

Editorial

Policy's faults shown in Contra killing

In an ironic, but hardly funny twist of fate, Benjamin Linder was killed in Nicaragua by a group of rebels that America refers to as "freedom fighters." This may seem like another insignificant death in a country riddled with turmoil. But Linder was not only the first American reported killed by the Contras, he was also an Oregonian.

All of a sudden the events taking place in that tiny South American country are brought into our backyard. Similar to rapes or robberies, we put up a protective blind, "It will never happen to me." This has been torn down by one bullet.

But what makes the entire situation so ironic is that our government supplied that bullet to the Contras. "I feel part of it," said Howard Glazer, a friend of Linder. "We as a country killed that boy; it was our bullet."

Glazer's point is valid. We are all responsible for Linder's death. President Reagan and other national representatives have encouraged and approved funding for the Contras in Nicaragua.

Reagan calls them "freedom fighters" trying to establish a democracy. And despite the Iran-Contra affair he continues to lobby for support. It is our responsibility to voice opposition to this injustice and to stop funding these rebels.

But if we take Reagan's democratic analogy further, we could say the real freedom fighter in Nicaragua was Linder.

Linder was doing volunteer work as an engineer. He developed geothermal and hydroelectric projects in small villages. According to friends, his motivations were not political. He only wanted to help.

The Contras, on the other hand, destroyed the hydroelectric project Linder was working on. And on Tuesday evening, they singled out Linder and killed him execution-style.

Before his death, Linder spoke with friends about the threat of a Contra attack. They hoped Contras wouldn't kill Americans.

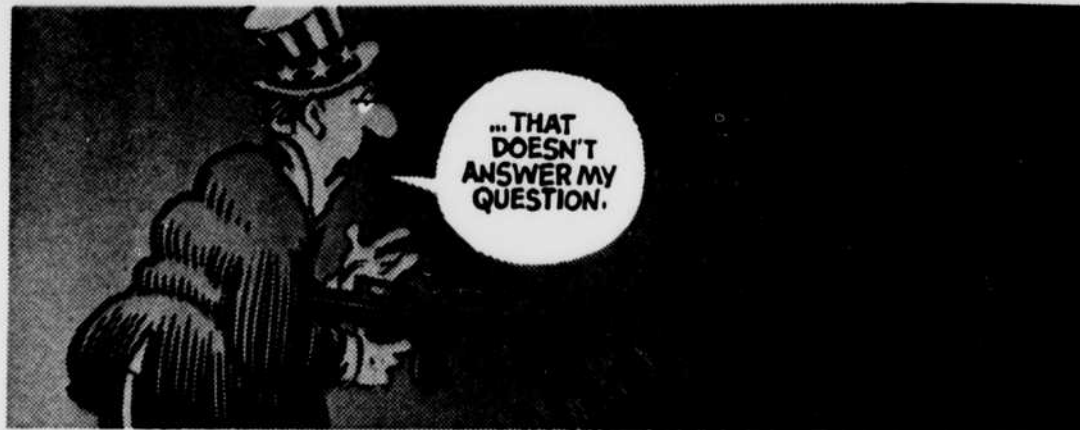
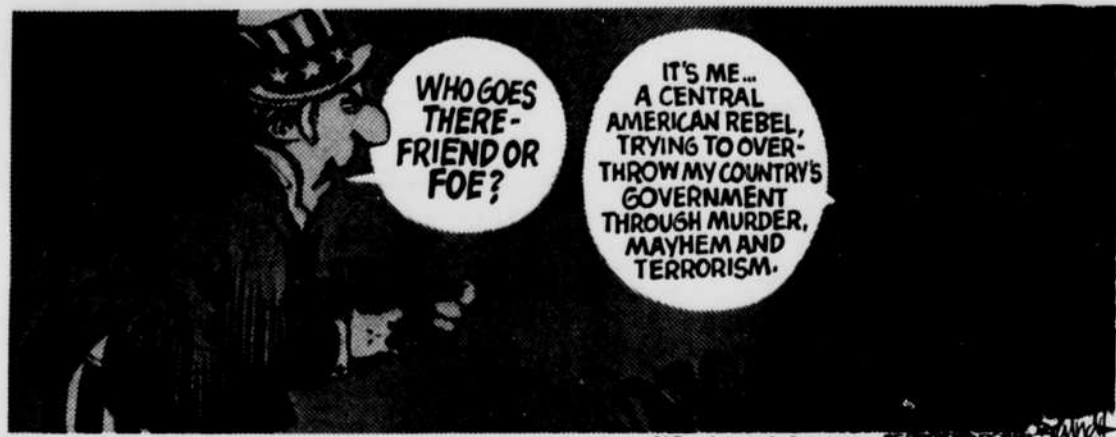
But the attack shows the rebels have bitten the hand that feeds them. It was somewhat naive to think they would distinguish nationality before shooting someone. They chose Linder because he worked for the Sandinistas, not because he had acted violently or spoken out against them.

