Penn & Schoen Associates, Inc., "show the depth of support for federal funding of cancer control, research and prevention program." Dr. Harmon Eyre, executive vice president of research and cancer control for the American Cancer Society, said, "There is great concern among the American public, that with the rapid change to [HMOs] and other types of managed care, quality of care is being compromised. We fear this might put cancer patients at risk of not being able to access the specialty care they need in a timely manner."

CHANGES: According to the poll, 54% were "very concerned" about the rapid changes in the health care system caused by managed care organizations. Seventy-four percent were "concerned" about the quality of care in a managed care setting if they or a family member were diagnosed with a serious illness. Eyre said, "This is clearly an issue Congress needs to think about. The federal government must play a key role if

immigrants facing the loss of Supplemental Security Income. Wilson said that the care of blind, disabled and elderly documented immigrants is a federal responsibility but opined that the cost of providing support to them should be less than what Clinton is requesting.

"If they come here under federal auspices, and they are in a position of being a public charge, it is a federal responsibility (to take care of them)," Wilson said.

Wilson's comments came after a meeting between Clinton and the nation's governors at the White House, and a day after the National Governors Association approved a resolution asking Congress to address the needs of documented immigrants who stand to lose \$24 billion in benefits under the legislation.

An estimated 138,000 of the state's 332,000 documented immigrants receiving SSI payments are classified as disabled.

we are going to reduce cancer death rates and maintain quality care." The survey found that 73% of Americans favor raising revenues to pay for health care for all children who need it by increasing the federal tobacco excise tax. And, 91% of Americans favor using tobacco-tax revenue to fund biomedical research, such as research to prevent and cure cancer. Eyre said that "[e]very five cent increase in the federal tobacco tax would yield about \$3.5 billion in new revenue over seven years and save the lives of about 60,000 children and adults" (American Cancer Society release, 1/28).

The preceding is an excerpt from today's issue of AMERICAN HEALTHLINE, a daily, 12-page briefing on the politics, policy, business and restructuring of the nation's health care system. For information about a free trial to AMERICAN HEALTHLINE, call Eileen Callahan at 703/518-8700. Ask for special subscription rates for Hands-Net readers.

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## Se puede prevenir la diabetes

Los Institutos Nacionales de Salud (NIH, por sus siglas en inglés) anunciaron hoy el primer estudio de investigación a nivel nacional para determinar si la diabetes Tipo 2 se puede prevenir o demorar en las personas con probabilidad de desarrollar la enfermedad. Con el nombre de Programa de Prevención de la Diabetes, el estudio examinará si la reducción del nivel de azúcar en la sangre en las personas con el estado denominado "intolerancia a la glucosa" puede contribuir a prevenir o demorar el desarrollo de la diabetes de Tipo 2.

El estudio pretende integrar a 4,000 participantes con intolerancia glucosa, que es un precursor de la diabetes, y significa que estas personas tienen un alto nivel de azúcar en la sangre, pero no lo suficientemente alto como para que se diagnostique diabetes.

Aproximadamente 21 millones de estadounidenses tienen intolerancia a la glucosa y no lo saben, por lo que corren el riesgo de desarrollar diabetes Tipo 2 alguna vez en su vida. Esta enfermedad le cuesta a los Estados Unidos \$92,600 millones de dólares al año.

**Let El Editor Be Your Voice**



# Holyfield Gets Set For Tyson

By ED SCHUYLER Jr.

NEW YORK - Same name, different fighter, same result. That's how Evander Holyfield views his May 3 rematch against Mike Tyson.

"I don't look for the Tyson I fought Nov. 9," Holyfield said Monday. "But don't look for the same Holyfield either. I'll be better. I'm confident that I can go out and do the same thing."

"I hope to do better next time ... I promise," Tyson said in a seven-second address at a news conference that formally announced the rematch at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

During a question-and-answer session later, however, Tyson said, "I'm going to win the title for a third time. I just had a bad night. I'm the best fighter in the world. If he beats me this time, he'll beat me at the best I've ever been. I'm looking for a knockout."

Tyson was a 3-1 favorite at the MGM Grand sports book to regain the WBA heavy-weight title. He was a 7-1 choice when he was stopped in the 10th round by Holyfield at the Grand in November.

One of Tyson's problems in preparing for the first fight, co-manager John Horne said, was that most saw Holyfield "as no real threat to Mike Tyson. Nobody took him

seriously."

Richie Giachetti has since replaced Jay Bright as Tyson's trainer.

There was a lot of trash talk by the Tyson camp at a New York news conference before the first fight. Everyone was respectful Monday.

"This is the type of atmosphere a Tyson-Holyfield fight is supposed to bring," promoter Don King said.

Tyson thanked Holyfield for giving him the chance. Holyfield thanked Tyson for having given him a chance so that he could give Tyson a chance.

"The Sound and the Fury" is what King is calling the rematch. At times Monday, it seemed a better name might be "Hearts and Flowers."

Whatever anyone chooses to call it, it's a major fight. The 34-year-old Holyfield, who got \$11 million in November, will get at least \$35 million in May. Tyson, who made \$30 million in the first fight, will get at least \$20 million for the rematch.

A Tyson victory in the pay-per-view match would set up a lucrative rematch.

The most intriguing aspect of the fight, however, is what happens to Tyson's career should he lose.

"You tell me," Tyson said.

## Mets Hire

### Keith Hernandez As Coach

NEW YORK - Keith Hernandez, a hero of the Mets' 1986 World Series championship team, was hired Monday by New York as a hitting and fielding instructor.

"There has to be an avenue back to the past. There should be a love affair with the 1969 Mets, the '73 Mets, the '86 Mets," said Hernandez, one of the NL's premier first basemen during seven seasons in New York.

Hernandez thinks young players don't identify with the past history of their clubs.

"I think the game is lacking

because of it, seriously lacking," he said.

Hernandez will instruct young players in first base techniques as well as hitting. He will work with first baseman John Olerud, obtained from the Toronto Blue Jays in the offseason.

"He'll be fine. He's certainly not a butcher out there," Hernandez said. "He'll get used to playing mostly on grass. It's not as though he hasn't played on grass."

Hernandez will spend time in the Mets extended spring training program and will travel to the club's four full-season minor-league teams.

"Obviously, fundamentals will win or lose a ballgame," he said. "They are the most boring things to work on in spring training. Nobody likes it."

