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Toledo City Council Kicks Off Hispanic Heritage Month



Photo by D.C. Burch

Community leaders from Toledo's Hispanic sector attend the Toledo City Council meeting last Friday at which a proclamation was issued by council in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month. See related story and photos on Page 6.

Vieques Bombing Exercises to Begin

San Juan, Puerto Rico (AP) — The U.S. Navy has notified the Puerto Rican government that it plans to resume bombing exercises on the island of Vieques as early as Monday, an official said.

Vieques Commissioner Juan Fernandez said on Tuesday that the Navy's top official in Puerto Rico, Rear Adm. Kevin Green, sent him a letter asking him to be present on Vieques for the first day of maneuvers Monday.

Fernandez monitors the bombing for the Puerto Rican government from an observation post overlooking the firing range.

The Navy had previously notified the Puerto Rican government of its plans. But there had been uncertainty about whether the exercises would go forward as planned after the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon last week.

The exercises could last as long as 23 days, Fernandez said.

Opposition to Navy training on the Puerto Rican island surged after a civilian security guard was killed on the Vieques range by off-target bombs in 1999. Protesters argue that the bombing causes environmental and health problems on the island of 9,100 people — charges the Navy denies. The Navy has used inert bombs since the accident.

Well-known figures previously arrested for trespassing in Vieques protests include civil rights leader the Rev. Al Sharpton, actor Edward James Olmos and environmental lawyer Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

El Grito del Silencio

Mexican Independence Day Fetes Converted To Tributes

By Louinn Lota
Associated Press Writer

Huntington Park, Calif. (AP) — Silent mourners carrying red, white and blue flags and candles filled the streets here Saturday as a celebration of Mexico's Independence Day was canceled in honor of the victims of the terrorist attacks.

The organizers joined many others around California — from orchestra leaders to air show planners — in converting planned amusements into memorials of the attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center.

Mexican president Vicente Fox earlier this week asked Mexican Americans to hold off on celebrating the holiday because of the tragedies, although the organizer of the Huntington Park festival said his organization would have done so anyway.

"When all the cards are on the table, we are Americans," said Carlos Morales, of the business organization Meta 2000. "We are showing solidarity to our brothers and sisters, and we are backing our president in the decisions he makes in the next couple of weeks."

The planned festival near Los Angeles had been expected to draw 20,000 Mexican and Latin Americans. It was converted into a candlelight vigil that began with a three-mile procession attended by several hundred people.

The event was called "El Grito del Silencio," referring to the yells — or gritos — that traditionally mark what is normally a joyous commemoration.

Arthur Peinado, 46, a former Huntington Park resident, attended the me-

memorial with his 12-year-old nephew and sister. All three had T-shirts they had made with a picture of the World Trade Center and emblazoned with the words "We Will Remember World Trade Center USA. God Bless America."

"This involves every single American and it's part of our duty to support our country any way that we can whether it's in a small way like candlelighting or wearing a T-shirt," Peinado said. "If we lose lives, so be it. It will not be enough to put up a memorial. There won't be enough memorials."

One longtime Huntington Park resident said Saturday was the first time the city had ever canceled its Mexican Independence Day celebration, a sign, he said, that Hispanics support the U.S. government.

"One of my 16 grandchildren, my grandson, served in the Persian Gulf war as a Marine. Now he's a reserve. He's ready to serve again. There's going to be a Third World War, and I'm even afraid it might be nuclear war," said Juventino Martinez, 72, who wore a patriotic T-shirt of an eagle's head with stars and stripes.

"This will unite us and make us stronger than ever." In the Bay Area, "El Grito" ceremonies sponsored by the Mexican consulates in San Jose and San Francisco were canceled.

Meanwhile, organizers of an air show in Salinas opened their gates Saturday to a smaller crowd than usual, even though FAA restrictions continue to preclude aerial shows. The 21st annual California International Airshow offered only "ground-based entertainment" — including wild animals, hot rods and a "Robosaurus" — as it asked for donations instead of admission fees.

Show organizers held out hope that officials would re-
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La Prensa Newspaper

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Latinos Need to Make Their Own Destiny — See Editorial on Page 2

Bush Needs Action Not Words To Avenge Our Nation's Heroes

By Alan Abrams
Senior Reporter La Prensa

This is one column that I really hope is overtaken by events. I would like nothing better than to have you turn to this page when we hit the streets next week and say, hey, this is old news.

But I'm just afraid it isn't going to happen.

I'm talking about a massive retaliatory strike against Osama bin Laden.

As I write this, it has been 9 days since the terrorist attacks upon New York and Washington.

And what have we done except unleash a war of rhetoric?

Please do not get me wrong. I think President George W. Bush has made some great and powerful threats against bin Laden and his protectors. But to date, that's all they have been — just threats.

Now, where's the action?

I thought President Bush's speech to Congress and the American people set the right tone. But it never followed through on the ultimatum by setting a deadline. Do you think that fine point was lost upon our enemies? Our credibility as a nation is at stake.

I'm suggesting the U.S. take a page from Israel's handbook on dealing with terrorism. When Arafat's thugs or those of Hamas or Hezbollah strike and kill innocent civilians, revenge is swift. Often, it happens the same day. There's no nine-day wait and holding pattern to give Israel's enemies a chance to disperse and hide. Or to regroup to strike again.

Trying to negotiate with Arab terrorists and their protectors is an exercise in futility. Demanding that a terrorist like bin Laden be turned over to our government is not like haggling over the price of a rug. You don't just turn your back and walk away empty-handed.

Ask Israel about negotiating with Arabs. Remember the Oslo Pact? It brought armed Arab terrorists into the midst of Israel's territory where they could strike out at will against innocent civilians.

And bin Laden owes as much of a debt to Arafat for training him in the art of airplane hijacking as he does to Saddam Hussein for helping him break in the business.

"U.S. [should] take a page from Israel's handbook on dealing with terrorism ..."

Just because Arafat has a Nobel Peace Prize to his credit doesn't make him someone we can now afford to ignore in the War against Terrorism. Remember Munich in 1972? Remember Israel's courageous storming of the Entebbe Airport where an entire complement of passengers was rescued? Then you remember when Arafat was the picture you found in the dictionary when you looked up the meaning of the word terrorist.

