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report, 1982



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to Reagan

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Honey—  
natural sweet



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# THE NEW PORTLAND OBSERVER

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Section IV

Four Sections

Nicaragua says:

## No human rights in El Salvador

Military and economic aid to El Salvador requested by the Reagan Administration for 1983 totals \$226.2 million and is based on the Administration's contention that violations of human rights—murders, torture, kidnapping, imprisonment—have decreased over the past year. In addition to military aid, the U.S. is providing training and advisors.

The Reagan Administration has certified that the human rights situation has improved in El Salvador, in order to qualify that country for continued military aid.

from Barricada International  
Sandinista's official newspaper

MANAGUA, NICARAGUA—In 1982 the word "democracy" was discussed in El Salvador as in no other Latin American country; paradoxically, in reality every day was marked with kidnappings, mass and individual assassinations, and general evasion of the law in the progress of a violent war.

During the year at least 5,352 Salvadoranos were assassinated, a dozen military actions were taken against civilian populations in rural zones, 600 persons remained imprisoned illegally, and seven foreigners, including four Dutch journalists, lost their lives.

In few nations of the world is the evidence of murder so monstrous as the headless corpses by the sides of the highways, or in the center of the

cities; the deformed corpses with cuts and bullet holes, with horrible signs of torture, and invariably with the thumbs bound with cords.

All of the humanitarian organizations that have made investigations in El Salvador have unanimously accused the government forces of responsibility for the crimes.

Amnesty International said the security forces are carrying out a "large and systematic plan of disappearances, torture and mass and individual murder of men, women and children. The victims include not only persons suspected of opposition to the authorities, but also thousands who simply are encountered in zones chosen for security operations, whose murder and mutilation appear to be completely arbitrary."

The activist Michelle Arena, of the Human Rights Commission of El Salvador, declared that the murders are the result of "the military repression of the regime, that occur with the help of the government of the United States."

On the 6th of September three

peasant women related a drama that happened to 300 peasants in the Department of San Vicente. On the 18th of August, they related, A-37 airplanes dropped incendiary bombs over Amatitan Arriba. "When they fell they did not explode but burned large areas of the land," related one woman. At least 134 persons died in this government action.

Similar actions took place at least a dozen times in different parts of the country. Four villages in the Department of Usulután were fire-bombed on August 28th; four villages on September 2nd; and two villages on June 4th.

Colonel Domingo Monterra, commander of the Special Forces of Atlacatl, acknowledged, in attempting to justify these attacks, "It is noteworthy that there would be civilian assassins, some without arms, including women and children."

"The result of the counter-insurgency operations is to eliminate any group that is collaborating or sympathetic with the insurgents," said

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William Gerald presents an award to Sgt. Earl Johnson, accompanied by his wife Rose Marie, on behalf of the Northeast Rotary. Johnson, a police officer, was shot in the line of duty. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Portland Observer  
Legislative Forum  
January 29th - 10:00 a.m. - Holiday Inn Coliseum  
Grattan Kerans, Speaker of the House  
The public is urged to attend and participate.

## Court deals Reagan a blow

The Reagan Administration suffered a setback in its effort to overturn long-standing court ordered school desegregation when the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal from Nashville.

The case was an appeal by the Nashville, Tennessee, School Board of a U.S. Court of Appeals decision. The Appeals Court had overturned an earlier decision of a Federal District Court judge who exempted kindergarten through fourth graders from a court-imposed desegregation order.

The Justice Department, carrying

out President Reagan's intention to prohibit court-ordered busing, joined in the suit. The Justice Department urged consideration of "educational, social and economic costs of busing."

The Justice Department hoped that if their challenge in the Nashville case were successful it could be used to challenge other cases.

William Bradford Reynolds, who is director of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, said that the decision in the Nashville case "in no way indicates that the legal issue of mandatory busing is closed." The Department plans to

continue its drive to halt mandatory busing.

"We continue to believe that it is far better to desegregate dual public school systems through the use of transfer programs that depend on non-mandatory measures," he said.

The Appeals Court, in overturning the order exempting primary students from the desegregation plan, had said that the Nashville schools had still not been desegregated after 27 years of litigation and the School Board had an obligation to "eliminate from the public schools the last vestiges of state-imposed segregation."

## Buel recommends drug task force



STEVE BUEL

School Board member Steve Buel will present a resolution to the Board Thursday evening calling for the establishment of a task force to assess drug abuse in the Portland schools and to make recommendations for solutions to these problems. The task force is to be composed of representatives of organizations and agencies interested in drug abuse and of parents and interested citizens.

