Elvia Alvarado Galo, a Honduran woman, challenged U.S. activists to be as concerned about injustice in this country as they are about

the injustices of U.S. policy toward Central America.

Photo by Richard J. Brown

## **U.S. Central America**

## Conference: "Foreign Policy Comes Home"

by Avel Gordly

"A conference in the spirit of Ben Linder" focused on U.S. policy toward Central America, was held September 25-27 at the First Congregational Church in Portland. Linder, a Portlander, was killed by U.S.-backed counter-revolutionary (CONTRA) forces last April. The Linder family, parents Elizabeth and David and sister Miriam, presented a moving tribute through words and slides of the "Life, Work and Spirit of Ben Linder."

The conference featured many nationally recognized experts on U.S. foreign policy toward Central America and prominent representatives from several Central American countries. The 3 days of activities were attended by over 1200 participants.

Three of the speakers made a special point of linking injustices in the U.S. with U.S. foreign policy abroad. One of the presentors, Elvia Alvarado Galo, a Honduran peasant woman, works as an organizer for the National Federation of Rural Workers in Honduras. She helped found the Honduran Federation of Peasant Women. In her efforts to use Honduran land reform laws to secure land for rural families, she has been arrested six times and tortured at the hands of Hondura's intelligence police. Her home is next door to the largest U.S. military base in the region: The Palmerola Airbase.

Galo, in remarks at the opening program Friday evening, said that she had seen poor and homeless people on the streets of San Francisco during a recent visit, and people with AIDS begging for money. She challenged the activists to be as concerned about injustices in this country as they are about the injustices of U.S. Foreign policy toward Central America. This theme was eloquently sounded again through Saturday evening's back-to-back presentations by Bill Means and Ron Herndon who spoke on the theme "Foreign Police Comes Home".

Means is the Executive Director of International Treaty Council, an organization dedicated to voicing the concerns of indigenous people worldwide. He has traveled widely through Zelaya province on the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua and met with representatives of the Miskito, Rama and Sumu communities. He recently returned from the community of Sukatpin on the Atlantic Coast where the International Indian Treaty Council is helping build a new saw mill.

Means cited the critical need for people to understand the real history of the U.S. and its inhumane treatment of the Indian people, which has resulted in the extermination of many tribes. He said, "This history has been denied you in America. The American Indian was the first victim of

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U.S. foreign policy."

Means said that what the U.S. government has carried out through its policies toward the Indians of this country amounts to genocide. He suggests that there are many lessons to be learned in understanding just what the U.S. is capable of exporting abroad as its foreign policy. Means is principal of an all-Indian, fully accredited school in Minnesota.

Herndon, also an educator and local activist, sounded similar themes from a different cultural perspective. He said that education is the key to helping people in this country, many of whom are ignorant and uninformed about these issues.

Herndon challenged the participants to help in developing "a platform of issues that the average person can understand." He said that too often activists speak from what he reffered to as "lofty levels", resulting in a lack of grassroots understanding and, thus, lack of support for the issues.

Very few Black, Latino or Indian people attended the conference, pointing to the need for outreach to those communities.

Clearly, the conference was the scene of a high level of information from a wide variety of sources. There were action and literature tables from several organizations. Some had information on work brigades to Nicaragua, postcards to Congress, petitions and phone trees. Many of the conference's 20 endorsers and 24 sponsors provided literature tables. A photographic exhibit featured photographs taken in Nicaragua by Richard J. Brown

## New Camp Fire Clubs Forming

Camp Fire, Inc., a national youth organization for 77 years, provides enjoyable, educational and exciting activities for boys and girls from kindergarten through high school.

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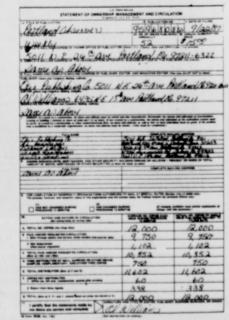
New clubs are forming now.
To join, return the survey distributed in your school or contact the Portland Area Council of Camp Fire, 718 W. Burnside, Portland,

## Parents Staying Active at Emanuel

An Active Parenting class is offered at Emanuel Hospital & Health Center for parents of children ages 2 through 18. It is sponsored by the Child Development Department.

Active Parenting is an innovative, video-based program designed to enhance child/parent relationships. In this six-part series of two-hour sessions, emphasis is focused on understanding child behavior, developing the child's sense of responsibility and winning cooperation. The program helps parents make sense out of their child's behavior and gives concrete guidelines to put parenting plans into action. Family enrichment activities are stressed.

Classes begin in September at Emanuel. To register, call the Community Health Education Department at Emanuel, 280-4284.





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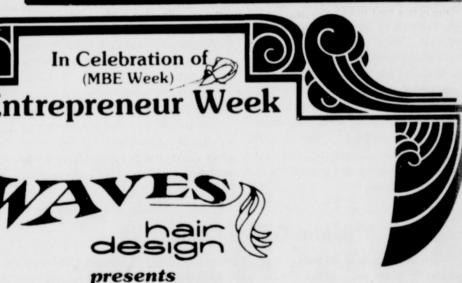
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