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When Dreams Come True
*Latino theater group's
world premiere*

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Portland Observer

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Wily Coyote Moves In

We've created
the problem by
feeding them

BY CARI HACHMANN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

More coyote sightings in Portland's urban landscape lead researchers to believe that the welcoming behavior of humans has encouraged the resilient wild animals to do what is natural for them; adapt, in this case, too close for comfort.

"We've created the habitat for coyotes, so they are just taking advantage to live in it," says Barbara Brower, a geography professor at Portland State University and co-ordinator of the Urban Coyote Project.

Several residents have increasingly spotted up to two and three opportunistic scavengers strolling on sidewalks, napping in streets, and playing near parks in several north and northeast Portland neighborhoods, including Alameda, Concordia, Humboldt, Grant, Irvington and Beaumont-Wilshire.

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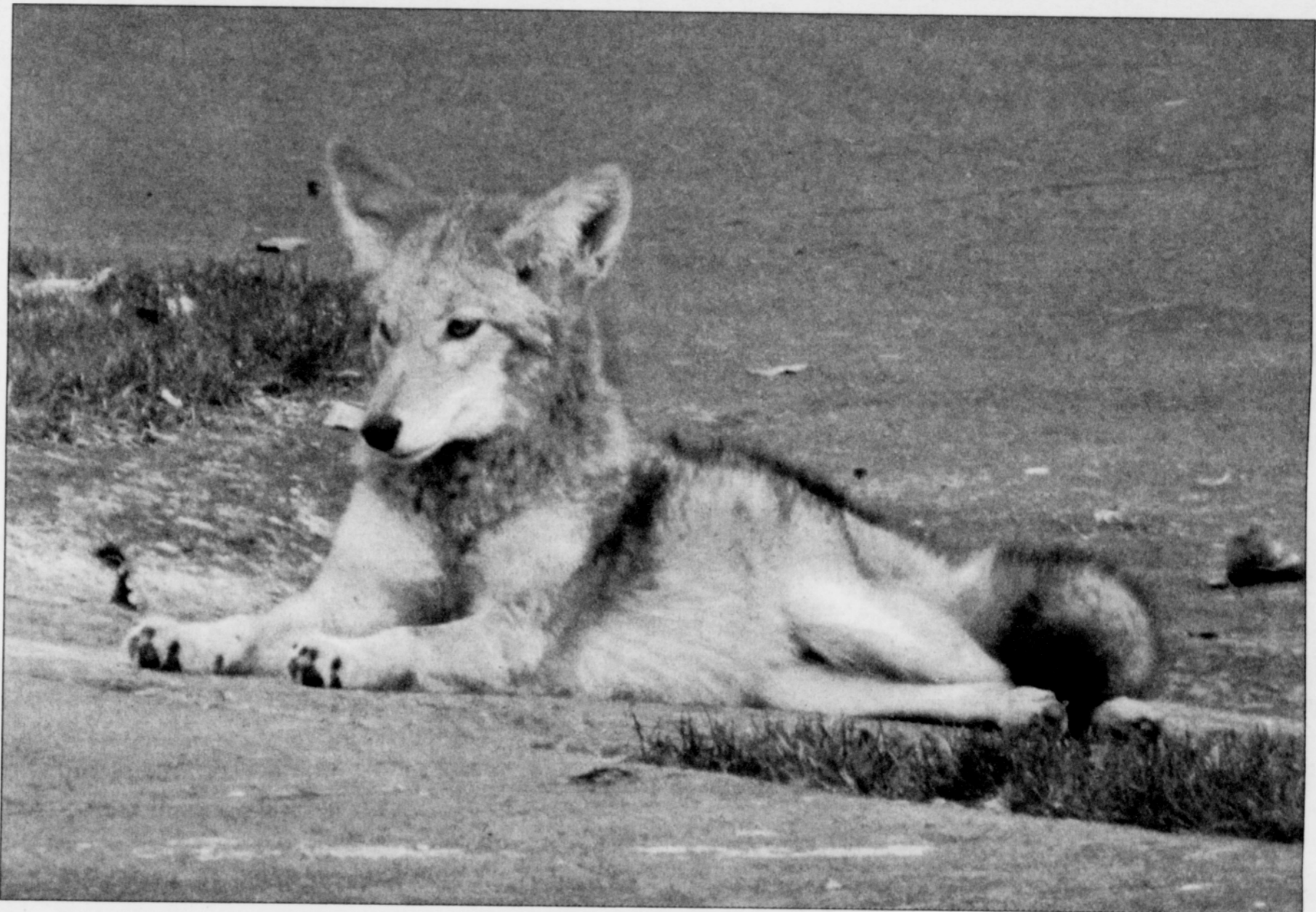


PHOTO BY SARAH CHUNG

Sarah Chung took this photo of a coyote napping in her driveway on Northeast Alameda Terrace in November.

Helping Kids Resolve Differences

Choking case was
at school with
anti-bullying coach

BY CLIFF PFENNING
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When a case of bullying that involved a second grader being choked during recess at Woodlawn Elementary in northeast Portland reached the local news this month, Matt Ferro said he was surprised that he hadn't heard about it.

Ferro helps monitor the Woodlawn play-

ground during lunch breaks as a coach for Playworks, a non-profit that teaches kids how to play together and resolve their differences without resorting to fighting.

"I'm out there every day and kids find me with the littlest of problems, so it was unusual that I didn't learn of it until then," Ferro, who's been at the school for the past 14 months, said last week. "I've seen a big difference in the way kids settle their differences on the playground in the time I've been at the school, so what happened did seem a little unusual when I heard about it.

"But this is a tough area with a lot of poverty, and bullying does go on. There's

plenty of kids here who know that if someone says something bad about their name or their family, they've got their parents' permission to hit them."

The alleged incident at Woodlawn involved an eight-year-old getting held down by one student and choked by another with a rope. The incident left scars on his neck that were captured by a local television news photographer and then broadcast to the world.

Portland Public Schools is investigating and has not offered any comment.

The incident also took place during a week in which President Barack Obama was ad-

ressing the problem of bullying.

A survey conducted by the U.S. Health and Human Services Department in 2009 found that more than one third of teens reported being bullied and that two thirds of those incidents happened at school.

Playworks, based in Oakland, Calif., has found a niche in promoting positive solutions through simple games, such as Four Square, to help teach kids how to play together and resolve their differences peacefully.

In just three years, the program has ex-

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