

Texas' Oldest Hispanic Owned Newspaper

# el Esalador

“El Respeto al Derecho  
Ajeno es la Paz”  
Lic Benito Juarez

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## Latinos Confront GOP Leader Over Social Security Comments

By Rosa Ramírez  
National Hispanic leaders are labeling as “shocking” and “unbelievable” comments made by House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee chairman suggesting that race and gender should be among the determining factors in allocating Social Security benefits.

Thomas made the remarks during an interview Jan. 23 on NBC News' Meet the Press. As the highest-ranking House Republican overseeing Social Security legislation, he spoke during the Sunday morning talk show intending to clear up his earlier comments that criticized President Bush's plan allowing individuals to create private Social Security accounts.

Reiterating a potential need to consider gender in allocating benefits, Thomas added, “We need to examine the question of race in terms of how many years of retirement do you get based upon your race.”

Meet the Press host Tim Russert probed, “Do you think Congress, Mr. Chairman, would accept any formula that said that people would be treated differently because of gender or their race?”

Thomas responded, “If we discuss it and the will is not to do it, fine. At least we discussed it.”

Brent Wilkes, national executive director for the League of United Latin American Citizens, called Thomas' comments “outrageous and unbelievable.”

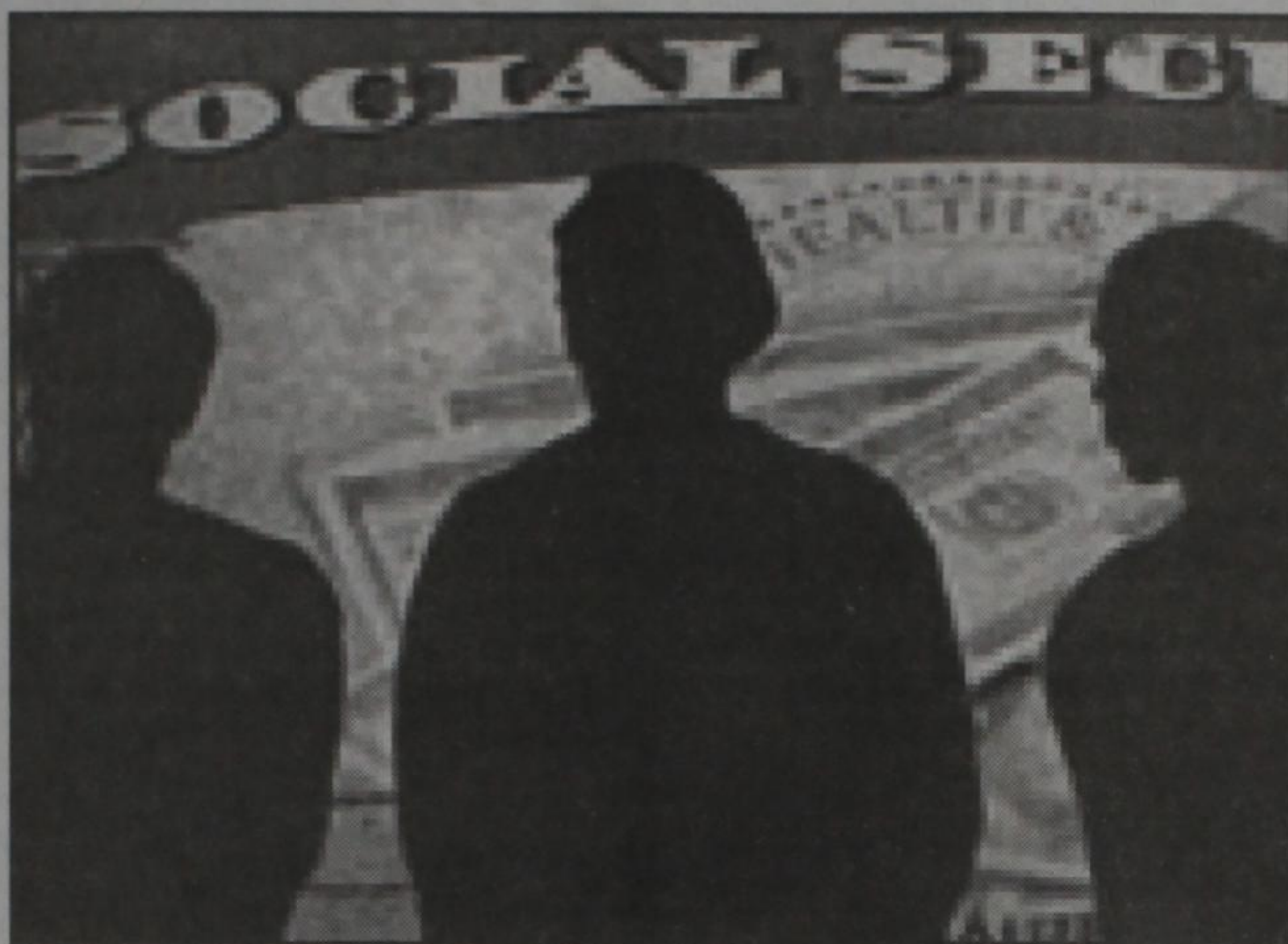
Wilkes commented to Hispanic Link News Service that the suggestion was intended to tell different ethnic groups that

there are different payoffs so each can see different benefits.

“I think it's a terrible idea,” he said. In a letter addressed to Thomas, U.S. Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-Calif.), who serves on the Social Security Subcommittee on

because those who would be most affected under such a proposal are those who need the benefits the most.

“I can't imagine there would be any Democrat support for such proposal,” he added.



Ways and Means, and Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-Ohio) wrote, “We hope that you will immediately clarify your previous statements regarding benefit cuts and the role race and gender should play in any Social Security proposal.”

Becerra related to Hispanic Link that he was “shocked and scared,” especially

Mario López, executive director for the Republicans' Congressional Hispanic Conference, told Weekly Report that the chairman's comments suggest that race and gender should be included in the Social Security discussion and not that benefits should be weighed by race or gender.

“Chairman Thomas is rightly concerned

with the race and gender disparities in the current system, and experts from a wide range of viewpoints acknowledge that this is a concern,” he said.

Thomas' comments came three days before President Bush held a press conference on his agenda to establish personal management retirement accounts as part of his plan to revamp Social Security.

Thomas stated that lawmakers should consider taking into account factors such as gender since women live longer than men. “We never have debated gender-adjusting Social Security,” he said.

Jennifer Crider, spokesperson for House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), told Hispanic Link that they are waiting for a response to a letter sent to Thomas also seeking an explanation.

“We ask you to clarify your previous statements supporting benefit cuts for America's working women, and to explain how your goal of privatizing the Social

Security program makes it easier, not harder, for women to achieve the financial security they have earned and paid for during their working years,” read the letter.

The letter was signed by 27 Democratic House members, including California Representatives Linda Sánchez, Grace Napolitano and Hilda Solís.

Martha Burk, chair of the National Council of Women's Organizations, said that Hispanic women would be particularly affected negatively by such a proposal because they earn less money.

According to the group's data, Hispanic women's earnings are on average 52.5 cents on the dollar of those of non-Hispanic white males.

The organization, which represents some 200 women's groups, also sent a letter to Thomas stating that if Social Security benefits will take into account gender, it should be done in a way that will compensate them.

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## Latinos Enfrentan el Dirigente Republicano por Sus Comentarios Sobre Seguro Social

por Rosa Ramírez  
Dirigentes hispanos nacionales til dan de “chocantes” e “inconcebibles” los comentarios del director de comité de medios y arbitrios de la Cámara, el representante Bill Thomas (republicano por California), que sugieren que la raza y el género deberían estar entre los factores determinantes al distribuir beneficios del Seguro Social.

Thomas hizo los comentarios durante una entrevista el 23 de enero en el programa de noticias de NBC llamado “Meet the Press”. Como el republicano de mayor categoría con autoridad sobre la legislación del Seguro Social, habló durante el programa matutino del domingo con la intención de aclarar comentarios que había hecho anteriormente que criticaban el plan del presidente Bush que permitiría que los individuos crearan cuentas privadas de Seguro Social.

Al reiterar la posible necesidad de considerar el género al distribuir los beneficios, Thomas añadió, “Debemos examinar la cuestión de raza en términos de la cantidad de años que uno recibe en base a su

raza”. Locutor del programa, Tim Russert, hizo ahínco en el comentario, “¿Le parece que el Congreso, Sr. Director, aceptaría alguna fórmula que dijera que se trate de manera distinta a las personas por razón de su género o su raza?”

Respondió Thomas, “Si lo discutimos, y la voluntad de hacerlo no existe, está bien. Al menos lo discutimos.”

Brent Wilkes, director ejecutivo a nivel nacional de la Liga de Ciudadanos Latino Americanos Unidos, dijo que los comentarios de Thomas eran “escandalosos” e “inconcebibles”.

Wilkes le comentó a Hispanic Link News Service que la sugerencia tenía el fin de avisar a los diferentes grupos étnicos que existen diferentes recompensas para que cada uno vea diferentes beneficios.

