

## HISPANIC COMMUNITY CALENDAR

September is National Hispanic Heritage Month

### "Bound by Colors" returns to Portland

Victory Outreach will perform its searing anti-gang production "Bound by Colors" at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, September 14, at the New Beginnings Christian Center, 7600 NE Glisan Street. Admission is free. For information, call 256-6050, ext. 215 or 255.

### Fiesta!

OHDC's First Annual Fiesta, Friday September 20, at the Portland Conference Center, celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month. AUCTION! BUFFET DINNER! DANCING TO LIVE LATIN MUSIC! 6 pm. to 1 am. Join the Oregon Human Development Corporation and our friends for an evening of fun and fundraising. There will be both oral and silent auctions. Food will be tasty and plentiful. No-host bar. ALL PROCEEDS WILL HELP OHDC TO PURSUE THEIR MISSION OF HELPING PEOPLE THROUGHOUT OREGON! The Portland Conference Center is located at 300 NE Multnomah in Portland.

THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO NETWORK WITH HISPANIC PROFESSIONALS ON A STATEWIDE BASIS!

Tickets for the dinner and festivities are \$35. Call Nadeen at OHDC to reserve your ticket. 245-2600, ext. 200.

### Nike hosts Hispanic Chamber of Commerce meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce will be held on September 24 at Nike's World Headquarters in Beaverton. Call 281-7079 for details and to reserve your seat. This event celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month.

### Minority Business Opportunity day is coming!

The 12th Annual Minority Business Opportunity Day Trade Fair is coming to the Oregon Convention Center on October 9. This event is a procurement conference designed to help Women- and Minority-owned businesses be more successful in this increasingly competitive economy. For Trade Fair or Workshop information, call Don Matsuda or Bob Jensen at the Small Business Administration, at (503) 326-5105 or 326-5102. For information regarding the luncheon, call Zaida Klem at Impact, (503) 245-9253. The Oregon Convention Center is located at 777 NE MLK, Jr. Blvd. in Portland.

### Mexican-American art

An exhibition of both recent and retrospective works by Mexican-American artist Max Pruneda will be shown at Art of the People, located on First Street near Yamhill in Portland. The exhibit, titled "Translating Memory," will run through the month of September. For information, call (503) 221-0569.

### Pre-Columbian art exhibit coming to Portland

An exhibition of Pre-Columbian art from Mexico, Central and South America will be shown in Portland at Abante Fine Art, a private art gallery located on the corner of Second Street and Yamhill, adjacent to the MAX line. For information, call Rudi Milpacher at (503) 295-2508.

### Portland Observador seeks youth photojournalists

The Portland Observador encourages the development of photojournalists among the youth of our community. Send in your work with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Photo Editor, The Portland Observador, 4747 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Portland OR 97211. No more than two submissions at a time, please. Include something about yourself and a daytime phone number.

### Hillsboro PHCRC welcomes public comments

The Hillsboro Police Hispanic Community Relations Committee meets at 1:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the Public Services Building at 155 N. First Street, Room 245. The PHCRC exchanges ideas with the public on issues of community interest and offers problem solving. Contact Nancy Arriaza at (503) 693-4705 for information.

### Young Parents Program needs volunteers

The Oregon Human Development Corporation is actively recruiting for volunteers to help with its Young Parents Program. Volunteers 12 years old and older are needed for help with child care in a nursery setting during the weekly support meetings, Wednesdays, early evenings. The program's goal is to help young parents and pregnant adolescents in the Hillsboro area enhance their parenting skills and promote the healthy development of their children. The Young Parents Program is funded by the Oregon Department of Human Resources, the Children's Trust Fund, and the Washington County Commission on Children and Families. Contact Alison Peck, Coordinator of Volunteer Services at OHDC at (503) 640-6349.

## Hispanic Bar receives grant to recruit high school students

The Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Law School Admissions Council, an entity that supervises the administration of law school admissions testing, to attract area high school seniors to the legal profession and educate them regarding opportunities available around the country.

Approximately 25 senior high school students will be invited to attend a breakfast on Friday, Oct. 4, 1996, at 8 a.m. during the Hispanic National Bar Association's annual convention at the Fountainsbleau Hilton Resort & Towers in Miami Beach. The \$5,000 grant will be used to invite Hispanic high school seniors from area schools to a breakfast sponsored by Banco Popular and attended by approximately 500 judges from across the country. To date,

the HNBA has raised more than \$150,000 in scholarships for the Hispanic National Bar Fund, an organization which annually awards thousands of dollars in scholarships to deserving Hispanic law students.

