

el Saltillo

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Rising Numbers of Latina Teens Trying Suicide

A new study finds that Hispanic girls, a group usually thought to be in a low-risk category for suicide because of the strong family ties, are now increasingly likely to attempt to take their own lives.

Two years ago, licensed mental health counselor Norma Westurn put in a full day of counseling clients at a clinic here and, instead of closing shop and going home, routinely faced yet another full client load. The only difference was the after-hours clients were all Latino.

"I was overwhelmed" by so many Spanish-speaking clients, remembers Brazilian-born Westurn, "because I was one of the few in the clinic who could speak Spanish. I knew there was a need but I was surprised there was such a great need."

It was a void that motivated Westurn to found a chain of mental health outlets called Centro de Mi Salud (My Health Center). But it wasn't until Westurn opened her doors for business that she realized there was a far greater necessity for her services than even she imagined.

Latina teens were visiting her clinics in increasing numbers and the majority for the same reason: They had attempted suicide.

Suicide in the teen population is not unknown. Popular data shows that suicide is the third-leading cause of death of young people ages



15 to 24. But attempted suicide among young Latinas was another story. The very idea was considered by many to be an oxymoron; Latino families are known for their close ties and cohesiveness, two deterrents of teen suicide.

But suicide attempts by Latina

teens are growing, a fact which is gaining increased recognition by the medical community. According to a July report published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, Latina teen-agers are significantly more likely than white or black adolescent girls to have at-

tempted suicide.

The finding is not new; an earlier report published in 1999 by the National Coalition of Hispanic Health and Human Services Organizations (which officially changed its name to the National Alliance for Hispanic Health in 2000) found that one out of every three Latina high school students contemplates suicide. What is new is that while in past years family members might be too ashamed to report their daughter's attempted suicide, they now actively seek help for a behavior they're at a loss to explain—as are the doctors treating them.

Family and Culture Are Major Factors

"We don't completely understand it," admitted Dr. Glenn Flores, author of the report and associate professor of pediatric epidemiology and health policy at the Medical College of Wisconsin. "But an interesting piece we discovered in our research was that the more Americanized or acculturated Latino kids become, the worse it is for their health."

It is an observation shared by mental health experts across the country.

Teen-agers have a host of insecurities about appearance, academic success, peer popularity, families and sex. To be a Latina teen-ager

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Pepe Aguilar

Rechazó Asistir a los

MEXICO, D.F. (Notimex). -- El cantante Pepe Aguilar rechazó asistir a la entrega de premios Grammy Latino el próximo mes, pese a que está nominado en las categorías más significativas: Mejor Disco y Mejor Canción, por el álbum Lo mejor de nosotros y el tema Apuesto, respectivamente.

Tras expresar su agradecimiento por la nominación, se negó a asistir al evento por considerar que minimiza la música popular, que es la más vendida y escuchada, informó la compañía Top Marketing en un comunicado.

De acuerdo con la información, el cantante --que anteriormente se hizo acreedor al Grammy por el disco Por una mujer bonita-- es considerado uno de los intérpretes más representativos de música popular

mexicana en los ámbitos nacional e internacional, con casi seis millones de copias vendidas en los últimos cuatro años.

El Grammy Latino tendrá lugar a mediados de septiembre en el teatro Kodak de Los Angeles.



El cantante considera que los citados premios minimizan la música popular, que es la más vendida y escuchada

Incremento en Casos de Tráfico de Menores en Frontera

En tan solo seis meses, 1,500 menores de edad mexicanos han sido aprehendidos por la Patrulla Fronteriza, al no viajar acompañados de sus padres o familiares, por lo que ambos gobiernos sospechan de un incremento en las operaciones de tráfico de menores en la frontera entre Arizona y Sonora.

La edad de los menores oscilan entre los 14 y 17 años de edad, dijo Carlos González, cónsul mexicano en Nogales, Arizona. Con más de 900 repatriaciones desde el mes de enero, el consulado de Nogales ocupa el tercer lugar a nivel nacional en toda la frontera entre los dos países en cuanto al número de casos de repatriación de menores de edad.

Este consulado ha manejado 2,000 de los 2,500 casos que se presentaron, solamente en el estado de Arizona. Autoridades del Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización (INS) han reportado un considerable incremento en el número de casos de ciudadanos estadounidenses o residentes legales que intentan cruzar a



menores de edad, haciéndolos pasar por sus propios hijos.

En algunas ocasiones utilizan documentos falsos, como actas de nacimiento. "Estas personas se comprometen a cruzar a los menores y entregarlos a sus padres en ciudades como Tucson y Phoenix", dijo González.

Prefieren la garita

El representante del gobierno mexicano dijo que este incremento puede ser el resultado de la extrema vigilancia que existe en la frontera.

"Muchos padres de familia, prefieren entregar sus hijos a estos coyotes, que arriesgarlos a cruzar por el desierto", dijo González a EFE. A menos de dos meses de que termine el año fiscal, 107 indocumentados han muerto en el desierto, la mayoría víctimas de deshidratación.

El pasado mes de julio, Sergio David Ruiz Lino, de 4 años de edad y originario de Puebla, México, fue rescatado por la patrulla fronteriza

cuando fue interceptado el auto donde viajaba en compañía de 10 indocumentados, ninguno de los cuales tenía parentesco con él.

A finales del mismo mes, tres hermanos de 4, 5 y 8 años de edad fueron descubiertos en la cajuela de un auto, en un retén de la Patrulla Fronteriza en la Interestatal 86. No existe una cifra exacta de cuantos menores de edad cruzan solos la frontera ilegalmente cada año.

