

# EL OBSERVADOR

## Latinos Slighted in TV Newscasts

Coverage scant and stereotypical

(AP)—Television's evening newscasts offer scant and stereotypical coverage of Latinos, focusing mostly on crime and immigration, according to a new study.

For the eighth year, the "National Brownout" study by the National Association of Hispanic Journalists found inadequate attention paid to America's largest and fastest-growing minority.

"This year's report once again highlights the dismal progress the networks have made in their coverage of the nation's Hispanic community," association President Juan Gonzalez, a New York Daily News columnist, said in a statement.

Latino-related stories made

up less than 1 percent of the material on the major newscasts in 2002, the study found. That represents a small increase over 2001.

Latinos make up more than 13 percent of the U.S. population.

Two-thirds of all evening newscast stories concerning Latinos were about crime, terrorism and illegal immigration, according to the study of ABC, NBC, CBS and CNN.

ABC led the way with more balanced coverage of Latinos and with stories on a wide range of topics, the study found.

The results were largely troubling, especially given the critical role TV news plays in shaping American perceptions, the report concluded.



## Minority Chambers Preview Ride

TriMet welcome members of the Hispanic, African-American, and Filipino Chambers of Commerce along with editors of Portland's minority newspapers to a preview ride on the new Interstate Max. Pictured (from left) are Carlos Banks of TriMet, Shelli Romero of the Portland-Guadalajara Sister City Association, Amber Ontiveros of TriMet, Bruce Watts of TriMet and Michael Leighton of the Portland Observer.

## Oregon Voter Line Debuts

Secretary of State Bill Bradbury announced the availability of a new, toll-free, voter information line providing service in both English and Spanish.

By calling 1-866-673-8683, voters will be connected to representatives from the Secretary of State's office, who can answer questions about ballots and voting. Representatives are available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"This toll-free line makes it easier than ever for Oregonians to find information about voting," said Bradbury. "More information and better customer service means it's easier than ever for Oregonians to vote."

Voter line representatives will answer questions about voter registration, ballot delivery and return, marking the ballot, requesting a replacement ballot, absentee ballots, signature requirements, the Voters' Pamphlet, when and where to vote, and any other questions that may arise about elections and voting.

The new service is required by the Help America Vote Act and created using federal funds.

## Victory Declared

A trade case is expected to result in millions of dollars in savings for Americans who make telephone calls to Mexico. The Bush administration said the WTO ruled that Mexico was violating global trade rules by refusing to dismantle barriers to its telephone market. U.S. companies estimate the barriers have cost callers more than \$1 billion since 2000.

## Miami Cops Claim Anti-Hispanic Jury Bias

Alleged racist remarks hinder case against police

(AP)—Attorneys for three Miami police officers accused of corruption raised questions of anti-Hispanic bias Monday after a Latino juror complained of being yelled at, insulted and offended by other jurors.

U.S. District Judge Alan Gold called off what was sup-

posed to be a sixth day of deliberations to allow the woman to visit her doctor after a Latino juror excused. Two alternates said they are ready to join the jury Tuesday.

Defense attorney Sam Rabin said jurors sense a group

of them can intimidate others off the panel or they can write notes to get themselves off.

"The net effect is we're losing Hispanic jurors," he said. The two jurors excused Thursday were Hispanic and Anglo women.

Prosecutor Edward

Stamm responded, "We take strong issue with this anti-Hispanic bias claim." He cited remarks by Hispanic, Anglo and black jurors to argue that ethnicity was not an issue.

Gold planned to check with the juror's doctor Tuesday to see if she could continue and decide then whether to seat

one or two alternates.

Deliberations are set to start again from scratch.

The officers on trial — all Hispanic — are charged with joining a cover-up after two handguns were allegedly planted next to two black robbers who were shot to death by police while trying to escape in 1995.

## Students Voice Concern over Cesar Chavez Speaker

(AP) — Hispanic students at Colorado State University are concerned that scheduling former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to speak on a day honoring Cesar

Chavez' discredits efforts to educate the community about their heritage.

Albright was scheduled to speak Wednesday at CSU's Moby Arena,

two hours after a performance of the play "Papi, Me and Cesar Chavez" in the Lory Student Center Theatre.

Despite a compromise in starting times, members of the Cesar Chavez Day organizing committee met with CSU President Larry Penley to voice their concerns that their events were being

downplayed.

"He listened to our concerns and that was very helpful," said Mims Harris, co-chair of the committee. "It's a serious conflict because this happened on an important holiday."

University officials said the coinciding date for Albright's speech and the Chavez play was not meant to slight anyone. They said it was

difficult to schedule speakers of Albright's caliber and to find a venue large enough to hold the audience.

Chavez's birthday on March 31 is a holiday in several states and in Denver. In 2002, Colorado voters rejected a proposal to make it a paid holiday statewide. Chavez, who led the struggle for social justice for migrant farm workers, died in 1993.

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