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Two Sections



Young people marching from PCC Sylvania to Salem in symbolic gesture for peace. (Photo: Kris Altucher)

## Interfaith peace march

by Nathaniel Scott

When approximately 100 youth left Portland Community College Sylvania campus on an interfaith youth march for peace, Saturday morning, August 2, it was the fulfillment of a dream. Or more specifically, it was literally a dream come true.

Debra Harrison, one of the program directors for the two-day march, had a dream which inspired Laura Williams, another program director to help her set the wheels in motion. Harrison, who along with Williams is of the Baha'i faith, said, "It was God's idea! I don't want any credit."

Nevertheless, the inspiration brought together youth ranging in age from 10 to 22 years old, and caused them to embark upon a two-day march that culminated in Salem with a vigil at the state capitol.

From Florida, South Carolina, California and Canada interfaith youth came to Portland to be a part of a historical occasion whose vigil in Salem coincided with the tying of a ribbon around the Pentagon and the White House in Washington, D.C. The ribbon was sewn by women from churches from every state in the United States.

In addition to the symbolic gesture, Oregon's youth held rallies in Portland, Newberg and Salem. Professor Sheila Banani of UCLA and Rabbi Joshua Stanpher from Portland's Beth Israel Jewish Center, were two of the principle speakers in Portland and Congressman Les AuCoin was guest speaker in Newberg, while Senator Walter Brown from Iowa was guest speaker in Salem.

However the focus was clearly on youth.

Williams said this year is the International Year of Youth and next year will be the International Year of Peace. She added that the two go together because "we are looking forward to peace."

Many of the youth involved in the march were of the Baha'i faith but Jewish, Catholic, Christian and other religious faiths were represented, too.

Tom Stein, one of the coordinators and sponsors of the march said, "We are trying to get a message across and an attitudinal change in people. We have always had wars and now we live under the nuclear concept that can destroy all of mankind."

Russ Maxcy, a 20-year-old Portland State University student said, "I am here to demonstrate for peace; to get people to realize that peace is a viable alternative."

Eleven-year-old Jayotta Jefferson from Troutdale said, "I am marching to show that I want peace and world unity." And 11-year-old Stephanie Hall from Pendleton said, "I want to march for peace so people won't get angry, start wars and fight."

Sol Jacobsen is also 11 years old. He saw the march as being important because it proved something. He would like to see "all the people of the world" get the message for peace. He added, "People make the difference."

So while hundreds of people relaxed in the atmosphere of jazz at the Mt. Hood Jazz Festival — sipping frosty whatever — the youth, a hundred or more, marched down the highways of Oregon on a mission of peace. Is it any wonder the saying goes: "The youth shall inherit the world?"

## Richard Brown returns from Nicaragua visit

by Robert Lothian

Portland Observer photographer Richard Brown is back from his two-month trip to Nicaragua. He can hardly stop talking, he's so full of stories.

Brown said he saw a lot and learned a lot. He lived on a cooperative farm in a war zone where he was so close to the fighting, he said, that he could distinguish the sounds of the weapons used by both sides. In Managua, the capital, he sat just six feet away from the country's president. And during his stay on the Atlantic coast, where most of Nicaragua's Black population lives, the ferry boat he had traveled on to Bluefields was attacked and burned. Brown was not on board, and remained safe, he said.

Of course, he took a lot of pictures, over 70 rolls, and he plans on putting together a slide show which the community can look forward to.

"I just wanted to show people doing their thing, or doing nothing," said Brown. His favorite shot, and he hopes it turns out, he said, is one of a nine-year-old boy playing jacks with his automatic rifle leaning against the wall behind him.

Brown was delayed, he said, when counterrevolutionary contras attacked the boat that was supposed to bring him back from Bluefields, on the Atlantic coast. Four soldiers were killed, the passengers were robbed and the boat was burned, he said. Brown said he had to charter a small plane to get back to Managua.

Brown spent 12 days in Bluefields and on nearby Corn Island. The area was neglected for generations by the Somoza dictatorship, and now is the scene of fighting between Sandinista soldiers and contras.

He reported suspicions and tension between the Black population and the mainly Latino government, a condition that goes back a long time and which continued after the 1979 revolution. A strong anti-draft sentiment exists among Black men of draft age, for instance, he said.

Brown said that immigration authorities stopped him every day in Bluefields and asked to see his passport. "Nobody seemed to be attracting attention like I was," he said.

On the other hand, he said, under a Sandinista-sponsored self-government program, "There are Blacks playing significant and important roles throughout" the local govern-

ment.

In spite of the differences, Bluefields residents pulled together to help defend an army garrison from a contra attack in November, according to Brown. Rumors spread by the CIA-backed contras that the residents would go over to the contras proved untrue, he said.

Brown spent the first part of his trip as a member of a Witness for Peace delegation on a cooperative farm in a war zone in northern Nicaragua. He weeded corn and lived with a family who worked and lived on the farm. There was fighting nearby, and they were all ready to duck into bomb shelters at any time, he said.

He ate rice and beans, and slept on a slab with a thin mattress. "No place had hot water. Every time I took a cold shower, everybody knew it."

He didn't speak Spanish, but quickly picked up a few words, including "correcto," the equivalent of "right on" in Spanish. "If you say correctly, you're really hip," he said.

During a cultural performance, Brown snapped pictures close to where President Daniel Ortega was sitting. After the performance, he gave Ortega a "Boycott South Africa, Not Nicaragua" button.

He said he was surprised that Ortega was so accessible. But, "They are a government of the people and they try to stay close to the people. I felt that if somebody even acted like they were going to harm that man, the people there would tear him apart."

