



EL OBSERVADOR

Bush Wraps Up Meeting With Pope

(AP) — President Bush raised with Pope John Paul II on Tuesday his concerns regarding the Roman Catholic Church's standing in light of the sexual abuse scandal that has rocked the institution.

Upon arriving at the Vatican, Bush was escorted past a row of Swiss Guards in red-plumed helmets and into a study where the pope stood waiting beside his desk.

Leaning on his chair for support, the frail 82-year-old pontiff motioned for Bush to sit on the opposite side of the desk and the president did, perching on the edge of his armchair. The pope then took his seat, adjusted his desk mat and began their 20-minute private talk.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said later that Bush raised the issue of the Catholic Church's status, given the sexual abuse scandal. They also discussed the Middle East and Russia.

At a NATO-Russian summit



Pope John Paul II.

mention the fact that I appreciate the pope's leadership."

Last month, the pope summoned U.S. cardinals to the Vatican to discuss the sex scandals. He condemned sexual abuse by priests as criminal, and said there is no room in the priesthood for those who engage in such behavior.

Bush's comments on the sex scandal were his first on the matter since March, when he said he was confident the church would "clean up its business."

He backed embattled Cardinal Bernard Law of Boston, who has become a lightning rod for criticism since. "I respect him a lot," Bush said in March, shortly after Law gave prosecutors the names of at least 80 priests accused of sexually abusing children.

Bush gave the pope a hand-painted silver medallion of the Madonna and the pope gave Bush a pink coral statue of the Madonna and child.

before the Vatican meeting, Bush described the pope as "a man of enormous dignity and compassion," and expressed a desire to discuss sexual improprieties committed by priests in the United States.

"I'm going to listen closely to what the Pope has to say," Bush said. "I will tell him that I am concerned about the Catholic Church in America, I'm concerned about its standing."

"I say that because the Catholic Church is an incredibly important institution in our country," Bush said. "I'm also going to

Family Fair Offers Resources to Latinos

In an effort to link Latino families living in Northeast Portland with vital community services, the Multnomah County Northeast Community and Family Service Center will host a Latino Family Resource Fair on Saturday, June 1, from 12-5 p.m. at The Center for Self Enhancement, 3920 N. Kerby Ave.

On hand will be representatives to share information relating to housing and rent, immigration and legal issues, employment referral, energy assistance, counseling and area support groups.

The mission of the Multnomah County Northeast Community and Family Service Center, housed in The Center for Self Enhancement,

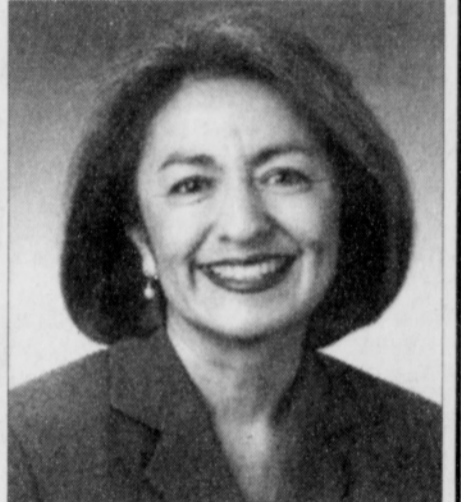
is to provide community members with opportunities, support, and services that honor culture, gender and diversity, and that promote health, stability, resiliency, and self-sufficiency for children, individuals, families and communities.

For more information, contact Genie Gomez at 503-249-1721, ext. 397.

Hispanic Wins Election for State School Superintendent

Susan Castillo, a Democratic state senator from Eugene and the only Hispanic in Legislature, recently won the election to become the next superintendent of public instruction. At the polls, Castillo beat out her two opponents: State School Superintendent Stan Bunn and Rob Kremer. She earned 55 percent of the vote in the three-way race.

Castillo is an advocate for the state's 1991 school reform program, which established strict academic standards and statewide testing to make sure students are mastering skills. She also plans to lobby fellow lawmakers for more school money through the national tobacco settlement, and to restructure Oregon's tax system to develop more stable financial support for schools.



State Senator Susan Castillo

Latino Scholarship and Youth Sponsors Needed

The annual Latino Youth Summit, sponsored by the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs, will be held July 24-26 at the Tilikum Center in Newberg, Oregon. The Commission's goal is to provide some scholarships and leadership training for 50 Latino youth that will be selected statewide through the Scholarship Application Evaluation Committee.

Current scholarship sponsors include Hewlett Packard, Portland General Electric, Wells Fargo, and the Oregon

State Lottery. The Commission is requesting additional sponsors to come forward. This is an opportunity to give back to Oregon's Latino community who has supported your business or organization with a purchasing power now exceeding 2.3 billion.

The youth selected are at-risk youth that have not been able to continue their education.

Interested youth are encouraged to submit their name, address and telephone number so that application materials

can be forwarded to them immediately. The deadline for returning a completed application is July 1.

The summit begins with a dinner program scheduled for Wednesday, July 24 at Mission Mill in Salem.

If you would like to participate as a sponsor or apply for the youth summit, call 503-947-7007 or send a letter to the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs at 350 Winter Street, N.E., Room 200, Salem, OR. 97301-3878.

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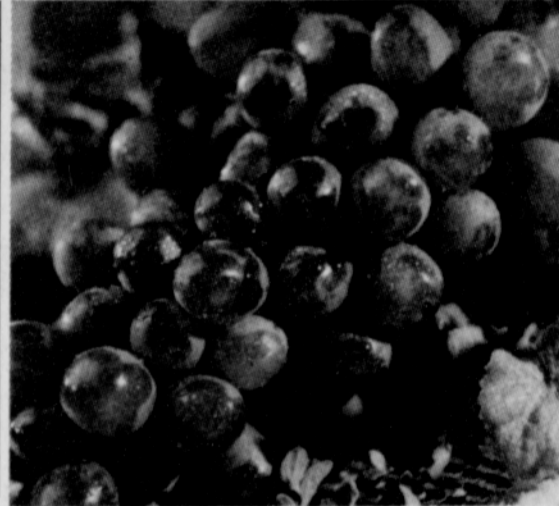


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