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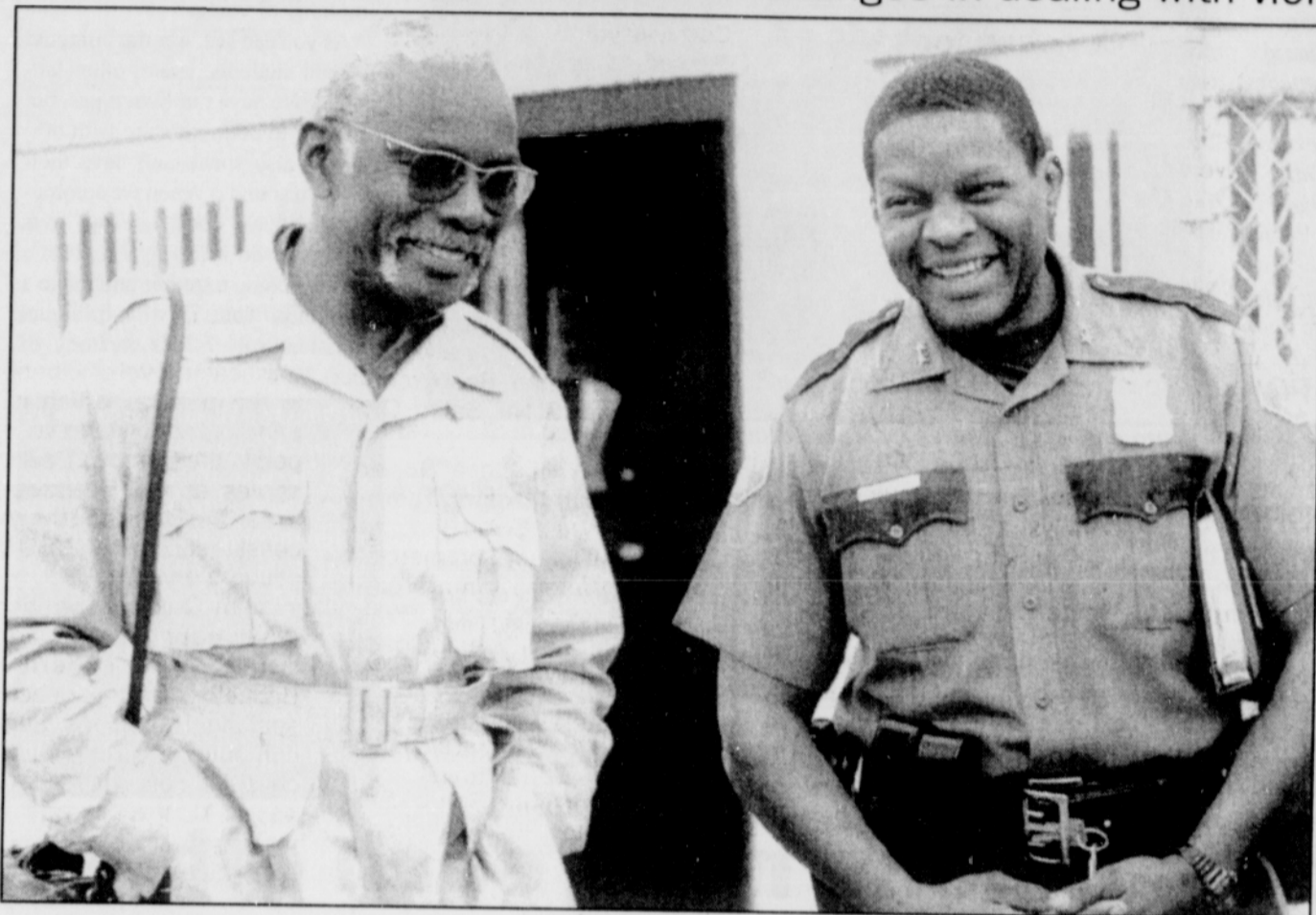
PORTLAND OBSERVADOR



Diversity and hispanic culture in Eastern Oregon on page C3.

Violence changing our way of life

Police call for fundamental changes in dealing with violence



Richard Brown & Portland Chief of Police Charles Moose discuss community policing issues at the Villa de Clara Vista.

Photo by Timothy Collins

BY SEAN CRUZ, EDITOR, PORTLAND OBSERVADOR

Portland Police Bureau Chief of Police Charles Moose and three of his key administrators spoke at a conference recently to discuss disturbing trends in homicides in our city. The trends indicate that the characteristics of homicides are changing in ways that are far more threatening to the community than in the past, and the police believe that citizen involvement is the key to dealing effectively with this crisis.

Changes for the worse

Killings are less likely to involve people who know each other, making the cases themselves more difficult to solve. The ages of both victims and killers are trending downward, which increases both short- and long-term costs to society. We are now having to develop rehabilitation or confinement solutions for killers under the age of twelve.

Violence in the community is deadlier than before

There is an alarming increase in the numbers of young people who "have no regard for human life." The use of firearms—especially hand-

guns—is increasing, making the result of violence more likely to result in death, and increasing the danger to innocent passersby. Revenge killings are on the rise, and the reasons which people seek mortal vengeance are increasingly cheap. Drive-by shootings and violence involving gangs of criminals are becoming increasingly callous and common.

