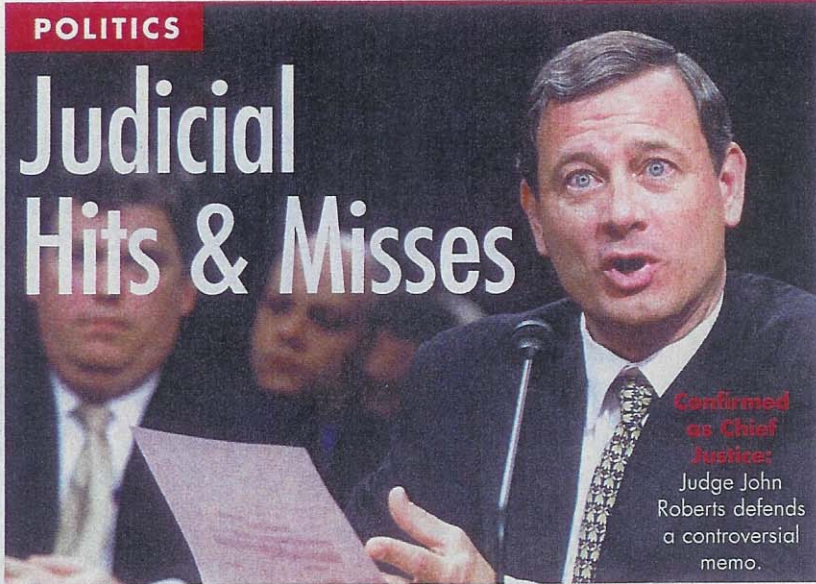


PANORAMA

POLITICS

Judicial Hits & Misses



Confirmed as Chief Justice:
Judge John Roberts defends a controversial memo.

John Roberts, 50, gained a clear Senate majority for confirmation as the nation's next chief justice after Sen. Ken Salazar, a Colorado Democrat, announced he would back President Bush's nominee. With Salazar's help, Roberts, an appellate judge who is Catholic, was confirmed as the youngest chief justice in 200 years. The appointment came despite some controversy about a comment Roberts made in a memo back in the '80s. Working as a young lawyer in the Reagan administration, Roberts referred to "illegal *amigos*." Days after Roberts' confirmation, the president nominated Harriet Miers to replace the retiring Sandra Day O'Connor on the high court—and drew more fire from Hispanic groups. Congresswoman Loretta Sánchez summed up the reaction among Hispanic organizations: "Yet again, President Bush has missed a very historic opportunity to appoint a qualified Hispanic to the Supreme Court."

MARKETING

Latin Liqueur

For those with a sweet tooth, Diageo, the maker of Smirnoff, J&B, Baileys and Crown Royal, has just rolled out **Dulseda**, a dulce de leche liqueur

created "with Latino taste buds in mind." *Dulce de leche* has been popping up in groceries across the country in various incarnations—from ice cream to weight-loss bars—as a way to cater to Latin taste buds.



Q & A

WALTER ALZA

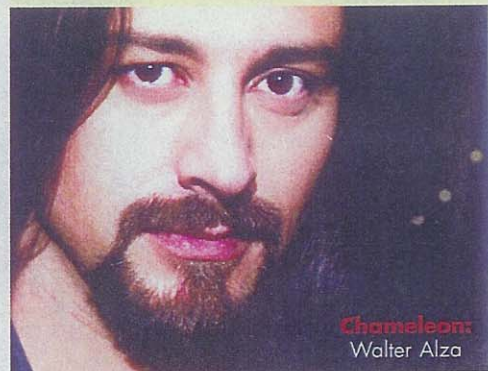
With a knack for accents and chameleon looks, Argentinian actor Walter Alza chose Canada to pave his way to stardom in television and movies. This month he co-stars in rapper 50 Cent's biopic, *Get Rich or Die Tryin'*.

HISPANIC: Why did you move to Canada and not Los Angeles to pursue your acting career?

Walter Alza: My dad moved to Canada when I was 4, so it was either go to Canada, get to know my father and pursue acting there, or never know him at all.

H: You seem to have carved a niche with your ability to play characters that have different ethnicities. When did you start picking up accents?

WA: It happened by accident; at auditions, people realized I speak Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Serbian and English. Since my background is so mixed, I can look Hispanic, Greek, Italian or even Middle Eastern.



Chameleon:
Walter Alza

H: Is there a character you won't play? Why not?

WA: I wouldn't play a child molester unless there's a deep reason why. I don't think mentally I could be induced into an idea like that.

H: Your original role in *Get Rich or Die Tryin'* was much smaller; it evolved into a major character. How did that happen?

WA: The original role had no name and only one scene. After the audition, [the casting team] wanted me to play ... a drug lord. When I came to work, they started enlarging the part. I put a lot of fear and insecurities in him to make him real.

Idy Fernández

Photos by Reuters and Newscom