

EL OBSERVADOR



Los Lobos Launches 'The Ride'

Members of Los Angeles-based Latin rock band Los Lobos is pictured at Disney's Third annual Fiesta Latina in this file photo. Los Lobos' new album 'The Ride' was just released by Hollywood Records. It is said to be an eclectic collection of stripped-down, bare-bones rock with a dollop of Latin and a dose of down-home soul. (AP photo)

Governor Lashes Out at Multiculturalism

(AP) — Maryland Gov. Robert Ehrlich is standing by his dismissal of multiculturalism as "bunk."

On a conservative radio talk show, the Republican governor said he "rejects the idea of multiculturalism" and that young immigrants should learn English and assimilate into American culture.

Ehrlich has since tried to clarify his position. "We celebrate our ethnicities," Ehrlich said, but Americans share a "singular culture."



Maryland Gov. Robert Ehrlich

"The last message we want to send out is to separate ourselves in different cultures," he said. "This is a melting pot."

On the radio, Ehrlich referred to multiculturalism as "crap."

His remarks came after state Comptroller William Donald Schaefer complained at a public meeting that he had trouble understanding a restaurant worker who spoke poor English.

"I don't want to adjust to another language," the 82-year-old Schaefer complained. "This is the United States. I think they ought to adjust to us."

Ehrlich said on the radio that his views are "very similar" to Schaefer's.

UFO Filmed by Mexican Military

Expert says phenomenon may have been gas

(AP) — A series of brightly lit, rapidly moving objects filmed in the skies over Mexico could have been caused by a scientific phenomenon involving gases in the atmosphere, a scientist said Thursday.

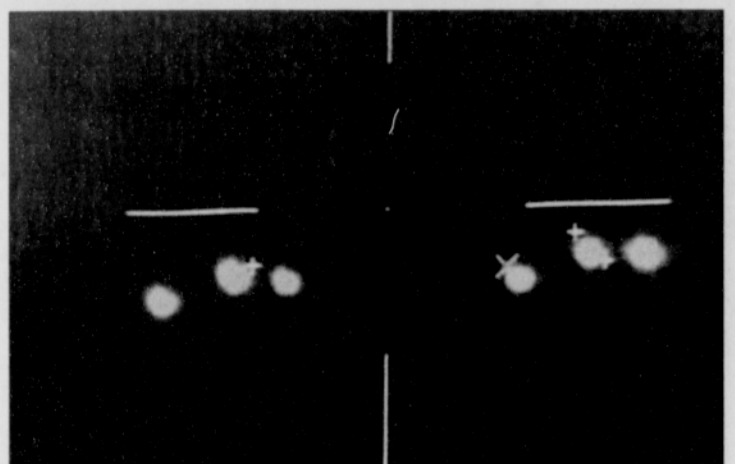
Visible only with infrared equipment, the hauntingly fast-moving lights were captured by air force cameras on March 5 but made public only this week, sparking rampant speculation they were flying saucers.

Julio Herrera, a nuclear science researcher at the National Autonomous University, said the bright blurs could have been caused by electrical flashes emitted spontaneously by the atmosphere.

"They are very strange phenomenon and there is little information about them," Herrera said of the atmospheric flashes in a phone interview.

He said more data than is available on the videotape would be necessary to determine if that hypothesis was correct, including precise information on atmospheric conditions at the time the lights appeared.

The Campeche coast on the Gulf of Mexico, where the objects were filmed, is Mexico's main oil and gas



This image made from video shows unidentified flying objects in the skies over southern Campeche state filmed by Mexican Air Force pilots. The series of brightly lit, rapidly moving objects could have been caused by a scientific phenomenon involving gases in the atmosphere, a scientist said. (AP photo)

producing region. Oil platforms there release or burn off some of the gas they produce.

The objects were recorded flying at more than 11,000 feet over southern Campeche state using a video camera equipped with an infrared lens. Infrared equipment can only detect heat emanating from objects; it is unable to provide an image of the objects' exact form.

In the videotape, the objects appear to accelerate rapidly and change course suddenly. At least

one crew member testified that the objects surrounded the air force jet.

The plane's captain, Maj. Magdaleno Castanon, said the military jets chased the lights "and I believe they could feel we were pursuing them."

Vega Garcia gave the tape to UFO specialist Jaime Maussan, who has spent 10 years studying unidentified flying objects. Maussan immediately concluded the video was evidence of the existence of UFOs.