Hernandez, who started his career with the St. Louis Cardinals, played 17 seasons and hit .296 with 1,071 RBIs in 2,088 games. He was with the Mets from 1983-89, winning NL East titles in 1986 and '88.

After playing with Cleveland in 1990, Hernandez retired because of back problems.

# Golf's New Partners: Tiger Tour

By RON SIRAK

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. - Two things were clear after the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am:

Tiger Woods can just about never be counted out of a tournament. A lot of guys were than welcome the challenge.

Woods was 10 strokes behind after 36 holes at Pebble Beach and seven back going into the final round. Yet he almost won, playing the last 36 holes 17 under par.

It was the kind of finish that has become the trademark of Woods' career both as an amateur and as a professional. He is capable of taking scores staggeringly low, as shown by his 63-64 finish over the weekend.

And Woods is capable of making up strokes with frightening speed, as shown by his three-birdie finish in which he had an eagle putt on the last hole - a par-5 no one else had reached in two shots the entire tournament.

But despite the pressure applied by Woods and despite the wildly pro-Woods gallery, Mark O'Meara came away the winner.

And that makes the second point: While no player might possess the physical ability of Woods, many have the pride and discipline to beat him in a final-round showdown.

"You can not put dollar signs around pride," O'Meara said after he matched Woods' birdies on Nos. 16 and 17 to win the Pebble Beach National for the fifth time. "I've got a lot of pride. That's what drives me."

That's what drives a lot of golfers on tour. And the astonishing way Woods, 21, burst onto the PGA Tour challenged the pride of a lot of players.

"I think I'm a pretty good competitor," O'Meara said. "I didn't play real well this week. But I putted well and I had a lot of composure."

O'Meara needed that composure. For Woods - like Michael Jordan or Reggie Jackson or Joe Montana - has the rare



ability to perform his best when the spotlight shines brightest.

He has also shown that he plays for just one reason - to win. Second-place money is meaningless to Woods. He doesn't need it. Nike has taken care of that.

Woods has played just 11 tournaments since turning professional. He was won three times, finished second once, third twice and fifth another time. That's seven top-five finishes in 11 starts.

It's Tiger against the tour, but the tour is plenty deep enough to keep him from winning every week, or every other week or even every third for fourth or fifth time out.

O'Meara welcomed the challenge in Sunday's final round. Tom Lehman wanted an 18-hole showdown badly in the Mercedes Championships instead of the rain-required sudden-death playoff Woods won.

Nick Faldo, Greg Norman, Mark Brooks, Phil Mickelson and Fred Couples are the kinds of players who would relish beating Woods in a

high-profile situation.

"I was pretty jacked," O'Meara said about wanting to defeat Woods in their final-round showdown at Pebble Beach. "He's the hottest player in golf right now."

O'Meara wasn't able to shoot a 63 or a 64 over the weekend. He didn't have to. He out together four consecutive

rounds of 67 in a very unflashy way.

"It's not about how many great shots you hit," O'Meara said. "It's about strategy."

Tiger is terrific, but there are a lot of players on the PGA Tour who want a piece of him. And Mark O'Meara proved they can get it.

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# Dirigentes Piden Accion Sobre Dificultades

Por PETER OLIVERA NICKS

Cuando Carlos Pérez, Afro-Latino de tez clara, natural de la República Dominicana, llegó a los Estados Unidos, se asombró de que se le considerara "negro". Según el autor Peter Winn, quien realizó un perfil de Pérez en su libro titulado "Las Américas: La Cara de la América Latina que Cambia", el concepto de "negro" es muy distinto en la República Dominicana del de los Estados Unidos.

"Para los norte-americanos", escribe Winn, "...la raza es biológica, y la biología decide el destino. En la América Latina, por otra parte, donde el asunto es el color, ... la clase y la cultura desempeñan también un papel en una región donde el dinero "blanquea" y "los coroneles nunca son negros, sin importar cuán oscura sea su piel."

Información de Global Studies cuenta 33.5 millones de personas de ancestro africano que viven en los 18 países hispano parlantes de la América Latina. Se reconoce que negros y mulatos representan por lo menos el 11.1% de la población combinada de más de 301 millones de estos países. Además, hay 3.8 millones de residentes de Puerto Rico, que son predominantemente de sangre mezclada, reflejando sus orígenes negros, indígenas y europeos.

Ese total se compara con los 33.1 millones (el 12.6 por ciento) de afroamericanos en la población de 262 millones de los Estados Unidos en 1995.

Al agregar las naciones lati-

nas que no son de habla hispana, tales como el Brasil, Haití y Belice, la cantidad de negros en América Latina salta a casi 150 millones.

Los africanos fueron importados por primera vez a la América Latina como esclavos y a menudo reclutados forzosamente como soldados por los conquistadores a principios del siglo XVI. Muchos participaron en la conquista de países, como por ejemplo Chile. Los textos de historia registran que el esclavo fugitivo Juan Valiente recibió una encomienda en el decenio de 1550 por su valor en combate.

Hoy, las poblaciones negras y mulatas fluctúan desde las mayorías en la República Dominicana y Cuba hasta escasamente un punto de porcentaje o dos en México, El Salvador y la Argentina.

Winn es sólo uno de muchos que están observando más cercanamente a la América Latina con un interés particular en la situación social, política y económica de los negros allí.

Rolando Roebuck, presidente de la Coalición de Afro-Americanos y Unidad Latina (CAALU en inglés), ha trabajado durante los últimos años para aumentar el conocimiento sobre los afro-latinos.

"Viven en circunstancias sub-humanas", dijo Roebuck a Hispanic Link. "Y mientras más al sur se vaya, la situación empeora."

Roebuck, que nació en la ciudad de Nueva York pero pasó la mayor parte de su niñez en Puerto Rico y St. Croix, ha via-

jado extensamente por el Caribe y ha visitado América Central. El ve un patrón universal en el cual mientras más clara sea la piel de uno, mejor se hallará económica y socialmente.

El propio Roebuck recuerda haber sido llamado "negro sucio" cuando era niño.

El hace notar que la negación del racismo que existe en las Américas, combinada con una falta de iniciativas para enfocarse en un problema muy real, contribuyen a la continua desigualdad social y económica a que se enfrentan los negros. El reconoce que hay un problema de identidad entre latinos como Carlos Pérez, que ni siquiera se consideran negros ellos mismos. "El racismo en los Estados Unidos es científico y preciso. O se es negro, o se es blanco. Esto no es así en la América Latina."

