

HISPANIC COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Flamenco at Cafe Sol

Gitana Blanca, from Los Angeles, featuring La Fragua, will perform Friday and Saturday **January 3 and 4**, at **Cafe Sol**, located at 620 SW 9th Ave in Portland. Call 243-2181 for information.

La Mesa Redonda Meets

La Mesa Redonda, a free, informal gathering of people interested in using or improving their Spanish, meets every Saturday at **Little Wing Cafe**, 529 NW 13th, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. All ages, backgrounds and levels of Spanish welcome. Information: 646-2011

Pre-Columbian art & jewelry exhibit

An exhibition of Pre-Columbian art and jewelry from Mexico, Central and South America will be shown in Portland through **January 15** 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.

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.

Programa 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. 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 Propias 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.

Fiesta de los Tres Reyes

Programa Hispano will sponsor a Christmas Party for Hispanic children on January 4 from 12:00 noon to 4:00pm. The public is invited to this free event at Reynolds High School, 698 Cherry Park Road, Troutdale. Food, music and games for families, and presents will be given to all children attending ages 12 and under. Information: Devin Bernard 669-8350

OBSERVANDO

Don't Divide-Conquer

BY SEAN CRUZ

Change is all around us, and amid the confusion that always accompanies change lies much opportunity: the opportunity to pursue a business premise or develop a curriculum that perceives and rides an emerging wave of need or desire; the opportunity to develop and implement solutions to social ills, large and small; the opportunity to make a better life for one's self and family; the opportunity to leave the world—or the street on which you live—in better shape than the way in which you found it. The opportunity to make a difference.

THE SPECTRUM OF OPPORTUNITY

While opportunity is good in principle, it exists along the entire spectrum of good and evil. The same opportunity for the developer exists for the exploiter; the same opportunity for the builder exists for the destroyer; the same opportunity for the generous exists for the miserly.

BE DIVIDED—REMAIN CONQUERED

As Oregon's minority populations grow, the opportunity exists to unite and prosper. At the same time, however, there are those that view prospering minorities—even their own brothers and sisters—as a threat in one way or another. Representing the evil side of opportunity, these very real forces will find encouragement in watching us divide ourselves against one another, assisting where they can. Solidarity is the key to success.

INEVITABLE CHANGE

Oregon will undergo inevitable changes in its ethnic makeup due to its location on the Pacific Rim and the fact that agribusiness is its chief

industry. These are absolutes. Oregon cannot change its location, so it will remain a destination for immigrants from around the world. The opportunities that these immigrants offer to Oregon and that Oregon offers in turn will be seen through the eyes of both the short- and the far-sighted.

OREGON'S FOOD CHAIN CHANGES

It is inevitable that change will occur in Oregon's food chain. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries are industries where production cannot be relocated into third-world nations where wages of a dollar a day can support a family. These jobs are in Oregon forever. They are offered by builders and exploiters alike.

Each of these industries relies heavily on cheap labor, the better to keep the price of frozen peas at a few pennies a pound. And no one will work harder or more cheaply than desperate immigrants, particularly now that slaves are no longer available. You, the consumer, are the beneficiary of their poorly-compensated labor. Their desperation and that of their children are the underpinnings of your low grocery prices.

SHARED EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELDS

One of the many ways in which Blacks and Latinos share common experiences is through the act of laboring for subsistence and without a voice in an Anglo farmer's field, albeit generations apart. Chains alone do not make a slave. Hunger, lack of opportunity, an environment of oppression and desperate need can combine to have a similar effect. Many Latinos are forced to live a serf-like existence so that Portlanders can buy Flav-R-Pac frozen food dirt cheap.

ROOTS ARE SEVERED

Measured in economic terms, the crops get picked. Agribusiness puts money in the bank. Measured in social terms, the disenfranchised remain so. Families are no longer torn asunder on the auction block, but the seasonal, migratory nature of much farm work splits families just the same. The poor pay and miserable living conditions offer many Latinos a sharecroppers' life on the road, without hope of ownership.

