

EL OBSERVADOR

de Portland

Consulado De Mexico Blood Wedding

The Mexican Government through its Portland Consulate, filed documents (amicus curiae) today in Federal District Court in Portland in support of Mexican workers who have filed a lawsuit against an Idaho based labor contractor. In this lawsuit, named Perez-Perez V. Progressive Forestry Services. The workers allege that progressive forestry and its representatives recruited them and numerous other Mexican citizens (almost 500) to work in Oregon and certain other states, violating the U.S. and Mexican laws.

Specifically, the workers claim that progressive failed to disclose the terms of employment at the time of recruitment, failed to pay wages when due, and failed to comply with the working arrangement between progressive and the workers.

Mexico believes that the lawsuit raises issues of the utmost importance to its citizens. The constitution of the United Mexican states (Art. 123 Section A, Part XXVI) and the Mexican Federal Labor Law (Arts. 25 and 28) protect Mexican workers who are recruited to work in a foreign country against indecent treatment by their employer. These laws require recruiters of Mexican workers for foreign employment to give clear information on the wages which will be paid and other conditions of employment. They also require

labor contractors to pay for the workers' travel expenses from Mexico to the United States, and to provide adequate food and dignified housing. Under these laws, labor contractors must obtain Mexican government approval for recruitment of employees.

Unfortunately, U.S. Labor recruiters knowingly ignore these laws. And once the workers are brought into the U.S., employer intimidation, language barriers and lack of financial resources prevent the workers from individually asserting their rights under either U.S. or Mexican laws.

Court papers show that Progressive Forestry Services has been one of those contractors which has violated these laws by intentionally failing to get Mexican government approval for its recruitment activity.

Mexico is asking the court to grant the plaintiffs request to certify this lawsuit as a class action so they may assert not just their individual rights but the rights of all Mexican workers who are working, or may be working in Oregon thereby allowing all workers damaged to receive any relief which the court finds proper.

For further information contact Consul General Alma Patricia Soria, Consul Jose Luis Alvarado (503) 274-1442 or Gene Mechanic, Attorney At Law (503) 224-2372.



Miracle Mainstage presents Blood Wedding a classic Spanish tragedy.

The Miracle Mainstage opens its 15th season with Federico García Lorca's classic Spanish tragedy Blood Wedding. Lorca, Spain's greatest poet and most widely read dramatist, infuses this passionate tale with the haunting images of knives, blood, horses, the moon, and death, conjuring a timeless and mythical landscape with metaphor and poetry.

Inspired by newspaper accounts of real-life events in Algeria, Spain in 1929, Blood Wedding addresses the conflict between sexual desire and societal propriety. Lorca's drama recounts the tragic tale of a young woman (Bride) who is torn between her obligation to fulfill her father's wish that she marry a capable provider (Bridegroom) an her unquenchable desire for her former lover (Leonardo Félix), now married to her cousin. Hoping to appease her father and finally quell her love for Leonardo, the young woman agrees to marry the Bridegroom. The Bridegroom's mother, desperately protective of her only remaining son and fear-

ing further violence from the murderous Félix family, glimpses the shadow of danger that threatens the safety of her son on the eve of his nuptials. Betrayal, hatred, violent revenge, passion and tragic death eclipse the spirited wedding celebration that follows. Fiercely intense and bursting with provocative poetry and music, Blood Wedding combines theatrical surrealism with Lorca's deep admiration for Spanish tradition, painting the land of his ancestors with a poet's brush.

Olga Sanchez, director of last year's highly successful production of When the Blues Chase up a Rabbitt, will return to the Miracle to direct Blood Wedding.

The Miracle Theatre will offer a public preview of Blood Wedding on September 23rd and a gala opening reception on September 24th. Performances will continue through October 23rd, Thursday evenings at 7 PM and Friday and Saturday nights at 8 PM. Tickets are \$12 on Thursdays and \$14 Fridays and Saturdays. Tickets to the September 23rd preview are \$7; September 24th opening night gala performance and reception are \$17.50. Make your reservations now - tickets are already selling quickly!

For reservations, call 503/236-7253.

Latino Communities Urged to Prepare for Census 2000

WASHINGTON - "American Hispanics and Latinos represent one of the fastest growing communities in our society and have much to gain in being fully counted in the 2000 census," J. Kenneth Blackwell, Co-Chairman of the U.S. Census Monitoring Board said Wednesday.

Blackwell's comments came during a Capitol Hill press conference with Houston City Council Member John Castillo to preview a video produced by the congressionally appointed members of the Census Monitoring Board. Councilman Castillo hosted a recent visit by members of the Board to Houston to meet with Hispanic and Latino elected officials, civic and community leaders, and residents in some of the hardest-to-count neighborhoods in the nation. Major portions of the video were filmed on location in Houston as well as the colonias, poor neighborhoods near Brownsville, Texas.

The video features interviews with Hispanic and Latino elected officials, civic and community leaders and residents in Houston and Brownsville telling of the importance of the Census to their communities and what they are doing to ensure a more accurate count. The Board will provide copies of the video to Hispanic and Latino leaders and organizations around the country.

"Over four million people were missed in the 1990 census," noted Blackwell. "A disproportionate number were Hispanic/Latino, African-American, Asian American and Native American. More than

half were children. They often live in hard-to-count areas such as barrios, inner-city neighborhoods, reservations and remote rural areas."

The congressionally appointed members of the Census Monitoring Board, a bipartisan panel created by Congress to oversee the preparation and implementation of the 2000 Census, have been visiting with local leaders and residents of hard-to-count areas around the nation, listening to their concerns and incorporating their suggestions for conducting a better count in the Board's reports to Congress.

"We have found that involving local officials and residents from the beginning is one of the best

methods for ensuring a better count in next year's census," Blackwell said. "We are urging local and state officials to form Complete Count Committees such as the one in Houston to work with the Census Bureau to identify the hard-to-count areas and focus the resources necessary to count the residents of those areas."

"The Board extends its appreciation to Councilman Castillo and all the other residents and community officials in Houston and Brownsville that made this video possible," concluded Blackwell.

For further information regarding the Census Monitoring Board or the 2000 Census, please visit our web page at www.cmbc.gov.

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EL ZOCALO

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Carne Asada	Pupusa De Queso
Broiled Steak.....\$7.95	Cheese Pupusa.....\$2.50
Camita De Puerco	Pupusa De Chicaron Y Queso
Pork Steak.....\$7.95	Cheese and Pork Pupusa.....\$2.50
Camarones Con Aros	Yuca Sancochada
Shrimp with Rice.....\$7.95	Boiled Yuca.....\$2.50
	Plantanos Fritos Con Crema
	Fried Plantain with Cream.....\$3.75

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¡Sil! ¡Ya le toca a usted! No pudo haberlo soñado mejor si lo hubiera intentado. Ha aprendido que esas largas horas de trabajo duro definitivamente valieron la pena, y que es más fácil salir adelante cuando lo respalda la familia. Así es con American Family Mutual Insurance. Como usted, nosotros sabemos que el buen desempeño día tras día crea reputaciones sólidas. Es sólo una de las razones por las cuales, año tras año, mantenemos el rango A+ (Superior) de la autoridad en la puntuación de agencias de seguros, A.M. Best. Antes de que haga su próxima movida, haga una llamada, y un agente amable con mucho gusto le dará más detalles. Entonces, salga a conquistar el mundo...nosotros lo respaldamos.

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