

HISPANIC COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Local poet reads

Carlos Reyes and other local poets will read from their work from 7:00 to 10:00 pm Thursday November 21 at Acanthus Gallery, 120 NW 9th Ave. This event celebrates the publication of Take Out Press' second edition.

"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.

Latino March on Capitol discussed

Cecilia Giron will give an eyewitness account of the October 12 Latino Civil Rights March on the nation's Capitol on Thursday, November 21, at the Northwest Service Center, 1819 NW Everett, Room 201 at 7:00 pm. The meeting is free and open to the public. A Latin American supper will be provided at 6:30 for a donation. For information: 228-3090.

Performance at Miracle Theater

"Regreso a Mis Suenos", an original play by Vicente Guzman-Orozco opens November 21 at the Miracle Theater, 525 SE Stark Street. For information call 236-7253.

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 22 at Cafe Sol, 620 SW 9th Ave. Call 243-2181 for information.

Hispanic orphans need parents

Northwest Adoption Families Association (NAFA) will conduct an Adult Adoptee panel discussion at Emanuel Hospital's Conference Room on Saturday, November 23rd, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. This event is in support of National Adoption Awareness Month. Contact Peggy Lindquist at 621-9776.

Manuel Izquierdo Sculpture

Recent sculpture by Manuel Izquierdo will be shown at the Laura Russo Gallery, 805 NW 21st Street, through November 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.

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.

El Vez, the Latino Elvis coming

El Vez will perform in Portland on December 6 at La Luna, presenting a Latino interpretation of El Rey de Rock and Roll. For tickets, call 224-4400.

Jefferson High Club Hispano Toy Drive

Please help a child enjoy and celebrate this Christmas by donating to Jefferson High School's Third Annual Club Hispano Toy Drive. The club is seeking assistance so that they can purchase toys priced at about \$5.00 each. The club will have a Fiesta Navidena on December 10 at Oakley Green Middle School, where one of the club members will dress up as Santa Claus and deliver toys to needy children. For information, call 916-5180.

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.

Call (503) 288-0033 now to advertise in
PORTLAND OBSERVADOR

Community newspaper seeking inclusive solutions

BY SEAN CRUZ

This issue marks the sixth printing of the biweekly Portland Observador, and is probably as good a time as any to pause...and reflect on what we have done and not done, and what we are trying to do. Fundamentally, we are (1) providing an informational resource for our readers, and (2) delivering an advertising service for area businesses and other organizations.

We cannot accomplish either task without the support of the other and, since each group is increasingly diverse, one should not be too surprised to find increasingly diverse content in the Observador; hence, the birth of the Observador.

A multi-cultural model

In the absence of a multi-cultural newspaper model to follow or emulate, we are in the process of creating an original design from our humble offices on Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. In short, we don't expect everything we do or print to please ourselves, let alone a diverse and highly-opinionated readership as is ours.

Committed to Reflect Our Cultural Diversity

We hope that you will agree that we must all strive to get on the same page to forge solutions that work for all of us. How can we do that if we all narrowly read different newspapers? How can we work together if we read apart?

Strategies that fail to acknowledge and respect each ethnicity that makes up our community will always fall short.

The racial breakdown

A year or so ago, a general survey of our readership showed that 45% of the Observador's readers were Black, 40% were White, 10% were Hispanic, 2.5% were Asian, and 2.5% marked Other, indicating diversity along broad racial lines. It's fair to say that 100% of our readers are interested in issues and viewpoints pertaining to minority or Black populations, or to people of color generally, however the labels might fall, and our business is to put that information on the table.

Diversity in business

The businesses that advertise in our pages want to encourage your patronage without regard to the color of your skin or the language that your grandparents speak (This must be why Texaco hasn't called us). They generally do business in the heart of Portland, although as demand for the paper is increasing in suburban communities, our advertising and our re-

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porting is reflecting our growth geographically.

The owners of these businesses are as diverse as the communities they serve. The Association of Korean Grocers wants your business; the E & M Community Market wants your business; A-Boy Plumbing and Electrical Supply wants your business; Merrill Lynch's Maurice Valdivieso wants your business, to name a few.

These businesses are owned and operated by Asian-Americans, African-Americans, Anglo-Americans, Latino-Americans and Native Americans. They are both our advertisers and our readers, and we encourage you to call them and find out for yourself what you have in common.

Nature abhors a vacuum—and so do our readers

The Portland Observador has many readers who read the paper closely and regularly, and the Observador—and Hispanic causes—are a direct beneficiary of that relationship. It is immensely gratifying to receive the daily feedback from you that we do, and to find so many people throughout the city who are willing to offer opinions about something that we did last week or last month. The Observador is proving itself to be an effective vehicle in disseminating information of importance to Hispanics throughout the community.

A community paper

The Observador's role, as is the Portland Observador's, is not to reach any single ethnic group, but to reach our "community", offering a minority perspective and an inclusive approach.

The Observador will strive to provide slices of what is happening in the local Hispanic communities and also—equally importantly—try to whet our reader's appetites for more information regarding Hispanic culture and history.

After all, it is safe to say that none of us really knows a great deal about the subject. For the three generations that I can safely speak about: mine, my parents' and my children's, none of us ever had a full hour of studies about Meso-American history or cultures offered in our schools. (See the OCHA article at the front of this section)

Look to the pyramids

Through our schools we all learned something about the pyramids in Egypt, but virtually nothing about the pyra-

mids in Mexico and Central America or the cultures that brought them into being. Most importantly, we were taught nothing about the people who are descended from those Aztec and Mayan and other indigenous societies who populate our communities today, whose native words now form part of the American vocabulary.