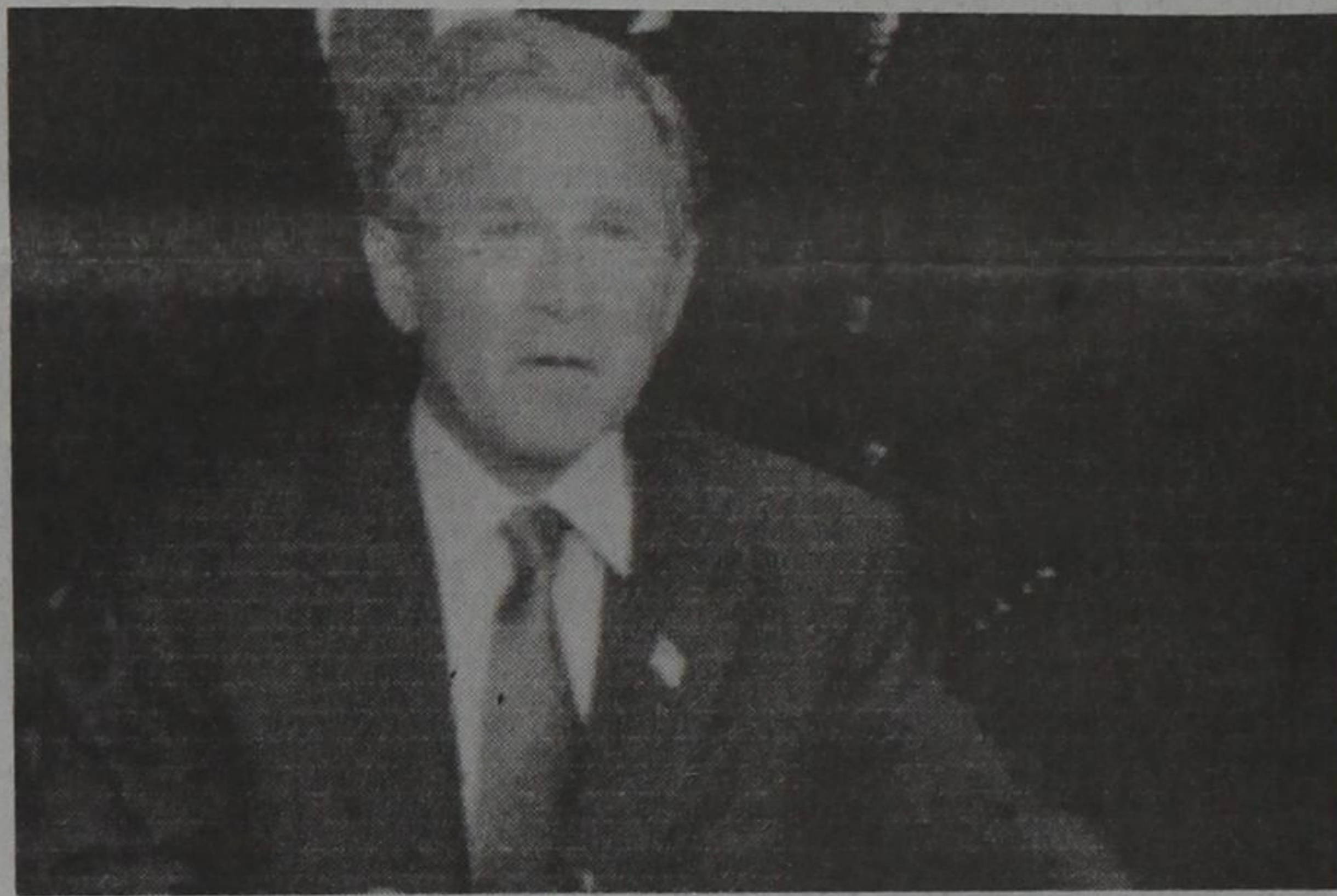
Las cifras

De acuerdo a estadísticas proporcionadas por la Patrulla Fronteriza, sector Tucson, desde el principio del presente año fiscal (Octubre 1º a Junio 30) detuvieron a 7,608 menores indocumentados de un total de 249,338 aprehensiones. Charles Stemple, Director Regional del Departamento de Inmigración y Naturalización (SIN) en Douglas (Arizona) dijo que ellos no llevan ningún récord de cuantos niños son interceptados en los puertos de entrada.

Durante los primeros cinco meses del año, la oficina del Procurador de Justicia en Arizona ha recibido 144 casos de traficantes de menores.

Nogales no es el único puerto donde se ha registrado un significativo incremento en el número de infantes que son trasladados a los Estados Unidos: la ciudad de Douglas también se ha visto afectada. En lo que va del año, 160 menores de edad han sido repatriados por el consulado mexicano en Douglas, Arizona; 49 de los niños fueron interceptados en el puerto de entrada.

"(Recientemente) tuvimos el caso de una niña de 13 años quien era acompañada por otra menor de edad ciudadana americana", dijo Miguel Escobar Valdez, cónsul mexicano en Douglas, Arizona. "Dos días antes tuvimos a una mujer americana de Las Vegas, Nevada que llevaba dos niños de 5 y 8 años de edad originarios de Tabasco", finalizó.



GOP in Congress Gaining With Hispanics, Poll Says

Possibly benefiting from President Bush's widespread popularity, Republicans in Congress are gaining ground on their Democratic counterparts among Hispanic voters, a poll released Tuesday says.

The survey, taken three months before the crucial midyear elections, shows that 42 percent of Hispanics viewed GOP lawmakers favorably, up from 23 percent last year.

Democrats in Congress still maintain strong support among Hispanics, however. They received a favorable rating from 54 percent of those surveyed, unchanged from the previous year.

The poll represents at least one sign that efforts in recent years by Republicans to revamp their image among Hispanics may be paying off.

Robert L. de Posada, president of the Latino Coalition, said Bush deserves credit for any turnaround.

"This poll shows that Hispanics see the Republican Party as the party of George Bush, not the party of Pete Wilson," said de Posada, referring to the former California governor who alienated millions of Hispanics with his anti-immigrant policies during the 1990s.

The poll was commissioned by the Latino Coalition, a group with a conservative bent that often supports Bush administration policies.

Hispanics surveyed gave Bush high marks in running the country. About 68 percent of those interviewed approved of the job Bush was doing, up from 47 percent last year. The 2001 poll was done before Sept. 11, after which the president's approval ratings soared nationwide.

The results were similar to a national USA Today/CNN/Gallup Poll last month that showed the president's approval ratings among

all Americans at 69 percent.

When asked how they would vote if Bush were again challenged by former Vice President Al Gore for president, half said they would vote for Bush, vs. 35 percent for Gore. Asked the same question last year, Hispanics opted for Gore, 54 percent to 28 percent.

Gore took the Hispanic vote, 62 percent to 35 percent, in the 2000 presidential election, according to exit polls.

Democrats shrugged at the coalition's poll results.

"We're going to once again win the Hispanic vote in 2002 and in 2004 because Latinos do not buy the administration's mariachi politics: a song here, a song there and a nice White House photo op," said Guillermo Meneses, a spokesman for the Democratic National Committee.

"Hispanics are going to vote on the issues that matter most to them, and that's where Democrats win over Republicans hands down," he said.

De Posada said both parties must compete for the support of a growing number of new Hispanic voters who remain uncommitted to either party.

"Hispanics are becoming more and more independent when it comes to politics," he said. "The bloc of one party writing off this bloc of voters, and the other party taking them for granted, are over."

This November, 4.6 million Hispanics are projected to vote, up from 4 million in 1998, the last off-year election.

