

# Quayle aide says media bring down governments

□ Press secretary gives insights to law, journalism students

By Lynda Westcott  
Emerald Contributor

This country's powerful media evolved from an 18th century partisan press into a World War II "status quo lap-dog image," and have culminated in a profession that "brings down governments," Vice President Dan Quayle's press secretary said on Friday.

David Beckwith, a former *Time* magazine White House correspondent now working for the vice president, shared his behind-the-scenes perspective with listeners at the University's law and journalism schools.

Beckwith said that although candidates no longer require a

party hierarchy to run for president, they must raise enough money to get the attention required for election and, more significantly, be able to navigate safely through the heat of the press.

The 18-month to two-year press scrutiny gives breed to a new class of candidates so ambitious that they are willing to go through a non-scientific, unfair and frenzied screening process where "anything is legitimate fodder for publication."

Beckwith referred to current news reporting style as "herd printing," and said the people who run publications and report for publications all read the same newspapers, watch the same television programs, talk to the same people and frequently travel together.

Beckwith then navigated his way through multiple ideas and views as he responded to a variety of questions from students.

To student Alexandra Foote's question about pros and cons of capping campaign funds, Beckwith said putting a limit on election funds inherently favors the incumbent and places unknown new-comers at a distinct disadvantage.

One student speculated that Bush might want to repeat his surprise announcement of 1988, when he chose Quayle as his running mate, by announcing a new vice presidential mate for this election.

"Let me assure you," Beckwith said, "Quayle is not going anywhere except on the ticket with Bush. He has been and still is Bush's choice for vice president."

Beckwith said there will be a lot of talented Republicans running for president in the next presidential race, but he ex-

**'Quayle is not going anywhere except on the ticket with Bush. He has been and still is Bush's choice for vice president.'**

— David Beckwith,  
Dan Quayle's press secretary



pects Quayle to be the party's 1996 front-runner.

Beckwith, a graduate of the University of Texas Law School and Columbia University's School of Journalism, came to the University campus as part of a series presentation titled "Dissent of Democracy."

Series coordinator, George Beres, said current federal ad-

ministrative "movers and shakers" rarely speak on college campuses in the Northwest. He said a great deal of the credit for getting the vice presidential press secretary goes to Beckwith's sister-in-law, Jane Beckwith, president of the Lane County League of Women Voters. Beckwith's brother, Jeff, is a physician in Eugene.

## SALVADOR

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messages for the people back in the states," Heiman said, "and he gave us the same message that everyone else gave us. That is, 'Don't forget about us now that the peace agreements have been signed.' International solidarity is what going to force the government to implement these accords."

Heiman, Roffler and Root are all members of the Sister University Project, a student group formed in 1985 to help support UES, which was closed down by the government from 1980-84.

The trip during spring break, organized by the national group Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, was Root's second and the first for Heiman and Roffler.

Students at UES have long been a strong presence and voice in the opposition movement, said Root, a senior English major, and they have been very instrumental in the popular struggle.

"Primarily, what we're doing is trying to provide support and solidarity as well as raise awareness here," she said. "The history of UES is just one of intense repression. We walked around the campus and saw how much it's been bombed."

"It was hit by an earthquake during 1986, but also during the offensive in 1989 by the government," he said. "They just bombed the shit out of it."

Heiman, an international studies graduate student, said the government resists putting any money into UES, home to 40,000 students. He said the university is a shambles.

"We saw where the medical building had been bombed and we saw where the engineering building had been scraped from helicopters and just riddled

with bullet holes," he said. "The students there who gave us a tour said the building was smoking for weeks."

Heiman said the first thing he noticed is the graffiti that covers the UES buildings.

"They are so politicized there," he said. "There's not a building there that's not covered with graffiti, with political slogans."

The graffiti is in other areas of the city also, Root said, and she calls it "a continuous documentation of the history of the struggle."

It's one of the ways people can speak out in the face of oppression, said Roffler, a senior international studies major.

Heiman, Root and Roffler said the UES students face dangers simply by attending a school where many support the opposition to the government.

"Basically it's against the law to be a student there," Heiman said. "That's what it boils down to. If you're a student, you take your life into your hands."

UES students have played a large role in the FMLN and are continually organizing opposition supporters. People are often captured and tortured, Root said, and are forced to release other students' names.

Heiman said the feeling on the UES campus now is representative of emotions throughout the country.

"The peace agreement has been signed and there's a lot of optimism," he said. "This is a huge step forward and people are very psyched about that. But at the same time, they've seen so much that there is a real sense of realism."

"And the realism (is because) the government is demonstrating a very profound lack of desire to honor the agreements," he said. "There's been stalling and hemming and hawing every step of the way."

Root said they witnessed peace agreement violations

when they took part in a march denouncing the fact that the National Guard and other security forces had not yet been disbanded.

"The UN Peacekeeping Force met riot police at the march and said, 'It's against peace agreements for you to be here.'"

Root said UES students are also focusing attention on rebuilding the country and helping the citizens.

"The students that we met are part of something called the 'student projection,' which is like a student government," Root said. "They are talking with students and telling them to play a significant role in society, not just to take that degree and go off and not contribute."

"They're encouraging them to get involved in the national civilian police force that's being formed out of peace accords," she said.

The group is organizing programs where people in the medical school, for example, are encouraged to establish community medical centers.

Root said the students want Americans to come down and visit and help on the projects, "but they also want to know how they can help us."

Everyone in El Salvador is knowledgeable about the role international solidarity has played in bringing about the peace accords, Heiman said, in bringing about international awareness of human rights abuses.

The three have organized several presentations on El Salvador. The first, titled "El Salvador: The struggle for peace and democracy," will be April 16 at 7 p.m. at the Wesley Center, 1236 Kincaid St.

Others will be April 23 at 1 p.m. in the University's Ben Linder Room and May 7 at 5 p.m. in the Ben Linder Room.

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