Brown said he received enthusiastic responses when he told people he represented the Rainbow Coalition. "They are really fond of Jesse Jackson," he said. Jackson visited Nicaragua last year.

He read in a newspaper later that a Rainbow Coalition delegation was present at Nicaragua's sixth anniversary of the Revolution on July 19th. "I think I was it," he said.

The thing that moved him most during his trip, said Brown, was hearing Nicaraguans sing "We Are the World."

"There wasn't a day in Nicaragua that I didn't hear that song. The song was even played during the 6th Anniversary celebration. Brown said he helped translate the words into Spanish for a teacher who was so impressed with the song's popularity that he had to know what the words meant.



DAMARI WAKHUNGA (Photo: Kris Altucher)

## PSU group visits Kenya; attends UN Women Conference

by Nathaniel Scott

Portland State University's (PSU's) Summer Session studies program that went to Kenya East Africa was a sparkling success, according to the director, Damari Wakhunga.

Wakhunga and seven students made the trip. It was highlighted by appearances at the United Nation's World Conference of Women that was held in Kenya in July.

Wakhunga said the group spent one week touring West Africa, two weeks at the conference and another week touring Southern parts of Kenya. But it was the world's conference which stands out most in Wakhunga's mind even though her home is in Nigeria.

"The conference was enlightening," she said.

A considerable amount of news coverage conceptualized the conference as a "political" forum instead of one that focused on women issues.

"Many people thought a women's conference would focus on cooking, sewing and things of that nature," Wakhunga said. "People didn't realize women issues are political."

An interesting fact Wakhunga pointed out was the way most of the women viewed the American delegation led by Maureen Reagan, the president's daughter. Wakhunga maintained that "the major problem was the U.S. delegates didn't know the issues in South Africa were as bad as they are."

From Wakhunga's point of view, the U.S. delegates seem to have been "traveling on a government ticket" and didn't want to do anything contrary to the administration's "constructive engagement" policy.

While the conference was in session, the women held two massive demonstrations, Wakhunga said. One demonstration was directed against Maureen Reagan and the other against South Africa's racist policy of apartheid.

The focus of the conference was the issues of today, Wakhunga said. "We talked about reduction of nuclear armament, peace, South Africa and development in many different countries."

"A resolution was passed that all countries should stop doing business with South Africa," she added.

Wakhunga, who teaches Swahili language courses at PSU, said it was her observation that the South African women delegates felt about their

situation. "They didn't feel people knew the amount of suffering they had gone through and they needed the help of the rest of the people."

Under South Africa's apartheid form of government, women and children are often separated from their working husbands through government regulations. They are forced to live in "squatter's camps" to be near their loved ones and the sense of family unity is completely destroyed.

The similarity is reminiscent of the American system during slavery times. Black families were separated through the selling of individuals to different plantation owners. As a result, the sense of family unity was greatly curtailed and the Afro-American is suffering the effects today.

Wakhunga said the beauty of the conference was entering conference rooms as individuals and emerging as friends. "The most vivid thing that happened to me was talking to women from the rural areas of Kenya," Wakhunga said. "They need education and what they wanted was ways to get additional training."

Wakhunga maintained that nothing was disappointing to her but she did feel there was room for improvement; room for people and industry to get involved in developing programs the people want and not programs that are imposed on them. She estimated that the unemployment rate in Kenya is approximately 50 percent.

Another serious flaunting of basic human rights, Wakhunga said, was how the multinational cooperations exploit the women "left and right. Even the American companies are not paying the women high enough wages," she said. Excluded in our resolution was a clause that says the multinational cooperations will have to stop exploiting women.

Wakhunga also expressed satisfaction towards the changes that have taken place in Kenya, including women holding high-level positions in President Daniel Arap Moi's government. She said President Moi took time out of his busy schedule to visit the conference on more than one occasion.

Michael Durham, one of the student who made the trip, said going to Africa was the fulfillment of a wish he has had since he was ten years old. "What impressed me most was: you could see people from all over the world," he said.



Portland Police Sgt. William Osborne and Officer Derrick Foxworth investigate an accident in which a 20-year-old woman, Sabrina R. Simon of 5650 N.E. Church, died. The woman, riding a bicycle eastbound on Skidmore St., collided with a van southbound on Union Ave. No citation was issued to Claude Gatlin, 30, of Amboy, Illinois, who was driving the van. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

## PCC levy before voters again

Voters in the Portland Community College district have a chance August 13 to approve a three-year serial levy for \$3.5 million each year to maintain class offerings at five campuses and repair buildings.

"Even with the additional \$3.5 million we will have less in the budget than we did in 1982-83," explained college president Dr. John H. Anthony.

College enrollments have declined and state funding has not kept up with the inflation level. "During the past five years state funding for the college has only increased three percent," Anthony said. The state did allocate some additional resources in the past season, but they are contingent on enrollment.

College resources include portions from tuition, property tax and state funding.

The college request will add 14 cents per thousand dollars assessed property value. The new levy and the current tax base will total an estimated 71 cents per thousand. That rate is still less than the original 81

cents per thousand that was assessed when the district was formed in 1968.

The average homeowner (\$60,000 home) will pay \$3.55 per month for the property tax portion of the resources.

The college district serves portions of Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington and Yamhill counties. More than 67,000 students enroll in a class each year at one of the five college-owned campuses or at an off-campus class site.

PCC works closely with business and industry to match class offerings to the needs of the community. In the past five years the college has been active participant in economic development efforts for the region. Special training is designed for new industry locating in the area.

Without the additional resources, Anthony said, the college will be forced to put off major building repairs and reduce the number of classes offered. Over 120 budget cuts affecting more than 400 courses must be made unless the voters approve the levy.