

# EL OBSERVADOR

## Angel Finds Medical Relief in Portland

Angel Coj Tajtaj and his new friends at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center, celebrated last week after completing two of surgeries to repair Tajtaj's spine.

Tajtaj, 21, arrived in Portland in April, from Antigua, Guatemala, to correct the curvature of his spine that would eventually kill him. The curve, caused by spina bifida and severe scoliosis, was so severe, it would eventually collapse his lungs.

With the help Transition Foundation, a non-profit Guatemalan disabilities association, and the Portland Rotary Club, Tajtaj underwent the surgeries at St. Vincent, where he had a rib and six disks removed in his back.

All the medical services and surgeries were donated.

Angel returned to Guatemala earlier this week with John Bell, the executive director of Transitions Foundation, who served as Angel's guardian during his stay.



Angel Coj Tajtaj, a 21-year-old from Antigua, Guatemala, is surrounded by his caregivers at a celebration to thank those involved with his surgery and recovery at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center.

### Explorando el Columbia Slough

Area residents are invited to join the Columbia Slough Watershed Council at the Whitaker Ponds Environmental Learning Center in northeast Portland for the second annual Explorando El Columbia Slough on Saturday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The free festivities celebrate the nature and history of the Columbia Slough. Canoe trips, music, bird watching, environ-

mental games and displays, bilingual storytelling, face painting, refreshments and more are planned.

Guests will also receive a Spanish recreation guide to the Columbia Slough, which features outdoor locales for bicycle riding, walking, paddling, and picnicking within the Slough watershed.

The Whitaker Ponds are located at 7040 N.E. 47<sup>th</sup> Ave in

Portland, ¼ mile north of Columbia Boulevard. Free shuttle buses to the event will pick up at the Ortiz Center on 6736 N.E. Killingsworth, Holy Cross Church at 5227 N. Bowdoin and at the Rockwood Fred Meyer Parking Lot in Gresham. The event is also accessible by Tri Met bus #75. For more information, visit [www.columbiaslough.org](http://www.columbiaslough.org).

### Powell Offers Friendship to Struggling Argentina

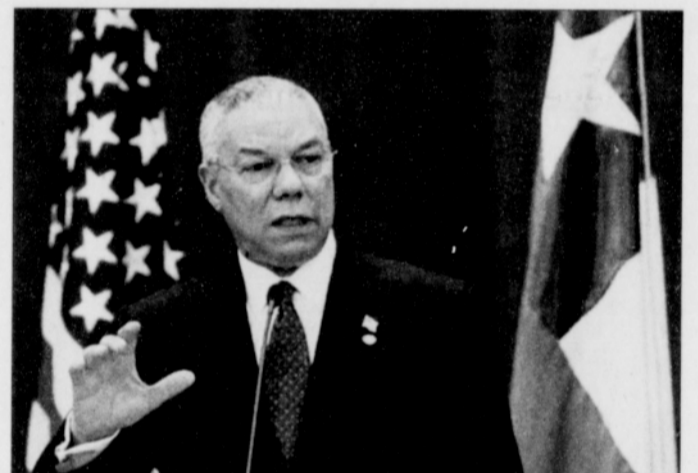
(AP) — Secretary of State Colin Powell is on a goodwill mission to Argentina, ready to offer friendship to newly installed President Nestor Kirchner and hoping to put U.S.-Argentine relations on a sounder footing.

Powell was flying to Buenos Aires Tuesday after attending an Organization of American States foreign ministers meeting in Santiago, Chile on Monday.

A senior OAS official said there was optimism that the U.S.-Argentine relations can prosper now that President Bush has a new team of economic advisers.

On Monday, Powell challenged the OAS to help the United States find ways to "hasten the inevitable democratic transition in Cuba."

The United States traditionally has refrained from taking the Cuba issue to the OAS, but Powell apparently feels that the political climate in the hemisphere may be ready for such an initiative fol-



U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell speaks to the media in Santiago, Chile, while attending the General Assembly of the Organization of American States. (AP photo)

lowing Cuba's crackdown on dissidents in March.

About 75 Cubans, including independent journalists and directors of independent libraries, were corralled by Cuban authorities and given long prison sentences.

"How could we as a commu-

nity of democracies fail to speak out?" Powell asked at an evening news conference last Monday.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim disagreed, telling reporters, "It does not make sense to discuss Cuba without Cuban representatives being present."



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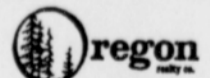
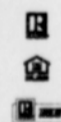
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Broker

Cellular 503 309-8778

Office 503 254-0100

Fax 503 252-6366



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