The best part is no American troops would even have to be involved in taking Arafat permanently out of the mix. Just unleash Ariel Sharon. He'll do his part.

Meanwhile, what are we going to do about those terrorists still in our midst? If it were you or your family on the Northwest flight in Minneapolis last week, would you have wanted to go up in the skies with four Arab men among the passengers?

Personally, and I don't think I'm alone in this sentiment, I'd like to see Afghanistan nuked. And Baghdad too for good measure. That's the only lesson our enemies are going to respect.

Ever see a movie called "Deterrence?" If so, you know exactly what I mean.

What's wrong with this country? Have we lost the will to win? We've got to strike back and strike back soon and hard.

Don't you think the bloom of patriotism is going to fade awfully fast in this country if our current policy of talk and threats continues? Especially if we are subjected to further terrorist outrages? Do you want to see more student protests like those by the misguided souls at the University of Michigan?

George W. Bush easily runs the risk of becoming Jimmy Carter, Junior if our nation fails to come through with decisive action. And I don't want to see that happen.

I don't like Afghans. I don't like their dogs. And I don't like their rugs. If they want to defy the power of the Great Satan, let's make them pay the price. There may be a temporary shortage when it comes to the 100 virgins that are waiting as a reward for them, but any political movement that is run by its genitals really doesn't deserve much better.

As I said in the beginning of this opinion piece, I hope that events have made this read like ancient history, and that we are all standing proud and tall as a nation in the throes of victory when you read this.

The 6,000-plus that died on September 11 deserve that much.

Don't let them down, Mr. President.

Latinos Marking Their Own Mark

Just read or listen to any major news media about the status of Latinos across the county, or for that matter, in Toledo, and the story is pretty much the same; "sin verguenza" (without shame). If I told you the current statistics regarding the health, education, and welfare of Latinos it would only bore you because most Latinos have accepted the status quo. Our tolerance for oppression has reached such high proportions that we are no longer able to recognize our own destination towards political and/or cultural doom. We have, for the most part, given up the right to organize our own communities as the last possible hope to restore our rightful place as a proud raza. The prognosis looks like either assimilation, or a permanent second-class citizenship of our own making.

After all the political and cultural wrangling from the new and used circle of Latino savvy about what Latino's have evolved to, the final picture is relatively the same except that we are just older. Latinos have no real vision of what could be, or should be, and we have yet to create that vision nationwide, or locally. So what do we strive for besides generic values and aspirations that our white, black or Asian counterparts haven't already visualized?

Latinos need to create their own vision, and a pathway that responds to their cultural and political essence. We must stop riding our counterpart's coattails as we have done for too many decades and centuries. We must stop following in the shadow of those who are here one day and fly out the next. Even the Zapatistas finally came down from the Chiapas Mountains to claim their rightful place in their own land, and they had a vision with a plan. Latinos in the U.S. and Toledo must re-emerge and claim their rightful place before we walk our last trail of tears.

A vision is like a future we see for ourselves, or kids, our kid's kids and so forth. This could be in the span of starting today and ending three generations from today. The health, education, and welfare of all of our familias (families) are a good place to start. Remember that vision-planning is forever evolving, but there are specific benchmarks by which we evaluate our progress. We have been doomed for many generations by repeating our past mistakes so we must work endlessly to build upon our successes and always keep looking to the future. We have a lot of catching up but, we can do it! Our ancestors built great empires from scratch throughout the south and central Americas, including the Caribbean. It's in our blood!

The pathway to reach our vision can take many forms and many years, but, the time to start is today. We have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

A vision plan can be as simple as this: A massive amount of announcements, press conferences, flyers, and door-knocking can be organized to start and finish by the end of the Hispanic Heritage Month, and meet at a specific location that will hold 300 - 500 people.

The purpose of the gathering is to begin establishing a vision-plan document that will set the health, education, and welfare needs of the Latino people for 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005. The one significant difference with this idea is that the grassroots people will determine their own destiny. The rest of us provide support and write up the document. By the time spring of 2002 comes around, Latinos can not only have a vision, but also a pathway for real Latino empowerment.

It's a tough, and long-term commitment, but, what else do we have in the works that is realizable and winnable?

Why do it?

Approximately 17,141, or 5.5% of Toledo's 314,000 residents are Latino. We have the numbers to make a huge difference.

Latinos in Toledo still have over 50% high school dropout rate. Parents of students in Toledo Public Schools are the main stakeholders, and they have yet to be organized citywide. Latino home ownership is declining significantly when compared to the majority population. Lending tends for Latinos must be reversed, and made fair, if we are to prosper as a household. According to a recently published report in the Blade, Cleveland's Policy Matters Ohio "Black Ohioans made median wages of \$10.90 an hour - \$2.10 less than their white counterparts..." No mention of wages, median household incomes, poverty benefits or other work-related issues regarding Latinos.

A week later, the Blade reported on their own commissioned study by Zogby regarding poll breakdowns of potential voters for this year's mayoral election. Latinos were left out of the picture completely. What does that tell you?

Those polled were republicans, democrats, independents, men, women, whites, blacks, married, and single.

We have been passed over and sent a very clear message, once again, that we are a group not recognized and, it is by our own making.

Our challenge is to start organizing our gente citywide so that we can start claiming our rightful place in this city today. Stop blaming and riding that coattails of other groups, or events, because we are the only ones who can start and finish our vision.

Any takers?

Ramon Perez

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Attacks Put U.S.-Mexico Issues on Hold

By Mark Stevenson,
Associated Press Writer

Mexico City (AP) - Just days ago, Mexico seemed closer than ever to solving its trickiest historical problem: its troubled relationship with the United States.

But after the terrorist attacks on Washington and New York, Mexico is suddenly finding that its northern neighbor has little time to consider issues like immigration reform, temporary work visas, amnesty for illegal migrants and more open borders.

Mexicans are now hoping

the tragedies won't make America more fearful of its neighbors. And the Mexican government has already embarked on an effort - despite considerable domestic criticism - to prove that, in times of trouble, Mexico is a friend.

