

EL OBSERVADOR



Ceramics from El Salvador that were primitively fired in underground pits are part of a collection on display this weekend at the Ceramic Showcase at the Oregon Convention Center, 777 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.



A happy El Salvador girl shows off a clay art piece during a visit to the country by volunteer artists from the Oregon Potters Association.

Latin Ceramics on Exhibit

Volunteer artists visited El Salvador

A group of volunteer artists from Portland are sharing their experience in El Salvador at the Ceramic Showcase, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 25-27, at the Oregon Convention Center. Admission is free.

The Oregon Potters Association delegation taught elements of ceramics in parts of rural El Salvador hit hard by economics, a lack of education, politics and natural disasters. The group is sharing lots of pho-

tos, stories and some of the pieces that were made, including works that were fired in the ground for free using dried cow dung.

Cindy Roach was one of the Portland artists who participated in the

educational tour.

Roach found life in El Salvador "heart breaking, astonishing and emotional."

"People are challenged with pure survival," she said.

Pageant Winner Alleges Racial Bias

Says crown yanked for speaking Spanish

(AP)-- A Hispanic woman who won the Miss California USA contest only to have her crown yanked days later has sued the pageant for half a million dollars, alleging rigging and racial bias.

The pageant director rejected the claims, saying winners during his tenure have been some of the pageant's most racially diverse ever.

Christina Silva, 24, was crowned Miss California USA on Nov. 25. Three days later, the pageant's executive director, Keith Lewis, told her "there has been a mistake and you are not the winner," according to the lawsuit filed in Superior Court.

Raquel Beezley, 21, was subsequently crowned.

Silva is of Ecuadorean and Mexican descent. The lawsuit claims Lewis was "uncomfortable with the fact that Miss Silva spoke Spanish with certain vendors; he felt that it may detract from the caliber of the pageant and some of the 'all Ameri-



Christina Silva, 24, poses for a photo at her home in Los Angeles.

can girls' may not opt to compete in the following year."

The lawsuit seeks \$500,000 in damages for public humiliation and lost prizes.

César Chávez Holiday Proposed

Hispanic caucus introduces measure

Several members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus were recently joined by other Members of Congress and organizational leaders to recognize the life and work of César Chávez, a labor organizer and civil-rights activist.

Specifically, they are supporting House Resolution 76, a Congressional nonbinding resolution urging the establishment of a federal national holiday honoring César Chávez, and urging public schools to teach about his life and contributions. The resolution currently has 61 co-sponsors.

"The creation of a national holiday will not only honor a great man but also educate Americans about César Chávez and help ensure that his legacy continues to inspire others to work for the fair and just treatment of all people," said U.S. Rep. Joe Baca of California, caucus chair.

Congressman Raul Grijalva of Arizona, added "César insisted on the best for us and on the best in us. He insisted on tolerance

that we as human beings should understand and respect each other, and with that respect comes understanding and with that respect comes a better nation."

Chávez championed fair wages, safe working environments, dignity, respect and equality for all. He was born on March 31, 1928.



César Chávez

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