La Organización de Africanos en las Américas, con sede en Virginia, encabezada por Michael Franklin, facilita reuniones entre dirigentes negros de ambos hemisferios. Franklin alega que la única evaluación socio-económica de las comunidades negras de la América Latina fue hecha por el Banco Inter-Americano para Desarrollo en un estudio de la región en 1996.

No obstante, no hay escasez de atención sobre el asunto. En febrero, un grupo de cinco defensores de los derechos humanos para los negros de toda la América Latina se reunió en el Centro Bunche de Asuntos Internacionales de la Universidad de Howard, para considerar la política cultural en las Américas y sus repercusiones para los Estados Unidos y los movimientos afro-latino-americanos.

"Estamos intercambiando estrategias de liberación", dice el Dr. Ron Waters, presidente del departamento de ciencias políticas de Howard y moderador de dicho grupo. "Estamos intercambiando historias."

En el foro, los dirigentes de cinco movimientos afro-latino-americanos debatieron las circunstancias de los negros en sus respectivos países, produciendo a menudo exhortaciones apasionadas de los líderes

reunidos.

"Queremos llegar a una cierta conciencia," dijo Lucía Molina, de la Provincia de Santa Fe, en la Argentina. "La idea prevaleciente es que no hay negros en la Argentina. Debemos hacer que se conozca nuestra presencia."

Molina y su esposo Mario Luis López fundaron la Casa de la Cultura Indo-Afro-Americana en la provincia de Santa Fe en 1988 y desde entonces han trabajado a niveles nacionales e internacionales para aumentar la conciencia de la cultura afro-argentina. Ni la Embajada de la Argentina ni los datos de Global Studies reconocen una población negra en ese país.

Juan de Dios Mosquera, presidente del Movimiento Cimarrón, con sede en Bogotá, Colombia, que es un movimiento político por los derechos de los negros, mencionó estadísticas que son comunes a toda la América Latina. Según Mosquera, sólo el 60 por ciento de los 15 millones de afro-colombianos puede recibir instrucción de cualquier clase. De esa cantidad, sólo dos de cada 100 continuarán estudios a nivel universitario.

El presidente de la Organización Africana Mundial del Uruguay, Romero Jorge Rodríguez, dijo que la situación en Uruguay no es diferente. El hizo notar que de los 80,000

negros del Uruguay, sólo 80 tienen grados universitarios. Mencionó el aislamiento geográfico y la falta de movimiento social como los factores primarios que afectan la situación de los negros en su país.

Muchos creen que debido a que los afro-latinos al sur de la frontera no tienen una identidad distinta, hay un discurso limitado sobre la definición racial allí. En los Estados Unidos, "negro" y "blanco" están claramente separados, mientras que en la América Latina, "negro" e "hispano" no lo están.

Jesús "Chucho" García, presidente de la Fundación de Afro-Americanos de Venezuela, cree que no debe hacerse distinción entre las Américas del Norte y del Sur. García dijo al grupo del Centro Bunche: "Debemos extender y ampliar el concepto del afro-americano al sur y al Caribe."

Agregó que, como ocurre con los negros en los Estados Unidos, "hay una cultura de afro-venezolanos basada en el desarraigo violento de las personas de sus países de origen."

En marzo del año pasado, el Comité de las Naciones Unidas sobre la Eliminación de la Discriminación Racial investigó los alegatos de infracciones de los derechos de los miembros de comunidades negras e indígenas en Colom-

bia. Los alegatos fueron hechos en medio de acusaciones de miembros de un grupo de expertos de que los grupos paramilitares se habían enfocado sobre los dirigentes populares. También se mencionó la falta de un enmarque legislativo que pudiera aplicarse para proteger los derechos de los grupos minoritarios en Colombia.

El comité, más tarde ese mismo mes, dió la bienvenida a legislación para realzar los derechos humanos de los ciudadanos indígenas y afro-colombianos. El mismo indicó una "persistencia de actitudes discriminatorias estructurales en la sociedad colombiana." Hallazgos semejantes surgieron en las investigaciones del comité en El Salvador.

Roebuck manifiesta optimismo por las gestiones que están haciendo organizaciones como CAALU y OAA para generar conciencia sobre un asunto que ha estado sólo en el trasfondo por siglos. "A medida que los Estados Unidos comienzan a enfocarse sobre las dificultades de los negros en América Latina, estos gobiernos se verán obligados a incluirlos en la experiencia nacional. Y nuestro papel aquí es el de asegurarnos de que sus dificultades alcancen a nuestra conciencia."

(Peter Olivera Nicks es reportero de Hispanic Link News Service.)

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# News Briefs

Count as "work" job search and "job readiness" activities, as well as drug and alcohol treatment.

Narrow the five-year time limit on benefits to apply only to cash assistance and not child care and other forms of aid to the poor.

Give states more flexibility to use their own funds for the poor without regard to federal mandates contained in the new law.

The governors now urge Congress simply to "insure that the immigration system and its requirements are fair to both citizens and noncitizens, and meet the needs of aged and disabled legal immigrants who cannot naturalize and whose benefits may be affected."

Their statement goes on to say that "an equitable solution to this issue could be achieved without reopening" the welfare law. Wilson acknowledged that there was an apparent contradiction here because most documented immigrants will lose food stamps and Supplemental Security Income benefits unless the welfare law is revised.

## Privacy Laws Relaxed in Child Abuse Cases

Several states have passed laws that open up reports of child abuse and neglect to media and public scrutiny, reports Associated Press.

In Arizona and Idaho, lawmakers have been given access to abuse and neglect records to improve oversight. Colorado and Florida now make public abuse or neglect records in cases where a child dies in state care.

A proposal to change the laws in Illinois was sparked by cases such as the 1993 hanging of 3-year-old Joseph Wallace, which prompted an outcry over why the boy was returned to his emotionally disturbed mother.

The state's child welfare department was barred by law and policy from disclosing his mother's lengthy history with the department or the actions it had taken in the case.

Now under a proposed plan, if a parent or guardian is charged with abusing a child, the state welfare agency can release the child's name, the services the family received or any previous claims of abuse in the family.

Even the mention of the accused abuser's name by certain public officials can trigger the release of case information.

Some child welfare advocates have mixed feelings about liberalization of confidentiality laws.