"I don't think this has hardened anybody's hearts" against migrants, said Juan Hernandez, President Vicente Fox's pointman in the effort to win better treatment for Mexicans abroad. "I believe our hearts have been quite softened by this tragedy."

Hernandez said Mexico's response, including setting up

a blood bank and aid hotline for bombing victims at Fox's residence in Mexico City, "is showing that Mexico is a friend of the United States."

Fox said Bush reassured him in a weekend phone call that he "hasn't forgotten that we have commitments to work to regularize the situation of immigrants."

"First things first, right now they have to take of this business," Fox said. "The truth is, it surprised me that even in these difficult moments, President Bush himself hasn't forgotten his commitments."

Others are less inclined to optimism, especially given the upsurge in anti-foreigner sentiment in some U.S. communities.

"It's difficult to imagine that, at this point, President Bush would support a program to legalize millions of immigrants," wrote foreign affairs specialist Ana Maria Salazar in the newspaper Reforma.

What a change a week has made. Four days before the attacks, Fox wound up a warmly received visit to Washington, in which he challenged Bush to negotiate immigration reform by the end of 2001.

"A week ago, the conditions for an immigration accord appeared excellent," wrote political analyst Raul Trejo. "After Tuesday, no-

body in the United States may be interested in the issue anymore."

To balance that, Mexico has focused on deepening the relationship. Opposition lawmakers criticized Foreign Secretary Jorge Castaneda for saying "the United States has every right and reason to seek revenge. ... We cannot deny them support."

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Grito

Continued from Page 1

open the skies for aerial demonstrations Sunday, but the FAA said it didn't have any immediate plans to do so.

The Air Force canceled its plans to bring the Thunderbirds, a showcase aerobatics team, but the Canadian military was able to fly its CF-18s - that country's equivalent of the F-18 - to the show.

"It's kind of the sound of freedom," said Harry Wardwell, the executive di-

rector of the show. "It was a real tribute."

The show normally draws 90,000 people over three days, Wardwell said. Saturday drew about 10,000 to 15,000 people. The event usually raises funds for charity; this year's recipient will be a disaster relief fund, Wardwell said.

Southern California Boy Scouts, who held a recruitment day Saturday, preceded the drive with a Newport Beach balloon launch in

honor of victims. The balloons were expected to carry messages of support meant for victims' families.

Elsewhere in California, people organized a host of fund-raisers, blood drives and vigils in support of the victims Saturday. Events included a "charity ride" by Los Angeles-area law-enforcement officers for the survivors of lost firefighters and police officers, and a series of counseling seminars at Southern California hospitals.

Fox Becomes First Opposition President to Issue El Grito

Mexico City (AP) - President Vicente Fox became the first-ever opposition president to kick off Mexican Independence Day on Saturday night, ringing in the festivities with a bell used to call Mexico to arms 191 years ago.

Fox, who ended 71-years of single-party rule with his historic presidential victory last July, stepped out onto the balcony of the ceremonial presidential palace in the heart of Mexico City shortly before midnight Saturday to begin the patriotic discourse known as "El Grito," literally "The Yell."

The scene recalls the events of midnight on Sept. 16, 1810, when revolutionary priest Miguel Hidalgo rang the church bell in the city of Dolores in central Guanajuato state and screamed "Mexicanos, Viva Mexico!" "My fellow Mexicans, Long Live Mexico!"

Hidalgo then gave a speech in which he urged Mexican peasants to rise up against colonial tyranny, beginning Mexico's bloody struggle for independence from Spain.

Hidalgo was executed by Spanish soldiers less than a year after his stirring speech, but the bell he rang now hangs

outside the presidential palace, a source of pride for even the most cynical of Mexicans.

Tens of thousands packed Mexico's City's central plaza to hear Fox's discourse, setting the stage for a massive street party under more than half a million sparkling red, white and green lights and dozens of gigantic Mexican flags.

But Saturday's event has been overshadowed by Tuesday's terrorist attacks in the United States, extensive coverage of which has knocked Fox's Grito off the front pages of Mexico's major newspapers.

Mexican Museum PSA

Mexican Legislators Revoke Rape Law

By Julie Watson
Associated Press Writer

Ciudad Juarez, Mexico (AP) — Bowing to pressure from outraged women's groups, a Mexican state legislature on Tuesday scrapped a recently approved law aimed at shortening prison sentences for rapists judged to have been provoked by their victims.

Lawmakers in Chihuahua state dropped a clause of the state penal code they approved in August that cut the minimum rape sentence from four years to one year if the offender could prove the victim provoked the attack. The new code takes effect in the northern state next week.

The legislators backed

down in a unanimous vote after a nationwide campaign by a coalition that emerged following a series of murders in the border city of Ciudad Juarez in which the victims were also raped.

The women's groups took their fight to Mexico's national congress, which threatened to intervene if the state legislature refused to revamp the penal code.

A spokesman for the Chihuahua congress, Rene Medrano, said legislators approved the changes because of "pressure from the citizens."

Chihuahua lawmakers had said the provocation clause was designed to prevent women from falsely ac-

cusing boyfriends of rape in order to avoid telling their parents that they are having sex — something federal legislators had said is a common occurrence.

But opponents said it would have let rapists argue that they attacked their victims because they dressed scantily or simply smiled at them.

Chihuahua lawmakers also removed a clause lowering the minimum sentence to six months in rape cases in which the penetration that occurred was with an object.

Under the new state penal code, rapists face six to 20 years in jail. By comparison, cattle thieves in Chihuahua face sentences of six to 12 years.

The changes were a rare victory for women's groups in Mexico and in Chihuahua, which has been plagued by a rash of savage attacks on women during the past six years.

"We know for sure they are changing it because the pressure was huge," said Victoria Caraveo, director of Mujeres Por Juarez, or Women for Juarez, one of three dozen women's groups that fought the code.

The activists held protests in the state capital, Chihuahua City, and in Ciudad Juarez, a rough city of brothels and table-dance bars where more than 200 women have been murdered in the past decade.

Cuba Calls for Measured U.S. Response

Havana (AP) — Cuba, confirming diplomatic contacts between U.S. and Cuban officials over last week's terrorist attacks, called Wednesday for a prudent response aimed at justice rather than revenge.

