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## EDITORIAL

### Give Peace

If you drove out to Valley River Center last Saturday, you probably saw the people from Families for Survival picketing in protest of military toys, but generally calling for peace. They stood in the drizzle—peacefully and with the conviction that their signs would bring some thought to the critical issues of the day.

As the bumper-to-bumper shopping traffic rolled by, a few "shoppers" hurled obscenities; one especially crude remark jolted me and forced a look at the tremendous imbalances in our world today. This scene at Valley River seemed symbolic of the extremes with which we live, extremes that have been manifesting in so many cataclysmic events—war, poverty, drought, famine, pollution. . . . We need to remember the issues, overwhelming as they are. And especially at this time of year. You can "give peace." Just think about it.

Families for Survival is a group of Eugene families who are concerned for our future, focusing primarily on the arms race issues. They have worked on voter registration, petitioning and projects to further education on the disarmament issues. Last year they mailed a "friendship" package to a sister city in Russia, Komsomol'sk-ma-



Amure. It contained photos and pictures of and by people here in Eugene. Their aim is to promote understanding between peoples.

If you'd like to join them, they (women, children and men) will

be out at Valley River the next two Saturdays. Their monthly meetings are the second Thursday of each month, 7 pm, at the Amazon Housing childcare center.

## LETTERS

### Mismanagement

My opinion of the *OnStage* issue is this: Regina Publications pulled a fast one on the City and it wasn't difficult. The bidding process used by the City was not in anyone's interest except perhaps O'Brien's and perhaps whoever arranged the contract. According to the *Register-Guard*, City Attorney Sercombe stated that the contract was based on a "personal" or "working" relationship and "not necessarily on who gives the cheapest price." I'd be interested in finding out where the authorization—the statute or whatever—comes from that allows such a bidding procedure (especially if I were *What's Happening* or *Lane County Living*).

It sounds like someone in the City responsible for this contract was either naive, careless, incompetent, had a vested interest or was simply playing favoritism. Which would not be surprising given the good ole boys club down at the Hall.

Finally, it sounds like no matter how the City got us into this, the terms were ambiguous and Eugene wasn't expecting the raw deal it got! Mismanagement and not enough checks and balances.

—Name withheld by request

### Nicaraguan VP Writes

*What's Happening* received a copy of this letter from the Council on Human Rights in Latin America (CHRLA) who had planned to host Ramirez in Eugene.

For the second time in the last few months I have been frustrated in my hopes of visiting the United States to establish direct communication with a variety of sectors of that country; to be able to express the truth about our revolution and to talk about our interest to create an open and democratic society that can be an example for the countries of Latin America and the world. This interest has encountered the stubbornness of the present Administration of the U.S., which has placed all possible obstacles to stop this trip.

They not only considerably delayed the granting of a visa, but also attached a series of restrictions to it and issued it of a category that actually constitutes an insult to the Nicaraguan people and those of you who invited me to visit the United States. The Administration also refused to provide the security that is granted to visiting heads of state implicitly saying that I cannot travel to the United States.

Because of these circumstances, the government of Nicaragua has decided to cancel my trip. The purpose of this message is to explain to you our reasons. I am grateful for your invitation and since I cannot travel to the United States, let me invite you and other representatives of your organization to come to Nicaragua so you can see for yourself the meaning of our revolution.

Warm Regards,  
Sergio Ramirez Mercado  
Vice-President Elect,  
Nicaragua

Letters to the Editor must be typewritten and no longer than 250 words. Send to *What's Happening* Letters, P.O. Box 259, Eugene, OR 97440.

### Special Holiday Edition

Next week's edition of *What's Happening* will be our special holiday issue—covering three full weeks of events and entertainment, Dec. 20-Jan. 9. We'll resume weekly publication on Jan. 10. Happy Holidays!

### ON THE COVER

Moz Wright, fire eater and sword swallower, is one of the many performers at this year's Old Oregon Christmas Faire. The Faire features fine hand-made arts and crafts, and runs through Dec. 23, at the Lane Co. Fairgrounds.

### What's HAPPENING

Eugene/Springfield's Arts & Entertainment Magazine  
Published every Thursday

(A special 3-week Holiday Edition will be published on Dec. 20, 1984. Weekly publication will then resume on Jan. 10, 1985.)

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