"It is in general not good for kids for the world to know what's going on in their private lives," said Linda Spears, director of child protection for the Child Welfare League of America, which represents 1,000 child welfare agencies.

"But government agencies have the responsibility to be accountable to their citizens. I think it helps us decide as a nation what is it we expect in order to keep our children safe."

## States Get Wide Welfare Latitude

States may use their own welfare money to bypass new federal time limits or assist immigrants who otherwise would be cut off under new guidelines for implementing last year's welfare law, reports Associated Press.

"We do not want to stifle creative state thinking about how best to serve their needy families and children," the Department of Health and Human Services said in guidelines for states released Friday.

State officials mobilized a campaign for the flexible regulations after learning that the administration was seriously considering - and perhaps leaning toward - restrictions, Hogan said.

To qualify for federal funds, states must maintain welfare spending at 75 to 80 percent of 1994 levels. At issue was whether states could count spending on recipients who would not be eligible under federal rules.

Under the flexible guidelines, states may use their own welfare spending to aid a variety of people who are not eligible under federal rules: new documented immigrants, people already collecting welfare for five years or teen-agers who do not live with an adult or stay in school.

programs carefully to be sure they do not use this flexibility to get around the primary goal: moving welfare recipients to work.

"We're going to be very vigilant," said Michael Kharfen, a spokesman for the human services department.

The guidelines discourage separate state programs. Exempting recipients from federal rules makes it more difficult for states to qualify for bonuses or for extra federal money during economic downturns.

# 1998 Super Bowl Site Uncertain

By **BERNIE WILSON**

SAN DIEGO - Even as NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue commended San Diego for its expansion of Jack Murphy Stadium, the league was preparing Monday to hand off the 1998 Super Bowl to Pasadena if construction is stopped by a judge.

"We want very, very much to play Super Bowl XXXII here, and we want it to be what it is for most sports fans, which is the dream of a lifetime, and not a nightmare," Tagliabue told about 600 business and political leaders at a Super Bowl Task Force luncheon.

But a nightmare is certainly possible for city leaders. A group of activists has legally challenged the expansion of the stadium from 61,000 to 71,500 seats. The lawsuit challenging the expansion will be heard by a Superior Court judge on Feb. 20. If the \$78 million project is halted, the NFL will have no choice but to yank the Super Bowl.

"If this construction gets interrupted, we can't do the Super Bowl here," Tagliabue said. "We are talking on a contingent basis to the Rose Bowl, as I speak, and hopefully they'll remain contingency plans."

"We don't want to play the game in the middle of an unfinished construction site, which is what would occur if construction is interrupted."

Tagliabue said a contingency contract with the Rose Bowl could be signed as early as this week.

The commissioner later visited the stadium, where thousands of seats have been torn out to make way for expanded and upgraded seating as part of a deal to keep the Chargers here through 2020.

The renovated stadium will include more skyboxes and an entire level of club seats. Construction continues around the clock, and the City Council said the project is seven to eight days ahead of schedule.

With the din of jackhammers and heavy equipment coming from all sides, Chargers president Dean Spanos pointed out to Tagliabue where the new features would be located.

"Amazing," Tagliabue said at one point.

And it remains amazing that the city could lose its

chance to be host of the NFL's title game, as well as the Chargers for at least the 1997 season, maybe for good.

"We are facing an unacceptable level of uncertainty as we try to plan the game," Tagliabue said. "That's why the judge's ruling on the 20th is really the outer limits for us. Depending on that ruling, we have to eliminate uncertainty. We can't find ourselves scrambling in May, June, July, August. That's unacceptable."

If San Diego loses the Super Bowl, its chances of getting another one won't be precluded, but the NFL has pretty much committed Super Bowls through the middle of the next decade, Tagliabue said. San Diego also had the Super Bowl in 1988, erecting some 10,000 temporary seats in the east end zone.

Tagliabue realizes the construction situation is out of his hands, but said he wanted to visit San Diego to help the community understand how good a project this is.

"This is a very well-conceived project to maintain, improve and update the stadium, so you don't get to the point down the road where you have a crisis that's not resolvable," he said at the stadium.

Also Monday, the City Council formally repealed an \$18 million amendment to the original \$60 million contract with the Chargers. The council plans to repack the \$18 million and let the public vote on it this spring.

And the Chargers increased general admission ticket prices by \$4 on Monday, raising the average price to \$39. A portion of the increase will go toward stadium expansion.



## Un Rayito De Luz

por **Sofia Martinez**

Jesucristo está en el cielo; pero también está en la hostia consagrada y en el vino consagrado mientras el pan y el vino no se destruyan. Jesucristo se hace presente en el momento mismo en que el pan y el vino son consagrados, aunque nadie haga uso del sacramento; y permanece bajo las especies de pan y vino, mientras no cambien, ni se corrompan o queden destruidas, como sucede cuando son disueltas

en agua o quemadas por el fuego de alguna quemazón.

Las hostias consagradas, no consumidas por la comunión de los fieles, forman la Sagrada Reserva que se guarda en el sagrario del altar principal o de un altar especial. Allí está perpetuamente y realmente presente Nuestro Señor Jesucristo y merece todo nuestro respeto y todo nuestro homenaje. Por eso, al entrar en una iglesia, debemos adorar profundamente a Jesucristo en el Santísimo Sacramento, sobre todo si estuviera expuesto para la veneración de los fieles. Jesucristo instituyó la Sagrada Eucaristía para ofrecerse en sacrificio a Dios su Padre, y para servir de alimento a nuestras almas, por la Sagrada Comunión. (Mat. 26, 26-27). (Mc. 14, 12-25. Lc 22, 7-23). (Juan 13, 21-30. I Cor. 11, 13-26).



## PENSAMIENTOS DEL PREDICADOR

POR PASTOR FRANK GARCÍA

LUBBOCK, TEXAS  
LOS SABIOS Y ENTENDIDOS,  
Y LOS PEQUEÑOS

En aquel tiempo respondiendo Jesús dijo:  
Gracias te doy Padre,  
Señor del cielo y de la tierra,  
Porque escondites esta cosas a los sabios y  
entendidos y las has revelado a los niños.  
Mateo 11:25

En estos pasajes se nos enseña, en primer lugar, cuán digno de alabanza son la sencillez y la docilidad. Nuestro Señor dijo a su PADRE: "Escondiste esta cosas a los sabios y entendidos, y las has revelado a los niños."