"All that is advisable is a calm and brave search for definitive solutions to terrorism," the government said in the Communist Party daily Granma.

A separate note sent by the Foreign Ministry to international media confirmed

diplomatic contacts between U.S. and Cuban officials in both Washington and Havana in recent days.

The contacts "have no special significance and were in no way secret or abnormal," the Foreign Ministry statement said, acknowledging that it engages in sporadic contact with Washington over issues such as ille-

gal immigration, drug trafficking and terrorism.

The two countries have not had official diplomatic relations for four decades, and Cuba remains on the State Department's list of seven countries suspected of promoting terrorism. Since the attacks, Washington has also contacted Sudan and Syria, also on the list.

The communique in Cuba's official newspaper urged the United States to seek a negotiated solution to prevent war — which "Cuba would support without wavering" and something it insisted the American people surely would prefer.

"The American people want justice, not revenge," the communique said.

National City

What a Difference a Week Makes ...

Continued from Page 3

Soon after taking office Dec. 1, Fox dropped Mexico's traditional policy against interference in other countries' internal affairs. Instead, Fox has made make respect for human rights his main foreign policy guideline - and better treatment for immigrants his main goal.

The migration plan "is probably going into the deep freeze for a while," said Hugo Irigouin, a lawyer for an immigrant aid service in Ciudad Juarez, across the border from El Paso, Texas.

"It's logical," Irigouin said. "They have to be careful of their borders."

Others see it as a temporary setback in a centuries-long struggle.

"Independently of what happens with terrorism, the United States has problems with the border and immigration, and they're not going to go away," said Lorenzo Meyer, a history professor at the Colegio de Mexico.

"It's not such a big setback, because the truth is, Mexico was never at the top of the U.S. agenda, even if it looked that way for a while."

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

Aries: (March 21-April 20)

Your mood might be cranky, resulting from tensions either at home or at work. Speak softly and avoid any disagreements with others. You are in a practical frame of mind and sharp in matters of money. It's a happy time for romance and love.

Taurus: (April 21 - May 21)

Spend extra time with family - fun and adventure will be highlighted. It may be the perfect opportunity for a heart-to-heart talk with your children. Roadblocks are likely in realizing a financial goal, you're closer than you think. Your passion deepens.

Gemini: (May 22 - June 21)

You and your mate get along throughout the entire week. All those chores that really need to get done will be accomplished like clockwork. Your career is highlighted, so don't be surprised if you receive a raise or promotion. Keep your patience around children.

Cancer: (June 22 - July 23)

Start the week in a practical frame of mind. Take time alone and treat yourself to something that will make you feel extra special. Some co-workers are be critical and sarcastic, but otherwise work runs smoothly. Your career is about to take a big step forward. Managers are impressed with your effort.

Leo: (July 24- Aug 23)

Listen to a friend's advice on money matters - an objective point of view is what you need. Your sweetheart may be feeling neglected, and accuse you of unrealistic expectations - so make the time for romance and more intimacy. It's time for a few practical steps to improve your image.

Virgo: (Aug 24 - Sept 23)

There will probably be a strong urge to immerse yourself in creative pursuits. Keep an open mind and you may be pleasantly surprised at the results. Both business and household projects enjoy favorable influences; and you may get a bonus for recently positive efforts.

Libra: (Sept 24 - Oct 23)

The more you depend on your reserves, the stronger you are. You inspire family members likewise. There are some self doubts lingering which only you can work through. Self-improvement efforts will succeed. Remember - if you can't say any thing nice, don't say anything at all.

Scorpio: (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

Spend time with close friends and you'll find that your friendships and loves are very fulfilling. There is someone trying to undermine your position with flattery and bribery. Keep your cool. There will be great news about money, and possibly a new, lucrative job offer.

Sagittarius: (Nov 23 - Dec 21)

It will be an effortless and pleasurable week for you. Keep in mind you do have the power to make all sorts of changes for the better. Everyone seems overly emotional as of late, so be on guard for lies and accusations. Harmony will be restored at home by week's end.

Capricorn: (Dec 22 - Jan 20)

Wherever you are, you will be surrounded by friendship and luck. Unexpected money is coming your way. Both family and work responsibilities are heavy, take one situation at a time. Be aware that guidance comes through your dreams. Positive vibes continue at home.

Aquarius: (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

You need to travel in order to check out an opportunity to increase your income. Don't neglect a mate who's starving for attention. Both your professional image and reputation is boosted to new levels. Your charm and magnetism take you through any sticky situations right now.

Pisces: (Feb 20 - March 20)

It's a week of heavy mental stimulation and challenges. Both innovative and unconventional approaches work. Your assertiveness takes you far at work and your family's happy and enjoys being together. Plan your entertainment and include others from the sideline.

If This Week is Your Birthday:

Your closest relationships are stable for now, but your inner voice may be prompting you to take time alone for self-renewal. Professional advancement is at hand, so keep yourself on the straight and narrow. Your creative urges may turn into profit.

Ramiro Burr's Latin Music:

Alicia Villarreal Stretches Out Into Rancheras

By Ramiro Burr
Special to La Prensa

It can take a lot of hard work and often years before a group achieves the commercial success that allows artistic freedom. Often the journey requires top-selling albums, sold-out tours and the sparking of a rabid following.

Alicia Villarreal and Limite have accomplished all that and more. The group burst on the scene in 1995 with a youthful look and attitude. Their fresh contagious sound energized the staid norteno genre and ignited Limitemania.

Now, Villarreal takes another step in her artistic evolution, releasing her first mariachi/ranchera album, titled "Soy Lo Prohibido," this Tuesday. "For me, it's like achieving a dream. It was very emotional to sing with a mariachi," she said in a recent interview. Today, more than six years after its phenomenal debut, the pop-norteno trailblazing Limite is still running hot. Its latest

CD "Por Encima de Todo" received a Latin Grammy nomination for best grupero album category, competing against La Mafia, Grupo Mojado, Los Guardianes del Amor and Caballo Dorado. The Latin Grammys are set for Tuesday and will be broadcast on CBS.

"It's a marvelous thing that we're living. They (awards) recognize the value and sacrifice of your work and it makes you want to keep going," she said.

