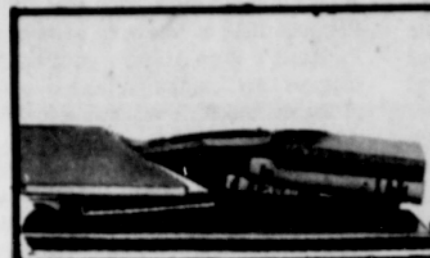


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Wearing "Maurice Bishop" buttons, students of the Black Educational Center join demonstrations condemning U.S. invasion and occupation of Grenada. An estimated 300 persons joined the demonstration sponsored by the Black United Front at the Federal Office Building. (Photo: Richard J Brown)

District 18:

Forum to select candidate

A community forum will be held on November 5th to select a Black candidate to compete in the Democratic Party Primary against incumbent State Representative Ed Leek.

The forum is sponsored by the District 18 Leadership Forum (Ronnie Herndon, Herb Cawthorne, Rev. John Garlington, Marian Scott and Rev. John Jackson) and will be held at 1:00 p.m. at Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church. Each candidate will speak for ten minutes, to be followed by questions for all candidates from the public; then each candidate will have the opportunity to summarize.

The process has raised some questions in the community. Some feel that the format—one forum—does not allow for the development of issues or a platform or enough time to adequately assess the candidates. "This one-shot event favors candidates who have run before and makes it into a contest of who can get the most friends there, not who would be the best Representative," said one resident.

Ronnie Herndon, one of the organizers, admitted the process is "flawed" and could be criticized on those counts. He believes the process is the best that could be developed in a short time and that a series of forums would not have

produced a different result.

Another question is raised about the balloting, since persons who do not attend the forum and hear the candidates can speak. "We are trying to include as many people as possible. What should we say if someone had a sick child and arrived late, should we refuse to let her vote," Herndon said. "There are others who already support a candidate, who don't want to even listen to anyone else."

Herndon criticized those who warn that coercion of a candidate or potential candidate is against state law. "There will be no coercion," he said. "Any candidates who do not abide by the decision will be vigorously criticized because they are dividing the Black vote.... We don't want to divide ourselves, to let people say, 'It's what I desire. This is the same thing that led Ed Leek to say, 'It's what I desire, let me in.'"

Herndon considers the community endorsement as no different than a union trying to get rid of Reagan or women trying to defeat Jesse Helms. "When Black people take steps to control their political interests, it is called coercion."

He said this process extends democracy one step more. "Usually the process is not this democratic; we are exercising democracy at its

finest. I don't know who selected Ronald Reagan or Jimmy Carter. This is taking democracy to the grass roots."

Another criticism—that Democrats and Republicans were being considered together—has been eliminated by restricting the forum to Democrats.

The candidates who have indicated that they will participate are Harold Williams, Margaret Carter, Luther Strong and Bill Hardin. Williams, who has run twice before, is a labor negotiator for the State of Oregon. He is married and has three children. Ms. Carter, who has raised eight children, is a counsellor at Portland Community College.

Luther Strong, Jr., is a corrections officer and substitute school teacher. He is married and has five children. William Hardin, a businessman, also is a candidate but cannot be present for the forum.

Herb Cawthorne described the

forum as a first time effort that is not perfect but can be improved in other years. "There are aspects that could be better done. There was no effort to develop candidates, but to provide a positive way for the community to express its opinion."

"I believe the quality and character of the candidates will emerge in the process and that it will demonstrate whom the community supports among those who are there."

Cawthorne added that the candidates and their supporters have participated in the planning meetings and have raised no objections to the process. "We have given the candidates and their campaign people and others a chance to be involved in the meetings. We have found no one who says it is not fair or that they will not abide by it."

"Anyone who goes through the process, saying they will abide by the decision, and then does not, will make their own integrity suspect."



Jesse Jackson will announce formally on Thursday that he is a candidate for the Democratic Party nomination for President. Jackson's campaign is expected to add up to a half-million new voters and to positively affect the Democratic Party platform. (Photo: Richard Brown)

School zone election petitioners' goal

An organization is forming to petition the Portland School District to divide itself into zones for the purpose of nominating members to the School Board. Currently three Board members live in the same area of Northeast Portland and four live on the West side. Southeast and North Portland are not represented on the Board.

In addition to the matter of representation, District-wide School Board races have become highly financed and professionally managed campaigns.

State law had prohibited the Portland District (only) from zoning, but during the 1983 legislative session, Senate Bill 740 was passed to allow zoning, in the face of strong opposition from the School Board. SB 740 does not provide for election by zone; it provides that candidates live within the designated zone but

they are elected by voters throughout the District. Although the bill does not solve the problems of District-wide campaigning, its chief proponent, Rev. Frank Shields, believes it is a good first step.