WORKER INSTABILITY

What has historically worked best for growers in keeping labor costs down is to maintain an ample supply of unstable workers. This ensures both that the crops get picked cheaply and that labor demands are diluted. Seasonal work promotes worker instability, which leads to all the other ills associated with poverty and oppression.

Preventing workers from organizing themselves contributes to their instability and powerlessness. Thus, in Oregon, no farm worker has ever worked under a collective bargaining agreement and farmers can get away with paying the same few cents a pound for a decade, among many other abuses.

NUMBERS TAKE HUMAN FORM

As Latino numbers grow, and as these numbers move from statistical abstracts and trend analysis spreadsheets into human forms that use banking services, buy automobiles and homes, attend schools, start businesses, raise families and vote, Oregon itself will change.

Latino numbers are beginning to have recognizable faces and names, and addresses in your neighborhoods. This important fact will lead to increased support for farm worker

rights, as city dwellers become more aware of the issues and the people involved become less abstract. This is the inevitable part of change in Oregon agriculture.

LATINOS CAN BENEFIT

Latinos can benefit from the pioneering work in civil rights and equal opportunity advances won by Blacks, and if Latinos can learn that the key to those gains was solidarity and apply the lesson, then all the better.

BLACKS CAN GAIN

Blacks can gain from attaching themselves to the numbers. Latino numbers are soaring, and they are learning to see bloc voting as an effective way to solve problems. Many Blacks occupy positions of leadership and influence that can help direct those numbers into useful channels.

OPPORTUNITY IN THE FOOD CHAIN

Change is coming to the Oregon food chain, and the opportunity to engineer change in the fields lies in the cities. The farm workers' problems are our problems, too. Third-World-style poverty in Oregon harms all of us. Become informed and support your farm worker brothers and sisters.

NOTE AT THE GROCERY STORE

Be part of the solution. You don't have to wait until the next election to stand up for what you believe, for what is right and just. You can vote in the checkout line every time you shop by simply not buying food products that are subject to farm worker boycotts. If you would not buy the product of a sweatshop, or of slave or child labor produced in a Third-World country, then apply the same principal to Oregon food producers and processors. Join the boycott.

"Si, tu puedes!"

"Nothing to it! We can do it!"

BY JACKIE LAWSON, CSI

Just when life was becoming easier (or at least less bumpy) and teaching a bit of a breeze (after 38 years it should be, eh?), I find myself in the public school sector with the greatest challenge of my career.

I thought I had seen the worst of poverty situations having taught 31 of my years in inner city areas and having worked and lived on reservations in South Dakota and the garbage dumps of Mexico. But I am learning a new poverty and new injustices down on the border.

I work at Douglass Elementary School in El Paso, Texas in a monolingual first grade and am known as Ms. Lawson. On my first day of school I asked the principal if I could teach in Spanish just at the beginning. He said "no" because I was not "certified" bilingual. I must teach only in English.

"But Mr. Saucedo," I said, "the only ones who understand English in that room are the aide and me!" He smiled and said, "A real challenge, isn't it?" I then asked if he expected these children to be performing at first grade level by year's end. "Just do your best," was the reply.

I used Spanish to give directions, make announcements and

give comfort. I announced we would have "Show and Tell" for one hour every day--much cheering. I then proclaimed that Show and Tell would be in English only--much pleading and whining--"No Mees! No Puedo" (I can't) My answer all year long was, "Si, tu puedes!" (Yes, you can!) followed by "I will help you."

Not only are these children linguistically challenged but they come with an experiential void that is almost overwhelming. I spent the first semester of the school year just teaching the names of ordinary objects in English. These children could not name common household furniture or objects in English or Spanish. One day I held up a picture of a bed and asked, "What is this?" No answer. So I said "Digame en español" (Tell me in Spanish). No answer. Finally I asked them, "What do you sleep on?" Answer: "El Suelo" (the floor). Do you think, then, they'd have an idea of what a dresser, sofa or nightstand would be?