Meanwhile, the CD's cumbia single "Toque de Amor," written by Villarreal, remains on the Billboard regional Mexican Airplay chart. She was inspired to take on mariachi-backed ranchera music because it showcases another facet of Limite.

"About two years ago, we had the idea of doing a ranchera album," she said. "But I didn't feel prepared. I had to feel very comfortable with this music. Despite the fact that it's a solo album, a ranchera album, the purpose

of this album is to add something to Limite's show, to make it more varied."

Recorded in Monterrey, Mexico, the album was directed by noted producer Homero Patron. It features "Acompaame," a duet with ranchera singer Pedro Fernandez. The song's original duet partners were Rocio Durcal and Enrique Guzman, who made it a hit in the 1960s. Villarreal feels that the songs on "Soy Lo Prohibido" reflects women's point of view, particularly the witty and feminist tune "Te Qued Grande La Yegua," on what happens when a macho meets his match. "It's a record for the woman, but it has many beautiful things that the man can also feel," she said.

The ranchera album is a natural progression for a group that broke barriers from the outset. Their innovative pop-leaning sound stood out in a tradition-bound genre. That turned a few heads but not as many as the fact that Villarreal was the first hugely popular female

vocalist in the male-dominated norteno genre.

"The woman is marvelous. We bring wonderful things to the world," Villarreal said. "So I began to give that touch to norteno music — more romantic, sensual. The idea of Limite, when we began to create it and were young, we wanted to make a norteno group with a sound like no other in Mexico. I call it norteno sexy. Other singers did norteno music, but we want to have a norteno group that did romantic songs."

Watcha Concert

The bands came from several countries at the recent Watcha Tour concert in San Antonio, but they all delivered familiar goods: political angst, visceral theatrics and celebratory rock music. At the Observatory nightclub, Enanitos Verdes, La Ley, La Verbena Popular and the others all dropped blistering sets that inflamed their fans, who jumped and writhed in improvised mosh pits by the stage. Juanes, with

his seven Latin Grammy nominations, was the most anticipated artist of the bunch, and he delivered a tight set that flavored hard rock with lively accordion rhythms from his native Colombia on songs such as "La Tierra" and especially "Fijate Bien," about taking a closer look at life.

Leading a four-man group, Juanes, on guitar, was intense as he mixed rock, pop and folk grooves.

By 9 p.m., the capacity crowd was estimated at 1,800, most of them jammed up by the stage, where fans began getting pushed over the crowd to the stage. The security detail had its hands full. "I think the crowd was much better than expected," said Michael Hernandez, promotions director of San Antonio's KLEY-FM, a sponsor of the concert. "Every year the organizers are getting better at getting the word out and coordinating the show."

Even for newcomers, the Watcha Tour offered an interesting variety of the many flavors that make up rock en

Español. The fans also were worked up by the contagious retro-rock set by Argentina's Enanitos Verdes. The Latin Grammy-nominated band especially cranked up the excitement factor on the guitar-fueled "Luz de Dia." Perhaps the loudest group was metal rappers Molotov, from Monterrey, Mexico. Often compared to Rage Against the Machine, Molotov's strength is its bilingual raps, politically charged diatribes against the authorities on such tunes as "Karmara" and "Voto Latino." Austin's Vallejo and Chile's La Ley also dropped their familiar melodic rock/pop tunes.

Editor's Note:

Ramiro Burr covers the Latin music scene each week. Burr is also the author of "The Billboard Guide to Tejano and Regional Mexican Music," on Billboard Books. For questions or comments call Burr at (800) 555-1551, ext. 3429, or rburr@express-news.net.

Former Venezuelan Dictator Dies

Caracas, Venezuela (AP) — Gen. Marcos Perez Jimenez, Venezuela's last military dictator, died Thursday. He was 87.

Perez Jimenez died of a heart attack in his home in

Madrid, Spain, where he lived in self-imposed exile, his daughter, Flor Perez Jimenez, told local Globovision television. She said his body will be cremated in Spain on Friday,

and that she hopes the remains will be brought back to Venezuela "someday."

Perez Jimenez ruled Venezuela from 1952 to 1958, when he was ousted by a bloodless coup. The coup ushered in 43 years of uninterrupted democratic rule —

the longest standing democracy in Latin America.

Born in 1914 in the western state of Tachira, Perez Jimenez participated in a military coup that ousted the dictatorship of Gen. Isaias Medina Angarita in 1945, helping to install the demo-

cratic government of President Romulo Gallegos. But in 1948, he led a coup that ousted Gallegos.

A junta of three military officers ruled Venezuela until 1952, when Perez Jimenez declared himself president. His regime was backed by a security force that silenced opposition leaders by jailing them and torturing them.

During his term he also created grandiose public works, including a highway that connects Caracas to the northern coast, burrowing through the mountains that separate the city from the Caribbean.

In 1957, Perez Jimenez was elected for another five-year term in a vote widely considered fraudulent. But his re-

gime had lost much public support and a clandestine movement to overthrow him, led by the Democratic Action party, was taking force.

On January 23, 1958, a popular uprising backed by the military forced Perez Jimenez and his family to flee to the Dominican Republic and then to the United States.

In 1963, the United States extradited him to Venezuela, where he was tried and sentenced to five years in prison for embezzling \$250 million. After regaining freedom in 1968, Perez Jimenez moved to Madrid, where he lived for the rest of his life.

Continued on Page 8

oscar velasquez

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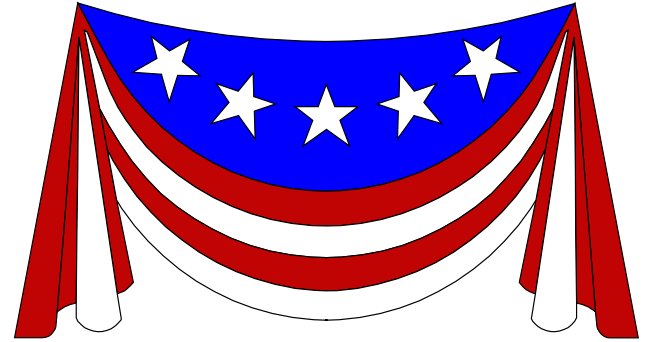
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Group Accepts Resolution

Photo by D.C. Burch
Left to right are Lisa Canales-Flores, Roberto Colon, Captain Diana Ruiz-Krause and Lucy Weaver. All were on hand to accept the resolution from Toledo City Council last Friday at One Government Center



Local Hispanic Heritage Month Events



Proclamation shoot in 4-color from original

By Fletcher Word
La Prensa Staff Writer

Despite the shadow cast over the nation by recent terrorist acts, Hispanic Heritage Month activities in northwest Ohio have commenced.

