

# HISPANIC COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Rudolfo Anaya Lecture

Rudolfo Anaya, the author of "BlessMe, Ultima" and "Rio Grande Fall" will speak at the Mark O. Hatfield Library at Willamette University in Salem at 7:00 pm., Wednesday November 6.

## Flamenco at Cafe Sol

Sueno Flamenco, featuring Rafaela de Cadiz and guitarist Victor "el Agua" will perform from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm Friday, November 8 at Cafe Sol, 620 SW 9th Ave. Call 243-2161 for information.

## Bones Flowers Sugars-Altars for the Dead

Day of the Dead (Dia de los Muertos) exhibit continues through November at Art of the People, 818 SW First Ave., featuring urban and rural altar displays. Contact 221-0569.

## Hispanic orphans need parents

Northwest Adoption Families Association (NAFA) will conduct a "How to Adopt" class at A Teacher's Place, 2755 NE Broadway, on Saturday, November 9, from 8:45 am to 4:00 pm. Offers information on all kinds of adoption at a cost of \$35 per person or couple. This event is in support of National Adoption Awareness Month. Contact Peggy Lindquist at 621-9776.

## Vietnam Veterans Service

On Monday, November 11, at 11:45 am, the Vietnam Veteran's of America Portland Chapter 392 will host a Veterans Day service at the Oregon Vietnam Veterans Memorial, located in Washington Park. For information, call 266-4527.

## "Aumento Ya" film shown

On Thursday, November 21 at 7:30 p.m., the Fifth Avenue Cinema at 510 SW Hall St near PSU will feature "Aumento Ya! A Raise Now!", a film documenting the June 1995 farmworker strikes in the strawberry fields of the Willamette Valley. Filmmaker Tom Chamberlain and PCUN organizers will be on hand. Ticket information: 228-8866

## Manuel Izquierdo Sculpture

Recent sculpture by Manuel Izquierdo will be shown at the Laura Russo Gallery, 805 NW 21st Street, November 7-30. Born in Madrid, Mr. Izquierdo has gained nationwide stature as a sculptor, and received the Oregon Governor's Award in 1971. Call 226-2754 for information.

## Pre-Columbian art & jewelry exhibit opens in Portland

An exhibition of Pre-Columbian art and jewelry from Mexico, Central and South America will be shown in Portland through November 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.

## Performance at Miracle Theater

"Don Faustino", an original play by Vicente Guzman-Orozco based on the Faust legend but set in contemporary times will run through November 17 at the Miracle Theater, 525 SE Stark Street. For information call 236-7253.

## Kids need Spanish Books

Alder Elementary School needs donations of Spanish-language books suitable for children aged 5 to 12 for its dual language program, which promotes native language literacy while immersing students in a second language (either English or Spanish). Contact Eva at 255-4673, ext. 213.

## Program de Mujeres crisis line

Programa de Mujeres is a program for Hispanic women victims of domestic violence that operates a bilingual crisis line M-F 8-12 and 1-5 pm. Call 232-4448 if you or someone you know is in need of services. The Crisis Line for the Latina Woman and Programa de Mujeres is seeking bilingual volunteers who are interested in supporting survivors of domestic violence. Call 238-7831 for volunteer information.

## Portland Observador seeks youth writers

The Portland Observador is seeking essays by young writers for our In Our Own Words (En Nuestras Proprias Palabras) feature. We would like to publish your thoughts, feelings and experiences from a Hispanic perspective. Contact Editor, The Portland Observador, 4747 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Portland OR 97211. Please include the name of the school you attend and a daytime phone number.

# Ecumenical Ministries supports farm workers

Continued from page B1

constituent members and congregations comprising those members as to the facts giving rise to these Resolutions;

"Be it Further Resolved that (EMO) calls upon all people of faith to stand along with all Oregon farm workers who face any form of retaliation by their employers for complaints as to working conditions or attempts to organize collectively;

"Be it Further Resolved that (EMO) calls upon Norpac Foods, Inc., its member growers, Kraemer

Farms, and all other similarly situated farms to condone and honor, with no retaliation, a confidential vote of workers to determine whether PCUN is to be their bargaining representative;

"Be it Further Resolved that the Board of Directors of (EMO) will, at its next meeting, review the status of this issue, and if there is no significant movement by Norpac Foods, Inc., or Kraemer Farms, the Board will seriously consider full endorsement of the boycott."

This resolution was unanimously approved by the Board of Directors on September 26, 1996.

