



Metro/EL OBSERVADOR

Cinco de Mayo Calendar of Events

Ride Tri-Met and get a free trip home

Riding Tri-Met to Cinco de Mayo at Portland's Waterfront Park is a great way to avoid parking hassles and it's a bargain, too. When you ride to the celebration, you can get a free ride home.

The offer is good during all four days of festivities, which run Thursday, May 4 through Sunday, May 7. All that's needed to get a free return trip is to show your Tri-Met receipt at the festival's main booth. They'll give you a ticket that will get you home anytime that day. There is a limit of one ticket per customer per day. Call 503/238-RIDE.

International School Celebrates Cinco de Mayo

Beginning Friday, April 28, The International School will kick off a weeklong celebration of world events and activities that include a traditional Mexican feast with folk music and dancing; Japanese singing and dancing; Italian opera; ballet; a student art show; and planting flowers for Portland's Rose Festival. For more information, call Torrence Burrowes, Head of School at 226-2496.

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo at Chinook Winds Casino

It's Fiesta time at Chinook Winds Casino on May 5-7 with the Celebration of Cinco de Mayo and three fun-filled days. Friday through Sunday, tickets will be given away for the upcoming June 9, Freddie Fender concert. Both Friday and Saturday from 11 am. to 4 pm., the buffet will feature authentic Mexican entrees and the Rogue River Restaurant & Lounge will have "South of the Border" specials as well. Other surprises will follow. Call Call 541/996-5815.

US Naturalization Ceremony

A U.S. Naturalization Ceremony sponsored by Squires & Lopez, Attorneys at Law (presented by Young Lawyers Section of the Multnomah County Bar Association) will be held at the Western Union Main Stage at Waterfront Park on Friday, May 5, 2000 from Noon until 1 pm.

Mexican Crafts and Beadmaking

There will be an all day face painting, piñata breaking, jewelry and flower making as well as balloons given by Joe the Balloon Man from Thursday, May 4 until Sunday, May 7 at Waterfront Park in the US West Children's Plaza.

On-Site Soccer Clinic

Autograph signing by Mexican Team members of the National Women's Soccer Cup playing at Civic stadium is sponsored by the Oregonian. Meet these women on Saturday, May 6 at Waterfront Park from 2 pm. and 4 pm.

Cinco de Mayo at The Viscount Ballroom

An evening of Latin dance and live performances. Cinco de Mayo at the Viscount will include a dance performance by Sabor Latino, musical performances by both Palante and La Comparsita, and our final dance-off of the Viscount's month-long salsa dance competition. It will be an evening of Argentine Tango music, small Latin-influenced diner menu, free beginning salsa lessons, Cuban Carnival, and a dance competition. The Viscount Ballroom is located at 722 East Burnside. Call 233-7855 or call www.viscountballroom.com.

Happy Cinco de Mayo



Consulado de Mexico Atencion!

Trabajadores Migrantes Mexicanos en el Estado de Oregon

El Consulado General de Mexico en Portland Oregon, solicita con urgencia la presencia en sus oficinas de las personas cuyos nombres aparecen en la lista que sigue, o de un familiar directo, con el proposito de tratar un asunto de su interes personal. Para ello es indispensable

que el interesado o su familiar acudan a la brevedad con una identificacion oficial vigente a 1234 SW Morrison St. Portland, OR. 97205., de lunes a viernes de 8:15 a.m. a 1:30 p.m.

En caso de encontrarse lejos del Consulado, favor de comunicarse a los telefonos 503/274-1442, y 274-1450.

Understanding the passion of Cuban-Americans

By JACOB G. HORNBERGER FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Last year, I spent a week in Cuba with the official permission of the U.S. Treasury Department and the Cuban Interest Section in Washington, D.C. (the diplomatic agency that is "hosting" Elian Gonzales's father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez). The purpose of my trip was to conduct an informal study of both Cuba's economic system and the effects of the U.S. embargo on Cuban life. The Cuban authorities arranged official visits for me with various think tanks at the University of Havana and gave me permission to freely interview people on the streets.

I have studied communism and socialism for more than 20 years. I have also traveled extensively throughout Latin America, where government intervention dominates the economic affairs of the citizenry. But I was unprepared for what I encountered in Cuba.

In Cuba, the state effectively owns all the places of employment. All the food-ration stations, service stations, restaurants, radio and television stations, hotels, museums, schools, pharmacies, and clinics. Therefore, practically everyone in Cuba works for the state. Imagine what that means. If a person upsets his employer and loses his job, he is not able to obtain alternative employment because, for all practical purposes, there is none.

This was driven home to me by a young woman who was surreptitiously showing me her national identity card, making fun of it. I asked her why she didn't express her ridicule more openly, and she replied, "If I resist, the state (her employer) will transfer me to another city on the other side of the country - away from the man I am engaged to marry."

Another young woman, a law student at the University of Havana, said that her biggest dream in life was to own her own business. When I pointed out to her, "But that's not legal in Cuba," she responded, "Yes, I know...but there is always hope."

At an open-air (state-owned) restaurant, a group of (state-employed) musicians was performing for the patrons. When the musicians approached my table, I asked them if they would sing "Abriendo Puertas" ("Opening Doors"), a song made popular by Cuban-American Gloria Estefan. They declined to do so. I later learned that he musicians were not permitted by their employer to sing Estefan's songs.

My visits with Cubans on the streets confirmed that there is a very real fear for anyone who wishes to display any independence of mind or spirit, a fear of losing one's job but also of landing in jail. Keep in mind that it is a severe criminal offense for anyone to question or criticize Cuba's political and economic system. During my visit, the point was being emphasized by the criminal trial of several Cuban dissidents, which was being shown on national television on Cuba's official government version of "Court TV." (The dissidents later received prison sentences of 3-5 years.)

