

# EL OBSERVADOR

## Black, Latino Youth Look to Future

**Finds optimism despite discrimination**

(AP) -- Decades after the civil rights movement's greatest victories, black and Latino youth often see a world rife with discrimination, a new survey says. And yet they remain optimistic about their chances for affecting social change.

Researchers at the University of Chicago, who were releasing the study say their findings also show that these youth are complex when it comes to such issues as sex education and hip-hop music.

It found, for instance, that while 58 percent of black youth say they listen to rap music every day, the majority of them also think its videos are too violent

and often portray black women in an offensive way.

The survey, which researchers call the Black Youth Project, details the responses of nearly 1,600 black, Latino and white participants, ages 15 to 25, from several Midwestern cities.

Their responses don't always paint a rosy picture about minorities' view of the country.

More than half of African-American and Latino respondents said they believe government officials care very little about them, while 44 percent of white youth said the same. Just over half of black youth also were the most likely to feel their education was, on average, poorer than that of white youth. About a third of whites agreed with that statement. And 61 percent of African-

Americans who were surveyed said they feel held back by discrimination.

While they see many social problems in the world, the survey indicated teens and young adults are optimistic about their chances of changing things for the better.

A large majority of youth in the survey believe, for instance, that they can make a difference by participating in politics — with 79 percent black and white youth and 77 percent of Latino youth saying they feel that way.

They're also using their spending power through "buycotts" — buying products because they like a company's social or political values. A quarter of black youth said they'd participated in a boycott in the last 12 months, while 23 percent of white youth and 20 percent of

Hispanic youth said the same.

About a third of black and Hispanic youth thought drugs, violence, gangs and crime were problems in their neighborhoods, compared with 10 percent of white youth.

59 percent of white youth report receiving care from a private doctor, while 40 percent of African-American youth and 39 percent of Hispanic youth say the same;

81 percent of white youth, 79 percent of Hispanic youth and 76 percent of black youth disagree with the government funding abstinence-only education;

76 percent of African-American youth, 74 percent of Hispanics and 68 percent of whites think condoms should be provided at high schools.

### Immigrant Issues Addressed

Portland State University and the Guatemalan Consulate will host a free lecture and community forum on immigration issues on Monday, Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. at the Native American Student and Community Center, 710 S.W. Jackson.

The forum and lecture is an opportunity for PSU and the community to meet Guatemalan leaders and learn about the immigrant experience from their perspective. The event is part of a three day visit by the Guatemalan Consulate.

## Cultural, Politic Forces Collide in 'Sonia Flew'

The local Hispanic Miracle Theatre Group presents the play "Sonia Flew" through Feb. 27 at Milagro Theatre, 525 S.E. Stark St., with projected subtitles in Spanish during Sunday matinees on Feb. 11 and Feb. 18.

Set between post-revolutionary Cuba and post-9/11 America, "Sonia Flew" telescopes the large cultural and political forces of an historical moment to show their impact on the intimate lives of ordinary men and women.

Sonia is a Cuban-American woman smuggled as a child out of Cuba and into the United States as part of Operation Pedro Pan. Now a successful public defender, she lives with her Jewish husband and their two children in Minneapolis.

When Sonia learns of her son's decision to leave college, enlist in the military and fight against terror in Afghanistan in the weeks following 9/11, memories of



her own childhood overwhelm her. She struggles to reconcile being forced as a young girl to leave Cuba at the dawn of Fidel Castro's rule with her own responsibilities as a mother facing the uncertain future for her own children. Poignant and thought-provoking, this moving account of two intertwined family dramas examines the lengths parents must go in order to keep their children safe.

Tickets are \$17 to \$20 and can be purchased online at milagro.org or by calling 503-236-7253.

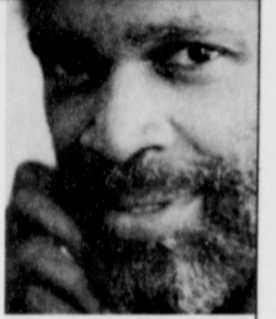
◀ *Young Sonia is distressed to learn from her parents that she is about to be sent from Cuba to the United States as part of Operation Pedro Pan. Pictured (clockwise from top) Robert Projansky, Courtney Davis and Kimberly Howard.*

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## Price Increases for Basic Foodstuffs

(AP) -- Some 75,000 unionists, farmers and leftists marched in Mexico City to protest price increases in basic foodstuffs like tortillas, a direct challenge to their new president's market-oriented economic policies blamed by some for widening the gulf between rich and poor.

Since taking office Dec. 1 after a disputed election, President Felipe Calderon has drawn his greatest criticism for failing to control the largest price spike in tortillas in decades. Tortillas are a staple of poor Mexicans' diet.

The national uproar has put him in an uncomfortable position between the poor and some agribusiness industries hoping to profit from the surge in international corn prices, driven mostly by the sudden explosion of the U.S.



*A man holds ears of corn during a demonstration in Mexico City against the rising price of corn, the staple food of low income Mexicans.*

ethanol industry. A free-market advocate, Calderon has said he does not want to return to direct price controls enforced by many former Mexican presidents.

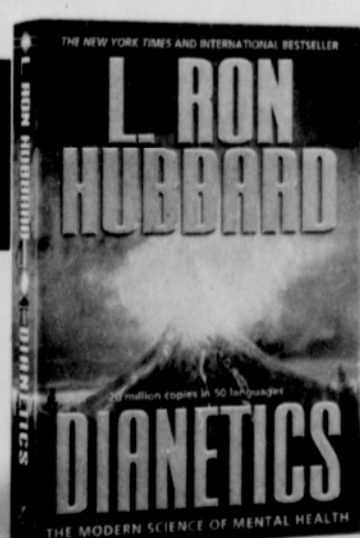
## Latin Dance Band Coming

The Grammy nominated Latin rock and dance band Los Amigos Invisibles will perform in Portland at the Aladdin Theater, 3017 S.E. Milwaukie Ave. on Sunday, Feb. 11. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the concert begins at 8 p.m.

Los Amigos Invisibles has become proud music ambassadors for their native Venezuela. The group is hailed as one of the most exciting live bands in the Latin alternative genre.



*Members of the Latin rock and dance band Los Amigos Invisibles.*



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This research is being conducted by the Oregon Center for Applied Science, Inc. with funding from the National Institutes of Health. There are no sales or marketing lists involved.