# Through our own eyes Por nuestros propios ojos



Photo by Victor Alvarez, 1995 Straight Shooting graduate

"When I take a picture I feel like I am making art. The thing I like most about photography is that when I take a picture, I know that no one else could ever take a picture exactly like it. When someone sees one of my pictures, I want them to see what I saw and feel what I felt, but I also want them to have their own feelings. That, to me, is the most important thing about art."

—Nick Long, student.

"In a time where life seems increasingly fragile, it is difficult for anyone to stand tall. We will all be knocked down. Growing up in such real and underprivileged worlds, it is inconceivable to imagine finding the strength that these young adults find each and every day. The young photographers in straight shooting face their world with a sensitivity that, at many times, seems too perceptive. They are consciously aware of the failures of our society.

"Flooding our darkrooms with clearly seen photographs of magical and beautifully truthful images, these students remind us of the power of photography as an art. It is an art of looking at our world. While anyone can take a picture, only these young adults could have made these photographs.

Only these young adults could have evoked these dreamlike scenes of oppression, or their undying love for family in a single image. We are all privileged to learn from their work.

"All of us involved, the students and the mentors, had to reach out towards each other's worlds. The understanding and strength gained is inexplicable. The relationships formed and photographs created in this program are testament to the extreme value of our society working together. There is pain, sorrow, and oppression in our country. There is also self-confidence, grace and pride amidst it all."—Adam Ogilvie, Mentor and Coordinator.

# In our own words En nuestras propias palabras

## Student Essay

Phout Chhay, Am. Lit

My life in America is every immigrant's dream. My parents were the survivors of the Cambodian war of the mid 70's. My ancestors died in Cambodia where their bone or ashes could not be found. Why did this happen? I don't know, but one thing I know in my mind is that my dreams and promises are now here in America.

My family is from Cambodia, and back in Cambodia the people are still trying to put their lives together due to the war. My parents' dream was to escape the Cambodia war and come live in America. Part of their dream came true; the other part did not. They wanted my grandparents to come along to show them how America really is, that dream is shattered because my grandparents are dead. My grandparents' dreams were to live to see all their grandsons and grand-daughters grow up.

Many years ago my family was in Cambodia, and during that time the communist took over the land and the people. The communists were called Khmer Rouge. The Khmer Rouge was a group of communists who didn't like educated people. They would take some of the smart people, blind fold them, and take them to a tree, and hang them like they were a flock of chickens ready to be cooked in a burner and the rest of the people were probably shot to death or were taken to a small prison camp where they were locked up and starved to death. My grandparents were the victims of these strange, ruthless people. They were the ones who tortured and ended my grandparents' dreams.

During the time my family was there, my family was like in a boot camp where they had to work for the communists and do whatever the communists told them to do. So one day my dad thought to himself, "Should I escape and let my



Left to right: Phout Chhay, Mrs. Jeri Shaw (Teacher), Cindy Choch, and Rance Spruill (Director, AYOS).

family live, or should I just stay here and wait until it's my turn, or until one of my family members turn to die?" Many thoughts ran through my parents mind, because if they made one mistake in their plan, all of them were going to be dead.

Finally my parents escaped. During those days my family did not have shoes to wear. They had to walk bare footed in the mud when it was raining and they did not get to eat because there was no food for them to eat. It took them about two weeks or so through the jungle until they reached Thailand.

Thailand is the country where my sister and I were born. Both of us were pretty lucky, because we didn't have to go through what my brothers and sisters experienced. My family lived in Thailand for a couple of months, then they were sponsored by a white family from Medford, Oregon. My parents had second thoughts about coming to America, because

my dad didn't want to leave his sister, and my mom didn't want to leave her brother, because that's the only family member they have left alive. My parents thought about us, so they decided to come to America.

During the trip to America, we stopped at the Philippines and stayed there for a couple of months. Then we flew to Medford, Oregon where we lived with the people who sponsored us. We lived with them for a couple of months, then my dad got a job. When my parents had enough money saved, they moved out on their own to Portland, Oregon.

Now here in America my parents still have memories of Cambodia and still think about all the things they left behind and how much they miss their country. In my opinion, they made the right decision to come to America because if it weren't for them, I would not be here today. My parents to me are my life. Without them, I would not have the strength

to be able to glue myself back together, because over the years I made a lot of mistakes like dropping out of school, and doing things that I couldn't imagine myself doing. Now I'm on the right track and back in school and I'm trying to finish high school and get my diploma to prove to my parents you guys did raise me the proper way!!!!!!

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.