

Bishop speaks about 'neoliberalism'

Raul Vera López spoke to a crowd of about 200 as part of a symposium on the Cold War's legacy

BY AIBING GUO
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

The poor people in Latin America deserve more respect and help than they are getting today, and "profit" should never be the sole goal a society pursues in the free market system, said Bishop Raul Vera López of Mexico, who delivered a keynote speech Thursday.

López, whose speech was part of the first day of the symposium "Smoldering Ashes: Revisiting the Legacy of the Cold War in Central America," told a crowd of about 200 in the EMU Ballroom that several countries in Latin America adopted a system known as "neoliberalism," which is based on a purely economic conception of man. This system considers profit and the law of the market as its only parameters while neglecting dignity and respect for individuals, he said.

At times, this system has become the ideological justification for certain attitudes and behaviors in social and political spheres, leading to the neglect of the weaker members of society, he said. In reality, the poor in Latin America are more numerous than ever and are becoming victims of specific economic policies and structures that are often unjust.

López said he doesn't think globalization is a good policy for social justice in the world, especially in Latin America. A few extremely rich members of a society currently control nearly all the profitable industries in Latin America, he said, while ordinary people have nearly nothing.

"It's not about good luck and bad

luck; it's about the unjust social and economic systems," he said.

He said the globalized economy must be analyzed in light of the principles of social justice, adding that it must respect the poor's options to work with dignity.

Citing his trips to Latin American countries, López said he found some conditions are increasing while others are decreasing. Among those increasing are poverty rates, working hours, river and air pollution, drug use, violence and destruction of natural resources. Those decreasing include the middle class, education, peace and security, natural resources and most importantly, hope.

To turn things around, he said people's right to work with dignity should be guaranteed and that a system or constitution embracing social justice should be established in Latin American countries.

After the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, a global war on terrorism began; López said poverty is one of the motivations driving terrorists. In order to get rid of the problem, all countries should also think about what they could do to decrease poverty in the developing world, he said.

In the hour-long speech, López's passion and dedication to poverty relief elicited a large applause from the audience.

Graduate student Bob Reinhardt said he was impressed by the speech, especially López's passion about poverty in Latin America.

"I really appreciate his focus on the (economic) structure that causes problems, ... and he really did a good job tying those problems to



NICOLE BARKER | PHOTOGRAPHER

Bishop Raul Vera López speaks in the EMU Ballroom on Thursday afternoon.

the situation that we have here in the United States, like immigration and terrorism," he said. "It's very interesting."

Megan DeBates, an environmental studies major, said she is concerned more about the pollution issue López raised. She suggested that University students could do something such as refusing to purchase commodities from those

nations that are heavily polluted to urge those governments to improve their environment.

Father David Orique of St. Thomas More Newman Center said López's speech would help University students better understand the reality of people's struggle in Latin America and urge them to do whatever they can to support poverty-alleviating efforts.

IN BRIEF

Kulongoski criticizes roadless area policy

GRANTS PASS — Gov. Ted Kulongoski believes the new Bush administration policy that opens 1.2 million acres of roadless areas in Oregon to potential logging amounts to saddling the state with work the U.S. Forest Service should be doing itself.

The new roadless area policy for national forests is an "unnecessary distraction" from producing a reliable stream of logs for Oregon's timber industry under the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan, Mike Carrier, natural resources adviser to the governor, said Thursday.

Roadless areas are large sections of national forests where little or no logging has occurred, originally because their rugged terrain and remote locations made logging uneconomical and more recently because scientists identified them as more valuable for clean water and fish and wildlife habitat.

The Bush administration Thursday adopted a new rule for roadless areas that opens for consideration 1.2 million acres in Oregon, 60 percent of the 2 million acres that were off-limits under a 2001 Clinton administration rule.

Under the new rule, governors have 18 months to tell the Forest Service how they would like to see roadless areas managed, but the Forest Service retains the final say under management plans for individual national forests.

"What they are really doing is taking a federal responsibility and imposing it on the governors and imposing it at a time the states are strained to find the capacity to do the business of the state," Carrier said.

— The Associated Press

Latin American Studies Symposium

SMOLDERING ASHES: REVISITING THE LEGACY OF THE COLD WAR IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Friday, May 6

9 am—11 am Gerlinger Lounge

Human Rights in Central America: Traditions of Solidarity and Resistance

David Orique (Newman Center, Eugene),

"Flames of Prophetic Religious Activism:
Legacies and Lessons"

James Loucky (Western Washington University),

"Sanctuary and Solidarity: A Retrospective
on the Central American Movement"

Robyn Braverman (Save the Children, Honduras),

"The End of the Cold War and its Effects on
Central American Children"

11 am—1 pm Gerlinger Lounge

From the Cold War to the War on Terror: Legacies and Challenges

Jane Cramer (University of Oregon),

"Blood on Our Hands:
U.S. Cold War Interventions"

Richard Kraus (University of Oregon),

"National Indigestion: US Foreign Policy
Tries the Human Rights Diet"

Greg Grandin (New York University),

"The Latin American Roots of the
Bush Doctrine and the New Imperialism"

3 pm—5 pm EMU Gumwood Room
Testimonio and the Politics
of Witnessing

Roberto Arroyo (University of Oregon),

"El Concepto de Enemigo
en el Relato Testimonial"

Angelina Godoy (University of Washington),

"Violence and Victims: Lynchings, Agency,
and the Legacies of War"

John Beverly (University of Pittsburgh),

"Torture, Testimony, and Truth"

5:30 pm EMU Ben Linder Room
Re-Dedication

Presentation of Award to Elisabeth Linder

Music by "Lo Nuestro;" poetry by Margaret
Randall; remarks by Daniel Goldrich; reception

7:00 pm EMU Ballroom

Keynote address

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Randall
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and activist



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