“Me parece una idea terrible”, dijo.

En una carta dirigida a Thomas, el representante demócrata por California, Xavier Becerra, miembro del subcomité de medios y arbitrios del Seguro Social y la representante demócrata por Ohio, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, escribieron, “Esperamos que de in-

mediato clarifique sus declaraciones previas sobre los recortes de beneficios y el papel que deberían jugar la raza y el género en cualquier propuesta referente al Seguro Social”.

Becerra le dijo a Hispanic Link que le resultaba “chocante y de temer”, en particular por lo que los más afectados bajo tal propuesta serían los que más necesitan de los beneficios.

“No me imagino que haya apoyo alguno de parte de los demócratas por una propuesta así”, agregó.

Mario López, director de la Conferencia de Congresistas Hispanos Republicanos, le dijo a Weekly Report que los comentarios del director sugieren que la raza y el género deberían incluirse en la discusión sobre el Seguro Social y no que los beneficios se determinen en base a la raza o el género.

“El director Thomas con razón siente preocupación por la disparidad en base a la raza y el género del sistema actual, y los peritos de una amplia gama de perspectivas reconocen que es un problema”, explicó.

Los comentarios de Thomas aparecieron tres días antes de una rueda de prensa del presidente Bush en la que explicó su programa por establecer cuentas de jubilación de administración personal como parte de su plan de reformar el Seguro Social.

Thomas declaró que los legisladores deberían considerar factores como el género, ya que las mujeres viven más años que los hombres. “No hemos debatido nunca ajustes al Seguro Social en base al género”, dijo.

Jennifer Crider, vocera de la dirigente demócrata de la Cámara de Representantes, Nancy Pelosi, (demócrata por California), le comentó a Hispanic Link que están esperando respuesta a su propia carta enviada a Thomas que también pide una explicación.

“Pedimos que clarifique sus declaraciones anteriores en apoyo a recortes de beneficios para la mujer trabajadora de los Estados Unidos, y que explique cómo su objetivo de privatizar el programa del Seguro Social facilita, y no dificulta, el que la mujer logre la seguridad financiera que se ha ganado y que ha pagado durante su vida laboral”, dice la carta.

Esta carta la firmaron 27 miembros demócratas de la Cámara, incluyendo a las representantes por California Linda Sánchez, Grace Napolitano e Hilda Solís.

Martha Burk, directora del Consejo Nacional de Organizaciones de Mujeres, dijo que a las mujeres hispanas en particular les afectaría negativamente una propuesta así, ya que ganan menos dinero. Según los datos de este grupo, la ganancia de la mujer hispana es, en promedio, 52.5 céntimos del dólar que gana el hombre blanco, no hispano.

Esta organización, que representa a unos 200 grupos de mujeres, también envió una carta a Thomas diciendo que si los beneficios del Seguro Social toman en cuenta el género, que sea de forma que compense a las mujeres.

(Rosa Ramírez es corresponsal con Hispanic Link News Service en Washington, D.C.) (c) 2005, Hispanic Link News Service

Léa El Ediator Primerero

## Comentarios

by Bidal Agüero  
Our series of Hispanics are Hot will continue next week with an article on how Hispanics are contributing economically to West Texas and the progress that has been realized by Hispanic in recent years.

## Hispanics are Hot!

Hispanics are hot and if your business in Lubbock isn't market ing to Hispanics, you may be missing out on a \$880.5 million dollar market. This according to 1999 estimates by the City of Lubbock reporting Hispanic aggregate yearly income. Taking into consideration a 6% growth rate since 1999, this \$880.5 million could have grown to over \$900 million by this year.

Further evidence of Hispanic are hot is shown by an article in Businessweek (January 17, 2005) that describes Hispanics as hot, hot, hot, there can be no doubt that something is happening in Hispanic marketing. According to the article, Hispanics' wealth and population is rising three times faster than the U.S. average.

In Lubbock the evidence of businesses realizing the importance of Hispanic business can be shown by the flourishing of Spanish speaking media outlets. In the past couple of years three new radio stations have opened in Lubbock. One station owned by Ramar coimunications follows the major communications stations' trend toward putting importance on the Hispanic market.

“RAMAR Communications has recognized the strength and growth potential of the Hispanic market for many years beginning with the launch of Telemundo in 1988, the first Spanish language station on the air in Lubbock to the top rated Hispanic radio station Magic 93.7 and now with a second FM station on the air for nearly a year with Estereo Latino 97.3 FM,” said stations manager Chuck Heinz.

Although the buying strength has become obvious, many of Lubbock's majority owned business have failed to capitalize on striving to get their business.

Heinz claims that businesses in Lubbock are starting to realize the potential and importance of Hispanic buying power. “I do think businesses recognize the power and are trying to reach the Hispanic community. I do think many are behind when it comes to their marketing effort and that its a whole approach in terms of the type of product, customer service and simply making folks feel at home when shopping at their stores or businesses.”

One business that has seen the potential has been American State Bank who this month hired Victor Salazar to the position of Vice President of Multi-cultural Marketing and Business Development. The position is unique to American State, with no other financial institution in the region offering such market-specific leadership.

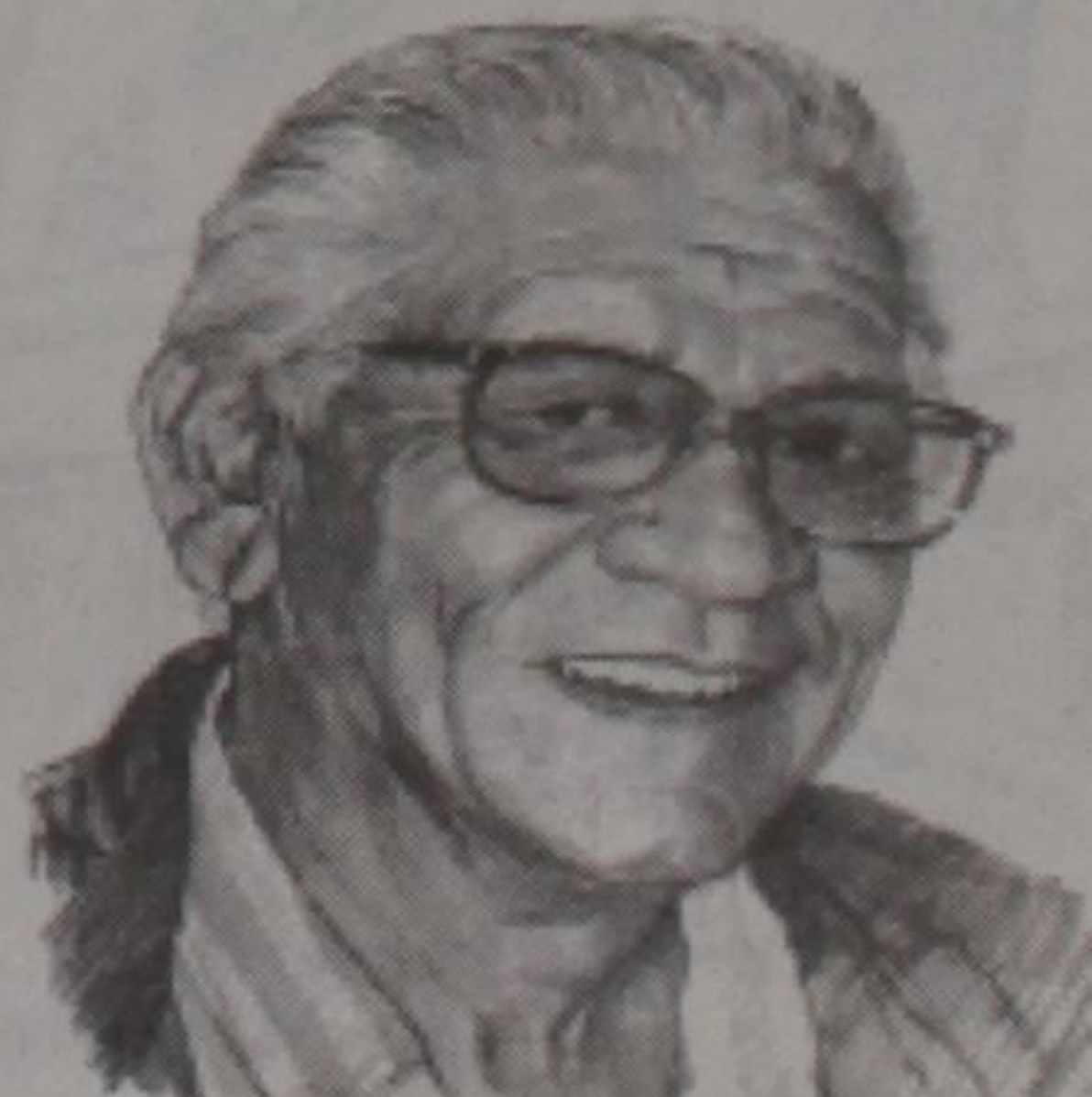
The trend to go after Hispanic business can be seen throughout industries. A recent report in the Detroit news reports that automakers think that the fiercest battle for new vehicle sales in the coming years may be fought over Hispanics.

