

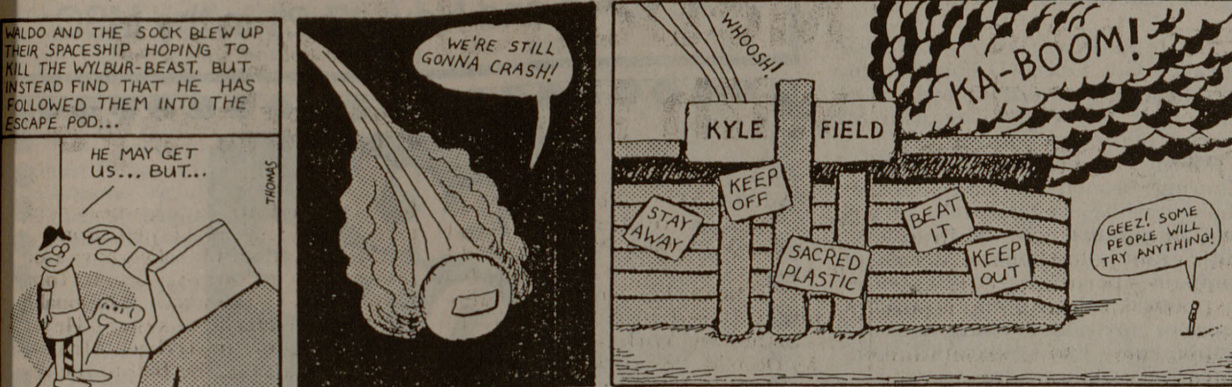
Warped

by Scott McCullar



Waldo

by Kevin Thomas



26% of American families headed by single parents

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than one-fourth of American families with children — and more than 60 percent of those that are black — were headed by a single parent last year, the Census Bureau reported Tuesday.

“One of the most significant changes in family composition over the past 15 years has been the substantial growth in the number of one-parent families,” the bureau said.

Dr. Harriet P. McAdoo, a professor of social work at Howard University, said a major factor is that women are having children and getting married later — or not marrying at all — and that marriages are more likely to end in divorce.

As a result of these changes, she said, “children are being raised by their mothers for a significant number of years of their lives.”

In addition, she said in an interview, there are a substantial number

of out-of-wedlock pregnancies among both black and white women.

A separate Census Bureau report on fertility last June said 20.2 percent of white births and 74.5 percent among blacks were out of wedlock last year, as the stigma surrounding unwed mothers lessens.

Researchers at The Urban Institute suggested that young women are no longer rushing into wedlock once they become pregnant. Instead, they are considering their futures, including whether the father is good potential husband material and how marriage will affect their educational and economic outlook.

Of 33.4 million families with children last year, 8.8 million — 26.3 percent — were one-parent groups, compared with 12.9 percent in 1970, the bureau said.

The report said 60.1 percent of black families with children were maintained by a single parent, up from 35.7 percent 15 years earlier.

For whites, 20.8 percent had one parent, more than double the 10.1 percent of 1970.

The overwhelming majority of single-parent families are headed by women, accounting for 4.9 million of the 5.7 million white, single-parent families and 2.6 million of the 2.8 million that are black.

While still growing, the rate of increase has eased somewhat.

Single-parent families jumped by 48.7 percent from 1970 to 1975, but rose by 26.9 percent from 1980 to 1985.

Among blacks, the rate of increase declined from 55.5 percent to 32.5 percent. Among whites, the growth rate eased from 44.2 percent to 23.4 percent in the two five-year periods.

Dr. McAdoo said much of this fading increase is a result of the aging of the post-World War II “baby boom” generation.

Lay group blasts Catholic statement

NEW YORK (AP) — A proposed bishops’ statement on the U.S. economy is confused about economic rights and puts too much emphasis on the state to help the poor, a prominent Roman Catholic lay group said Tuesday.

The critique came a week before the bishops are to take final action on their widely discussed pastoral letter, “Economic Justice for All.”

Calling the letter one-sided, the lay group said the bishops “turn too readily to the state to direct economic activism, to create jobs, to determine foreign aid.”

The lay critics also denounced the bishops’ call for money to be diverted from defense spending. It is “seriously misleading” for the bishops to favor this “without saying how we could do so without making ourselves and our allies vulnerable to military blackmail or worse,” they said.

An underlying theme of the letter “appears to be a vision, not of justice based on liberty, but of an equality of income and wealth,” the critics said.

