

U.S. policy 'self-fulfilling prophecy'

by Robert Lothian

Larry Boyd, a journalist and former Portland resident who has been living in Nicaragua for four years, says the U.S. policy toward Nicaragua is having an effect just the opposite from what it intends.

"U.S. policy results in a self-fulfilling prophecy," in helping to consolidate the revolution, he said during a talk at Portland State. The U.S. economic blockade, the CIA-financed border war and the threat of intervention are keeping the spirit of the revolution intact, according to Boyd. Nicaragua's population is rallying under the threat, he said, and pushing revolutionary changes through.

"The Sandinistas say that U.S. imperialism is going to invade and kill us. It's causing programs of the revolution to happen faster," including land reform, said Boyd. The government gives land to the peasants and says, "Here's your land, here's your rifle, now defend your land," and the peasants are rallying behind the Sandinistas, he said.

Peasants who had moved back into the hills are moving back down to form cooperatives and communities, according to Boyd. "They're being socialized," he said.

Nicaragua is "experimenting with every kind of organizational form" in setting up a socialized agricultural system, including large cooperative farms, peasant buying co-ops and state-subsidized family farms. "They haven't settled on one model yet," said Boyd.

Land which lays fallow can be redistributed to those who need it after they go through a petition process, he said. Peasants who get land are not allowed to subdivide it, and "They can't sell it," he said—but it can be passed on to family members.

Peasants who make up the bulk of the contra forces, said Boyd, are the victims of "religious-based, counterrevolutionary propaganda." Contras numbers are greatly exaggerated, he said, and probably total

less than 6,000. They have been able to generate a small following, according to Boyd, by telling peasants things like, "The Cubans are going to come and carry your children away to Cuba and turn them into atheists."

Such tactics aren't successful with many people, said Boyd. "The Contras have no organization inside the country," he said. "There's no way they will be able to overthrow the Nicaraguan government."

The border war is probably the best known "secret war" ever, he said. "We know what's happening. The Nicaraguans know what's happening. But all you get from the State Department is 'No comment.'"

He added that the much-publicized Kissinger Commission's report, as reported in the *New York Times*, recommends continued U.S. aid to the Contras. It also asks for \$400 million in military aid for El Salvador for 1984-1985, a three-fold increase over 1983, and for reopening military aid to Guatemala.

Boyd likened the situation to "a giant elephant with its head in Washington and its tail down there. I'm supposed to report to you, how much and how hard it hits."

What those in foreign countries must do, he said, is "look and decide whether it's a good or a bad government," and ask whether the U.S. has the right to try and overthrow that government.

Boyd said that solidarity efforts like the Witness for Peace program and the international coffee brigades are constructive ways for North Americans to support Nicaragua.

Witness for Peace volunteers, he said, go "right into the heart of the trouble" for two-week shifts to protect the Nicaraguans from Contra attacks, and the Nicaraguans are "very excited" about the program.

Boyd said the Sandinistas are just now beginning to try and solve problems of racism and national minorities. Racism involving Indians and Blacks on the Atlantic coast



Free public schools offer rural children their first opportunity for education. (Photo: Barricada)

wasn't considered a big problem in the past, he said, because the Sandinistas thought of the entire population as poor and needing help equally.

Mesquito Indians, he said, have a long history of "being suspicious of Spanish-speaking people with guns" dating to the time of the Spanish conquest. Now, he said, "they want both the Sandinistas and the Contras to go away."

Boyd described Honduras, on Nicaragua's northern border, as a "very sad, pitiful country."

"People there are not accustomed to having a voice in the government," said Boyd. There's not much

of an organized opposition, he said, and no one speaks out. "The Hondurans are used to being dominated by the U.S., and most people think that's the way it's supposed to be." Most Hondurans "really don't care" about the Contras on their border. "They're pretty apathetic," said Boyd.

"There's not much Nicaragua can do about it," when it is accused of being subversive influence in the region, according to Boyd. "When Nicaraguan peasants get land for free, that's subversive" to dictatorships in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, he said.

Wood heads PCC craft program

Northeast Portland resident Cliff Wood has been named supervisor of the Professional Crafts Program at Portland Community College effective immediately.

According to Bob Hilger, who administers separate projects for PCC, Wood's duties will include setting up new training programs for disabled veterans and injured workers in Oregon and southwestern Washington.

The Professional Crafts Program is a statewide program whereby PCC contracts directly with employers who retrain injured workers. "Wood will work directly with students and be responsible for approving the various training sites statewide," says Hilger. Over 300 stu-

dents currently are enrolled in the program.

"The Professional Crafts Program has been around for quite a while," says Wood. "It's just been on the back burner." He explains that the college is now in the process of directing more resources into the program.

One of the ways Wood believes the program will attract more participants is through working with high school students. "There are a number of students who don't feel comfortable about going on to college," he says. "I want to identify the student who doesn't want to handle the English-math-science situation but who would feel comfortable in a crafts type setting. There's

a good future in that field."

A native of Washington, D.C., Wood first came west on a basketball scholarship to a small college in Wyoming. He transferred to Pacific University during his third year of college and later participated in the B-2 program through Oregon State University, training out of Adams High School.

He coached junior varsity at Roosevelt High School and worked for two years in Portland grade schools. He's worked at Portland Community College since 1977, most recently as a job developer and counselor through the Refugee Employment Program at the Ross Island Center.



CLIFF WOOD

Portland NAACP features Millner

Darrell Millner, chairman of the Portland State University Black Studies Department, will speak at the Portland Branch NAACP meeting this Sunday. Millner's talk will focus on his work in multi-ethnic education and ways citizens can contribute. He will also discuss Dr. Martin Luther King's contribution to Black Studies.

Dr. Millner has lived in Portland since 1970, coming to Portland from Southern California to work in the Teacher Corps Program at Jefferson High School and to complete doctoral studies in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Oregon.

He has been a member of the Black Studies faculty at Portland State since 1974, teaching courses in Afro-American History, Afro-American Literature, and Afro-American Oregon History.

Since 1978 he has been involved with the community based efforts to upgrade the treatment of Black and other ethnic experiences in the public schools. This involvement evolved this year into the assignment to revise the School District's basic curriculum documents from the inclusion of multi-ethnic and multi-cultural information as well as the design of related teacher-training activities.

The meeting will be held at the Mt. Sinai Community Baptist Church, 602 N.E. Prescott, 4:00 p.m., Sunday, January 15th.



"It All Started on a Bus" is the theme of a Tri-Met/Scanner sponsored campaign calling attention to the fact that Dr. Martin Luther King's involvement in the Civil Rights Movement began in Montgomery Alabama in 1955 when Rosa Parks refused to take a seat in the back of the bus.

School District, City and Tri-Met officials road the bus to King Neighborhood facility to honor King. There Mayor Ivancic proclaimed Dr. Martin Luther King week in Portland and Jim Loving, Facility director, announced the commissioning of a plaque of King for the Facility.

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