

FI O B S E R V A D O R

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H I S P A N I C H E R I T A G E M O N T H

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Adolfo Pérez

Esquivel Brings Global Vision to
Oregon

Argentine Nobel Peace Prize laureate and human rights advocate Adolfo Pérez Esquivel will share his struggles to achieve economic justice in Latin America and his current campaign for global economic justice during Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Collins Lectures in Portland, October 3 and 4. Responding to his talks, Oregon religious and political leaders will frame those issues in a regional context. Pérez Esquivel's talks, at 7 PM Sunday evening, and at noon and 7 PM Monday, will focus on the theme of "Jubilee: A new era for Justice, Forgiveness and Freedom." The lectures will be held at First United Methodist Church, SW 18th and Jefferson.

Pérez and Esquivel is a key leader of Jubilee 2000, the worldwide campaign to cancel the debts of impoverished countries. Pérez Esquivel received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1980 after being imprisoned for challenging the injustices of military dictatorships. Prior to arriving in Portland, he will receive the Pacem Terris Award from

the Roman Catholic Diocese of Davenport, Iowa. Pérez Esquivel's talks follow the September 28-30 meeting in Washington D.C. of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to discuss the debt cancellation initiative.

Respondents to Pérez Esquivel's opening speech Sunday evening, entitled "Forgiveness and Release: What have you done to my sister and brother," include United Church of Christ Conference Minister Rev. Dr. Héctor E. López and Dr. Patricia Rumer, Oregon liaison to Jubilee 2000/USA.

Monday's luncheon lecture on "The Gospels and Liberation: Challenges for the New Millennium," will feature the music of Rev. John Pitney and responses from Oregon state Rep. Anitra Rasmussen (D-11th District), third-generation farmer Jim Bronce, Lakota tribal member Anne Scissons, and youth from the American Friends Service Committee and the International Studies Program at Lincoln High School.

The Summit is a joint effort by students, educators, administrators and community members who have taken the initiative to better the education of Latino youth in Multnomah County. Out of growing concern about the high Latino dropout rate, Commissioner Serena Cruz and Superintendent Ben Canada initiated the first Summit in June 1999. The goals were to work directly with the community to find ideas and solutions. The first Summit provided the opportunity for concerned members of the community to embrace their responsibilities and make commitments to support Latino youth.

After the issues were prioritized, the community asked that the Summit reconvene in order to carefully review and research all potential ideas and strategies. This October, participants of the Summit will determine what goals and responsibilities our community, schools and families will on for the 1999-2000 school year.

Who can attend?
Anyone who cares about the quality of education for our growing Latino student population is invited to attend. At our first Summit, over 300 teachers, parents, students, elected officials, agencies, business representatives and community members were in attendance. On-site immunizations will be provided until 7 PM.



Spanish translation services and child care will be provided for the duration of this event. Please

RSVP for childcare to 503/248-5239. PLEASE JOIN US ON OCTO-

BER 12 TO CONTINUE OUR DISCUSSION ON THE EDUCATION OF LATINO STUDENTS.

Mexican Independence Day

By Luis Machorro
Contributing Writer

Although many people in the United States believe Cinco de Mayo is Mexican Independence Day, it is actually celebrated on the 16th of September. The previous evening, Mexicans gather in plazas throughout México and some locations in the US to give the Grito, the cry, of independence.

Cinco de Mayo is the Mexican celebration of the Battle of Puebla, a battle that took place between the French forces of the Archduke Maximilian and the Mexicans on May 5, 1862 near Puebla México. The Mexicans won this battle, defeating, this time and for the first time, what was then the most powerful army in Europe.

At the time, the French Army of Napoleon III was considered the premier army in the world. It had enjoyed recent victories throughout Europe and Asia. The French expected to march from the port city of Veracruz to México City without encountering much resistance. President Juárez sent troops, under the command of General Ignacio Zaragoza, a Mexican born in Texas, to Puebla to confront the French. The Mexican troops consisted almost entirely of indigenous soldiers. General Zaragoza's troops, outnumbered 4,700 to 5,200, were severely under-equipped. La Batalla de Puebla

raged on for two hours, after which time the French were forced to retreat to Orizaba. Despite tremendous odds, the humble Mexican Army defeated the most powerful fighting unit in the world!

On the 15th of September each year, all of the government officials from mayors to the president of México celebrate the famous "Grito de Dolores" with crowds of Mexican people. The Grito from México City is broadcast on several Spanish language television stations throughout the US. The Grito was incited by the "Father of the Country", Don Miguel Hidalgo the priest of the small town of Dolores, now called Dolores

Hidalgo on what is now the Mexican State of Guanajuato. Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, a priest, called to the Mexicans to take arms against the government of Spain. At dawn on the 16th of September 1810, he rang the bell of his church to let the people know of the need to rebel.

What Hidalgo intended - and accomplished - was to launch his flock against the Spaniards, those born in Spain and living in México who had been exploiting the wealth of the Mexican people for three hundred years. Within a month, he had been joined by more than fifty thousand men, mainly Indians from the poorest levels of society. Attracted by his religious magnetism and by other, less noble motives, this multitude devastated the cities of San Miguel, Celaya, and Guanajuato and were on the point of entering México City when Hidalgo ordered them to retreat.

A few months later, in July of 1811, Miguel Hidalgo was tortured and tried by the Inquisition, condemned by the civil authorities, and executed. But by then the seed had begun to sprout. It took the form of a long and violent social earthquake lasting ten years until

1821; almost without precedent in New Spain or the Americas: the Mexican War of Independence - a truly popular movement led by armed Catholic parish priests. Thus beginning a long tradition of radical priests in a highly conservative Catholic Church

In 1910, one hundred years after, on the eve of September 15, President Porfirio Díaz, who took part in the battle of Cinco de Mayo (between the Mexicans and the French) stood on the main balcony of the National Palace, and rang the same bell Hidalgo had rung in Dolores. He shouted several cheers or vivas as they are called in Spanish: "Long Live the Heroes of the Nation!" "Long Live the Republic!" Below him, in the zócalo or main square that, from the days of the Aztecs had been the ceremonial heart of the Mexican Nation, a hundred thousand voices shouted in reply "¡VIVA!"

But why had the President delivered this grito on the night of September 15th, rather than at dawn on September 16th, when it all really began? Perhaps because September 15 was the Day of Saint Porfirio (a Greek saint of the fourth century) and the birthday of President Porfirio Díaz.

E L Z O C A L O		S A L V A D O R E N F O O D	
MEXICAN MENU SAMPLE:		SALVADOREN MENU SAMPLE:	
Carne Asada		Pupusa De Queso	\$2.50
Broiled Steak	\$7.95	Cheese Pupusa	\$2.50
Carnita De Puerco		Pupusa De Chicharon Y Queso	\$2.50
Pork Steak	\$7.95	Cheese and Pork Pupusa	\$2.50
Camarones Con Aros		Yuca Sancochada	\$2.50
Shrimp with Rice	\$7.95	Boiled Yuca	\$2.50
		Plantanos Fritos Con Crema	\$3.75
		Fried Plantain with Cream	\$3.75

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¡Sí! ¡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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