The subject was completely ignored except for a brief look at the Spanish conquistadores. The average American assumes that names such as Cortez and Balboa—15th century Spanish and Portuguese names—are all that is significant about the history of this continent. The Observador hopes to correct those impressions in its own small way.

A word to our critics

To those who offer criticism directed at the circumstance of Black ownership of a newspaper serving Latino-American interests, consider these several points:

The content of the Observador is rarely duplicated in local Hispanic-owned papers and almost never in English; many Hispanics are not fluent Spanish-language readers, and thus the Observador prints mainly in English for their benefit; there is no comparable alternative resource for non-Spanish-speaking non-Hispanics who wish to obtain information about Hispanic issues; the spotty distribution and coverage of the Spanish-language newspapers makes it difficult for any reader to have regular access to Latino issues through local print media.

There is no single Hispanic community here or anywhere else, and it is beyond the scope of any single daily or weekly paper to represent "the Hispanic view."

I don't think that the Observador plus the 4 or 5 Spanish-language papers currently circulating around the Metro area added up together would represent "the Hispanic view or voice," but we do each in our own ways provide significant and vital forums for Latino issues.

We all have so very much to learn about ourselves.

First and foremost, The Portland Observador/Observador is a community newspaper in the most elemental sense, rising in response to needs unfulfilled by Big Media. It came into being as a pioneer in Oregon publishing, and remains the oldest and largest minority-owned newspa-

per in the area.

The Observador continued its pioneering tradition when Joyce Washington became its publisher. Mrs. Washington was the only Black female newspaper publisher on the West Coast. The Portland Observador simply reflects our recognition of the changing demographics within the Observador's distribution area, and our commitment to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem as we all strive together to build a community that works.

On the plus side

The Observador/Observador has made a commitment to serve the youth of our community regardless of ethnic background. We believe that the development of a youth readership is vital to our success and, hence, yours. We take their viewpoints, whether expressed in words and deeds or through the lens of a camera, very seriously.

The eyes have it

In every issue of the Observador we print a photograph taken by one or another of the hugely talented young photographers developed by the Oregon Commission on Children and Families' "Straight Shooting" project. We hope to encourage these teenagers and others like them to find a path to success through a career in photography or photojournalism. We named this feature "Por Nuestros Proprios Ojos", or "Through Our Own Eyes."

Read! Learn! Act!

(Lealo! Aprendalo! Hazlo!)

We also print youth essays in both the Observador and Observador. We call this feature "En Nuestras Proprias Palabras", or "In Our Own Words." Over the course of the past six issues, we have printed some remarkably insightful and striking essays written by Mexican, African-American, Cambodian, Anglo-European-American, Laotian, Filipino, Puerto Rican and Mexican-American youth.

One can learn a great deal from these youngsters, and we are grateful to the Albina Youth Opportunity School and Latin-America/Asia-Pacific Youth Program for providing us with such wonderful material. I have personally read each of these essays at least a dozen times and every day I look forward to what the mail might bring from these and other young writers.

In Observando next time...

A look at the ways the languages of Meso-America have become assimilated into English, and perhaps a continuation of the role of The Portland Observador.

Regreso a mis sueños plays in Portland



Teatro Milagro, Miracle Theater's touring company, closes its acclaimed international tour of "Regreso a mis sueños" with a short run beginning November 22.

Regreso is an original bilingual

musical play by Vicente Guzman-Orozco, Miracle Theater's resident playwright. "Regreso" received its world premiere in Mexico City earlier this year, and is a collaborative effort with Milagro's actors and

creative support of Actores del Metodo of Mexico City.

Regreso a mis Suenos continues El Sueno Americano, the story of a family who left a war-torn Chiapas to

settle in the Northwest. Time has passed, and they have grown homesick. Promise of peace talks and letters from friends bring memories of their village and a desire to make the journey home. In their travels, they encounter the diversity of human nature and experience a landscape of emotions.

Their arrival in Mexico and their final trek to Chiapas returns them to the dreams of a more hopeful future for their homeland.

Teatro Milagro is the largest arts and culture organization in the Northwest region of the United States. Two original, bilingual musical plays are created every year addressing important issues of Latin America and its people.

Ticket prices are \$ 8.00, with discounts available for students and seniors. Miracle Theatre also offers a season subscription plan. Regreso a Mis Suenos will run from November 22-24 with performances on Friday and Saturday at 8:00 pm and Sunday at 2:00 pm at the Miracle Theater, located at 525 SE Stark Street. A silent auction will take place after the Sunday performance. For information, call 236-7253.

Do you want to buy a home?

Desea usted comprar una casa?

Are you confused about how to buy a house? If your income is close to \$1,500 per month or more, The Portland Housing Center has Home Buying Classes (Translator available).

Esta usted confundido sobre como comprar una casa? Si sus ingresos mensuales son cerca de \$1500, o mas, per mes, The Portland Housing Center tiene clases en espanol sobre como comprar una casa (Hay traductores disponibles).

Donde: PCC Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth, Terrell Hall Sala #122, cuando: Sabado Noviembre 16 de 9:00am a 4:00pm.

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