



## Portlanders protest funding

by Nathaniel Scott

Wednesday, June 12 was national "Pledge of Resistance" day to U.S. involvement in Central America. Across the nation hundreds of people demonstrated in a show of national solidarity to what they consider to be an "escalation of the military role of the United States in Central America." Portlanders, approximately 400, locked hands last Wednesday and circled the federal building chanting, "No, contra aid," "No, Pasaran," and "One, two, three, four, we don't want Reagan's war."

The "non-violent pledge of resistance was to oppose (Reagan's) war policy," John O'Brien, one of the organizers with World Peace Makers, said.

O'Brien said the demonstration was held because of the instigation of a number of governmental policies, including, "American planes carpet bombing El Salvador with phosphorus and napalm bombs every day."

The protesters marked around the federal building banging pots before entering the lobby to read testimonies, sing songs, recite poetry and make speeches.

However, one group of demonstrators thought more stringent measures: "civil disobedience," was needed.

A group of students from different Portland area high schools who call themselves No Minor Cause were particularly outspoken.

Several members of the group had to be forcibly removed from the federal building when it closed for the day.

One of the founding members of No Minor Cause, 16-year-old Monica Koskey, a student at both Jefferson High School and the Metropolitan Learning Center, said, "We would not like to see our government dishamed (through its involvement in Central America)."

Koskey and the members of No Minor Cause are not your "rocking and rolling disinvolved youth." They are saddened because of the world they have inherited: nuclear weapons that continue to grow at an alarming

rate, and not knowing what lies ahead in this mad dash race for the supremacy of earth.

"You get a helpless feeling when you are a youth because we don't vote," Koskey said. "However, we feel real strong because there are other things we can do."

One of those "other things" happened last Wednesday after the main body of protesters had disbanded.

Almost immediately after the disbanding, No Minor Cause and several other youths began roaming the halls of the federal building passing out leaflets and giving away little bags of "Nicaraguan coffee."

"We feel ashamed about what our government is doing," Koskey said.

Koskey said No Minor Cause was formed two years ago and that while education was very important to them, they wanted people to know that "up-coming youth" are acting out and are not going to conform to what they believe is wrong.

"I think the youth of today have a hard time thinking about the future," she said. "Right now I wouldn't want to have a child as the world is."

Koskey maintained that her generation inherited "nuclear weapons" from the generations that preceded them and it's their responsibility to try to set this mad world on a safer course. She said No Minor Cause has vowed to continue to resist governmental policies that lead to destruction through whatever means necessary, even if it calls for civil disobedience.

Angela Morales with Portland's Central American Solidarity Committee said some 35 organizations took part in the demonstration and that most had signed pledges "to resist by legal means or through non-violent civil disobedience."

However, No Minor Cause had no such intentions in mind because they were concerned about becoming adults; raising families and enjoying the fruits of life.

One elderly gentleman in the crowd wanted to know: "Is that too much for any youngster to expect?"

## Seattle reporter pans Chilean dictatorship

by Robert Lothian

A Seattle journalist who visited Chile last fall reports the country's dictatorship to be more "corrupt and rotten" than those in Central America.

Emmett Murray, a copy editor and reporter with *The Seattle Times*, visited Chile with his wife, Nancy Rising, in September.

They spoke in Portland at a gathering sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation at the First United Methodist Church.

Murray showed copies of a long series of articles he wrote for *The Seattle Times* about his visits to Chile, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua.

He speaks Spanish, and often covers Hispanic-related stories, he said. Rising is executive director of the Seattle Downtown Association and a member of the Greater Church Council of Seattle.

After 12 years in power, said Murray, the Pinochet regime in Chile is characterized by "a deep corruption of morality, of the principle of inner being." He described police who benefit from the state of siege by drawing double pay, and officials who skim earthquake relief money from agencies like the Red Cross.

"We have no censorship in Chile, and we never will," officials told him. Then, said Murray, while walking on

a downtown street he discovered a magazine with the front cover blacked out. All photographs are banned from being published in Chile, he said.

