

Worker views Nicaragua

By Paul Ertelt
Of the Emerald

Nicaraguans view recent diplomatic overtures by the United States with mixed feelings, said an American forester who has worked in that country for 15 months.

In a recent interview, Methodist missionary Howard Heiner said the Nicaraguans are "skeptical, but this is the only hope they've got in front of them." Heiner returned to Nicaragua Saturday after a short visit in the United States.

Originally from the Northwest, Heiner now works with Nicaragua's natural resource management agency on projects such as reforestation, erosion control and fire control.

The Nicaraguans' hopes were raised when Secretary of State George Shultz made a surprise visit to Managua on June 1. The Nicaraguans were deeply impressed by the polite and respectful manner of Shultz, Heiner said.

"Historically, they've been insulted and treated rudely by any diplomats coming to the country," he said.

Despite Shultz's good behavior, however, the Nicaraguans were distrustful of him because he insisted that no third party be present at talks between the two nations, Heiner said. The Nicaraguans felt an observer to the talks would prevent either side from using them merely for propaganda, Heiner said.

Harry Shauldeman, a U.S. special envoy, spent two days last week in confidential talks with a representative of the Nicaraguan government. Press

reports did not make clear whether an observer was present at the meetings in Manzanillo, Mexico, Heiner said.

Heiner was in Eugene last week for a vacation, but he took some time July 2 to talk about his work and show slides at the Eugene Council for Human Rights in Latin America.

Heiner has spent his whole life doing forestry work, but while attending a United Methodist church in Montana his consciousness was raised about the Third World, he said.

In 1969 he left his job as an executive of the St. Regis Paper Company to work in the Third World. Since then, he has done forestry work in Somalia, Chile and Bolivia.

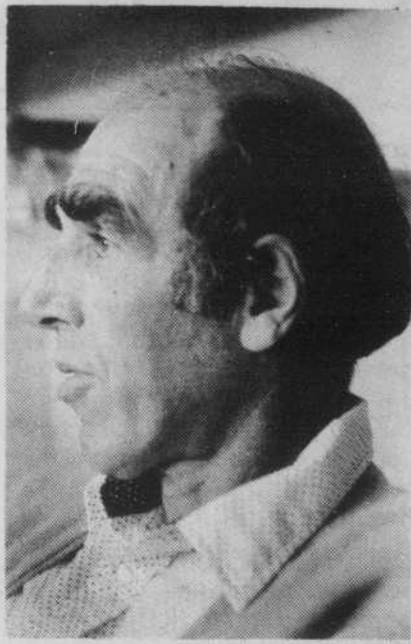
Before the Sandinistas attained political power, there was no forestry management in Nicaragua, Heiner said, and the government is now attempting to bring back forests that have been cut down or burned.

During the Somoza regime, which the Sandinistas toppled in 1979, many Indians were forced off lowland farms so the land could be used to raise export crops such as cotton, coffee and sugar, he said.

The Indians moved into the forested hills, cleared the land and attempted to farm on the steep slopes, but this farming style caused massive soil erosion, Heiner said.

Heiner said he was surprised when he first arrived in Latin America by the extent of U.S. influence there.

"We are the dominant force within Latin America," he said. "We manipulate and cause the downfall of governments



Howard Heiner

there."

Heiner, a former executive and an Air Force officer, said he comes from a conservative background. He is concerned about some aspects of the Sandinista government, especially the press censorship, but he believes the government is being forced into these measures because of the state of war within the country.

"Let's get the pressure off the Sandinista government and let it adjust itself," he said.

That pressure has increased lately, he said. A newly-constructed air base in Honduras has enabled the U.S.-backed "contra" rebels to increase their military activities in Nicaragua.

The fact that the Sandinista government arms its citizens to defend the country shows that it is not a totalitarian state, Heiner said.

Gallery hosts gala

Eugene's Opus 5 Gallery is celebrating its 10th anniversary by hosting an exhibit entitled "10x10" through July 31.

The exhibit will display the works of 10 well-known Eugene artists, each of whom had his or her first exhibit in Opus 5 10 years ago.

The artists are soft-sculpture artist Mary Bowman, bookwright Sandra Lopez, glassblower Bill Lowery, weaver Carol Pratt, jeweler Hanna Goldrich, and ceramicists Tony Bowman, Sophie Kirtner, Allan Kluber, Lotte Streisinger and Joanne Taylor.

Collectively and as individuals these 10 artists have been important in shaping the recent history of visual arts and crafts activities in Eugene.

Kluber received a National Endowment for the Arts grant and won an Oregon Arts Commission award for handbuilt porcelain lamps and dinnerware. Goldrich has exhibited works as widely as Sun River, Idaho and New York City and Streisinger founded the Saturday Market.

The public is invited to a celebration party and reception for the artists with woodwind duets and a no-host bar provided by the Eugene Opera Friday at 5:30 p.m. The gallery, located at 23 E. 28th Ave., is open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Museum features arts from global cultures

The University Museum of Natural History will display native arts from opposite sides of the globe and will feature drawing and storytelling workshops through the end of the summer.

More than 100 artifacts from cultures of the Northwest Coast, Alaska and the Columbia Plateau are featured in the exhibit entitled "Raven's Cousins: Traditional Arts of the Native Northwest."

Another special exhibit features Hungarian costumes, pottery, woodcuts, embroideries and horn and wood carvings.

The museum also will offer a drawing workshop, using museum artifacts as subjects, every Tuesday and Friday through July 27. The workshops begin at 12:30 p.m.

"The Children's Story Hour," a reading and storytelling period, will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays through July 26.

During July, the museum will be open Tuesdays through Saturdays from noon until 5 p.m.

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