The 12th annual Diamante Awards and a Toledo City Council resolution designating September 15 through October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month have helped launch a month-long commemoration of Mexican Independence Day.

On Saturday, September 15, the Diamante 2001 Program was held at Bowling Green State University. Irasema Resendez, a BGSU junior, Francisco Torrez, an artist from Defiance, Robert Torres, executive director of Toledo's Youth Commission, Dr. Rolando Andrade, associate Professor in ethnic studies at BGSU and Gabriel Marquez, a BGSU senior were this year's award recipients.

The awards, which acknowledge achievement and excellence in the local Latino community, have been presented to over 80 individuals and organizations since the initial 1990 event.

Last Tuesday, local government got into the act when the Toledo City Council passed a resolution sponsored by Councilman Louis Escobar recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month in the city of Toledo.

Several prominent Latino community leaders were present to accept the award. Lisa Canales-Flores, Washington Local School Board member, a former Diamante Award winner herself, Robert Torres and Captain Diana Ruiz-Krause of the Toledo Police Department addressed the council and expressed their gratitude for the resolution.

Also in attendance were young members from two programs run by Adelante, Inc: pre-teens from the Tweeners Project; teenagers from the Hispanic Youth Prevention Project (HYPP). Escobar is executive director of Adelante, Inc.

Local Students in the News



St John's Jesuit had seven National Merit Semifinalists. Pictured left to right: seated, Joseph Blakely, Gregory Marcus, Morgan Fitzgibbons, standing, Tyler Chirdon, Nicholas Stack (son of La Prensa's Alan Abrams), Sean Devlin and Indra Sinha. Congratulations to all the participants and proud parents!



Sara Rubin of Notre Dame Academy is interviewed by Telemundo TV show just prior to the presidential visit at the University of Toledo earlier this month.

Ohio Electric



From left to right are Sarina Rubin, Honorable Judge Amy Berling and Laura Cadavid who met Judge Berling just prior to the presidents' arrival at the University of Toledo. The Notre Dame Academy students are campaigning for the judge in the upcoming election as a class project in government.

YWCA

Ohio Consumers' Counsel Opposes Ameritech as a Long-Distance Carrier

By Fletcher Word
La Prensa Staff Writer

The Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC), the residential utility advocate, announced last week that it is opposing Ameritech's request for entry into the long-distance market.

The OCC, citing Ameritech's pattern of inadequate service and the company's refusal to permit fair competition to grow within Ohio, stated that the public interest would not be

served by allowing long-distance access to the telecommunication giant.

The OCC was joined in its action by cities and other consumer groups including the Cleveland, Columbus, Toledo, the Appalachian People's Action and Edgemont Neighborhood Coalitions.

The failure of Ameritech to improve its service quality and to foster local competition have been raised before by the OCC in its oppo-

sition to requests by the company for increased rates for various components of local service.

Of particular concern to the OCC is the fact that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) had levied a fine of \$130 million against Ameritech in July, 2000, because of the poor quality of service provided by the company. PUCO then suspended \$122 million of that fine pending a showing by Ameritech that it could and would improve service.

A report released last week by PUCO which had been conducted by an independent auditing firm confirmed that Ameritech's service has deteriorated since the suspension of that fine.

Ryan Lippe, spokesman for the OCC, told LA Prensa that the company has repeatedly shown that "... they can violate state law and give poor service quality." Lippe said that OCC is asking that PUCO "... show leadership, do the right thing and impose the balance of the fine" against Ameritech.

to provide long-distance service on August 9 with PUCO. Although the Federal Communications Commission will ultimately make the decision about whether to grant the request, PUCO's input will influence that decision.

The city of Toledo's position to join the OCC in opposition to the request was not based upon Ameritech's record of poor service quality. Kerry Bruce, an attorney with the city's

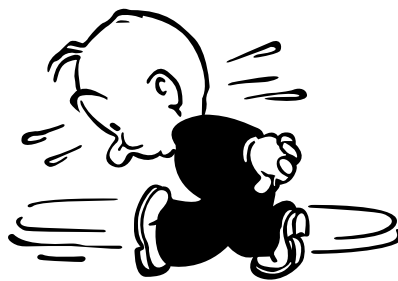
utility department, said the city's decision was based upon the fact

[local] competition."

Bruce stated that the decision to oppose the request was not directed specifically against Ameritech. "Companies aren't supposed to get into the long-distance business until we have local competition," he said.

Ameritech's request for entry into the long-distance market follows closely on the heels of a proposal that would allow the company to increase rates on certain discretionary services such as call waiting and caller ID.

The OCC has opposed that rule change for the same reasons it has opposed the long-distance request. A decision by PUCO on the discretionary services increase is expected within a month's time.



Ameritech filed its request that "... we really don't have

Lopez, Escobar Receive Endorsements

By Fletcher Word
La Prensa Staff Writer

Anita Lopez, candidate for the Toledo Public School Board, and City Councilman Louis Escobar, running for reelection, were among several candidates who have been endorsed by the Middle Passage Political Action Committee.

Middle Passage, a nonpartisan PAC dedicated to supporting candidates who have demonstrated a commitment to the black community, passed the endorsements last week.

The group which has been in existence since 1997 released the following statement:

"The Middle Passage PAC endorses Anita Lopez for Toledo School Board. Ms. Lopez recognizes the circumstances and conditions our children face within our local school system. She knows that we must do a better job of increasing the performance and capabilities of our youth. Members of the Middle Passage PAC agree with Ms. Lopez that the dropout rate of students in the Toledo Public School system must be substantially decreased. African-American and Latino students, teachers and parents face many of the same obstacles and problems in education and must work together to solve them. In our opinion Anita Lopez will address these issues and is qualified and competent to serve on the Toledo School Board."

