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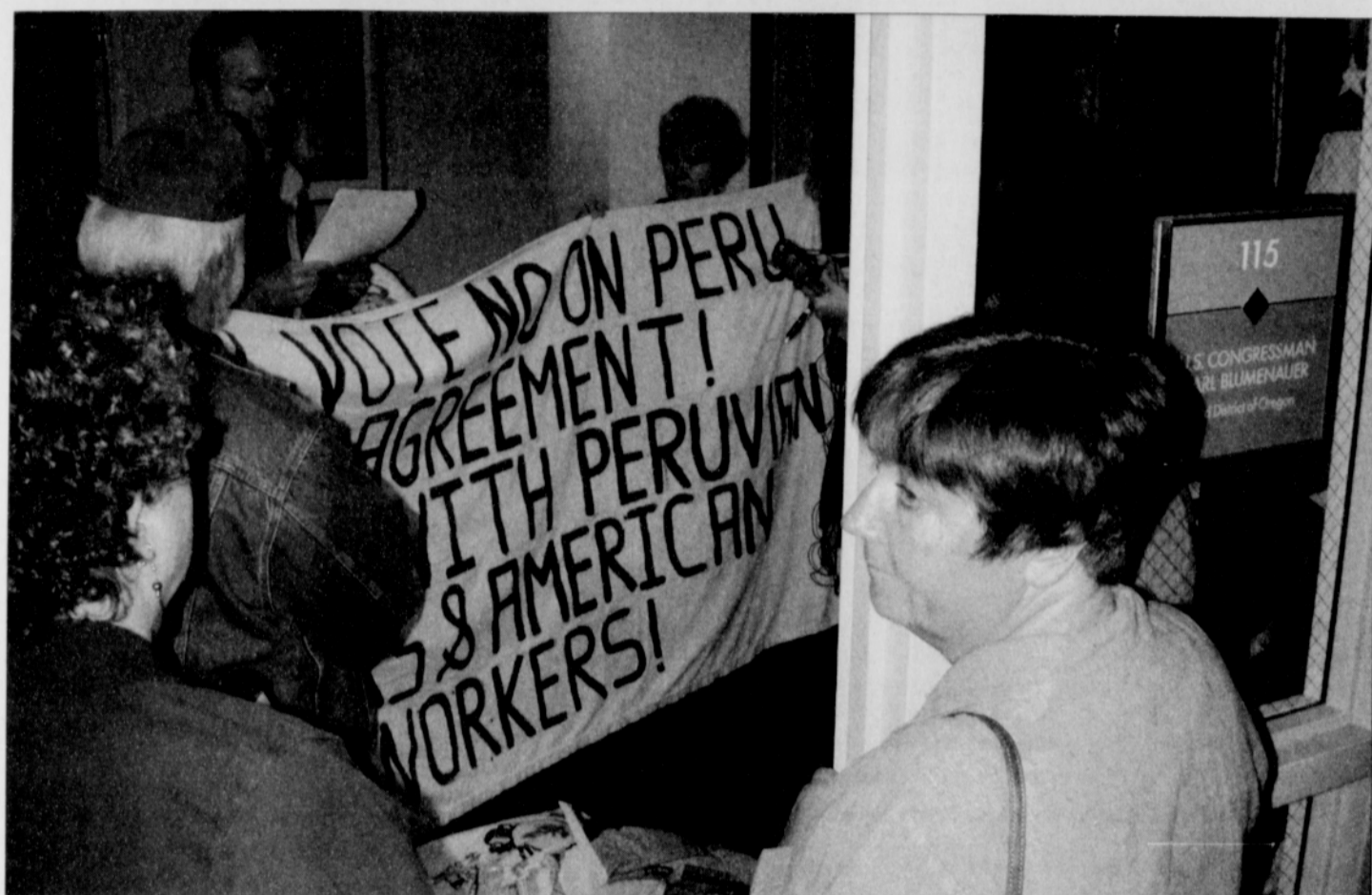


PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Activists Protest Trade Deal

Local activists flood Congressman Earl Blumenauer's Portland office Monday as Steve Snyder of Jobs with Justice reads a statement against a proposed trade deal with Peru that's before Blumenauer's House Ways and Means Committee. Opposition to the deal centers on the lack of labor rights guarantees and mechanism to create good jobs here or in Peru, while offering weak environmental protections.

