

Eugeneans protest U.S. military involvements

About 50 people protesting U.S. military intervention abroad squeezed uninvited, but unrestrained, into the Eugene Marine recruiting office and shared unheated but generally warm words with Marine recruiters Wednesday afternoon.

The 50 people were part of a group of 100 protestors who assembled at the Federal building on Pearl Street for a noon rally prompted by Tuesday's invasion of Grenada. The rally was impromptu, unannounced by media. The protestors heard by word of mouth and hand-scrawled posters. There, with banners and signs in hand, they formed a continuously moving circle and chanted slogans protesting U.S. military intervention in Grenada, Lebanon and Nicaragua.

After about an hour of protesting, one woman walked into the middle of the crowd and urged protestors to move on to the small Marine recruiting office at 111 Willamette Street.



Eugeneans carried pickets opposing the U.S. government's "foreign wars" in Grenada, Lebanon and Nicaragua on Wednesday outside the Federal building in downtown Eugene.

"It was rather moving," University student Bill Snyder said of the meeting between the protesters and the Marines.

"It was a matter of talking to 18- and 19-year-olds and saying, 'Well look, we don't hate you, we love you and we want you alive,'" said Snyder, who is the ASUO coordinator of student events.

Snyder says he makes his statements "as an individual, not as a representative of ASUO."

"They just came in, were very peaceful and then left," said Staff Sgt. John O'Donnell of the visitors, adding, "they were orderly, quiet and well-behaved. We thanked them and they thanked us."

Once inside, the marchers questioned the Marines, "about foreign policy," O'Donnell said. The Marines replied that they had no control over foreign policy — and Snyder concurred.

"We're conscious of the fact that the people who don't go to war," make the decisions, he said.

"That's why we're in the streets yelling. We think we're being misrepresented."

Snyder said that despite the fact soldiers don't make the decisions, "there's nothing to say they can't have a consciousness of their own."

Snyder said he asked the young Marines why the United States is in Grenada. "They said, 'I don't know. I needed a job.'"

Army and Marine recruiters in Oregon on Wednesday said the military situations in Beirut, Lebanon, and Grenada have had no immediate impact on recruitment in the state.

"Operations are pretty routine," said Lt. Col. Robert Brown in the Army's main Portland recruiting office.

A Marine officer in Portland who asked not to be identified agreed with Brown.

"Basically, there hasn't been a change one way or another," the officer said. He added that some potential recruits become interested and mull over the decision for weeks while others come join on the spur of the moment.

The officer said because recruitment fluctuates from week to week, there is no way to tie "outside stimulus" to recruitment in Oregon.

Sgt. Edward Ballo, an Army recruiting officer for the Ashland-Medford area, said, "It hasn't increased in this place at all" as the result of U.S. involvement in Grenada and Lebanon.

One woman, who entered the Eugene recruiting office, unsuccessfully urged the crowd to make a citizen's arrest of the Marines, said ASUO receptionist Oz Adams, who entered the office along with Snyder. But overall, the demonstration was "really peaceful."

Yet Tuesday night, a brick was thrown through a large window of the Eugene recruiting office, and workers were replacing the broken pane while the two groups



More than 100 demonstrators formed a continuously moving circle outside the Federal building in downtown Eugene on Wednesday to protest U.S. military intervention in Grenada, Lebanon and Nicaragua.



University student Dave Snyder, who joined other Eugeneans in marching against U.S. involvement overseas, expresses his opinion to a Cpl. G. L. Mills at the U.S. Marine recruiting office in downtown Eugene on Wednesday.

talked on Wednesday.

Adams said marchers standing outside appreciated the open window because it allowed them to participate in the discussions.

O'Donnell said there were no suspects in

the broken-window incident, and he ascribed the action to "Halloween pranksters."

Story by Brooks Dareff
Photos by Dave Kao

Student traces brother to troops in Grenada

By Brooks Dareff
Of the Emerald

A University student came to the Emerald office Wednesday morning in search of information that might help him track down his brother.

His brother, he said, might be among the U.S. military forces in Grenada.

Ramon Bual, 20, is a Ranger, the U.S. Army's answer to the Green Berets. The Rangers are specialists in numerous techniques of warfare. That's why the Ranger paratroopers were dropped into Grenada with the Marines in preparation for Tuesday's 1,900 force invasion of the small Caribbean island.

The possibility that Bual was among them made his brother Kenmar Bual "proud...but...also a little scared."

"Now that a family member (might be) involved," Bual was "ambivalent" about the U.S. invasion of Grenada.