“That concept of equality is incompatible with respect for liberty,” they said.

Chromosome defect shows link to dyslexia

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A form of dyslexia that may affect one out of every 100 Americans has been linked to an inherited chromosome defect, researchers said Tuesday.

Based on a study of 16 families with a history of dyslexia, scientists concluded that one out of three inherited cases of the reading disorder is linked to a defect on chromosome 15, one of the 23 paired chromosomes that carry human genes.

The finding, published in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Society of Human Genetics in Philadelphia, should allow better detection of afflicted individuals, said Herbert Lubs of the University of Miami, one of the study’s authors.

“In a few years, we could probably predict at birth which child will have dyslexia,” Lubs said in an interview.

Such children could then be given special training to help them cope with the disorder, in which the brain seems unable to correctly process series of letters or numbers. Although dyslexics are of normal intelligence, they often fall behind in school or are misdiagnosed as learning impaired, he said.

The finding is also important because of the light it sheds on the workings of the brain, Lubs said.

“It enables you to show that one gene is affecting a specific brain

function and its development,” he said.

Lubs said he believes that most dyslexia is inherited, but researchers do not know that for certain.

Among Americans who suffered from dyslexia were President Woodrow Wilson and Vice President Nelson Rockefeller.

Dr. Albert Galaburda, a neurologist at the Harvard Medical School who studies dyslexia, agreed that most dyslexia is inherited.

But he said it is wrong to assume therefore that there is a specific gene that causes dyslexia.

“It may be there is a gene that sets up changes to make a brain vulnerable and let it show dyslexia under certain circumstances,” he said.

Galaburda estimated about 10 million to 20 million Americans, suffer from what can strictly be called dyslexia.

Some estimates say that dyslexia strikes as many as 15 percent of Americans, Galaburda said, but those estimates include children for whom the reading disability is part of a larger problem of learning disabilities.

James Kavanagh of the government’s National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in Bethesda, Md., said that heredity “surely doesn’t account for all reading failure, but it does account for some.”

Proposals from Mexican leader suggest change in election laws

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Sweeping political reform proposals presented Tuesday by President Miguel de la Madrid would allow opposition parties to gain at least 50 seats in the Chamber of Deputies, although none ever could win a majority.

The proposals de la Madrid offered to the Chamber would assure that his Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, retains the control it has had since the party was founded in 1929.

The revisions, if approved as expected by the PRI-dominated Congress, would revise Mexico’s election code for the first time since 1978 when the Chamber was expanded by 100 seats reserved for minority parties.

The chamber would be expanded from 400 seats to 500 seats under the new proposals.

The conservative National Action Party, or PAN, Mexico’s major opposition party, has charged for years that Mexico’s election code and post-election grievance policy favors the PRI.

PAN leaders were not available for comment on the proposals Tuesday, a spokeswoman at party headquarters said. But the Excelsior national news service quoted opposition leaders generally as dismissing the revisions, saying the proposals “cannot be called political reforms because they benefit only the PRI.”

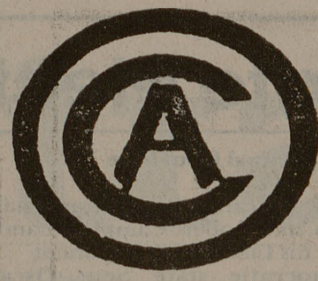
Under de la Madrid’s plan, 300 of the 500 seats in the lower house of Congress would be reserved for candidates winning a majority in their districts.

The other 200 seats would be distributed proportionally among all registered political parties. The PRI could win as many as 50 of those.

But the plan states that “the majority party (the PRI) will at no time lose the majority in the Chamber of Deputies.”

The PRI controls the 100-seat Senate, the Chamber of Deputies, all 31 governorships and the presidency.

De la Madrid’s proposals, offered during a time of widespread criticism of the ruling party, especially in the northern states where the PAN has more strength, would require the use of transparent ballot boxes instead of the cardboard or translucent boxes now used in most elections.



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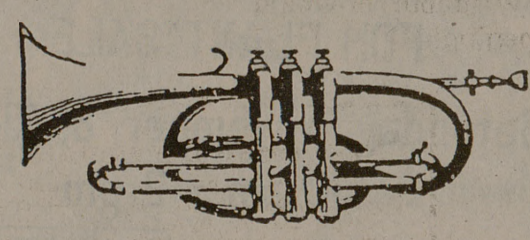
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