

Planned talk causes dispute



PULLMAN, Wash. (AP) — A planned lecture by a critic of affirmative action policies has stirred debate among university students who want more conservative speakers and others who fear damage to multicultural programs.

Linda Chavez, a senior fellow of the Manhattan Institute and a political commentator, is scheduled to speak Nov. 17 at Washington State University.

Until now, liberals have dominated campus speaking engagements, and policies such as minority recruitment have been ignored, said Scott Patterson, an organizer for College Republicans.

The student group sponsored Chavez' appearance jointly with the student body association's Political Union and the Women's Resource and Research Center.

"For so long, the conservative view on just about any policy matter has been ignored on this campus," Patterson said.

Some Hispanic students considered trying to have the Chavez lecture canceled "because of the amount of damage she might do to various programs on campus like bilingual education

and diversity in general," said Jose Prado, head of MEChA, a Hispanic student association.

Instead of trying to cancel the event, MEChA will sponsor an appearance the same day as Chavez' talk by Tomas Villanueva, a spokesman and former president of Washington United Farm Workers, a labor union.

In a meeting Monday with the student body's Political Union, Prado also asked for a panel discussion with Chavez after her lecture.

"We have some real good scholars that are going to be there to basically ask her questions about multiculturalism and challenge her views," Prado said.

Chavez received national attention in the mid-1980s as head of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. She proposed studying the possible adverse effects of affirmative action programs.

In 1987, after a failed U.S. Senate bid, Chavez was named president of U.S. English, an organization which supports designating English as the nation's official language. She has since resigned from the group, and is a panelist on a public television public affairs program called "To the Contrary."

Activists say shutdown shows nuclear danger

PORTLAND (AP) — Supporters of failed measures to close the Trojan nuclear plant say a leak in steam generator tubes that forced a temporary shutdown shows the plant is dangerous.

"There's nothing that says the next leak is not going to be something greater," said anti-nuclear activist Lloyd Marbet. "That plant is failing."

Marbet said the leak would not be a concern if voters had approved either Measure 5 or Measure 6, which would have forced an immediate closure of the Portland General Electric Co. plant.

Greg Tozian, another anti-Trojan activist, said the leak is further evidence the plant is in bad shape and won't last until its scheduled closure in 1996.

"They are not going to be able to fix it," Tozian said.

A PGE spokesman, Steve Sautter, said it was "premature to say this casts a shadow on Trojan's future, but we'll certainly take a close look at it."

The leak was detected shortly before 7 a.m. Monday by extremely sensitive instruments installed after PGE found microscopic cracks in metal tubes that feed the plant's steam generator.

The utility announced it found the cracks in February 1991, forcing the plant to lie idle for nearly a year.

It could take up to a week to pinpoint the source of the leak but the rate was about 200 gallons of steam a day, Sautter said.

He said that a person standing in front of the leak would have received radiation equivalent to a tiny fraction of a chest X-ray.

The plant has taken extra safety precautions since the cracks were discovered, added Greg Cook, spokesman for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Walnut Creek, Calif.

Sautter said the plant would remain off line until the leak was repaired.

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