Hispanics, Blacks are more often victims

Homicide is taking a toll on people of color wholly out of proportion to their numbers. Of the 36 murder victims in Portland this year, 55% were Hispanic, Black or Asian. While major crimes in the city are down in all other categories, the homicide rate here is up a startling 50% from last year.

Homicide not a "suppressable" crime

Many crimes are considered suppressable because they can occur in predictable patterns and are analyzable, such as auto theft or burglary. The police can develop and implement strategies to deal with these crimes. Homicide does not fall into that category. Statistics provid-

ed by the Portland Police Bureau indicate that females are currently more often victims than males, that homicides are more likely to occur between 8 pm and 4 am, on certain days of the week: Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. But no statistics can predict in what neighborhood or household the next murder will occur. All the police can do is react to an incident that has already taken place.

Portland compared to other cities

National crime statistics show Portland right in the middle of a ranking of 207 similar cities, with an annual homicide rate of 5.2 per 100,000 residents. New Orleans currently holds the distinction of having the nation's highest murder rate for major cities: 38.2 per 100,000. Nationally, homicides among people of color amount to an epidemic.

Homicide is the result of the problem

Chief Moose called for a community-wide, if not nation-wide, violence prevention program that goes to the systemic causes of violence.

"Violence should be treated as a public health problem," he said. "We are very good at treating unintentional injuries as public health problems. We have programs to deal with the prevention of injuries due to drunk driving; we target smoking; we require bike helmets and seat belts."

Homicide is a public health problem

"We need to develop an approach that treats the homicide issue as a public health problem," he said. Chief Moose called for a sustained program that incorporates community policing, educational programs and schools, and that deals with prevention of domestic violence. Parents ought to stop buying toy guns for their children. Violence is eroding the security children need to feel; instead, they are growing up in a climate of fear.

Portland Chief of Detectives Gregory Clark noted that "homicide is the result of the problem." It is not the problem itself. "We have to get at the predecessor of assaults, etcetera, and people doing bad things to people," he said.

César Chávez Leadership Conference Oct 8

The Cesar E. Chavez Leadership Conference, which began in 1990 as a gathering of Hispanic students from Portland Public Schools, has grown to become the largest student event in the Hispanic community in Oregon.

The conference is a meeting ground for Hispanic leaders and role models, and offers a forum for Latino youth to learn more about how

they can become effective leaders of our community and our country.

This event attracted more than 800 youth attendees last year, and the same number are expected to attend this 6th annual conference.

The Cesar Chavez Leadership Conference offers the opportunity to take part in activities which focus on the development of leadership skills, career development, college

planning, and on enhancing self-esteem.

Attendees are also able to become part of new networks of communication between Hispanic students in the Portland area and throughout Oregon.

The conference will be held at the University of Portland's Childs Center on October 8. Interested students must register through their schools.

Some of the sessions to be held are: Increasing Latino Youth Involvement at Schools; Accomplishments of Latinas—Preparing for Leadership Roles; Organizing Latinos for Political Empowerment; College & You; and A Look at the Youth Movement—Past, Present and Future.

Welcome to the Portland Observador, II Bienvenida al Portland Observador

Read! Learn! Act!

The Portland Observer continues to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month with The Portland Observador. The Observador is designed to address the interests of Portland's growing and vital Hispanic communities, and will appear in The Observer every other week. Some portions of the newspaper will be published in a bilingual format. Spanish-language text will appear in grey-shaded sections.

Highlights

Among the highlights of our first Observador was the bestowing of the first annual Portland Observador Community Betterment Award, intended to recognize a person or organization that

during the previous year benefited the Hispanic community in some singular way. The award will be presented each year in the future during Hispanic Heritage Month.

Hacienda CDC was winner

The Hacienda Community Development Corporation was our inaugural winner, honored for their stellar work at the Villa de Clara Vista, located at 6706 NE Killingsworth Street. We had the pleasure of presenting the Community Betterment Award at the Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce meeting Tuesday night at the Nike campus.

This issue of The Observador will contain articles that are not necessarily Hispanic, but are of vital interest to the Hispanic communities.

Léalo! Apréndalo! Hazlo!

The Portland Observer continuó a celebrar el Mes Nacional de Herencia Hispano con nuestra segunda edición de The Portland Observador. Este sección se aparecerá en El Observador cada otra semana. Algunas porciones del periódico estar impreso en una forma bilingüe. Texto en Español se aparecerá en secciones grisáceas.

