

Habib mission is a diplomatic mockery

President Reagan's latest campaign pitch for aid to Nicaraguan Contras, thinly disguised as a diplomatic venture, defies integrity. Reagan announced Friday that veteran diplomat Philip Habib will travel to Central America to negotiate a diplomatic solution to turmoil in Nicaragua.

But don't be disappointed when Habib returns empty-handed. Administration officials readily admit the trip is designed to rally support for Reagan's shaky \$100-million Contra aid request. Media exposure of Habib's recent Philippine assignment coupled with his limited experience in Central America reveal the administration is more interested in publicity than in true negotiation.

In the face of the aid request's cool reception on Capitol Hill, the administration hopes to bolster credibility for the aid package. It hopes the Habib mission will serve as proof positive that the administration is seeking a peaceful resolution alongside a military one.

The administration also hopes Habib's recent role in the Philippines will correlate Nicaraguans and Filipinos as people struggling for democracy.

But rather than bolster the credibility of Reagan's request, the exercise will damage the credibility of the diplomatic process. The system was designed to peacefully reach solutions through communication and mutual trust. Abuse of the system to lobby for domestic legislation will only serve to cheapen it and reduce its effectiveness.

And foreign leaders are not likely to accept a role in American political games enthusiastically.

The administration is also insulting the intelligence of Congress and of the American people by requesting Contra military aid in one breath and announcing pursuit of a diplomatic solution in the next. As long as Reagan supports terrorists intent on toppling the Nicaraguan government, attempts to reach a diplomatic settlement will fail.

Envoys are invaluable diplomatic tools. And diplomatic solutions are always preferable to military exertion. But Habib's assignment is not a diplomatic mission. It is a mockery of one.

The administration should not exploit diplomacy to strengthen support for military aid. Rather, it should denounce bloodshed and sincerely strive for peace in Central America through legitimate diplomacy.

Students should step off sidelines and into game

Rather than complain about University policies, students should shape them. They should take advantage of the opportunity to serve on student government.

Any University student who pays incidental fees and who is enrolled at least half-time can fill a student office. None of the offices are limited by class standing. Prospective candidates have from today until April 3 to file for student elections in spring.

Student offices provide the opportunity to directly affect University policies, to work with faculty and administrators and to hold positions of leadership and responsibility.

For example, the ASUO's South African divestiture suit set national precedent. Student senators debated and voted on the recent ROTC motions. By the end of spring term, Incidental Fee Committee members will have decided how to allocate close to \$3 million dollars to student groups.

Through student offices, students have the chance to step off of the sidelines and into the game.



"It makes me so proud to be part of this effort to help the Contras..."

Letters

Get a light!

Bikers, save yourself some money and possibly your life — buy a bike light! It is almost impossible to see an unlighted biker at night, especially when it's raining. Drivers, other bikers and pedestrians can't see you. A battery-powered light that straps onto your leg costs about five bucks at any local bike store. Tickets for riding without one are \$35, hospital bills a lot more. Don't screw up your life or anyone else's. Get a light! It's the law, and it's smart.

Steve Buck
Pre-P.T.

It's not fair

After driving hopelessly for one hour Wednesday morning — 17 miles by the odometer — I started screaming.

Questions. For instance, what do the University and city intend by a policy of restricted parking in precisely the area that students need it most?

If you have a block of classes in the morning or early afternoon and live far enough from the campus that a bicycle ride becomes a major daily exertion (the social-policy ramifications of physical fitness aside for the moment), what are you supposed to do when no parking space for longer than two hours is available?

There are no good alternatives. Just take the ticket? Eventually, you might get "booted." Excuse yourself in the middle of class? "Oh, excuse me, Professor, I've got to go and move my Volvo. I'll see you in 20 minutes or so..." won't cut it. Miss class driving around trying to adhere to the letter of the law? That cuts against the central purpose of the University itself — education.

If the University and city are trying to restrict driving around the campus and/or are thinking of parking violation revenues as an end rather than a means, they should publicly say so.

If not, they should not ignore the social costs — excessive gasoline, frustration, tardiness — to students impacted by the unduly restrictive parking policy.

Here comes the meter maid. If my car is parked here two hours from now, I get a ticket. I have two hours of classes, starting about an hour from now. I must drive some more. It's not fair.

William P. Homans
Journalism

Blame readers

The criticism directed toward Sports Illustrated magazine is unjust. The publication doesn't endeavor to be a source of athletic information, so claims that it has "stepped out of bounds" are unfounded.

The main events covered are not sports at all, but games. Readers of this magazine are fascinated by games like football, basketball and baseball. These readers are only interested in what they believe to be manly, masculine things, and having once been told these games are masculine, they are acutely interested in them. True, other games and even actual athletic events are included, but their purpose is to help disguise the content of the material.

To these readers, the "annual bathing suit issue" is just a way to self-affirm their own masculinity. The fact that information regarding the cost and manufacturer of the suits is given is only an attempt to

cover up the true nature of this sham. The publishers would do just as well to have a "jacked-up four-wheel drive pickup with big tires issue," or a "Spectacular moustache and western boots issue." The readers aren't necessarily concerned with exploiting women, only with exploiting themselves.

We shouldn't censure the privileges and obvious joys of the readers of Sports Illustrated because of their nescience and misguided values. The publication is not to blame, but the readers that support it. A solution to this threat to refinement is to ridicule the readers for their manifest feelings of inadequacy. Stop support of offensive literature and the literature will disappear.

Bill Brewer
Psychology

Not dangerous

Enjoy marijuana. For the people, by the people? First the GOVERNMENT requires you to grow it (for the Navy's rope), then they make it illegal, without the people's input. Why not help fund this country by taxing marijuana like tobacco? IT IS NOT DANGEROUS.

Where is the logic in this? (more on that later).

Steven Reiser
Chemistry

Hand that feeds

The current crusade to "demilitarize" the campus is a clear case of biting the hand that feeds you.

After all, if it were not for the United States military, with its intelligence services and ROTC-trained officers, this university would long ago have been renamed something like "The Marshall Tojo College," or maybe "The Institute for Aryan Eugenics." Certainly, the academic freedom that we all cherish would by now be a faint memory.

Peter Runey
Student

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