The survey interviewed 1,000 Hispanics by telephone in Spanish and English from Aug. 2 to 14. The margin of error was plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

No Hay Prisa Para Atacar a Iraq

El presidente George W. Bush intentó disipar las especulaciones en torno a una inminente acción militar contra Irak, pero insistió en que el derrocamiento del presidente iraquí, Sadam Husein, sería hacer un favor a todo el mundo.

Bush recibió en su rancho de Crawford, Texas, donde se encuentra de vacaciones, a su equipo de seguridad nacional para discutir diversos asuntos, aunque aseguró que Irak no fue uno de ellos.

Según la versión oficial, la reunión con el vicepresidente Dick Cheney, el secretario de Defensa Donald Rumsfeld y la cúpula militar se centró, al menos oficial-

mente, en la reestructuración de las fuerzas armadas y la financiación de ese proceso, así como en el desarrollo del sistema de defensa antimisiles.

Hablando con los reporteros, Bush reconoció que "hay una intensa especulación, un revuelo", y el secretario Rumsfeld agregó: "un frenesí".

Por otro lado, Bush aseguró que no se discutió en la reunión el tema de Irak.

Añadió, empero, que "tomamos con seriedad todas las amenazas [provenientes de Irak] y seguimos consultando con nuestros amigos y aliados".

"Mi postura es que el cambio de régimen [en Irak] interesa a todo el mundo. Cómo lograrlo es materia de consultas y deliberación", dijo el mandatario.

"Soy hombre paciente. Consideraremos todas las opciones y toda la tecnología a nuestro alcance. Pero una cosa es segura y es que esta Administración coincide en que Sadam Husein es una amenaza y que el cambio del régimen es de interés para el mundo", declaró Bush.

La realidad es que hay un sector de la Administración opuesto a una acción militar en Irak, lo mismo que importantes líderes republicanos del Congreso.

Southwest Digest Celebrates 25 Years

Southwest Digest co-editors, T.J. Patterson and Eddie Richardson, will hold a news conference on Friday, August 30, 2002 at 10:00 am at Mae Simmons Park east of the community center to announce details regarding their 25th Anniversary banquet. The Southwest Digest is a weekly news publication that was started by Richardson and Patterson 25 years ago with \$5 and a typewriter. During this time, the newspaper has faithfully served the African-American citizens in Lubbock and West Texas and never missed an issue in 25 years. The paper is published every Thursday and is the most read publication in East Lubbock Lubbock on this day each week.

The Southwest Digest's 25th Anniversary banquet will be held on Wednesday, September 4, 2002 at 7:30 pm in the McInturff Conference Center at University Medical Center. Reservations can be made by calling the Southwest Digest at 762-3612. Individual tickets are priced at \$25 per person and tables of eight are also available at various prices.

For more information you can contact Eddie Richardson at 762-3612.

Sampras, Serena Easily Advance Haas Survives

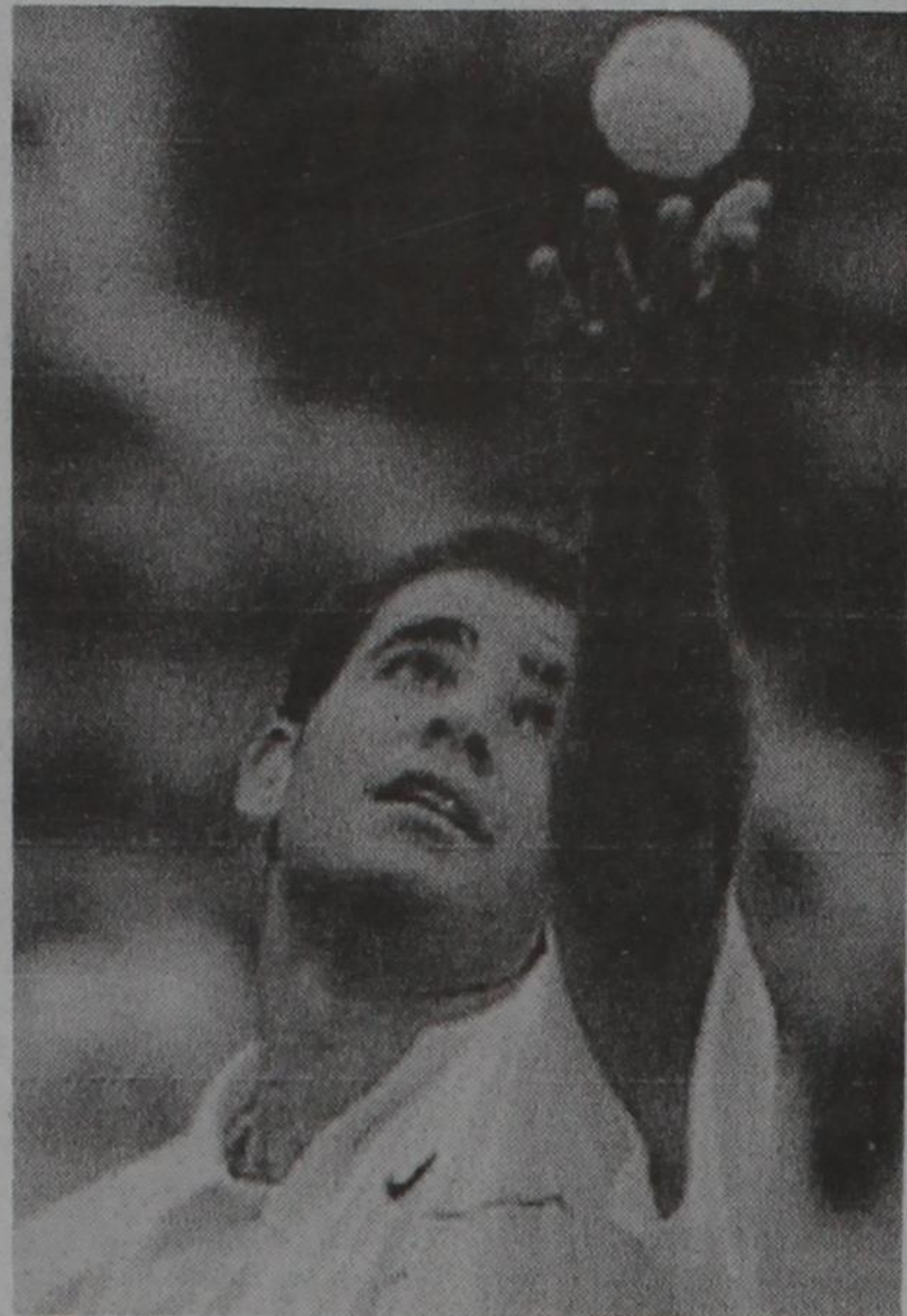
Little was ordinary about the start of the U.S. Open for third-seeded Tommy Haas, from being ordered to change out of a sleeveless shirt to three straight double faults in the fifth set.

