

EL OBSERVADOR

'House on Mango Street' Reading touches on Latino issues

Sandra Cisneros' "House on Mango Street" has been selected as recommended reading and community wide discussions for next year's Everybody Reads program in the Multnomah County Library system.

The book is a poignant coming-of-age story set in a Latino neighborhood. It touches on many important issues such as the immigrant experience and identity and assimilation, said Molly Raphael, director of libraries.

"We are also looking forward to building on the library's outreach efforts to the Spanish speaking community through this project. Everybody Reads is about bringing people together and making cultural connections," Raphael said.

Published in 1984, "The House on Mango Street" is a series of

vignettes of a young girl growing up in the Latino section of Chicago and the people in her neighborhood. Beloved by all ages and taught everywhere from inner-city grade schools to universities across the country, the novel was the winner of the American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation in 1985.

The selection is the third annual community-wide Everybody Reads book project coordinated by the Multnomah County library and made possible by The Library Foundation.

In January and February 2004, more than 16,000 people participated in the second annual Everybody Reads by reading and discussing Ray Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451" and attending related events.

U.S. Blamed for High Gas Prices

(AP)—The U.S. government is responsible for oil prices reaching \$40 a barrel, charged Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez last week.

"It's not our fault," said Chavez, claiming that the U.S.-led war in Iraq has pushed fuel prices to historic levels.

Chavez, an outspoken critic of U.S. foreign policy, told a group of businessmen that the U.S. government should take measures to receive oil "at the prices it wants."

Chavez has repeatedly said Venezuela, the world's No. 5 oil exporter and a main supplier of crude to the United States, considers \$30 a barrel a "fair" price for oil.

Some members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries say there is enough oil on the market. They argue that the high prices are a result of the war in Iraq and instability in the Gulf, not lack of production within the 11-member organization.

Shaq and Kobe Make Venezuela TV

(AP)—Venezuela's state TV channel usually slams the CIA and the U.S.-led war in Iraq. But in recent weeks, it's featured slam dunks by Shaq and Kobe.

In a shrewd political move, the leftist government of President Hugo Chavez has added the National Basketball Association playoffs to a channel frequently devoted to anti-American harangues.

Chavez's supporters, many of whom live in poverty, are delighted to watch the NBA for free.

"I think it's great that Channel 8 is showing basketball. I can't afford cable, and the other stations aren't showing the playoffs," said street vendor Juvenal Garcia, who makes roughly \$130 a month. Cable and satellite TV companies charge at least \$25 a month for sports programming.

But there's more at stake than just jump shots and buzzer beaters.

Venezuela's opposition hopes to gather enough signatures to force a recall referendum.

Explorando el Columbia Slough

Local gem is backdrop for community fiesta

Area residents are invited to join the Columbia Slough Watershed Council for the third annual Explorando El Columbia Slough on Saturday, June 26 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. for festivities celebrating the nature and history of the Columbia Slough.

Activities will be family-friendly with fun for all ages and are especially targeted to the Hispanic community, with events in both Spanish and English.

Highlights include free canoe trips, music, bird watching, environmental games and displays, bilingual storytelling, Folkloric dancing, refreshments and more. Guests will also receive the Spanish recreation



Canoeers and kayakers enjoy a day on the Columbia Slough, a waterway rich in wildlife that parallels north and northeast Portland.

guide to the Columbia Slough, dling, and picnicking within the Slough watershed. Explorando will be held at

Whitaker Ponds Environmental Learning Center at 7040 N.E. 47th Ave in Portland, just north of Northeast Columbia Blvd.

There will be free shuttle buses picking up passengers at the Ortiz Center on 6736 N.E. Killingsworth, The St. John's Community Center, 8427 N. Central, and at the Old Rockwood Fred Meyer Parking Lot in Gresham. The buses are scheduled to leave the parking lots at each site at 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. The event is also accessible by TriMet bus #75.

Bustos media, home of La Grand radio will be providing music and entertainment during the festivities.

Rebels Still Fight After 40 Years

Marxist guerrillas dig in despite U.S. moves

(AP)—Colombia's main rebel army is celebrating its 40th anniversary and the Marxist guerrillas are literally digging in for the long haul - burying food stores in the mountains and predicting victory will eventually be theirs.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, said in a statement posted last week on a Web site linked to the group that it has "an iron will to fight and profound faith that our cause will triumph."

In the mountains of western Colombia that was the FARC's cradle, a local rebel commander said his forces have buried food caches and are splitting up into three-person units to evade government troops.

A string of rebel bomb attacks coinciding with the anniversary have killed at least 13 people and wounded more than



A man leads his mules through a path overlooking Gaitania in the coffee growing mountains of the Tolima state, 255 miles southwest of Bogota, that was the cradle of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. (AP photo)

100. Colombia's military - backed by billions of dollars in U.S. military aid and training - has the rebels on the run, with headline President Alvaro Uribe trying to bring Latin America's longest-running insurgency to its knees.

In a speech at a military base in southern Colombia that the FARC

overran in 1998 and that Colombian army troops retook in February, Uribe urged the military and police forces to keep attacking the rebels.

Security forces, aided with U.S. intelligence, have captured several regional rebel leaders, and even netted a top rebel commander, Simon Trinidad, in neigh-

boring Ecuador five months ago.

