

Editorial

Deaths evoke concern about U.S. military aid

Gunmen believed to be anti-communist rebels assassinated two American military personnel in the Philippines last Wednesday, evoking questions with regard to the appropriateness of U.S. military aid to this increasingly volatile nation.

After two coup attempts damaged the Corason Aquino administration and forced the resignation of her Cabinet, the results further exemplify the instability of the Philippines, and the possibility that U.S. policy might contribute to it.

But before to this violent incident, attacks on U.S. military personnel virtually had been nonexistent. In a change of policy, though, anti-government communist guerillas recently announced that U.S. military personnel and installations would become the subject of attack in the days forthcoming. This announcement preceded the Wednesday's assassination.

Then, on Friday, two days after the assassination, a rebel leader reiterated the warning by asserting that more attacks are planned against American military personnel because U.S. military aid and the presence of U.S. bases, according to rebel leaders, are "an affront to Filipino sovereignty."

The communist rebels are beginning to attack U.S. personnel because of increased U.S. military support to the Aquino administration.

Nevertheless, the Reagan administration should not let guerrilla tactics, whether it be attempted coups by right-wing fanatics or attacks on U.S. personnel by communist rebels, diminish its economic support for the democratically elected and reform-minded Aquino government.

The attack, however, should force the U.S. government to re-evaluate its military aid to the Philippines.

Both the rebels fighting the government and the coup plotters within the Filipino military are attempting to destabilize the government to facilitate its demise and replacement with an alternative administration — one that would most likely be more extreme and less reform-oriented than Aquino's.

Furthermore, if any public official represents the stability desperately needed in the Philippines, it is Aquino. For this reason, the Reagan administration publicly should continue to support her administration, including the continuation of economic aid.

U.S. military aid, however, will only serve to escalate instability and aggravate rebel forces to act against U.S. interests in the Philippines.

The assassination of the two Americans should serve as a reminder that the role of the United States in Filipino politics should not include military support of the Filipino government, as such lethal aid leads to unnecessary violence directed at U.S. personnel.

Rather than provide the Philippines with military aid, the United States should stick to promoting stability through economic reforms and democracy through diplomacy.

The Reagan administration should continue to support Aquino and her policies, but such support should not be at the expense of the lives of Americans. Just as the United States is attempting to safeguard democracy in the Philippines, it also should protect U.S. personnel there by eliminating direct military aid to the Aquino government. Such a policy will save not only money but also American lives.



Letters

Keep the field

With all of the controversy surrounding the research park, one important issue largely has been overlooked. The plans call for the destruction of one of the best soccer fields in this state.

Being a native Oregonian and having played soccer for the last 13 years has allowed me to see many fields, and Southbank (located near the footbridge to Autzen) is definitely the best. Why?

1) It's unique, raised soil-on-sand-on-gravel construction makes for excellent drainage, thus no mud bogs even though it is used extensively by many University groups.

2) The turf is strong, smooth, thick, healthy and soft. Perfect for soccer, ultimate and rugby — all club sports that use it.

3) Southbank is long, wide and extremely level making it the ideal soccer pitch.

The destruction of this field is a tragedy for anyone who has ever played there.

If things go on scheduled, no

soccer or any other sport will ever be played on Southbank again. It will be a parking lot. No longer will this University be able to host visiting teams on this amazing field by the river.

I am proud of this University and I (for the time being) am proud of its best field, but I am beginning to think that a university that puts profit over pride is not worthy of respect.

The University exists for the students, and all of the students I know are for saving Southbank. Obviously the people making these decisions do not realize how important and irreplaceable a field like Southbank is to the University community.

Duane Johnson
Club soccer goalkeeper

Commitments

Thanks to Gov. Goldschmidt, Oregon taxpayers are now footing the bill to print and distribute posters with scantily clad babes and muscular hunks — "bright red condoms" in hand.

Under the pressure of the militant homosexual bunch, Goldschmidt is exploiting the tragedy of AIDS to promote a favored liberal ethic: the amorality of any, and all, sexual activity.

Liberals are so afraid of offen-

ding irresponsible sexual deviants and promiscuous "straights." They just can't bring themselves to admit out loud that the only responsible answer to AIDS (and herpes, syphilis, gonorrhea, etc.) is abstinence until a monogamous heterosexual marriage.

Goldschmidt claims this propaganda campaign does "not dodge issues." He's wrong. If they were honestly trying to stop this disease rather than pushing the left wing's value-free sex agenda, they would acknowledge that all sex outside of marriage is "high-risk" sex.

How much more death and misery must we see before they finally face up to the fact that there are deadly implications to unrestrained sexual exploits.

AIDS is a clear living (and dying) demonstration that what you wear to have "safe sex" is not a condom; it's a wedding ring — and the commitments that come with it.

So now we'll see government produced posters glorifying undressed beautiful bodies in the midst of sexual adventure. But where are the posters that show an AIDS disease-ravaged body in the midst of terminal decay? Those posters should say: "Condoms fail — AIDS doesn't."

Jon Wollander
Eugene

Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Comments must be factually accurate and refrain from personal attacks on the character of others.

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style. Letters should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300, EMU.

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