

# A photographer's journal of Nicaragua



Richard J. Brown, photographer for the *Portland Observer*, spent seven weeks in Nicaragua learning about and meeting its people. His photographs will appear here as a weekly feature.

Closeness is how I describe the relationship of the families I met at the cooperative Ernesto Acunio: gathering at the spring that brings water to the cooperative, or at the place in the stream where clothes are washed, or just meeting at this house or that to discuss the North Americans who are sharing their homes, meals and chores.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

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# Black Panther founder debates apartheid with Afrikaner

by Jerry Garner

Last Tuesday at the University of Portland's Buckley Center, Bobby Seale and Stuart Pringle debated on the issue of apartheid. The title of the debate was: "Apartheid: Black and White, Green and Gold — Should America pull out its investments in South Africa?"

Seale told a crowd of about 160 that Blacks should be given the right to vote immediately. Seale stated that the United States' policy of constructive engagement is a racist policy because it doesn't take a hard core position. Seale said that the policy of President Reagan toward South Africa is crazy. "The President is trying to overthrow the elected government of Nicaragua, while at the same time he is supporting an overt, vicious, and military government of South Africa that denies millions of Blacks basic human rights."

Pringle, on the other hand, said that Blacks living in South Africa must be educated before they are allowed the ballot. "How can someone who cannot read the ballots vote?" Pringle stated that he didn't want his country to become another Ethiopia. Pringle said disinvesting in South Africa would only make the problems facing Blacks worse.

During the debate, several members of the audience got into arguments with both Seale and Pringle. When a woman from the Revolutionary Communist Party questioned the sincerity of Seale's dedication to the cause of nationalism, Seale became angry and gave the woman a spirited lecture.

An African student told Pringle that he resented his portrayal of all Africans as being dumb and incapable of running their country.

During the debate, Pringle told the crowd that before apartheid can be dismantled, South Africa must be capitalized in order to educate many Black South Africans. Disinvestment, says Pringle, will only help the communists.

Seale asked Pringle if he expects the world to sit back and do nothing while Blacks are being shot down by the



Bobby Seale, co-founder of the Black Panther Party — "Constructive engagement is B-I-S-t."

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

police? He stated that Blacks in South Africa are becoming victims of genocide. "For every white soldier who gets killed, 500 Blacks are killed." Seale said Blacks should start arming themselves.

Seale, co-founder of the now defunct Black Panther Party, said those who opposed apartheid should urge American companies to pull out of South Africa. "We need a hard core legislative sanction that's in law, that states and forces the corporate community to stop investments in that oppressed country."

"Constructive Engagement is 'B.S.',"

said Seale. Seale was asked if he thinks there is less Black militancy today than there was during his days with the Panthers. He replied, "I don't like the word militancy. I am and have been a political-minded revolutionary. Former Vice-President Agnew was the one who referred to us as militant and radicals. I am a political revolutionary; I want people to have the power, not the governments. We need

more political-minded revolutionaries today. Politicians put the label militant on the Black Panther Party and the white press put it out there. That is why former F.B.I. Director J. E. Hoover once said that I was a threat to the internal security of America. I said, 'No, I am not a threat to American security; you are a threat to the security of human beings who live inside of the framework of America'."

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