

METROPOLITAN

Corinto adopted as city's sister

by Robert Lothian

The Portland City Council Wednesday approved Corinto, Nicaragua, as Portland's third sister city.

Council members had informally approved a resolution introduced by Commissioner Mike Lindberg last week after hearing nearly four hours of testimony. They had to wait a week to finalize their decision due to legal technicalities.

Commissioners Lindberg and Strachan voted for the resolution as expected. Mildred Schwab, who appeared visibly irritated by the testimony, described the proceedings as a "circus," and voted against it.

Perhaps the surprise vote, and the one that carried Corinto, was Dick Bogle's. Bogle said he was at first skeptical about the idea, but was so impressed with the sister city campaign and testimony that he came around to strongly favoring Corinto.

Mayor Bud Clark said he was "extremely impressed" by the testimony.

Clark took no position last week, but after studying the issue for a week, he also voted for Corinto. Clark attached several reservations to his vote, however, including that no city resources go toward Corinto.

Those testifying in favor, including many who had visited Corinto, stressed that the campaign was aimed at building people to people communication and peace.

Dr. David Linder, treasurer for the sister city committee, said \$3,500 had already been raised for school supplies and other activities, and that adopting Corinto wouldn't cost the city a cent.

Mahri Holt, an eighth grader at Metropolitan Learning Center in Northwest Portland, said she visited Corinto in November. She was picked to write a letter to MLC's sister school in Corinto, she said.

"We're not making a rebellious statement against our government," she said. "We want to offer aid to children less fortunate than ourselves."

Another MLC student, Branwyn Lundberg, said, "I would like to make friends with a Nicaraguan child and learn about the foods they eat, the school they go to, about their



David Linder, treasurer for the Corinto sister city project, testifies during a pecked City Council session. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

families and basically what it's like to be a child in Nicaragua."

Numerous local organizations endorsed the sister city resolution, including the Northwest District Association, the American Friends Service Committee, St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, Lincoln Street Methodist Church, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Mujeres Oregon, an organization of Hispanic women, Portland Churchwomen United, Local 9201 of the Communications Workers of America, Local 82 of the Letter Carriers, and Artistas Indigenas, a group of women artists.

Not all witnesses spoke in favor. Representatives from the Sapporo and Guadalajara sister city organizations recommended a "no" vote. Bogle charmed the crowd when he asked whether their opposition was just "sibling rivalry."

Darrell Briden of Southeast Portland told the council that adopting Corinto would be "against the vital interests of the United States."

"Nicaragua is a surrogate of the Soviet Union and fosters revolution in Central America," he said. "I believe the grand strategy of the Soviet Union is to surround the United States... through surrogates."

No one clapped for Briden, but those testifying in support often received loud applause and cheers.

Portland artist Mike Russo said he would like to go to Nicaragua "not to investigate, but to sit down at a table and eat some good food with them."

"Buenas Dias, your first Spanish lesson," said Maria Marin, representing Mujeres Oregon. She said she favored an interchange with Corinto "not for the rich who want to go down and be wined and dined, but for the poor who I would like to come share my home."

Doug Milholland, of Port Townsend, Washington, which also has a sister city in Nicaragua, suggested that Port Townsend and Portland

could put shipments of material aid "on the same banana boat to get it down there."

Sister city supporters said that city council approval is an endorsement and nothing more at this time. The sister city committee already has hundreds of volunteers, they said, and will continue activities already begun, including a school supply project, sister school, sister clinic and sister church.

Alberta revitalized?

Students, merchants study options

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — Among the areas passed over for development and revitalization is Alberta Street. Business flight and development insensitivity let the area erode. But the Alberta Street Merchants Association, formed earlier this year, has organized to counter the downward commercial cycle with aggressive development.

Architectural design students from the University of Oregon will use Alberta Street as a classroom. Their assignment is to gather and design development plans for Alberta Street.

Although none of the students are from this area and no students of color are involved in the project, Otto Poticha said they plan to overcome this aspect of the design structure with community input.

"Harold Johnson, president of the association, will get the community together to provide us with feedback," Poticha added.

Johnson, owner of the Olympic Fitness Center, said the students' designs are the first step to developing a rapport with Alberta Street businesses and residents.

"Alberta Street has a rich history. I don't want to see that tradition end.

We have excellent foot traffic as well as good mass transit. Everything a business needs to survive is already in place on Alberta Street," he added.

Some businesses located on Alberta Street are notorious for their refusal to hire area residents. Johnson said his group will counter that trend by working closely with neighborhood associations to prioritize area concerns.

Johnson hopes the attempts to develop Alberta Street from Union Avenue to 33rd will attract new businesses. He added that all this redevelopment talk has received a positive reception from Mayor Bud Clark.

Right now the students are in the gathering phase of the program. Next month they plan to introduce their concept to the community. So, if you happen to see a bunch of college students walking up and down Alberta Street, don't distract them. They're just doing their homework.

