

Student senator finds strength amid destruction in El Salvador

Stepping off the Boeing 727 onto the soil of El Salvador was like stepping into another world — a world that very few North Americans have experienced.

I went to El Salvador with Lisa Loving, editor of The

Reporter's notebook

by Randy MacDonald

Record, as part of a U.S. national student delegation. Sixteen U.S. student delegates attended.

El Salvador is a land of contradictions. It is a warm, tropical Central American nation where the majority of the population suffers from terrible poverty while a few rich families live in conspicuous luxury.

It is a "democracy" where individuals can easily lose their freedom — or their lives — for speaking out against the policies of the government or its military.

El Salvador is a country (only twice the size of Lane County in area) that has received nearly \$1.5 billion in U.S. foreign aid since 1980 while its economy has deteriorated drastically.

I thought about all these facts as I stood in the airport customs line, praying that our boxes of medical supplies would be allowed into the country. Authorities often suspect peo-

ple who bring medicine of plotting to aid the guerrillas fighting against the Salvadoran government: the Faribundo Marti Liberation National front.

The nation is in the midst of a civil war that has lasted for seven years. Tens of thousands of Salvadorans have died in the conflict, and hundreds of thousands have been displaced from their homes by the fighting and by the government's efforts to deprive the guerrillas of a popular base of support.

These efforts by the

Salvadoran military have involved extensive bombing of the countryside and forced-relocation programs very similar to tactics used by U.S. forces on peasants during the Vietnam War.

It wasn't difficult to sense the presence of conflict in El Salvador. As our delegation traveled around the city of San Salvador, we saw policemen and soldiers stationed nearly every four or five blocks, armed with M-16 automatic rifles or

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The Town Quacker Announces

The University of Oregon Housing Department is now accepting applications for the position of **STUDENT MANAGER** ACADEMIC YEAR 1987-88

QUALIFICATIONS: Must be a regularly enrolled student with experience as a Resident Assistant, or comparable experience as determined by the selection committee. Must be available to students and staff during most weeknights and weekends. Will not be allowed to hold an outside job.

REIMBURSEMENT: Current Student Managers receive \$4,041 room and board credit and \$3,210.90 as a cash stipend.

SELECTION PROCESS: Will begin February 20, and should be completed by the end of Winter term.

MANDATORY MEETING: Thursday, February 19, at 4pm, Housing Office, Walton Hall.

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