



EL GATO



MEChA - 101 Wilson Hall - Washington State University
Pullman, WA 99164-4011 - ☎ (509)335-2616 - December 1990

Christmas wishes of joy go out to you from the folks here at El Gato. In this his second appearance, the cat roars with seasonal stories of Christmas traditions in Mexico, the tale of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and a Christmas wish list. Additionally, there's a fiction story, a perspective on the Middle East, and to top it all off, you'll find "Picadillo." So light the fire, pour some eggnog, recline on your Leisy Boy and enjoy our Christmas present to you.

S. Hurtado



un mensajito...

Solo le quito un momento para agradecerle su interes y colaboraci3n con el Centro Hispano durante este semestre. Gracias a Ud. y a todos los estudiantes y colaboradores, se ha podido hacer mucho. Espero que nuestros exitos, en lugar de cansarnos, nos hayan servido de aliento para las nuevas iniciativas del a1o nuevo. Invito a los que hayan estado tantico alejados que se dejen ver el semestre entrante. Cr3ame, no hay un grupo de m3s ambiente y alegr3a que los hispanos de WSU. Venga, disfrute y colabore con nuestras actividades en pro de la comunidad hispana y la universidad. Sepa, mano/manita, que esto es RAD en verdad! Tambien quiero desearle una Feliz Navidad y un Pr3spero A1o Nuevo.

Jaime Mitchell

GRACIAS, MEChA, for the wonderful surprise & gifts you had for us at the Potluck on November 10th. Likewise, we appreciate YOU very much. You are the best!

**Con Cari1o,
Jaime M. y Norma D.**



Merry Christmas to you all and a much better year next year. Good luck with finals, but do study hard. Drive Safely during the holidays AND don't fortget to BUCKLE UP. Do remember those that cannot come home for Christmas, such as **Phillip Leija** who is serving in the Persian Gulf. We're thinking of you Phil. Hang in there. We do hope and pray that there will be peace and that our servicemen and women will be sent home soon.

Hi, Vic

LAS POSADAS December 16 - 24

In Mexico, Las Posadas are celebrated nine days before Christmas to commemorate the journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem, searching for posadas (lodging) each night. The posadas are carried out from December 16-24 with a gay fiesta which is climaxed by breaking the piñata, a hollow figure made of paper in the form of a star, flower, animal or toy, is filled with fruits, candies, and small presents.

The posadas take place in the form of a group of people that form a procession with lighted candles as they parade down the street. At the head of the procession are two children carrying a small reproduction of Mary and Joseph. As the procession goes from house to house, they ask for lodging. Las Posadas are usually sung with a group asking for lodging and a group refusing.

When the kind innkeeper is finally found and the door is opened, the group is welcomed inside the house. Then comes the Mexican tradition of breaking the piñata. The children are blindfolded and spun around one at a time. They swing at the piñata as someone pulls a rope to keep them from hitting it. When one is successful, all the children scramble for the goodies which fall out of the piñata.

Hi, Bobby



Christmas in Mexico

Even before the trimmed Christmas tree invaded the country, families would begin to set up their nacimientos (creches) immediately after Guadalupe Day. The nacimientos have lost very little of their importance and have been seen to occupy an entire room. Scenes include Biblical scenes as well as stable scenes of the birth of Jesus, complete with shepherds, Wise Men, and King Herod.

The Jesus Child is the last figure placed in the nacimiento. This is always placed at the last posada on Christmas Eve. People attend the Misa de Gallo (midnight mass) and then go home to traditional tamales. Fireworks, whistles, and bells can be heard on this evening also.

In most cities gifts are now given on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning. Remote regions and the more conservative families still wait till the "Day of the Kings" to give their gifts.

Hi, Aurora

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may not get this newsletter in time to take advantage of these opportunities. We apologize. The best way to become aware of what's happening, please come to our Center often so that you too can benefit.