After the Soviet Union's subsidies to Cuba were terminated, the Cuban authorities reluctantly began permitting people to engage in a few (licensed) self-employment enterprises. It was fascinating to see how Cubans' entrepreneurial talents and spirit of independence had surfaced so quickly albeit in a very limited way.

For example, I asked a newly licensed young bookseller at an open-air market, "How do you know how much to charge for your books?" He responded in the finest entrepreneurial fashion, "It is my job to know." An old woman, about 80, who was selling ice-cream on the streets, told me that she had to pay income taxes at the end of the year on top of her licensing fee of \$250 per month. I asked her, "How do they know how much you have earned?" Looking around to make sure no one was listening, she smiled her toothless grin and said, "Yes, how do they know?" Not surprisingly, my visits with the officials at the state research centers were quite different from my visits with people on the streets. At the think tanks, people (purport to) continue ardently believing in Cuba's socialist system. When I asked them how they could justify their continued, unwavering faith in socialism in the face of its horrific economic results, their response was to blame Cuba's economic woes on the U.S. embargo.

It is not difficult to understand the arguments of those who wish to see a father reunited with his son. On the other hand, appreciating the passionate opposition of Cuban-Americans to returning a 6-year-old boy to a communist society requires an insight into a country in which those who fail to conform either don't eat or end up in prison.

Jacob G. Hornberger is the president of The Future of Freedom Foundation. His website is www.fff.org.

Celebrating Cinco de Mayo

By FRIEDRICH E. SCHULER FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Today, celebrating Cinco de Mayo means to recognize the rich cultural and individual contributions that people from Mexico and of Mexican-American ethnic background have contributed to the U.S. for centuries. Delicious foods, splendid costumes for folk dances and the wonderful sound of the Spanish language try to communicate to a wider public the cultural riches that Native Americans, Spaniards and Mexicans have created during more than five hundred years. Just eating Mexican foods would mean to miss the deeper meaning of this celebration.

Before Cinco de Mayo became a celebration of cultural pride in the U.S., it was a remembrance of a Mexican military victory over French military occupation forces that took place near the Mexican City of Puebla. There, on May 5, 1862, Mexican forces under the leadership of General Ignacio Zaragoza defeated French occupying troops. Under the leadership of General Ignacio Zaragoza, a Mexican army of 2000 soldiers delivered a crushing defeat of 6000 well-equipped professional soldiers commanded by General Charles Latrille. From a long-term perspective, this single victory was futile. After some months, the French occupation forces of Napoleon III regrouped and forced a new European dictatorship onto Mexico. Under the reign of Prince Maximilian and his wife Princess Carlotta, once again, Mexico had become part of European colonial empire, ending almost fifty years of independence.

Fortunately for Mexico, changes in European politics forced Napoleon III to withdraw his military occupation forces. As the number of French soldiers dwindled in Mexico, so did the French effort to make Mexico a mere province in its colonial empire.

Once the Mexican nation was reborn as an independent country, the victory at the battle of Puebla on Cinco de Mayo assumed new symbolic significance. The victory in Puebla and over the French in general was reason for national pride. At least in this case, the Mexican David had soundly repelled the French military Goliath and the prince that was put into Chapultepec Castle. European superior technology and strength in numbers had been outweighed by Mexican motivation and determination to fight. In Mexico, this holiday has remained second to the Day of National Independence on September 16 each year.

But Mexican immigrants to the United States brought along this holiday and the spirit of pride and success. As important, it could be used to instruct Mexican-American children through this important lesson about the struggle for power in the face of pressure from outside forces. As ethnic origin became an important tool for identification, the Cinco de Mayo holiday took on a greater importance in the United States than in Mexico. Today popular disregard for history and an occasional narrow focus on having a good time with tacos and beer, makes us forget the achievement of General Saragoza one hundred thirty eight years ago.

Looking for a good home

The State Office for Services to Children and Families have more than 6,000 children in foster homes creating a critical need to recruit more families.

Over 500 of these children are minority children ready to be adopted. These children come to us with their own experiences and backgrounds. Therefore, we need families who can provide love, stability and safety to these

children.

We urge you to get involved now to help children win the freedom that only being a part of a loving family can provide. If you would like to adopt a foster child or need more information, please call 731-3147, ext. 2247.

La oficina Estatal de Servicios para Niños y Familias tiene have escases critica de hogares de padres de crianza temporales y padres

adoptivos. Pedimos a la comunidad Hispana que nos ayude en esta urgente labor.

Si usted esta interesado en recibir informacion sobre como ser padre de crianza temporal o le gustaria adoptar a uno de los niños hispanos que estan esperando una familia talvez como la suya, por favor llame a Judy Orellana, al numero de telefono 503/731-3147, ext. 2247.



Piense: Su hijo es inteligente, saludable y encabeza la lista para ir a la universidad. Le encanta la trayectoria que su carrera ha tomado. Está haciendo muchas de las cosas

que planeó y hasta otras que no había planeado. Vivir la vida en plenitud es fácil cuando tiene una familia que lo respalda. American Family Insurance. Llame ahora mismo y platique con nuestros agentes amables.

Usted tiene una familia que lo respalda

Comprobará por qué constantemente nos mantenemos en el rango A+ (Superior) según A.M. Best, la autoridad en la puntuación de agencias de seguros. Después, vaya...sueñe...planee. Usted decida lo que haga enseguida; nosotros estaremos aquí para ayudarle.

Toda La Protección Bajo Un Mismo Techo.



La póliza que usted adquiera sólo está disponible en idioma inglés. American Family Mutual Insurance Company and Subsidiaries, Madison, Wisconsin 53783-0001 www.amfam.com