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Donald Means, age 9, beats the heat in the Alberta Park wading pool. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Prostitution zone proposed

The Portland City Council voted unanimously, August 3rd, to make it a crime to engage in "unlawful prostitution procurement activities" such as circling blocks in cars, publicly lingering or other actions that appear to involve prostitution.

Commissioners Charles Jordan, Margaret Strachan, Mildred Schwab, and Mayor Frank Ivancie heard testimony from several Northeast neighborhood residents upset about pimps and prostitutes near their homes before voting for the new city code amendments. Commissioner Mike Lindberg was out of town.

Portland lawyer Robert Wolf had asked that voting on the new amendments be delayed for two weeks so a City Club report on prostitution, in the works for more than a year, can be released. Wolf called the amendment on prostitution procurement "unworkable" and "un-

constitutional" and said the council should set up a prostitution "zone" where such activity could take place without causing interference with other neighborhood activities. He said the city of Boston has such a zone, and it has helped draw prostitution activities away from neighborhoods.

James Hennings of the Metropolitan Public Defender's Office also called the code amendment on procurement "unconstitutional" as well as "absurd." He added that finding it unconstitutional would be like "shooting fish in a barrel."

Most of those testifying at the council meeting Thursday, however, did not agree. They said they were tired of having their children walk to school past pimps and prostitutes, and that if the council members refused to do anything about it, they would.

"I think citizens have a right to

some sort of protection from that sort of thing," said Michelann Ortloff, president of the Eliot Neighborhood Association. Ortloff said residents near Interstate and Union Avenues do not want to penalize prostitutes alone, but somehow cut down on the prospective customers cruising around and the pimps who frequent the areas.

The code amendments were the result of three years of complaints by Interstate Avenue and Union Avenue residents who say their neighborhoods are deteriorating because of the prostitution.

Ortloff, who is a Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods representative on the City-County Council on Prostitution Alternatives, said she and other supporters of the amendments also support diversion programs for prostitutes. These programs seek to provide education

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Jackson won't run for Senate

Jesse Jackson announced, August 1st, he will not run for the U.S. Senate from South Carolina this year. Jackson made the announcement at a press conference after addressing the 74th annual conference of the National Urban League held in Cleveland, Ohio.

"I feel a strong obligation to continue to stimulate voter registration and voter turnout among members of the Rainbow Coalition..." Jackson said in explaining his decision not to run. He would have opposed incumbent Senator Strom Thurmond, a conservative Republican who has served six terms in the Senate.

Jackson said his main responsibility after registering voters was to maintain pressure on the Democratic Party to address issues of concern to Black and minority Americans. He told 3,500 Urban League delegates to the annual conference that "there is still unfinished busi-

ness" between the Democratic party and Blacks. He said the party wants Black and Hispanic votes but is not prepared to give anything in return.

Aides to Jackson indicated he was worried about what a loss to Thurmond would do to his ability to work for other Black candidates around the U.S.

Jackson moved his legal residence from Chicago to South Carolina two weeks ago, a move that caused speculation he intended to oppose Thurmond. The population of South Carolina is approximately 30% Black.

In another major announcement from the Urban League, President John Jacob said, Wednesday, the organization will embark on a "90-Day Countdown Campaign" of voter registration aimed at getting at least 60% of all eligible Black voters to the polls in November.

Jacob said the drive would involve 34 Urban League chapters across

the country and will be non-partisan. He estimated as many as 1.2 million new voters could be registered and would vote.

Jacob said the estimated 3,500 conference delegates are now aware of how important their votes are and will "go back home knowing full well that the Black vote can determine the outcome of the 1984 elections, and they must participate in getting that vote out."

The four-day Urban League conference attracted more than 12,000 people, including Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger; Jesse Jackson; Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro. Each of the four spoke to the crowd.

President Jacob said chapters will begin by targeting voter registration among those least likely to vote—18-to-24 year-olds—and will also focus on getting Black voters to the polls on November 6th.