December 9 - Sunday - **Children's Christmas Party & Potluck**, complete with piñata, Santa Claus, games, and activities. Sponsored by Mujeres Unidas.

Place: St. Thomas More

Time: 1:00 - 3:00 P.M.



December 11 - Tuesday **SABE Meeting** - Noon - 112 Wilson

December 12 Wednesday **VERY IMPORTANT Financial Aid Workshop**

101 Wilson Hall

Noon - 2:00 P.M.

Brief presentation on how to prepare 1991-92 FAF forms. Specific help and information for minority students. Your questions will be answered. FAF forms will be available.

Call **Jaime Mitchell** at **335-2616** for more Info.

December 12 Wednesday 6:00 P.M. **Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration**

Spanish language Catholic Mass. All students, catholic and non-catholic are invited. This will be held at **St. Thomas More Church**

A **GRAND potluck** sponsored by **OLA** will follow.

December 13 Thursday **MEChA Christmas Party**

5:00 - 6:00 P.M.

Wilson 101

PIZZA is on the MENU!

Optional. - Bring a "White Elephant" gift to exchange.

Call **335-2616** for more info.



WANTED!! Minority Student Participants for the Admission Office's **SPRING PHONATHON**

Job Duties: Call Prospective WSU Minority Students and others

Compensation: Receive 1/2 Spring tuition waiver

Hours: FLEXIBLE -- Work nights and weekends

Application Deadline: **DECEMBER 10, 1990**

Applicants will be interviewed and selected before Christmas vacation.

Applications are available at the Chicano/Hispanic Student Center

Call **Steve Nakata** in the Admissions Office (**335-5586**) for more information.

Are you interested in any careers in medicine? If so, please stay tune. We plan to invite **Charlie Garcia**, Director of the Minority Medical Education Program at the University of Washington, to our campus for the purpose of attracting WSU students to medical fields. There are many opportunities out there, including an **MCAT** Technical Workshop in January. We're proud of those already in health sciences: Paul Nicacio, Dentistry; Andrea True, Nursing; Maui Garza, Pharmacy, & Leti Alpizar who is thinking seriously about Pre-med. We're sure there's more.

WHAT I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS *(Please hear us, Santa)*



- Leticia Alpizar - A major
 Lorena Aranda - Rolando home for good (is in the Reserves)
 Jose Arellano - To pass all my classes
- Nancy Barajas - Emilio Estevez
 Jose Berrios - For peace and love to all those places in war (Nicaragua, El Salvador, Middle East) and food to those in need in places like Africa and Latin America in general.
- Enrique Carreño - \$\$ for a computer
- Bonnie Dodd - A brain implant that does simultaneous translation.
 Norma Duran - A red Mercedes convertible, or a new parrot that talks. Oops, and that we not forget the true meaning of CHRISTmas.
 Phil Duran - A new wardrobe.
- Monica Franco - I would like Steven Segal for life. Plus, after I'm accepted into a law school and graduate from there, I'd like to be the first woman president of Mexico.
- Rita Gatbunton - Lake Tahoe
- Salvador Hurtado - May each of us find a home where the warmth of friendship will dissipate the coldness of winter and the year-end sadness of another Christmas away from loved ones.
- Krystal Kompkoff - A loan, clothes, a personal secretary, & Dr. Sneed's job.
- Jesús Maldonado - IBM PC 20 MH con Laser Writer
 Jim Mitchell - Something to keep me out of trouble: A wife and 12 kids.
- Pablo Nicacio - Happiness (lots of it)
- Francisco Ortiz - Good health for my family and myself.
- Fernando Padilla - Rolls Royce, etc.
- Ismael Rivera - A Home!!!
- Jorge Serrano - A good time
 Jaime Silva - a car
- Dona Thompson - A special airline ticket for unlimited trips to Oklahoma.
 Liz Torres - Chippendale Dancers, Tom Cruise & a certain man
 Bunnie Trower - \$\$
 DeAnne Wiley - Visa credit card without interest.

