

METROPOLITAN

State of the City from Clark

by Jerry Garner

Mayor Bud Clark told a gathering of City Club members that the top priorities of his administration are to restore the city's financial condition, reform the civil service system, and improve crime prevention.

Clark made the announcement during his state-of-the-city speech last Friday at the Marriott Hotel. "I believe that my agenda for the city is that of the people." During the speech, Clark said that his agenda cannot be fulfilled unless the city is fiscally sound, unless homes and streets are in the hands of responsible citizens who can live without fear, and unless there are jobs for all the people.

The Mayor said that he has four goals for the fiscal administration of Portland. "The first is to develop a city-wide perspective to determine what services are needed. My second goal is to maintain basic services at acceptable levels." Clark said, crime prevention services and neighborhood police patrols will be the administration's highest priority in the fiscal 1987-87 budget.

Clark's third goal is to build up financial reserves. The Mayor said that in the last four years the city's reserves have dropped from \$27 million to \$10 million. "I have set a goal of building our reserve level back up to 3 percent of the city's general fund by 1988." The Mayor's fourth fiscal goal is to retain the city's Triple-A bond rating.

On the subject of crime: the only thing the Mayor said about crime problems was more jail space was needed, and the Multnomah County Commissioner should provide the space. Commissioner Caroline Miller responded by saying Clark "was talking largely from ignorance of the jail problem in his speech."

The Mayor stated he would reform the civil service system by a charter amendment on the 1986 ballot.

Stop-smoking class

Emanuel Hospital will offer its "Fresh Start Smoking Class" Nov. 12, 14, 19 and 21, coordinated to end on the Great American Smokeout Day.

The class will be at 7 p.m. those nights at Emanuel Hospital. Cost is \$25, which is deductible as a donation to the Emanuel Medical Center Foundation.

To register call Emanuel Hospital's Occupational Health Department at 280-4282. The class is coordinated with the American Cancer Society.

Jefferson students talk about Central America



John Cawthorne and Heidi Durrow share experiences from their trips to Central America. Cawthorne visited Costa Rica and Durrow spent two weeks in Nicaragua. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

by Robert Lothian

Jefferson High students Heidi Durrow and John Cawthorne brought back different impressions from their recent visits to neighboring Central American countries.

Durrow, 16, junior class vice-president at Jeff, spent two weeks in August visiting towns, museums, hospitals and government ministries in Nicaragua.

Cawthorne, also 16 and a junior guard on the Jefferson basketball team, won a scholarship to study for six months at a private school in Alajuela, Costa Rica from February to July. He was the only American in the school, and studied Spanish, chemistry, math and philosophy—all in Spanish.

Durrow said she was struck by Nicaragua's poverty. She saw bullet-pocked buildings and slogans written in animal blood near the war zone, and she was impressed with Nicaraguan teenagers who were more politically motivated and who took on more responsibility at an earlier age than those in the United States, she said.

"I just can't describe how poor they were," Durrow said about the people she met. "They just didn't

have the things we take for granted," such as toilets and fresh water, she said. During a trip to the beach, she said, children came up and asked for scraps leftover from a meal they had just eaten. "One girl was happy when I gave her a pen," she said.

Durrow described her feelings of fear while traveling through the war zone to the bombed-out town of Ocatal. In the town, people were living in the ruins of buildings that seemed uninhabitable. "It was rubble, it looked really poor," she said.

Later, in the town of Esteli, Durrow and others in her private tour group heard gunfire coming from the hills at night, she said. "We saw soldiers everywhere," said Durrow. A peasant told her, "We deal with this every day."

Teenagers serve as soldiers and community leaders, Durrow said. They go to school, work, and often volunteer for sentry duty at night. "People our age here don't do half of what kids do there," she said.

She described chemistry students who were halted in their studies due to lack of books. "They want to learn but can't," while students in Portland have the books but don't want to study, she said.

"They were really aware," she said about the Nicaraguan teenagers. "They wanted to know what we were doing about apartheid, the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis, and they wanted to know what Black roles were in the U.S."

Cawthorne stayed with a Costa Rican family who had a nice house and were fairly well off because the father was a gynecologist. The oldest boy, who was 13, had a home computer, and the food they had most often for dinner for steak, Cawthorne said. At the parties he went to about once a week, he said, Costa Rican teenagers played the latest American music and they wore American-style clothes. But during trips to the capital, San Jose, Cawthorne said he saw many beggars living in the streets.

Cawthorne said he toured the country as a guard on the school basketball team, which was ranked third in the

country.

Costa Rican students were curious about the United States because the tiny country looks to the United States for protection, but for the most part they aren't interested in politics, Cawthorne said. Some of the players on the team were unfriendly to a Nicaraguan boy, however. "They don't like Nicaragua," he said.

Cawthorne said he had studied Spanish for three years, but getting started in conversations was still rough at first. He spent two weeks reading children's books in Spanish to get prepared, he said.

"I just kind of caught words for the first couple of weeks and they went easy on me." He received credit for his studies in Costa Rica, and his Spanish improved greatly during the trip—Cawthorne made a presentation in Spanish about his trip to his Spanish class at Jefferson, he said.

Teenagers were curious about American dating customs in both countries, said the two students. In Costa Rica, said Cawthorne, "They thought American girls were loose so I had to straighten them out on that."

Durrow said she went to Nicaragua to see conditions first hand. "But most of the time it got too heavy with all the political stuff," so she just asked people about their lives, she said, with the help of a translator.

Durrow and Cawthorne agreed that meeting people from a different culture was the best part of their trips. Cawthorne found the relaxed attitude of Costa Ricans to be a pleasant change from that of Americans who are always in a hurry. "They made you feel wanted," he said.

Durrow recalled the friendly people in Esteli who would talk to her on the street and invite her into their homes, and a woman who gave her an embroidered handkerchief.

Cawthorne said he learned more than just about the country and people. "You learn about yourself, first of all, the first time you step off that little plane," he said.

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The Sandinistas and women

An eyewitness account and slideshow on the changing role of women in Nicaragua will be featured at a meeting of Radical Women. Guest speaker feminist-activist Chayatha Phelps will discuss the impact of the revolution on women in the family and the labor force, and as leaders in building a new society. Thursday, Nov. 14, 6:30 p.m. at the Multnomah County Central Library, 801 S.W. 10th Ave. Everyone is welcome. For more information call 249-8067. Wheelchair accessible.

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