Puntos destacados

Entre de los puntos más destacados de nuestro primero Observador estuvo el primero anual Portland Observador Galardón de Mejora del Comunidad. Este premio prestigioso la honra una persona o organización lo que ha mejorado la comunidad Hispano

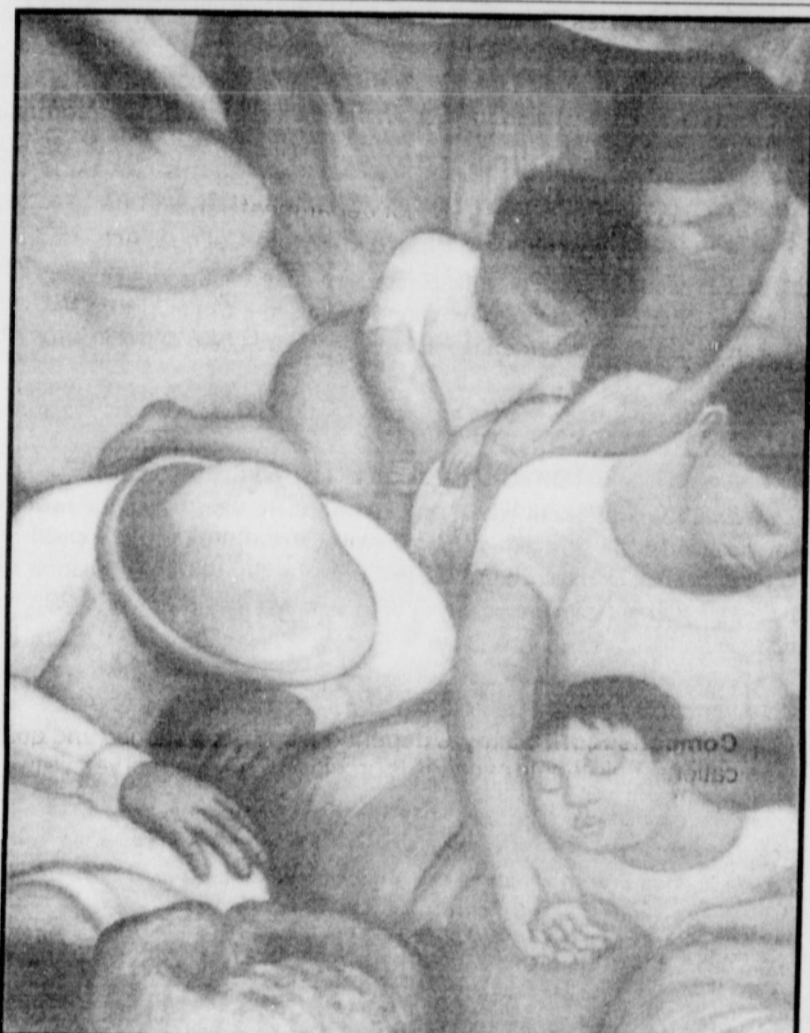
durante del año previo en alguno modo singular, y lo presentará cada año en el futuro durante del Mes Herencia Hispano.

Hacienda CDC fue ganador

El Hacienda Community Development Corporation fue nuestro primero ganador, se ha honrado por su trabajo estelar por la Villa de Clara Vista, 6706 NE Killingsworth Street. Hacienda CDC le aceptó el Galardón de Mejora del Comunidad durante de la reunión del Cámara de Comercio Hispano, 24 de Septiembre.

Este edición de The Observador los incluirá artículos que no necesariamente están Hispano, pero los están de interés indispensable a los comunidades Hispanos.

September is HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



Painting by Diego Rivera, "Mientras el pobre duerme", "While the poor sleep."

What is Hispanic Heritage?

BY SEAN CRUZ

It is impossible to gain an appreciation of our heritage and who we are without understanding something of the history of Hispanics in the United States. For far too many people, Hispanics are seen as a recently-arrived stereotype colored by images of tequila-drenched Cinco de Mayo parties, mass-produced burritos and illegal immigration. Television, and the film and advertising industries have done far more to spread demeaning misinformation about Hispanics than they have to recognize the dignity and beauty and accomplishment of the Hispanic people.

A blend of Old and New worlds

Hispanics are a people that have blended together from what used to be called the Old and New Worlds. Before the economic- and race-based Third World designation came into use, world civilization was roughly divided into two hemispheres, and cultural/political divisions were then based more on the geography of continents than they are in contemporary times.

The perspective of Old and New was more equitable, although still sharply flawed. The Old World was combined of Asia, Africa and Europe; the New World consisted of the newly-discovered Americas. But the New World newly named the Americas already had a name; in fact it had multiplicity of names, names as old as anything in the Old World.

History as we know it largely represents the viewpoint of Anglo Europeans, and dividing the world today into Firsts, Seconds and Thirds is more comfortable from that perspective. But such divisions reveal nothing about heritage.

Hispanics are an ancient people

Hispanics are known by many different names. Regardless of origin, they share "a rich and socially-important cultural background that is (their) essential heritage from Europeans and Native Americans, who developed highly-advanced civilizations hundreds of years before the first voyage of Columbus."

Essentially, Modern Hispanics are a mestizo blend of Native Americans from the New World and Spanish immigrants from the Old, who have since blended with Anglo, African and Asian ethnicities. But the original Spanish were not monocultural or of a single ethnicity; they were made up of Andalus, Basques, Catalonians and Moors, to name a few.

And the Native Americans were made up of hundreds of different remnants of ancient civilizations, each with their own language, culture and history. Even today, more than 50 distinctly different Native American languages are spoken in Mexico alone. Each of these languages and the people that speak them predate the Spanish conquest and the arrival of Europeans.

Continued to page C3