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for a polling place in a farming community outside of Mateare, a town about 20 miles north of Managua. The community had no electricity or available food, and because no chairs were provided for international observers, van Aelstyn stood for 14 hours.

Voters arrived on foot and horseback as early as 4 a.m. to line up outside the polling booths, van Aelstyn said. Overall, 87 percent of the voters registered in the rural farming community turned out at the polling booths on election day, he said.

"I was struck by the reverence with which they treated their ballots," he said. "Many of them showed up in their Sunday best — which isn't much — to vote."

Poll workers often had to explain the voting process several times to voters with little or no education, and 10 percent of the ballots where van Aelstyn worked were invalid because more than one candidate was marked for a particular office, he said.

Van Aelstyn said Chamorro's victory took him by surprise. Polls taken before the election gave President Daniel Ortega a healthy lead. "The polls were misleading," he said, adding that he thought Nicaraguans told pollsters they planned to vote for Ortega, but voted for Chamorro for economic reasons.

Van Aelstyn said he saw little celebrating after the elections. "I walked the streets of Managua the day after the elections and I saw one truckload of UNO supporters," he said. "The mood seemed to be one of sadness and tension."

Americans should continue to monitor the UNO government for possible human rights violations, as many of the party's leaders are



Nicholas van Aelstyn

Contra leaders or former members of Somoza's National Guard, van Aelstyn said.

"It will be interesting to see what kind of government they can put together in two months," he said.

In any case, van Aelstyn said he hoped the U.S. would attempt to compensate for the damages caused by the Contra war. "We owe that country a lot," he said.

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Home, said she has mixed feelings about the choice of businesses that have moved in across the street from the 50-year-old shop.

"We were told at meetings by hospital representatives that every consideration would be given to the businesses in the area, and we do not feel they were," she said.

However, she added, competition has been friendly, and longtime customers are reinforcing their loyalty. "We think that we have to go on from here," she said.

"We would rather cooperate and try to start drawing the community together."

Realtors come in "every once in a while" with offers to buy the property, Brooks said.

But, she said, "We have been here for a long time, and we plan to be here for a long time."

Jennifer Ulum, community relations representative for Sacred Heart, said the availability of retail space was well-known in the business community, and the pool of applicants was large.

When the number was narrowed down to a group of about 10 of the most serious prospects, all of them had competition in the area, she said.

"It's hard to make everybody happy," she said. "I don't think there was anyone we could've leased to that wouldn't have caused some consternation."

In addition, she said, the de-

cision to include storefronts in the parking structure was made after consulting with West University representatives.

The last time the hospital purchased land was three years ago, and at this point there are no plans to buy more, Ulum said.

However, she noted that the hospital has a critical need for operating room space.

"We have to address the operating room shortage, and that will include construction of some kind," Ulum said. She said the construction would occur within the hospital's present property boundaries.

If, however, the need arises to expand beyond the hospital's current boundaries, the planning process will be public and open, Ulum stressed.

"There seems to be an assumption that we own more (land) than we do," Ulum said. The former Sahalie's building is the only Sacred Heart-owned land parcel that does not have some hospital-related development on it, she said.

When the hospital has expanded, Ulum said, emotions have flared, especially from the University community.

"We recognize that we are in a geographically tight spot," Ulum said. "I don't know if there is any place in Eugene with a greater concentration of people."

"We are keenly aware that for every action there is a reaction, and when you're as large as we are, it may be greater," she said.

Richard Greene, president of the West University Small Business Association, stressed that the hospital has been "extremely sensitive to neighborhood issues."

He said Sacred Heart invited the association to participate in its recent expansion, and the construction has followed feedback from the small business association and the West University Neighborhood Association, he said.

"Sacred Heart has gone out of its way to invite us to participate in their expansion."

Brad Perkins, chair of the West University Neighborhood Association, said the relationship between the hospital and the neighborhood group is better than it has been in years. Twelve years ago, when the Hilyard Street parking structure was built, the neighborhood group was ready to take the hospital to court.

A court injunction was averted after a compromise was agreed upon for the ground floor of the structure to contain retail space, Perkins said.

Since that time, the hospital has been more willing to compromise, he said. In the case of the new parking structure, the neighborhood group specifically requested that retail space be included, he said.

Growth in the area has followed the West University Refinement Plan, one of whose stipulations is that Sacred Heart will undergo no further growth south or west.

"This isn't to say that doctors' offices and clinics could not be built in and around the neighborhood."

However, Perkins said, he sees no ulterior motive to Sacred Heart's leasing of tenant space in the parking structure.

"That's the ballgame in capitalist society," he said. "You compete with whoever pays the rent down the street."

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