

Pinochet's Chile not a democracy at all

It was a day of political irony, with disturbing implications. On Nov. 6, citizens of the United States gave President Ronald Reagan a resounding re-election victory. On the same day, Chilean President Augusto Pinochet, praised by the Reagan administration for his efforts to promote democracy in Chile, declared a state of siege.

Pinochet made the announcement for a state of siege one day after his cabinet resigned because of continuing controversy over the government's attempt to crush opposition movements in the country. He claimed that only with a state of siege could democracy and freedom be preserved in Chile. Pinochet, who came to power in a 1973 CIA-backed coup that toppled the elected government of President Salvador Allende, has vowed to remain in office until 1989.

In the eight days since the declaration of the state of siege, Chileans have found themselves in the midst of a government-sponsored campaign of terror. For the first time since 1973, Pinochet has deployed the regular armed forces in the streets of the capital city of Santiago.

On Saturday, soldiers began a door-to-door search looking for possible "leftist subversives," a label usually given to anyone who opposes or questions the Pinochet government. The army focused its attention mostly on the poor shantytowns on the outskirts of Santiago. In the ghetto area known as Silva Henríquez, paratroopers sealed off the entire area and arrested every male over the age of fifteen. By nightfall on Saturday, more than 3,000 people had been arrested and taken away for interrogation.

Under the new laws created by the state of siege, the government of Chile can detain anyone suspected of being a "subversive" and hold them indefinitely without the right to a trial. It is the latest effort by the Chilean government to stop a rising opposition movement that has repeatedly called upon Pinochet to step down from office and to hold free elections.

During the past ten years the U.S. State Department has remained largely silent concerning events in Chile. At the same time, the people of Chile have watched their civil liberties stripped away by a government put in power with CIA support. The Reagan administration, which has continued its barrage of verbal attacks against the Nicaraguan government, accusing the Sandinistas of human rights violations, has offered no comment on the plight of the Chilean people now suffering under the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Pinochet.

Like the Soviet leaders, who can't seem to find any fault with the communist regime in Poland that has banned the Solidarity labor union, jailed its followers and murdered a pro-Solidarity priest, the Reagan administration can't seem to find any fault with the Pinochet regime, which has banned labor unions, arrested opposition leaders and murdered hundreds of people during 11 years of military rule.

Questions, not answers come from Autzen killings

The tragedy that struck the University community Monday has shocked many people. The shooting incident at Autzen Stadium that left two people dead and one wounded brought back bitter memories of the killing spree at the McDonalds restaurant in San Ysidro, Calif. last July.

Once again, innocent people have become the victims of senseless and unpredicted violence. It is impossible to completely prevent the kind of violence that occurred Monday. But with tighter gun control laws (even though in this case one of the guns used was stolen) and better availability of professional counseling, incidents like this might be prevented.

The apparent increase of random unpredicted violence in America during recent years should lead citizens of this country to question the "cult of violence" that has been avidly promoted by Hollywood. On television and in the movies, violence has become rampant. Perhaps it's time for Americans to take a closer look at what we are subjected to on film and how it may or may not be affecting the real world around us.

The Emerald staff sends its best wishes for a quick recovery to Rick O'Shea, who was wounded in Monday's shooting. We also send our deepest sympathy to the grieving families of Chris Brathwaite and Michael Evan Feher.



"YES, SIR—RAISE TAXES, AND BEGIN BOMBING IN FIVE MINUTES. WILL THERE BE ANYTHING ELSE...?"

letters

Abolish rape

Rape is not a man's right. Rape is not a joke. Rape is not an option for what to do with feelings of anger and powerlessness. Rape is an act of violence, an outward manifestation of the rampant misogyny in this country. Not only does rape occur, it is condoned.

Socialization of men in the military, fraternities, and other male institutions are in part responsible for the acceptance of such a deplorable act as rape; this acceptance must be stopped. Men need to reject the lies that equate rape with sex and manhood. Women never ask to be raped. Never.

Because men rape, rape is a man's problem. Men must educate themselves and each other about the realities of rape in order to stop the continuation of these acts of hate and violence.

Creating cages of fear or defensiveness is not the answer. All aspects of our society that condone rape must be abolished. This fight must be fought by women and men alike. We need to get angry and stay angry, channeling that anger into productive work before these violent acts destroy any and all possibilities of equality and harmony between us as women and men. We do have the power.

Leah Juniper
Psychology

Conspiracy

Yes, I know you're all still celebrating the way King

Reagan trounced that sniveling liberal Mondale. But I felt it urgent to warn you of a menacing conspiracy afoot. I have been informed of the existence of a group known as the USDA (Unwitting Soviet Dupes of America). Their motives and actions are incomprehensible to normal Americans. I think you may find the following examples of their behavior quite shocking.

They blaspheme the sacred politics of Republican and Democrat alike, and when they're in a labelling mood, might call themselves (gasp!) anarchists. They have disgusting vices such as the ingestion of mind-expanding drugs. They occasionally make seditious statements like "nationalism sucks." They discuss such sinister topics as the relationship of quantum duality to the collective unconscious.

They have unsavory fantasies of seeing corporate executives planting vegetable gardens. Finally, they are all guilty of the heinous crime of open-minded skepticism.

Beware when approaching an agent of this organization, as they are known to be smiling, unarmed, and dangerous.

John Rygh
Eugene

Throwing away

Does the Emerald advocate throwing away student fees? A recent campus incident would seem to indicate they do. It has been disclosed that on Oct. 29

and 30, distributors of the Emerald, under orders from the Emerald office, disposed of hundreds of copies of the following student publications by ASUO-funded groups:

1. The Advocate — the newsletter of the Survival Center.
2. The Impact — the newsletter of the Oregon Student Public Interest Research group.
3. Avenue — a publication of the Dept. of Architecture and allied arts.
4. Off the Record — a monthly news and feature magazine exploring student participation at the University.
5. The Link — an independent publication representing the local gay community.

These publications represent the total of hundreds of hours of student work and untold student fees, yet they were taken away and dumped from seven Emerald distribution points.

The Emerald office is claiming that these papers improperly occupied Emerald rack space. So far, all parties have claimed innocence in regard to this charge. It is now being assumed that other students or ground-keepers, in an attempt to help out or keep the areas clean, picked up the papers and put them in the racks.

Granted, the campus has recently been inundated with nearly a dozen publications by different interest groups and the problem exists of where to put them all. However, hopefully, a more reasonable solution can be found in the future.

Brian Elliott
Journalism

oregon daily emerald

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