

Oregonians join peace 'Fast for Life'

by Jim Deady

Thirteen people from six countries have been eating nothing and drinking only water since August 6th, the 38th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. They call it the "Fast for Life" and they intend to continue not eating until there is a significant step taken towards ending the nuclear arms race.

They will consider any concrete action taken by any of the nuclear powers, but in particular they are calling for an immediate halt to all nuclear weapons testing or a cancellation of U.S. and NATO plans to deploy Pershing II and cruise missiles in Europe. These missiles are seen by some military strategists and many other experts as destabilizing to the present nuclear stand-off. They are a new generation of highly accurate weapons, are considered to be useful primarily in a first-strike situation, and are too small for the Soviet Union to keep track of and would therefore make a mutual U.S./U.S.S.R. nuclear freeze non-verifiable. The U.S.S.R. has said

that they consider these missiles to be a serious threat to their security and will respond to the deployment, scheduled for this December, by putting their own missiles on a hair trigger "launch on warning system," that will significantly increase the likelihood of an accidental nuclear war.

The fasters are from France, Spain, Germany, Japan, Canada, and the United States. Two of them are from Oregon, Dorothy Granada, a 52-year-old public health nurse and mother of one, and Charles Gray, 58-year-old father of two and grandfather of four. In a recent press release from the Fasting Center in Oakland, Calif., Gray wrote, "I love life, I am not a suicidal type. We don't feel we're special people in any way. We would do what anybody would do if their child fell in the river. We're willing to take this risk." Granada wrote "We feel our first obligation is to see this planet survive. The fast is helping to release a great spiritual power."

The decision to risk their lives in this open-ended fast comes from

their deep personal commitment to peace and to ending world hunger. The fasters are taking their place alongside the millions of people starving around the world whom they call "the silent victims of the arms race." To Gray, Granada, and the other fasters the connection is clear; every day 40,000 children under the age of five die from malnutrition and every day the governments around the world spend more than 1 billion dollars on weapons. The U.N. Center on Disarmament has estimated that with an additional 18.5 billion dollars, adequate food, water, housing, health care, and education could be provided for every person on earth. 18.5 billion dollars is about as much as the world spends on weapons every two weeks.

The fasters don't believe that their actions alone will be enough to achieve the results they desire and they know that some people may not understand their willingness to die if their goal is not met within the relatively short time that a person can live without food (approximate-

ly 2 to 3 months). Earlier this summer Gray wrote, "As I see it, the purpose of the fast is to awaken people to deeper levels of non-violent action with the political aim of stopping the nuclear arms race." Granada suggests, "Whatever you usually do, do more and do it now."

A letter-writing campaign has been organized to send 5 million letters to world leaders and decision makers urging them to stop the arms race. People are pledging to write 10 letters between Sept. 6 and 9, one month after the start of the fast.

In Portland, a major rally is being planned for October 22 at Waterfront Park to oppose the deployment of cruise and Pershing II missiles in Europe. The rally is sponsored by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, an inter-denominational coalition representing 198 Oregon churches.

A local support group for the "Fast for Life" holds a vigil every Mon.-Fri. from 5-6 p.m. in front of the Pioneer Court House on the bus mall, and on Sat. and Sun. at Saturday Market near the literature tables.

For more information call 233-1887 or 239-4183.



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Atlanta life good for Robinson

GRASSROOTS NEWS, N.W. — August is the time of the year when many Oregonians leave the Rose City in search of other temporary horizons. As Oregonians leave the city for vacations, we find many others who come back and visit the city they left behind.

Jimmy Robinson is one such Portlander. He left with the exodus created by the move of Georgia Pacific Corporation. "For the last year my family and I have been living in Atlanta, Georgia. I'm working as a photographer for Georgia Pacific in the video and still photographic group. It has been a very enjoyable and profitable move for us."

Robinson is a native Oregonian who worked as a teacher for ten years and later became a self-taught photographer. "I got involved with as many projects as I could to develop my photographic skills. When it came time to make the move, I was qualified for the job."

The former teacher was asked what type of education the students in Portland receive. "You receive a well-rounded liberal arts education. In an integrated society you are likely to see both sides of the coin more than you would in other parts of the country. I say to those students who are striving to get an education that they have an advantage in this area of the country because they have the opportunity."

"The educational process calls for a lot of different ingredients from the student, parent and the community. It is the combination of all those ingredients which makes for a healthy educational atmosphere."

Robinson's interest in photography developed while he was the business manager for the R&B group, Pleasure. "I wanted to capture the events and the sparkle of our tours. One thing led to another and it became less of a hobby and more of a business."

Jimmy Robinson says he loves living in the heartbeat of the South, Atlanta, GA. "Our airport is the link-up of the South. The weather is warm, the food is good and the people are nice. It is a vibrant city full of youth, profession and politics. One comparison you could make to Portland is that it is very green."

PNB requests metered rates

Public Utility Commissioner John Lobdell has scheduled a prehearing conference for September 7th on a proposal by Pacific Northwest Bell to convert its business customers from flat rate to measured service.

In July, PNB filed a proposal to convert business service to a measured system under which each customer would pay for the actual amount of local phone service used each month.

The conference will begin at 10 a.m. in Hearing Room D of the Labor and Industries Building in Salem. The purpose of the conference is to identify parties to the case, clarify issues, and discuss legal procedures. Persons or organizations wishing to participate in the case as formal intervenors may file petitions to intervene at the conference or submit petitions in writing to the PUC on or before the meeting date.



JIMMY ROBINSON

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

When I first landed there I felt right at home.

"I'm just getting to know the city and make the types of contacts I need to branch out. If I do not continue working for Georgia Pacific I would hope to operate an independent photography studio."

His advice to the ambitious Ore-

gonian — "You need to try and make contacts outside the city of Portland. And try to foster those types of contacts. There is a lot of stimuli out there and you can't get it all within the city limits. Portland is a wonderful place to grow up in but you really need to see points of view from other parts of the nation."

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