

# 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.

At the cooperative Ernesto Acuna, members of the delegation lived in the homes of the residents.

My family in Ernesto Acuna was made up of the grandmother (seated) and her niece and daughter (standing) and her little granddaughter. The two males are sons who live elsewhere in the cooperative. They were very glad to be in the cooperative. The grandmother had lost her husband at the hands of Somoza's guard and a son and grandson at the hands of the *contras*.

She also was forced to relocate a number of times because of *contra* destruction and terrorism. I usually had to work overtime to get her to smile, but after hearing of her experiences, I understood her unhappiness.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

# Letters to the Editor

To the Editor,

Northwest Big Mountain Support Group has a new office located above The People's Co-op at 3029 S.E. 21st. We need supplies. Among our needs are a phone machine, an electric typewriter, a calculator, file cabinets, reams of off-set printing paper, typing paper and a coffee machine.

The office serves as a focal point for organizing activities to educate the public about the critical circumstances at Big Mountain and for raising money to meet the continual needs of the elders there.

Among the activities planned in November are a celebratory benefit co-sponsored by Big Mountain and Butler Support Groups, featuring Abbo Addy, Naomi Little Bear, and Jim Page from Seattle; A Thanks For Giving Day Event at the Pine St. Theater on Nov. 27; and an evening talking with Louise Benally and Sally Tsosie from Big Mountain on Nov. 7 at the Northwest Service Center. For more information on any of these events, call us.

The money earned from these events will be used for our fall food run to Big Mountain. The elders in Arizona need a great amount of food to see them through the harshness of winter. One way to help us is to donate dry goods. Donations of food may be

dropped off at 1928 N.E. 40th.

There are many things you can do to help us. There is community outreach, media contact, art work, printing, and fundraising to name a few. Setting up a slide show presentation for your group of friends and family is an excellent way to participate.

We have tentative meetings every Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. at our office. Call us at 236-0399, 235-9218 or 224-7459.

## Harvest brigades to Nicaragua need volunteers

For the third year, North Americans are traveling to Nicaragua to help bring in the cotton and coffee harvests.

Brigades last for three weeks running from November through March. They include people from all walks of life. The work is hard and the rewards are many. Volunteer brigades are a unique way to learn about Nicaragua.

The cost is \$400 plus travel. Limited financial assistance is available.

For more information and applications, contact Kris at the Portland Central American Solidarity Committee office, 227-5102. Former brigade volunteers from Portland are available to speak to organizations.

Ora Nunley, President NAACP

Dear Ms. Nunley:

I'd like to take this opportunity to explain to you our rationale behind our researching the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. The Commission knew that this state holiday was coming up in the third week in January 1986. ORS 471.750 and OAR 845-15-035(2) (j) say that liquor stores will close on any legal holiday designated by the Commission. The Commissioners need to proclaim Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday as a closed holiday if the liquor stores are to be closed. It is the responsibility of the Retail Division to gather information so the Commissioners can make an informed judgment.

One significant complaint we have received from customers is that the stores are not open enough. In response, two years ago we amended our rules on days and hours of operation (845-15-035) and allowed liquor stores to be open on Lincoln's birthday while state offices continued to be closed.

The 234 liquor stores are unlike any government contractor in Oregon (except for some similarities with the Lottery Commission). Store operators and their employees are part of the "private sector". They do not get paid holidays like government employees. Since holidays for them are unpaid and costly, we try to be deliberate and thoughtful in making decisions affecting their livelihood.

At least six times a year we survey liquor agents about a variety of topics affecting store operations. In 1982 we surveyed all agents, asking if the stores should continue to be closed on nine designated legal holidays.

In considering the needs of customers, we sometimes poll them when making decisions on store operations. For example, in 1981 we surveyed 12,000 customers, asking questions about our service levels. Last year we surveyed 500 customers when investigating neighborhood complaints about a North Portland store location.

As a part of our completed staff work, we wanted to gather as much information as possible to help our Commissioners in decision making. We initiated a poll to help gauge customer opinion. We are contacting community leaders to obtain their advice on this topic. Also, we are contacting our liquor agents, other control states, major governmental entities, private sector retailers, banks, and major school districts to learn more about how they plan to observe the holiday.

In no way did we intend to diminish the memory of Martin Luther King Jr., or stimulate any controversy or racial stress. We are trying to be responsible and fair to all parties involved.

The Commission plans to decide this issue at its Nov. 26th meeting. We will be happy to listen to your concerns or answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

CHRIS LYONS

Retail Operations Director

cc: Portland Observer

# A college that prospered on peanuts can teach you a lot about survival.



**I**f you're like most of us, what you see here is only a peanut. But to a certain Dr. Carver of Tuskegee University, the lowly peanut was the key to hundreds of products, with the potential to keep Tuskegee—and the South—self-supporting.

**J**ust as Carver unlocked the secrets of the peanut, Black colleges and universities are tapping the awesome potential of generations of young people. In this unique environment, students have the opportunity to play as large a role in campus life as their talents will allow. Class president. Homecoming queen. Captain of the debate team. Quarterback or Shakespearean actor. At Black colleges, every door is open; no dream is too ambitious. Is it any wonder that, though they enroll only 16% of Black college students, Black colleges produce 37% of all Black college graduates?

**W**hat's more, those graduates take with them the character and achievement that unlock the doors of the finest graduate schools, businesses and political offices. When you're considering colleges, shouldn't you consider the ones that gave us Martin Luther King Jr., Thurgood Marshall and Jesse Jackson? If you're out to make the most of what you have, no one can teach you more.



**AMERICA'S BLACK COLLEGES  
ARE YOU SMART ENOUGH TO GO?**



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