

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE SIDELINES

By Kathryn H. Bogle

The Portland Chapter of The Links, Inc., presented their third annual "Starlight Cotillion" on February 17, 1980 in the ballroom of the Red Lion Motor Inn at Jantzen Beach.

The event, a collaborative project of two Link committees, the Art Committee and the "Services to Youth" committee, featured 13 young women who have made significant contributions to the Portland community by their services to their schools public or parochial, to their churches or to some other institutions or agency of the community. Several hundred persons, friends, family or well wishers of the girls, made up the enthusiastic audience who warmly applauded the girls as each made her deep curtsy before her parents.

Presented this year were: Magdaline Brister, daughter of Kelly and Ellen Brister; Lisa Brown, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Webster Brown; Stephanie Cole, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Cole; Tamala L. Lowe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lowe; Patricia Marie Mathis, daughter of Mrs. Vivian Mathis; Maria Theresa Mitchell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Mitchell; Marcelene Rodgers, daughter of Mrs. Rebecca Rodgers of this city and of William Rodgers of Seattle; Patricia Marie Scott, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Scott; Tracy M. Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hilton Smith; Carmen Javette Sykes, daughter of Mr.



(L to R) Debutantes Patricia Scott, Deanna Talley, Patricia Mathis, Lisa Brown, Stephanie Cole, Tracy Smith, Tamala Lowe, Barbara Watts, Marcelene Rodgers, Edith Thrower, Carmen Sykes, Marcia Mitchell, Magdaline Brister. (Photo: by Richard Brown)

and Mrs. Earl Sykes; Deanna Michelle Talley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Talley; Edith Elizabeth Thrower, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Thrower; and Barbara Young, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Fields. Mistress of Ceremonies for the Cotillion was Mrs. Jeanne Hartzog who with Mrs. Olga Talley chaired

the successful event. Named as escorts for the young women were: Stanley Harrison, Russell Graham, Garlin Brown, Ceotis Rhodes, James Perry, Nathan Jones, Marshall Haskins, Rodney Larry, Mark Stroney, Paul Weatheroy, Mark Summer, Barry Watts and Avery Penny. Mrs. Clementyne Guy is president

of the Portland Chapter of Links, Inc., The 13 young ladies will be a part of the Crossroads Program of KP-TV-Ch 12 to be aired Sunday evening, February 24. The *Portland Observer* will bring to you a close up of each debutante presented at the Links 1980 Starlight Cotillion.



Magdaline is the daughter of Kelly and Ellen Brister, originally from Picayune, Mississippi, she is a senior at Jefferson High School and was recognized in the 1978-1979 Who's Who Among American High School Students and by the Optimist Club of Portland for school and community service. Magdaline participates in both school and community activities. She is a member of Paradise Baptist Church and La Troupe Extra-ordinaire Modeling Group. At Jefferson, Magdaline is president of the senior class, representative to the Student Council and on Varsity Rally for both football and basketball. Magdaline enjoys bicycle riding, painting, and modeling. She plans to attend Oregon State University or University of Oregon and major in telecommunications and graphic arts.

She was escorted by Stanley Harrison.

Nicaraguan discusses rights

Sayda Hernandez, a Nicaraguan representative of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) and the Association of Nicaraguan Women, "Luisa Amanda Espinosa" will be speaking at three campuses in Oregon, Tuesday, February 26. She will be speaking on the construction of the new Nicaragua, the National Literacy Crusade, and the role of women. Hernandez will speak at Oregon State University at noon; Lewis and Clark College at 3:30 pm in Room 301 Olin; and Portland State University, 75 Lincoln Hall at 7:30 pm.

One of the most bitter legacies of the Somoza regime was the destruction of the education system in Nicaragua. More than 50% of the Nicaraguan population over ten years of age are unable to read or write. In some areas of the country this figure tops 90%.

One of the first acts of the Government of reconstruction and the FSLN was to announce the National Literacy Crusade which begins March 30. The Crusade has as its goal, the elimination of illiteracy in Nicaragua, by mobilizing all in the country who can read and write to go out and teach others. The Nicaraguan people know that a new Nicaragua can only be built with the active participation of a literate well-educated population.

The Association of Nicaraguan Women, "Luisa Amanda Espinosa" (named after a revolutionary fighter killed by Somoza's national guard) was founded in September of 1977 to defend human rights in Nicaragua

and denounce the brutal crimes of the Somoza dictatorship. It organized mass meetings of protest and demonstrations and called for a national women's week in March 1978. It became a mass women's organization which organized large open air gatherings, petition campaigns, and demonstrations. Many women participating in the Women's Association were also working with the FSLN to defeat Somoza. After the victory of the Sandinistas, the Luisa Amanda Espinosa worked to begin reconstructing the country.

Article II, Section three of the Statute on the Rights of Nicaraguans says: "All persons are equal before the law, and have the right to equal protection. There shall be no discrimination on the basis of birth, race, color, sex, language, religion, opinions, economic position, or any other social condition." Additional statutes provides working mothers time off with full pay before and after birth, and the right to child care provided by the state while she is at her place of work. The Association of Nicaraguan Women is working to see that all these provisions are implemented as well as helping to rebuild the country.

The Portland Nicaragua Support Committee has been working to provide information about the new Nicaragua and to aid in whatever ways possible the on-going reconstruction efforts in that country since April 1979. The Committee has sponsored several slide shows, film showings, benefits, and public speaking events.

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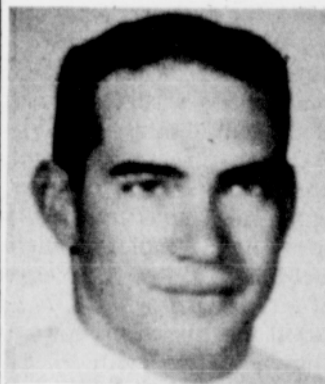


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