But Manuel "Sureshot" Marulanda, who co-founded the FARC near this village and at 74 is still the group's top commander, has a reputation for staying a step ahead of his pursuers.

Forty years ago, Marulanda - whose real name is Pedro Antonio Marin - was a demobilized Communist guerrilla living in Gaitania, a village of brick houses nestled amid towering green mountains.

Colombia's government sent troops to crush Marulanda and the other Communists, fearing they would trigger a widespread uprising like the one Fidel Castro led from the Sierra Maestra Mountains in Cuba in 1959.

"It was the era when it was said the Andes were going to be the new Sierra Maestra," said Malcolm Deas, a Latin America expert at Oxford University.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOTAL VEHICLE DISBURSEMENT!

EVERY USED CAR, TRUCK, VAN, SPORT UTILITY, OVER 300 TO CHOOSE FROM, MUST BE DISPOSED OF IMMEDIATELY!
\$59 DOWN!* PAYMENTS AS LOW AS \$79 PER MONTH!*

There will be over \$2 million dollars of used cars, trucks, vans and sport utility vehicles offered to the public with \$59 DOWN! There will be monthly payments as low as \$79 per month* on many of these vehicles. Additional vehicles will be arriving daily.

LEAVE YOUR MONEY AT HOME... YOU WON'T NEED IT! Only during this three day sale at Thrifty Auto Centers, you may finance your new vehicle with \$59 DOWN and PAYMENTS AS LOW AS \$79 PER MONTH! This is made possible due to special arrangements with many national lending institutions which have been specifically retained for this event. Banks and lenders will be seeking new customers for this three day event.

IMMEDIATE DELIVERY! At these low prices, you MUST take immediate delivery of your vehicle. Vehicles will not be able to be held on the lot because of consumer demand. You must choose your car, truck, van, or sport utility and take immediate delivery during this three day event! No exceptions will be made. Vehicles will be available from the following manufacturers: Ford, Lincoln, Mercury, Chevrolet, Pontiac, Nissan, Kia, Mazda, Toyota, Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Volkswagen, Honda, along with many others too numerous to mention.

NO DEALERS ALLOWED! Because of disposal pricing, no dealers will be able to purchase or trade during this three day event.

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING:

- * Valid Driver's License
- * Current Pay Stub or 2003 W2 Form
- * Copy of Current Utility or Home Telephone Bill
- * Your Current Vehicle Payment Book

4.09% APR For
72 MONTHS**

**4.09% for 72 months. On approved credit.

TRADE-INS ACCEPTED!

Trade-ins will be accepted during this three day event. If you trade your existing vehicle during this three day event, Thrifty Auto Centers will pay off your trade, no matter what you owe! (A portion of negative trade equity may be applied to new loan.) No matter what your trade situation, \$59 DOWN and as low as \$79 MONTHLY PAYMENTS* will still be available to you! Please bring current title, registration and/or payment book. Lenders will also require proof of insurance.

BAD CREDIT? BANKRUPTCY? NO CREDIT?

Then this sale is for YOU! We have helped thousands of financially troubled customers in the past and we are looking to help you get the vehicle you want... at the price you want to pay. To guarantee the success of this event, national lenders will be providing over 14 million dollars in funding for new loans.

UPSIDE DOWN IN YOUR CURRENT VEHICLE? WANT A NEW VEHICLE WITH A LOWER PAYMENT?

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ALL VEHICLES ON THE LOT QUALIFY!

Every single new and used vehicle on the lot qualifies. You will not hear "this vehicle does not qualify" at Thrifty Auto Centers. We absolutely must move inventory during this three day sale.

*All deals on approved credit. Special finance rates, terms and payments will vary by individual vehicle and are on approved credit through dealer's lender. Delivery must occur. Offer may not be used with prior sales or any other advertised offer. See dealer for complete details. *94 Dodge Caravan stk#E0380A, \$59 down, \$79/mo. for 60 mos. @ 4.19 APR, plus \$50 administrative fee, title & license. On approved credit.

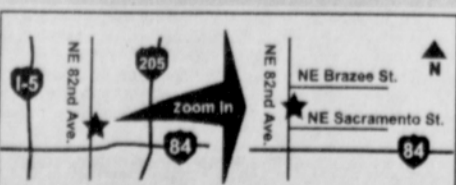
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Political Ads More Sophisticated

Candidates seek
'culturally sensitive'
commercials

(AP)—Reaching Hispanic voters through political advertising involves more than just translating hello to "Hola!"

Ads targeted at the nation's fastest-growing minority group and, arguably, the most volatile voting bloc have become increasingly sophisticated, covering issues beyond immigration and civil rights and including elements of the Hispanic culture.

Republican and Democratic ad makers and strategists say Spanish translations of English ads aren't as effective as "culturally sensitive" commercials about how education, jobs and health care - the main concerns among Hispanics - will improve their lives.

And, consultants say, Hispanics want to see their communities in ads, as well as politicians trying to understand their lives, including speaking their language.

"You have to be much more personal. They have to like you," said Sergio Bendixen, a Democratic pollster.

The challenge for ad makers is reaching all Hispanic voters while trying to avoid alienating certain subgroups, such as Puerto Ricans, Argentinians or Brazilians by running ads that contain, for example, a dialect that is Mexican.