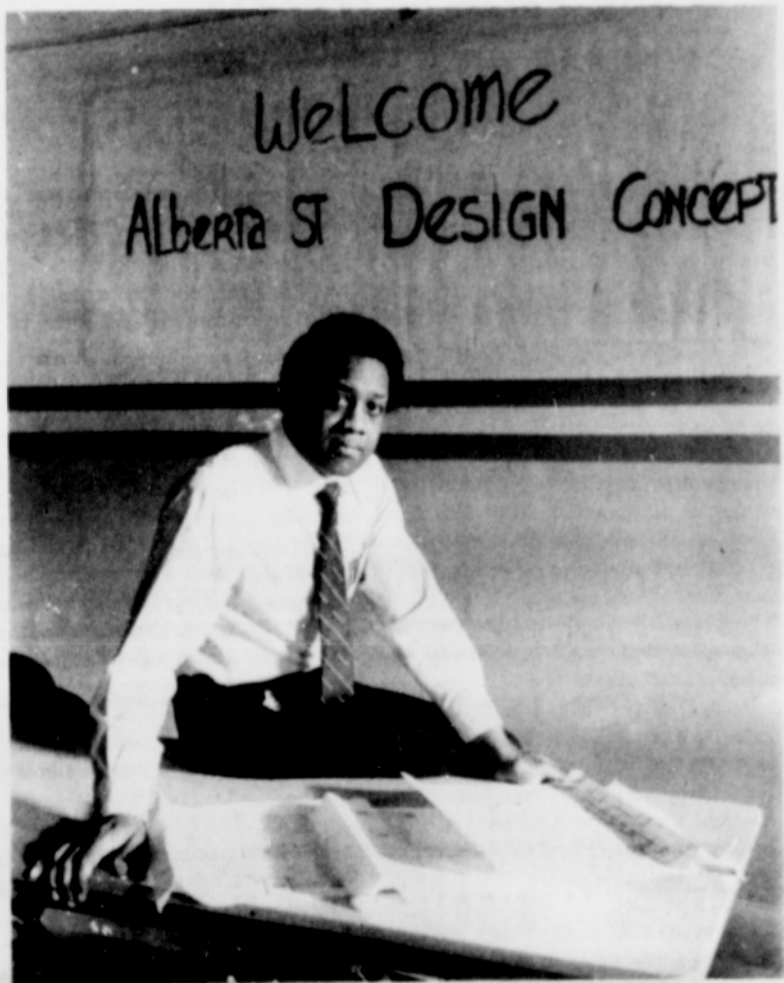
Eliot Assn. to meet Monday

The next general meeting of the Eliot Neighborhood Development Association will be Monday, April 22, 1985, at 7 p.m. in the Recreation Room of Unthank Plaza, 2500 N. Williams Ave.

Our very special guest will be Chief Penny Harrington of the Portland Police Bureau.

Tax alternatives to be aired

"Progressive Tax Reform: Alternatives to the Sales Tax," a discussion of the sales tax presently being discussed in Salem and possible alternatives, such as a Homeowners Exemption, will be held at the PACT Senior Center, 3588 SE Division, at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 25.



Why should you bother to show up for BPA's forum on industrial electric rates?

We don't serve punch and cookies. And if you're not one of our industrial customers, you may wonder what the forum has to do with you.

The answer: plenty. The price industry pays for electricity ultimately affects the price you pay. And the dilemma goes beyond mere rates.

Take the region's aluminum industry. It contributes \$1.5 billion annually in payroll, state and local taxes. Most area aluminum companies say they can't survive without lower electric rates. One company, they point out, has folded already. Does that necessarily mean that others would fold? If so, should Northwest ratepayers give incentives to BPA's industrial customers to keep them in business? Or should we do nothing? They buy one third of BPA's power; if they don't survive, could BPA find other customers to replace them? Just how important is the industry's survival to the price you pay for electricity?

Big questions. Big problems. Someday soon, somebody's going to have to do something about them. Even if it's a decision to do nothing.

Someday's here. Somebody is us. And that includes you. We're already hearing from industry. But it's your destiny, too. And since BPA belongs to you, we could sure use a piece of your mind.



BPA Forum to discuss rates and options for Direct Service Industries
Thursday, April 25, Holiday Inn (Airport), Marabell Room, 8439 N.E. Columbia Blvd. Portland, Oregon
Registration 7:00 pm Hearing 7:30 pm

If you'd like to tell us a thing or two but can't attend the forum, please drop us a line:

Bonneville Power Administration
Post Office Box 12999 • Portland, Oregon 97212

If you have questions, or want more background information, just give us a call.
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DATE	APRIL SCHEDULE	LOCATION
April 1	7:30 p.m. "Intro to Wholistic Healing"	Presentations will be held at the Cascade Clinic 819 N. Killingsworth
April 15	7:30 p.m. "Intro to Wholistic Healing"	
April 4	7:30 p.m. "What is Naturopathy?"	These talks will be held at the North Portland Public Library 512 N. Killingsworth
April 18	7:30 p.m. "What is Naturopathy?"	

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