

Rubio Named Policy Advisor

New Portland City Commissioner Nick Fish has appointed Carmen Caballero Rubio as his senior policy advisor, communications manager and bureau liaison.

Rubio has served as the Community Affairs Director for Portland Mayor Tom Potter, where she acted as lead contact on community partnerships, outreach and recruitment, and civil and human rights issues. She managed projects such as the creation of the Office of Human Relations and Human Rights Com-

mission, and the Immigrant and Refugee Task Force.

"She represents the best of Portland's emerging new leaders, with valuable policy experience both in and outside City Hall. Her relationships with a broad range of communities will bring a diversity of new voices to participate in city government," said Fish.

Also joining Fish's staff is Sam Chase as chief of staff and Hannah Kuhn as senior policy director.

EL OBSERVADOR

Connected and Divided

'Dos Pueblos' bounces between two lands

"Dos Pueblos" bounces between the lands of sitcoms and las tierras de telenovelas, sweet sixteens and quinceañeras, Ronald McDonald and Pancho Villa.

The stories of the overlapping cultural histories of Mexico and the U.S. have warped over time, forcing emotions deeper and wilder. Yet we remain connected as much as divided.

In this cantankerous reflection of the relationships between the two countries, Dos Pueblos reveals our co-dependence, our brutal rage and our undeniable mutual attraction.

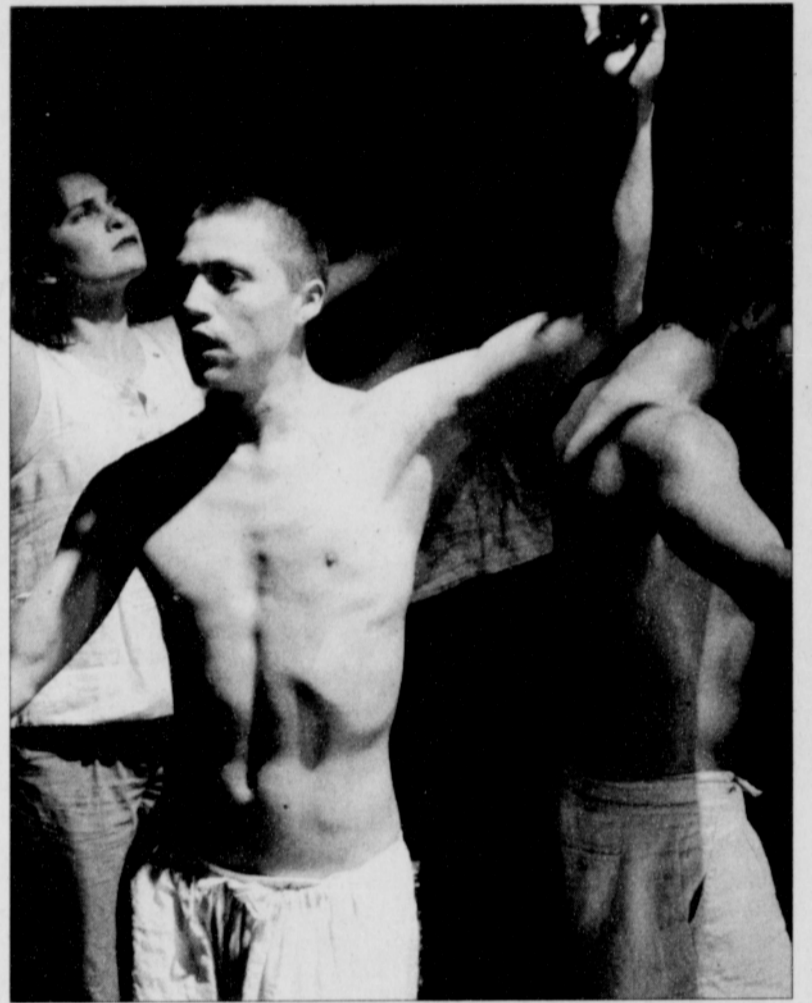
The original, bilingual production in collaboration with Hand2Mouth Theatre of Portland and La Comedia Humana of Mexico City is currently on stage Thursdays through Sunday this week and Thursday through Saturday, Oct. 4 next week at Milagro Theatre, 525 SE Stark St.

Admission is \$20 - \$22 depending on date; \$16 for students and seniors any performance;

Tickets can be purchased online by visiting milagro.org, calling 503-236-7253 or at the PDX Ticket Network box office at the Hollywood Theatre.

Mexico City's La Comedia Humana theater company actors appear in 'Dos Pueblos,' an original, bilingual production on stage now through Oct. 4 at the Milagro Theatre, 525 SE Stark St.

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE DAVIS



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RUMBLE @ THE ROSELAND 39



Hip-Hop and Latino Culture

Spoken word poet Paul Flores (right) and Cuban rapper Julio Cardenas.

Hip-hop artist Paul Flores will explore the world of rap and Latino culture during a free presentation with area students on Monday, Sept. 29 at 7 p.m. at the Milagro Theatre, 525 S.E. Stark St.

