

Portland
Observer

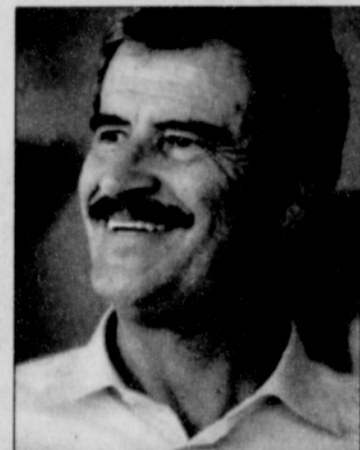
EL OBSERVADOR

Portsmouth Sets Cinco De Mayo Party

Portsmouth Middle School will be celebrating Cinco de Mayo on Friday, May 3rd with speakers, singing and dancing. We are welcoming our community to come and share with us in celebrating the proud Hispanic Culture. Many of our Hispanic students, families and community members will be there. Martin Gonzales will be our featured speaker. Several of our students will read poems they created that share their history and culture. The Portsmouth Choir will sing several Spanish songs, including the Mexican National Anthem. For more information, contact Portsmouth Middle School at 503-916-5666. Portsmouth is located at 5103 N Willis.

Castro Lashes Out at Mexico

(AP) — For decades, Cuba counted on Mexico as a loyal friend, a neighbor that never questioned its socialist system and never succumbed to U.S. pressures to cut diplomatic relations with the Caribbean island at the height of the Cold War.



Vicente Fox, a former Coca Cola executive and rancher from Mexico's pro-business National Action party, became the first Mexican president ever to meet with Cuban dissidents on Cuban soil.

But a series of incidents this year has left Fidel Castro feeling betrayed by the one country in the region he once knew he could depend upon in his defiance of the United States.

First, Mexican President Vicente Fox met with political dissidents during a visit to the island in February. Then the Mexican foreign secretary was accused of inciting several young men to crash a stolen bus through Mexican embassy's gates in Havana, hoping for political asylum. And finally, Mexico voted for a U.N. Human Rights Commission resolution condemning Cuba, reversing a tradition of abstaining from such votes.

Last Tuesday, Mexican Foreign Secretary Jorge Castaneda called Castro's government an "anti-democratic and human rights-violating regime" — an unthinkable

action" created by his presence there.

Fox has not addressed the matter of the tape recording publicly, but Castaneda said Tuesday that the Mexican government had "absolutely nothing" to apologize for — and that Fox never asked Castro to stay away from the summit.

It was clear, though, that the decades of warmth between the two governments had ended. The topic has already generated protests and violence, and a gasoline bomb was thrown against the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City last week but failed to ignite.

Although Castro said Monday that "the fraternal and historical bonds between the peoples of Mexico and Cuba will last forever," he said that the Mexican government's human rights vote against his country last week had left him "despicably betrayed."

Mexico's vote after years of abstaining during the annual exercise indicated that Mexico's first opposition president is not willing to turn the same blind eye that his predecessors did to Cuba's human rights record.

statement just a few years ago.

Fed up, an enraged Castro finally exploded. Acknowledging he was risking 100 years of diplomatic relations, he aired a tape recording of Fox suggesting that the Cuban leader not attend a U.N. poverty conference in Mexico.

Castro attended the March conference, but left abruptly after his speech, citing a "special situ-

House Votes to Abolish Immigration Service

(AP)—The House overwhelmingly agreed to abolish the embattled Immigration and Naturalization Service on Thursday and create two new agencies to handle enforcement and immigration services.

The bill passed the House 405-9 just hours after Attorney General John Ashcroft made a special trip up to the Capitol to endorse the legislation.

House Republicans and Democrats both got behind the bill. "I am convinced it is time for re-

form," said House Democratic Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo. "We will have taken a big step in helping the federal government manage immigration," said Rep. John Linder, R-Ga.

However, Ashcroft said the White House would likely work with the Democratic-controlled Senate to get a plan more to its liking.

The overhaul would scrap the INS and create one agency to enforce laws and keep out unqualified people and another to

smooth the way to possible citizenship for legal immigrants. The new agencies would stay under Ashcroft's control at the Justice Department.

Rep. Melvin Watt, D-N.C., called the proposal a "two-headed monster."

"You've got one inefficient unproductive INS now. It seems to me what you're going to end up with is two inefficient agencies," said Watt, who acknowledged he did not have enough votes to stop the bill.

Portland/Guadalajara Sister City Association presents

Cinco de Mayo

Portland Waterfront Park
May 2-5, 2002

Opening Day Parade
Music & Dance Entertainment at various stages (Main, Plaza, Celebration, and Artisans)
Guadalajara Ballet & Mariachi
"Playtime" Stage
Artisans Plaza
OHSU Family Health & Science Fair
Children's Plaza
Naturalization Ceremony
Friday Night Fireworks Spectacular

Admission
Adults \$6 Seniors (62+) \$3 Kids 10-12 \$3.00
Children 9 and under free (minimum \$1 donation per child would be appreciated)
Entry free Thursday-Friday 11am-5pm only.

Hours
Thursday, May 2nd - Saturday May 4th 11am-11pm
Sunday, May 5th 11am-9pm

For more information, go to www.cincodemayo.org or call (503) 222-9807.
Due to high level of security, PGSCA discourages bringing personal items to the event such as backpacks and other items as they are liable to be searched.

¡Qué viva el Cinco de Mayo!

Todas las familias de American Family Insurance celebran orgullosamente la tradición de la fiesta del Cinco de Mayo.

American Family Mutual Insurance Company and its Subsidiaries
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