

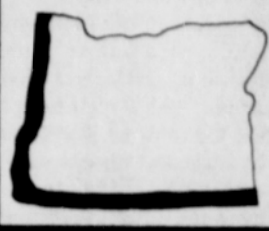
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Winning essayists

Russell Peyton Awards were presented this week to three outstanding students from Harriet Tubman Middle School. (L-r) 6th grader Mike Stanley, 7th grader Marah Danielson and 8th grader Ralph Schuping. Presenting the awards is Sho Donzo, chairperson of the Education Committee of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)



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Two Sections

Refugees arrested in raids

by Bill Collins

A wave of arrests swept U.S. cities Monday, January 14, as the Reagan Administration and the Justice Department cracked down on the church-led "Sanctuary Movement" which provides support and shelter to scores of undocumented Central Americans seeking refuge from violence in Guatemala and El Salvador.

The Justice Department indictments named 16 people including Catholic priests and nuns, a Protestant minister as well as lay people. Over 60 Central Americans have been arrested in Phoenix, Seattle, Tucson, Philadelphia, Rochester, and other cities.

The 16 indictments handed down by the Justice Department resulted from evidence gathered by four undercover agents operating in Tucson, Arizona, who had infiltrated church meetings. The New York Times quoted the Reverend John Fife of Tucson, one of the defendants whose church was the first of the now more than 200 churches providing sanctuary:

"The government has planted body-buds on its agents and has in-

filtrated the church from within. We expect that to happen in Russia, Eastern Europe, and in totalitarian countries."

Those indicted are charged with smuggling illegal aliens into the country. Organizers in the sanctuary movement deny wrongdoing and charge that U.S. agencies are breaking federal laws by not granting refugee status to Central Americans who often face death or "disappearance" upon returning to their countries.

Portland sanctuary organizer, David Brady, points out that Guatemalans and Salvadorans are given protected refugee status in Honduras by a United Nations charter signed by the United States but demands, "Why are they then denied refugee status here?"

The Reagan Administration claims these Central Americans are "economic refugees," not "political refugees," hence they do not qualify for refugee status.

Brady, an attorney who has worked both with Vietnamese and Central

American refugees, describes what he terms "an ideological interpretation of refugee status" by federal agencies. Brady claims refugee status is easily granted to people leaving Communist countries but denied to people from countries such as El Salvador or Guatemala.

Claiming that only three out of 100 Guatemalans receive refugee status after applying, Brady explains that they are forced to seek refuge here without going through federal channels.

The Portland Sanctuary Coalition held a press conference at St. Andrews Catholic Church on Tuesday, January 15, where the parishioners have given sanctuary to Guatemalan "Maria" and her family. Sanctuary organizers Father Jim Coleman and Reverend Don Barnhart reaffirmed the "right of religious communities to practice sanctuary" and pledged to continue this practice despite the recent wave of arrests. Portland's sanctuary community has yet experienced no arrests.

Asked why she left Guatemala, "Maria" responded that she had friends in an organization, "the name of which I cannot even remember." Knowledge by government forces of these friendships put her under suspicion and in danger of death. "Maria" described herself as "Politically uneducated since I cannot even read or write."

Asked why the crackdown on the sanctuary movement occurred so suddenly after a prolonged period of tolerance, Terry Rodgers of the Portland Sanctuary Coalition had this to say: "The Reagan Administration is operating under the assumption that it has a mandate. This is why we are calling for a vigil on Thursday, January 17, to protest this action and demonstrate our unity and strength. We need to let Reagan know that there is a lot of opposition to his Central American policy and this recent escalation."



Bobbi Gary (l) and Russ Farrell (second from right) were immediately arrested and cited for trespassing following their attempts to see Calvin Van Pelt, Honorary Consul to South Africa. The same day, in an action that has been described as a double standard similar to that of South Africa, City Commissioner Margaret Strachan and County Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury were invited in to wait for Van Pelt. They remained for an hour, then made an appointment to see him. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

S. Africa protestors denied trials

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — The first wave of defendants recently arrested for criminal trespass in the business office of Calvin Van Pelt, Honorary Consul to South Africa, had their day in court and pleaded "Not guilty."

District Court Judge Charles Guinasso heard their plea and referred the case to trial. Controversy is brewing because the "Free South Africa" defendants requested a jury trial while District Attorney Nancy Pokins wants to re-classify the violation of criminal trespass to attempted trespassing to avoid a jury trial.

