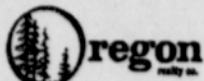


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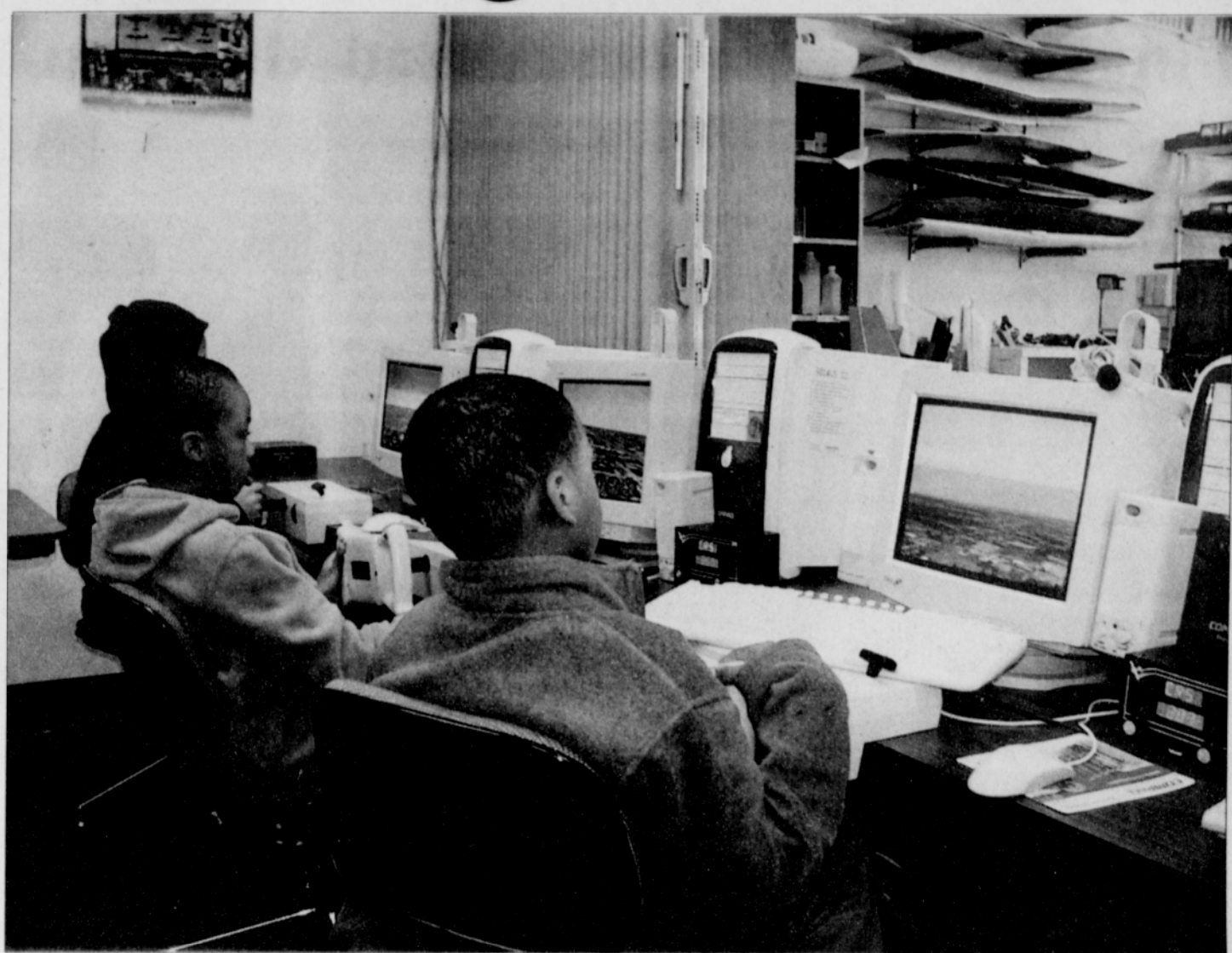


PHOTO BY RON WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The CAS course is open to a maximum of 50 students and features highly individualized education, including detailed computer flight simulations.

continued ▲ from Front

plane with an experienced pilot.

Strickland doesn't like to emphasize that part of the program because he understands the public may be wary of 10- to 12-year-old children soaring the skies, but he assures anyone with a doubt that these kids are good.

"Last year we had 27 kids in the air and they know what they're doing," he said.

Strickland thinks a program like CAS is most valuable in north and northeast Portland because by introducing low-income children to the world of aviation, it gives them a shoe-in to a career that is perceptively viewed as very high status.

He said when the kids interact with real world pilots and see what they do, is essentially the same thing they're learning, it becomes a true validation experience.

"It makes them feel good," he said. "It makes them think, 'Hey, I can do that.'"

And that's just what Strickland

wants—to let kids know they can do anything they aspire to do with an education. He doesn't shun sports but thinks spending after school hours working towards an academic

became one. When she was younger her brother brought home a plastic model and she took it apart and put it back together before he noticed.

Last year we had 27 kids in the air and they know what they're doing.

— Robert Strickland, CAS program founder

purpose may be more valuable to their futures.

Dea'Naisa Thomas, 11, agrees. If it wasn't for CAS, she said she'd be at home goofing off or sleeping.

After only one year in the course, Thomas is already marks ahead of many of her classmates and hopes to fly as soon as she's 17—even though she has a fear of heights.

Thomas became interested in planes because her father always aspired to be a jet pilot but never

"I wanted to see inside," Thomas said. "But it was just empty."

Damone Lowery, 10, has never been on a plane but swears he'll get one when he's older.

"Instead of driving my car I'm going to fly my plane," he said. "It's faster because you don't have any traffic and you don't have stop signs or red lights."

The CAS course is open to a maximum of 50 students and features highly individualized educa-

tion. Strickland said there are rarely lectures because students are expected to read their books in advance and come to class prepared for questions and clarification. If he sees a case where it is advantageous to introduce curriculum collectively, he will do so, but in most cases students set their own pace.

"You really have to go about it on an individual basis," Strickland said.

Students can be accepted into the free program if they are from a single parent home, are home alone more than two hours a day, have a parent or guardian with less than a high school education, have a sibling who failed or dropped out of school, speak a language other than English in the home or if they come from a family with an income at or below the poverty level.

For more information or to enroll a child in a Center for Airway Science course, call 503-292-4542 or visit the Internet at www.airwayscience.org.

EL OBSERVADOR

Children's Singer, Author Performs Friday

José-Luis Orozco, premier children's singer and author, will perform a concert on Friday, June 6 at 7 p.m. at the Hillsboro Stadium.

Orozco will be delighting children, parents, and teachers alike with traditional Latin American Children's songs, games, and

rhymes in both English and Spanish from his most recent release "Fiestas." He is also known for his two best selling books, "De Colores" and "Diez Deditos".

Orozco's music is a tool that introduces young kids to subjects such as the alphabet, numbers, colors and body parts,



Children's singer and author José-Luis Orozco is coming to the Portland area for a community concert.

which he teaches through songs. He has earned the respect of parents and teachers in the field of bilingual education who value his work for its ability to

enhance the children's knowledge of language, but also exposes them to elements of Latin American cultures and enhancing their individual pride and self-esteem.

Orozco is an international artist who regularly performs for children throughout the U.S. and México. As a child, he was a member of the México City Boys Choir and traveled to 32 countries in Europe, the Caribbean and Central and South America. It is from that experience that he shares his cultural knowledge with children and exposes them to the cultures of the world.



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