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Two Sections



Abuse Among Children

- One out of every ten boys and one out of every four girls are sexually abused before the age of sixteen.
- Between 80 and 85 percent of young sexual abuse victims were abused by someone they know — a friend or relative of the family, for example.
- One-third of adult abusers were victimized when they were children.
- 90 percent of sexual abusers are men.
- In 35 states teachers are legally mandated to report any suspected sexual and physical abuse or child neglect.
- 1.8 million children in the United States are currently missing.
- There are 7 million "latchkey" children in this country — youngsters who go home to empty houses each day and are easy targets for abduction or abuse.

These are just a few of the facts about child abduction and abuse, highlighted on "Protecting Our Children," a half-hour TV special produced by the American Federation of Teachers to address the growing alarm among parents and educators about these problems.

Because children are usually too frightened to disclose abuse, the AFT lists danger signs for parents and teachers that could indicate trouble:

- a child misses school or is frequently tardy.
- a child has unexplained injuries.
- a child is sleepy at school.
- a child is either very finchily or too clingy.
- a child cries easily.
- a child is destructive or exceptionally passive.
- a child exhibits low self-esteem.

For further information about "Protecting Our Children" write: Inside Your Schools, The American Federation of Teachers, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001.

Guatemala Elections Coming Soon

By Robert Lothian

Guatemala hasn't been making the headlines lately despite continuing repression of a popular insurgency there.

But with civilian elections coming up in November, Guatemala will soon be in the headlines with Nicaragua and El Salvador, Central America expert Milton Jamail said in Portland last week.

Jamail, a professor at the University of Texas and co-author of *Garrison Guatemala*, is teaching a summer course on Central American film and politics at Portland State. He has visited Guatemala 30 times.

"Election is the magic word in Guatemala," said Jamail. Truly free elections could usher in a period of democracy, but unfortunately, that is not likely given Guatemala's history, he said.

In 1954, a popularly elected president was toppled in a CIA-supported coup. In the 30 years since

then, the popular movement for democracy has been continually suppressed, elections rigged, and opposition leaders assassinated by the hundreds. As many as 175,000 Guatemalans have died in violent rounds of popular upheaval and vicious repression since 1954, said Jamail.

Repression in 1966-68 involved U.S. green berets and bombings of U.S. made napalm. Up to 10,000 civilians died at the hands of the efficient Guatemalan military then, but only 100 guerillas, according to Jamail.

That episode pales in comparison with the genocide of 1981-82, when an estimated 75,000 Guatemalans, mainly Indians, died in a scorched earth campaign. Over 400 villages were wiped off the map and one million Indians displaced out of the country's total population of 7 million, Jamail said.

In the last few months, leaders of

a mutual aid group searching for the disappeared have been assassinated. "Looking for the disappeared is in itself a subversive act," said Guatemala's president, according to Jamail.

"In short, Guatemala is at war," and the election could end up a meaningless exercise under the circumstances, he said.

An ominous aspect of the repression is the destruction of the once vibrant Indian culture, Jamail said. Indians are forced to live in model villages watched over by the military. They can't grow corn, and they can weave but not wear their distinctive garments, according to Jamail.

"It's an attempt to take the culture away because the government knows the culture is the strength of the movement."

Incorporation of the Indians into the movement for democracy is the most significant event in Guatemala

since the Spanish conquest 400 years ago, Jamail said. Destruction of the Indian culture is something the Spanish couldn't do, but which present day dictatorships are attempting.

People are organized and aware, the opposition waits for an opening, he said. "The question is, how do you overcome the terror. The waves of terror are directly in response to the strength of the popular movement."

Jamail said he feels energized by the strength of popular resistance when he visits. "Guatemalans are really amazing at finding new forms of resistance."

He described a past election when voters expressed their dissatisfaction by turning in blank or disfigured ballots amounting to 20 percent of returns. "When the winner of an election is a blank vote that really says a lot about the country," he said.

Neighborhood Improvement

By Robert Lothian

Northeast low income neighborhoods are in the middle of planning how millions in Federal Housing and Community Development funds will be used to improve their communities.

Eliot, Humboldt, Boise, Sabin, Vernon and King are the Northeast neighborhoods that qualify. How much each will receive has not been determined, but \$9 million is allocated for the entire city, down from \$13 million last year, said Peggy Scolnick, HCD public involvement coordinator.

Scolnick has been conducting a series of meetings with neighborhood associations to explain the process and gather ideas for neighborhood improvements. "We're trying to encourage broad community input," Scolnick said.

Planning should be completed by the end of 1985 and work started in July, 1986, she said.

HCD funds in the past have been used for housing rehabilitation, street paving, installing street lights at problem intersections, planting street trees and park improvements.

"I'm finding that unemployment, abandoned housing and trash are problems common to all areas," said Scolnick. "Also, programs for youth are needed in all neighborhoods."

The community input process is important to make sure that neighborhood residents agree with improvements, according to Scolnick. Some HCD-funded projects have received criticism, including the traffic diverters in Boise neighborhood and the Union Avenue improvement.

Residents are encouraged to fill

out a 7-page HCD neighborhood opinion survey, said Scolnick.

At a recent Sabin Community Association potluck and brainstorm session, residents put forward dozens of ideas for the HCD funds: rehabilitation of commercial buildings at 15th and Prescott and between 13th and 15th on Fremont, supervision in Irvington Park, more street trees, a tool library, upgraded bus shelters, unplugging street drains, no more Union Square-type development, and removing aphids from street trees.

