

## Venezuela Leader Targets Protest

(AP)—President Hugo Chavez dismissed seven dissident oil executives, moving to crush a revolt against the leadership of Venezuela's state oil monopoly that threatened the production of one of the United States' top crude suppliers.



President Hugo Chavez holds up a brochure on *Petroleos de Venezuela*, the largest crude oil supplier to the United States, and the largest outside the Middle East.

Chavez also announced Sunday that he had forced the retirement of 12 other employees at *Petroleos de Venezuela*, or PDVSA, and warned there would be more firings if the monthlong protest continued.

But rebellious workers — who are upset by recent government appointments to top company posts they say were political — ignored his threats, staging a rowdy protest at the company's Caracas headquarters.

The conflict has handed Chavez one of the biggest challenges of his three-year-old presidency. Oil accounts for a third of the South American nation's gross domestic product and 80 percent of its exports. Venezuela's crude reserves are the largest outside the Middle East.

The five-week labor slowdown has forced operators to scale back production at the Paraguana refinery complex, which produces 70 percent of Venezuela's refined products, according to company sources who have spoken on condition of anonymity.

Chavez angered longtime PDVSA executives by naming five of his own political allies to the board of directors and leftist Gaston Parra as company president. Chavez insisted Sunday that he needs political loyalists to trim corporate spending and increase PDVSA contributions to government coffers — a goal he considers key to his promises to combat poverty and corruption.

Last week, thousands of PDVSA workers stayed home, closed gates to facilities and slowed gasoline and tanker deliveries. They answered Chavez's threats by banging pots and pans and chanting "not one step backward" at PDVSA's Caracas offices.

Created in 1976 and admired for its efficiency in a nation riddled with corruption, the multinational *Petroleos de Venezuela* has grown to become one of the United States' largest suppliers of oil.

## Portland State University Holds Musical Mass

The 80-member Portland State University Symphony Orchestra joins forces with the award-winning PSU Chamber Choir April 14 and 17 for a performance of Joseph Haydn's "Missa in Angustiis," better known as the "Lord Nelson Mass." Also on the program is Brahms' "Academic Festival Overture" and Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1 in C major, featuring the winner of the PSU Concerto Competition, Tatyana Doroshkin. Keith Clark conducts; Bruce Browne is director of the PSU Chamber Choir.

Concerts are Sunday, April 14 at St. Mary's Cathedral and Wednesday, April 17 at PSU's Lincoln Performance Hall. Both performances are 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are available through the PSU Box Office, 510 S.W. Hall St. or at the door. Call 503-725-3307 for information.

## Baha'i Faith Gives Interfaith Talk

The Portland Baha'i community is invited the public to a talk and open discussion entitled "Common Shared Truths" on Friday, April 19, 7:30 p.m. at 8720 N. Ivanhoe. The speaker will be Roger Nesbit, a graduate of the Lewis and Clark Law School in 1972. He has been practicing law in Portland since 1981.

"Given the unfortunate conflicts between the world's religions," Nesbit said, "I hope that my talk will help us all explore how much the principals and teachings of those religions have in common."

Nesbit's talk will cover such things as the fundamental belief in a Creator God, the nature of the human soul, life after death, dealing with our shortcomings, sacrifice, and family and community life.

In addition to devotions every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m., the Portland Baha'i Community hosts a meeting that's open to everyone every month. The Baha'i Center is next to the fire station, just off the St. Johns Bridge.

Following the talk and discussion, refreshments will be served. For more information, call 503-289-6331 or 1-800-22-UNITE, or visit [www.pdx-bahai.org](http://www.pdx-bahai.org).