On a day that past champions Pete Sampras and Serena Williams won, while one-hit wonders Jelena Dokic and David Nalbandian lost -- all in straight sets -- Haas and his foil, David Sanchez, produced enough theater for a round's worth of matches.

Pete Sampras breezes past Albert Portas 6-1, 6-4, 6-4. (AP) Haas pulled out a 7-6 (7-1), 3-6, 3-6, 6-4, 7-5 victory Wednesday that was a struggle for a player normally most comfortable on hard courts. If he can deal with right arm pain that's been hounding him, Haas could be a title threat.

Just how close did the 61st-ranked Sanchez come to pulling off the upset? He actually won more points: 156 to 155.

But their encounter will be remembered most for a prematch talking-to Haas received that put him in sartorial territory previously occupied by Anne White (remember the skintight nylon leotard at Wim-



bledon in 1985?) and Andre Agassi (remember the denim shorts and Day-Glo bicycle tights?).

Haas showed up for Wednesday's first-round match wearing a white

muscle shirt, that revealed ... his shoulders.

Gasp!

It wasn't nearly as provocative as the zip-down, stop-at-the-thighs black Lycra outfit Williams is wearing. Nonetheless, it caught the attention of chair umpire Norm Chryst. He alerted tournament referee Brian Earley, who turned on the TV, looked at Haas, and ruled the shirt had to go.

Earley cited Article III, Section C of the Grand Slam rulebook: "Every player shall dress and present himself for play in a professional manner. Clean and customarily acceptable tennis attire shall be worn as determined by each respective Grand Slam."

"I was given the job of making a determination on the spot. I decided it wasn't customarily acceptable," Earley said. "It's a gut reaction."

Haas -- who said sleeves annoy him -- had polo shirts with him and wore those for the 3-hour, 23-minute match.

"On the women's tour, you see Serena and all those other ladies wearing tight stuff," Haas said. "It's something new, brings something else to the game."

Right now, men's tennis could use a bit of that if it's going to compete with a women's game that has more intriguing story lines and more-marketed personalities. The WTA Tour isn't shy about letting sex appeal help sell its product.

Or, as Earley put it: "Women's attire has gone all over the place."

"There's no question we've been hearing a lot of not-so-flattering

things about the men's game, compared to the ladies'. Maybe it's an effort to do some different things," Sampras said. "That's not the way to do it, in my opinion."

Told what happened to Haas, Williams said: "You're kidding!"

Earley noted Williams' outfit was approved for the Open a month ago. Early wouldn't say whether Haas' shirt might have passed muster had it been submitted ahead of time -- nor whether Haas will be allowed to wear it for his second-round match.

Sampras might have been relieved to make it to the second round, an indication (as is his No. 17 seeding) of how far he's fallen.

Here's how aware everyone is of the 13-time Grand Slam tournament champion's recent woes: Elton John's I'm Still Standing blared over the speakers as a form of encouragement when Sampras warmed up before his 6-1, 6-4, 6-4 win over Albert Portas.

"You hear rumbling here and there. You can't let it faze you," Sampras said, referring to retirement talk. "I'm going to stop on my own terms, not when someone else thinks I should stop."

Williams also breezed, beating Dinara Safina -- 2000 Open champion Marat Safin's 16-year-old sis-

ter -- 6-0, 6-1 to reach the third round.

No. 5 Dokic, a Wimbledon semi-finalist two years ago, put up little resistance and lost 6-3, 6-2 to Elena Bovina. No. 16 Nalbandian, who had never won more than two matches at a Grand Slam event until making the Wimbledon final, was eliminated by Sargis Sargsian 6-1, 6-4, 6-4.

Lindsay Davenport, the 1998 Open champion, was leading her night match against Petra Mandula 6-4, 2-2, when play was halted because of rain. While organizers called off all the in-progress matches on other courts, they held out hope of being able to resume Davenport's second-round.

Serena Williams needs only 40 minutes to advance. It's been a trying 2002 for Haas, most significantly because his parents were hospitalized in June after they were hit by a car while riding a motorcycle. He skipped Wimbledon to be with them.

On court, he's had tendinitis in his right arm, which led him to skip the semifinals at an Open tuneup last week.

Still, Haas can't be discounted here. He's twice been a semifinalist at the Australian Open and reached the fourth round at the past two

U.S. Opens.

Sanchez isn't exactly the caliber of player who should present problems. He has a 14-20 match record in 2002, and never has been past the quarterfinals at a tour-level event since turning pro in 1997.

Yet Sanchez moved out to a 3-0 lead in the fifth set. In doing so, he probably expended too much of what was a dwindling supply of energy. That was evident when he didn't bend low enough to get to Haas' forehand and whiffed on a shot, setting up a service break.

Haas seemingly took control by going up 6-5 in the final set, converting his fifth break point of the 11th game when Sanchez's shot caught the net tape and flew out. After the game, both players' cramping legs were massaged by trainers.

Haas then served for the match and quickly earned two match points at 40-15.

He double faulted to 40-30, walked to the other half of the baseline and double faulted to deuce, then double faulted to break point.

Ugh! An overhead erased the break point, and Haas eventually held it together long enough to win.

"I was lucky to get through that," Haas said.

La NBA En Español:

Por Favor Llamen A La Real Academia

Por Patricia Guadalupe

Cuando oí que Telemundo empezaría a transmitir algunos de los juegos de la Asociación Nacional de Baloncesto (NBA, en inglés) en español, pensé, ¿quién sería el comentarista? También pensé, ¿necesitamos que los medios en español sean nuestros únicos vehículos de entretenimiento?

¿Podría el famoso comentarista deportivo Dick Vitale rápidamente aprender el español?

¿Cómo se traduciría su "dipsy-dunk-roo" -- el encestar con una jugada elegante?

Sin él, ¿cómo el comentarista deportivo de turno diría en español que el equipo tiene "una ofensiva tipo donut", sin centro, o que un equipo de juego inconsistente se conocía como un "dow joneser", refiriéndose a la actividad de la Bolsa?

Me quedé despierta pensando quién en español entendería que un equipo lanzando largas cuando tenia que jugar más cortas estaba "jugando reggies en vez de pete roses", refiriéndose a dos jugadores

de las Grandes Ligas? ¿Quién además entendería que un jugador que encestó desde lejos "lo mandaba del preñijo j"?

