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Ethnic diversity aids Guatemalan military

By Donna Sisson

The repression in Guatemala is more acute than in other Latin American countries because the United States used Guatemala as a laboratory to test insurgency, said a former resident of the country.

Miguel Cifuentes said Wednesday that he was significantly involved in Guatemalan union struggles. He was vice chairman of the National Confederation of Workers and general secretary of the Tobacco Workers' Union. In 1979, he left Guatemala after the secret police attempted to kidnap him. The speech was sponsored by the Latin American Solidarity Committee and Nebraskans for Peace.

Guatemala was a democracy from 1944 to 1954, until the government was overthrown by the efforts of three corporations — United Fruit, the International Railroad Company and the electric company — and the CIA, Cifuentes said.

Since then, Guatemala has had nine governments, eight of which were military dictatorships, Cifuentes said. In Guatemala, the military decides the next government, either by coup d'etat or fake elections, he said.

A new era began in 1976 when people, for the first time since 1954, mobilized in the streets, Cifuentes said. At this time, the National Committee of Trade Union Workers became the vanguard of the resistance struggle, he said.

Another hallmark of this period was the organization of the miners' struggle in 1977.

In 1978, the government organized a new type of death squad in the form of secret police, Cifuentes said. The government began a policy of selective repression and published a list of people they wanted to kill because they represented the struggle against government, he said.

Cifuentes said his name was on the list in December 1978, and he learned what it was like to be in exile in his own country. In April 1979, the secret police attempted to kidnap him in the capital city, he said.

After he escaped from the secret police, Cifuentes said he found refuge at the city hall until his friends could sneak him out to the country. Soon after this, he left Guatemala, he said.

In the summer of 1980, 44 officials of the Trade Workers' Union were kidnapped, Cifuentes said. This, however, represents only repression in the capital city — rural areas are just as repressed, he said.

One factor hurting the Guatemalan resistance is the country's 22 different dialects and ethnic groups, Cifuentes said. An effective struggle must be unified, and it is hard to unite with language differences.

This lingual barrier is also a disadvantage because it helps the government form an army, Cifuentes said. The government can recruit young people from one ethnic group and send them to fight a different ethnic group. The soldiers don't realize they are still fighting Guatemalans, he said.

The doors of democracy are closed, but the struggle in Guatemala slowly gains force, Cifuentes said. A civil war has developed, of which the outside world is not fully aware, he said.

Buckley tapes shows in Lincoln

By Jay Mulligan

Informative, thought-provoking, provocative. These words have been used to describe public television's question-and-answer program, *Firing Line*. These words also can describe the show's host, William F. Buckley, Jr.

Buckley was in Lincoln this week to tape several *Firing Line* shows at the NETV building on East Campus.

In an interview, Buckley talked about politics, presidents and political parties. He said he has "drawn fire" in the past for his controversial political views presented on his weekly show and in his column "On The Right," which is syndicated in 300 newspapers throughout the world.

Buckley spent only 12 hours in Lincoln, which included taping two one-hour sessions of *Firing Line*, one with Nebraska Gov. Bob Kerrey, and one with journalists from Lincoln; Des Moines, Iowa; and Kansas City, Mo. The topics discussed included education, interest rates and farm programs, which were part of the "Does America Have an Inferiority Complex?" program.

Buckley has been the show's host since it first



New Movement performs at UPC's Springfest activities at the Nebraska Union Thursday afternoon.

Pop music and rock bands promote attitudes 'destructive to all' — Dobkin

By Mary C. Reilly

Two programs presented in celebration of Women's Week 1984, in the Nebraska Union, "Women-hating, Racism and Violence in the Top-Forty" and "Mentoring and the Old Girl Network" provided new insight into important women's issues.

Alix Dobkin, a writer, producer and performer from New York, said that much of today's popular music is "very destructive to all people."

Dobkin said today's popular music puts pressure on men to perform sexually and is especially dangerous and damaging to women.

Many of the messages we hear in the mass media are banal and stupid, Dobkin said. Much popular music promotes the lowest level of infantile, boring relationships, the worst attitudes and minimal mentality.

Along with her lecture, Dobkin presented a slide show with offensive album cover examples and popular music examples.

Dobkin cited examples of popular music which promote violence against women. Michael Jackson's *Thriller* video is based on a woman being terrorized, Dobkin said.

Rick Springfield's hit "An Affair of the Heart" has an offensive message repeated softly over and over in the background of the song: "I am the controller. I want to seize you. I want to rape you," Dobkin said.

Nick Lowe's hit single, "Cruel to be Kind" has three lyrics: "When I knock you down on the floor, you look up at me and ask in your plaintive way, 'Why do you hit me over and over again?' And I reply that it is a

mystical thing. But you've got to be cruel to be kind, it means I love you, baby."

Dobkin said people should learn to analyze what they're listening to and really hear what it is saying. She encouraged everyone to talk back, assert themselves and their identity by calling up radio stations and complaining about offensive popular music or mass media messages.

Barbara Kerr, Associate Professor of Educational Psychology and Social Foundations, spoke about the need for mentors among professional women Thursday morning.

Mentoring and the Old Girl network is "what women have always done and it is very feminine. Women have always used relationships to make decisions," Kerr said.

Kerr said that in college, there is a direct relationship between hard work and success. It is usually after college that professional women need to identify a mentor.

A mentor is also beneficial, "when you've lost direction in your field, or when you want to strike out in a new field," Kerr said.

Kerr discussed ways in which a mentoring relationship can begin: by offering new ideas or help that would not be perceived as an obligation, by asking for help in your field, by demonstrating excellence, or by specializing in your work.

"Women networks are usually very diverse," Kerr said. "In diversity there's strength. You can learn about every field in a female network while male networks are very specialized."

Friday

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