

CINCO DE MAYO

Celebration at Waterfront Park

Through a collaboration between the sister cities of Portland and Guadalajara, the annual Cinco de Mayo festival returns. The event showcases Mexican food, music, dance and Latin rhythms featuring popular Latino artists and groups.

The fiesta will be held at Waterfront Park, from Thursday, May 2 through Sunday, May 5.

Guadalajara's internationally famous folk ballet and the Guadalajara Mariachi will again bring their music and dance from Portland's sister city.

There are plazas for merchants and artisans in the expanded "Plaza de Artesanos," which is reminiscent of a typical town



Adding to the colorfulness of the Cinco de Mayo festival are the Mariachi dancers from Guadalajara.

in Mexico where merchants sell their wares and, just as in Mexico, authentic artisans demonstrate and sell hand-crafted art work.

In addition, there will be a family carnival, Saturday night Fireworks Spectacular, Naturalization Ceremony and a Mariachi Mass.

Kids can find interesting activities at the Children's Plaza which entertains thousands with puppet shows, face painting, Mexican children's arts and crafts, continuous piñata breaking, balloon art magicians and performing clowns.

For more information about the Cinco de Mayo event at Waterfront, call 503-222-9807.



Members of the musical group Grupo Condor.

Group Presents Latin American Folk Music

Grupo Condor is a touring folk music ensemble based in Portland that performs traditional music of Latin America. Their concerts and school programs focus on the blend of European, African and Native American influences which are the roots of this multicultural music style.

The group will be giving a concert at the Old Church on Thursday, April 25, located at 1422 S.W. 11th at 8 p.m. Special guests to appear are from Chile, Venezuela and the United States.

For more information, call 503-469-8906 or go online to www.grupo-condor.org.

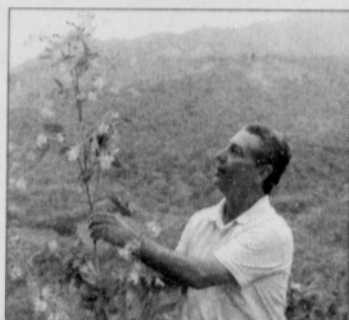
Puerto Rican Environmentalist Honored

(AP) — Beyond narrow roads winding through the mountains of Puerto Rico's Cordillera Central lies a tropical paradise lush with giant ferns, philodendrons and pockets of orchids.

Less than a decade ago, this nearly became an eyesore of mile-wide craters dug in a search for copper, silver and gold. But Alexis Massol, a 58-year-old civil engineer, led a community struggle against the government and the mining industry to stop the area becoming an open-pit mining zone.

Massol's 15-year effort to preserve the forests around his native Adjuntas is being honored Monday with a Goldman Environmental Prize — sometimes called the "Nobel of environmentalists" — presented each year to eight people.

"This achievement makes me proud to be Puerto Rican. We have assumed responsibility for our community," Massol said in a telephone interview from a San Francisco hotel where the \$125,000 awards are being pre-



Environmentalist Alexis Massol was recently honored for his 15-year effort at preserving Puerto Rico's Cordillera Central.

ating Casa Pueblo.

"As a community, we united to break dependency on the government and determine our own mechanisms to deal with problems," Massol said. But many feared opposing the government. To attract more supporters, Casa Pueblo — or "the People's House" — evolved into a cultural center. Massol led his group to neighborhoods, small-town plazas and schools, and held concerts.

In 1986 and 1993, Casa Pueblo beat back two attempts to mine the mountain area.

Finally, in 1995, Gov. Pedro Rossello signed a law banning open-pit mining.

Massol sought more protection, and the following year the governor designated the area as Puerto Rico forest land and handed control to Casa Pueblo. It was dubbed "The People's Forest."

"It was a 15-year struggle," said Massol. "We took a project of death and turned it into a project of life."

sented.

In the 1980s and 1990s, the government of this U.S. Caribbean territory granted mining permits for 37,000 acres of Puerto Rico's central mountain range.

Experts say the mining would have affected a third of the island. Aside from a major loss of forests, toxins likely would have polluted the Vivi and Pellejas rivers that supply drinking water to the more than 1 million residents of northern Puerto Rico.

Massol reacted in 1980 by cre-

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