A nosotros no se nos es dado explicar cómo es que algunos reciben el Evangelio, y otros no. Pues la soberanía que Dios ejerce a este respecto es un misterio que no alcanzamos a penetrar. Pero hay una verdad que se nos ha claramente revelado en la Escritura, a saber; que a quienes se ha ocultado el Evangelio ha sido por lo general a los que se han tenido a sí mismos por sabios y prudentes; y a quienes se ha revelado a sido por lo regular a los sencillos, dóciles y humildes. Constantemente se están cumpliendo las palabra de María: "A los hambriendo hinchó de bienes; y a los ricos envió vacíos." Lucas 1:53.

Por lo tanto, guardémonos del orgullo en todas sus formas: orgullo en cuanto al talento, la riqueza, la virtud o los merecimientos. Debemos pedir a Dios que nos dé humildad y procuremos cultivarla. Esforcémonos por conocernos a nosotros mismos y determinar qué lugar debemos ocupar ante un Dios santo. Pues para que demos el primer paso en el camino del cielo se necesita que comprendamos que estamos en el camino del infierno, y que estamos dispuestos a que el Espíritu nos ilumine y nos enseñe. Cristo dijo varias veces: "El que se humilla será ensalzado." Lucas 18:14.

### OTRA LECCION

Empero, de él se desprende también otra lección de importancia práctica, la cual es la que en todo se refiere a la prosperidad de nuestras almas, pue Jesús está revestido de pleno poder y autoridad: "todas las cosas le han sido entregadas." Posee las llaves: a El tenemos que acudir para que nos abra la puerta del cielo. Es el PASTOR: y preciso es que escuchemos su voz y le sigamos si es que queremos extraviarnos. Es el MEDICO: menester es que ocurramos a El si queremos ser sanados de la lepra del pecado. Es el PAN de vida: y de El debemos participar para alimento de nuestras almas. El es la LUZ: y debemos caminar en pos de El si no queremos permanecer en la oscuridad. ¡Cuán sagradas y gloriosas son estas verdades!

### OFRECIMIENTO

Notemos cuán misericordioso es el ofrecimiento que el SALVADOR nos hace. "Os haré descansar," dijo. Cuán cariñosas y consoladoras son estas palabras. Pues la inquietud es la condición normal de esta vida. Pues por todas partes se encuentran afanes, desengaños, disgustos y chascos. Empero ese ofrecimiento del SEÑOR nos presenta una buena esperanza. "Venid a mí todos lo que estáis trabajados y cargados." Mateo 11:28.