The PAC has not yet released a separate written statement for Escobar.

In other action, Middle Passage endorsed the candidacy of Jack Ford for the mayor's office. The PAC called it the closest vote in its history. Ford received the endorsement over Ray Kest because he convinced the PAC that he could "... not only meet the PAC's expectations in the areas [of economic development, hiring, consultation and more fairness and equity in the distribution of contracts and resources] but could also exceed them."

Other candidates endorsed by Middle Passage were Edna Brown, George Sarantou and Betty Shultz for city council; Peter Ujvagi for city council president; and Maggie Thurber for Clerk of Toledo Municipal Court.

Marcos Perez Jimenez Dead

Continued from Page 5

President Hugo Chavez, who has criticized the democratic but corrupt governments that followed the Perez Jimenez regime, invited the former dictator to attend his 1999 inauguration. The move provoked an outcry among older Venezuelans who remembered the brutal side of his dictatorship.

Perez Jimenez thanked Chavez but declined the offer, saying, "I'm too old to become the center of controversy between the old and current governments of my beloved homeland."

Some Venezuelans still admire Perez Jimenez's regime for its efficiency.

"He has his page in Venezuelan history. What he proposed, he finished," said Venezuelan Ambassador to Spain Gen. Raul Salazar, in an interview with Globovision from Madrid.

Other Venezuelans condemn the Perez Jimenez regime as a period of political repression.

"We cannot forget what the dictatorship of Marcos Perez Jimenez meant for Venezuela. The crimes he committed and the step back our country took despite some important material projects," said former President Carlos Andres Perez. "But without hate and with rationality, I wish him rest in death."

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You may also send a resumé to: Charter One Bank, Attn.: Human Resources - PTCSR, P.O. Box 10011, Toledo, OH 43699, or Fax to (419) 259-5006. Equal Opportunity Employer. M/F/D/V.



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Admissions Counselor

Lourdes College, an independent, four-year, liberal arts college sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis, is seeking enthusiastic, energetic applicants for full-time Admissions Counselor positions.

Primary responsibilities include extensive phone and e-mail contact with prospective students, representing the College at various recruitment events, and assisting prospective students in the Admissions process.

Qualifications include a Bachelor's degree, a valid driver's license, excellent communications skills, outgoing personality, and a flexible schedule to accommodate evening and weekend hours, as well as limited travel.

Send résumé with cover letter and salary history to the:

Director of Human Resources, Lourdes College, 6832 Convent Blvd., Sylvania, OH 43560, by October 1, 2001.

Review of applicants will begin immediately.

See our web site at www.lourdes.edu for more information.

Lourdes College is committed to increasing the diversity of its faculty and staff.

Assistant, Testing Center Services (Part-Time)

Owens Community College is seeking a part-time Assistant, Testing Center Services (Toledo Campus). Associate's degree in Business Management, Office Administration, or related field required; will accept two (2) years experience as an office assistant and/or experience with academic testing. Must have experience with Microsoft software (Windows '95, '98 and/or 2000; Word, Excel, Access and PowerPoint.) Ability to assess and refer students appropriately required. Ability to multitask a must. Excellent customer service and interpersonal communication skills required. Genuine desire to help college students preferred. Experience with testing software and user applications and computer troubleshooting skills helpful. Starting salary is \$8.20/hour. Hours: Monday through Thursday, 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, 8 A.M. to 12 non. For application materials, please contact: Human Resources, P.O. Box 10,000, Toledo, OH 43699-1947, (419) 661-7292, or download application form at www.owens.cc.oh.us. Please refer to Job # L A C 0 1 T P F 0 0 6 2 . Deadline: October 5, 2001. AA/EOE

Associate Producer

NBC 24, in Toledo, Ohio, is searching for a motivated and ambitious Associate Producer. We need someone who can work with our newscast producers and can handle a variety of assignments, including extensive writing, script preparation and web postings. The ideal candidate should have at least one year experience in a newsroom and a sincere desire to learn and advance. Must be able to work any shift, including weekends. We are looking for people who have a passion for news. Please rush your résumé to: Lou Hebert, News Director, WNWO-TV, 300 S. Byrne Rd., Toledo, OH 43615. Deadline: Oc-

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Development Coordinator (Part-Time)

Progressive civil rights agency seeks motivated person with excellent oral and written communications skills to track, acknowledge and report on contributions received, schedule appointments, give information to callers, assist with special events planning, and otherwise relieve officials of clerical work. Any applicant must have a strong commitment to human rights issues. The successful candidate must have an Associate's degree (A.A.) or

equivalent from a two-year college or technical school; six months to one year related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. This is a part-time position that averages 24 hours per week with a salary range of \$8 - \$10/hour, commensurate with experience, plus medical benefits. Please forward letter and résumé to: Development Manager, Fair Housing Center, 1000 Monroe St., Toledo, OH 43624. E.O.E.

Distance Learning

The University of Toledo

The Division of Distance Learning seeks applicants for the following positions:

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Assistant Network Specialist

To assist in the coordination and troubleshooting of all DL server functions, related programming and network technical functions; implement and maintain hardware and software. Qualifications include a Bachelor's degree in a related technical field; three years experience in maintaining diverse computer hardware, associated peripherals and software inclusive of UNIX and MS servers and workstations in higher education; technical and computer knowledge including Solaris, Windows, and WebCT; experience in installing and maintaining Sun Micro System servers; and the ability to coordinate multiple and complex tasks.

(Job #1092): Assistant Information Technology Specialist

To assist in the development, implementation and supervision of the maintenance and enhancement of distance learning and Ohio Learning Network web site information and catalog for students and faculty. Will also assist in the implementation of research reports. Working with the Information Tech-

nology Specialist, this person will assist in analyzing data, systems, and process flows. Qualifications include a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Computer Programming, or a related field, two years experience working in higher education, excellent skills in MS Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Front Page, Publisher and database entry as well as web page development skills.