"We are grateful to the Law School Admissions Council for their support and are confident that it will open many doors for young Hispanics looking for a career in the legal profession. This clearly exemplifies the theme of the 1996 convention, Together - The Future," said Alfonso J. Perez, Esq., Convention Chairperson for the HNBA and a shareholder with the Miami-based law firm of Haley, Sinagra and Perez, P.A.

Major issues particular to the Hispanic community to be examined at the Convention include immigration, Helms-Burton legislation, and Proposition 187.

## Straight Shooter becomes 1st Portland Observador Youth Photojournalist

A photograph by 16-year old Jorge Garcia of Hillsboro, a recent graduate of Straight Shooting—the Youth Photo Project, was selected to kick off the Portland Observador's regular Youth Photojournalist feature.

Straight Shooting is a highly successful program administered by the Oregon Commission on Children & Families which strives to redirect the lives of At-Risk youth by teaching them photography, self esteem and professional skills.

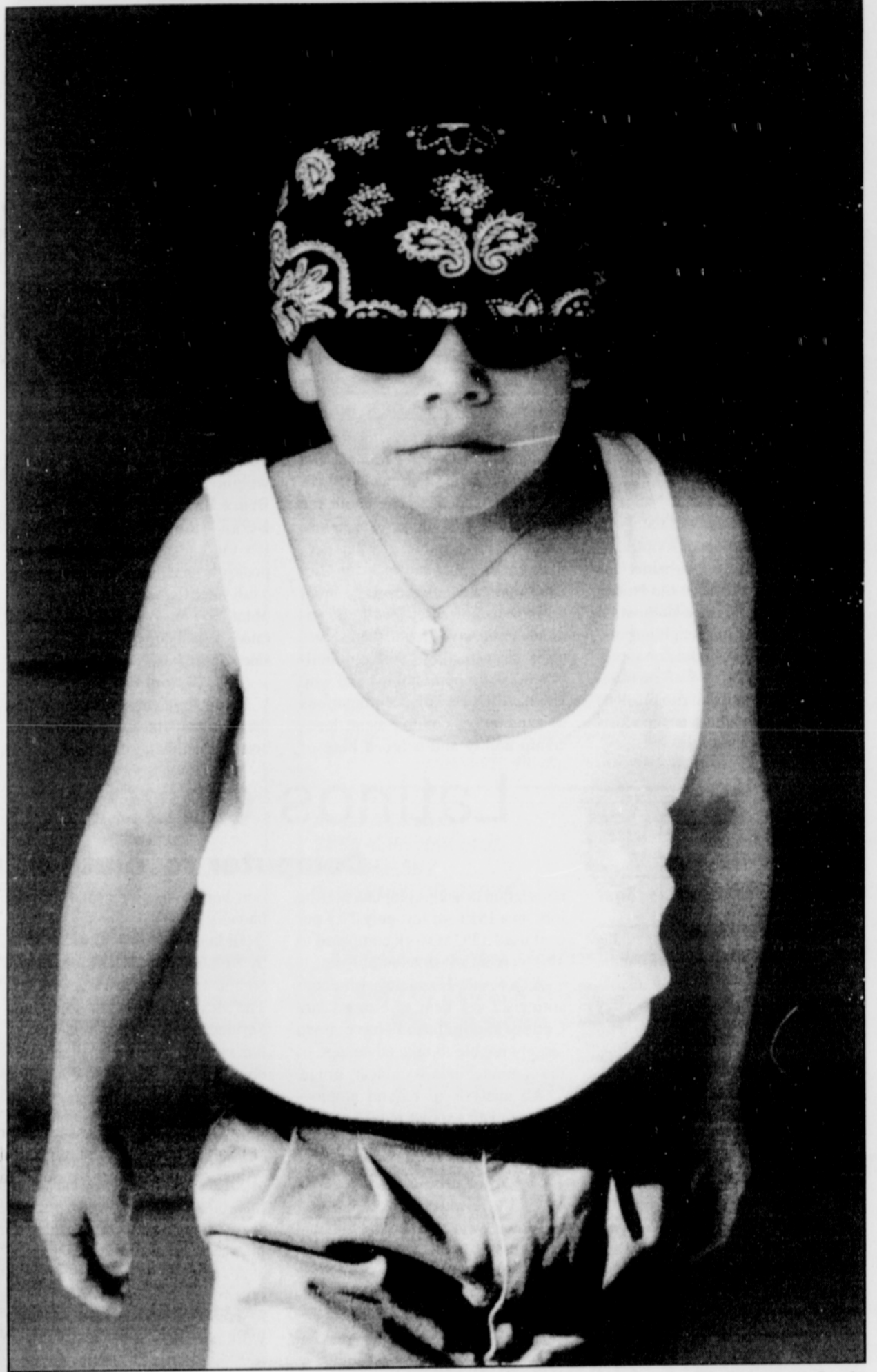
Each spring for the past four years, Straight Shooting has provided a small group of young people with photographer mentors, camera equipment, and instruction in composition and darkroom technology. During the course of instruction, Straight Shooting allows them to explore and find expression through the use of the camera. Some of the students become very astute with a camera, as this series will show.

