

CIA book shows true U.S. policy

On Monday night Ralph Nader told a packed audience in the EMU Ballroom that Pres. Ronald Reagan is a dangerous leader who offers words over deeds when it comes to peace and justice in the world. With the recent discovery by the Associated Press of a CIA psychological warfare manual given to Nicaraguan rebels, Nader's words become all the more hard-hitting.

The manual was passed on to the House Intelligence Committee by AP on Oct. 1. As with the CIA mining of Nicaraguan waters, the Committee was not aware of the manual until after it had been put to use in the field.

According to AP, the CIA gave the manual to the rebels sometime last year. The contents of the manual and the fact that Committee members were never informed about it have led to serious political questions and calls for a congressional probe. In the words of Committee chairman Rep. Edward Boland, D-Mass., the manual "makes a mockery of American championship of democratic values."

The manual, like the invasion of Grenada and the illegal mining of Nicaraguan waters, shows the world that while the United States pledges to uphold international law, it will not hesitate to break those laws when it comes to self interest.

Reagan has repeatedly called on all nations to join in the struggle to stop international terrorism. Yet the CIA, under the direction of Reagan appointee William Casey, openly advocates in the manual that political assassination, blackmail, and mob violence are effective ways to undermine "unfriendly" governments, in this case the Sandinistas.

How is it that Reagan can call for an end to terrorism, while permitting the United States to advocate terrorism in its attempts to destabilize the government of Nicaragua?

Did Reagan know about this manual beforehand? Is he ignorant about the operations of one of America's most important organizations? How long will Americans continue to tolerate a president who breaks international law and then denies it?

These are serious questions that deserve attention. United States credibility in the world is at stake when its highest leaders distort the truth about American aims in supporting the covert war against the Sandinista government.

Reagan, who calls the Nicaraguan rebels "freedom fighters," has continuously said that the U.S. government is assisting the rebels solely for the purpose of stopping Nicaragua from sending arms to revolutionaries in El Salvador. Where is the proof of these weapons shipments? As yet there is none.

Instead, what Americans now have is a CIA manual which spells out how to effectively overthrow the government of Nicaragua. According to Committee chair Boland, the manual "should have never been produced by any element within the U.S. Government."

The fact is that the manual was produced by an organization of the U.S. Government under a president whose politics are morally and legally in question. That the manual outlines ways to "neutralize" certain individuals with "selective use of violence" is deplorable.

Americans are being told by Reagan that the country is once again standing strong and proud. But there is no pride in overthrowing governments and advocating acts of terrorism.

As Reagan continues to support the covert war against Nicaragua, the world watches in shock and wonders about the principles of a nation which claims to stand for peace but promotes war.



letters

Citizen's right

A number of letters have recently appeared in the Emerald commenting upon plans made by the Democratic Party to register prison convicts to vote. I feel many of these have expressed concerns and raised points which are not truly relevant to the issue.

Of course rape, murder, and other crimes are deplorable acts. Who among us would not agree? But the heinous nature of crime is not the issue. The issue is the right to vote.

All American citizens are guaranteed the right to vote. Period! The Constitution does not provide for any exceptions. This is rightly so, since if we as a society begin to disenfranchise some segment of the electorate, who is to say where it will stop? Today an attack on convicts' right to vote, tomorrow what group will be singled out?

I believe that in order for the American democratic process to work for the good of our nation, we must all exercise our right to vote rather than attempting to deprive others of that precious right. In the 1980 presidential election a little over half of the eligible voters participated. Clearly something must be done to redress this appalling lack of participation in the governmental process which affects us all.

If you or anyone you know is not currently registered to vote, there is still time to do so. The OSPRIG office in Suite 1 of the EMU can assist you in registering to vote in the state of Oregon or in obtaining an absentee

ballot for voting in other states. If you don't vote, they don't listen.

Jeb Bianco
OSPIRG

Red herring

I was amused by Professor Brettauer's letter entitled "Reactionaries." The best way to describe his letter is with two words: red herring. This is evident when the professor said, "I wonder whether the youthful Reagan followers at least have brains." Why is the professor attacking the messenger and not the message?

The issue that the professor avoided was: Why is it that so many "youthful Reagan followers" refused to support recent demonstrations against the military by illiberals in the EMU lobby?

My argument is it is not liberal to restrict the rights of others. What the protesters were saying may have been true, but there was a more important principle to be considered. The protesters had the right of freedom of speech as long as they didn't obstruct or deny the freedom of others. When the protesters set up their demonstration within a few feet of the recruiters, they violated the freedom of the recruiters and the rights of interested students. Therefore, the protesters lost any legitimate rights that they once held.

What the protesters did was no more right than what students in southern California did against Walter Mondale. Students who disagreed with Mondale's message created such a disturbance that Mondale was denied his right of freedom of speech.

In the future, I hope that the professor will respond to the message, and not change the subject by attacking the messenger.

Ron Munion
Political Science

Waiting too long

Sandwich at the EMU? Best of luck obtaining one. On second thought, obtainment is possible. It's the interval between ordering and eating time that blocks rationality.

My opinion may be clouded by the fact that I have twice stood for over 20 minutes awaiting a roast beef delight. Imagine my disappointment when a completed masterpiece casually fell to the floor; tack on another 10 minute waiting time. Anticipating a comfortable sit-down feast, I was forced to resort to unlady-like mannerisms. I shoved down half the sandwich on the way to class, and then sat savoring the aroma of the remaining half calling to me loudly from my backpack during Women's Studies.

Fishbowl sandwich vendors might increase productivity (is this what they fear) if a regulated system was established. Maybe the order forms could be collected in a priority fashion, preference given to those who have already stood 10 minutes. The fellow who makes one sandwich as compared to Ana's five in the same amount of time, definitely needs some production skills.

Improvement demands initiative, a challenge to the EMU sandwich-makers.

P. Hadgson
Concerned student

letters policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content.

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