

EL OBSERVADOR

Bug Wiped From Windshield Forever

(AP) — The last Volkswagen Beetle has rolled off the assembly line, 70 years after Adolf Hitler's government introduced Germans to a two-door passenger car that became an icon around the globe.

Competition from newer compacts and a Mexican government decision to phase out two-door taxis led Volkswagen to shut down its only remaining "bug" production line at its plant in Puebla, 65 miles southeast of Mexico City.

Workers painstakingly crafted the final car: a baby blue version marked No. 21,529,464 that will go to a museum in Wolfsburg, Germany, home of VW headquarters. Adorned with a Mexican flag made of flowers, the car was serenaded by a mariachi band playing "El Rey," or "The King."

"You didn't just participate in the construction of a car, but in the creation of a legend," Reinhard Jung, president of the executive committee of Volkswagen Mexico, told workers and executives.

Last week's ceremony at the factory was closed to outsiders but transmitted around the world on a satellite television feed.



The very last VW beetle is decorated with a wreath of roses and a message on its windshield which reads "Volkswagen de Mexico last Sedan in the World, 30th July 2003" as it rolls off the production line at VW's Puebla plant. (AP Photo)

First Out of the Gate

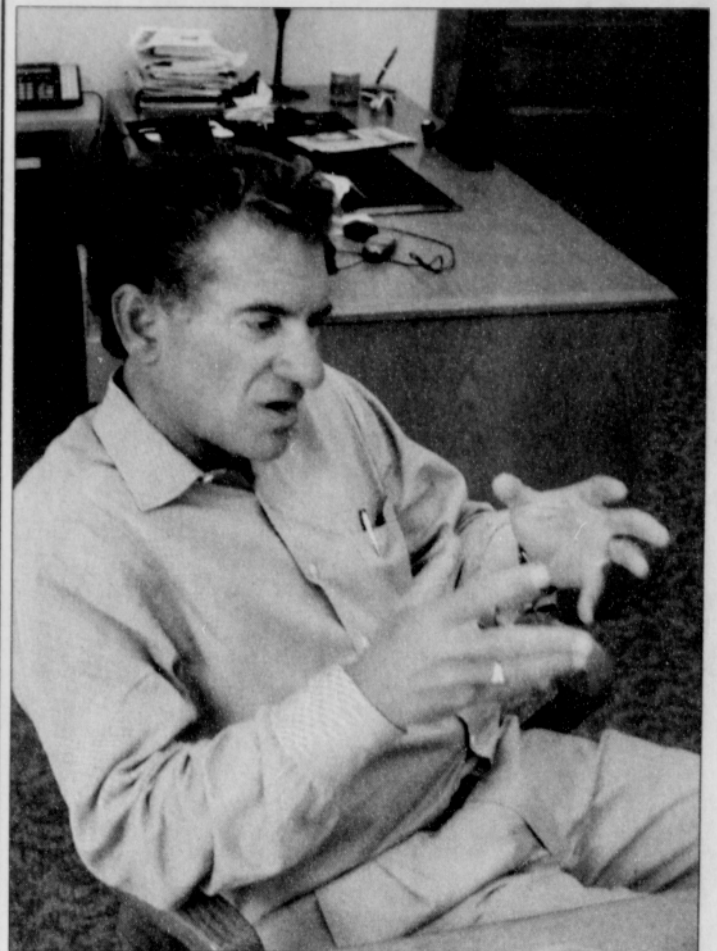


PHOTO BY TONY WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Portland City Commissioner Jim Francesconi in his office at City Hall.

Life Saving Drugs Become a Trade Issue

(AP) — Poor nations like Mexico that want to use low cost copies of patented drugs to treat diseases like HIV/AIDS and malaria are moving toward an agreement that would keep the drugs from being smuggled back to rich countries.

The issue of how to ensure essential drugs are available in the poorest nations has been a major stumbling block to progress in the World Trade Organization's negotiations on a new global treaty to cut barriers to international trade.

WTO rules already allow countries facing public health crises to override patents and order their drugs from cheaper, generic suppliers. But they can order only from domestic manufacturers, which is of no use for the majority of poor nations that have no pharmaceutical industries.

Youth Videos Earn High Reviews

Young Latinos share their hopes and aspirations

What is it like to be young and Latino in Oregon today? According to top educators and leaders, one of the best ways to find out is by watching Nuestra Vision, Nuestro Futuro, a new video series being distributed free of charge to schools, libraries and community groups by the Portland Art Museum Northwest Film Center.

The two 30-minute compilations lend themselves to classroom use, public presentations and discussion groups and are appropriate for English and Spanish-speaking general audiences of all ages.

The series was created through the Oregon Latino Youth Video Project, a three-year statewide media arts education initiative of the

Northwest Film Center and Oregon Council for Hispanic Advancement.