In our area, known as the "segundo barrio," we are dealing with many fifth-generation welfare recipients and "illegal" aliens as well as the "nouveaux pauvres" or, as like to call them,

the "NAFTA fall-out." There is much apathy, disinterest, hopelessness, and helplessness combined with anger, resentment, restlessness, and rage. The mix gives us one of the most violent neighborhoods in El Paso.

Because of the volatile nature of the area, the school cannot function or be used after 8:30 p.m., at which time the streets belong to the gangs. Any parent-teacher meetings, conferences, or adult classes must end by that hour. The children say they never leave their dwellings after this time. "Only the 'cholos' (gang members) go out." The majority live in fear. The others are already gang members, although they, too, know fear--fear of rival gangs, drive-bys, knifings, and beatings.

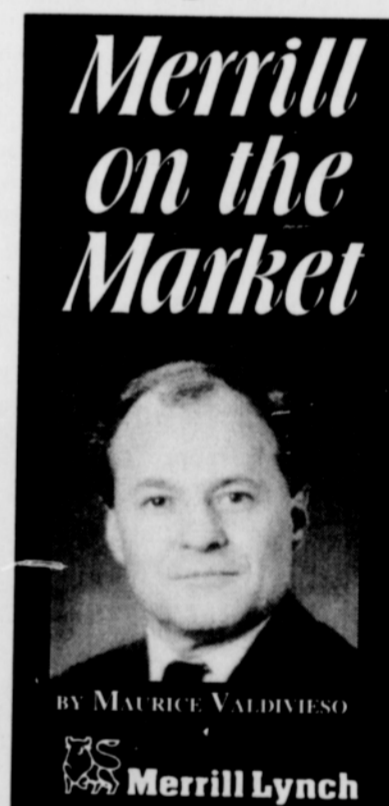
Someone asked me why I choose such impossible situations. I had to think hard and ask myself: "Why do I?" It's the challenge! Yes, it's the challenge, but it is also the joy I get when I see "the light" go on in a first grader's eyes when a new word in English is grasped, read and eventually written.

It's the triumph I feel when as a class they declare, "Nothing to it. We can do it!" (our class motto) and most especially it is the strength and energy I receive from them as they amaze me with their courage, faith and tenacity.

Market analysis comment

Highlights--Two consecutive very strong years in the market typically lead to letdown in the third; The bond market rally, which has helped stocks, may be losing steam; Professional sentiment, which had recently been cautious, is becoming more bullish.

"Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee." The market continued to float on the rising tide of investor enthusiasm last week, further stinging the bears and their recent concerns about rising interest rates, falling corporate profits, high valuations, and excessive investor enthusiasm for stocks. The DJIA and NYSE advance-decline figures were positive for the fourteenth time in the last seventeen weeks as all of the major averages closed at new all-time highs on Friday. NYSE volume rose to the third highest weekly total in history while the number of large blocks (i.e., 50,000 shares or more) traded on upticks from their prior transaction price exceeded those traded on downticks by 20%, a sign of institutional exuberance. The smaller cap and speculative sector continued to be a laggard area, however, as the Russell 2000 Index gained less than one percent for the week (vs. a jump of nearly two percent by the DJIA), and the NASDAQ advance-decline statistics showed more losers than winners. With the DJIA and S&P 500 at spreads above their ten and thirty week averages equal to those



of last February, when the market's trend flattened out for several months prior to its late spring-early summer decline, we should expect at least a more ragged or labored market trend in coming weeks. However, there may still be time for some further gains in the seasonally strong December-January period (these two months have the best long term performance records of all months in the year) prior to the next important (i.e., intermediate term or major) top for the market.