Y una de mis favoritas, "Son un Equipo Todo-Aeropuerto", que hablaba de jugadores que se veían bien viajando de aeropuerto en aeropuerto, pero jugaban poco.

Estoy segura que Telemundo encontrará comentaristas deportivos muy capaces.

¿Pero tendrán ese humor? Los comentaristas que usan mucho humor han sido parte de los deportes como el baloncesto por mucho tiempo. Desde luego, el legendario Earvin "Magic" Johnson le debe su apodo a un comentarista que habló de su juego como, "magia, pura magia".

Y sí, existen comentaristas en español de mucho color y humor. Andrés Cantor, con su famoso "gooooool" durante la Copa Mundial es uno. Pero ahí se trata del fútbol, un deporte con mucha fanática hispana aún antes que los medios en español en Estados Unidos comenzaran a transmitir los partidos.

La pelota, o béisbol, también tiene muy buenos comentaristas, pero ahí otra vez, es prácticamente una religión en algunos sectores de la comunidad hispana. Cuando los medios decidieron transmitir los juegos en español, ya tenían un público.

Lo que me preocupa son los deportes con poco auge entre la comunidad hispana aquí en Estados Unidos. Los hispanos que ya siguen estos deportes en inglés no necesariamente desean o necesitan que los juegos sean transmitidos en otro idioma cuando la jerga no se puede traducir. ¿Entenderán esto los medios?

Tomemos el fútbol americano como ejemplo, donde algunos equipos y redes de comunicación han estado tratando de ampliar la fanática hispana con la transmisión de juegos en español. Y ahora como resultado a veces suena absolutamente ridículo, particularmente cuando se trata de una traducción literal. El Super Bowl se convierte en El Super Tazón, y lo que viene a la mente es una taza y

continúa en la página 5

The NBA Comes to Spanish TV--A Dipsy-Do-Dunk-A-Roo for Telemundo

By Patricia Guadalupe

The second thing that crossed my mind when I heard that the Telemundo network was jumping on the bilingual bandwagon by announcing it would telecast some of the National Basketball Association's games in Spanish was, who would call these games? (The first was, do the Spanish-language networks really need to be our one-stop entertainment outlet? What next? Ice hockey?)

Could Dick Vitale hurry up and learn Spanish?

What would his "dipsy-do-dunk-a-roo" exclamation sound like in Spanish? Without him, how would the announcer say in Spanish that the team had "a doughnut offense" that played without much of a center, or that it was such an inconsistent team it was known as a "dow joneser"?

I was lying awake at night thinking who in Spanish would understand that a team that was shooting long shots when it needed to play for more short shots was "drilling reggies when they need pete roses," or that a successful shot from one end of the court to the other was from a player who "took a shot from the area code j" How about one of my personal favorites, "They're an All-Airport Team," which describes players who look good traveling from game to game but get little playing time?

I'm sure Telemundo will find perfectly capable announcers. But will they be as funny? Colorful announcers have become a staple of fast-paced sports like basketball. After all, basketball legend Earvin Johnson owes his nickname to an announcer who said his playing was "magic, pure magic."

Sure, Spanish-language announcers are plenty colorful. Andrés Cantor screaming "gooooool!" in World Cup Soccer comes to mind.

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EOE M/F/D/V

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From Page 3

illegal workers to qualify for permanent status after a certain time lost momentum after the Sept. 11 attacks increased border security concerns.

"The question has always been who can get out the Latino vote," said Bruce Buchanan, a professor of political science at the University of Texas. "They remain an underdeveloped asset for both parties."

Buchanan said Latinos represented 32 percent of registered voters in Texas, but "many of them still have not bought into the idea that pulling a lever in a voting booth will do anything that really affects their lives. That is a hard sell with them."

Cal Jillson, a professor of political science at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, said both California and Texas reflected a situation where Latinos had to work their way into the dominant culture after decades of prejudice and discrimination.

"The post-civil rights era broke through a lot of barriers and opened up the Anglo-dominated system," he said.

Jillson said about 70 percent of Latinos in Texas are U.S. citizens, compared with 60 percent in California, and about two-thirds are registered to vote in each state. "Where California lags is in the numbers of adult Hispanics who vote," he said.

It will take another two decades before Latinos feel politically empowered enough to turn out at the

polls in the same numbers as whites or African Americans, Jillson said. "In terms of voting, Hispanics are where blacks were 20 years ago," he said.

Rudy Fernandez, director of the Grass Roots Development Division of the Republican National Committee, said the challenge of the GOP in California was to overcome the hangover from Proposition 187. "We want Latinos in California to equate the Republican Party with President Bush, not the days of Proposition 187," he said.

Antonio Gonzalez, president of the Southwest Voter Registration Project, said there was a drive to increase Latino voter participation by 150,000 votes in California and 100,000 in Texas.

"This will be a test," he said of the goal to raise the Latino share of the vote to 17 percent from 10 percent in Texas and to 15 percent from 9 percent in California.

The Democratic National Committee has targeted 15 states, including Texas and California, in a sweeping effort to register and get out the Latino vote this year, according to executive director Andres Gonzalez.

In California, registered Latinos are 60 percent Democratic and 20 percent Republican, said Mark DiCamillo, director of Field Research in the state.

"The Republican problem with Latinos is still credibility," DiCamillo said. "The specter of anti-immigration lingers, and the question is whether it may raise its head again this year."

Hispanic Troupe Brings Act to D.C.

They've been called the Hispanic Marx Brothers, but they're the Marx Brothers with a message. The Hispanic part is now largely in their names — Richard Montoya, Ric Salinas and Herbert Siguenza.

They're writers and actors — they do both — who call themselves Culture Clash. Their message of compassion and understanding includes a variety of minorities and reaches beyond them.

Salinas thinks there's something to the Marx Brothers comparison.

"We're always playing the underdogs," he said, "and when you look at the Marx Brothers, a lot of times they played the underdogs, and they were up against the high class. And they were immigrants themselves."

Salinas was born in El Salvador, was brought to California at age 5 and speaks Spanish with his wife and two children. He thinks the Culture Clash style may have something to do with the region's Indian tradition of storytelling.

Now the group has brought the style to the nation's capital from Los Angeles by way of Miami and New York's Lower East Side.

Montoya, the leading writer, is a third generation Californian and jokes about his almost nonexistent knowledge of Spanish. All three speak unaccented English. Siguenza shared in writing the Washington play, called "Anthems," but is not in the cast this time.

Molly Smith, artistic director of the capital's Arena Stage, called the trio "modern day Mark Twains."