Only a handful of the ideas will be implemented, but together, they form a picture of community needs useful for a long-term improvement plan, said Scolnick.

Over 200 Sabin houses have been fixed up with HCD funds in the form of Portland Development Commission loans. Other successful HCD projects in Northeast include the realignment of 15th Avenue at Prescott Street, a signal installed at 7th and Alberta, a school crossing stop light at 15th and Shaver, many street trees planted, and improvements at Irving and Alberta Parks.

Some of the priorities this year for Sabin are housing rehabilitation, removing old cars, neighborhood clean-up and park improvements, said Don Bount, president of the Sabin Community Association.

"There is a lot of substandard housing stock west of 15th and I'm under the impression that that's at least partly responsible for the crime problems that we have," said Bount.

For more information and to fill out a HCD neighborhood opinion survey, call Peggy Scolnick at the Northeast Neighborhood Office, 248-4575.

Urban League Opposed Reynolds

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Urban League in testimony recently before the Senate Judiciary Committee vigorously opposed the nomination of William Bradford Reynolds as Associate Attorney General of the United States saying that he was "unfit to hold an office that would increase his powers and his influence in the government's department most concerned with protecting and enforcing minority rights."

Speaking for the NUL, John E. Jacob, its president, said the agency's position was based on Mr. Reynolds' "record as head of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, and on the extraordinary positions he has taken on key issues affecting the civil rights of blacks, women and other minorities."

Mr. Jacob continued: "The burden of the record of Mr. Reynolds' stewardship of the Civil Rights Division indicates that he has presided over the weakening of federal civil rights enforcement efforts, has actively impeded efforts to remedy civil rights violations, and has undermined civil rights principles established by the Congress and the Judiciary."

Education is It Misunderstood

By Nathaniel Scott

Education, everyone agrees, is important. In most cases it separates the have and the have nots. And it ranks high on the social scale with law abiding people. But there seems to be a serious misunderstanding about what constitutes education; especially among the majority of Blacks who attend Portland State University. For some strange reason they seem to think that all it takes to become educated is to spend time in classrooms and listen to the philosophy of different professors.

Most Blacks who attend PSU profess to be students; not knowing that students are a worthless bunch. They are not engaged in the challenge of being or becoming scholars; that which demands respect in any and every setting that has to do with learning.

PSU's Black professed students attend classes, take notes, and regurgitate on exams and when and if they graduate, they graduate as BS or BA clones.

EXAMPLE: Colleen McElroy, a Black woman who heads the creative writing department at the University of Washington came to PSU to share her skills and knowledge. McElroy writes about Black culture, Black heritage, Black freedom, Black love. But most of her Black

goodness was showered on a white audience. But I need not apologize to McElroy because she undoubtedly knows this new generation of Blacks believe they have always been free. They believe they are free now. They believe Blacks have always had the right to eat where they want; shop at their leisure, and look any man in his eyes and call him a damn lie. They don't understand (if they have read) *The Color Purple*; *The Souls Of Black Folk*; *Go Tell It On The Mountain*; *Their Eyes Were Watching God*; *Brown Girl Brown Stone*, *Native Son*; *Up Above My Head*, or any of the other Black literature that talk about the Black experience.

Andrew Salkey has written 34 novels; he writes about revolution; change; end to oppression. And he too came to PSU. He limped on a foot minus all five toes and stood in pain for almost two hours sharing his beautiful Black soul. He sang poems for Black people and moaned sympathy for Black America; women, Africans and oppressed people. But not one of those self-proclaimed Black students heard a word he said; they were busy "running it down" and "lolly gagging" about nothing.

And then black beauty stormed

PSU with tales of southern life: cotton fields and how old folk (women) weaved tales into patterns of love; bringing hope and aspiration through the birth of womanhood and hacking out trails of learning that talk about traditions and survival. But they didn't hear you either, Joyce Carol Thomas. They were too busy finger popping and talking about jerrie curls; making believe they are being Black and scholarly. (PLEASE READ B-CAB OR AAS when the next issue of the African Forum comes out). And to add insult to injury, those so called Black students won't support the anti-apartheid movement at Portland State. They are too busy talking about "where its at" and "child did you hear what old (what's his face) did?"

Well! I'll tell you what old what's his face did. He died for your opportunity to heap shame on his memory. And in the memory of what he stood for, I'll match the sentiments of those you think are educating you: ONLY SCHOLARS ARE RESPECTED. And to be a scholar means you have to read books, listen to lectures, visit libraries and get involved with the learning process: not rely on the philosophy of professor him or her.

New Lottery's

Oregon Lottery Director, Robert W. Smith, today announced the start of a new "instant win" ticket game as the Lottery's Jackpot Prize remains unclaimed at \$6,839,747.

The colorful tickets for Game Two, with a new theme of "The Sky's the Limit," went on sale today at 12:01 am, from more than 2,900 Lottery retail outlets statewide.

Game Two features an "instant win" prize of twice that in Game One — \$10,000. And, like its predecessor, Game Two uses the \$100 instant win ticket, in pools of 167, for entry into the Jackpot Prize preliminary drawing from which 10 contestants are chosen to spin the Jackpot Prize Wheel.

The odds of winning in the 30-million tickets of Game Two are much the same as in Game One. In Game One there was a potential of 16 pools of 10 contestants to spin the Jackpot Prize Wheel; there are 12 in Game Two.

Director Smith also announced that Game One, with the theme of "Pot of Gold," would officially end Sunday, July 7th. "But, there is still as good a chance now of winning one of those instant win prizes as when the game started," Smith said.

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