The article states that “the nation's 40 million Hispanics account for 6 percent of the U.S. auto market today. Up more than 25 percent from five years ago, according to Polk Automotive Intelligence.”

Hispanics are hot and certainly their economic power is getting hotter and hotter.

## Refugio “Cuco” Alvarado

El lunes pasado pusieron a descansar los restos de Refugio “Cuco” Alvarado. Recordamos a Cuco como un fiel amigo que nos ayudo con este periodico cuando empesamos y cuando más necesitabamos la ayuda. Para nosotros el fue el verdadero ejemplo en lo que puede hacer una paersona como un apistolado. Realmente para nosotros no hay palabra que pueden describir lo que nosotros sentemos. Solamente decimos “We love you Cuco and may you rest in peace.



## A Moral Outrage:

## One American Child or Teen Killed by Gunfire Nearly Every 3 Hours

The horrific death toll from gunfire in the United States included 2,867 children and teens in 2002, nearly eight deaths a day and 55 a week, according to a report released today by the Children's Defense Fund. Firearms are the second leading cause of death among 10- to 19-year olds, second only to motor vehicle accidents. There were 71 victims under 5 years old. From 1979 through 2002, a total of 95,761 children and teens have been killed by firearms in America.

CDF published the latest figures today in “Protect Children, Not Guns,” an annual report that analyzes data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The report covers 2002, the most recent year for which national figures are available. CDF analysts broke down the data by state, race, age and manner of death. All the figures are available on the CDF website at www.childrensdefense.org.

Among the young people lost to gun violence in 2002 were 581 Hispanic children and teens, including 34 who never reached their 10th birthdays. The total number of Hispanic victims increased 12 percent compared with the previous year. From 1990 through 2002, more than 10,000 Hispanic children and teens were killed by firearms.

CDF President Marian Wright Edelman called for an end to the killing and urged political leaders to take action. “Why are we as a nation so silent in the face of this slaughter of children?” she asked. “At this critical time when the President and our elected leaders in Congress are making budget and legislative decisions, it is more important then ever for parents, faith

leaders and citizens to raise a moral voice in favor of choices that protect children.”

In September, President Bush and Congress allowed the federal Assault Weapons Ban to expire after 10 years, making it legal for Americans to buy rapid-fire military-style firearms that are engineered to kill large numbers of people in seconds. The number of children and teens who died from gunfire increased each year until the ban was put into effect in 1994. During the ban, the number of deaths of children and teens decreased steadily. In 2002, the annual toll in those age groups was 50 percent lower than in 1994.

“Since 1979, nearly 96,000 children and teenagers have died on the killing fields of Americamore than twice the American battle deaths in Vietnam,” Edelman said. “But where are the demonstrations protesting the senseless loss of these children? Why did the President and Congress let the Assault Weapons Ban expire when these deadly firearms are designed only to kill human beings, not to hunt? Why is the NRA able to block the collective will of more than two-thirds of Americans, who favor common-sense gun safety laws?”

The report calls on all Americans to take concrete steps to keep children safe, including advocating for more stringent gun control measures. “Every day in this country we lose at least eight children to the epidemic of gun violence,” said Edelman. “The rate of gun deaths in this country is higher than any other industrialized nation, and there is a reason for that. It is time to stop promoting the gun industry and start protecting our children.”



## Mexico starts DNA sampling to identify undocumented people

The Mexican government started in San Diego a DNA sampling program to identify undocumented people who die without carrying documents when crossing the California border, informed diplomatic sources today.

The consul of Mexico in San Diego, Luis Cuaron Goatherd, said that the program is based on a computerized system of DNA information of the unidentified victims to establish bonds with their relatives.

The program is coordinated with San Diego County's forensic office, in charge of identifying and making autopsies to the mortal remains found at the border strip as well as in the rest of the jurisdiction.

The first DNA sample for the

system by the consulate of Mexico in San Diego will be the one of an unidentified man, whose corpse was located last Sunday afternoon in the waters of the Tijuana River to the US side of the border.

Claudia Smith, Director of the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (CRLAF), said that around three thousand 300 undocumented people have died in the border from October 1, 1994 when they started the border control operations.

Smith estimated that 900 people lacked identification when they died in rivers, mountains, deserts or accidents while crossing the border, due to operations Guardian in California, Safeguard in Arizona, and Rio Grande in Texas.

## El Seguro Social:

# Los Latinos se Enfrentan con Dirigente Republicano por sus Comentarios

por Rosa Ramirez

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(Rosa Ramirez es correspondiente con Hispanic Link News Service en Washington, D.C.)

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# El jefe de gobierno del DF anuncia una movilización nacional

Andrés Manuel López Obrador, jefe de gobierno del Distrito Federal, anunció que convocará a una movilización pacífica nacional el día en que la Cámara de Diputados decida debatir el desafuero que enfrenta, con el propósito de que se le permita defenderse de un proceso que considera políticamente contaminado.

"Voy a convocar a una manifestación pacífica el día que se decida el asunto en el pleno de la Cámara de Diputados. Ese día si voy a pedirle a la gente que nos acompañe, sólo esa manifestación, pacífica y siempre a actuar en forma responsable", anticipó.

"Se van a ofrecer alegatos, pero no se ve que haya voluntad de hacer justicia", dijo el político que en reiteradas ocasiones ha señalado que la idea del desafuero es tratar de evitar la posible búsqueda de una candidatura presidencial.

En caso de que la comisión legislativa, conocida como Sección Instructora, concluya que el desafuero del alcalde es procedente, la Cámara de Diputados —integrada por 500 legisladores— tendría que erigirse en tribunal para votar a favor o en contra del proyecto.

Aunque no hay plazos para que la Sección Instructora concluya el proyecto, su presidente ha dicho que podría estar listo alrededor de marzo.

De proceder el desafuero, el político tendría que enfrentar en los tribunales una acusación de abuso de autoridad y de alargarse el proceso penal hasta 2006 estaría impedido de buscar una candidatura presidencial, pues la Constitución señala que ningún ciudadano que enfrente un proceso penal puede ser candidato a un puesto de representación popular. El gobernante capitalino aclaró ante la prensa que las marchas de protesta por las calles del país se desarrollarán en paz absoluta, puesto que "no voy a llevar a la gente a la confrontación".

Los reporteros le preguntaron si ha medido las consecuencias de tales manifestaciones de inconformidad, tomando en cuenta que seguramente sería multitudinaria la participación y, por tanto, muy alto el riesgo de que la pasión política se desborde.

López Obrador respondió que "el aviso tiene que ver con una actuación responsable, ni siquiera es una advertencia. Me voy a defender, en el Pleno, me tienen que permitir el uso de la palabra (en la Cámara)".

Recordó que en la historia reci-

## Foster/Adoptive Parent Meeting

When abuse and neglect occurs, and children are no longer able to safely remain in their own homes, we are fortunate enough to have individuals willing to provide care and support to them in licensed foster homes. Foster care provides a temporary safe haven for children as Child Protective Services (CPS) caseworkers and foster parents work toward uniting children with their families. These children, through no fault of their own, were placed in abusive or neglectful situations by their biological parents. In some situations, they are not able to return home and deserve a chance for a new life with adoptive parents who can teach them that family can be a safe place.

There is an urgent need for more families to open their hearts and homes by becoming foster and adoptive parents. To learn more about fostering and adoption, attend an informational meeting the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the CPS office located at #7 Briercroft Office Park (57th & Ave. P), in Lubbock.

ente y antigua de México, cada vez que se ha pretendido excluir de un proceso democrático a un dirigente o un movimiento, el pueblo sale a protestar en contra de esa injusticia.

Desafío  
Primero en las encuestas de popularidad para las elecciones presidenciales de 2006, el alcalde perredista desafió a sus adversarios políticos: "Si no les caemos bien, si no les gusta nuestro proyecto alternativo de Nación que se resuelva este asunto en las urnas, que sea el pueblo el que decida".

El anuncio de movilizaciones hecho por López Obrador llegó un día antes del cierre de la etapa de aportación de pruebas relacionadas con su desafuero por parte de la Sección Instructora de la Cámara de Diputados.

Se pretende retirar al gobernante local su fuero constitucional con el alegato de que el año pasado ilegalmente mandó a hacer una calle que conduce a un hospital. La obra pública se ubicaba en un lote baldío, conocido como El Encino, que era disputado jurídicamente por el gobierno de la ciudad y un particular. La avenida finalmente quedó inconclusa.

En este contexto, y apenas el martes, con tres votos a favor de los diputados del PAN y PRI, y

uno en contra, del PRD, se resolvió cerrar la instrucción y rechazar la solicitud del mandatario capitalino de realizar un nuevo peritaje de los perímetros del predio, por las supuestas contradicciones en las indagaciones de la Procuraduría General de la República (PGR).

