

Venezuelan festival begins

Venezuelan government medals of honor for "outstanding service to mankind in science and culture" were presented to UNL Chancellor James Zumberge and Roberto Esquenazi-Mayo, Director of International Studies, at opening ceremonies for the Venezuela Ahora culture festival, Monday night.

The men were presented the Andres Bello medals for their work in bringing the festival to the United States said Miguel Burelli, Venezuelan ambassador to the United States, who presented the awards.

The April 7 to 25 festival is sponsored by the Venezuelan government "to spread goodwill and give the American people a chance to know more about Venezuela's rich culture and way of life," Burelli said. Venezuela Ahora!, or Venezuela Now!, is also part of Venezuela's contribution to the American Bicentennial celebration, said Burelli.

At an airport press conference Monday, Burelli said he thinks oil prices will go down when the prices of other commodities decline.

Raw materials and technology

The U.S. depends heavily on imports of Venezuelan oil. Burelli said in return for oil, Venezuela receives American raw materials and technology.

When asked to justify the high prices of oil, Burelli said he thinks the present price of oil is realistic when compared with other products on

the world market.

He claimed that U.S. exports cost "four times the price" of comparable products from other countries.

Burelli views the oil situation as a potentially dangerous one and said the United States would not be justified in using military intervention to acquire the oil it needs.

Historic event

Zumberge extended greetings to Burelli and Harry Schlaudeman, U.S. ambassador to Venezuela, and thanked them for attending "this historic event."

Other guests included NU president D.B. Varner; Lucila Valasquez, former president of the Venezuelan Institute of Culture and Fine Arts; Melvin George, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Dora Hersen and Bettina Muir de Rodriguez of Venezuela.

Esquenazi-Mayo thanked the students, faculty members, and administration officials "who helped make this festival possible."

Following opening ceremonies, Venezuelan musician Fredy Reyna presented a Cuarto concert. The Cuarto is a four-string ancestor of the six-string guitar, Reyna said. He has been studying cuarto for more than 40 years.

Attending the ceremonies and concert were various university and government officials and 55 Venezuelan students from the University of Kansas.

Student must pay fire costs

A Smith Hall resident will have to pay \$270 for damages to her tenth floor room from a Sunday morning fire, housing director Richard Armstrong said Tuesday.

It was the first fire in a residence hall this semester.

Terese Hesh's digital clock radio in room 1022 shorted and stopped at 7:01 a.m., probably starting the fire, Deputy Fire Marshall Don Rixtein said.

Two tenth-floor residents smelled the smoke and wakened the student assistant, Francie Williams, who found the fire, notified the fire department and pulled the fire alarm.

The firemen arrived within minutes, Williams said.

The clock radio sat on a bookcase above the desk. Hesh, 18, said the fire destroyed two stereo speakers, some papers, books and plants and two articles of clothing.

Joe Zannini, assistant director of housing for maintenance operations, said the housing office is repainting the room and will replace the upper bookcase, chair, desk light, bed lamp and formica desk top and scrub, strip and wax the floor, but Hesh must pay for it.

There will be about \$100 of incidental costs related to the fire, he said.

Hesh said she may have insurance to cover it, but doesn't know for sure.

Senior Laura Nelson, a tenth-floor health aide, said the fire alarm didn't seem very loud and that many freshmen were slow to react because they thought it was someone's alarm clock.

Two tenth-floor residents slept through the alarm and were awakened when firemen entered their rooms to open the windows. Others in the hall were confused about evacuation procedures and waited in the hall for the elevator, which was not running during part of the alarm.

Williams, who said she was one of the last to leave the floor, said she found men waiting in the stairwell who had evacuated residents' rooms but hadn't gone to the lobby for fear of being seen. She told them to go on down, she said.

Bobbie Brickhouse, Smith hall residence director, said the drill and evacuation was efficient and noted that she would review procedures with her staff this week.

Williams said her floor met Tuesday night to review fire alarm procedures and to organize a more efficient evacuation routine.



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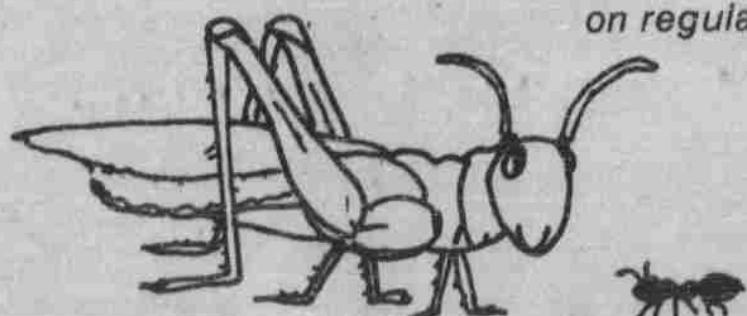
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