

METROPOLITAN

Portland teachers return from Nicaragua with slideshow

Recently returned members of a Portland teachers delegation to Nicaragua will present the results of their investigation into that country's revolutionary educational system and the results of the U.S. war on Nicaragua's schooling. Thirteen teachers analyzed schools, adult education programs, literacy cam-

paigns, neighborhood cultural centers, teacher and youth organizations. Teachers Grace Grantham and Maureen Sheedy will present a slideshow Thursday, October 10, 7 p.m. at 925 SE Sandy, sponsored by the Portland Labor Committee on Central America.

No more white train

The "white train" may not be coming to the Portland area in the future.

Vancouver city manager Paul Garrett said he believes the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has responded to anti-nuclear protesters and complaints from city officials by halting the trains.

City officials had complained that the large protests put a massive strain on local resources.

The trains, believed to carry nuclear weapons components from Texas to the Trident sub base at

Bangor, WA, has come through each February and July since 1982, but failed to appear this July.

Protesters had developed an effective nationwide network for tracking the trains and warning protesters further along the line. According to Vancouver Police Chief Leland Davis, the DOE has changed its routine and plans to make it more difficult to find out how and when the weapons components are being shipped.

Protesters are now saying they will convert their network to watch for trucks carrying the weapons.



Mr. Joseph Taylor is the new President of the Columbia River Unit of the Oregon Society of Tax Consultants. He was elected in August for 1985-86 by unanimous vote. Mr. Taylor is a Licensed Tax Consultant and former instructor for H & R Block and Portland Community College. He taught both Basic and Advanced Income Tax classes. In 1981, Mr. Taylor began his own successful tax firm, J & M Taylor and Associates, located at 5621 N.E. 39th, Portland.

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Black students' drop out rate lower than Portland average

Fewer students dropped out of Portland public high schools last year, with Blacks for the first time posting an "early leaver" percentage lower than the school district average.

Porter Sexton, manager of management information services for Portland Public Schools, said 1,069 students—7.2 percent of 14,828 enrolled in Grades 9-12—left high school in 1984-85.

That compares to districtwide percentages of 7.5 in 1983-84, 6.9 in 1982-83 and 7.1 in 1981-82. Last year's early leaver percentage for Blacks was 7.1 (143 students), compared to 8.1 in 1983-84. By contrast, last year's drop-out percentages for non-minority students was 7.3 (793 students), compared to 7.8 in 1983-84.

National drop-out rates for Blacks are generally one-third higher than the averages for non-minority students, according to Sexton. Sexton said the lower drop-out percentages for Portland also were especially significant because of increasingly stringent high school graduation requirements.

According to Sexton, Grade 11 (junior year) continues to have the highest number of early leavers. Comparative districtwide data on dropout has been compiled since 1977-78.

Other student racial groups represented in 1984-85's total of 1,069 drop-outs were 73 Asians, 34 American Indians and 26 Hispanics. The total male-female ratio was 586 males and 483 females.

Early leavers are defined as enrolled students who leave school and do not return during the academic year.

Such students, according to Sexton, may enroll in community colleges, in private or alternative schools or programs, may return later to high school or may drop out entirely from formal education.

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