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El Salvador's scarred revolutionary face

Book paints comprehensive portrait of war, citizens

By Brooks Dareff
Of the Emerald

Our own insurgents for independence took to heart the words of the American patriot Patrick Henry: "Give me liberty, or give me death."

For people in El Salvador, write Robert Armstrong and Janet Shenk in "El Salvador: The Face of Revolution," there is no middle ground alternative of, for instance, taxation without representation. There is, quite

simply, revolution or death because the yoke of tyranny in El Salvador quite literally strangles its citizens until they die.

The revolutionary coalition, Farabundo Marti Front for National Liberation, uses words similar to Henry's to describe the alternatives presented to the Salvadorean people, but instead of a lofty, heroic appeal, it offers a stark sombre hymn:

Revolution or Death/It is the daily cry/It is the slogan of the people/It is the destiny of all.

The face of revolution in El Salvador is not pretty or glamorous or even tolerable — even to the unsqueamish. It is the mutilated face of the assassinated revolutionary, Juan Chacon, a face that once frequently flashed a stunning, charismatic smile.

Or it's what's left of a face belonging to a woman who was repeatedly raped and then killed by members of the ORDEN, the right-wing paramilitary group. Her features have been obliterated by acid and left to cling unrecognizably to a severed head swinging unceremoniously by its long hair to a picket fence.

Or quite simply, the face of revolution in El Salvador is a skull, that grisly symbol of death.

Two themes run concurrent-

ly through "The Face of Revolution." The first — constant, intransigent, unyielding — is the Salvadorean oligarchy's continual repression of its people. It is ultimate, brutal

Book Review: "El Salvador: The Face of Revolution"

repression — the taking of life — that has often taken the form of unabashed, wholesale murders.

The second theme — first trusting, then persevering and finally, desperate and fatalistic — is the evolution of the people's political activities from reformism to revolution; the gradual, reluctant realization the Salvadorean people have made that freedom from tyranny cannot be had by co-opting a corrupt, lawless system or by pressuring it through peaceful populism, but only by taking power, by forcefully occupying it bit by bit, village by village until the oligarchies either negotiate, or capitulate.

The first theme runs through the book in spilt blood that stains nearly every page as crimson as Shakespeare's "Macbeth." This is no surprise. While Americans hear most about the two American nuns whose rapes and

murders in 1980 continue to go unavenged, over the last three years 30,000 dead Salvadorean civilians have screamed for justice from the grave, including former Archbishop Oscar Romero.

In British India, the power of Ghandi's peaceful, non-violent populism eventually proved greater than the British capacity for barbarity.

But in El Salvador there seems to be no possibility of appealing to conscience. Attaining government reform, as with Diem and Thieu in Vietnam, seems impossible.

Innocents are murdered and streetcleaners simply wash away the blood, and with it, any acknowledgement of government involvement.

While the Reagan administration is unconcerned with quelling the first theme running through "The Face of Revolution," the Carter administration, the authors show, failed to understand the second, that is, the intransigence of the oligarchies to bring reform or improvement of their dreadful record on human rights.

Those who are surprised and chagrined at the insurgents' hesitancy to participate in elections, explain Armstrong and Shenk, should understand that electoral par-

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et al.

MEETINGS

Interested in Central America? The ASUO would like to host a fall mini-symposium on Central American issues and invites your participation in the planning. Our first planning meeting will be Thursday, in the ASUO office, Suite 4 EMU. Students, faculty and community of all political persuasions are welcome.

CANCELLED: OPEU Clerical Committee meeting scheduled for noon today in Century Room E, EMU.

The planning meeting for The Day After protests is Wednesday, 5 p.m. in Room 337 EMU. We will develop a phone tree to enable us to organize a demonstration in a 24-hour period. All concerned people are asked to participate. For information call 686-3327 or stop by Room 336 EMU.

LECTURES

"**Treating Sexual Problems and Concerns**" is the title of a free lecture to be given Tuesday from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. at the Eugene Public Library, 100 W. 13th Ave. Wendy Maltz, a clinical social worker and marriage counselor, will discuss common types of sex-

ual concerns and methods used to treat them. The talk is sponsored by the Sex Education and Therapy Consultants of Eugene.

INTERVIEWS

Campus interviews:
Aug. 4 — Hoover Universal (for: plant accountant).

MISCELLANEOUS

The University Counseling Center Testing Office has arranged for a special administration of the GRE on Monday, Aug. 15 for any candidate who would like to take either the general test or a subject test before the regularly scheduled date in October. Subject tests in French, geography, German, philosophy, and Spanish are not available except at the national test date in December. Scores will be available about six weeks after the test date. Registration is between July 1 and July 15. One test is \$37, two are \$69. For more information call the counseling center at 686-3227.

"**Coping with Depressions**" is an eight week course offered in a small group format, and will be taught by University doctoral

students. Classes will begin when enough participants have been selected. Interested persons can call 686-4366 to schedule a personal interview with a clinic staff member. The interview will provide information and determine eligibility for the course. Fee is on a sliding fee scale of \$100 to \$150. However those who attend all sessions as well as two follow-up interviews will earn back half of their fees.

Jewish students needed for volunteer project this summer. Please call 686-4366 or drop by the office of the Jewish Student Union, Suite 5 EMU, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. to noon, Monday through Thursday, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

"**The Sandal and the Cave**," an exhibit featuring artifacts of Oregon's great basin, is at the Springfield Museum through Oct. 28. Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays. The free show features artifacts hidden for some 10,000 years. The event is sponsored by the Springfield Museum and the University Museum of Natural History. For information, call 726-6838.

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