

EL OBSERVADOR

Triumphs and Failures

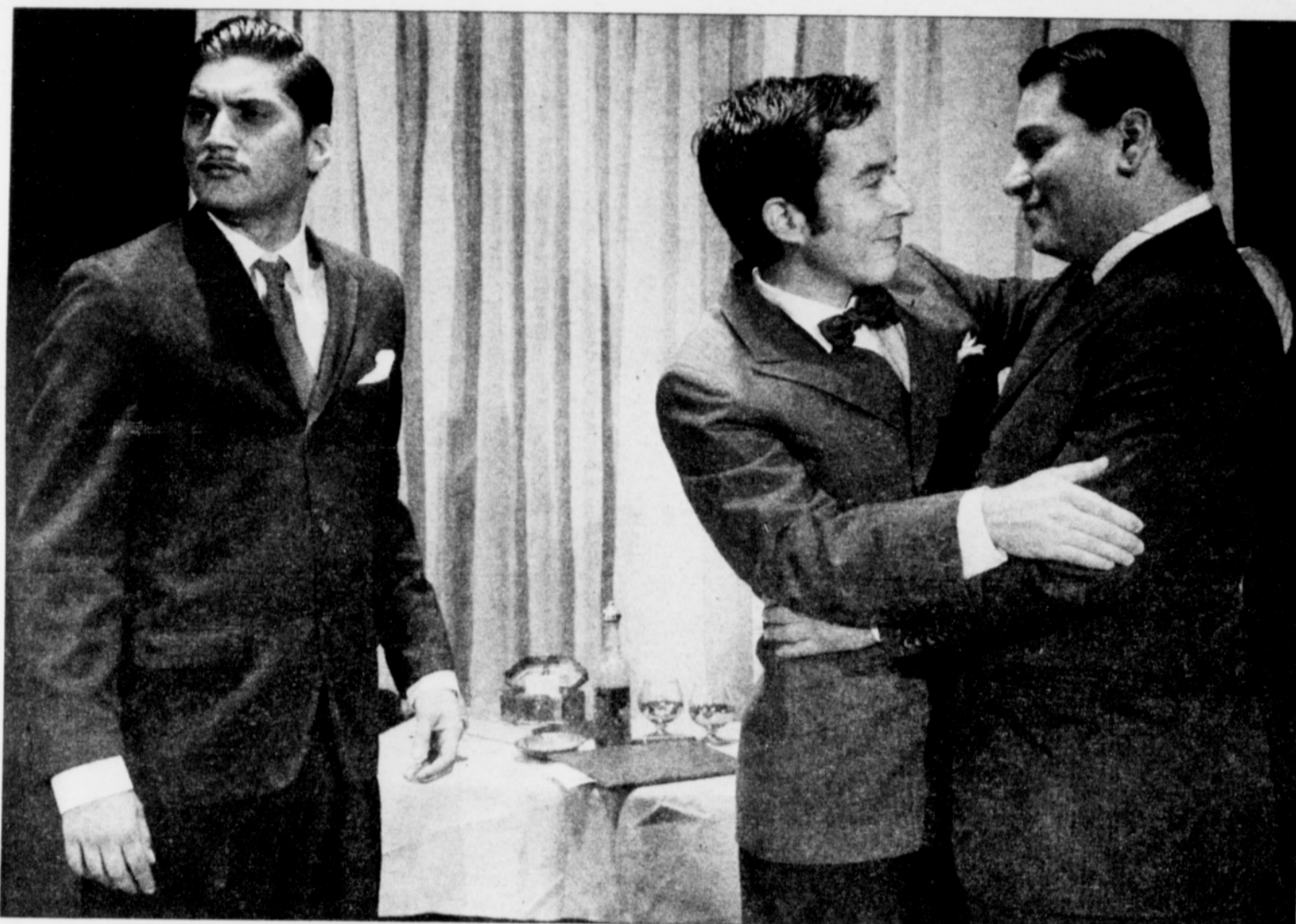
Miracle Theatre Group, the Northwest premier Latino arts and culture organization, presents "Duende De Lorda, an original bilingual play now playing through Saturday, Jan. 22.

The story centers around Federico García Lorca who is celebrated the world over for his poetry, music and plays. Yet at the age of 27, he was still a struggling artist living with his parents, and staging puppet plays that were laughed off the stage by the critics.

