

# METROPOLITAN

## Scientologists leave Rose City

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — Since May 17, Portland has experienced an influx of 10,000 Scientologists who believe a \$39 million decision by a Multnomah County jury posed a threat to the freedom of religion.

They protested at the courthouse, marched on Salem and held a variety of free concerts to call the court decision an assault on the First Amendment and Portland became the place for the Scientologists' Religious Freedom Crusade.

A parade of musicians and celebrities followed the crusade with support, music and song. Among those who came were Al Jarreau, Edgar Winter, Chick Corea, Frank Stallone, John Travolta and Michael Roberts.

Currently, they are heading home awaiting a decision on whether a mistrial occurred because the plaintiff attorney put their religion on trial.

A decade ago, Julie Christofferson became a Scientologist but was later deprogrammed. In 1979 she filed suit and won a \$2 million judgment against the church. The judgment was later overturned by the appeals court.

The appeals court returned the case for retrial, directing the lower court to determine one narrow pur-



Scientologists maintained a downtown vigil.

pose: Was she promised spiritual gains or business gains?

Scientologists said their religion was placed on trial and records from the trial proved that it was. The plaintiff's attorney told the jury that Scientology was not a religion since her

I.Q. and eyesight did not improve. Pat Jones, a Scientologist since 1979, said the church was not selling something. "This is an issue that is religion based. It's like saying my participation in my religion did not enlarge me as a spiritual being. Do you sue that religious denomination?"

### What is Scientology?

Scientology was founded by L. Ron Hubbard who laid down a set of principals for individual application. Through a counselling procedure called Auditing, Scientology states that a person can improve his or her ability to communicate and understand. Scientology is pan-denominational. It supplements rather than substitutes a person's religious beliefs.

According to Scientologists, the Christofferson case placed their religion on trial. Six anti-Scientologists testified on the religion of Scientology which was forbidden by the appellate court. In their literature, Scientologists said, "The seed of religious intolerance that have been sown in the courtroom in Portland poses a grave threat to all religions. . . If there is any hope at all of restoring religious liberty, the legal community must take a firm stand to uphold the justice system. And take any action necessary to effect an immediate reversal of the Portland jury verdict."

## Food drive begins

Customers at selected Shell stations will be asked to fill Salvation Army food barrels as they fill their tanks, beginning June 28.

Salvation Army officials are optimistic this "Drive for Food" program will help bolster food donations during the summer months.

Salvation Army food collection barrels will be placed at participating Shell stations in the Portland-metro area and in the Willamette Valley. Barrels will be in place through August 10.

"We have a critical need for food during the summer months," said Lt. Col. David P. Riley, commander of The Salvation Army's Cascade Division. "July traditionally is our second heaviest month in terms of the number of people who come to us for food, so we're grateful Shell is getting involved."

The "Drive for Food" will run in conjunction with Shell's SU 2,000 anniversary celebration.

For more information, contact The Salvation Army at 234-0825.

## Nicaragua teachers' tour set

"Nicaragua: A Two-Week Program for Educators and Others" will be offered by Lewis & Clark College August 1 - 15.

Zaher Wahab, professor of education, will lead the trip to Nicaragua. The program will offer an overview of the country's education, culture, economy and relations with the United States.

Participants will travel as a group from Portland to Mexico City to Managua and back. Arrangements in Managua include rooms at the Lido Hotel, three meals a day, a micro-bus and bilingual guide.

The program fee is \$1,350 if taken for credit; \$1,277 without. Early registration is recommended.

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