"I feel we should have invaded, but I'm concerned for my brother," he said.

"I talked to him Saturday and he didn't give any indication" that the U.S. might invade or that he might be part of invasion forces, Bual said. He added that not knowing whether his brother is there or not is the hardest part for him and his family, who live in Beaverton.

Since early Tuesday night Bual had been calling

Fort Stewart, Georgia, the base where his brother is stationed. The phone had always been busy. This is the first time the phone has been busy. The other times he called Fort Stewart, the phone has "never been busy."

Bual thinks maybe the phone at Fort Stewart was been taken off the hook as concerned family and friends of other Rangers attempted to contact their loved ones.

Bual called a TV station for assistance, and as far as the man there knew, the Pentagon was the only source that could release information on his brother's whereabouts.

The family was hesitant to make waves. They had moved from the Philippines to the United States 13 years ago "to get away from the turmoil."

At 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Bual got a call from his sister. His father, Marino, the accounting manager for the city of Portland, had called the Pentagon.

His brother, his father was told, has been in Grenada since Sunday night.

As of 10:30 p.m. Wednesday night, Bual said, reports are that six Americans are dead, two of whom are Rangers. Eight Americans are missing in action, and 33 are wounded. The Pentagon had not yet released any names.

Bual says that at least some of the uncertainty is gone.

"I can direct my prayers a little better."

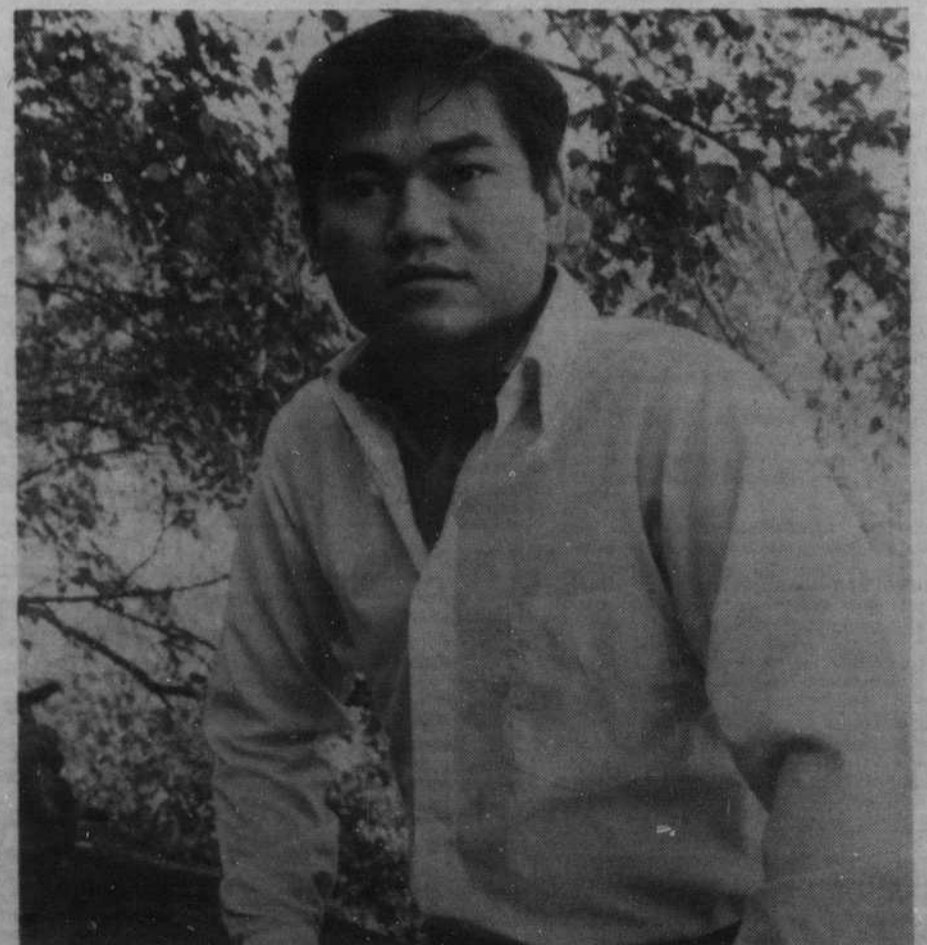


Photo by Brian Erb

University student Ramon Bual learned Wednesday evening that his brother, a Ranger in the U.S. Army, was in Grenada, the site of the recent American invasion by the Marines.

Thursday, October 27, 1983