Reagan's policy toward Nicaragua is called into question after this shooting. He claims not to support terrorists, but the Iran scandal and this shooting prove him wrong. The Contras' actions were acts of terrorism. And they will not change their ways with or without our support.

Reagan can no longer assert these rebels are "freedom fighters." They have no relation whatsoever to our founding fathers.

Linder's death is tragic, and it is unfortunate that it takes such a violent action to open our eyes. But on the positive side, the murder has brought about different feelings about the Contras to the Northwest and America.

Hopefully, Linder will have not died in vain. If Americans realize the futility of funding the Contras and demand a change in our policies, then some good can come from this tragedy.



Letters

Making babies

A program called "The Baby Business" recently aired on NBC. Disturbing facts were presented on infertility, adoption and the psychological devastation caused by childlessness. Such a program will probably bring into question many widely held attitudes in contemporary society.

In the past few years, many women have chosen to wait until past 30 to start having children. Many who wait will never have any babies. A condition called "Delayed Birth Syndrome" is becoming increasingly common — especially among "career women."

Perhaps a good message to young women 18-30 should be "If you wait, you're taking a big risk." Postponing starting a family until 15 or 20 years after puberty increases that chance that barrenness will develop.

One in five couples have difficulty getting pregnant. Many people who use no birth control at all can be married for 20 years and only conceive one or two children.

Imagine the problems en-

countered by couples who use birth control until their mid-30s and then decide they want children. Often nature doesn't cooperate with individual timetables or goals, and frequently advanced medical technology can't help.

And with over 100 waiting couples for every one available white infant put up for adoption, it's not easy or cheap to adopt.

Most people want a family. But thanks to many factors in today's society there's going to be a lot of disappointed people — and a lot more lonely older people a few years from now.

Julius G. De Paepe
Alvadore, Oregon

Pack of lies

Lies, lies, lies! I can't believe how many lies Rob Young was able to squeeze into one letter (ODE, April 4).

His deliberate attempt to mislead students is pathetic. Young points out that the funding of OSPIRG is mandatory for University students. True enough, but so is the funding for athletics, minority student unions, student government, the Oregon Student Lobby, the Interfraternity Council and every group receiving IFC funds, whether or not every single student agrees with their goals or methods.

A wide range of student programs receive incidental fees.

Young's major lie is that OSPIRG "is not at all affiliated with the University... it is an entirely independent activist organization." I suppose it means nothing to Young that OSPIRG was organized by students here in 1971, and that before that it did not exist.

The fact it is controlled entirely by students must also be meaningless, as is the support it receives in ASUO elections every other year.

Young also finds it quite easy to ignore the section in the ASUO Constitution devoted en-

tirely to the funding of OSPIRG (6.11).

He goes on to allege some evil doings in OSPIRG's management of its money. He would like to see a break-down of how fees are spent. He's more than welcome to do that at any time and put his fears to rest. Before alleging something as serious as mispending of student fees, he should get his facts straight.

I urge students to think hard about the credibility of these individuals who are threatening to destroy the political culture of this campus.

Maureen Kirk
Chairwoman, OSPIRG

Act of war

A war has been declared — a war against our future, a war against... our children. In this war there is no winner, only losers.

The weapon in this ultimate form of fratricide is abortion. And the enemy is the most innocent member of society — the babies of America. Our Supreme Court has allowed an intense battle to be waged with needles, suction instruments, forceps and poison. And the baby doesn't stand a chance.

There's no place to run and hide in the womb.

How long will America allow this war to go on? Do we really hate ourselves so much that we want to sanction our own genocide? It certainly won't be easy to expect world peace if we can't even declare an end to this most inexcusable act of war and brutality against our young.

Irene De Paepe
Alvadore, Ore.

Lost his head

Dan Goulet certainly seems to worry a lot about what other people stick up their asses. Makes one wonder where his head is at...

Hiawatha
Graduate, Music
Thursday, April 30, 1987

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