Por consiguiente, el caso se empezará a ventilar formalmente del 13 al 18 del presente mes, periodo en el que ambas partes deberán presentar sus alegatos a fin de comenzar con el análisis del expediente y emitir el fallo. Los miembros de la sección no han querido dar a conocer una fecha de resolución.

Para numerosos analistas políticos el desafuero al jefe de gobierno sería realmente una artimaña orientada a excluirlo legalmente de participar como candidato presidencial en los comicios de 2006. Al ver que no se sustentaba el caso, han sugerido inclusive que se detenga el proceso porque ello representaría un duro golpe para la tierna democracia mexicana.

López Obrador lamentó ayer que hasta ahora la Sección Instructora, integrada por dos priistas, un panista y un perredista, ha desechando todas las pruebas que demuestran que "todo fue fabricado" en su contra "para hacernos a un lado con miras a las elecciones

de 2006, algo que es evidente, lo ha dicho el Presidente de la República, lo dijo su esposa".

Se quejó de que en el juicio que se sigue para separarlo del cargo, y ser procesado por un presunto desacato judicial, los diputados federales "actúan por consigna y con criterios políticos", al no tomar en cuenta aspectos jurídicos para determinar si violó o no la ley.

Insistió en que el Presidente de la República dio la orden para que se iniciara un enjuiciamiento en su contra, y que para ello "todo fue fabricado, no tengo responsabilidad, no violé ninguna ley, no hay ninguna prueba en mi contra".

Por su parte, Germán Martínez, coordinador adjunto del PAN en la Cámara de Diputados, calificó de inapropiado que el mandatario capitalino se anticipa al procedimiento de desafuero.

"Suena extraña su advertencia, a menos que él tenga ya la fecha, la Sección Instructora no ha dicho cuándo va a terminar sus trabajos. Yo sé que a López Obrador le urge hacerse la víctima, pero hasta el momento no hay dictamen".

Hasta la redacción de esta nota la fracción parlamentaria del Partido Revolucionario Institucional no se había pronunciado al respecto.



# Have Fun With Your Kids

It's a fact.

The more you get involved in the lives of children, the less likely they are to use alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs.

Positive, healthy activities help kids build skills, self-discipline, and confidence.

Get into the act. Call 1.800.729.6686. Se habla español.

Your Time. Their Future. Let's Keep Our Kids Drug Free.

TDD 1.800.487.4889. <http://www.health.org>



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration  
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention

# JLo. and Marc to make first married performance at Grammys

Newlywed singing superstars Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony will make their world debut on stage together at this month's Grammy Awards, organizers of music's top prizes said Wednesday.

The couple, who married at a secret ceremony in Los Angeles on June 5 last year, will perform together at the 47th annual Academy Awards, which will be held in Los Angeles on February 13.

Organizers said that the performance would be the first ever joint stage appearance by the famed singer and actress and her husband, a Latin superstar who is nominated for one of music's top honors this year.

Grammy and Latin Grammy winner Marc Anthony is currently nominated in the best Latin pop album for his album "Amar Sin Mentiras" and in the best salsa or merengue album for



"Valio La Pena."

In addition, the show will feature a special fund-raising musical performance of John Lennon and Paul McCartney's "Across The Universe" on behalf of relief efforts in Asia following December's tsunami.

Also performing at this year's awards will be Alicia Keys, Irish rockers U2, country star Tim McGraw and Grammy-nominated punk rock outfit Green Day.

Nominee Kanye West will also have a special segment, and a special tribute to the late soul legend Ray Charles featuring Bonnie Raitt and Billy Preston will be presented.

The show, to be held at Los Angeles' Staples Center, will be hosted by red-hot musical diva and movie star Queen Latifah, while actor John Travolta and comedienne Ellen DeGeneres will be among the award presenters. AFP



# Bobby Pulido to participate in a conference about Selena

The Mexican origin actor Edward James Olmos and Texan singer Bobby Pulido will attend this Thursday a conference in which the program "Selena Lives" will be announced to honor the late "Queen of Tex-mex"

Univision, the largest Hispanic TV broadcaster, indicated that a press conference will be held February 3 at Houston's Reliant stadium.

The conference, to be attended by Selena's relatives and Houston's Major, Bill White, will be conducted by Myrka Dellanos (Girlfriend of Mexican singer Luis Miguel).

James Olmos, who played Selena's father, Abraham Quintanilla in the film "Selena", starring Jennifer Lopez, directs the Selena Foundation, created to motivate children and young people to continue studying.

Bobby Pulido, one of the most popular singers in the "Texano" music genre, was added to the list of artists to pay homage to Selena at the April 7 concert.

The three hour concert will be broadcasted live by Univision and will have the participation of Gloria Estefan, Carlos Vives, Thalia, Lucero, Ana Gabriel and the Kumbia Kings sharing the stage.

Famous by hit tunes as "Amor Prohibido", "Como la flor" and "Bidi bidi bom bom", Selena Quintanilla was murdered by her employee Yolanda Saldivar in a Corpus Christi motel on May 31, 1995.

## Record:

# Seis Latinos, Cuarto Peliculas en Español, Competiran en Los Oscar

por Antonio Mejias-Rentas

Cuando se anuncien en Hollywood los premios de la academia de cinematografía el 27 de febrero en el teatro Kodak, estarán compitiendo, sin precedente, seis cineastas latinos.

Un récord de cuatro películas en español ganaron seis nominaciones al premio el 25 de enero, incluyendo la categoría de mejor actriz protagonista para una novel actriz colombiana.

Catalina Sandino Moreno se convirtió en la tercera mujer latinoamericana en competir para el Oscar de mejor actriz protagonista con su nominación por la popular película María llena eres de gracia.

Dos películas en español más compiten en dos categorías cada una.

Diatris de motocicleta, del dramaturgo puertorriqueño José Rivera está nominada en la categoría de guión adaptado, y su canción temática, Al otro lado del río, le otorgó la candidatura a la categoría de mejor canción al cantautor Jorge Drexler, de Uruguay.

Como era de esperar, la entrega oficial de España, Mar adentro, ha sido nombrada a la categoría de mejor película de habla no inglesa. También se llevó una nominación por maquillaje, para los artistas Jo Allen y Manolo García.

La cuarta película en español nominada es A las 7:30 a.m., del director Nacho Vigalondo, que compite en la categoría mejor corto documental de ficción.

El número de nominaciones hace empatie con el récord del 2003, cuando hubo tres películas en español y una en inglés de temática latina que se llevaron seis nominaciones.

Incluyendo al director de Mar adentro, Alejandro Amenábar, son seis los individuos latinos entre los nominados- el número más alto en los 77 años de la presentación de los premios.

Dos latinos nominados que viven en los Estados Unidos estaban comprensiblemente emocionados con su nominación.

En Nueva York, Sandino Moreno dijo que hablaba por teléfono con su mamá, que está en Colombia, cuando vio su foto y oyó su nombre durante el anuncio por televisión.

"Salté de la felicidad", le explicó a El diario/LA PRENSA de aquella ciudad. "No, no puedo explicar en palabras concisas cómo me sentí en ese momento - es un 'mixture' (mezcla) de emociones".

La actriz, nacida en Colombia, debutó en la película María, del cineasta de Nueva York, Joshua Marston, una bomba el año pasado en el festival de cine Sundance y que ha triunfado en varios eventos más. Sandino Moreno ganó la categoría de mejor actriz protagonista durante el festival de cine en Berlín el año pasado. La película vuelve a competir en una categoría similar este año durante los premios Independent Spirit (espíritu independiente), donde está entre las primeras de la competencia.

Se presentó la película María el año pasado como candidata colombiana a mejor película de habla no inglesa, pero fue rechazada por la Academia de Artes y Ciencias Cinematográficas porque la mayoría de sus cineastas no provenían de aquel país.

Nunca antes había sido nominada una latina a mejor actriz protagonista. Las únicas concursantes anteriores de esta categoría

fueron Fernanda Montenegro, de Brasil, por Central do Brasil (1998) y Salma Hayek, de México, por Frida (2003). Sandino Moreno es la primera actriz en ser nominada en base a una presentación en español.

Diarios es el primer guión de José Rivera en hacerse película general. El residente de Los Angeles dijo a La Opinión de aquella ciudad que un amigo lo despertó antes del amanecer cuando se anunció su nominación.

# Six Latinos, Four Spanish-Language Films, will compete for Oscars

By Antonio Mejias-Rentas

When the Academy Awards are announced at Hollywood's Kodak Theatre Feb. 27, an unprecedented six Latino filmmakers will be involved in the competition.

A record four Spanish-language films earned six Academy Award nominations Jan. 25, including a best actress nod for a debuting Colombian thespian.

Catalina Sandino Moreno became the third Latin American woman to compete for a best actress Oscar with her nomination for the festival hit María llena eres de gracia.

Two other Spanish-language films compete in two categories each.