Hi, Danny

THE LEGEND OF THE VIRGIN OF GUADALUPE

The Legend of the Virgin of Guadalupe tells the story of a poor Indian named Juan Diego who had become a Christian. One day in 1531, the legend says, a beautiful dark-skinned lady appeared suddenly before him on a mountain trail. She told him that she had come to take care of his people and asked him to tell the bishop to build a church on the place where she stood. Juan was certain that she was a Christian saint, but the bishop would not believe that a saint had appeared to a poor Indian boy. Again and again Juan tried to persuade the bishop, but without success. When he confessed to the Virgin that he could not make the bishop believe, lovely roses sprang up on the barren hillside. The Virgin said they were a token for the bishop, and Juan wrapped them in his cape and carried them away. When he appeared before the bishop and opened his cape to show the roses, a marvelous picture of the virgin appeared on the shabby cloth. Then, at last, the bishop believed. He built a church in honor of the Virgin at the spot where Juan had seen her.

La Virgen de Guadalupe, as she is called, is well loved throughout Mexico. The church that is her shrine is in the city of Mexico.



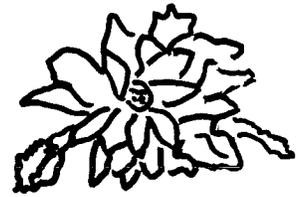
THE DAY OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE DECEMBER 12

On December 12, Catholics in all the Americas and especially those in Mexico commemorate the vision in 1531 of Our Lady of Guadalupe to a poor Indian named Juan Diego.

On this day, thousands are seen making the pilgrimage on foot to the shrine of Guadalupe near Mexico City. Upon their return, the people carry back relics and souvenirs to remind them of their visit. Also on this day the Indian dancers from all over the Republic dance in her honor.

The church, which is the largest and most impressive in America, had its first stone laid in 1563. The construction lasted for almost three hundred years. The magnificent work was finally accomplished and decorated with treasures and donations from the rich and poor, which can be considered the fruit of faith.

LA FLOR DE NOCHEBUENA THE POINSETTIA



The poinsettia is a Mexican flower called Cuitlaxochitl (or false flower) by the Aztecs. Today it is known as Nochebuena in Mexico because of its abundance during the Christmas season.

Thanks to the efforts of Joel R.P. Poinsett (1779-1851), the first United States ambassador to Mexico, the beautiful red flower is well known in the U. S. and has been named poinsettia in his honor.

Mr. Poinsett was the first to send the different varieties and colors of poinsettias to the U. S.: pink, purple, red, yellow, and white. Furthermore, he spent many years cultivating the flowers on his plantation in North Carolina.

(Thanks, **Francisco**, for contributing these informative stories: Las Posadas, Christmas in Mexico, The Legend of the Virgen de Guadalupe, The Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and The Poinsettia.)

Hi, Veva

C/HSC Staff

Editor: Salvador Hurtado
Asst. Editor: Enrique Carreño
Peer Mentors: Monica Franco
 Francisco Ortiz
Program Asst. Norma D. Duran
Counselor: Jaime Mitchell

FELIZ NAVIDAD

YOYEUX NOEL

MERRY CHRISTMAS

FROHLICHE WEIHNACHTEN

BUON NATALE

Hi, Bobby



FELIZ
 NAVIDAD Y
 PROSPERO ANO NUEVO

por Jesus Arellano

Al parecer una nueva guerra está a punto de cambiar nuevamente el mapa geopolítico del mundo. A raíz de la invasión de Irak sobre Kuwait, una oleada de protestas a nivel mundial se han escuchado. Y a la vez, los países aliados comandados por los Estados Unidos, prepararon un embargo económico a Irak, que al parecer no sufrió el efecto inmediato deseado por el gobierno estadounidense. Como respuesta a esto, el presidente Bush ha decidido ir a la guerra y destruir al belicoso Saddam Hussein.

