

Scientologists complete Park

Scientologists completed their re-seeding of Lowndale Park recently and started a "Community Poll" to determine further areas of need to Portlanders.

The Scientology delegation to the Religious Freedom Crusade, composed of members from various countries around the world, along with students from the Delphian School and Columbia Academy worked throughout the weekend plowing, raking, fertilizing and seeding the 30,000 square feet of the park. Crews worked late into the night Saturday and Sunday to complete the preparation work so that the final seeding could be done Monday. Some of the younger members of the work crew crayoned signs warning to keep off the grass and illustrated them with rainbows and the like.

Over the next several weeks the Scientologists will monitor the park, ensuring that the grass grows properly as well as keeping the park clean until its first mowing. It is estimated within six weeks the park will be mowed.

Between the Scientologists' sodding of Lowndale Park and its re-seeding, they have been active in community service projects including a blood drive for Red Cross, performing for rest homes and boys' homes. Thirteen members of the Crusade's French delegation presented to the Mayor's office a five-foot tall scale model of the Eiffel Tower, as a thank you gift to the City for its hospitality.

In order to expand their community service activities, pollsters began a survey of Portlanders to determine specific areas of need so that the Scientology Community Services program may continue to provide useful services. Meanwhile in downtown Portland, daily demonstrations continue.

Rev. Sylvia Stanard, in Portland from the Church of Scientology's International Washington, D.C.'s National Office of Public Affairs, commented on the continuing protests.

"The delegation will remain here until there is a decision from Judge Londer. However, the religious free-



dom issue has gone far beyond Portland now. In Los Angeles and in Washington there are demonstrations scheduled within the week involving thousands in both locations. The people of Portland may not know how much their city has contributed to the rekindling of spiritual freedom in this country. They are to be thanked for providing the platform enabling us to stand up for what we believe, as well as accepting us into the community."

Relating the diverse activities of protest and community service, Stanard simply stated, "A Scientologist is a Scientologist as much as he can improve conditions. This can be in any form from improving a park to enhancing the quality of life through protection of our basic rights." Stanard will be in town the next few weeks coordinating Religious Freedom Crusade actions with other churches around the world.



Amerasian children, families are here in Portland

by Robert Lothian

In Viet Nam, bi-racial children of American servicemen are known as "children of the dust, because they live literally on the streets," according to Fr. Vincent Minh.

Minh, vicar of the S.E. Asian Vicariate in Portland, and a spiritual leader for thousands of refugees, said Amerasian children are discriminated against in Viet Nam because they are considered reminders of the "imperialist sins."

"I think they have been viewed as the children of whores," said Ana Kammann, director of the Lutheran Family Services Unaccompanied Indochinese Minor Project in Portland.

She reported a "subtle discrimination" against the children in Viet Nam. "They are definitely the last in line" for school and jobs, she said. Some were forced into prostitution at early ages, according to Kammann. She spoke of a 16-year-old who came to the U.S. with only three years of education.

The children have in addition been treated as political footballs by the Vietnamese and U.S. governments. Both, it seems would rather the children just disappear, said Kammann.

Kammann works with six Amerasian children, now in foster homes because they came to Portland as orphans. A seventh committed suicide by jumping from the Fremont Bridge last summer.

Sister Mary Mien at the S.E. Asia Vicariate works with 27 Amerasian children. Most came here in the last year with their mothers and their families, encouraged to leave by the Vietnamese government, said Sr. Mien.

"Families with Amerasian children can leave easier now than other families," she said. "They don't want them."

The Vicariate provides the children and their families with a home away home, helping them get started with housing, jobs, translating, and help with immigration and social services.

Most of the Amerasian children are teenagers. They are healthy and many speak basic English after only six months in Portland. "Almost all of them are successful at school and at home," said Sr. Mien. "They fit right in," said Fr. Minh.

Surrounded by other Asian children in Sunday School, however, the long, brown hair of an Amerasian girl stands out. Some of the children had Black fathers.

Ly Pham Thi, mother of four Amerasian children, described their life in Viet Nam as "very sad." Her children all speak English and are doing well in their new home. "I wanted to bring them here so they could go to school," she said.

Dzong, 18, who came to Portland eight months ago from Saigon, said in halting English that he wants to be a rock musician. "I love American music," especially Michael Jackson, Cyndi Lauper and Tina Turner, he said.