Diarios de motocicleta earned Puerto Rican playwright José Rivera a nod for adapted screenplay, and its thematic Al otro lado del río gave a best song candidacy to Uruguayan singer-songwriter Jorge Drexler.

As expected, Spain's official entry Mar adentro is up for best foreign language film. It also took a makeup nod, with nominations going to artists Jo Allen and Manolo García.

The fourth Spanish-language nominee is A las 7:35 a.m. de la mañana, a film from Spanish director Nacho Vigalondo that competes for best live-action short.

The number of nominations ties the record set in 2003, when three Spanish-language films and one English-language Latino-themed movie took six nods.

Including Mar adentro director Alejandro Amenábar, there are six individual Latinos among nominees for the 77th annual Academy Awards - the highest number ever.

Two Latino nominees who live in the United States were understandably excited by the nominations.

In New York, Sandino Moreno said she was speaking on the phone with her mother in Colombia when she saw her picture and heard her name called out during the televised announcement.

Rivera basó su guión en los escritos de Ernesto "Che" Guevara y Alberto Granado, dos argentinos que se convirtieron en héroes de la revolución cubana. La película narra su trayectoria juvenil por varios países sudamericanos.

"Para mí, significa mucho que habrá más gente que verá la película ahora, y que quizá haya mayor comprensión de quién era Ernesto Guevara", dijo Rivera.

Los cuatro nominados latinos

continúa en la página 6

"I jumped with joy," she told the city's El diario/LA PRENSA. "I can't explain how I felt. It was a mixture of emotions."

The Colombia-born actress made her debut in New York filmmaker Joshua Marston's María, a breakout hit at last year's Sundance Film Festival that has triumphed at several events since. Sandino Moreno won the best actress award at the Berlin Film Festival last year. It competes in a similar category this year at the Independent Spirit Awards, where María is a top contender.

María was submitted last year as Colombia's candidate for best foreign language film but rejected by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences because most of its filmmakers were not from that country.

No Latina has ever won the best actress nod. The only previous competitors in the category were Brazil's Fernanda Montenegro for Central do Brasil (1998) and Mexico's Salma Hayek for Frida (2003). Sandino Moreno is the first actress nominated for a performance in Spanish.

Diarios is the first script by José Rivera to become a feature film. The Los Angeles resident told the city's daily La Opinión he was awakened before dawn by a friend when his nomination was announced.

Rivera based his script on the writings of Ernesto "Che" Guevara and Alberto Granado, two Argentinians who became heroes of the Cuban Revolution. The film tells of their youthful journeys through several South American countries.

"To me, it means a great deal that more people may see the movie now, and that perhaps there will be more understanding of who Ernesto Guevara was," said Rivera.

The four other Latino nominees live and work in Spain, although two of them were born in South America.

Drexler, a native of Montevideo

continúa en la página 6

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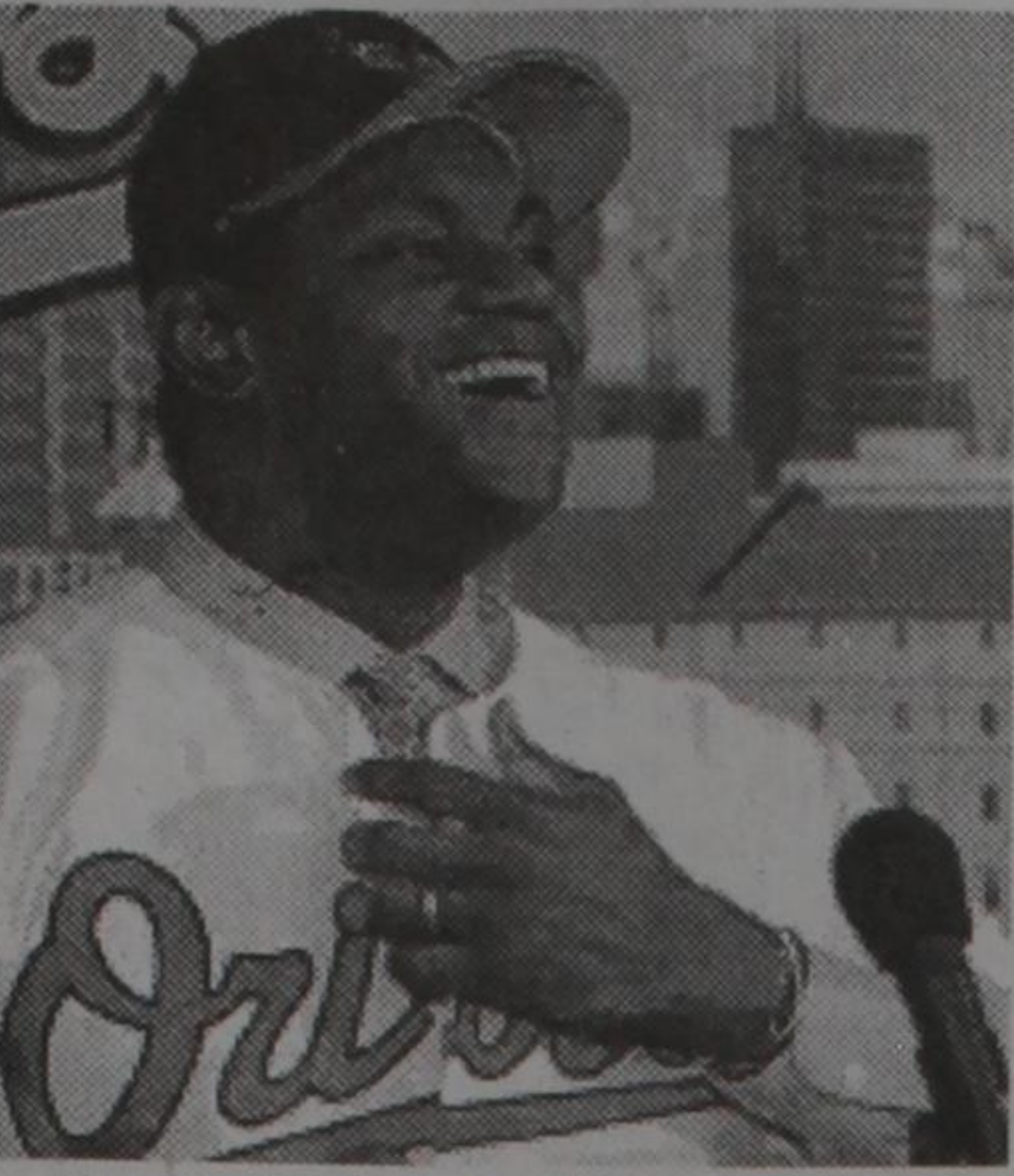
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# All i's dotted, t's crossed so Sosa becomes

Tapping his heart and thrusting both thumbs upward, Sammy Sosa stepped to the podium and flashed the broad smile that Chicago Cubs fans know too well. Sosa loved his 13 years with the Cubs, yet he happily put all that behind him Wednesday upon joining the Baltimore Orioles.

"I gave Chicago everything that I have. It was a beautiful experience for my wife and family," he said. "I had a great time in Chicago, but you have to move on. This is my new house, and I love it."

Sosa joined the Orioles after commissioner Bud Selig approved the deal and the slugger passed his physical. Chicago received second baseman Jerry Hairston Jr. and two minor leaguers, second baseman Mike Fontenot and right-handed pitcher Dave Crouthers.

Sosa was peppered with questions about his final days with the team and his shaky relationship with Cubs manager Dusty Baker. Sosa insisted that, while he will take nothing but fond memories from his days with the Cubs, it was time to start anew.

"My legacy is there, but I haven't finished yet. The best of Sammy Sosa is coming now," he said. "I wanted to finish my career here, but it didn't happen. I'm here now in Baltimore and I'm going to win the crowd."

Sammy Sosa makes himself right at home in his new threads. (AP) Under terms of the addendum to Sosa's contract that he signed Wednesday, the Cubs will pay \$16.15 million of the \$25 million Sosa was still owed under his \$72 million, four-year agreement, according to details obtained by the Associated Press.

Baltimore is responsible for just \$8.85 million of Sosa's \$17 million salary this year, with the Cubs paying the rest. Because Sosa is paid on a 12-month basis

and already had received \$1,307,692 of his salary this year, that amount was credited to what the Cubs owe Baltimore, meaning the Orioles will receive \$6,842,308 in cash from Chicago. As part of the trade, Chicago will pay Sosa \$3.5 million in severance within 30 days. The \$18 million 2006 option in his contract was eliminated, and the \$4.5 million buyout was converted to a \$4.5 million assignment bonus, which the Cubs must pay by March 15. He also agreed to eliminate the \$19 million option for 2007 that his contract said would be added if he was traded.

"It's a good situation for Sammy, it's a good situation for the Baltimore Orioles and it's also something we feel is in our best interests," Cubs general manager Jim Hendry said. "Sammy has done tremendous things for this organization and the game, and we feel we should dwell on the positives that he's done for this franchise when we needed it, and when the game needed it. The great things he did in a four or five-year stretch had monumental significance."