Lorca's need for freedom has fueled his desire to succeed. In search of duende, his travels

through New York and Cuba become a quest for cultural integration and gender acceptance. In the Americas, he shines like a mad and fiery diamond, fusing his cante jondo with an Afro-Cuban son to create a new rhythm of powerfully poetic drama.

Ajai Tripathi, Rory Stitt and Danny Moreno in the world premiere of Duende de Lorca, now playing through Saturday, Jan. 22 at the Milagro Theatre, 525 S.E. Stark St.



Some Visits to Cuba Made Easier

But changes fall below expectations

(AP) -- Cuba said Sunday that the Obama Administration's decision to lift some travel restrictions on students, academics and religious groups and make it easier for Americans to send money were positive steps, but not nearly enough while the U.S. maintains its 48-year trade embargo on the island.

The changes announced last week mean that students seeking academic credit and churches and synagogues traveling for religious

purposes will be able to go to Cuba. Any U.S. international airport with proper customs and immigration facilities will be able to offer charter services to the island.

The plan will also let any American send as much as \$2,000 a year to Cuban citizens who are not part of the Castro administration and are not members of the Communist Party. Previously, only relatives could send money.

"Though the measures are positive," Cuba's Foreign Ministry said

in a statement Sunday, "they are well below what was hoped for, have a limited reach and do not change U.S. policy against Cuba."

The ministry said most of the changes simply bring U.S. policy back to where it was during the Clinton Administration, before President George W. Bush toughened restrictions. They do not alter Washington's trade embargo, which Cuba refers to as a "blockade."

"These measures confirm that there is no will to change the policy of blockade and destabilization against Cuba," the ministry said. "If there exists a real interest in widening and facilitating contacts between our peoples, the United



People travel on a bus Friday with an image of Argentinean born Cuban revolution leader Ernesto 'Che' Guevara in Havana, Cuba.

States should lift the blockade and eliminate the restrictions that make Cuba the only country in the world to which North Americans cannot travel."

Under the embargo, American tourists are still prohibited from visiting Cuba and most trade with the island is barred.

Obama had previously made it easier for Cuban-Americans to visit family and send money home, and cultural exchanges had greatly expanded under his watch. Still, relations between the Cold War enemies remain frosty, in particular over the detention of an American subcontractor held in Cuba since December 2009 on suspicion of spying.

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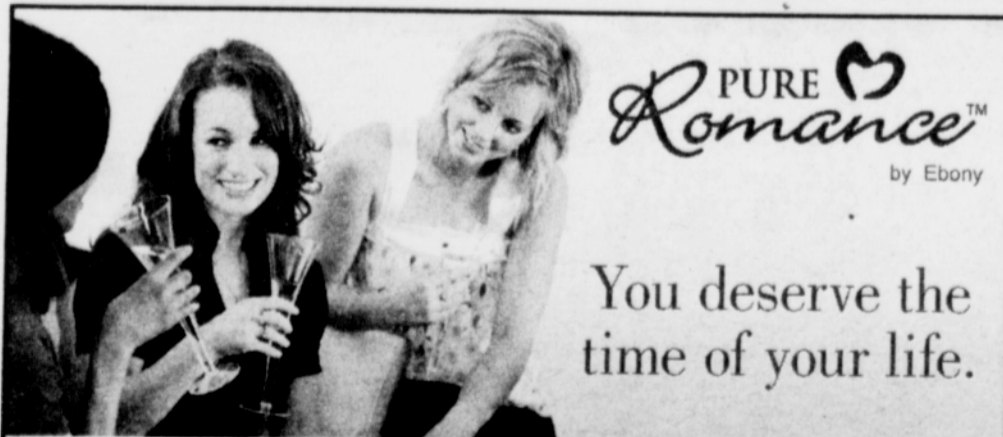
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Executive Shares Talents

When Michele Horn signed on as a grant professional at Virginia Garcia Memorial Foundation three years ago, the organization which serves migrant, low-income and minority and disadvantaged populations, knew they had a talented person on the team.

Since then, the grant department has grown to support \$1 million of Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center's annual budget. Now Horn is poised to share her knowledge with other professionals as the Vice President of the Oregon and South-



Michele Horn

west Washington Chapter of the Grant Professionals Association.

The non-profit association builds and supports an international community of grant professionals committed to serving the greater public good by practicing the highest ethical and professional standards.

"Michele has been an asset to our team for years and we are thrilled that others will benefit from her expertise," said Christine Rontal, executive director of Virginia Garcia Memorial Foundation.