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'Morning After?'
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Policy on Central America elicits anger Panelist claims guerrilla movement controlled by Cuba, Soviet Union

By Brooks Dareff
Of the Emerald

Central America panelists fought the final battle Saturday in a three-day war of words over U.S. involvement in that troubled region.

The lines were drawn unevenly in this, the final event of "Crisis in Central America: an Educational Conference," as several members of the crowd took turns taking verbal shots at panelist Col. Larry Tracy, who was in Eugene representing the Reagan administration.

The four-member panel turned its attention to "Prospects for the Future," and while both sides saw storm clouds looming on the horizon, one side forecast those clouds as emanating from the east, from Cuba and the Soviet Union, and the other looked north to the United States.

Tracy acknowledged — as other members of the Reagan administration have not — the "economic underpinnings" of the guerrilla movements in El Salvador and Guatemala, but he insisted they are being infiltrated, controlled and used by Cuba

and the Soviet Union.

He also claimed, as did Honduran Consul Javier Pinel, that the United States is encouraging the development of popular governments in the region.

Prof. Milton Jamail of the University of Texas said the guerrilla movements themselves are popular and indigenous, and that these movements have only resorted to clandestine or military footings because participation in elections has consistently resulted in the death of opposition leaders. He added that "any popular government in Central America will never be recognized by the United States," because such a government would have to include Marxists.

He predicted "a long, protracted, brutal struggle in Central America."

The United States, he said, is "on the verge of a major invasion of Nicaragua." The U.S. government has been planning the destruction of the Sandinista government since its 1979 inception, he said.

To the question "how will the policy be put into effect?" Jamail offered "economic

strangulation," "massive bombing," support of troops from other countries like Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras and sending in U.S. troops.

Jamail corroborated Tracy's statement that the Defense Department is less hawkish than other factions of the administration.

"Defense has urged caution," Tracy said. "We're the ones that will have to go first."

Panelist Renny Golden of the Chicago Religious Task Force said that military forces cannot overcome the struggle of the people in Central America and that eventually the military forces will knuckle under. She recounted the story of a man who was pursued by troops in his El Salvador village. The women of the village encircled the man and after the troops moved them away, the children encircled him. The troops were moved by the heroism of the children, she said, and left the man untouched.

From the perspective of the people of Central America, Golden said, the future "is

quite simply, hope."

Tracy first drew comments from the crowd of about 400 when he complemented the University on not being "the Berkeley of the Northwest," as he had been told. However, the crowd seemed to like the comparison. After Tracy said he was not given a chance to express his views at the University of California, someone in the crowd shouted "or in El Salvador." This drew more crowd comments, eliciting the comment from Tracy that "maybe," he "was wrong" about the University.

From then on, his comments were often punctuated by an unsolicited shout of "bullshit" from the crowd.

One crowd participant suggested that the emotion of many people may have been the result of frustration at feeling they have no input into foreign policy.

"I don't think they care at all about your opinion," Jamail said of the Reagan administration.

Golden went further, calling the United States "fascist" in regard to foreign policy.

Waiver exams allow students to skip classes

By Joan Herman
Of the Emerald

Fact: A University student earned 72 college credits without taking one class.

Fact: She paid \$336 for all 72 credits. (That's less than \$5 per credit, compared with what most in-state students with a 15-hour load pay per credit — about \$32.)

Fact: The student didn't bribe her professors, nor did she have "connections" in Oregon Hall's accounting or registrar's offices. And not only was her method legal, the exams were approved by faculty legislation at the University.

Kathleen Lawlor's method was CLEP, or the College Level Examination Program, which enables students to earn college credits by passing waiver exams for many lower division University courses.

Depending on the classes students waiver, they can earn from three to 12 credits for a \$28 fee per test, regardless of how many credits the test is worth. CLEP exams are available to anyone who wishes to take them, regardless of whether they are University students.

"Essentially, it's a way for students to get credit for something they already know," says Evelyn Rowe, who administers the CLEP exams through the University's Testing Office. "It boils down to an alternative to educating

oneself."

For Lawlor, a mother of two children, CLEP has "made the difference between having school be a pleasant experience instead of a horrible one."

"It's easier than trying to schedule classes around running a family," Lawlor says. "These I can do on my own time."

Surprisingly, few University students take advantage of CLEP — about 10 each month — yet the tests are no more difficult than are final exams for equivalent classes, Rowe says.

In fact, about 75 percent of students who take CLEP exams pass them. A "C" grade is needed to pass the tests. If students flunk the tests, they cannot re-take them.

At first glance, CLEP seems deceptively simple, a too-easy method for earning legitimate college credits. But, "It's not necessarily the easy way out," Lawlor says. For example, Lawlor studied five hours daily for about five weeks to pass the American literature exam.

The University has "put a cover over CLEP so that students can use it but not abuse it," Lawlor says. Students cannot receive credits through CLEP for classes in which they already are enrolled. Nor can they earn credit through CLEP if they have earned credit for or are enrolled in a higher level course.

Students who received credits only through CLEP could not graduate anyway, Rowe says. Because CLEP credits are treated as transfer credits, students still must earn 90 resident credits to graduate. With the exception of one test, CLEP grants only lower division credits and does not meet upper division requirements for graduation.

Nor is CLEP the best way to gain an education, Lawlor says. "I think there's a point at which you should take classes from the University. Otherwise, (going to college) is like a correspondence course. There's things to be had from college besides a degree," such as student-professor interaction in class, Lawlor says.

Some of the classes for which CLEP grants credits include American history, American literature, English literature, biology, chemistry, introductory economics, sociology and the humanities.

A similar program, Credit By Examination, enables students to earn college credits for non-CLEP classes. Students must first file petitions at the registrar's office. If the petition is approved, students can attempt to waive exams and earn credits for a \$15 fee per test.

Descriptive material about both programs is available in the Testing Office, located in the Student Counseling and Health Center Building. Or from Rowe at 686-3227.

Civil War run also ends in tie

Eleven young men suited up last Friday for what was destined to be the sporting event of the year — maybe of their entire academic career.

The Civil War? Right.

The Civil War football game? No, no, no, sports fans. We're talking about the fifth annual Civil War Pigskin Pass.

History will remember that it began at 10 a.m. at the OSU Memorial Union in Corvallis. From there three University students of Lambda Chi Alpha and eight of their OSU fraternity brethren began a tag-team run to the University's EMU, some 40 miles away. In their hands they clutched a football with the legendary letters U of O printed on one side and OSU on the other side. History will also remember that this Civil War ended in a tie.

Photo by Ken Kromer