They started 18 years ago as ethnic as you can get. They didn't know one another, Salinas said,



when the curator of a Hispanic art gallery in San Francisco, the Galeria de la Raza, got them together. They did a kind of vaudeville act under the name Comedy Fiesta, celebrating the Mexican holiday Cinco de Mayo with songs, dance and standup comedy.

Montoya said the group got tired of Hispanic-American politics.

"At the end of the 90s we found it wasn't exactly a dead end street, but it was close," he said. "We were explaining ourselves over and over."

Now their shtick, as Groucho might have called it, is community-based comedy-drama with sexy jokes and serious themes and the new name. The Culture Clash, Salinas explained, comes not only between Latinos and the American mainstream but also among minority cultures and even among Hispanics themselves.

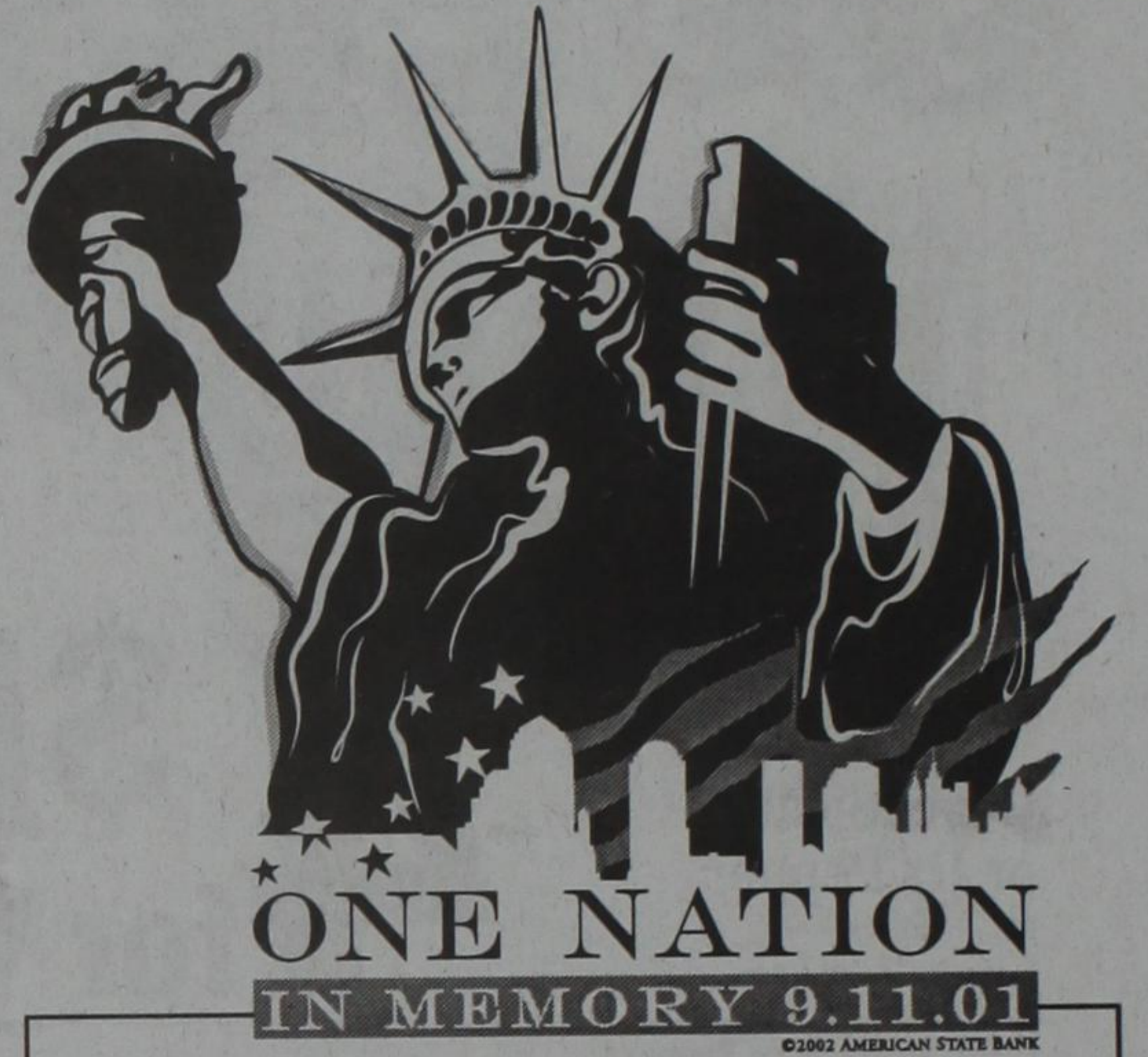
The boys demur. "I wanted it in red," she explains. They've done a 30-episode Latino comedy series for Fox TV and appeared in the films "Hero" and "Encino Man." Their play "A Bowl of Beings" had its premiere on the Public Broadcasting Service. It's now in their book: "Culture Clash: Life, Death and Revolutionary Comedy." They have another play coming up next May in Los Angeles, to be called "Chavez Ravine." It recalls the late Cesar Chavez.

"Anthems," the Culture Clash's Washington play, includes a swaggering, cigar-chewing, foul-mouthed giant panda at the National Zoo. In a city with a majority of blacks the panda claims to be a local symbol because he's both black and white.

The serious theme: a quest for an "anthem" to memorialize the 189 dead in the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon.

Arena Stage commissioned the play. It opens Friday at Arena's Kreeger Theater.

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"Right Size To Be Friendly"

From Page 4

But that's soccer, which already had a huge following in the Hispanic community before the Spanish-language networks in the United States came calling.

Baseball, too, has some great Spanish-language announcers, but there again, baseball is almost like a religion throughout the Americas. When the networks made the decision back when to broadcast the games in Spanish, they had a ready-made audience.

What I'm concerned about is that sports like basketball haven't yet made a splash with the Spanish-language community here in the United States. Hispanics who already follow these sports in English may not necessarily need or want to hear the games in another language where the jargon doesn't translate. Do the networks understand that?

Take football, for instance, where some teams and networks have been trying to make inroads with Hispanics by broadcasting games in Spanish. The result can sound absolutely ridiculous, especially when there's a literal translation involved. The Super Bowl has become *El Super Tazón*, rge mug rather than a football game. While the word "bowl" has different meanings in English, the Spanish-language powers-that-be prefer to foist on us fans *tazón* and other ridiculous words like *cuadabak*, which of course isn't a translation, but an attempt at describing the guy who is handed the ball through the legs of a player called *el jugador centro*.

And try explaining to Spanish-language Latinos who grew up with the metric system the whole concept of yards and downs.

