

EL OBSERVADOR

Ancient Mayans Explored in 'Road to Xibalba'

Miracle Theatre Group production

Graduates of Pluma Nueva, the Miracle Theatre Group's bilingual writing and performance project serving teens from economically disadvantaged neighborhoods in the greater Portland area, will perform in "The Road to Xibalba" at the Milagro Theatre, 525 S.E. Stark St.

The Miracle Theater Group has been dedicated to bring the vibrancy of Hispanic theater to the Northwest community and beyond for more than 20 years.

"Xibalba is an English language production about the ancient Mayans and their mastery of art, architecture and astronomy.

The descendants of these great people, who still speak the old languages and worship the old gods, are challenged on all sides — from the Europeanized Latinos who want their land, the Protestant evangelicals who want their souls, the Marxist revolutionaries who want their muscle and the anthropologists

who want their stories.

In this world premiere from Joann Farías, Mexican-American anthropology student Jeff Ordóñez travels to strife-filled Guatemala to research Mayan healing rituals. There he meets a native shaman who leads Jeff on an unforgettable indoctrination to the myth cycle of the Popol Vuh, introducing him firsthand to the indomitable power of the Mayan deities. But Jeff's shamanic training is interrupted by civil war, and he returns to the U.S. without finishing the rites that would complete his apprenticeship.

Thirty years later, Jeff's skeptical son Joe, a high school teacher, leads three students among the ruins of Chichen Itza. In the center of this sacred ball court, the youth are threatened with their own encounter with Mayan deities, each tempted toward the underworld of Xibalba. Are they hallucinating in the Mexican heat, or will Joe now accept that his father's



beliefs — and those of the ancient Maya — are real? Will he call on the gods to help? Or will his students succumb to fears of gangs, pregnancy and the military?

The Road to Xibalba is a magical look at how two generations of Mayan-American descendants connect to rediscover the power of spiritual belief, raising the question of whether this power is contained in the deities that populate the Mayan pantheon, or in the minds of the believers ... or both?

The production is scheduled with a special preview on Thursday, Sept. 21 at 7:30 p.m. and opening night is on Friday, Sept. 22 at 8 p.m. Performances continue each Thursday at 7:30 p.m., each Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m. through Oct. 14.

The Miracle Theatre Group brings Hispanic theater to the stage in 'The Road to Xibalba.'



David Diaz

Hispanic Heritage Exhibit

Illustrator schedules library visits

"The Many Faces of David Diaz," a new exhibit featuring original artwork by the Caldecott Award-winning artist, is on display through Oct. 12 in the Collins Gallery at Central Library, 801 S.W. 10th Ave.

In conjunction with the exhibit and in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, Diaz will visit the Gresham Library on Saturday, Sept. 23 from 10:30 a.m. to noon and at Central Library from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. to speak about his work along with collaborator and Portland author Carmen Bernier-Grand. A book sale and signing will follow each presentation.

Diaz is the winner of the 1995 Caldecott Medal for his illustrations in Smoky Night, by Eve Bunting. It was only the second children's book he'd ever illustrated. Since then, he has illustrated more than 20 books including Going Home (1996) by Eve Bunting, Wilma Unlimited (1996) by Kathleen Krull and The Pot That Juan Built (2002) by Nancy Andrews-Goebel.

His work incorporates a variety of techniques and materials including oil paint, pen and ink, watercolor paints, woodcuts and collage.

Self-guided tours of the exhibit are also available.

Female Immigrants Earn Less, Give More

They help fight poverty back home

(AP) — A United Nations Population Fund report shows that female immigrants generally earn less than men, but tend to send home a larger portion of their earnings, playing an important role in poverty reduction and development in their countries of

origin and upending many traditional mores.

About 95 million women around the world have left their home countries to live and work in a foreign land; they account for nearly half the world's immigrants. But until now little research had been done on how men's and women's immigration experiences differ.

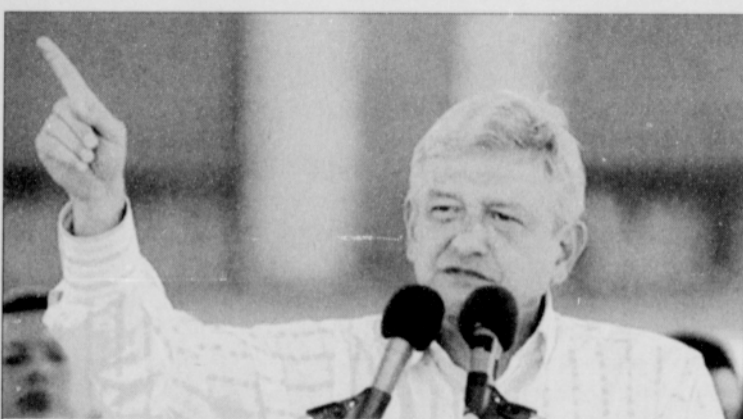
According to the report, titled "A

Passage to Hope: Women and International Migration," they send up to three-quarters of their income home, contributing substantially to the approximately \$232 billion the World Bank estimates was transferred last year to immigrants' countries of origin.