# El Editor Employment

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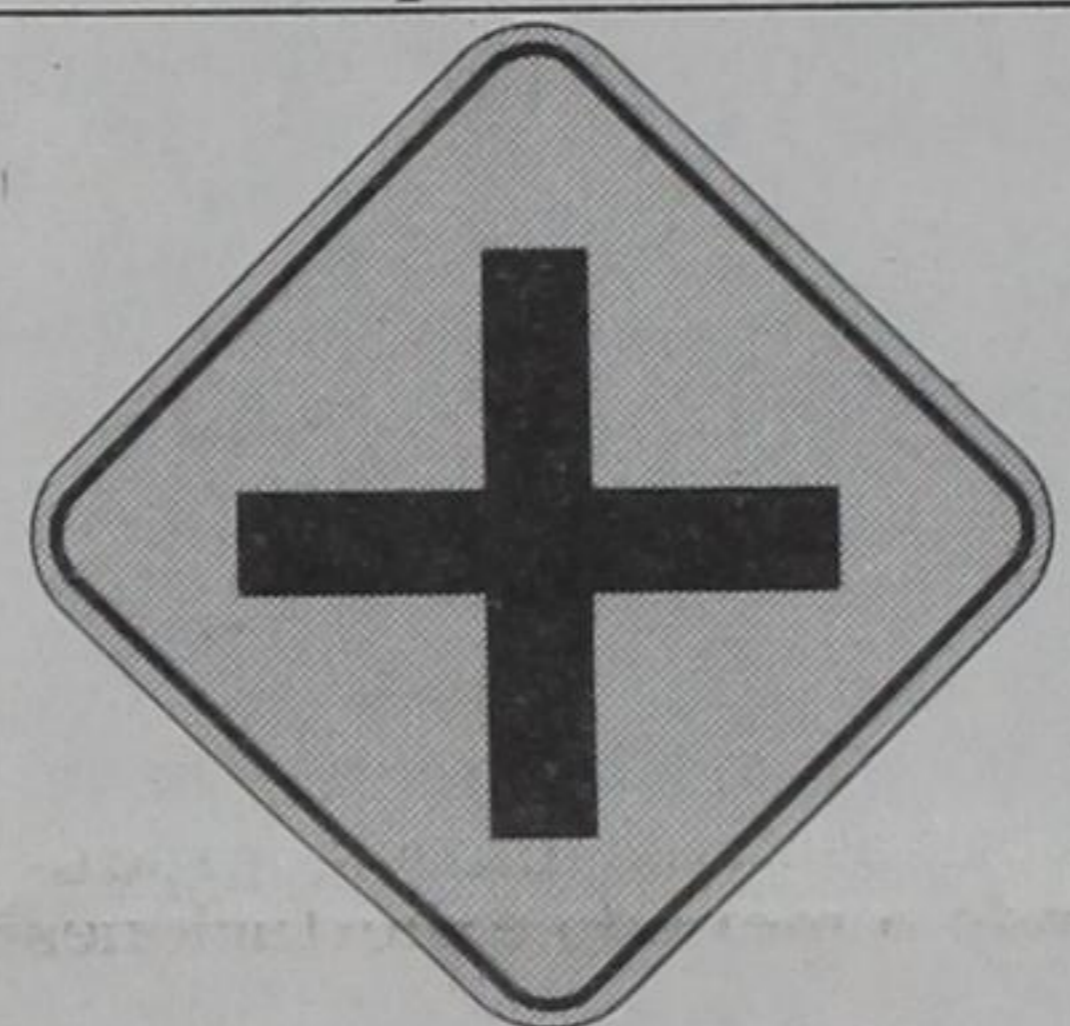
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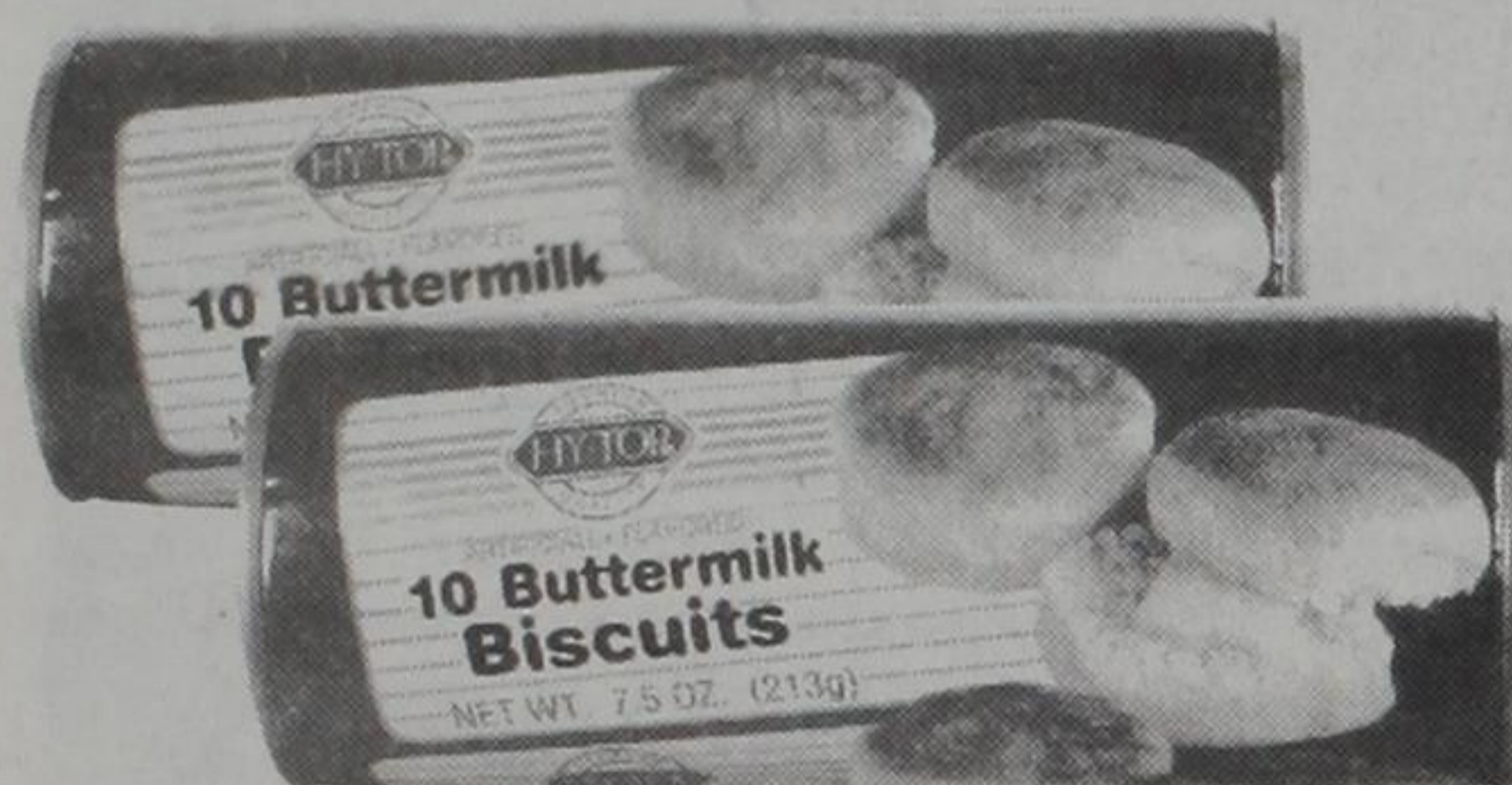
