

# EL OBSERVADOR

# RELIGION

## Photo Program Helps Hispanic Teens Gain Cultural Awareness

Students take pictures within their N.E. Cully neighborhood for the 2002 Youth Photo Exhibit that is currently on display through the end of September at the Baltazar Ortiz Center in northeast Portland.

PHOTO BY JULIE KEEFE



Twelve Hispanic teens photographed the places and the people of their N.E. Cully neighborhood. Their completed works are now on display at the 2002 Youth Photo Exhibit that can be viewed until the end of September at the new Baltazar Ortiz Center, 6736 N.E. Killingsworth.

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Target Area and

Hacienda CDC invites the community to the exhibit. View black and white prints of the diversity and the changing culture of their neighborhood from a youth's perspective.

Professional photographers Julie Keefe and Jorge Vinueza, along with two of last year's students, taught participants on weekly visits to various sites in the neighborhood, in-

cluding an artist studio. The youth kept a written journal of their experiences to give substance to their images. One of the main goals is to promote cultural awareness in a diverse and changing neighborhood from their understanding. The teens expressed having fun while learning new skills and some are considering a career in the arts.

## Hispanic Youths Sue Greyhound

A group of Hispanic youths have filed a \$330,000 lawsuit against Greyhound Bus Lines claiming racial harassment by a driver last year.

The lawsuit claims that 12 members of Latinos Unidos Siempre were harassed Aug. 9, 2001, and eventually were kicked off a bus near the

Dalles while returning to Salem from a leadership conference in Idaho.

Carl Crowell, the group's lawyer, said the lawsuit was filed last week in Marion County Circuit Court due to legal issues surrounding the anniversary of the incident, but settlement talks with Greyhound have been

under way for some time.

Greyhound previously refunded the \$840 cost of the group's bus tickets, but the organization's members claim they were told damages would cover emotional distress, anxiety, physical and verbal assault.

## Tango Dance-a-thon to Benefit Argentine Charities

Eager to give back to the country that gave them the power and elegance of Argentine tango, the Portland tango community will hold a dance-a-thon, silent auction and performance by Argentine tanguera Florencia Taccetti

from 7 p.m. until midnight on Sunday, Aug. 18, at the Viscount Ballroom, 722 E. Burnside St. All proceeds, including the admission fee, will go directly to benefit two relief organizations helping people impoverished by the current

economic crisis in Argentina.

To sponsor a dancer, call Sharon Dzialo at 503-223-8901. For more info or to make a donation, contact Joan Ratley at 503-329-1316 or go online to [www.embracingargentina.com](http://www.embracingargentina.com).



## Smokie Norful

### Smokie Norful Worships with Melody

It's an old adage that where there's smoke, there's fire. And the debut release from EMI Gospel's Smokie Norful, "I Need You Now," is proof positive. With a voice that both soothes and excites, and a songwriter's pen that runs the gamut of much of modern popular music, Smokie Norful arrives alive and on fire.

An incendiary live performer as well, Smokie has drawn great responses from both church and unchurched audiences for music he terms "urban/inspirational."

The album's title song, "I Need You Now," is a gorgeous, jazz-tinged ballad that means exactly what it says.

"It's All About You" displays Smokie's comfort with a funky groove, and "Psalm 64"

lets the Word, Smokie's vocals and a grand piano deliver the message, while "Praise Him" is a rocking, hand-clapping traditional gospel arrangement that defies anyone to sit still.

"Music is a power...it's a force," he says. "The Lord is the ultimate source of that power and He has no limitations or boundaries. If you tap into that source, people can't help but take notice, whether they realize it or not. I try to write and perform songs that come out of my personal experiences, when I do that it seems to reach the heart of people. Music is the calling card that opens the door," he adds, "and then once you have people's attention, you can impact them with what you have to say."

When You've Got Family Behind You,  
You're Never Alone!



That's why so many single people, in your hometown and all over the country, rely on American Family Insurance for their insurance protection. American Family Insurance is committed to providing insurance coverage at a competitive price for millions of people, just like you. And, we're dedicated to handling your claims with impeccable speed and care. Call an American Family Insurance agent today, or visit us at [www.amfam.com](http://www.amfam.com)



© 2002 American Family Mutual Insurance Company and its Subsidiaries, Madison, WI 53783-001 [www.amfam.com](http://www.amfam.com)

## Ministry Fights Domestic Violence

Russian Oregon Social Services, a program of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, recently received two grants from the Oregon Department of Justice totaling \$69,816 to provide domestic violence services to the Russian-speaking community in Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington Counties. The funding will also expand services to serve residents of Marion County.

In 1998, ROSS began providing domestic violence services to the estimated 100,000 Russian-speaking refugees and immigrants residing in the Portland metro area. The goals of domestic violence services are to increase awareness and understanding of domestic violence in the Russian-speaking community and provide direct services to victims of domestic violence. These services include advocacy and support, long-term case management and crisis intervention services, domestic violence support groups, mental health counseling and a

mentorship program.

There are many barriers in addressing domestic violence services in the Russian-speaking community, including cultural and religious beliefs. ROSS recognizes these perceptions and understands how to address these sensitive issues in culturally appropriate ways.

While there is not a way to make batterers stop abuse, there is a way to help victims become survivors. It comes down to two things: education and support. As a result of the educational outreach ROSS provides, there is evidence of a growing acceptance of domestic violence services in the Russian-speaking community.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of 17 Christian denominations including Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox bodies working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through theological education and dialogue, public policy advocacy and community ministry programs.

## Highland Plans Scholarship Banquet

Everyone is invited to attend the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Sam Johnson Scholarship Banquet on Saturday, Sept. 14, from 2 - 5 p.m. at the Embassy Suites, 4500 N.E. Airport Way. The youth and partners of Highland Haven will present six local college bound high school graduates with scholarships totaling more than \$2,000 at the event.

Proceeds from ticket sales help fund next year's scholarships.

Kevin Fuller of "The Oregonian" and the Bridge Builders Male Rights of Passage organization will be the keynote speaker at the banquet.

Youths from the Highland United Church of Christ Mime Team and Step Team will present

a dramatic poem commemorating the anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy, dedicated to youth who lost parents in the World Trade Centers.

The Sam Johnson Scholarship Fund was established in memory of the Reverend Samuel Johnson and Wilmar Elliot. They devoted many years of selfless service helping disadvantaged young people look forward to a better future.

Tickets are on sale for this upcoming scholarship banquet. The cost is \$20 for ages 21 and under, \$30 for adults. Reserved tables for 8 may be purchased for \$280. Donations are gladly accepted if you cannot attend.

For more information, call the Highland United Church of Christ at 503-287-9567.

*o b i t u a r y*

### Raymond F. Hays

Raymond F. Hays died recently. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of the Killingsworth Little Chapel of the Chimes. He was born on July 7, 1923 in Gillispie, Ill. and was married to Carmen Clairmont. He lived in Portland for 33 years, working for the Navy and later as a dental hygienist. Survivors include his wife; daughter, Dorothy M. Stephens; and three grandchildren.