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April 8 Lawrence 107 8 pm
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Admission Free

Author criticizes election of Demos in El Salvador

By Ron Hunt
Of the Emerald

The Reagan administration's support of recent elections in El Salvador has backfired, author James Stephens says.

The administration has been forced to uphold the outcome of the elections, which backfired in a gust of congressional and public criticism, Stephens told a small audience Monday at the Latin American Cultural Center.

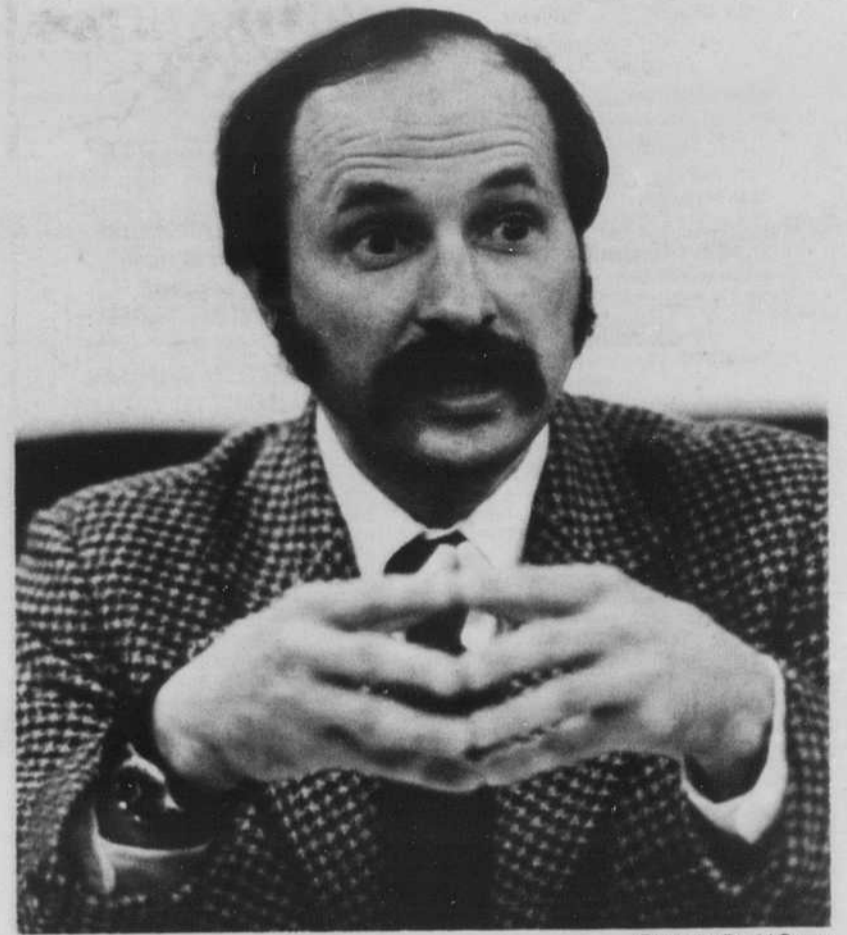
Stephens, co-author of a 1981 Oxfam America study on Salvadoran land reform, said the March 28 election results will increase polarization and instability in El Salvador. Political groups from the extreme right now have more power, he said. This has led to more violence and infighting within the far right as well as continuing deterioration of citizens' human rights.

"I don't see anything positive about the outcome of the Salvadoran elections," Stephens said.

Congress agrees and is "asserting its right to take a definite role in foreign policy," Stephens said. Several recent resolutions have challenged the administration's intelligence information, leading to a "major loss of face, a major loss of credibility" for the Reagan administration, he said.

Others, both within and outside the United States, are critical of the administration's foreign policy, Stephens said. The Latin American Studies Association, for example, recently adopted five resolutions all opposed to United States involvement in El Salvador. The press has played a fundamental role in criticizing the administration in the past year, he added.

The March 28 elections were



James Stephens

Photo by David Corey

the "progeny of 50 years of fraudulent elections in El Salvador — fraudulent by their very nature," Stephens said. The elections commission tallied 2,100,000 ballots but only 800,000 were printed, he said. Long lines of voters were produced by reducing the number of official polling places, he said.

Citizens were coerced to vote for the incumbent Christian Democrats or groups on the extreme right, Stephens said. So the left, claiming election applications were de facto death lists, refused to run a candidate and urged Salvadorans to vote in such a way that

their ballots would be annulled, he said. A significant number — 10 to 15 percent — of votes were annulled, he added.

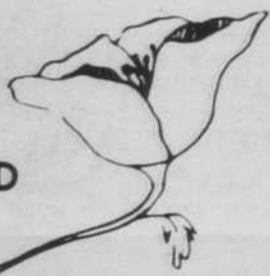
A large turnout for the elections was not necessarily a rejection of future violence in El Salvador, Stephens said, adding that one far right group talked about using napalm on peasants. "A vote for them is certainly a vote for increased violence."

U.S. observers were only shown model precincts, he said. Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan., head of the eight member delegation, "went down there and thought she was in Kansas."

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Campus Interfaith Ministry

at the University of Oregon

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

GOOD FRIDAY — ECUMENICAL SERVICE at the Newman Center
18th & Emerald

April 9th "Meditations on The Last Words of Jesus" 1-3 p.m.

KOINONIA CENTER

1414 Kincaid St. (across from PLC)

EPISCOPAL — Daily services in the chapel Mon.-Thurs. 4:30 p.m., Fri. noon (you are encouraged to attend Maunday Thursday evening services at your local parishes)

Friday, April 9, 5:00 p.m. meet at Koinonia for STATIONS OF THE CROSS WALK to points on campus with music from "Jesus Christ Superstar"

Saturday, April 10 — Penance and confession by appointment (484-1707)

—One day workshop "From Hostility to Hospitality" focusing on repentance and forgiveness. Call to sign up 484-1707.

PRESBYTERIAN — Mon., Tues., Wed. services in the chapel 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 9 p.m. Foot Washing and Communion

BAPTIST STUDENT UNION — Thursday 7:30 p.m. in the chapel "Creative Easter Worship"

JEWISH — April 8th Community Potluck and Second Seder Dinner 5:30 p.m. Call 484-1707 for details.

LUTHERAN — Easter Day caroling party. Meet at Grace Lutheran at 3 p.m.

WESLEY CENTER

1236 Kincaid St.

UNITED METHODIST — Wed. 12:30-1 p.m. in the chapel — Informal worship

NEWMAN CENTER

1850 Emerald St.

ROMAN CATHOLIC — Holy Thursday Mass 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday Stations of the Cross 12-1 p.m.

Solemn Evening Liturgy 7:30 p.m.

Easter Vigil (Saturday) 11:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday Masses 9 and 11 a.m.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

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