

Video Letter to Corinto

by Bob Lothian

Apryl Evans and Stephanie Clay smiled as they watched themselves sing and dance.

The two Portsmouth Middle School sixth-graders and four classmates were watching the video they made and plan to send to Nicaragua.

Their ten-minute "video letter to Corinto" will soon be on its way to children in Portland's Nicaraguan sister city.

"We wanted to show them how much we cared," said Apryl. Stephanie added: "We are hoping for a video tape from them."

The six young women from teacher Penelope Chaconas' sixth grade class met after school for filmmaking twice a week for five weeks. The independent learning project grew out of social studies segment on Central America.

They filmed themselves in class, at home, frolicking at a playground, playing basketball, skateboarding, singing and dancing.

The sound track includes rock and reggae music, and a narration in Spanish. A moving rendition of "We Are the World," sung by the students, concludes the film.

"It's just a really powerful statement of friendship," said Judith Wild, a videographer with the Northwest Film and Video Center and coordinator of the school film project.

Wild will edit hours of tape into a tight ten-minute video. Students at Portsmouth will see it first, then it will be sent to Corinto through the Portland-Corinto Sister City Committee, Wild said. Corinto was adopted as the newest of Portland's three sister cities by the City Council last spring.

The sister city committee will send along a donated video cassette recorder

CPR Course Scheduled

The special skills needed to perform Infant CPR will be taught by the Red Cross on Tuesday, May 27, at Red Cross Headquarters, 3131 N. Vancouver Ave., from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Infant CPR class will cover 1) infant cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, 2) first aid for choking, and 3) mouth-to-mouth-to-nose breathing.

Participants will earn Red Cross certification upon completion of the class. The class fee is \$8.00. All participants must pre-register and pre-pay. To register call 284-7090.

Child Abuse Awareness Training

Children need to be protected from both physical and sexual abuse. Camp Fire, Inc. is responding to this need by its Child Awareness Training (C.A.T.) program which began in September 1985.

C.A.T. is an informal program designed to provide tools and skills to children to prevent abuse, including sexual abuse, to give children the confidence to protect themselves and to provide solutions in the event they are abused.

C.A.T. is unique in that it is taught to Camp Fire leaders who in turn teach Camp Fire boys and girls at their regular club meetings.

These leaders have already established trust with the children and teaching the children in familiar surroundings enhances the success of the program. Adults from other youth oriented agencies have also taken C.A.T. training and are teaching C.A.T. to youth in small groups.

To date, the C.A.T. program has been taught to 2,839 children. Although the C.A.T. program focuses on youth in grades 1-6, the program is so adaptable that volunteers can teach it to children kindergarten through college freshman. C.A.T. has also crossed cultural barriers and been presented to Asian and Hispanic groups.

Currently, 85 adults are C.A.T. trained. A special C.A.T. workshop for adults will be held on April 21 at Portland Cable Access, 5507 N. Lombard from 1-4:00 p.m. This workshop will be recorded on video to be used as a teaching aid. Other workshops will train camp staff to teach the program to an estimated 3,800 boys and girls who attend Camp Fire day and resident camps this summer.

C.A.T. is funded through a grant from United Way, Oregon Community Foundation and The Junior League of Portland.

For more information or an interview about C.A.T., contact Kathy Buss, Director of Response Programs, 224-7800.

SELF-DEFENSE WORKSHOP OFFERED:

On Wednesday, May 28th, at 6:30 p.m. the Women's Union at PSU will sponsor a self-defense workshop in conjunction with a forum on acquaintance rape. The 2½ hour workshop will be conducted by Diane Garrison of the Pacific Rim Martial Arts Academy. Pre-registration is necessary. The cost for the workshop is \$10.00. To register and/or obtain more information call PSU Women's Union at 229-4452 x13, or come by our office in SMC 442 Portland State University.

(VCR) so that Corinto children can watch the Portsmouth students' video, Wild said. She and the Portsmouth filmmakers look forward to viewing a tape from Corinto, she said.

"The idea is to have some communication between kids in the two countries," Wild said.

Communicating their lives through film proved to be a good learning project for the students because it kept them interested, Chaconas said.

"They need experience," she said. "Textbook stuff" in the Central America segment included history and

geography, but the children also enjoyed visits from Portlanders who had been to Nicaragua, said Chaconas. The visitors told stories from their trips and showed slides and photographs, she said.

"We also did a lot of work with maps," said Chaconas.

The students said they can now pick out Nicaragua and other Central American countries on a map. They also learned concepts like "dictator," and "They know there's a war going on," Chaconas said.

Not only did the children learn about Central America, but they learned how to make a film, Wild said. They wrote out the script and storyboard plan, and they operated the camera from its tripod

and in the hand-held position.

After their final filmmaking session last week, sixth-grader Jameena Mitchell explained how to focus and operate the camera.

Jameena and her sister filmmakers then watched with rapt attention as Wild played for them the tape they had made that afternoon.

All agreed that one of the best things about their "video letter to Corinto" will be the look on the faces of Nicaraguan children when they see it.

Other children who appear in the film are Lucy Ann Brown, Stephanie DeCoteau and Sheri Freemont. Several other girls and boys started on the project but dropped out for various personal reasons, Wild said.



Sixth-graders from Portsmouth Middle School review a video tape that will be a part of a ten-minute "Video Letter to Corinto." Judith Wild, (left, rear), coordinator for the project and teacher Penelope Chaconas, (right rear), also watch the tape.
Photo by Richard J. Brown

PLAIN TALK. EASY BANKING.

Sometimes, it can almost seem as if your bank speaks another language. Because the words and phrases it uses are complicated, and often have unclear meanings. Which makes for very nice bank talk. And very poor people talk.

ROLLOVER

Take the word "rollover" as an example. To most people, it sounds like a trick you teach a dog. Not a word used to describe what you can do with your money in a Savings Certificate when it's time to reinvest.



LIQUID ASSETS

And what about "liquid assets?" What probably comes to mind is water. But in reality, it's an investment that can be turned into money in a hurry.



YIELD

Then there's "yield." In the language of banks, it has nothing to do with letting another car have the right-of-way. And a lot to do with the true rate of return you can hope to get on your investments during one year.



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