"It's a trend worldwide, and reflects the investment priorities of women in general," said Maria Jose Alcala, the report's primary author.

"Women will always prioritize family and children and their well-being. Men will seek more consumer items. Women tend to be more reliable, and send home larger amounts."

In developing countries, this steady stream of funds can be substantially larger than official assistance, and is the second largest source of external income after foreign direct investment.



Mexico City Street Protests End

(AP) — Supporters of leftist Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador have ended the street protest that clogged the heart of the capital for nearly seven weeks, but they vowed to find other ways to resist the incoming conservative presi-

Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador

dent. The former Mexico City mayor, who claims that his narrow loss in the July 2 presidential election was fraudulent, said he planned to travel across the country to meet with his supporters.

Traffic already was flowing along Reforma Avenue, which had been blocked by tents, cars and buses

since July 30 in an unsuccessful bid to force a full recount in the presidential vote.

Lopez Obrador and his supporters refuse to recognize the slim victory of Felipe Calderon, the candidate of President Vicente Fox's conservative National Action Party who is scheduled to take office Dec. 1.

Congress Votes for Border Fence

(AP) — The U.S. House of Representatives voted for the second time in a year to erect a fence along a third of the U.S.-Mexican border, but did not come up with a way to pay for the multi-billion dollar construction.

A new 700 miles of double-layered fencing won approval on a 283-138 vote Thursday, a

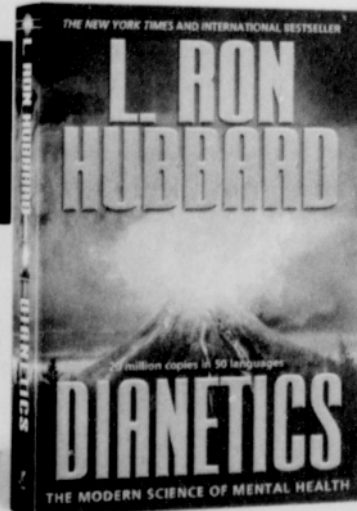
bigger margin than last December when the House passed it as part of a broader bill that also would have made being an illegal immigrant a felony. The nearly 2,000-mile border now has about 75 miles of fencing.

Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., said the separate fence bill was needed to show Ameri-

cans "we can take meaningful action to secure the border."

Democrats accused Republicans of playing upon voters' fears to score political points.

Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-Texas, said Republicans were trying to confuse Americans into thinking "Osama Bin Laden is heading north in a sombrero."



Dianetics can help you live a better and happier life.

Read the book used by millions to reduce stress, anxiety and unhappiness. This is the road to a better life with fewer problems.

Just get it, read it and try it, and you'll never be the same.

Available at your local bookstore or from
Dianetics Foundation, 709 SW Salmon St.
Portland, OR. 97205 Phone 503.228.0116

• Free shipping
• All orders shipped within 24 hours

© 2004 BPI. All Rights Reserved. DIANETICS is a trademark and service mark owned by Religious Technology Center and is used with its permission.

www.dianetics.org
Paperback \$8.00



Be known as one of 'America's Finest.' Become an FBI Special Agent.

FBI at work in the community
Today's FBI demands that we become more diverse and we are working harder than ever to be inclusive — for all people, regardless of color, race, religion, national origin, political affiliation, marital status, disability, age, sex, or sexual orientation. In this end, we are redoubling our diversity efforts within the FBI and externally with such organizations as Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Race Against Drugs, the League of United Latin American Citizens, and the NAACP. Additionally, we're very proud to hold our 50th annual, 7-week FBI Citizen's Academy. During weekly 3-hour sessions, we bring together leaders from a multitude of ethnic and religious groups to gain an insider's view of the FBI.

Special Agents
We have opportunities for Special Agents from a broad range of educational disciplines and professions, however, the FBI has special needs for candidates with critical skills among the following areas: **Computer Science or IT, Engineering, Foreign Counterintelligence, Information Systems Security, Military Intelligence, Physical Sciences, and Accounting/Financial Management.**

Foreign Language skills are an especially critical need for the FBI, particularly if you hold a Bachelor's degree in any subject area and have a native fluency in any of the following: **Arabic, Chinese — all dialects, Farsi/Persian, Hebrew, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Pashto, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Urdu, and Vietnamese.**

To qualify for the FBI Special Agent position, you must possess a four-year college degree plus three years of professional work experience, be available for assignment anywhere in the FBI's jurisdiction, be between the ages of 23 and 36, and be in excellent physical condition with the ability to pass a rigorous physical fitness test.

To learn more about these and other opportunities, please visit our Web site for complete details. Positions added daily.

www.fbijobs.com

You must be a U.S. citizen and consent to a complete background investigation, drug test, and polygraph as a prerequisite for employment. Only those candidates determined to be best qualified will be contacted to proceed in the selection process. TDD: (202) 324-2967.

The FBI is an equal opportunity employer.



FBI...Special People. Special Agents.

To Place Your Classified Advertisement

Contact: Kathy Linder
Phone: 503-288-0033
Fax: 503-288-0015

e-mail: classifieds@portlandobserver.com