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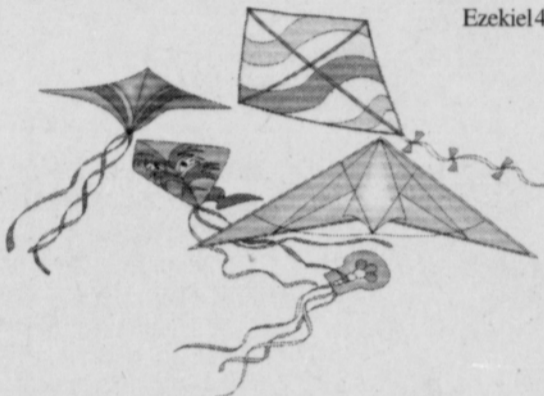
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## Cuban Play Premieres at Miracle Theatre



Cubans flee from their native country in a raft for a better life somewhere else in the play, "A Bicycle Country."

Join the Miracle Theatre Group this month with the premiere of Cuban-American playwright Nilo Cruz's "A Bicycle Country."

Three friends, caged by their fears in a poverty-stricken Cuban village realize their hopeless situation, and build a raft to escape their native land. With the ocean's current guiding their quest, a brilliant story of friendship, struggle and survival unfolds. Raw courage and determination become their only re-

source in a desperate journey of hope, which could only promise new life and fresh discovery in a land of opportunity.

A preview will be held on Thursday, April 11. The play will continue through May 11, Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. Student, senior and group rates available. All performances will be held at El Centro Milagro, located at 525 S.E. Stark St. For ticket reservations and information, call 503-236-7253.

## obituaries

### Frank Edward Sims

A funeral was held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 9, in Killingsworth Little Chapel of the Chimes for Frank Edward Sims, who died April 3 at age 75.

Mr. Sims was born June 30, 1926, in Birmingham, Ala. He served in the merchant marine for 42 years before moving in 1995 to Portland.

Survivor include his daughters, Sherry A. Moffett, Syble K. Corey and Spring Y. Sims; son, Brian E.; sisters, Mary Jordan and Earis Finch; brothers, Emmett, Levi and Cleo Jr.; 13 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

Remembrances to the National Kidney Foundation.

### Jessie Wooten

A graveside service was held for Jessie Wooten at Finley's Sunset Hills, who died March 31 at the age of 68.

Wooten was born on June 14, 1933 in Antlus, Okla. He served as a caseworker for the State of Oregon's Children Services.

Survivors include his sons, Bryant Wooten, Terrance Wooten, Craig Wooten and Jonathan Wooten; daughters, Marie Wooten and Ramona Bradford; brothers, Claude Vincent and Arthur Pierce; and nine grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements were by Caldwell's Colonial Chapel.

## Cox & Cox Funeral Chapel

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This ad dedicated to the loved ones who passed in:  
2002

Bower, Forrest 2-7-02  
Gibson, Osceola 3-2-02  
Goldsby, Albert 3-3-02  
Hall, Howard Lee 1-9-02  
Hammick Jr., Byron Clay 2-22-02  
Hampton, Alvin 3-8-02  
Hill, James C 1-9-02  
Jackson, Velma 3-6-02  
Johnson, Carol 1-5-02  
Johnson, Debbie 1-11-02

Kane, Sophie 2-20-02  
Lindley, Bennie 2-12-02  
Marks Sr., 2-20-02  
Pendergraph, Dannie 1-29-02  
Pritchard, Gina 3-21-02  
Rhodda Trudy Beaty-Smith 3-9-02  
Thompson, Jerry Woop 1-30-02  
Weaver, Arthur, 2-26-02  
Wilson, Anthony C. 3-21-02

We thank those families who have patronized our business.

### Campaign on Inhalants

Substance abuse prevention advocates recently announced a new public awareness campaign directed to the Hispanic community in Oregon. The Oregon Partnership is releasing new Spanish language public service announcements for television, radio and print media that focus on inhalant abuse as part of National Inhalant Awareness Week activities.

"We recognize that the Hispanic community is the fastest growing demographic in Oregon," said David Westbrook, HelpLine Director at the Oregon Partnership.

Oregon Partnership advertises its 24-hour HelpLine number in the Spanish Yellow Pages, and has a dedicated Spanish language line: 877-515-7848. The English language HelpLine is 800-923-HELP.

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March 31  
Join us for our "Easter Celebration 2002"  
11 AM  
"He Got Up"  
Workshop Choir with Minister David Hart  
3:30 PM