

# EL OBSERVADOR



## Corpus Christi Holiday Celebrated

A devil dancer holds his mask while listening to Mass outside a Venezuela church in San Francisco de Yare, about 28 miles south of Caracas, Thursday. It was the start of an annual ritual in which the descendants of African slaves commemorate Corpus Christi, a Roman Catholic holiday celebrating the transformation of the body and blood of Christ into bread and wine. (AP photo)

## Minorities Sue Abercrombie & Fitch

Plaintiffs say they were denied jobs based on race

(AP) — Clothing retailer Abercrombie & Fitch hires a disproportionately white sales force, puts minorities in less-visible jobs and cultivates a virtually all-white image in its catalogues and elsewhere, a lawsuit charges.

The federal lawsuit filed by nine Hispanic and Asian plaintiffs, alleges that Abercrombie discriminates against blacks, Hispanics and Asians by enforcing a nationwide corporate policy of preferring white employees for sales positions, desirable job assignments and favorable work schedules.

"If you look at the material they put out, they are cultivating an all-white look," said Thomas Saenz, vice president of litigation at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, one of the attorneys for the plaintiffs. "It is difficult to understand why, given that their target age de-

mographic is even more heavily minority than the rest of the population."

A spokesman for the company, which targets college students with its upscale casual clothing, declined to comment.

Anthony Ocampo, a Filipino-American who recently graduated from Stanford University, said he applied for a job at a store in Glendale, Calif. where he'd previously worked. After speaking with a manager, a salesperson told him, "We're sorry, but we can't rehire you because there's already too many Filipinos working here," said Ocampo, 21.

Johan Montoya, another plaintiff, alleges a Canoga Park, Calif. store refused to hire him because he is Hispanic, even though he had retail experience.

The company has been accused of racial insensitivity in the past. Last spring, it removed T-shirts from stores after Asian-American groups complained about depictions of two slant-eyed men in conical hats and the slogan "Wong Brothers Laundry Service — Two Wongs Can Make it White."

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## Miami DJs Play Prank on Castro

DJs called unethical by Venezuelan Embassy spokesman

(AP) — Two radio show hosts who duped Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez into believing he was speaking by phone with Cuban President Fidel Castro now claim to have similarly tricked Castro.

A recording provided by the Cuban-American radio announcers has a man they say is Castro responding for about four minutes Tuesday to snippets of a tape recording of Chavez, a Castro friend.

He catches on to the prank after he is called an assassin and the conversation disintegrates into him denouncing the caller with a stream of obscenities.

The call was played on Miami's WXDJ-FM on June 17 with disc jockeys Joe Ferrero and Enrique Santos, the same announcers who called Chavez in a crank phone call in Janu-



Cuba President Fidel Castro smoking his trademark cigar.

ary. "This was a big, big fish that we were trying to get," Ferrero said. "Castro really has his people well-trained to avoid these kind of situations, but we were able to persuade all these people."

Andres Izarra said he hadn't heard the recording and couldn't confirm whether the DJs actually got through to Castro.

Regardless, "it's another prank by these people who are very irresponsible and unethical," he said. "We totally reject these types of jokes."

Venezuelan Embassy spokesman

## Cuba Takes Anti-European Action

(AP) — Fidel Castro's communist government new anti-Europe campaign has begun by taking control of the Spanish Embassy's cultural center - a showcase of Iberian tradition Havana says was used to nurture the opposition.

The action came two days after Castro led hundreds of thousands of people on marches outside the Spanish and Italian embassies in the capital to protest European alignment with U.S. policies supporting pro-democracy dissidents.

Havana was responding to the European Union's announcement

**Cuban officials say [Spain] has maintained a program of activities unrelated to its original function...**

that it would review its relations with the island after a crackdown on the opposition and the firing-squad executions of three men who tried to hijack a ferry to South Florida.

An accord signed by both coun-

tries said that the center would be created to promote the best values of Spanish culture based on respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and nonintervention in Cuba's internal affairs.

Cuban officials say it has maintained a program of activities unrelated to its original function, in open challenge of Cuban laws and institutions.

"Under Cuban administration, the center will be completely dedicated to promote the best values of the Spanish culture in our country," a statement from the government said.



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