Repression is evident on the street, said Rising. They were out for a walk one day, she said, when they noticed police dragging a well-dressed older man to a van. His family and friends cried. "If you would have blinked your eyes, you would have never known what had happened," she said.

On another occasion they attended a protest service at a cathedral where "nobody had done anything but sing," said Murray. A phalanx of mean-looking police soon showed up, and Murray found himself in a precarious position between the police and protesters with his camera around his neck. He decided it wasn't the time for snapping pictures. "I expected to get hit," he said.

Spittle dripped from the mouths of the police, whose faces were mad with fury, he said. Even though faced with a brutal beating, arrest, detention and torture, "The people there didn't even flinch," and the police eventually backed down, said Murray.

"They have managed to kill, exile and relegate to the interior most of the men so it's left to the women to organize the opposition, and boy, are they ever," she said. "More and more, people are going beyond fear."



## Amerasian kids try to adjust to new life

by Robert Lothian

Last summer, an orphaned Vietnamese refugee boy named My Lai committed suicide by jumping from the Fremont Bridge.

He had made his way to Portland in 1979. Bounced from foster family to foster family, he joined a gang of Vietnamese teenagers and descended into drugs.

His mother had disappeared somewhere in that ravaged land. His father was an American serviceman whom he had never met.

My Lai was one of an estimated 7,000 - 15,000 Amerasian children fathered by American servicemen during the S.E. Asian wars. About 1,500 of the children have entered the United States since 1982, according to the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement. About three dozen live in Portland, according to local refugee agencies.

Amerasian children come to the U.S. with all the problems that other refugees have and more, say social workers. Viet Nam doesn't want them, they say, and the United States turns a blind eye.

The children have trouble getting into school in Viet Nam, and it's hard for them to get jobs. Some are forced into prostitution at an early age, say social workers.

My Lai, whose name resembles that of a village where American soldiers carried out a terrible massacre, was known as "half-breed" to his friends.

"He wasn't easy to live with," said Ana Kammann, who took My Lai into her home from time to time when his current foster family couldn't handle him. Kammann directs the Unaccompanied Indochinese Minors Project for Lutheran Family Services in Portland.

"What his friend said to me was, that he just kind of ran out of friends and had no place to go," said Kammann.

Discriminated against in Viet Nam and neglected by the country that sent a soldier to father him, caught between two cultures, carrying the burden of war — could it have added up to an extreme psychological burden that made life unbearable for My Lai?

It appears that way, but who knows? One thing is uncertain — he was very unhappy.

No such tragedy is apparent with Tu Dang, 13, an Amerasian girl who just finished the 8th grade at Kellogg School. Her pastime since school let out is playing with her best friend, Huong Nguyen, 12, another Amerasian girl.

Except for her eyes, that is... eyes that lose their brightness when Tu Dang is asked about her father.

"My father, he doesn't like me," she said meekly, in halting English. Tu Dang is one of the few Amerasian children lucky enough to actually have met their American fathers.

He left his new family in Montana to come visit. Tu Dang returned with him to go on a family camping trip. She hasn't heard from him since.

"I just want to be with my mother," is all Tu Dang will say about it, shyly, her eyes darting away as she skips off to play with Huong Nguyen.

Pain? Perhaps it's the pain in any child's eyes when confronted with the reality of her broken family.

Perhaps it's the pain of something much darker and deeper, that no one can understand or control, but just live with.

Next week: Part Two.

## Black population growing fast

The nation's Black population grew at twice the rate of whites between 1980 and 1984, according to a report from the Commerce Department's Census Bureau.

The bureau's latest annual population estimates by age, race, and sex indicate that Blacks totaled 28.6 million in July 1984 — up 1.8 million or

6.7 percent over the 1980 census count. The white population rose 195.1 million to 201.4 million, up 3.2 percent. The total U.S. population was 236.7 million (including the armed forces overseas), up 9.6 million or 4.2 percent.

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