

What's HAPPENING

The vandals took our handle!

Last Sunday evening, as I was strolling by the WHAT'S HAPPENING office, I was astonished to discover that our beautiful handpainted sign had been wrenched from the post from which it has hung for the past 2 years.

Two pathetically naked wood screws dangled in its stead; and below on the ground the lone evidence—a plastic "Weinhard's Ale" cup, empty, like the signpost, like the feeling in the pit of my stomach.

Well, we'll get another sign. This one was lovingly designed and painted by local artist David Hazen (Samurai Signs)—and being our first, it was loaded up with special memories and meaning for our whole staff. It was really a nice looker, too—I hope the vandals like it as much as we did!

If you happen to see it somewhere, let us know. In the meantime, don't be confused by the empty signpost—we're here, Monday through Friday, 9 to 4 pm, same as always. The pump still works—they just took the handle!



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LETTERS

Independence Daze

As America celebrates its 210th year of independence from the English Crown and the refurbishment of the symbol of liberty in New York Harbor, the Statue of Liberty, our elected officials throughout the land should pause in their frenzied mythmaking and seminal forays into the nether regions of symbolism for a moment and reflect, if still truly capable of doing so, on our foreign and domestic policies.

Before me, I have today's (Thurs. 6/26/86) edition of *The Register-Guard* on the desk; the headline screams, "House OKs military aid for Contras." Yes folks, in a patriotic fervor, the forces of democracy have approved \$70 million in military aid and \$30 million in humanitarian aid to one of the most vicious assaults yet directed against the sovereign Nicaraguan nation's eight-year-old experiment in self-determination. Reagan's "covert" war has now been openly sanctioned by the U.S. House of Representatives. It allows "military support to the rebels known as 'Contras' and [will] permit the CIA and Pentagon to manage (sic) the contra program. The rebels have been covertly supported by the CIA from 1980-1984."

The program actually started in earnest in 1978, when then-President Carter directed the CIA to implement an information campaign designed to discredit the fledgling Sandanista leader-

ship. This campaign against the Nicaraguan people escalated in 1980, when Ronald Reagan, that master commie-baiter from Hollywood, took the helm of our great ship of state.

Since then, the American people have witnessed abuses of power by our government unseen for, oh, at least a decade, since the Vietnam debacle and the downfall of the Nixon Administration in the Watergate disgrace. We've heard of torture and wanton brutality by the "contras" (the moral equivalents of our founding fathers according to Reagan...) against innocent peasant villagers and brigadistas of Nicaragua (outlined in the less-than-covert "how-to" pamphlet published and distributed by the CIA, a step-by-step manual that makes Quadafy's terrorism look quite dovish...); we've heard of the illegal mining of Nicaraguan harbors, which the World Court condemned, and the U.S. didn't deny, saying instead that it wasn't bound by World Court decisions; we've also been witness, as individuals in contact with the Nicaraguan peoples and as a nation, to the grossest forms of economic and political intimidation by this 'superpower,' against the backdrop of world condemnation of our actions, against the small, and let me again emphasize, *sovereign*, nation of Nicaragua; and we've heard increasing evidence of the skimming of "non-lethal" funds to the tune of \$14 million of our \$27 million (as reported by the G.A.O.), by the 'contra' leadership in Miami... and, of course,

these are all merely examples we've heard of.

On this anniversary of our independence, one thing seems to me certain: the decision to inflict further genocide against the peoples of Nicaragua will be potentially one of the most politically divisive issues this country has witnessed in this century. If the U.S. Government feels it can contain the dissent which will follow its decision to wage war in lieu of searching for peaceful resolutions to our ideological differences, perhaps it should heed the lesson King George learned 210 years ago and which our own government *should* have learned during the Vietnam War: the American people have a low threshold of tolerance to tyranny when faced with injustice and educated to the underlying issues.

The spirit that wages peace has no barriers, no prison or detention center can or will contain it. The U.S. Government has opened the Pandora's Box which contains the seeds of its own undoing, by paying empty lip-service to the ideals for which our nation stands while standing at the service of tyranny. We, the American people, stand to lose a great deal by not voicing our opposition to this frightening development of war by proxy. The Reagan Administration needs to be made aware of one basic tenet of American Civics... it's our government, and we won't get fooled again.

—Timothy P. Jordan



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VACATION OFFICE HOURS

The What's Happening office will be closed Friday July 4—Wednesday, July 9. It will re-open on Thursday, July 10 at 9 am. The calendar and classifieds deadline for the July 17 issue is July 10 at 4 pm.

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