

editorial

Setting the stage for a war in Nicaragua

It is history in the making. Once again the United States is preparing for war and once again the target is Nicaragua. President Ronald Reagan, in his own words, is now ready to make the Sandinista government "say uncle."

Reagan is obsessed with the idea of overthrowing the government of Nicaragua. In recent months, his anti-Sandinista rhetoric has reached record levels. In a propaganda campaign aimed at winning public support for his military policy in Central America, Reagan has called the Sandinistas "drug pushers," "terrorists," "barbarians," "enemies of democracy," and "totalitarian thugs." On Saturday, he took it a step further by declaring that followers of Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and Libyan President Moammar Khadafi "are in Nicaragua — about two hours by air from the United States border."

This attempt to stir up fear and panic in the American people comes at a time when 10,000 U.S. troops are engaged in military exercises along the Honduran-Nicaraguan border. The "Big Pine III" war games, as they are called, duplicate in practice how the United States would fight a war against Nicaragua.

Reagan's red-scare tactics are also timed for the Tuesday Congressional vote on whether or not to continue funding the contras in their war to overthrow the Sandinistas. The contras, led by ex-leaders of the dreaded National Guard of Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza Debayle, have been cited by Amnesty International and Americas Watch for repeated human rights violations, including rape and torture. But in Reagan's words, they are "freedom fighters" and the "moral equivalent of our Founding Fathers."

Even if Congress rejects Reagan's request for \$14 million in aid to the contras, the war against Nicaragua will go on. According to the New York Times, Reagan was quoted as saying, "We are not going to quit and walk away from them (the contras) no matter what happens." This statement shows Reagan's willingness to continue supporting the war against Nicaragua, regardless of whether Congress or the American public approve or not. It is a policy that goes against the very foundation of constitutional process and democracy in the United States.

Reagan's goal in Central America has been made easier by the fact that the Boland amendment, passed unanimously by Congress in 1983, has now expired. The amendment said that no United States money could be spent to overthrow the government of Nicaragua. It is now legal for Reagan to use U.S. taxpayers' money to support his anti-Sandinista cause. As if that isn't enough, the Defense Department has been lobbying Congress for a return to a military draft. American troop numbers in Central America have increased, as have the number of U.S. military advisors and military equipment. In short, the stage is being set for an all-out war against Nicaragua. That this is evident can be seen in recent statements by President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz. Both have made it clear that sending U.S. troops into battle against Nicaragua can no longer be ruled out.

Americans should realize that any direct attempt by the United States to overthrow the Nicaraguan government will only increase the chance of a regional war south of the border. It will also reinforce the belief that when it comes to United States interests, our government is capable of violating international law and carrying out a ruthless foreign policy rivaled only by the Soviet Union in Afghanistan.



letters

Natural act

Tim Smith (ODE, April 15), through interesting leaps in logic, has implied that I want to accept all acts of animals as permissible behavior in society. I for one cannot imagine many humans capable of devouring their mates after copulation, as our spider friends sometimes do. Assuming that one could, this would be cannibalism and murder in our society.

Cannibalism and murder do occur in other species as well as ours. However, as humans we have formed laws to protect each person's right to a certain amount of freedom. This means we value the right of an individual to copulate without fear of being eaten and to live without fear of being murdered. These acts have their place in nature, but in human society disrupt our ordered lives.

Breathing, pairing with a mate, and eating (in most cases) are acceptable acts of nature. This is so because these acts do not infringe upon anyone's right to freedom. Therefore, no need to protect society arises. No need for laws exist.

Homosexuality, a form of pairing, infringes upon no societal right to freedom. It is natural (go to a library, Mr. Smith, and read any decent biology text. Lorenz's "King Solomon's Ring" will offer a start).

Jesus did not speak a word against homosexuality (Pearls and Sine, perhaps). His emphasis was love, not the fear and hate of another people's way of life. Judge not, Mr.

Smith. Cast not first stones, Mr. Smith. Love your neighbor. P.S. Lot, you will recall, slept with his daughters.

Scott Elliott
Law

And so it is

The Emerald recently ran an editorial titled, "It's important for people to learn about homosexuality." I agree, let's start with the New England Medical Journal.

Dr. Donna Mildian wrote in 1977 an article titled "Venereal Transmission of Enteric Pathogens in Homosexuals." In it she warned, "Our study provides further evidence that homosexual sex contributes to the high risk of certain intestinal infections of homosexuals. It is probable that rectal infections with N. Gonorrhoeae, Chl. Trachomatis, Herpes Simplex Virus, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, and human papillomavirus are usually acquired by rectal sex."

In another instance, Dr. Michael J. Schermer, who runs a clinic in San Francisco, said that in 1978 one percent of the homosexuals entering his office had HTLV-3 virus (which is AIDS). In 1985, that number is 65 percent.

Robert Schwab, president of Texas Human Rights Foundation, himself dying of AIDS said, as reported by the Dallas Gay News, May 20, 1983, "...there has come the idea that if research money is not forthcoming at a certain level by a certain date, that all gay males should give blood... whatever action is required to get national attention is valid. If that includes blood terrorism, so be it." And so it is.

Dan Goulet
Eugene

Oh the irony

I wish I could laugh at the irony of the Oregon Commentator receiving \$6,800 of our student fees.

Imagine that smug, self-righteous mouthpiece of ultra-rightist propaganda dipping its genteel hands into the muck of the "public trough." The shame of it all.

Why, student fees help fund all those "liberal" groups the Commentator so frenziedly denounces.

And you'd think that all the money it already receives from off-campus "private sources" would've been sufficient to keep its fingers out of our pockets.

But no. It seems even the most holier-than-thou "conservatives" become crass opportunists when it comes to public funding.

More ironic than the Commentator wanting student fees is its relative ease in getting them.

In last year's general elections, students voted down funding for the Commentator by over 2 to 1; nevertheless, this year's IFC, a committee of seven, overturned that decision made by the student body of 15,000, and gave the Commentator \$6,800 of our money.

How could this have happened? It happens when the democratic process gets skewed, the people get screwed!

This was a brilliant maneuver by the Commentator, snatching bureaucratic victory out of democratic defeat.

At best, the Commentator's extra funding will only mean more grist for the recycling mill. At worst, the level of debate on campus will sink to the Commentator's level, and discussion of issues will deteriorate to personal attacks. Either way, we're all going to pay.

Tim Ingalsbee
Eugene

Appalled

If he was quoted accurately, I am appalled at John Wilson's arrogance and disregard for the students of the University of Oregon and their newspaper, the Oregon Daily Emerald. He has no right to throw copies of the Emerald in the trash, nor to insert his own unpaid fliers. Would he submit to the same logic that, because he sometimes leaves his cart unattended at the corner of Thirteenth and Kincaid, it is "public property" and students could thereby destroy it or put it to their own use if they pleased? The University community should boycott Mr. Wilson's business until he apologizes for his actions and pays the Emerald for the unauthorized flier.

Mike Thurman
Law

Oregon daily

emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

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News and Editorial: 686-5511
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Classified Advertising: 686-4343
Production: 686-4381
Circulation: 686-5511