

opinion

House debates aid with a few conditions

This week the House of Representatives will debate legislation authorizing conditional military aid to El Salvador. By all accounts the floor debate will be one of the hottest of the session.

Pres. Ronald Reagan has requested \$132.5 million in spending authority for military aid to the Salvadoran government next year. The sad fact is the House debate will not center so much on the military aid itself, but on the number of installments and the conditions for payment.

So far this year Congress has appropriated \$64.8 million in military aid to the Salvadoran government. The Senate has passed a supplemental fund of \$61.7 million, which is awaiting House approval.

House Republicans have complained that Reagan has not generated enough public support for his military aid request. Robert Michel, R-Ill., said there is a "gross misunderstanding" among Americans over what the spending authorization for military aid to El Salvador is all about. In the hope of ending the "gross misunderstanding," Reagan is planning a televised speech this week on military aid to El Salvador.

There are three alternatives to the proposed military aid package. For the most part the alternatives demand the Salvadoran government cease human rights violations and end military involvement with the notorious death squads.

The first alternative, proposed by Dante Fascell, D-Fla., chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, would authorize \$64.8 million if the Reagan administration ensures the Salvadoran government has "demonstrated progress" in human rights and other areas. Fascell's alternative offers another \$124.5 million if Reagan certifies the Salvadorans have begun negotiations with the left-wing guerrillas and disbanded the death squads.

Gerry Studds, D-Mass, has proposed a more stringent alternative. Studds wants to block any aid until Reagan and the Congress ascertain the Salvadorans have improved their court system, initiated land reforms, started negotiations with the guerrillas and ended death squad activity.

The third alternative, advanced by William Broomfield, R-Mich., authorizes \$128 million in military aid on the condition that Reagan can demonstrate progress on human rights, curbs on death squad activity and steps toward negotiations.

Apparently it is a foregone conclusion that the Reagan administration will continue to send military aid to the Salvadoran government. The only argument resides in the type of aid, presidential authority to dole it out and whether or not the Reagan administration can ensure the Salvadoran government will cease death squad activity and seek a negotiated settlement with the guerrillas.

Memorial is good, but safety is better

We applaud the Lane County Commissioners decision to construct a sighting pedestal atop Mt. Pisgah in memory of Jed Kesey and Lorenzo West.

Kesey and West died of injuries following an accident in which the University wrestling team's van slid off an icy highway in Southeastern Washington.

The sighting pedestal will be financed from contributions collected in memorial of Kesey and West.

While we applaud the placing of the pedestal, we would prefer that strict safety regulations be enacted to prevent a repeat of the horrible accident that took the lives of Kesey and West.



letters

No response

Your May 1 article on a lawsuit initiated by Rep. Grattan Kerans and State Sen. L.B. Day against the State of Oregon was an exceptionally biased and one-sided piece of reporting. I was astonished that after several highly critical references to Atty. Gen. David Frohnmayer, there was apparently no attempt to elicit a response from his office.

The article also did not mention that Kerans is himself running for statewide office. I suspect that this lawsuit may be faintly related to the political needs of the moment.

Oregon is fortunate in having an attorney general who vigorously defends the state, regardless of the political fallout. That is one reason Frohnmayer is so widely respected throughout the nation.

Kevin Cape

Message

America's need for racial unity. United we stand. Divided we just might fall.

We, too long have been fighting the civil war. We need a strong America showing the world how all these many nationalities can live side by side together in strength and dignity.

It seems that the most strife still exists between blacks and whites. Russia is testing us on all fronts. The latest is Chad. We need to support our black brothers there.

"Message to black Americans."

We should let bygones be bygones and forgive so that we can heal these racial wounds and learn ways to do that in-

dividually as well as in groups. I hope that God will forgive me, in the name of Jesus, for going against the country during the '60s.

God says, and our constitution says: "All men are created equal." Whites and blacks should be practicing brotherly love. Anyone who reads this can pursue this dream, and I hope you do.

We need all the forces of power to go forward to a powerful nation and let nothing get in our way towards unity.

All the ignorance and stupidity should be eliminated for the welfare of this nation and its future.

Stanford Brown
Eugene

Took a cab

Disappointed. That's how I felt as I boarded the plane in Eugene that would take me home to upstate New York.

I had fulfilled a long-time dream in January when I arrived in Oregon. I felt doubly lucky that I would be able to attend the University to study public relations at the School of Journalism.

Despite my unfamiliarity with the horrendous registration procedures, I was able to register for all the journalism courses I wanted for the winter term.

However, I was not so lucky during spring registration. I was able to get only one out of the four courses I wanted to take for my last term at the University.

Discouraged yet determined to get into all four classes, I went to see Dean Everette Dennis for assistance.

There I met another disappointment, as Dennis did not offer much help. He did say he'd plead my case for me but confessed not having much control over the journalism professors.

He was right.

I understand the workload of the professors and how it is difficult to have too many students in the class especially if there are papers to read.

But what are the professors being paid to do?

I thought the University was contending with money problems. So mistakenly I figured the University would be willing to help me get my classes because I was paying graduate, non-resident and housing fees.

But that was not the case. And I was not going to take any alternative courses. Returning to col-

lege as a full-time student since 1975, I was much more aware of what my money was buying. And I was determined to only pay for those courses I assumed would be available to me.

But I didn't get into all the classes, so I decided to go home... frustrated and disappointed.

And I left wondering why minority students can have their registration packets pulled so they can register at 8 a.m.

And why there aren't more sections offered in the journalism department because there seems to be a large number of journalism majors who have a very difficult time getting into any journalism courses.

And why aren't registration procedures all computerized?

Beth Wright

Blew it

We appreciate your coverage of Black Flag and other "alternative" bands. It's nice to see articles on groups that are not exactly mainstream. However to write an accurate article you must first do your homework, and several parts of this story on Black Flag were far from accurate.

You wrote about Black Flag's legal problems but didn't manage to get the facts very straight. Black Flag's last release was not "Damaged" as you stated but "Everything Went Black," a compilation of many of their previously unreleased songs with some of their old singers including Keith Morris (now with the Circle Jerks), Ron Reyes (also known as Chavo Pederast) and Dez Cadena. It was this album, not "My War" that brought their legal problems. It was released despite a court injunction but neither the band's name or its symbol appeared anywhere on the album. In spite of this, two of the band members had to spend time in jail. These two were Greg Ginn and Chuck Dukowski. Henry Rollins did not go to jail. They were in jail in late 1983, "My War" was not released until March 1, 1984 so they obviously did not go to jail as a result of releasing "My War."

Also Dukowski left to play bass for a band called Wurm — it is not spelled Worm.

Keep printing articles about alternative music, but next time please get the facts straight.

Robin "Spike" Franklin
Monday, May 7, 1984

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