The man nicknamed Slamin' Sammy, whose 574 home runs rank seventh on baseball's career list, endeared himself to Cubs fans when he hit 66 homers in 1998 during a duel with Mark McGwire. Sosa maintained his popularity and sweet home run swing for three years after that, but his rapport with the team and its rabid fans began to sour in 2003, when he was suspended for seven games for using a corked bat.

After a 2004 season in which Sosa's batting average dipped to .253 and he walked out on the team before its final game, the Cubs began looking to deal the disgruntled star.

"Sometimes in life, change is good," Hendry said. "Certainly, we wish him the best."

# Pats scored with Brady; What Were Others Thinking?

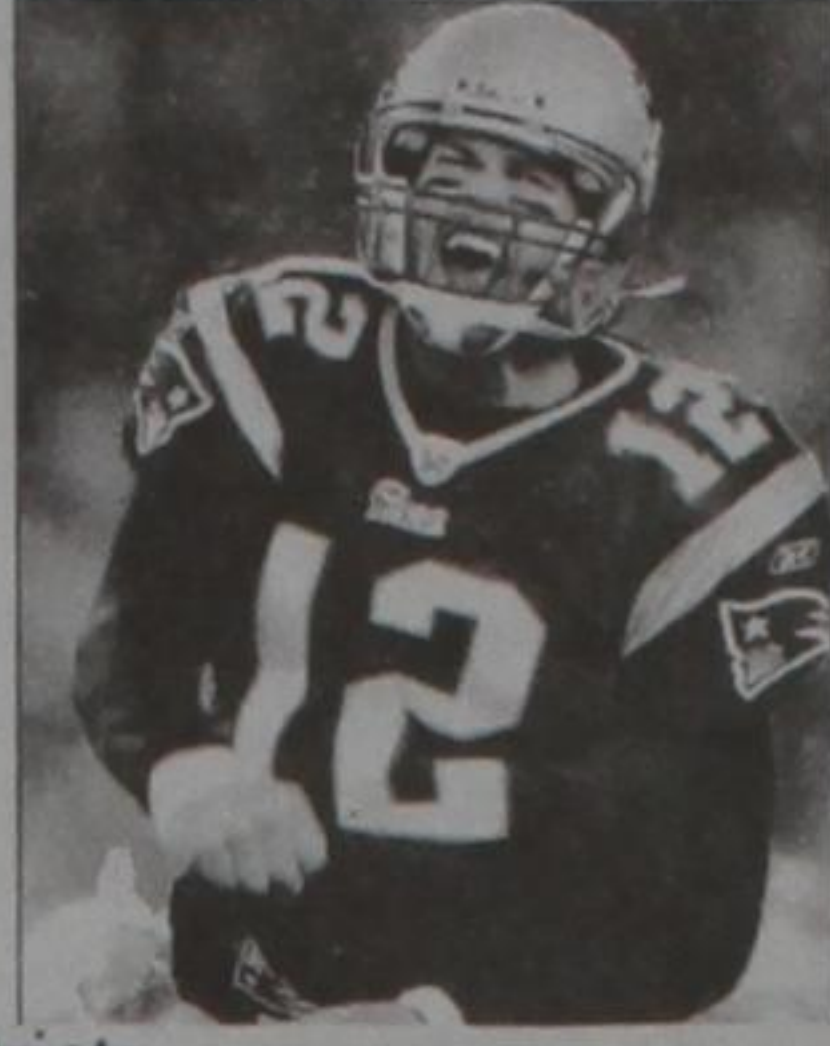
This is what we know about Tom Brady, quarterback of the New England Patriots: He hasn't lost a playoff game, he hasn't lost a Super Bowl and he hasn't lost to Peyton Manning.

NFL talent evaluators didn't see greatness in Tom Brady during his Michigan days. (Getty Images) So why did everyone but New England miss on the guy?

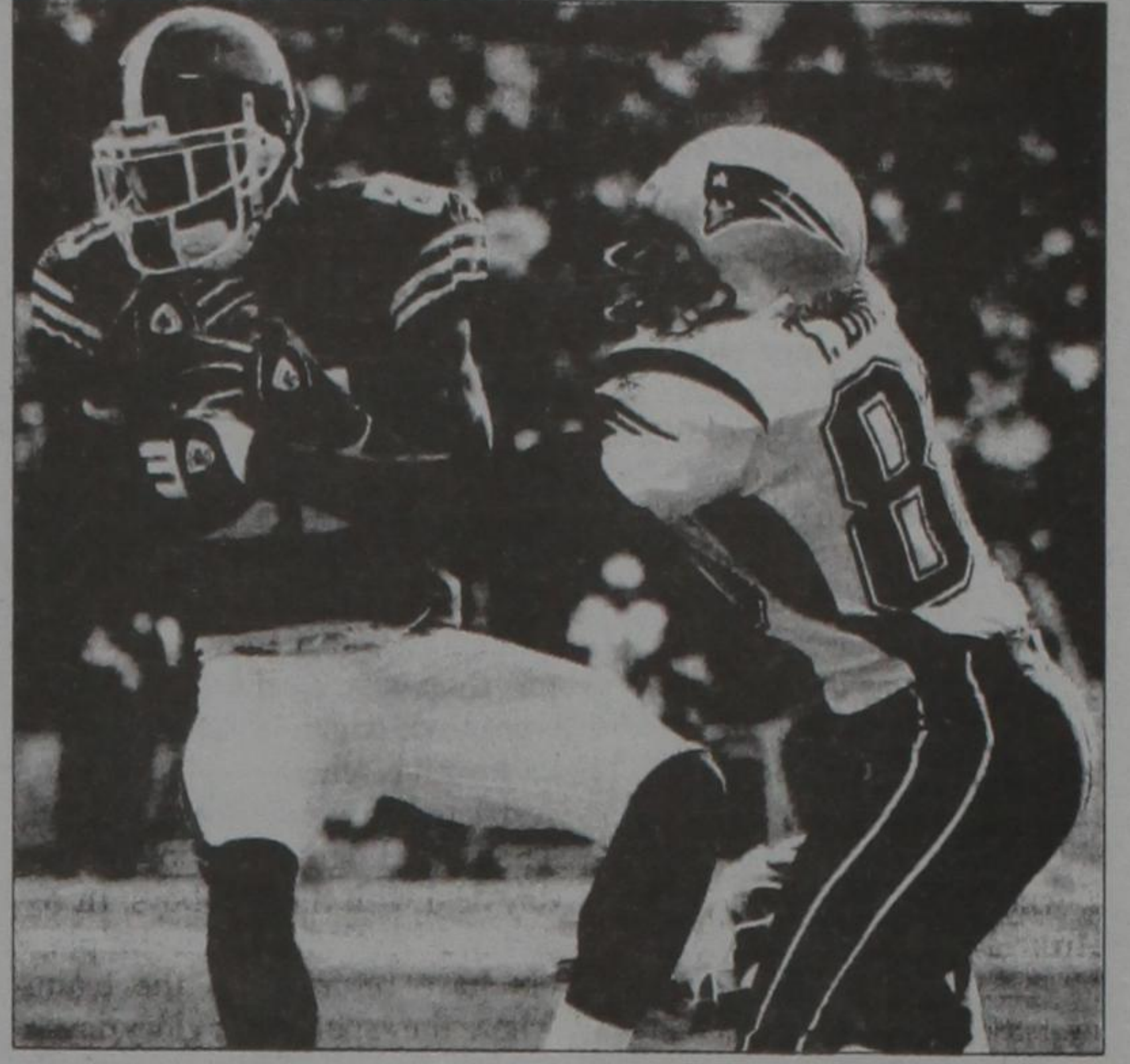
Brady wasn't the first quarterback taken in the 2000 draft. He wasn't the second or third. He was the seventh, chosen in the sixth round with the 199th choice. Ahead of him, in order, went Chad Pennington, Gio Carmazzi, Chris Redman, Tee Martin, Marc Bulger and Spergon Wynn.

Yes, Spergon Wynn. Brady might have slipped past the Patriots, too, were it not for quarterbacks coach Dick Rehbein, who pushed hard for his selection but died from heart problems in August 2001 before the QB made it big. The Patriots were considering two quarterbacks, Tim Rattay and Brady, and it was Rehbein who argued the case for the Michigan quarterback.

"He stood on the table and said, 'If it were up to me this is my guy,'" said a source close to the



Patriots. Now, Brady's the Patriots' guy. He's 8-0 in the playoffs, 2-0 in Super Bowls and a two-time Super Bowl MVP. Yet, as pro scouts pointed out, he might not be here were it not for Mo Lewis sidelining then-starter Drew Bledsoe with a vicious hit in 2001, forcing the club to turn to its backup. Tom Brady. But that's how it sometimes happens. The Rams won Super Bowl XXXIV with league MVP Kurt Warner, a former Arena League quarterback who took over only after Trent Green tore knee ligaments in a preseason game. You have to be lucky and good, and the Patriots have been both with Brady. "I think one of the problems is



that we're all looking for the next Peyton Manning," said an NFC scout. "We're all looking for that guy to bet on instead of looking for a quarterback who's steady. In all honesty, Tom Brady was really an afterthought at Michigan to Brian Griese, and nobody until

the Patriots were willing to take a chance on who Tom Brady was. I don't know, did we miss on Tom Brady or was this just one man's vision?" You make the call. Here's a look at four teams that passed on Brady and why:

# Throwing the Perfect Super Bowl Party

Super Bowl Sunday, the "sports holiday" of the year, is February 6, and millions of Americans will gather around their televisions with family and friends to watch the game and party like they are there in the stands.

