

campus & city

Chiles visits Gainesville to thank supporters

By Kevin Krause

Alligator Writer

Gov. Lawton Chiles campaigned in Gainesville one day before last Tuesday's general election and returned Thursday morning to thank those who helped re-elect him.

Chiles was greeted by about 50 people at the corner of University Avenue and 34th Street. The stop was part of a two-day, statewide trip to thank supporters.

In what admittedly was his closest race, Chiles defeated Republican challenger Jeb Bush and survived the nationwide ousting of Democratic incumbents. In addition to the U.S. Congress, Republicans gained control of the Florida Legislature on election day.

Chiles made his way through the excited group, shaking hands, autographing campaign signs and waving to passing cars amidst a chorus of honking horns.

Chiles, whose political career has spanned 36 years, said he was eager to begin his second and last term as governor and to work with Republican leaders in the state Senate to "build on what we started with."

"I'm glad the election is over. Now we have to start governing again," Chiles said, adding that Republican leaders in Tallahassee now will have to share the responsibility of governing. "People are really tired of gridlock, and they want us to get something

moving."

Chiles cited as top priorities, "taking care of our children," health care, welfare reform and juvenile justice.

"We have some bad kids we have to lock up," he said. "And we have a lot of kids at risk who we want to keep from being bad kids."

State Attorney Rod Smith greeted Chiles and later said he was excited about the chance to help serve him in dealing with crime, especially involving young offenders.

"The governor has always been forward-thinking in that area," Smith said. "I think he'll do a great job."

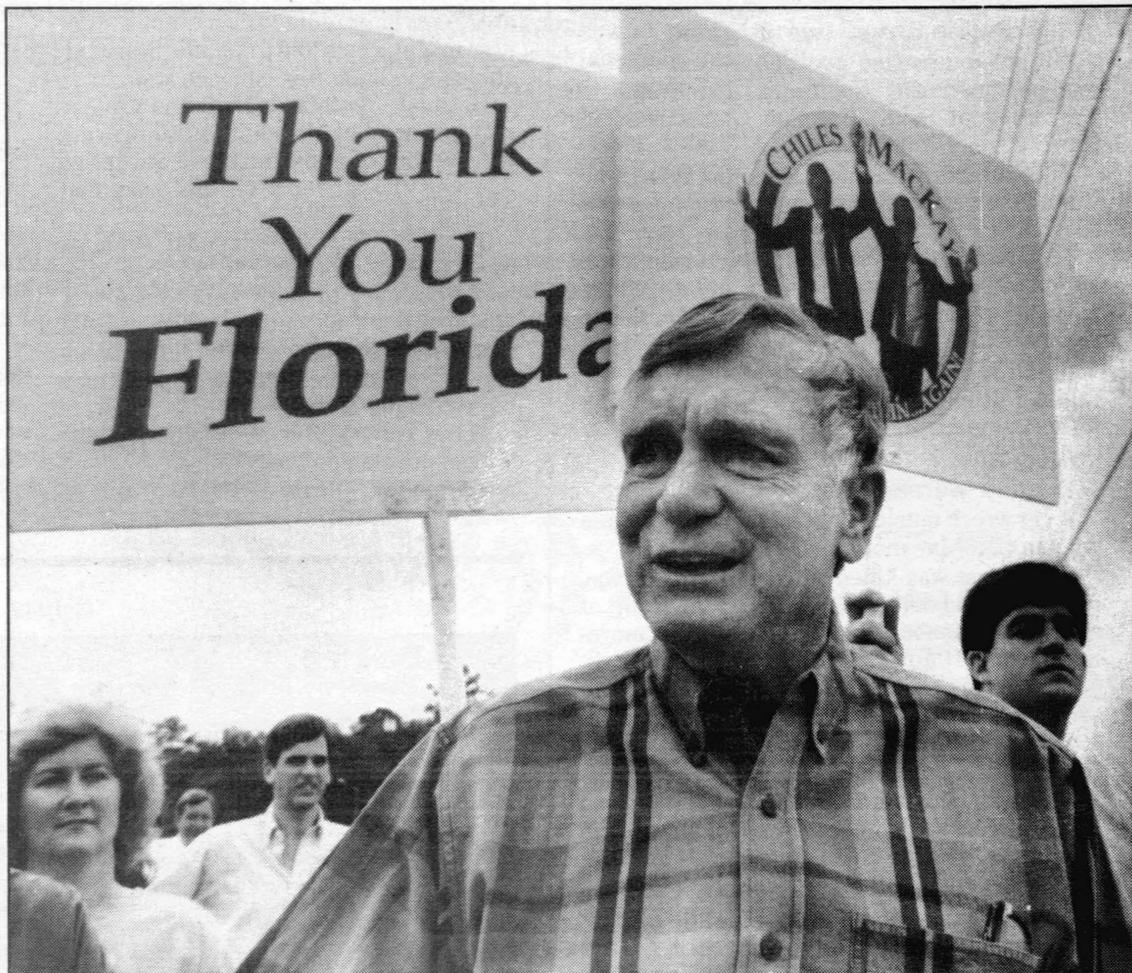
While surprised motorists had to look twice at the governor, who blended into the crowd dressed in slacks and a plaid oxford, a group of third graders got the biggest kick out of meeting Chiles.

