

6 Maracaibo's Pipeline of Wealth and Woes *by Mike Ceaser*

Once a pristine colonial trade center, Venezuela's second largest city faces environmental and social issues intricately linked to its vast petroleum resources.

14 Eclectic Currents of a Historical Deed *by Louis Werner*

Parts of the United States will celebrate the bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase, which doubled the size of the nation and secured its control of a mighty watershed.

22 Common Ground for Farmers and Forests *by Joyce Gregory Wyels*

Alarmed by signs of deforestation, groups in Costa Rica are developing programs that combine ecological awareness and sustainable agriculture.

30 Swirling Spaces of Stories and Spectators *by K. Mitchell Snow*

Argentine painter Sergio Camporeale merges the real and the fantastic, challenging viewers to create their own interpretation.

38 Cacao Turns Over a New Leaf *by Elizabeth Johnson*

This small, versatile watercraft has shaped the history and identity of this nation, from the days of early exploration to modern-day adventurers.

46 Composer of Spiritual Communion *by Caleb Bach*

Argentine-born composer Osvaldo Golijov creates a movable, musical feast, spanning a range of styles and themes rooted in the human spirit.