What food to serve? Are the snack bowls filled? Is there enough ice? All questions a busy party host asks before and during a Super Bowl party. Weber-Stephen Products Co., the premier manufacturer of charcoal and gas grills and related accessories, along with award-winning chefs and authors, Jamie Purviance and Rozanne Gold, provide tips on how to stay out of the kitchen, keep drinks refreshed, enjoy the game and still throw the perfect Super Bowl party.

Organize by Planning Ahead: Every party is a success because the host is organized. Avoid a delay of game penalty by having to run to the supermarket 10 minutes before kickoff. Create a budget and develop a shopping list of food, beverage items, and decorations. Put together a "to do" list

and timeline of when to get things done.

The Grill: Make sure the grilling guru is ready with equipment and prepared to handle the elements. A few tips to follow when grilling with a charcoal or gas grill:

Charcoal: Check the charcoal supply and make sure there are enough briquets for grilling before the game, at half-time, and when the final whistle blows. If you've traditionally used lighter fluid for the charcoal, check out the alternatives to ensure your food doesn't taste like fuel. A chimney starter that uses paper or odorless lighter cubes is also inexpensive, easy and importantly, safer.

Gas: Make sure there is enough propane in the tank to last throughout the day. Before the day of the game check to make

sure the grill is working properly. For additional grilling basics, tips, and recipes check out <http://www.weber.com>.

Ask and Say Yes: People want to help and want to be included in the party planning. It's all right to ask family members to bring food and drink. When asked by a guest if they can bring something, say yes, and tell them what is needed.

What to Make: Hungry linemen like things that

go "crunch." But also consider shrimp and dips for the quarterbacks and receivers. Have a balanced menu of cold foods that can be put out and not fussed with and a few hot dishes that can be easily reheated if needed. Consider the following menu suggestions. (Recipes can be found in Weber's Art of the Grill(TM), Weber's Big Book of Grilling(TM), and Gold's Low Carb 1-2-3: The Low-Calorie, Low Carbohydrate *continued on page 6*

# Esperanza contra el mal de Alzheimer

Las neuronas de ratones se recuperaron rápidamente al quitar ciertas placas cerebrales características del mal de Alzheimer, generando esperanzas de que el tratamiento beneficie a pacientes de la enfermedad, dijeron el jueves investigadores de la Universidad Washington.

Los resultados del estudio aparecerán en la edición del 5 de febrero del Journal of Clinical Investigation.

No se sabe con certeza si la placa pegajosa —péptido beta amiloide— es la verdadera causa del Alzheimer, una enfermedad degenerativa del cerebro que priva a quienes la padecen de la memoria, la capacidad de comunicarse y de cuidar de sí mismos.

Pero la placa es uno de los principales sospechosos, y varios laboratorios farmacéuticos están desarrollando drogas para combatir la acumulación.

Los investigadores en la Universidad Washington inyectaron ratones con un anticuerpo que eliminó la placa en partes del cerebro. Al quitarse la placa, desapareció rápidamente la inflamación en ramas de células nerviosas, dijeron los investigadores. Advirtieron que estos resultados son alentadores, pero se necesitan mayores estudios para determinar si sucederá lo mismo en seres humanos.

La remoción de la placa "condujo frecuentemente a la recuperación de la estructura normal en pocos días", dijo Dave Holtzman, autor principal del estudio y jefe del departamento de neurología de la universidad.

Esto confirma las bondades de los tratamientos antiplaca y "también nos obliga a volver sobre las teorías acerca de cómo las placas dañan las células nerviosas", añadió.

Holtzman y otros científicos consideraban que los daños causados por la placa a las células nerviosas eran irreversibles. Pero estos resultados, dijo, indican que la placa no sólo causa el daño sino que lo mantiene activamente.

El investigador Robert Brendza dijo que preveía que el daño cesaría una vez removida la placa. "Pero vimos algo mucho más notable: en apenas tres días se produjeron reducciones del 20% al 25% en el número o tamaño de las inflamaciones existentes".

La capacidad de las células de recuperar rápidamente su estructura normal indicaría que las célu-

las tratan constantemente de hacerlo, dijeron los investigadores.

El doctor Sam Gandy, vicepresidente del consejo médico y científico de la Asociación Alzheimer en Chicago, dijo que el resultado era "un avance bastante

prometedor".

"Demuestra que una de las anomalías estructurales utilizadas desde hace tiempo para definir la enfermedad en realidad no son permanentes, en realidad son reversibles", dijo Gandy

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# Maria Celeste al rojo vivo con el rey Vicente Fernández

En la entrevista más reveladora de su carrera, Vicente Fernández se confiesa ante María Celeste Arrarás, la presentadora de Telemundo, en su rancho "Los Tres Potrillos" de Guadalajara México. El propio rey del palenque admite que nunca antes había sido retado por una periodista como en esta ocasión. Durante el especial de Telemundo "Vicente Fernández: Al Rojo Vivo con el Rey" a transmitirse este domingo, 6 de febrero a las 8pm / 7pm centro, la gran leyenda de la música mexicana experimenta varias emociones extremas desde reírse a carcajadas hasta llorar a lagrima viva.

"La idea de este especial era hablar con Don Chente sobre temas y cosas íntimas que nada tienen que ver con los temas trillados sobre su vida que tanto han dado de que hablar en el pasado", dijo la presentadora de Al Rojo Vivo. "Creo que el resultado dejará que el público vea un lado de él nunca antes visto".

El expresivo rey de la música ranchera, también revela cuál es la artista a la que le gustaría morder una nalga además de hablar de una forma muy abierta sobre sus infidelidades. Durante el especial de una hora de duración, él también comparte sus pasatiempos más íntimos con María Celeste, incluyendo su nueva pasión por la pintura al óleo y su amor por los caballos miniaturas que colecciona en su rancho. Pero, lo más emotivo es que por primera vez escucharemos el lado espiritual de esta legendaria figura de la cultura mexicana donde

revela sus miedos, sus debilidades y sus pecados dentro del contexto de su gran amor a Dios.

"Vicente Fernández: Al Rojo Vivo con el Rey" demuestra la gran química y admiración que existe entre la entrevistadora y su entrevistado quienes a través de los años se han sentado en varias ocasiones a charlar ante las cámaras y han desarrollado una gran afinidad y muy bonita y respetuosa amistad. Después de la grabación, María Celeste compartió un almuerzo de comida típica mexicana con Don Vicente y su esposa Cuquita y luego él personalmente la llevó al aeropuerto.

un caballero en todo el sentido de la palabra con una vida rica y clara que es digna de mi admiración y de todo aquel que no lo conozca después de ver este especial", señala María Celeste.

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## Viene de la pagina 4

restantes viven y trabajan en España, aunque dos nacieron en Sudamérica.

Drexler, oriundo de Montevideo, ha vivido en Madrid desde 1992. Les dijo a reporteros que asistiría a la ceremonia de los Oscar sólo si se le permitía tocar en vivo Al otro lado del río. Es la primera canción en español en ser nominada.

Amenábar, de Chile, ha vivido la mayor parte de su vida en España. Al celebrar dos nominaciones por Mar adentro, dijo lamentar que la estrella de la película, Javier Bardem, no estuviera entre los nominados.

Nacho Vigalondo, quien calificó para ser nominado al Oscar al ganar A las 7:35 a.m. el primer puesto en un importante festival de cine en España el año pasado, es un conocido actor comercial y

guionista de televisión.

Manolo García, quien comparte la nominación a la categoría de Maquillaje por la extrema transformación de Bardem para representar al parapléjico Ramón Sampedro en Mar adentro, es el cuarto latino en competir por un Oscar en esta categoría. Nominados anteriores incluyen a Ken Díaz y a Mark Sánchez para My Family (1995) y Beatrice del Alba, una de dos nominados en 2003 por Frida.

(Antonio Mejías-Rentas es editor de la sección de espectáculos con La Opinión de Los Angeles, el periódico en español de mayor tirada en los EEUU. Comuníquese con él por correo electrónico a: [lataino@aol.com](mailto:lataino@aol.com)).

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# Gonzales is Hispanic role model, Republicans say

Confirming Alberto Gonzales as the new attorney general "will resonate throughout the Hispanic community" despite Democratic complaints that he is connected to the Bush administration's policies on foreign detainees, Republicans said today.