The Barbee-Winchester family held a reunion picnic Sunday at Peninsula Park. Relatives came from as far as Atlanta, Tennessee and Detroit. Three generations of the family were represented. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Sons, fathers, grandfathers defend rural Nicaragua from attack

by Bill Collins

Bill Collins, a ten-year resident of Oregon, was a member of the U.S. Witness for Peace delegation which visited Nicaragua in July, 1983. During June and July of this year, Collins spent seven weeks in Nicaragua studying Spanish in the town of Esteli where he also worked as a nurse.

A battle still raged after two days of fighting outside the northern Nicaraguan town of Esteli as the Sandinista Militia pushed the CIA-financed, anti-Sandinista "contras" back toward their base in Honduras. "We have 250 of them surrounded...the fighting goes well," said Guillermo Meza, a 66-year old Sandinista militia volunteer on a half-day leave. Ten of his 22 grandchildren happily surrounded Meza as he continued more solemnly, "We found the body of an 8- or 9-year old boy as we followed the contras. His throat had been slashed." The older children gasped; the younger ones paid little attention as they happily clung to their grandfather's shirt.

Estelians first became aware of the contra presence July 12th, when a rural health-care caravan was at-

tacked, destroying one jeep and killing the driver. The 800- to 1000-man contra column next attacked three rural agricultural cooperatives, penetrating within three miles of Esteli. The 25-year old police chief of Esteli was killed in an ambush as he delivered more arms to peasants in the area. Late that night, his body was carried through the streets of Esteli as hundreds joined the grieving but defiant crowd. As it wound through streets, the crowd passed groups of youths and adults standing watch over their neighborhoods. The neighbors remained at their posts, talking quietly as burning tires illuminated their faces and brightened the dark streets. The question was often asked, "Do you think they will attack tonight?"

At the hospital, North American students and Swiss technicians gave 18 pints of blood. The U.S. students quietly discussed Reagan's foreign policy and legislation he "is pushing which could make opposition to intervention in Central America illegal." They referred to the so-called anti-terrorist bills HR 5613 and SB 2626, currently in the House of Representatives and the Senate. As they waited turns to give blood,



Guillermo Meza poses with his rifle and his grandchildren in the Nicaraguan village of Esteli. (Photo: Bill Collins)

news of dead and wounded Nicaraguans trickled into the hospital. One hospital worker said, "We don't blame the people of the United States. We blame your government."

The following day, information about the attack accumulated. Two Sandinista militia battalions had mobilized and joined armed peasants from the cooperatives. They had repelled the attack. Five Sandinistas

were dead, six wounded, and 20 contras had fallen. Among the wounded were children from the cooperatives. These were the confirmed figures. There were many unconfirmed reports of other deaths.

Refugees from the three agricultural cooperatives under attack gathered at the Ruben Dario School in Esteli. Workers from the government health center organized medical care. The director of the health center explained that "many children developed diarrhea during their escape." Foul odors filled the air as mothers washed soiled clothes. Teenage volunteers from the town played circle games with the children whose eyes still revealed terror. Fathers and grandfathers positioned around the school grounds with automatic rifles, guarded their families. Tired eyes watched the hills they had left behind, and smoke could be seen in the distance.

One of the cooperatives, Tayacan, includes a multi-million dollar agricultural aid project of the Dutch government. A Dutch technician estimated that the contras caused over one-million dollars damage to buildings alone. He also

mentioned the entire seed stock for August planting had been destroyed. Total damage figures for the three cooperatives which produce potatoes, coffee, and basic grains, was not available.

In a speech at the funeral of the fallen police chief, a community leader described his understanding of the Reagan Administration strategy. He views it as an attempt to undermine popular support of the Sandinista revolution by exhausting the will of the people and the economy. He cited consistent attacks aimed at destroying food storage and production, destruction of fuel reserves, and forcing the Nicaraguan government to redirect needed resources to the defense efforts. Nicaraguan forces have had to protect both north and south borders as well as both coasts from CIA-directed contra attacks. Schools, medical facilities and their personnel have also been common targets.

President Reagan, in a recent speech in support of his policy in Nicaragua claimed the Nicaraguans are worse off now that they were under Somosa (the former dictator).

During the week of this attack, (Please turn to Page 8, Column 1)