One boy from Littlewood Elementary School wanted to know what Chiles will do for elementary schools.

"We're going to make them better," Chiles responded. "We're going to give the parents and the teachers a lot more say so. We want to get your parents involved."

Before heading for Jacksonville, Chiles said he always has had a special affection for Alachua County.

"I feel like I've lived here half of my life," said Chiles, who received undergraduate and law degrees from UF. "It's Gator Country. We feel at home here."



ANDRÉ CHARBONNEAU

Gov. Chiles arrived in Gainesville Thursday morning to thank his supporters for his win over Jeb Bush. Chiles received 2,125,984 votes to Bush's 2,051,407.

Los Angeles comic part of Asian Awareness Month

By Branwen Santos

Contributing Writer

As one of the acts in the Asian Kaleidoscope Month, Christy L. Medrano, a young, hip comedienne/actress from Los Angeles, promises more than a giggle.

This 24 year-old Asian American, who has been featured on MTV's "Rock the Vote" advertisement, will perform live at the Orange & Brew tonight at 8:30.

Medrano says her brand of comedy is silliness.

"I think comedy is something to laugh at," said Medrano, who has been a featured actress on "In Living Color."

"It keeps you leveled. It keeps everybody leveled after they have a big laugh."

While Medrano's goal is to make people laugh, she said her style is different from other comedians.

"I have my viewpoints and I will share them, but I'm not going to be like Dennis Leary and shove it down people's throats."

Medrano has performed at many venues, including the University of California at Los Angeles.

In New York, Medrano has performed at the New York Comedy Club, Stand-Up New York and the Comic Strip.

In California, she was a member of the "Funny Ladies of Color," an ethnic women's

comedy group. She also has performed at the Improvisation, Punchline and Laugh Factory.

Patrick Baterna, co-director of Asian Kaleidoscope Month, said he feels that Medrano's show is one of the more important acts for this cultural month.

"We wanted more (activities) in a month because we didn't want the entire culture to be 'a fashion show,'" Baterna said. "What is important is not only covering that part of the culture through comedy, it's displaying our culture through humor and entertainment."

Glenn Fajardo, chairman of the Asian Student Union, said he thinks her style of com-

edy brings out social issues.

"I mean she's not preachy or anything like that," Fajardo said.

"She doesn't tell you what to think. It's just that she raises issues in a funny, but sobering manner."

Medrano knows that with her ethnic background not everyone will get her jokes, but she said she has confidence that she can make people aware of certain social issues.

"I hope I don't meet a lot of opposition," Medrano said.

"I'm Filipino, and of course my experiences will be of Filipino descent. As a comic, you know how to bridge it and how to make it (the humor) be able to speak to all races."

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