Illegal Entry From Mexico Rises

One crossing sees 2,000 people arrive daily

(AP) — After a four-year decline, illegal immigration from Mexico is spiking as several thousand migrants a day rush across the border in hopes of getting work visas under a program President Bush proposed. Many also are trying to beat tighter security to come in June.

The U.S. border patrol said detentions - which it uses to judge illegal migration rates - jumped 25 percent to 535,000 in the six months ending March 31 compared to a year ago.

Near Sasabe, a town bordering the Arizona desert that's the busiest illegal border crossing area, an average 2,000 people arrive daily.

On a recent day, at a break in a barbed-wire fence outside Sasabe, about 300 migrants scrambled out of 10 trucks and four vans within 30 minutes with their smugglers, who led crowds along a worn trail. As the sun set, they disappeared into rolling hills that hide the treacherous desert.

Raudel Sanchez, a 22-year-old farm worker, said he wanted to get back to his job at a Minnesota ranch.



Mexican migrants walk toward the United States near the town of Sasabe in northern Mexico. (AP photo)

Sanchez crossed into the United States through Sasabe three years ago, but says the journey is getting more difficult. He walked three days in the desert and was out of water when he was caught in Arizona and deported.

Undeterred, he said he planned to take a bus to Altar, a northern city about 70 miles from the border where migrants hire smugglers. From there, he planned to head back to Sasabe and cross again.

"It's already very hard to cross, but it's going to be even harder," he said in Nogales. "I need to try again, at least one more time, and if I fail, I'll go back home."

Many migrants are betting on the approval of Bush's migration proposal, which faces an uphill battle in Congress. About 75 percent of those arrested are Mexican, while the rest are from Central America and other places, U.S. customs officials said.

In January, Bush proposed a guest-worker plan that would give legal status to undocumented migrants already working in the United States and to those outside the country who can prove they have been offered a job.

Mexicans living in the United States have criticized Bush's proposal. Many say they wouldn't apply, fearing it could be a trap to deport them.

But in Mexico, the program has given many migrants hope that they might be able to seek something better north of the border, and that is enough to convince some to cross now rather than later.

Latino Health Conference

Latino health disparities, access to health information and medical resources is the agenda behind a health providers conference at the University of Portland in north Portland.

The Salud Familiar-Latino Family Health Conference, hosted by the The Susannah Maria Gurule Foundation takes place at the college's Buckley Center, 5000 N. Willamette Blvd., on Friday, May 21 and Saturday, May 22

The keynote speaker is Dr. Fabiana Wallis, director of the Latino Mental Health Services Psychiatry Department at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, Mass. Her presentation is titled "Latina Women and Depression: Towards becoming Culturally Competent."

After Hours Emergency Numbers in Multnomah County

City of Portland/Multnomah County Information and Referral.....	503-823-4000
Police Non Emergency.....	503-823-3333
Mental Health 24 Hour Crisis.....	503-988-4888
Aging and Disability Services 24 Hour Help Line.....	503-988-3646
Winter Shelter Line.....	503-721-1500
Alcohol and Drug Help Line.....	503-244-1312
Statewide Toll Free.....	1-800-923-HELP
Animal Services.....	503-988-7387 (Pets)
United Way.....	503-228-9131
Central City Concern.....	503-294-1681
Multnomah County Circuit Courts.....	503-988-3957
Sheriff's Office.....	503-988-4300
Multnomah County Emergency Management.....	503-988-4233
Transportation Hotline.....	503-988-4884
City of Gresham.....	503-618-CITY (618-2489)
Health Department Information & Referral (Daytime Only).....	503-988-3816
Multnomah County After Hours Nurse Triage (Bilingual-Spanish).....	503-988-3333
Juvenile Justice After Hours Line.....	503-988-3475
Adult Community Justice After Hours line.....	503-988-3230
Child Abuse Reporting Line.....	503-731-3100
American Red Cross.....	503-284-1234
Domestic Violence Services: Women's Crisis Line (translation available).....	503-235-5333
Bradley-Angle House.....	503-281-2442
Volunteers of America.....	503-232-6562
Salvation Army West Women & Children Shelter.....	503-244-7718
Yolanda House.....	503-977-7930

(The numbers above are provided as a public service from The Portland Observer)

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