"This is a breakthrough of incredible magnitude for Hispanic-Americans and should not be deluded by partisan politics," said Florida Sen. Mel Martínez, the nation's first Cuban-American senator. "Judge Gonzales is a role model for the next generation of Hispanic-Americans in this country."

GOP senators continued to praise Gonzales through Senate speeches the day before his confirmation vote in that chamber to become the first Hispanic attorney general. Democrats have already said they won't filibuster the White House counsel and former Texas Supreme Court judge, although as many as 30 could vote

against his confirmation on Thursday.

Martínez, the former Housing and Urban Development secretary who broke with Senate tradition by giving part of his floor speech praising Gonzales in Spanish, said the confirmation would mean a lot to young Hispanics who have never seen one of their own in the top four Cabinet positions: secretary of state, defense secretary, treasury secretary or attorney general.

Gonzales' confirmation "will resonate through the Hispanic community, just as it has resonated throughout our community that he has been the president's lawyer," Martínez said.

Republicans said part of the reason the vote is happening on Thursday is because Democrats don't want to give President Bush a success to tout in his State of the Union speech.

"They want the bully pulpit all the way up to and after that to try

to taint this nominee with the perceived sins of the Bush administration," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas.

The Senate's top Democrat said Tuesday that Democrats won't try to filibuster Gonzales' nomination, but will hold extensive debate over his role in developing the Bush administration's policies on foreign detainees.

"There will be an up-or-down vote" and no blockage, Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada told reporters after the Democrats huddled for their weekly planning session.

Democratic opposition to Gonzales derives "from the nominee's involvement in the formulation of a number of policies that have tarnished our country's moral leadership in the world and put American soldiers and American citizens at greater risk," Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., said during Senate debate Tuesday.

Gonzales, who served as White

House counsel during Bush's first term, would be the nation's first Hispanic attorney general.

"I'm confident that Judge Gonzales will be confirmed with bipartisan support," Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said. "And I'm confident that as attorney general, Judge Gonzales will continue to build on the successes of the last four years that we've seen in reducing crime and in fighting corporate fraud and upholding our civil rights laws."

Reid predicted that at least 25 or 30 Democrats would vote against Gonzales but said "there was a decision made not to filibuster."

A filibuster, a parliamentary tactic for delaying Senate action, would require Republicans, who hold a 55-44 majority in the Senate, to win over at least five Democrats — or four Democrats plus Vermont Sen. James Jeffords, an independent — to gain the 60 votes needed to end debate and then confirm Gonzales.

## From Page 4

deo, has lived in Madrid since 1992. He told reporters he would attend next month's Oscar ceremony in Los Angeles only if he were allowed to perform Al otro lado del río live. It is the first Spanish-language song to be nominated.

Chile-born Amenábar has lived in Spain most of his life. While celebrating the two nominations for Mar adentro, he said he was disappointed that the film's star, Javier Bardem, was not among nominees.

Nacho Vigalondo, who qualified for the Oscar nomination when A las 7:35 a.m. took the top award at a major Spanish film festival last year, is a well-known commercial actor and TV scriptwriter.

Manolo García, who shares the nomination for the extreme transformation Bardem underwent to become the paraplegic Ramón Sampedro in Mar adentro, is the fourth Latino to compete for a makeup Oscar. Previous nominees include Ken Díaz and Mark Sánchez for My Family (1995) and Beatrice del Alba, one of two nominees in 2003 for Frida.

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# Perfect Super Bowl Party

continued from page 5

Cookbook. Also visit <http://www.weber.com> and <http://www.starchefs.com/RGold/html> for additional recipe ideas.

- Pre-Game Show
- Grilled Shrimp Cocktail
  - Barbecued Chicken Wings
  - Rosemary Meatballs
  - Steak Bits, Buffalo-style
  - Glazed Walnuts and Smoked Pecans
- Kick-Off
- Gridiron Chili
  - Jalapeno Corn Bread
  - Cole Slaw with Creamy Caesar Dressing
  - Wasabi Salmon
  - Newspaper-Wrapped Filet of Beef

- Post-Game Show
- Brownies and Cookies
  - Chocolate covered strawberries

- Thirst Quenchers
- Beers: light, lager, stout
  - Wines: sauvignon blanc, zinfandel
  - Non-alcoholic: sparkling cider, assorted sodas, bottle water
- The Set Up:
- Allow enough time to prepare food and decorate. Set up food

and drink stations buffet style, with access from two sides. This will help more people get their food and drinks quickly. On the bar, use a wide container such as a galvanized steel bucket filled with ice and water for chilling drinks. Pull the corks on the wine before the party and have extra glasses nearby. There can never be enough ice at a party—make sure there is plenty.

On Saturday, get out all the tables and chairs, linens, platters, bowls, utensils, plates, cutlery, and glasses. Count them and use stick-on notes to label each platter and bowl with the food it will hold. Have enough TVs for everyone to see—even in the bathroom! Have fun with decorations. Use streamers, balloons, and confetti in the colors of both teams.

During the Game: Watch when food and snacks run low and replenish the platters when needed.

Not Interested in the Game: Set up a room without TVs where people who aren't interested in the game can sit, catch up with friends or just relax.

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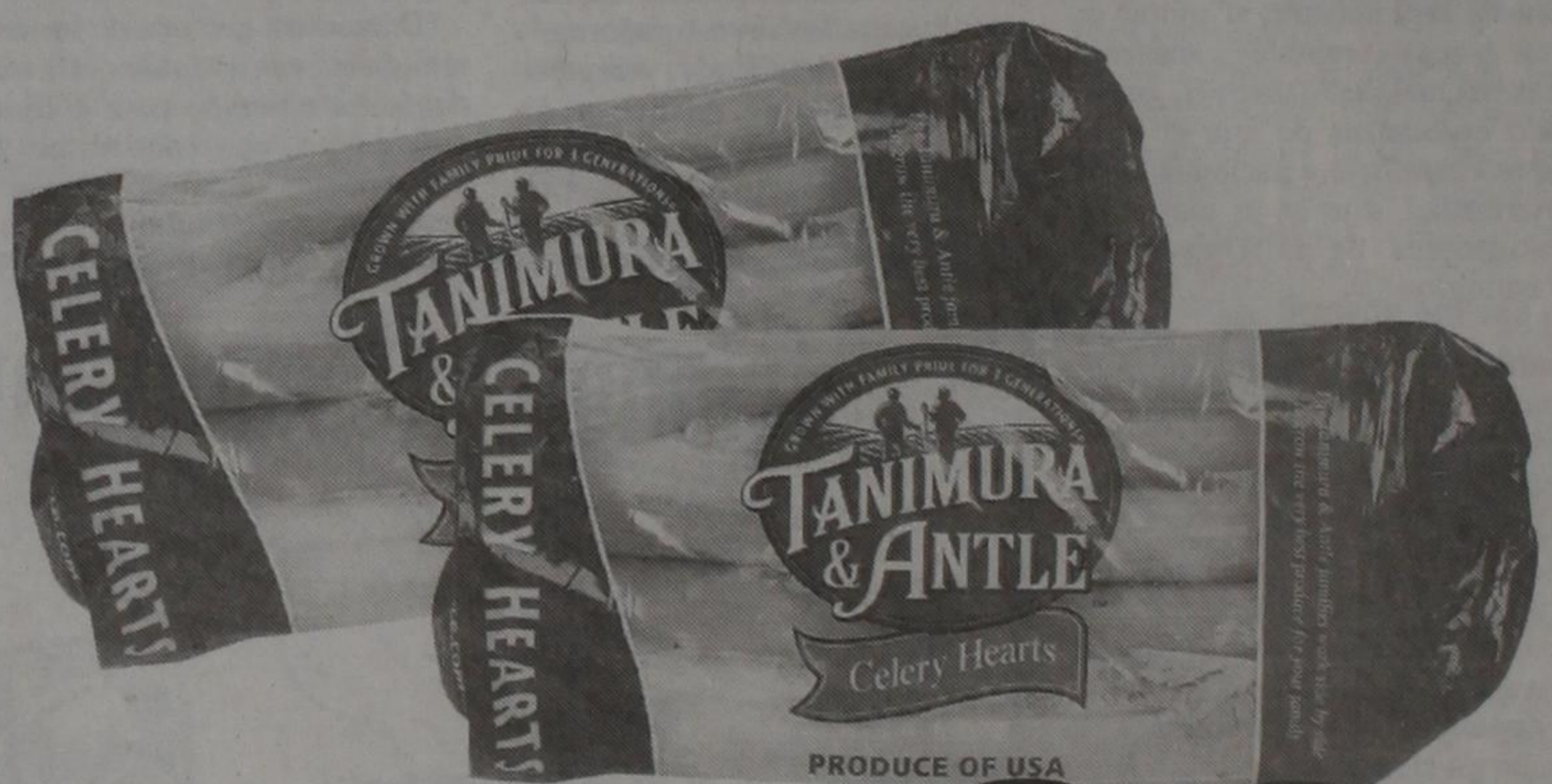
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