More than 200 students were suspended for drug use last school year, and during 1982 185 juveniles were arrested for drug related crime in Portland, Buel said. "We all know that these numbers are just the tip of the iceberg."

Buel advocates coordination of all community drug abuse resources

with the school system. Portland's schools have some good drug abuse education programs and are applying for a grant to add school police officers to deal with the program. But, Buel said, some drug abuse agencies have found difficulty working with the school system. The school police need to work more closely with city police and parents need to be involved.

In other school systems, including Vancouver, Washington's drug counselors in the schools have been successful in helping young people "kick the habit."

Drug abuse is an education issue, Buel explained. Young people do not learn when they are high on drugs or alcohol. "Kids are wrecking their lives, not learning, and we should do something about it."

## Employment Officer no easy job

by Robert Louthian

"Frustrating," is how Duane Washington describes his job.

Washington, a job service representative at the Albina office of the Oregon Employment Division, screens up to 50 job seekers each day, matching skills and experience with appropriate jobs.

"You try your best to help," said the 2-year veteran with the Employment Division, "but the way the market is, very few get jobs." It gives him a good feeling to find someone a job, said Washington, "knowing that now they can get a meal and take care of some bills."

"But the competition is so overwhelming," he said. "When you place someone, it doesn't seem like you've done that much. You see the same faces coming back. It's like sitting in the mud, spinning your wheels."

In spite of the pressures of his job, Washington said he tries not to lose track of the human element. "I'm working with people," he said. "It's not 8 to 5, it's around the clock." Washington said he is sometimes called at home and on weekends by job seekers with stress and family problems. "We talk," he said.

Counseling is a major aspect of Washington's job—trying to raise spirits and instill the confidence necessary to go out and find a job. He inevitably hears stories of personal hardships faced by recession victims. "They tell me right off," he said, "about their homes and mar-

riages breaking up, and having to sell their furniture and cars to pay the bills."

One of the hardest things, he said, is trying to encourage those whose age and low level of skills make it doubly hard for them to find a job. This is the case, he said when a person has worked at the same firm for many years and suddenly find themselves laid off and out in the market knowing only one job.

As many as 150 job seekers pass through the Albina office each day, according to supervisor Martin Burrows. An average of ten job referrals are handed out by Washington each day, and of those "maybe one" gets a job, he said. In the three month period ending in December 1982, there were 142 firm placements out of the office, according to Burrows.

People coming to him are "really getting themselves together" to go out for interviews, said Washington. They are more conscious of being neat in order to be "a sellable item to an employer," he said.

"It's an employer's market," according to Washington. "The employer is playing hard to get. They can get just about who they want."

Job descriptions have doubled in size, he said, as employers demand more skill and experience. Washington described a \$3.35/hr. janitor's job which required 5-10 years experience, and a \$3.50/hr. building maintenance position requiring carpentry, plumbing and electrician's skills.

Jobs available on an average day might range all the way from "room cleaner" (\$3.35/hr.), "security guard" (\$4.50/hr.), "messenger" (\$3.80/hr.), "inventory counter" (\$3.35/hr.) all the way up to a "neurosurgeon" (\$60,000/yr.).

Job seekers are more likely to be successful at the office, said Washington, if they "arrive as early as possible" and "keep coming back on a regular basis. It also helps to develop a "one-on-one" relationship with a counselor: Washington keeps resumes and a card file so that he can match skills of applicants he knows with appropriate jobs when they come up.

An Employment Division publication reports that 75 percent or more of job vacancies are not advertised through traditional channels: newspaper ads, federal/state employment services, private employment agencies and computer job banks. Also mentioned was the myth of the resume: only about one in 245 resumes that a company receives leads to a job interview, according to the report.

For these reasons, the Albina office offers free "Quick Connections" workshops three days each week. Among the topics discussed are "Portland Job Market," "The Untapped Job Market," and "The Interview."

Duane Washington says he sees no indication that the recession is coming to an end. "I just hope I'm able to stay healthy and do a good job for people," he said.



Attending the NAACP Northwest Regional Conference hosted by the Portland Branch were: Portland board member Lorna Marple; past-president Lucious Hicks IV; Portland Branch president Hazel Hays; board member Robert Phillips; Executive Di-

rector of the Western Region Verna Carson; Eugene Branch president Willie Polite; Yakima Branch president Delores Goodman; and Tri-Cities Branch President Ed Hurgrow.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)