El cuadabak tiró el fútbol al

corredor para el primer down sounds like someone threw a soccer ball down the hall. And don't even ask how "special teams play" comes out in Spanish. All too often, the Spanish-language broadcast does a great job of butchering both languages. It uses so many words in English that the announcers may as well be broadcasting in English.

Last year a Spanish-language music station in the nation's capital started broadcasting the Washington Redskins games every Sunday. The assimilationist programming brought howls of protest from regular listeners who were cheated out of their *salsa clásica* show. "You are the people that play my music. Channel 5 (the local Fox affiliate) is my sports station. Bring back my music," lamented one caller.

There is only one plus that I can see to having Spanish broadcasters do the NBA play-by-play. If the day ever comes when there are more than a couple Latinos actually participating in the league, players' names such as Encarnación, Vizcaino and Ibáñez won't get mutilated like they do by today's baseball announcers.

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que mejor estuvieran anunciando el juego en inglés. El año pasado una estación de radio dedicada a tocar música en español comenzó a transmitir los partidos de los Washington Redskins cada domingo. Esto trajo muchísimas quejas de los radioescuchas que echaban de menos el programa de salsa clásica. "Ustedes son los que tocan mi música, el canal 5 (la afiliada local de la cadena deportiva Fox) es mi estación de deportes. Vuelvan a poner mi música", dijo uno.

Hay algo positivo con tener comentaristas deportivos en español en la NBA. Si llega el día que hay más de unos cuantos latinos jugando en la liga, los comentaristas no mutilarán la pronunciación de los nombres latinos como actualmente ocurre demasiado en las Grandes Ligas, con jugadores como Vizcaino, Encarnación, e Ibáñez. Registrado 2002. Hispanic Link News Service. Distribuido por Los Angeles Times Syndicate International, una división de Tribune Media Services.

Demasiadas veces, la transmisión en español hace un tremendo trabajo de destruir ambos idiomas y se usan tantas palabras en inglés