Applications received by Oct. 5 will receive full consideration. Submit cover letter (include position title and job #), resume, the names and telephone numbers of three professional references to: The University of Toledo, Human Resources Department, Toledo, OH 43606-3390 or Fax (419) 530-1490 or E-Mail: hr@utnet.utoledo.edu. Please use only one method of application. The University of Toledo is an Equal Access, Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer and Educator.

Investigator

Progressive civil rights agency seeks motivated individual for Investigator position. Qualified candidates will have a B.S. degree or equivalent experience, excellent writing skills, proven decision-making experience and ability to communicate with multi-cultural and socio-economic groups. E.O.E., A.A. Please forward cover letter résumé, and salary history to the : Director of Enforcement, 1000 Monroe St, Suite 4, Toledo, OH 43624-1954. Deadline: October 12, 2001.

Journeyman, Maintenance Specialist - Electrician

Owens Community College is seeking a Journeyman, Maintenance Specialist - Electrician (Toledo Campus). Journeyman's card or equivalent in electrical trade required. Considerable knowledge of building systems and maintenance required. Must have leadership skills and be able to interact professionally in all

aspects of job responsibilities. Ability to lift materials weighing up to 75 pounds required. Must have valid driver's license and good driving record (must be insurable). Ability to read schematics and troubleshoot control wiring preferred. Maintenance experience in multi-building setting preferred. Starting salary is \$14.15/hour. For application materials, please contact: Human Resources, P.O. Box 10,000, Toledo, OH 43699-1947, (419) 661-7292, or download application form at www.owens.cc.oh.us. Please refer to Job # LM01TJMSE. Deadline: October 8, 2001. AA/EOE

Journeyman, Maintenance Specialist - Floor Layer

Owens Community College is seeking a Journeyman, Maintenance Specialist - Floor Layer (Toledo Campus). Journeyman's card or equivalent in floor laying trade required. Considerable knowledge of building systems and maintenance required. Must have leadership skills and be able to interact professionally in all aspects of job responsibilities. Ability to lift materials weighing up to 75 pounds required. Must have valid driver's license and good driving record (must be insurable). Maintenance experience in multi-building setting preferred. Starting salary is \$14.15/hour. For application materials, please contact: Human Resources, P.O. Box 10,000, Toledo, OH 43699-1947, (419) 661-7292, or download application form at www.owens.cc.oh.us. Please refer to Job # LM01TJMSFL. Deadline: October 8, 2001. AA/EOE

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Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in Public Administration or Business Administration or related field preferred. Two (2) years experience in social planning and grants administration.

Thorough knowledge and experience in working with computers and various software programs. Competency in technical report writing is essential. Excellent oral and written communication skills required.

Applicant must submit a completed application to be considered for any vacant position. No résumés will be accepted without a

completed application. Employment is contingent upon successful completion of criminal background check and possible drug testing.

No Phone Calls, Please.

**Combined Notice**

Combined Notice

Notice to Public of No Significant Impact on the Environment and Notice of Intent to Request for Release of Funds

September 20, 2001

City of Toledo

Department of Neighborhoods

One Government Center, Suite 1800

Toledo, Ohio 43604-2259

419-245-1400

To All Interested Agencies, Groups and Persons:

On or about October 9, 2001, the above named City will request the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to release Special Purpose Grant (SPG) funds under the 1999 Appropriations Act for HUD (PL.105-276) for the following projects:

Project: Common Space I

Purpose: Improvements to the exterior of the facility and the surrounding grounds

Location: 1700 N. Reynolds Road, Toledo, Lucas County, Ohio

Estimated Cost: \$70,000.00

Project: Common Space II

Purpose: Improvements to the exterior facility and the surrounding grounds

Location: 10 S. Holland-Sylvania Road, Toledo, Lucas County, Ohio

Estimated Cost: \$30,000.00

Project: Oakdale Redevelopment Project

Purpose: Acquisition and demolition of an existing structure to facilitate development of an industrial corridor

Location: 12 Oakdale Street, Toledo, Lucas County, Ohio

Estimated Cost: \$65,000.00

Project: Housing East Neighborhood revitalization Program

Purpose: Purchase of an existing house as part of ongoing neighborhood revitalization efforts by Housing East, a local non-profit organization

Location: 320 Burger Street, Toledo, Lucas County, Ohio

Estimated Cost: \$25,000.00

Total Amount: \$190,000.00

Finding of No Significant Impact

It has been determined that such request for release of funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and accordingly the above-named City as decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL 91-190).

The reasons for such decision not to prepare such a statement are as follows:

Complete environmental assessments have been done for the above projects and in no circumstances have any long-term avoidable adverse impacts been found to be anticipated.

While work of the individual projects may result in temporary minor traffic disruption, project activities will be done with care to ensure site safety and to avoid the creation of nuisances. Contractors will be instructed to use all reasonable available control measures to limit noise generation and air pollution contribution.

Environmental Review Records regarding the projects have been prepared by the above-named City which documents the environmental review of the projects. The Environmental Review Records are on file at the above address and are available for public examination and copying upon request at the Department of Neighborhoods between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

No further environmental review of such projects is proposed to be conducted prior to the request for release of Federal funds.

Public Comments on Finding

All interested agencies, groups, and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the City to the Department of Neighborhoods. Such written comments should be received at this department on or before April 3, 2001. All such comments received will be considered and the City will not request the release of Federal funds or take any administrative action on the projects prior to the date specified in the preceding sentence.

Release of Funds

The City of Toledo will undertake the projects described above with SPG funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under an Appropriation Act for HUD. The City of Toledo is certifying to HUD that the City of Toledo and Carleton S. Finkbeiner, Mayor of Toledo, consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval, the City of Toledo may use the SPG funds, and HUD will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Objections to HUD release of Funds

HUD will accept an objection to approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the certification only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the chief executive officer or other officer of applicant approved by HUD; (b) that applicant's environmental review records for the projects indicate omission of a required decision, finding, or step applicable to the program in the environmental review process. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedure (24 CFR Part 58), and may be addressed to HUD at US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Community Planning and Development, 200 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-2499.

HUD will not consider objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above. Objections received after October 25, 2001 will not be considered by HUD.

Carleton S. Finkbeiner

Mayor

City of Toledo

One Government Center, Suite 2200

Toledo, Ohio 43604

United Way