"Straight Shooting is working in six counties currently," said April Severeson of the Oregon Commission on Children & Families. "This year, the program involved 32 students aged 12-19 from Baker, Clackamas, Malheur, Marion, Multnomah and Washington Counties. Students are trained and gain experience as photographers. Mentor relationships serve to break through stereotypes and long-lasting bonds may develop. Some students were feeling trusted for the very first time in their lives."

The program's goals include increasing community awareness of the issues facing youth.

For information, contact Jeff Nunn, Project Coordinator, at the Oregon Commission on Children & Families in Salem at (503) 373-1283.

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"Little Brother"

Photo by Jorge Garcia

## In Our Own Words En Nuestras Proprias Palabras

Conrado Hernandez, a 16-year-old student at Sierra Vista High School in Baldwin Park, California, was the first-place winner in this year's student essay contest sponsored by the National Association for Bilingual Education.

He came to this country five years ago from Hidalgo, Mexico, where his father owned a general store and his mother was an elementary school teacher. When they arrived in Los Angeles in search of more work, his folks fell on hard times. Conrado and his two little sisters had to help mom and dad make money for the rent by picking up cans and bottles from the streets. He says it was hard watching his parents suffer the humiliation of low-paying jobs for which they were overqualified, and he was determined to not let that happen to him or to his own children.

With his parents' support and encouragement, he began learning with a vengeance to speak, read and write English, through bilingual classes. Conrado plays guitar in a mariachi group at school, and hopes to become a computer technician.

### In My Own Words

BY CONRADO HERNANDEZ

"How many of you know what it's like to watch your parents suffer and face daily humiliation as they search for work in a country that no longer has any room for people like them? How many of you know what a refuge and salvation bilingual education is to people like us?"

"My family and I were living in Mexico, where we had a store. We worked very hard there for many years, but we could not compete with the national economy and our business failed. An uncle came to visit and



Photo and article, written by Mandelit del Barco, appeared in Si Magazine, Spring 1996.

Source: New York Times News Service. Photo credit: Joe Rodriguez

convinced us that life would be better in the United States. We sold what was left of our business and left for California, our new home.

"When we arrived, my father worked with my uncle, but since he didn't speak any English, they let him go. He began to look for work but all the doors were closed. Finally, he found a factory that offered him a job peeling onions, but he would have to work at home. The onions came 50-lb. bags, and he earned \$4 for each bag he peeled.

"We all worked together: my father, mother, all my sisters and I. But, since the onions were so small, we could only clean about five bags per day. My parents worked 14 to 15 hours a day, and we worked from the time we came home from school until we went to bed. Late at night, we would go to the streets, to collect aluminum cans and plastic bottles. "On

our first December here, my father became very ill with an eye infection. One of his eyes became infected from the acid that the onions produced when he peeled them. My mother worked harder, and so did we.

"I tell you this story not to make you feel sorry for me. Out of this sadness, we learned a lot. Our family stayed together. Our love for each other was strengthened. As I shared in my parents' suffering and humiliation, I knew that I would have to be the one to live differently. I would have to change this cycle. I would have to become educated.

"Bilingual education is the institution that gives hope to the immigrant in this country. As I worked nights peeling onions, I dreamed of the next day when I would attend my classes. In this wonderful program (at Sierra Vista High) I have been able to participate since the moment I entered the first

class. My desire to learn has always been recognized by my teachers. I am learning two languages, and I am computer literate in two languages, as well.

"The walls we encountered when we came to this country have never been at school. Bilingual education has made the difference in my life that will permit me to change my family's cycle. I can fight for my goals with pride and dignity."

In Our Own Words (En Nuestras Proprias Palabras) will be a regular feature of The Portland Observador, offering to Hispanic youth the opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings—and to describe their experiences—as a Latino in a predominantly Anglo environment. The Observador encourages our young readers to submit their own writing and a photograph and we will try to find space in our pages for you.