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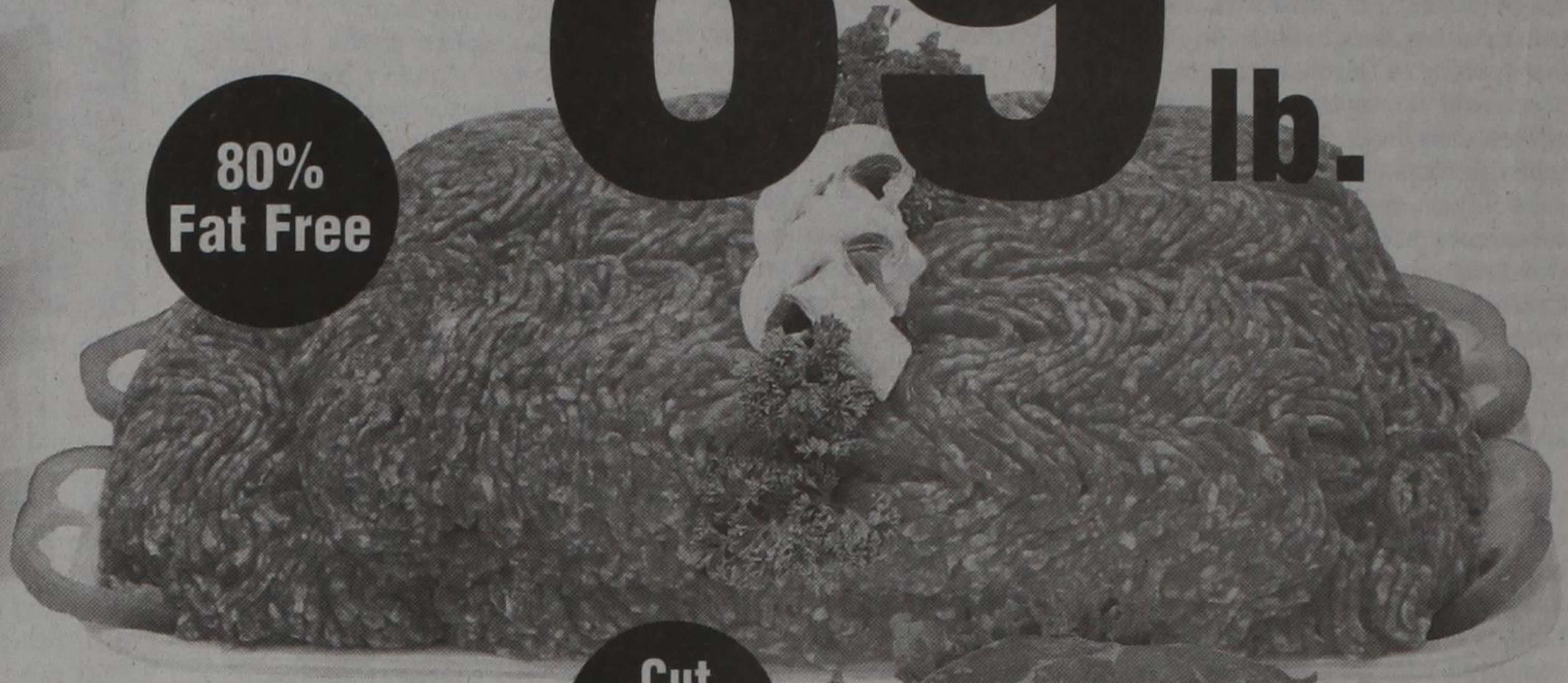
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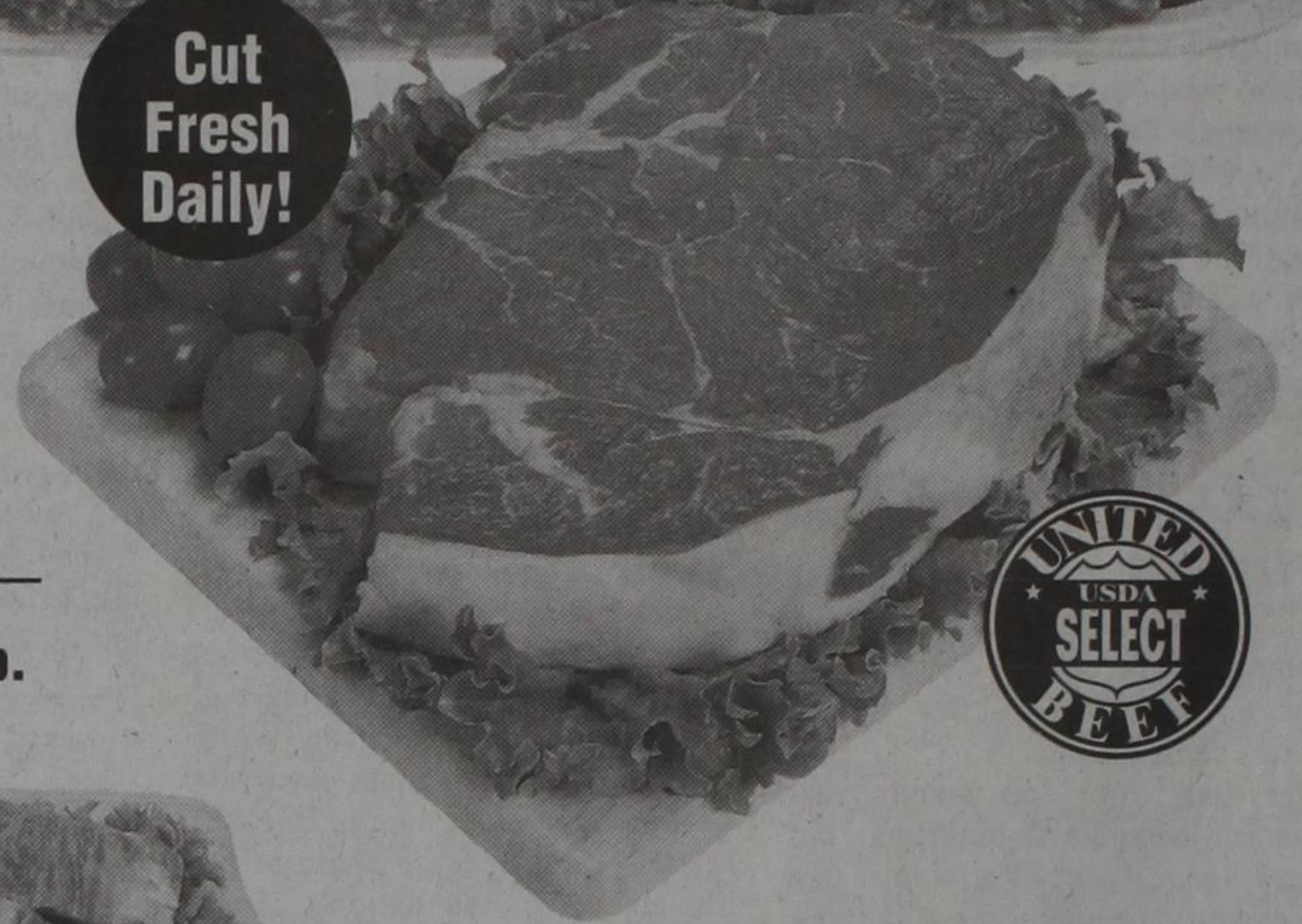
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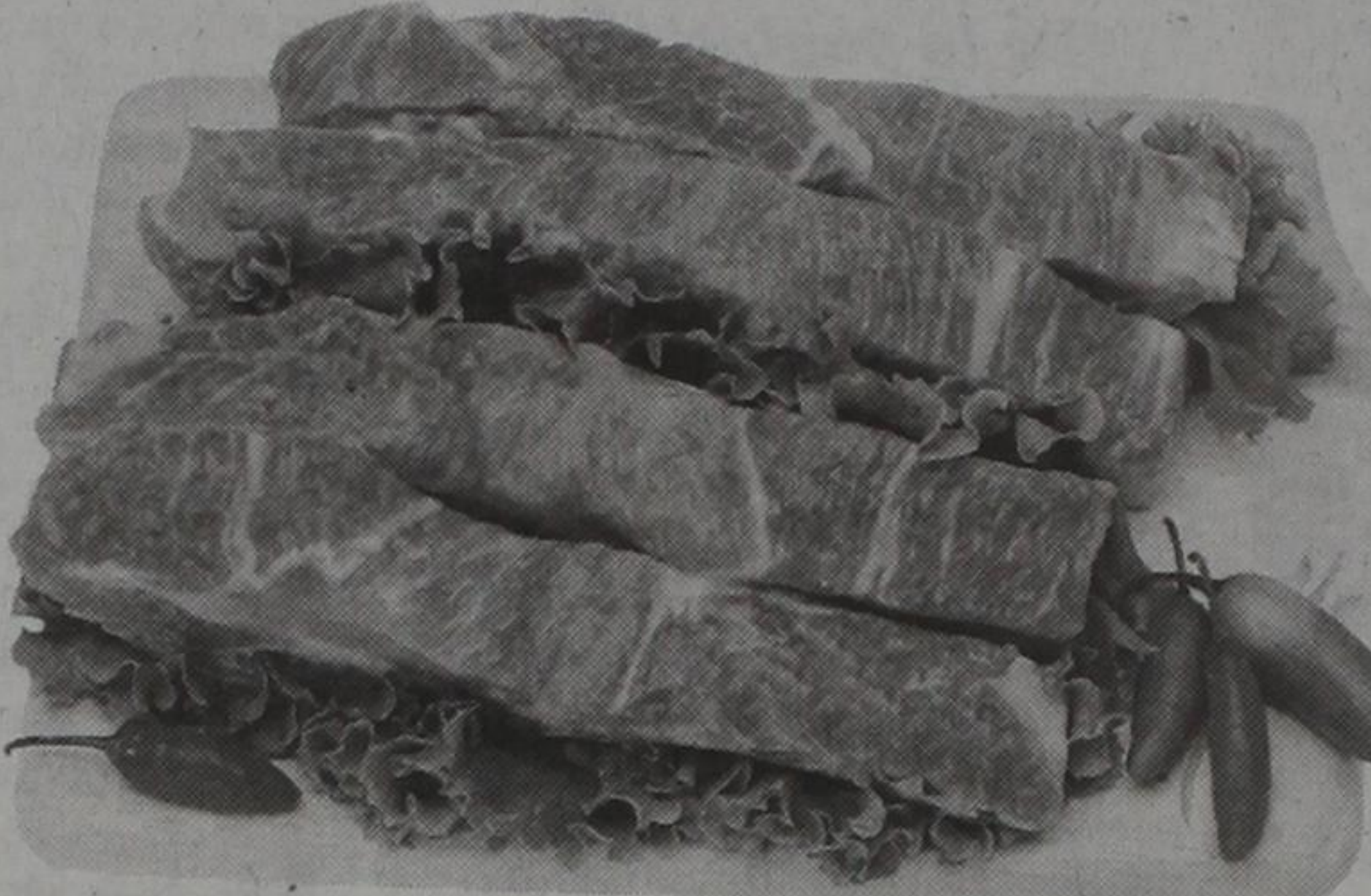
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