

Venezuela to honor America's birthday with UNL art festival



Roberto Esquenazi-Mayo, International Studies director and coordinator for Venezuela Now

Venezuela Now, a festival sponsored by the Venezuelan government, is a contribution to the American Bicentennial celebration, according to Roberto Esquenazi-Mayo director of the UNL Institute of International Studies and coordinator of the Lincoln arrangements for the festival, April 7 through 25.

The festival will include a series of concerts by noted Venezuelan musicians and dancers, an exhibition by Venezuelan artists, a series of lectures in English by Venezuelan scholars and a display of books by Venezuelan authors. All the programs will be free and open to the public.

"Never before has an event of this magnitude and scope taken place in the United States," Esquenazi-Mayo said.

Friendly relation

He said the United States and Venezuela have had a long history of close and friendly relations and that the festival is "certainly an example of this spirit of goodwill."

"It provides us here in mid-America an unprecedented opportunity to learn more about an American neighbor," he said, "one which is rapidly becoming a leading nation in South American political and economic affairs."

The selection of Lincoln for the festival probably was influenced by UNL's active program in Latin American studies, Esquenazi-Mayo said. Many Venezuelan officials, including Luis Manuel Penalver, Minister of Education, have participated, he said.

Planning for the festival began during the summer of 1974, he said. The official announcement was made in Lincoln last October by Miguel Angel Burelli, Venezuelan ambassador to the U.S., and by Lucila Valasquez, then President of the Venezuelan Institute of Culture and Fine Arts.

Furthering understanding

"We hope that Venezuela Ahora will further our understanding and appreciation of our sister republic," Esquenazi-Mayo said. "We are pleased that it will give students, faculty and the public

an opportunity to enjoy many Venezuelan contributions to the arts, education and science."

The festival will include a display of 430 books by Venezuelan authors in Love Library during the festival. The books, all printed in Spanish, will be given to UNL by the Venezuelan government at the close of the festival.

Donated by a Venezuelan publishing company, Editorial Monte Avila, the books have an estimated value of \$20,000, Esquenazi-Mayo said.

A documentary audiovisual program with continuous showings every 20 minutes will be on display in the Nebraska Union during the festival.

Programs scheduled

A schedule of the programs is as follows:

MUSIC

April 7—Concert by Fredy Reyna, 8 p.m., Kimball Recital Hall.

Reyna will sing folk songs and accompany himself on the Cuatro, a four-stringed Venezuelan guitar.

April 8—Recital of folk songs by mezzo-soprano Morella Muffoz, 8 p.m., Kimball.

April 16—Recital of songs by soprano Fedora Aleman, 8 p.m., Kimball.

April 20—Recital of modern and folk dance by Sonia Sanoja, 8 p.m., Dance Studio, Women's Physical Education Building.

April 23—Recital of Venezuelan folk dances by the international touring company, Grupo de Folklore Venezolano, 8 p.m., Kimball.

ART

April 14-May 2—Exhibitions at Sheldon Art Gallery.

—Sculpture by Pedro Barreto, Gabriel Marco and Carlos Prada.

—Paintings by Domingo Alvarez, Alejandro Otero, Omar Carreño and Alirio Rodriguez.

—Graphics by Mateo Manaura, Teresa Casanova, Luis Guevara-Moreno, Gladys Meneses and Luisa Ritcher.

—Tapestry by Maria Teresa Torres.

—Enamels by Lamis Feldan.

LECTURES

April 11—Jaime Tello, Venezuelan literature, 3:30 p.m., Union.

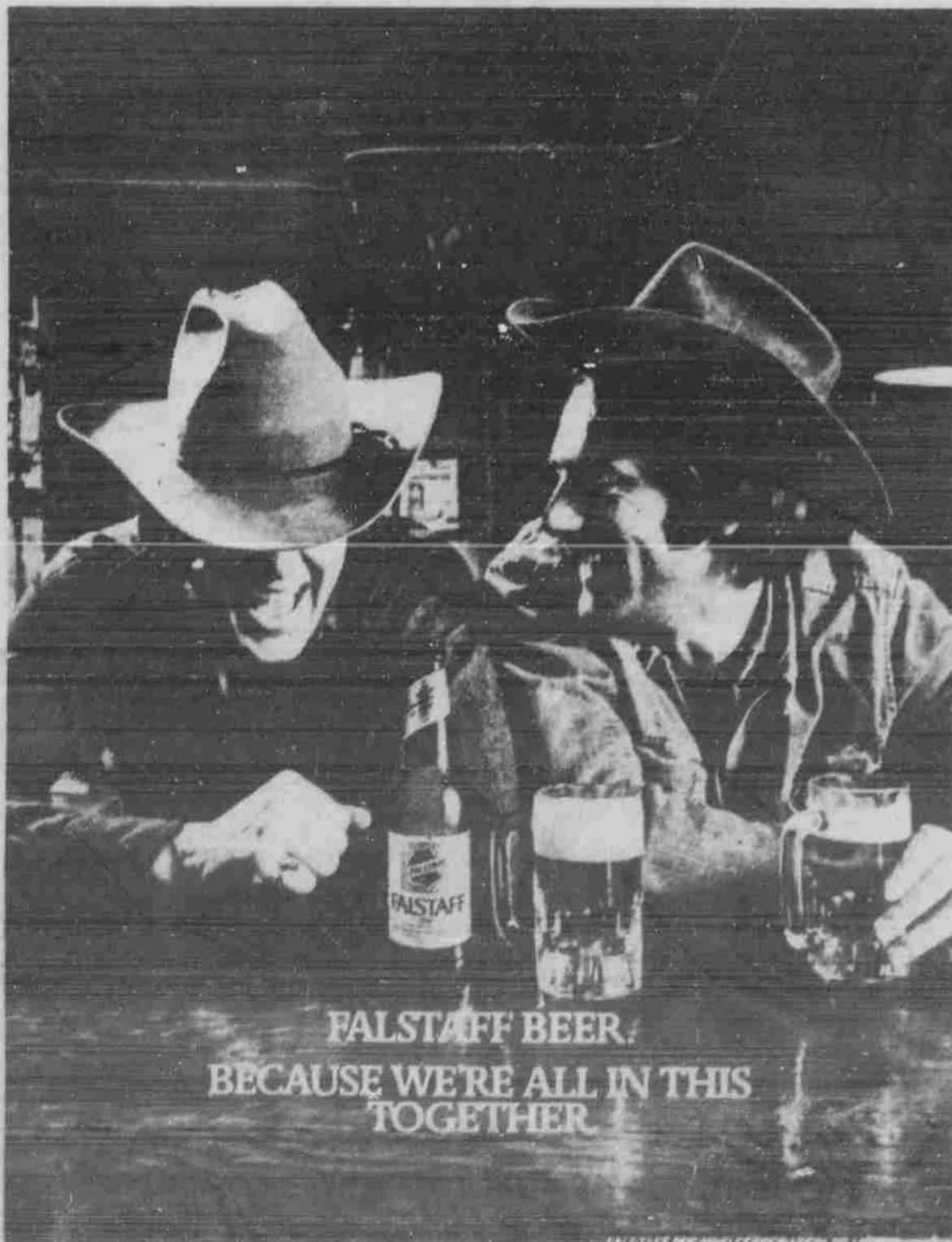
April 15—Roberto Guevara, Venezuelan art, 3:30 p.m., Sheldon Art Gallery Auditorium.

April 17—Marco T. Bruni-Celli, Venezuelan economic development, 3:30 p.m., Union.

April 24—José A. Abreu, Venezuelan political development, 3:30 p.m., Union.

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