Forty-nine Latino youth, ages 14 to 19, worked with Northwest Film Center faculty to document their lives and communities and to share their hopes and aspirations

For too long the rich history of Latino families in this state has received little notice.

—Serena Cruz, Multnomah County Commissioner

on video. "We are showing the positive things our people are doing in the community, how we have impacted the community," explains Adam Martinez of Ontario, one of the students who worked on the project.

Some of Oregon's top educators and leaders are impressed.

"I have no doubt that this project has had a profound impact on these students. We see them discover more about themselves, celebrate and embrace the Latino contributions to this country, and acknowledge that education is clearly the gateway to opportunity," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Susan Castillo.

"For too long the rich history of Latino families in this state has received little notice," said Serena Cruz, Multnomah County Commissioner. "These young people share important moments in their lives with us; moments that all ages and backgrounds can relate to—the joy of love, family and friendship, the pain of loss, the struggle to endure in this country, and the triumph of achievement."

The videos can be ordered free online at www.nwfilm.org.

continued from Front
the Portland Organizing Project. He created the Youth Employment and Empowerment Coalition, through which he worked to convince business owners to hire kids

only city to close the achievement gap."

He said after-school programs work to keep latchkey kids out of trouble and assist working parents.

The first person to declare his candidacy, Francesconi currently

The Fire Department is not where it needs to be, but it's a lot more diverse than the Police Department.

—Mayoral Candidate Jim Francesconi

with a history of gang involvement.

Francesconi said he's committed to improving education and employment for all.

"We have to focus on how not to be divided by race and class," he said. "I want Portland to be the

runs unopposed. Mayor Vera Katz had decided to retire at the end of her term in 2004.

Earl Blumenauer, a Democratic congressman from Portland and City Commissioner Erik Sten are both rumored to throw in their hats for the position post-Labor Day.

Hispanic Voters Share Opinions

(AP) — Hispanics tend to identify more with Democrats and generally favor them on domestic issues, but many haven't decided what they think of President Bush and lean toward his position on tax cuts and school vouchers, says a new poll.

The CBS-New York Times poll suggested Hispanics tilt toward a Democratic candidate in the 2004 presidential race, but many remain undecided.

When Hispanic registered voters were asked whether they would vote for Bush or a Democratic candidate for president, 21 percent said Bush, 31 percent said a Democrat and 45 percent were undecided.

Hispanics were more likely than non-Hispanics to prefer tax cutting to reducing the size of the deficit. And they were more inclined to support tax-supported vouchers to send children to private schools.

And on social issues like abor-

tion and gay relations, the poll showed Hispanics tend to be more conservative than non-Hispanics.

But by almost a 2-1 margin, Hispanics were inclined to say the Democratic Party comes closer to representing their values. Asked which party cares more about the needs of Hispanics, 50 percent said Democrats, and 19 percent said Republicans. One in five said they didn't know.

PCC Begins High-Tech Training

Non-native English speakers may soon have a workforce advantage in high-tech jobs, thanks to a training program from Portland Community College.

PCC and a consortium of circuit board manufacturers in Washington County are offering the entry-level high-tech skills training program for those entering the high-tech field for the first time. The

program primarily focuses on non-native English speakers in Washington County.

Consortium members include Merix Corporation, Vanguard EMS and Matsushita Electronic Materials, Inc. The business consortium plans to hire from the pool of students completing the training. Job search assistance will also be offered.

This six-week training is free and offered at PCC Capital Career Center, 18624 N.W. Walker Rd. in Beaverton. The training will be held from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday from Sept. 15 through Oct. 24.

Contact Eduardo Garnica, PCC career specialist, with any questions at 503-533-2819 or egarnica@pcc.edu.

Mexico Connections Fine-Tuned at PDX

Mexicana Airlines will add non-stop service on Mondays between Portland International Airport and Guadalajara and eliminate existing service on Fridays to better meet the needs of customers.

With this enhancement, the non-stop flights between Portland and Guadalajara will operate on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The flights offer continuing ser-

vice between Guadalajara and Mexico City and connecting service to Morelia.

"We're fine tuning our schedules to best meet the needs of our customers," said Virginia Barclay, Mexicana marketing director. "We're hearing that this change will work out better for both leisure and business travelers."

Mexicana launched the fast,

convenient, new nonstop service May 1 at PDX. The flights use Mexicana's new Airbus A319 aircraft with a capacity of 120 passengers. The flights arrive in Portland at 12:10 p.m. and depart Portland at 1:20 p.m. Elapsed flying time between Portland and Guadalajara is 4 hours 30 minutes. Travel to Mexico City or Morelia is just a short hop from Guadalajara.



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