El presidente Bush argumenta que su gobierno no va a permitir que un país pequeño sea agredido por uno más grande, y que tampoco va a permitir que Saddam invada a otros países. Al parecer el imperialista "Tío Sam" ya se olvidó de la reciente invasión al "pequeño país", Panama, en la cual murieron a sangre fría cientos de Panameños. También se olvidó de la invasión a Granada, del genocidio cometido en Vietnam y Corea sin contar las invaciones y robos de territorios a México, pero según Bush, el diabólico Saddam-Hitler debe ser destruido por haber invadido a Kuwait y por haber destruido el despótico gobierno de uno de los hombres más ricos del mundo.

Esta nueva guerra que tiene como único objetivo el de proteger los intereses económicos de las grandes compañías petroleras norteamericanas, no tiene el soporte social, económico, y político del pueblo norteamericano. Como consecuencia, Bush ha tratado por todo los medios de obtener apollo en el extranjero, obligado incluso a algunos países a ir en contra de su propia constitución, como es el caso de Japón y Alemania.

Por otro lado, es claro que Saddam Hussein ha cometido errores muy grandes y severos, pero es claro también, que este líder político lo único que busca es beneficiar a su país, y recuperar los territorios perdidos (Kuwait) hace algunos años. También, cabe destacar las importancias que tiene para Irak el recuperar este territorio, ya que es la entrada al Golfo Persiano y geopolítica y económicamente es de suma importancia tener estas tierras otra vez.

Saddam Hussein es realmente un demonio, como dice Bush, o es solamente "un hombre" que lucha por el progreso de su país? Es lo que nosotros los mexicanos necesitamos para recuperar los territorios robados por el gobierno norteamericano? Es lo que los Panameños necesitan para lograr su verdadera independencia y la venganza por el asesinato de muchos compatriotas? Es lo que Granada necesita también? Es lo que muchos países necesitan para liberarse del opresor.

(el punto de vista expresado en este artículo son exclusivos del autor y no necesariamente es compartido por las personas de nuestro grupo.)

Please Note: The survey on Queso Fresco will not take place anytime soon as was announced last month

P I C A D I L L O

Don't ever kid yourself about loving someone. It is just that most people are not lucky enough ever to have it. You never had it before and now you have it. What you have with Maria, whether it lasts just through today and a part of tomorrow, or whether it lasts just through today and a part of tomorrow, or whether it lasts for a long life is the most important thing that can happen to a human being. There will always be people who say it does not exist because they cannot have it. but I tell you it is true and that you have it and that you are lucky even if you die tomorrow.

Hi, George

Ernest Hemingway
For Whom The Bell Tolls

"El Bato Gacho"

(canción Mexicana)

No se que te habran contado
Que bienes tan decidido
No te las echas de lado
Se me hace que es puro ruido

No to pasees por mi casa
Ni creas que soy tu querida
Ya no hago rondas con gachos
por que me amargan la vida.

No me presumas tostones
Ni tampoco de muchacho
Lástima de pantalones
Tu eres puro bato gacho.

Por el barrio donde vivo
Se me olvidaba decirte
Que ya andan echando yerba
No vayan a confundirte.

No te pasees por mi casa
Ni creas que eres mi querido
Que todos los hocicones
Aqui se atrancan conmigo.

No me presumas tostones
Ni tampoco de muchacho
Lástima de pantalones.
Tu eres puro bato gacho.



"Anoche la luna"

Anoche la luna
Me vino a ver.
Anoche Conmigo
Vino a comer.

Comimos taquitos
Tomamos café.
Comimos buñuelos
Y luego se fue.

(13 de julio de 1977)

por El flaco

April is in my mistress' Face
And July in her eyes hath place
Within her bosom lies September
But in her heart a cold December.

Garrison Keillor in
Lake Wobegon Days

Hi, Mary

(all stories & poems submitted by Salvador
Hurtado, except for "la luna". Your
contributions to this page will be
very welcome.)