SB 740 provides that the citizens present a petition of 1,000 signatures to the School Board with this request, so that the School Board can adopt the change or refer it to the people.

HB 2109, which was passed unnoticed in the closing days of the session, states that if the 1,000 signatures are not submitted before January 1, 1984, over 45,000 valid signatures will be required.

The coalition forming plans to request of the School Board that candidates not only be nominated from, but also be elected from, zones.

For information, call 280-6769.



Book Winners of the North Branch Library costume contest are Hank Christianson, Jessica Faulkner, and Lena Johnson. (Photo: Richard Brown)

Cuban victory? For Cubans Grenada is a symbolic 'Alamo'

by Nelson Valdes
Pacific News Service

For those who measure success with a geopolitical ruler, the invasion of Grenada signifies a swift and major victory for the United States in the ongoing struggle between East and West.

But this is not just another play in that familiar global chess game.

The confrontation on the tiny island of Grenada represents instead a battle between the developed "North" and the weak, underdeveloped "South." In those terms, countries of the Third World see Cuba winning a significant political and moral victory.

Consider the following:

•Cuban nationals on Grenada moved quickly to resist the U.S. intervention and to defend the territory and installations they controlled. Soviet personnel on the

island did not resist in any manner.

•An estimated 800 Cubans, of whom 40 were actually military advisers, managed to fight an invading force of about 3,000 for some 36 hours—despite the fact that the U.S. controlled the air, the sea and most of the surrounding land.

•The Cubans had orders to resist until they ran out of ammunition and under no circumstances to surrender.

•In the final moment of battle, the morning of Oct. 26, six Cuban nationals, holding their country's flag, may have killed themselves rather than be taken by the U.S. forces, according to Cuban media.

This is the sort of behavior that Pentagon computer programs cannot quantify or evaluate. Yet the commitment it reflects has significant impact on world affairs.

U.S. military planners were surprised by the opposition they en-

countered from a portion of the Grenadan population and the Cubans. They had to bring the Rapid Deployment Force of the 82nd Airborne into the battle, although this was not originally planned because American strategists assumed the whole affair would meet little resistance.

Cuban civilians put up an unheard-of fight.

But anyone who knows about Cuba knows that the Cuban Revolution has universalized military training, which now begins in elementary schools, as well as discipline and organization. U.S. forces at Salines Airport confronted a highly motivated force of Cubans. The Third World understands that motivation.

•The Cubans were defending the integrity as well as the honor of the Grenadian people, even though the Cuban regime had been highly criti-

cal of the murders committed Oct. 18 by the government of Hudson Austin.

•The Cubans were fighting as well for the dignity of revolutionaries the world over who have rejected colonial rule and control.

•The Cubans were also demonstrating their leadership and their commitment to stand up to the United States.

•The Cubans also believed that standing firm in Grenada could send a message to the United States—that it should not try to do the same in Nicaragua or Cuba.

As Angel Pino, speaking from the Cuban Interest Section in Washington, D.C., puts it, "Those Cubans in Grenada are determining not only their own fate but the fate of Nicaragua and Cuba. In other words, to the extent that they offer resistance, they will make sure that this aggression will not go unnoticed. If this

were an easy victory, those who make policy in the U.S. would continue to escalate. They will think that if it was easy in Grenada, it will also be easy in Nicaragua and next in Cuba."

Cuban defiance of the greatest power in the world may very well capture the imagination of the Third World countries, as the death of Che Guevara did in the 1960s.

It might seem to us that it is foolish to resist insurmountable forces. Yet actions such as this take on symbolic import and contribute to the building of a nation, to developing of national identity, to the strengthening of community. In the 19th century, "Remember the Alamo" elicited the kind of response in Americans that the word Grenada will now produce among Cubans.

Cuban behavior in the Third World is not a response to Soviet designs. The Cuban Revolution has a

foreign policy of its own. It stems more from the interests of the South than of the East.

It is based on principles that we may not comprehend, that may even defy our own logic. These involve issues of honor, of dignity, of morality—words which are constantly used and understood in the Third World, not simply as the rhetorical language of the developed countries.

Thus it is important to set examples through action for everyone else. In a way, the Cuban people have been instilled with the idea that the whole world is watching them and that their behavior has to be exemplary. It is that which allows Havana to claim leadership over the non-aligned.

These concepts did not arrive with the revolution. They are deeply rooted in the political culture of the (Please turn to page 4 column 6)