Ronnie Herndon and Rev. John Jackson, co-chairs of the Black United Front; Dick Celsi, chair of the Oregon Democratic Party; Margaret Carter, Representative - District 18; Mike Burton, Representative - District 17; Trevor Purcell, professor at Reed College; Bob Baugh, Secretary

of Oregon's AFL-CIO; Lynn Parkinson, local attorney; Jim Draper, retired businessman of Corvallis; and Ed Ferguson, professor at Oregon State University, were arraigned Thursday, January 10.

Kathleen Herron, one of twenty attorneys from the National Lawyer Guild representing the defendants, said, "Our first fight is to get them (the defendants) in front of a jury. The D.A. is jockeying to make it a non-issue by changing the violation. If we end up with a jury trial the crimes of South Africa will be aired."

Herron plans to use a justification defense. "Any violation of a status in the United States — short of murder — would be justified, given the enormity of atrocities committed in South Africa," she added.

Purcell, one of three defendants who appeared in court, said he viewed the denial of a jury trial as an effort

to "play down the magnitude of what we are trying to do."

"We need to be able to educate the public through a jury trial so we can make appropriate statements to let people know what we are doing. This is not a marginal group of people airing gripes. We are talking about the liberation of a major section of humanity," said Purcell.

Rep. Burton said Van Pelt, a public official representing a government, denied access to two elected officials — himself and Rep. Carter. "That might be the way they do business in South Africa, but it is not the way we do business in this country. If we take a passive approach, we are condoning South Africa," he added.

Rep. Carter said Portland is not alone in her protest. "We joined 15 other cities, where 487 people have been arrested. We feel these oppressive measures must stop."



(L-r) Rev. Jim Coleman, "Maria" (pseudonym) from Guatemala, Terry Rogers, Rev. Don Barnhart and David Brady reaffirm the right of religious communities to practice sanctuary at press conference Tuesday. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Key Cawthorne campaigners analyze City Council election results

by Bob Lothian

We can't keep crying
Or singing the blues,
Because even if we didn't win
We could never lose.
The day was when
The tension high,
The thought of loss was just passed by
This is the end,
And I'm almost done,
But I'd like to say, we've just begun.

Thirteen-year-old Justin Lowe wrote this poem and gave copies of it to Herb Cawthorne and members of his campaign staff gathered for a reunion last week.

Justin, one of the youngest Cawthorne volunteers, put in over 100 hours campaigning after school and on weekends. He was sometimes left in charge of an office full of adults, and he even cooked for the campaign crew. The special quality of Cawthorne's campaign is revealed in the roles and responsibilities it allowed for young people like Justin.

After the poetry reading and between hugging and kidding around, the campaigners talked about the vote results

and some of the high and low points of the campaign.

What came across was that the Cawthorne campaign grew from the grassroots with a spirit influenced by the outgoing personality of the candidate. It brought together a huge group of volunteers from diverse racial, economic and age backgrounds. It was a campaign of fun and excitement for those involved, a campaign free of "dirty tricks" that, amazingly, ended free of debt. The Cawthorne campaign, said those who put it together, showed that a rainbow coalition aimed at getting out the inner city vote can make a visible impact on city politics. The coalition is still there, they added, ready to be mobilized for other candidates and issues.

Cawthorne campaign manager Beverly Stein said that months of groundwork, including aggressive voter registration, paid off in Cawthorne's strength in Northeast Portland, particularly in District 18, where voter turnout was over 26 percent, higher than the city average.

"I think what's important is to reinforce the progress that's been made in terms of a 26 percent turnout in District



Cawthorne campaigners (l-r) Pam Smith, Heidi Durrow, Virginia Harris, Terry Anderson, Justin Lowe, Herb Cawthorne, Steve Rudman,

Jeana Wooley and Beverly Stein discuss election results at recent reunion.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

18," said Cawthorne, "which means that Black people and white people in District 18 joined together and came out in significant numbers."

Cawthorne won against Bogle in inner northeast, and he also did well in northwest Portland and surprisingly, in areas of Portland's southwest hills, upsetting predictions. "We won on the west side of Portland," said Stein.

Where Cawthorne didn't do so well was in areas remote from the issues of city politics where the campaigners felt that Dick Bogle's name familiarity from years on television made the difference — far north Portland and the vast white suburban neighborhoods stretching out in southeast Portland. "They knew who he was," said Stein.

The Cawthorne campaign just didn't have the time and resource to make Cawthorne well known in those areas. "Every place we canvassed and telephoned we won," said canvass coordinator Steve Rudman, "but we just could not canvass all the precincts in the inner city."

Jeana Wooley, who handled press relations for the campaign, said that with more time, the charismatic candidate (Please turn to Page 5, Column 4)