Bootmaker to World Leaders Charged

(AP) — A bootmaker to world leaders, including President Bush and Vicente Fox, is in a Colorado jail, charged with money laundering and conspiring to illegally smuggle the skins of protected animals into the U.S. to provide exotic footwear for high-end clients.

The arrest of Martin Villegas —

and Mexico's raid of a warehouse filled with hundreds of cowboy boots and belts made from endangered species — has raised questions about how much world leaders knew of the potential for illegal activity.

The Mexican bootmaker produced footwear for Fox, his bodyguards, Cabinet members, relatives

and friends — including Bush, a fellow lover of ranchwear who accepted a pair of ostrich-skin cowboy boots as a gift during a visit to Fox's ranch in 2001.

Fox and Bush are under fire this week from media speculating about the boots.

Reached in a hotel Friday, former first lady Martha Sahagun said she

and Fox were aware of Villegas' arrest but would not comment.

Fox issued a blanket denial through his Web site Friday, challenging the media to come up with hard evidence to support the allegations. "Conduct a thorough investigation, and if you find any indication of corruption, file a complaint," he wrote.



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"Riding the Tenth Wave"

Ten artists for Onda's decade in business

Onda Gallery is catching a ride on the tenth wave — "onda" in Spanish — into its tenth year on Alberta Street.

The venue will celebrate its status as one of the first on the art-destination thoroughfare by bringing back ten artists who have all in their own way helped define its style of art that comes from or is inspired by Latin America.

Headlining are Marcio Melo, a Brazilian artist with a sense of color

and style that has delighted collectors in two solo shows, and Rita Urdaneta, a Venezuelan artist who lives in Portland and transforms canvases into incredible glowing surfaces.

Alejandro Ceballos' boldly symbolic paintings and Mariana de la Hoz's surreal miniatures in egg tempera represent Mexico's abundance of contemporary talent.

Additional Hispanic-American



Brazilian artist Marcio Melo's "Tropical Magic," an acrylic painting he did this year, is representative of his style that has delighted collectors in two solo shows at Alberta Street's Onda Gallery over the past decade.

talent in Portland finds an outlet in Mauricio Arcesio, a Colombian who paints the power of love and romance, and Mabel Astarloa Haley, an acclaimed Argentine costume and set designer.

Photographers, sculptors, landscape and multimedia artists will also return to the venue.

Ten artists have already confirmed for the show, but it's possible that the final number of artists participating will exceed that number.

Last Thursday artists' opening reception, Sept. 27, 6-9 p.m., will be attended by the artists who live in Portland. Show runs until Oct. 22.

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Beaverton Walk for Unity

In an effort to promote a better sense of understanding, acceptance and respect for residents of Washington County, a free three-mile walk and community celebration will begin at Beaverton City Park, Southwest Fifth Street and Hall Boulevard, on Sunday, Sept. 30, at 1:15 p.m.

The walk will set off at 2 p.m. and wind through surrounding neigh-

borhoods with a short stop at Schiffler Park before ending back at City Park.

With the goal of celebrating diversity, a community fair offers kids' activities, informational tables and a special presentation by Ballet Papatlot, a Mexican dance group.

For more information, call Sia Lindstrom at 503-846-5792 or visit visionactionnetwork.org.

Exploding Hispanic Camera Sales

A recent survey found that digital-camera sales are "exploding" in Hispanic populations.

Hispanics share photos more frequently and are more likely to share their photos with a larger number of family and friends, averaging 21 people versus 18 for non-Hispanics.

Among customers with Internet access, Hispanics will match non-

Hispanic in their rates of digital-camera ownership within 12 to 18 months, according to consumer researchers.

"Hispanic consumers are jumping on the digital-camera bandwagon," said Albert Fitzgerald, the president of Answers Research, which worked on the online survey of 17,000 digital-camera users.