Estimates of the number of Amerasian children range between 7,000 and 15,000. About 1,500 have been admitted to the U.S. since 1982, according to the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement, and according to the three local agencies that work with refugees, about three dozen Amerasian children now live in Portland.

While they were fathered by American citizens, the children are recognized as refugees only by the U.S. government, and no special services are available to them, according to Kammann. "I think that's pretty shameful," she said.

Unaccompanied minors are not adoptable, and end up in foster homes, sometimes bounced from family to family, she said.

The fathers can put in a request to have their orphaned children come live with them, but only a few have. Some don't even know they have children.

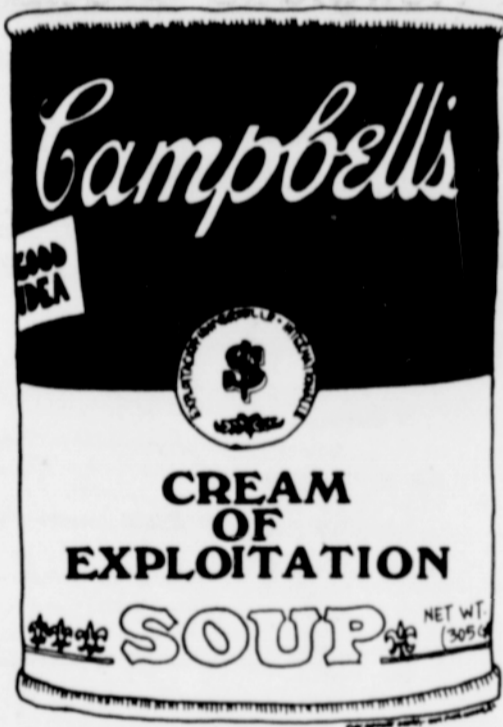
It's irresponsibility on their part, said Kammann. "That's basically the way the country has dealt with the issue."

One little girl came to Portland with a 10-year-old picture of her father, "Bob Miller," hoping against the odds that somehow he could be found. Even supposing that was his real name, it would be virtually impossible to find him, said Kammann.

A little boy whose father was Black denies it and claims he is Filipino. Somewhere along the way he had heard about American racism, she said.

Kammann feels that the government that sent the servicemen to father these children should take more responsibility for them. She also hopes that more fathers will step in, and that veterans' associations could get involved. "It would be a lovely healing process for everyone for vets to be involved with these kids," she said.

BOYCOTT



IN SUPPORT OF MIDWESTERN FARM WORKERS

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W.—On August 3 the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) will host their third Constitutional Convention in Toledo, Ohio, to solidify their commitment to winning a contract with the Campbell Soup Company.

Since 1979 the FLOC has sponsored a national boycott on all Campbell Soup products for the exploitation of migrant workers and children.

Because of a federal District Court ruling, farm workers are paid sub-minimum wages, children under 14 years old are employed to pick and workers' compensation and unemployment insurance are not binding.

Through a legalized form of near-slavery called sharecropping, farm workers are exempt from the Federal Fair Labor Standard Act.

In 1967 farm workers went on strike and discovered that growers were locked into a contract with processors. Those growers who signed a contract with the FLOC found that processors would cancel their contract.

In 1973, the FLOC started organizing to fight the processors. In 1979, a FLOC's attorney was beaten by Putnam County Sheriff and deputies.

Their attorney sustained permanent nerve damage.

In 1984 the attorney won a \$187,000 case against the Sheriff and Presidential candidate Jesse Jackson elevated their struggle into the forefront of national attention as he incorporated their plight in his convention speech.

In 1981 the British Broadcasting Corporation said evidence of child labor was flagrant in Ohio. According to the FLOC, 800,000 underage children work with their families harvesting crops across the nation. Most of these children will not complete the 8th grade and only 11 percent will enter the 12th grade. A farm worker's average income is \$3,381 per year.

Therefore, the FLOC asks that you boycott Campbell Soup, Prego Spaghetti Sauce, Pepperidge Farm, Le Menu, V-8 Juice and Vlasic Pickles.

Baldemar Velasquez, president of the FLOC, said the committee plans to utilize a new corporate strategy as their struggle continues.

"Our fight is not only with Campbell, but the whole system of sharecropping which corporate agriculture uses to oppress the workers," he added.

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