Flores is a published poet, novelist and one of the nation's prominent spoken word performers. Raised on the Tijuana/San Diego border, issues of immigration, border experience and Latino identity

are central to his work. A versatile artist and a key collaborator in many ground-breaking theater projects, Flores' playwriting and stage performance credits include Fear of a Brown Planet and No Man's Land.

He has performed at the National Hip-Hop Festival in Havana, Cuba and was featured on Season 4 of Russell Simmons Presents: Def Poetry Jam on HBO.

Oregon Ballot Measure Targets English

Limits second language classes

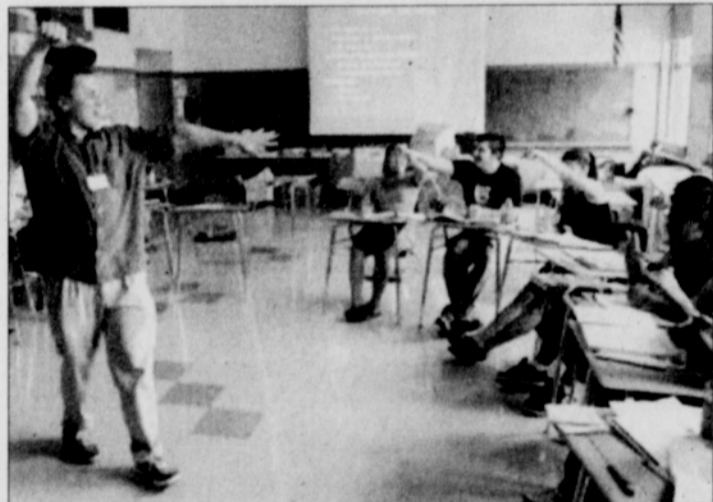
(AP)—In a high school classroom, Xavier Chavez is trying to teach a group of restless teenagers about Manifest Destiny — the 19th century belief that the United States was divinely fated to stretch from sea to shining sea.

But these students are children of immigrants, and they first have to learn English. They might soon have to learn it faster if Oregon voters approve a ballot measure in November to limit the amount of time students can spend in English-as-a-second-language classes.

The proposal, modeled after laws in California, Arizona and Massachusetts, is one of a handful of immigration-related ballot measures this fall on state and local ballots across the nation.

There are 64,000 non-English speakers enrolled in Oregon's public schools, the vast majority of whom are Spanish speakers. The proposal would limit high school students to two years of ESL classes, even less for younger students.

Chavez and his fellow teachers acknowledge that most of their students pick up colloquial English within two years,



English-as-a-second-language teacher Xavier Chavez teaches a summer history class at Benson High School. There is a ballot measure up before Oregon voters in November to limit the amount of time students can spend in ESL classes. (AP photo)

giving them enough fluency to poke fun at a teammate, answer a text message or order a slice of pizza.

Faculty members worry instead about academic English — the skills that will let students succeed in advanced classes, whether they are deconstructing Beowulf or reciting the principles of photosynthesis.

The Oregon initiative is "just a diversion to the real problems," Chavez said. "We are not looking at what English language learners need. We are just looking to take away. Let's talk about the quality of instruc-

tion."

Chavez's students have mixed feelings about the proposal, partly depending on future goals.

Carlos Perez, 17, took Chavez's summer history course to catch up after oversleeping and often missing his first-period class during the school year. He thought limiting ESL to just two years would be no problem for him or his friends.

But Beatriz Munoz, 16, who said she wants to be a doctor or a lawyer, sharply disagreed.

"For me, it is not enough, just two years," said Munoz, who is transferring to a private

Catholic school in Portland with a strong academic reputation. "I am worried, what if I don't understand? I have to go to college."

Long-term studies have shown that full mastery of academic English takes five to seven years, said Dr. Jim Cummins, a professor at the University of Toronto who specializes in second language acquisition and literacy development.

Cummins said non-English speakers are trying to catch up to a moving target as their English-speaking classmates also improve. And complex academic language isn't something students can pick up on the streets, he said, because it's generally used only in classrooms or textbooks.

But Bill Sizemore, sponsor of the Oregon measure and a longtime anti-tax activist who was the GOP's gubernatorial nominee in 1998, said the measure was intended to help immigrants, not sideline them.

He said schools warehouse their students in ESL courses for longer than necessary to keep federal and state money flowing. If Oregonians approve the change, students will join the mainstream faster with the tools they need to compete, he said.

Have you seen me? Endangered Missing 1-800-THE-LOST



Shown from left to right: Timothy Willard (Age 8), Melissa Willard (Age 8), Lukas Willard (Age 10), Thomas Willard (Age 16), Agne Willard (Age 18), Katherine Willard (Mother)

Date Missing: June 29, 2008. Missing From: Boonsboro, MD. Mother, Katherine, is missing with her 5 children. Subjects are missing from the Boonsboro area of Washington County, Maryland.

If you have any information please contact: The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678) This public service announcement provided by the Portland Observer Newspaper.