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Even in such nations as the United States, West Germany or Japan, the strength of an economic system does not rest on the justice and well-being of the people, Parenti said.

Such criteria as production and gross national income may be increasing in these nations, he said, but they are not going up for the majority who make their income on wages, and salaries and pensions, Parenti said.

"The poor are the fastest growing social group in America," he said.

In the third world, the United States exerts even more control over the non-ruling people, Parenti said.

Should the people of Asia, Africa or Latin America rise and say they want a better life or alternative ways of using their land and resources, he said, the United States serves

However, he said, "If they think they've won, they've got some surprises."

"We cannot change the nature of imperialism but we can change the conditions under which imperialism operates."

'They didn't vote against the revolution; they just voted against the continuation of the mercenary war.'

— Michael Parenti

he said. "The class struggle is not over."

Parenti's lecture received a standing ovation.

Parenti received his Ph.D. in political science from Yale University in 1962, and he has taught at a number of colleges and universities. He now lives in Washington, D.C.

'Capitalism works. And I believe it does — it works. But so does torture work, so does assassination work.'

— Michael Parenti

"to pulverize them, to beat them down, to cut them off."

The Nicaraguan election earlier this month was an example, Parenti said. "They didn't vote against the revolution; they just voted against the continuation of the mercenary war," he said.

The failures of Communist countries in Eastern Europe is in part a victory for imperialism, Parenti said.

He is the author of books including *The Anti-Communist Impulse*, *Ethics and Political Attitudes*, *Democracy for the Few*, *Inventing Reality*, and *The Sword and the Dollar: Imperialism, Revolution and the Arms Race*.

Parenti waived his usual lecture fee to help raise money for the newest University publication.

"I'm very happy to give my

support to *The Student Insurgent*," Parenti said. "It sounded like a good paper, for a good cause. It's part of my political work. I do my share to get the word out."

Robert Kenneth, *Student Insurgent* associate editor, intro-

duced Parenti and praised his role in the resurgence of campus and intellectual activism.

"Over the past few decades there have been singular women and men who have helped enlighten and give strength to the struggle for true freedom, true peace and true justice," Kenneth said.

Gary Murrell, a member of the *Insurgent*, expressed his appreciation that Parenti waived his usual fee to speak in Eugene.

"I don't want to make a crude analogy, but could you contemplate the response if I'd asked somebody from the ruling class to come here and do a freebie — somebody like Ronald Reagan?"


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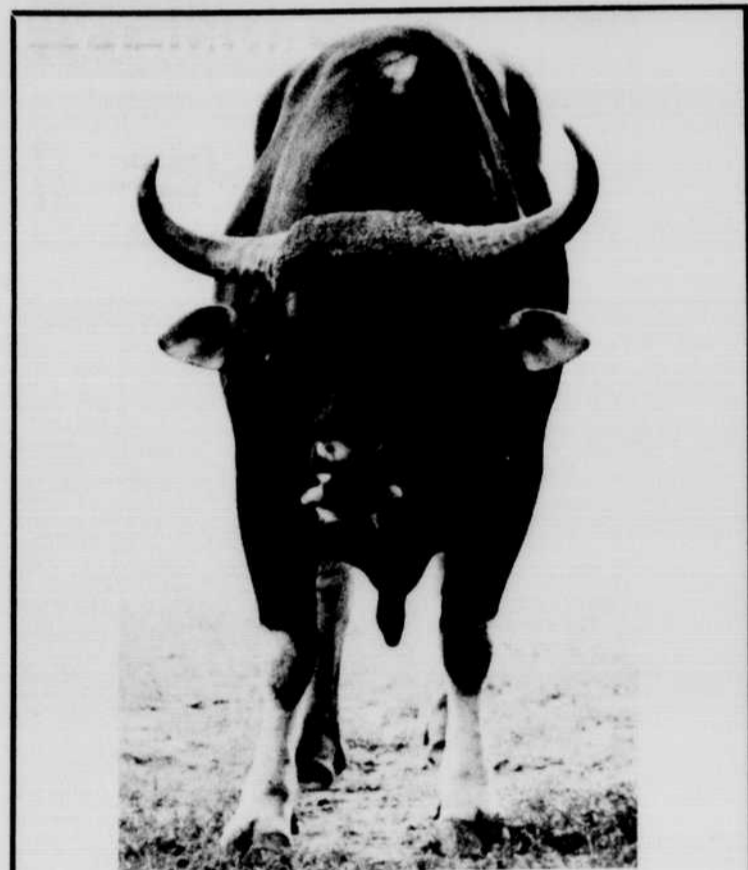
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