

Nicaragua: a long way from revolution

By Deborah Janes
Of the Emerald

Nicaragua has come a long way since it won its independence four years ago, said Dr. Julio Aviles during a forum presentation Thursday at the Wesley Center.

Aviles, co-director of the Nicaraguan Commission for Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, was the key speaker at a forum sponsored by the Eugene Council for Human Rights in Latin America.

Speaking through a translator, Aviles told the 30-member audience Thursday, "the Nicaraguan government has now made the commitment for preservation of human rights."

After extensive bloodshed, Nicaragua won her independence from the Somoza dictatorship in 1979. The United States had backed the Somoza government continually and had occupied the country from 1912 to 1933, he said.

With a gleam in his eye, Aviles related the progress made in Nicaragua's past four years of freedom.

"Our illiteracy rate has dropped from 50 percent to

12.5 percent," said Aviles. Nicaragua's adult education and university programs account for the rise in literacy, he said.

With 20 percent of government funds now going towards health care, every Nicaraguan is ensured free medical services. Nutrition programs have improved the Nicaraguans' diet, and new day care centers have met the demands of the recent surge of working mothers, Aviles said.

"Women's rights have taken a great step forward," he said. "40 percent of our government workers are women."

Nicaragua's 85,000-member working class gained security through the formation of 1,078 labor unions in the last four years, Aviles said.

Reform also occurred in land ownership, he said. About 80 percent now belongs in the private sector. "After the revolution, the government handed over much of the land to the peasants."

With the introduction of a democratic system, the citizens acquired the right to vote in 1985. "But not only elections make democracy, but also the action of the

people," said Aviles.

The severe social injustices, such as torture, imprisonment of political figures and the death penalty, ceased with the downfall of the Somoza regime, said Aviles.

Aviles justified the recent military build up in Nicaragua.

"We are constantly in fear of invasion. We don't want another war, but we are determined to keep our freedom," he said.

Locally, the Eugene Council for Human Rights in Latin America has been very active in assisting the Nicaragua reform, said staff person Sherry Drobner.

The council is collecting surplus and sample medical supplies from local hospitals to send to Nicaragua and also is staging benefit concerts, lunches, and public awareness presentations, Drobner said.

A forum featuring Isabel Cardenas, director of the Santana Chirino Brigade and Dr. Orlando Lopez, from the Archbishop Romero Relief Fund, will discuss the current strife in El Salvador on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Wesley Center.

Peer tutoring program provides homework aid

Students who don't understand indefinite integrals in their calculus class or who can't conjugate verbs in French need not despair.

Peer tutoring at the Learning Resources Center may be able to come to the rescue.

"There are students who need supplements to the traditional mode of instruction," says Dave Hubin, center director. "Some students need an additional instructor and more help than the faculty can provide in office hours. Peer tutoring can provide an additional way of explaining something."

The center concentrates most of its tutoring in math-related and foreign language courses.

"The social sciences are more elusive. We used to claim to tutor all courses, but 90 percent of requests came in math and language courses," says Hubin. "It is also difficult to tutor social science-type classes. You just can't come in and ask a history peer tutor to explain the French Revolution, but you can explain how to run a computer program."

While students are linked

with a peer tutor for the entire term, the program is not meant to foster a dependency on tutors.

"The tutoring program should allow students to ultimately handle subsequent courses on their own and provide for more independence. It should wean the students of the need for tutoring," says Hubin.

Peer tutors are selected on the basis of an interview and faculty recommendation. They also must have received an A or a B-plus in the class themselves.

The tutors are paid through work-study funds, which Hubin says "leaves out a lot of good people."

The 30 to 40 tutors selected each year have training sessions three times a term that cover recognizing learning differences, helping to prepare for exams and general interviewing skills.

Tutors are available for subjects including accounting, chemistry, computer science, math, physics, statistics, economics, English as a second language, French, Spanish, German, Chinese and Japanese.

The service costs \$30 per term.

Academic information available from department peer advisers

By Sandy Johnstone
Of the Emerald

Need to know about group requirements, who the best professors are or what to do about a problem in a class from a student's perspective? Turn to peer advisers.

"There's something special about students helping other students," says Jane Degidio, director of the paraprofessional program. "They vary in age, but they're going through the same experiences."

"It's nice to talk to someone in the same boat that has been trained to help you get through it. You would get a different answer if you asked me a question and you asked a peer adviser."

And peer advisers usually have better information than the average student.

"Don't believe everything you hear from other students who aren't peer advisers," she says. "Unless you know the ins and outs of the school it's easy to get the wrong advice."

The program supplements the faculty advising program, Degidio says.

"Peer advisers do not replace faculty advisers," she says. "Peer advisers want students to link up with the faculty adviser in their area of interest."

Fourteen departments offer peer advising. Each department sets up its own requirements,

but most require an interpersonal communication skills class, a basic academic advising course and a two- or three-term commitment.

"We are real concerned about giving out correct information," says Degidio.

Renee Mona-Lusky, peer advising coordinator in the business school, says peer advisers are important because of the constant change in graduation requirements for the University and business school.

Students also may feel more comfortable talking to peer advisers about a personal conflict or problem in a class, she says. And peer advisers sometimes can tell them which channels will get something done.

Randy Martin, peer advising coordinator in the psychology department, says a "caring

attitude" is the most important qualification for a peer adviser.

"We encourage people to come in even if they don't have an academic question," he says.

Mona-Lusky points out that the peer advisers also gain valuable experience.

"Interpersonal communication skills are vital when you work in an organization, no matter what the job," she says. "Students can get that experience here, but a lot of students go through school without it. They may never get that basic work experience which entails getting along in an organization."

Peer advisers can also get credit through the Department of Educational Policy and Management by doing projects such as setting up a newsletter, tutor file, referral file or internship file.

EOSC looks for president

LA GRANDE, (AP) — A nationwide search for a new president at Eastern Oregon State College is expected to begin within two weeks.

Tom Madden, associate professor of English and journalism and chairman of an 11-member search committee, said a description of the job is being written.

He said the college will advertise in newspapers and mail job descriptions to colleges

A deadline probably will be set for late November or early December.

Correction

An article appearing in Friday's Emerald incorrectly stated that the maximum fine for paying late tuition is \$50. The actual maximum fine for paying tuition late this year is \$100, according to the University business office.

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Influenza vaccinations will be given at the University of Oregon Student Health Center every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8 to 9 a.m., beginning October 13th and continuing until the end of fall term. Only one injection is needed. Students may receive the vaccine at a cost of \$2.50. Faculty and staff are charged \$3.50.

Annual flu immunizations are recommended for people with increased risk of complications from lower respiratory infections, including:

1. Persons 65 years or older.
2. Persons with any of the following: heart disease, compromised lung functions, chronic kidney disease, diabetes, chronic severe anemia, and conditions which compromise immune mechanisms.

For more information call the Student Health Center at (686)-4441