The market's additional strength

last week pushed the DJIA's gain for the year to date to 26.5%. This above-average advance comes on the heels of last year's 33.5% gain, clearly an extraordinary two year performance. In fact, looking back to 1900, we can find only six other occasions (1904-1905, 1924-1925, 1927-1928, 1935-1936, 1954-1955, and 1985-1986) when that index registered two consecutive annual gains of 20% or more. It appears to be worth noting, although many may claim that this time is different, that the year following each of those strong two year periods had either a flat or down market performance. The DJIA's performance, for example, ranged from a gain of 2.3% for 1956 and 1987 to a loss of 32.8% for 1937.

The average net change for all six of these "third" years was a loss of 7.8%. Of course, the intra-year high to low decline in these years was often much greater than that, with some examples being the 36% decline in the summer-fall of 1987 and the 42% decline in 1937.

Although we are not necessarily anticipating such extremes in 1997 following the huge market gains of 1995 and 1996, history does suggest that it will be a much more difficult year.

We still believe that a cyclical decline with a 20-25% high to low magnitude could develop along the way, possibly starting in the early months of the coming year.

Oregon Governor appoints five Hispanic leaders

Governor John Kitzhaber announced recently the appointment of several Hispanic Leaders to the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs. Appointed to the Commission are Liliana Olberding of Portland, Emilio Hernandez of Springfield, Henry Montes of Medford, Lynda Jasso-Thomas of Florence and Manuel Castaneda of Aloha.

Liliana Olberding has been re-appointed to the Commission and is also the Chair. She is a Charter Board Member of the Portland-Metro Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and was a member of the Oregon Supreme Court Task Force on Ethnic and Racial Discrimination issues in

the Judicial System. Ms. Olberding brings broad expertise in the area of the judicial court system and social services as it addresses a number of issues and concerns for the Hispanic/Latino community members. She also is the President for Spanish Translation Services. Liliana and her husband live in Hillsboro. They have two sons, Nathan and Jeffrey.

Emilio Hernandez has also been re-appointed to the Commission and is the Vice-Chair. He is the Director of the University of Oregon's High School Equivalency Program. In addition to the volunteer work, he is the Vice-Chair for the Oregon Department of Education's SACED Com-

mittee (Superintendent's Special Advisory Committee on Ethnic Diversity); member of the WICHE (Western Interstate Council for Higher Education) advisory group; Board of Director member for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); and serves on the Police Forum for the City of Eugene. Emilio and his wife live in Springfield. They have one son, Dominic.

Henry Montes has just recently been appointed to the Commission. He is Vice-President of the Rogue Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He is a Planning Commissioner for the City of Medford and a member of the Hispanic/Criminal

Justice Community Relations Committee. He has been an employee of the Oregon Department of Transportation Maintenance Section for over 20 years and was just recently appointed the Vegetation Management Coordinator for the Jackson County roads and Parks Services. Henry and his wife live in Medford.

Diego Castellanos has just recently been appointed to the Commission. He is a member of the Title I Migrant Committee of Practitioners for the Oregon Department of Education, the Nyssa School Board, and the Nyssa City Council. Diego is a utility worker for the Amalgamated Sugar Company and has been em-

ployed there since 1979. Diego and his wife live in Nyssa. They have seven children.

Lynda Jasso-Thomas has also just recently been appointed to the Commission. She is currently working toward obtaining her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership Technology at the University of Oregon and has held several instructional positions in the art field. She has volunteered in English as a Second Language Program at LCC in Florence. She is the owner and artist for De Mano Construction and Pottery works. Lynda and her husband, William, live in Florence.

Manuel Castaneda has also just

recently been appointed to the Commission. He has developed his own landscaping business, Pro Landscape, into a million dollar a year company. He produces monthly Spanish language television show, "Foro Abierto" (Open Forum), in which topics of interest in the Hispanic community are discussed. He was awarded the Hispanic Portland-Metro Chamber of Commerce "Most Promising Business" in 1996. He was also awarded the Business Journal's "100 Fastest Growing Private Companies", in the Portland Metro area in 1996. Manuel and his wife, Rosa, live in Aloha. They have a son, Brandon.