

## **Union, recruiter to help 'quest workers'**

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### **Body**

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The United Farm **Workers** of America and one of the nation's largest labor **recruiters** announced an agreement Tuesday to improve wages, benefits and working conditions for agricultural "**quest workers**." The agreement follows months of UFW criticism of Los Angeles-based **recruiter** Global Horizons over working conditions and wages.

The **quest-worker** program allows a labor contractor to bring in foreign **workers** if it can prove **workers** can't be found locally. Arturo Rodriguez, UFW president, said **workers** will receive a 2% pay raise over the federal Adverse Effect Wage Rate, the minimum wage rates that employers must pay under the program. The rates are set by states and are usually higher than state and federal minimum wages, in some places about \$9 per hour. Employers also will be required to pay for medical care and provide work breaks and other benefits.

At any one time, Global Horizons has 3,000 to 4,000 farmworkers in up to 28 states, said its president, Mordechai Orian. He said the number is expected to rise as farmers face a growing **worker** shortage. The **union** will represent all of those **workers**.

Chertoff: Changes to be in place by June

The federal government is on pace to have 11 priority emergency response changes completed when hurricane season starts June 1, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said. The changes involve restructuring to ensure that officials at all levels of government can communicate; that Washington has a real-time picture of a disaster as it hits; and that response staff and supplies are ready to go. The changes also include updating the national alert system and giving the military a greater role. "This is a case where we ... all hang together or we hang separately," Chertoff said. "We've got to be in partnership."

Sailors accused of sham marriages

Eight sailors were charged with arranging sham marriages to Polish and Romanian women in a scheme to collect bigger military housing allowances while **helping** the women obtain U.S. citizenship. The Naval Criminal Investigative Service and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement found that none of the women lived with the sailors they married, federal prosecutor Paul Perez said. The eight sailors received \$35,000 in fraudulent basic housing allowance payments, the investigators said. If convicted, the seven current and one former sailor from the USS Kennedy and USS Simpson could face up to five years in prison per count. The women also face charges, Perez said.

SAT chief apologizes for scoring errors

The president of the College Board sent an e-mail to more than 20,000 of its members apologizing for scoring problems on the SAT exam. "This situation has tested us. It has tested me," Gaston Caperton wrote in the e-mail to

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members, which include high schools, colleges and non-profit groups. "We could not be more sorry that this happened or more determined to learn from our experience." A lawsuit filed Friday seeks unspecified damages for the 4,411 of 495,000 October test-takers whose scores were initially underreported.

Briton denies killing wife, child in Mass.

A British man accused of killing his wife and 9-month-old daughter pleaded not guilty to murder charges during his arraignment in Cambridge, Mass. Neil Entwistle, 27, is charged with two counts of murder and firearms charges in the slayings Jan. 20 of his wife, Rachel, 27, and daughter Lillian Rose, who would have turned 1 Sunday. Entwistle flew to his parents' home in England the day after the killings. Prosecutors say he shot his family in their rented home outside Boston after racking up tens of thousands of dollars in debts and becoming dissatisfied with his sex life.

New telescope aims to get E.T.'s message

A Massachusetts observatory unveiled a powerful telescope designed to capture light signals transmitted to Earth by extraterrestrials. The telescope is the first to be developed solely to search the skies for light pulses from aliens and will cover 100,000 times the amount of sky covered by current equipment, said Bruce Betts, project director at The Planetary Society, a California-based group that funded the telescope's development. The telescope was built at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics' Oak Ridge Observatory, where the non-profit group has searched space for alien life. The new telescope will vastly improve the search, Betts said. "Sending laser signals across the cosmos would be a very logical way for E.T. to reach out, but until now, we have been ill-equipped to receive any such signal," Betts said.

## Graphic

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PHOTO, B/W, Joe Raedle, Getty Images

PHOTO, B/W, Chuck Branham, The (Charlestown, Ind.) Evening News, via AP

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