

# opinion

## Out of El Salvador

The Reagan administration couches our presence in El Salvador in terms of the Cold War domino theory: "If we allow a government that is reforming itself into a democracy... to be knocked off by guerrillas who don't have the people with them, then no government in the isthmus will be safe," says Thomas Enders, assistant secretary of state and considered a major Central American policy maker.

The administration has been willing to settle for token increases in democracy, such as the scheduling of an election — moved from 1984 to later this year by papal pressure — and a "Land-to-the-tiller" program designed to shift land from a few ruling families to the farmers.

There is no proof that El Salvador is reforming itself since last year's election and the placement of Gen. Alvaro Managua as president.

On the contrary, journalists, diplomats, and congressmen find the current "elected" regime corrupt and terroristic.

The administration continues to support the government led by Roberto D'Aubusson, current president of El Salvador's National Assembly. Robert White, ambassador to El Salvador until Reagan ousted him in 1981, gave senate committees information implicating D'Aubusson in the murder of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, a leader in the resistance of government oppression.

The administration is misled by the labeling of leftist and rightist in El Salvador. "Left," in the words of writer Joan Didion in her account of a two-week stay in El Salvador, has come to mean anyone in opposition to the government — from the Marxists to the Catholic Church to those who resist seeing members of their family killed.

Reagan's concern with the label of the regime in El Salvador only prevents chances of working out a broad-based coalition of moderate and center groups.

Many congressmen, including Oregon Rep. Les AuCoin, D-Portland, and Sen. Mark Hatfield, denounce the Salvadoran government.

AuCoin says U. S. government aid is preventing negotiations. "It's leading the government to think they can continue to mutilate and murder and wage war against their own political opponents and innocent bystanders."

Newsweek claims 200 citizens are murdered or "disappeared" each month in El Salvador by the current regime.

The United States has committed more than a billion dollars since 1979 to keep El Salvador out of the hands of leftist guerrillas.

More than direct military aid, Reagan placed a spy network in Central America in 1981 that is causing concern among both House and Senate intelligence committees. The committees say the spy network may end up increasing U.S. participation in El Salvador's and Nicaragua's civil wars.

Military advisers in El Salvador could become the targets of attacks — drawing the United States into more direct military involvement — despite Reagan's insistence that he will not send troops.

The Reagan administration supports the D'Aubusson regime because it tells us it is non-communist and that it will protect business. The United States increases its involvement by sending military advisers and increasing military funding. We have little say in the social and economic welfare of the people of El Salvador, and little, if nothing, has been done to promote a regional settlement despite the fact that Mexico, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Honduras and Panama — the very countries we don't want the communist domino to fall on — have lobbied for one.

Instead of listening to the voices of moderation, Reagan is calling for another \$60 million to be sent in military and economic aid to El Salvador.

The Senate Foreign Relations committee, in charge of policy, not funding, recently voted to halve the \$60 million in military aid to El Salvador. The appropriations committee already has approved the \$60 million.

Among the thousands of letters to Congress protesting the aid should soon be Oregon Senate Joint Memorial 6, which asks "The government of the United States... to stop all further military aid to the government of El Salvador, until such a time as there is substantial and widely verifiable proof that the present policy of violent suppression of fundamental civil liberties and human rights has been terminated."

Support of negotiations of a neutral party, such as the Mexico-Venezuela peace initiative, would be the first step toward righting our course in El Salvador.

Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Oregon, has submitted a bill that requires the president to divert military aid to humanitarian efforts if the El Salvadoran government refuses to negotiate.

There still is a chance to negotiate a peace in El Salvador but only if the U.S. government rethinks its support of the current regime. That means stopping aid to El Salvador.



"AH, NOT TOO MANY, AT ALL! THAT SHOWS A DISTINCT IMPROVEMENT IN HUMAN RIGHTS, MR. SCHULTZ."

## letters

### Dog lover

Everyday I see dogs all over campus. Some are running free, some are tied to posts only a few are actually with owners. Some look lost, some look underfed... but they are all out of place there unless their owners are beside them.

This is my third year here. I grow weary of dog fights, accidental leash hangings, lost dogs, dogs cooking in cars. How selfish it seems to me that this goes on each day. I love animals enough not to take a responsibility — a pet — I can't live up to.

I must plead with you, my fellow dog lovers... to stop this injustice by leaving your pet at home. If you have no home to give your pet, then find one for them.

At least think about it.

**T. Lewis**  
graduate, counseling/  
psychology

### Not funny

Question: Is rape funny? Apparently so in the minds of those responsible for the April 1 edition of the "Immortal."

It's one thing to make a feeble attempt at satire journalism (though this April 1 edition was the least funny of any I've seen in the last four years) but it's quite another thing however to portray rape in your section entitled "litter" as a subject open for humor and enjoyment.

Whoever wrote that section, and may I add those who approved it, are either complete idiots or just plain sick! Perhaps both!

Rape is a terrible act against

women of all ages. The staff of the Emerald has tried to portray itself as "pro-women's rights" yet any group of "journalists" which allows such degrading articles to appear (in any publication) destroys its entire credibility.

I feel the staff of the Emerald owes the entire student community an apology for its insulting and non-humorous "satire."

**Michael Cross**  
senior, political science

### Referendum

Having been an actively involved member in the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group for the past two terms, I am writing to encourage student support for the OSPIRG funding referendum that will appear on the ballot in the primary elections on April 13 and 14.

OSPIRG has been an established group and student voice on the University campus for the past 12 years and has concerned itself with such issues as the bottle bill, the lemon law, old-growth forest reclamation, and many other consumer-related and environmental issues.

OSPIRG also provides students with a great variety of surveys dealing with such things as banking, bicycle and auto repair, optometrists, and film processing as well as distributing renters' handbooks and providing information to students involved in tenant-landlord disputes.

OSPIRG will be unable to carry on with such current projects or begin new ones without reinstating its tradi-

tional funding system of \$1 per student per term.

Because of this, I strongly encourage all students to take the time to vote and to show their support for OSPIRG by voting "yes" on the funding referendum.

Students need an organized, politically active, non-partisan voice speaking out for them and that is precisely what OSPIRG provides. So I implore students to show more support and less apathy by casting a "yes" vote for the funding referendum in the upcoming election.

**Mike Rivers**  
junior, journalism/  
psychology

### Informer

Michael Lysne, you would have thought it was your moral obligation to inform on Jews for Hitler. I hate to be so base and personal but I'm sick of these neo-Nazis hiding behind their American flags.

You're right, our freedoms were acquired by the sweat and blood of our forefathers; but they were volunteers, fighting an oppressive government, as are today's patriotic draft resisters, who are risking their freedom and careers by fighting an oppressive law.

You call them woodchicks but the real bloodsuckers are a few fat old white men in America and the Soviet Union who use false patriotism and massive armies to keep a world under their thumb. Sick people like you play right into their hands. I feel sorry for you Michael; nobody likes a stoolie, not even Will Rogers.

**Bart Baenziger**  
junior, language arts

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