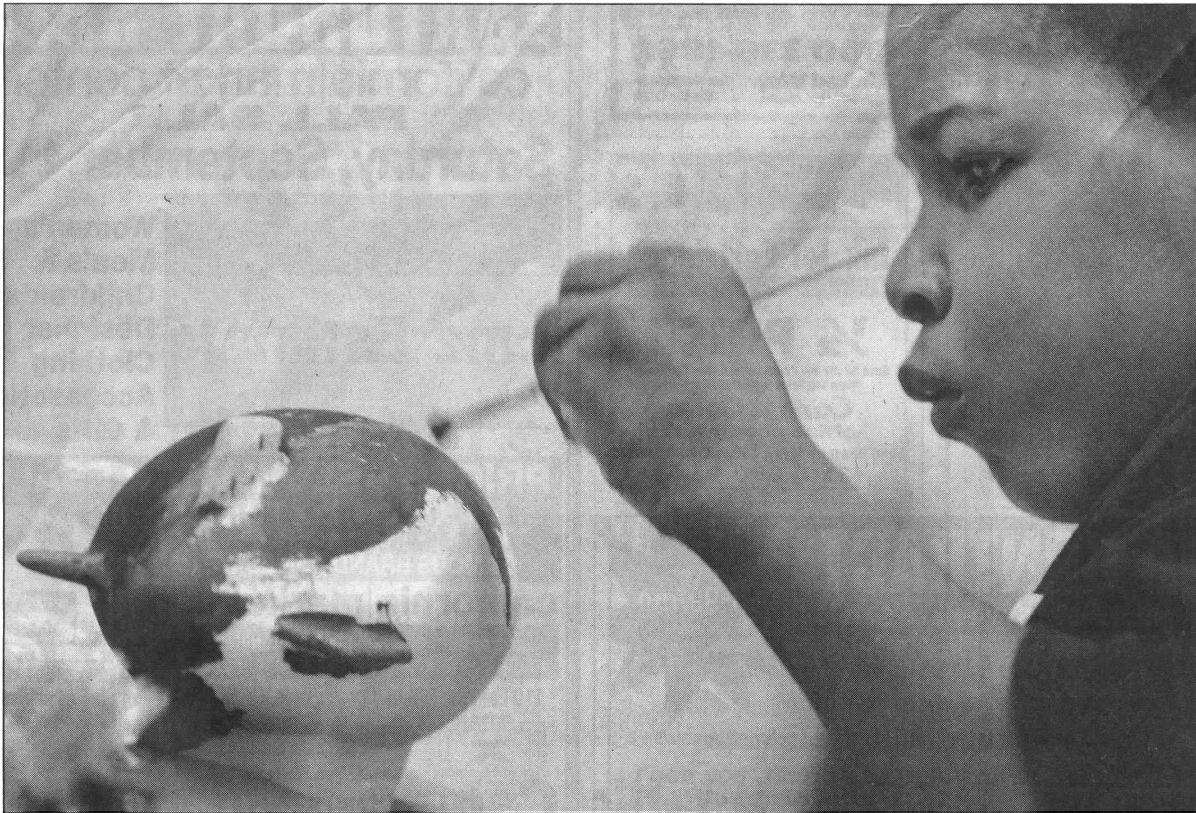


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Photographs by BÉATRICE DE GÉA *Los Angeles Times*

Thinking Big

At Gratts Elementary School near downtown, 6-year-old Devonne Billups paints a miniature blimp Wednesday and 9-year-old Geminis Montufar employs bigger brushstrokes, all as part of a program in four Southwest states called Soaring Dreams. The goal is a 40,000-square-foot canvas to adorn a large passenger blimp, which will bring the artwork to sporting and other events next year, spreading the message of young dreams and accomplishments.