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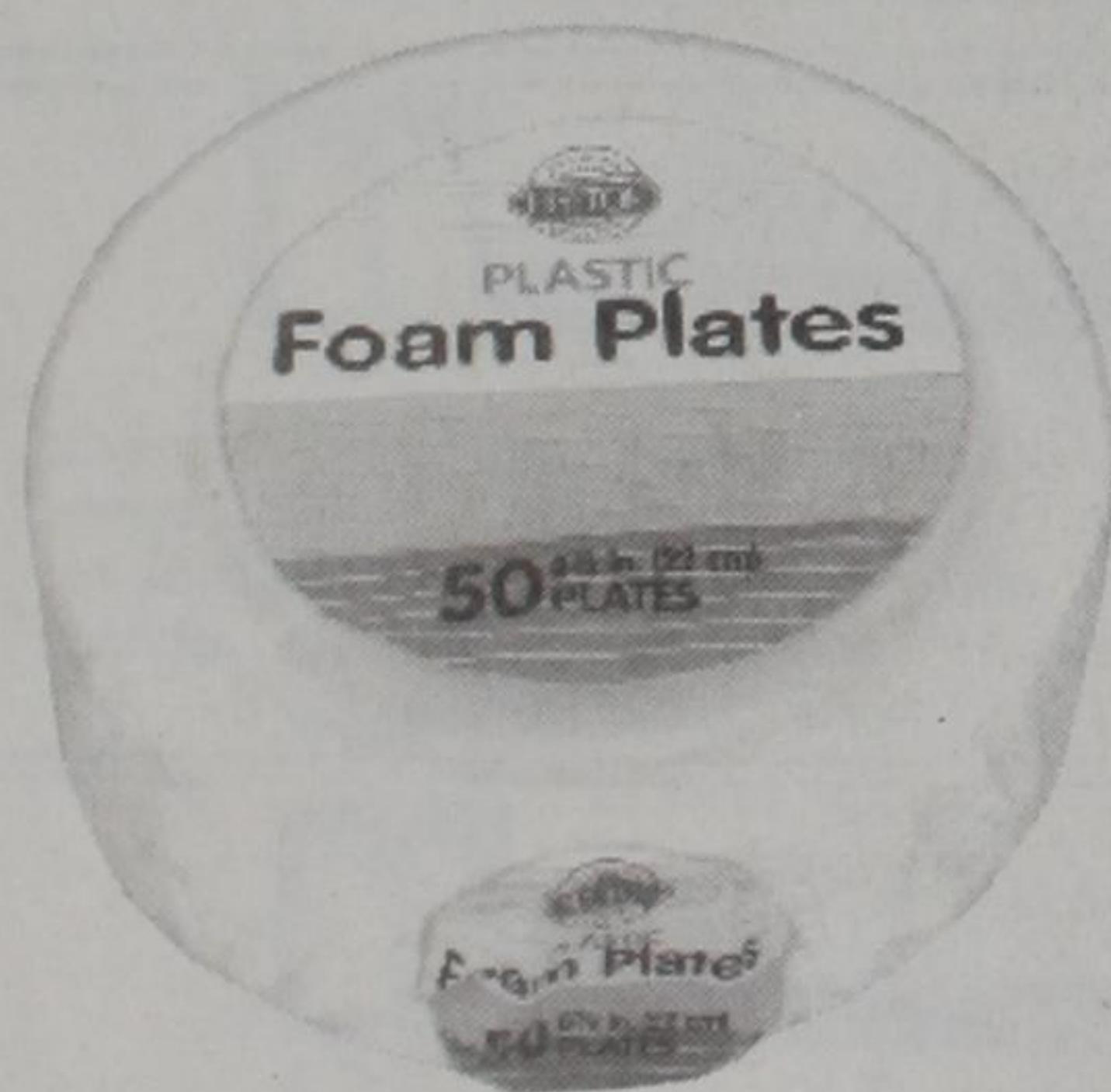
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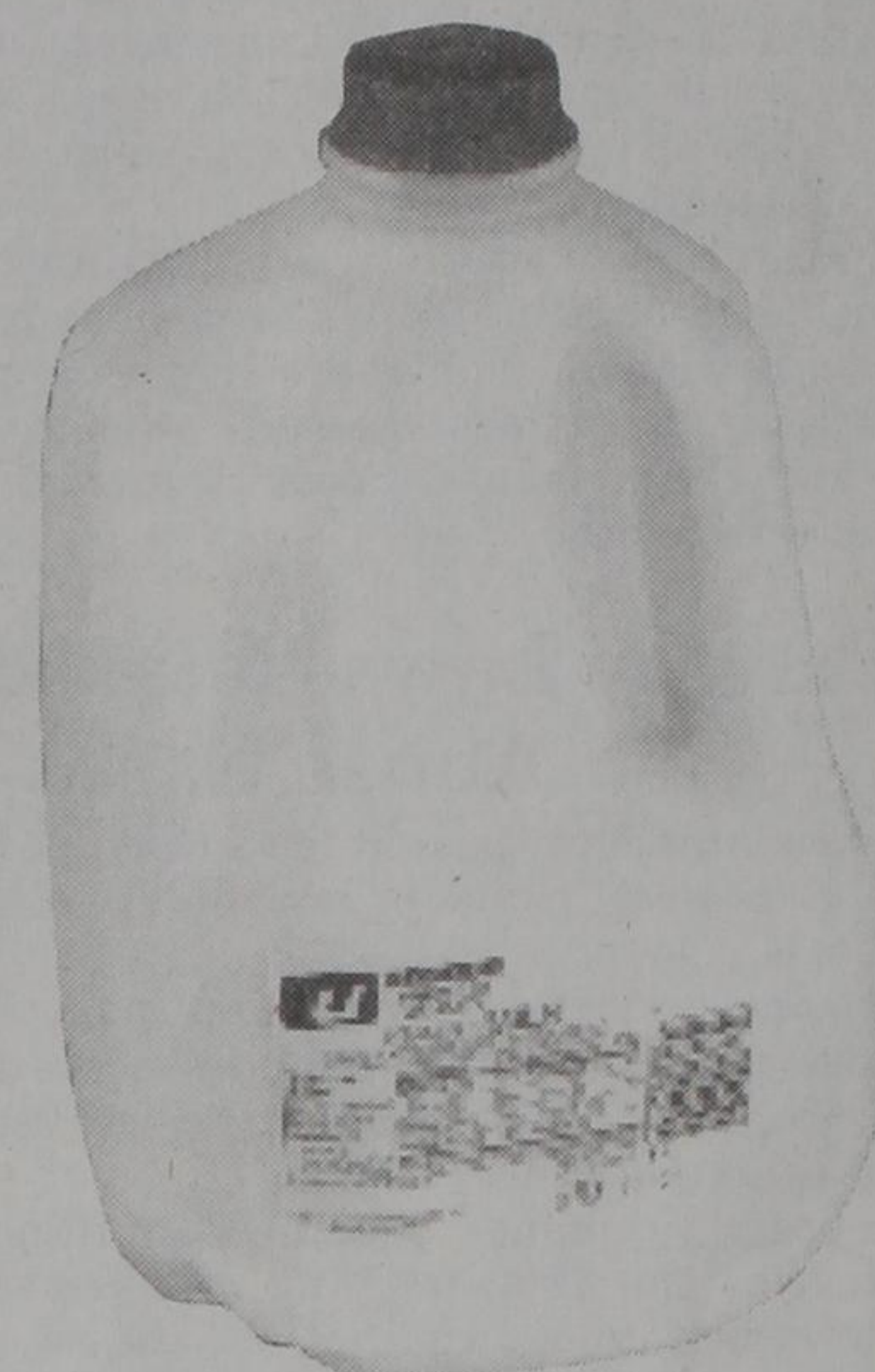


