

University

Central American violence probed

By Marina Wolf
Emerald Contributor

Over and over, the indelible pictures of violence and death flashed on the screen: bodies stacked awkwardly in alleys and houses, oddly silent families wandering through a village devastated by guns and fire, soldiers standing grimly in the midst of a primitive town market.

Juxtaposed with scenes of struggle and pain were clips of news broadcasts and videotaped interviews with Central American officials and government leaders, calmly discussing death squads, guerrilla attacks, and the U.S. government's support of various factions in that politically tumultuous region south of Mexico.

Such was the strange brew of

movie images shown last night to an attentive audience of about 200, who gathered in Science Room 123 to view Allen Francovich's newest film, "The Houses Are Full of Smoke."

The interviewees included natives of Guatemala and El Salvador, who narrated tales of arbitrary violence, torturings, and countless unexplained disappearances and deaths of close friends and family members.

"The Houses Are Full of Smoke" had a certain kind of eyewitness quality to it, mostly attributable to the physical closeness and topical relevance of the video clips, that lent credibility to the viewpoint that was more strongly represented than any other, that is, the people's viewpoint. While many

Americans are of the opinion that the United States and its allies (in this case, certain governments in Central America) are not to be trusted, this movie reinforces this suspicion by showing scenes of death and deprivation, followed by positions of a CIA representative or a Guatemalan general about internal policies in these countries.

Last night's audience showed a definite empathy for the message of the film, gasping, murmuring, and laughing at certain images and comments.

In spite of the attitude they had coming in, though, many members of the audience left shaken by the impact of what they had seen. "There was pain everywhere," said Julia Youst, a senior in Russian. "I've read about the problems down there before, but when the images are repeated over and over (like in the film), they really sink into your head."

Two groups get IFC funds

By Polly Campbell
Emerald Reporter

The Incidental Fee Committee on Wednesday allocated \$3,593 to two student groups and postponed a special request hearing.

John Carhart, president of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS), came be-

are used," said IFC Chairwoman J. Lauren Norris.

As a result, the committee agreed to allocate AIAS \$720, a 41 percent decrease from this year's budget of \$1,218.

The committee also listened to a budget proposal presented by Daniel Silvernail and Heather Dunn of AVENU, a publication from the School of Architecture and Allied Arts.

"The newspaper is a way of getting people involved in the arts to a greater extent," Silvernail said. "Anyone who picks one up will learn what's going on in the art scene."

The committee allocated \$2,873 to AVENU.

In other matters, committee members decided to postpone a special request hearing by Don Silverthorne of the Westmoreland Tenants Council. Silverthorne appeared before the group requesting for additional funds needed to help pay for Westmoreland family housing's expansion of its child care facilities.

But committee members voted to postpone the hearing until more information about the project is received.

IFC Review

fore the IFC and asked for \$1,236. The group planned to spend this amount when planning and organizing special activities. The money also will be used to pay for speakers the AIAS hopes to bring on campus and films the group is planning to sponsor.

The AIAS is a group developed to inform students about the architecture profession. "The group is a way of thinning the fog between the school and the profession," Carhart said.

Because the group has not spent any of the money budgeted to them last year, IFC members did not consider AIAS to be an active group.

"A group needs to get their act together before student fees

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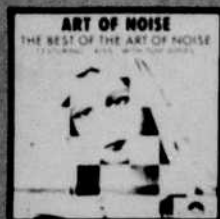
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