

# EL OBSERVADOR

## Bush Pushes Minority Homeownership

President says economy will improve if more minorities own homes

(AP) — President Bush said Tuesday his goal of getting 5.5 million more black and Hispanic families into their own homes will give the U.S. economy a \$256 billion shot in the arm over the decade.

"This project is not only good for the soul of the country, it's good for the pocketbook of the country as well," Bush said at a daylong White House Conference on Increasing Minority Homeownership.

"The idea of encouraging new homeownership and the money

that will be circulated as a result of people purchasing homes will mean people are more likely to find a job in America," he said.

Almost three-quarters of white American families are homeowners, but the same can be said for less than half of black and Hispanic families, or just over 13 million households.

"That's a home ownership gap," said Bush. "It's a gap that we've got to work together to close, for the good of our country, for the sake of a more hopeful future."

## Online Language Program Helps Washington Minorities

Two Vancouver teachers have been selected for a unique on-line preparation program sponsored by Washington State University's College of Education to better prepare them to teach the growing number of language minority students in their classrooms.

This fall, the teachers will begin the coursework to complete their Bilingual Education or English as a Second Language endorsements through a combination of on-line distance education courses and a summer institute. The new program is supported with a three-year, \$700,000 U.S. Department of Education grant, explained assistant professor Joy Egbert who coordinates the program.

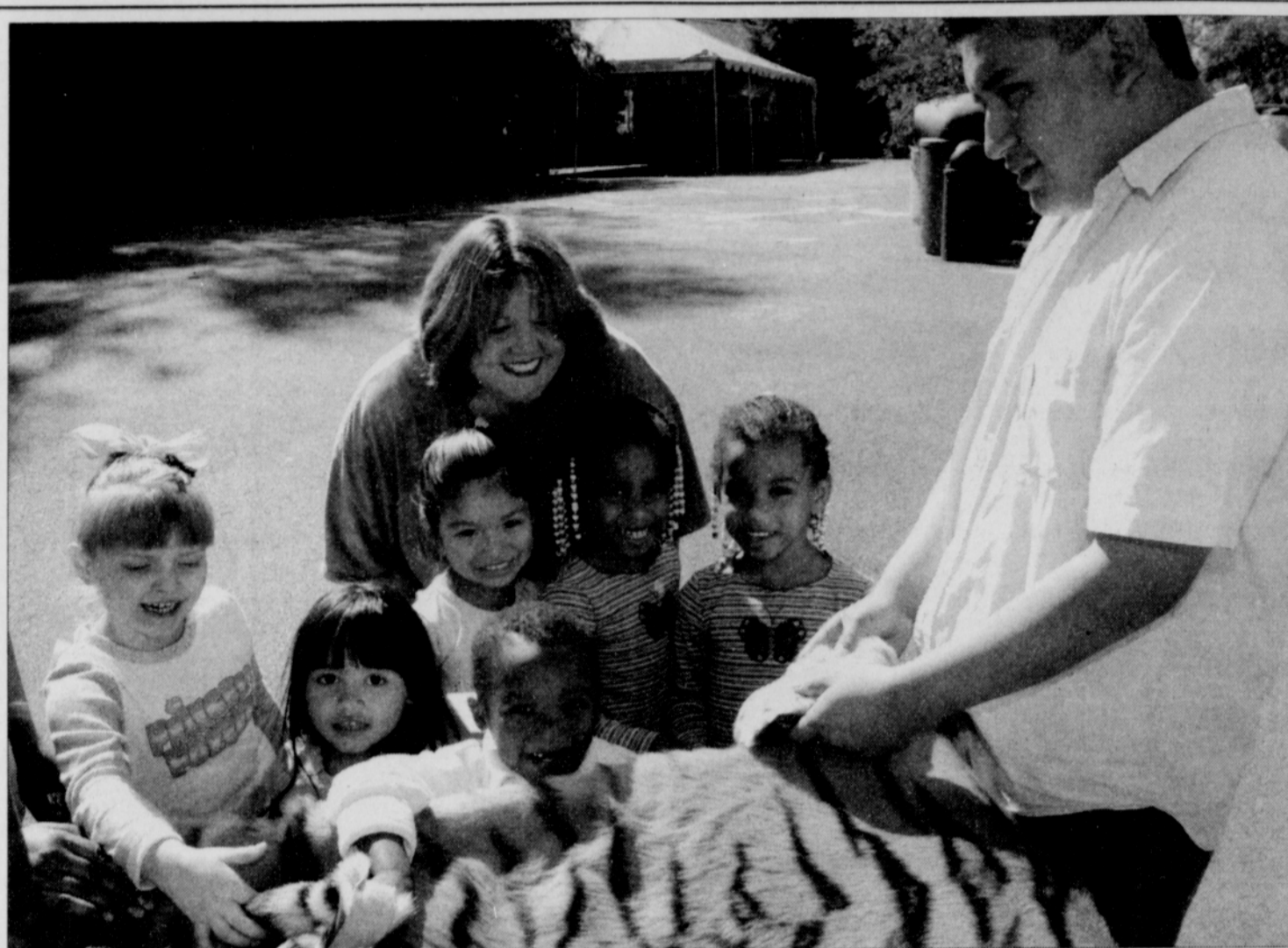
The teachers are Adrian Advincula, who teaches sixth grade at Jason Lee Middle School and

April Dalrymple, who teaches sixth grade at Maple Grove Middle School.

The Vancouver teachers were selected from 170 applicants statewide for free enrollment in the preparation program.

The project funds the preparation for two cohorts of 15 teachers each, beginning in the fall of 2002, Egbert said. Because the courses are offered through the Internet, the teachers will remain in their home communities that can be located anywhere in Washington.

There is a critical need for teachers prepared to teach language minority students in Washington, Egbert added. Language minority, or non-native speakers of English, currently comprise 23 percent of all students in the state, and represent 96 language groups.



## Lions and Tigers and Kids, Oh My!

Albina Ministerial Alliance Head Start students took an educational trip to the Oregon Zoo. 13 students sponsored by Oregon Zoo events coordinator Christa Swan got to attend the World Animal Festival. Supervised by Sam Blocker, a volunteer grandmother for the group, Kaylee Hay, Stephanie Alvillez Mendez, Michelle Vega, and siblings Christopher, Nycollette and Tasyanna Lartigue of the John Garlington Center of Albina Headstart got to pet a tiger pelt with the help of a zoo employee.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL DURHAM

## Annual Event Supports Chicano and Latino Students

The Chicano/Latino Studies Program at Portland State University is hosting its sixth annual gala, "Celebrating Contributions" on Saturday, Oct. 26 at the Oregon Convention Center. The evening

includes dinner, dancing and celebrity speaker, Nicholas Gonzalez, a film and television actor who is currently on the popular showtime series "Resurrection Boulevard." This special event starts with a

cocktail reception at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m.

Eva Longoria, actress on the hit soap opera "The Young and the Restless," will join Gonzalez as a celebrity guest. The event will award

scholarships of \$1,000 - \$4,000 for academic achievement and community involvement to 10 of PSU's Chicano/Latino students.

For more information, call Maria Alanis Ruiz at 503-725-4447.

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