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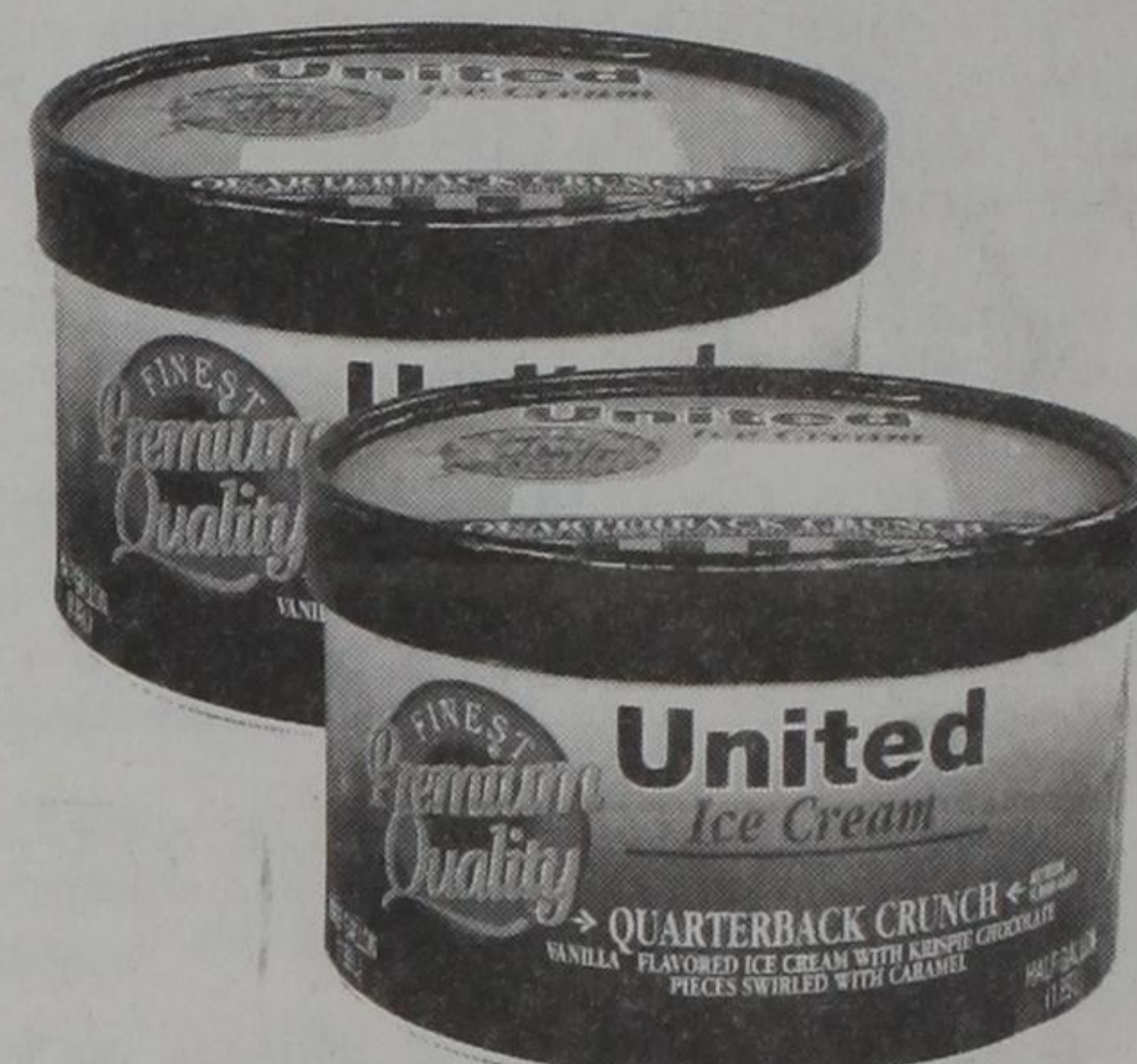
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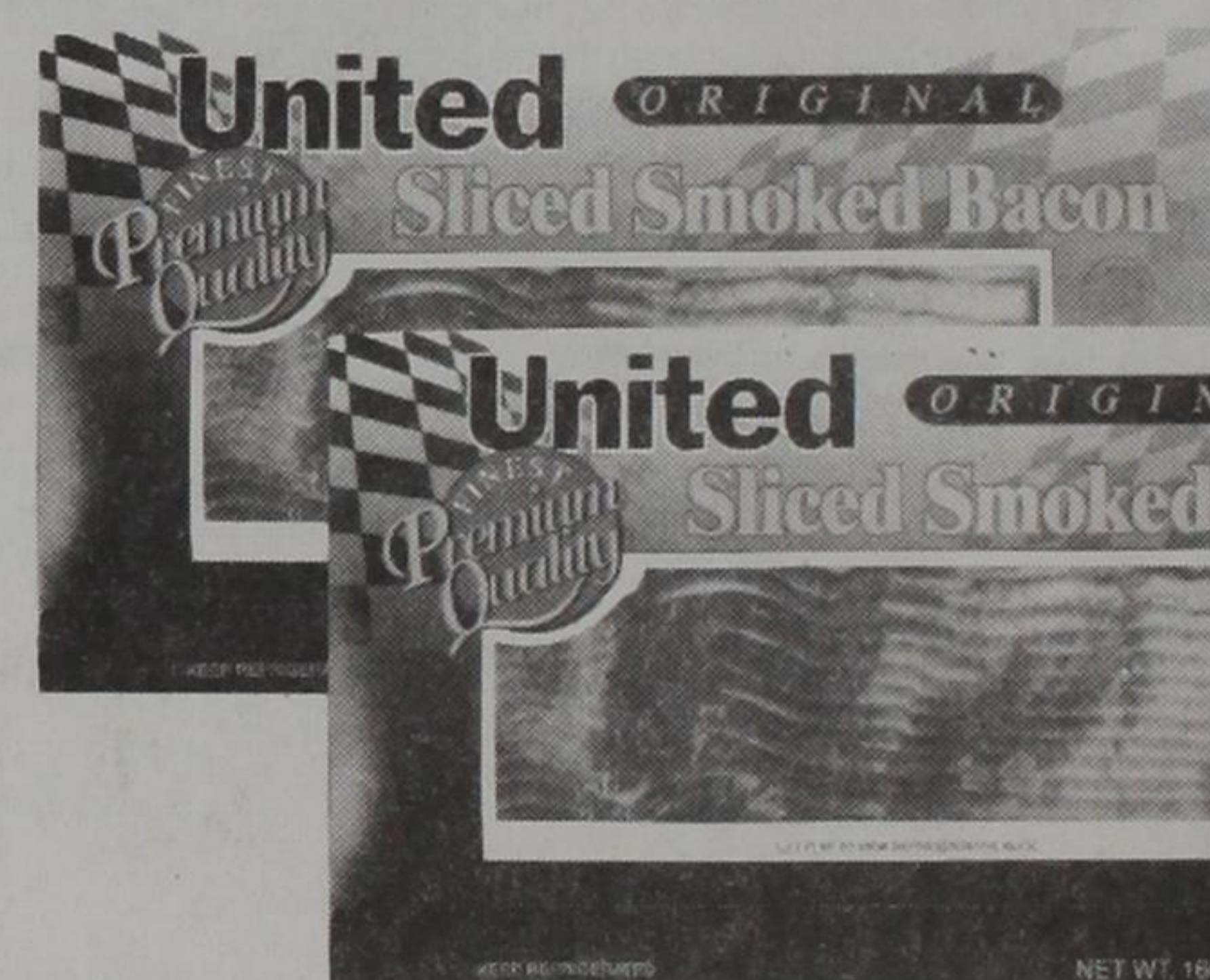
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