

# El Salvador: U.S. 'human rights' issue

One of the worst things about American reporting is what you might call its "trendiness." An issue or a nation appears on the evening news and in the newspapers only as long as there is nothing more interesting going on anywhere else — as long as that issue or nation is "trendy."

This reporter is as guilty as anyone else, I suppose. The reason I chose El Salvador as a subject is the same reason that El Salvador has come back on TV: every six months, the administration is required by law to certify that



**Eric Peterson**

political and human rights progress is being made in El Salvador, in order to continue American military aid to that government. The State Department recently did this certification, and some Congressional critics like Connecticut Sen. Christopher Dodd are beginning to question the commitment.

And all the time that American journalism has been focusing on Israel and Sharon, unemployment and Anne Gorsuch, the war has continued and heightened in El Salvador.

For Ronald Reagan, the conflict is simple enough: it is

an indirect attack on the United States by the Soviet Union, which has been "challenging us, even at home here in our own hemisphere." (Note the friendly paternal tone Reagan takes toward the neighbors who happen to share "our hemisphere.")

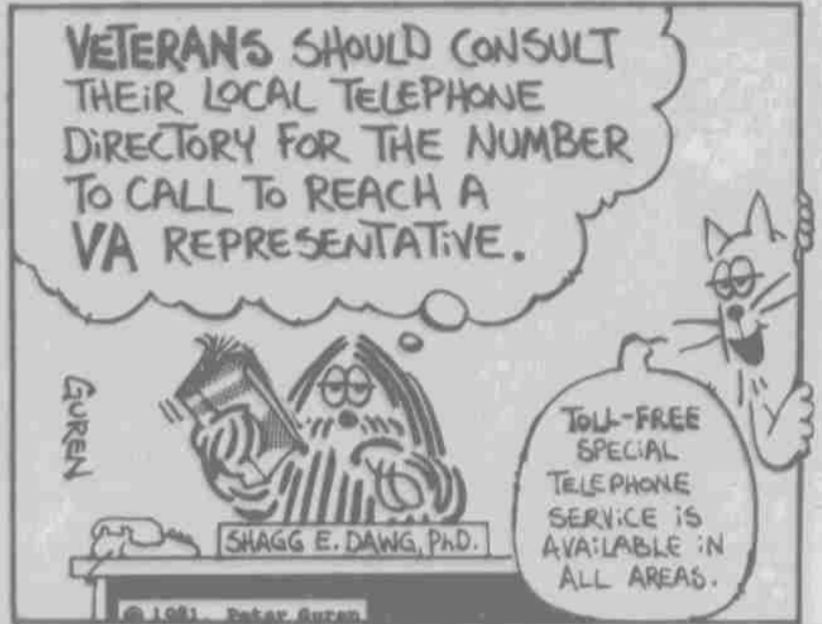
Pope John Paul II puts it differently. "On one side those who consider armed battle a necessary instrument for obtaining a new social order, and on the other side those resorting to the principles of 'national security' to legitimize brutal repression." Roman Catholic clergy in the country have been among the most vocal opponents of government-sponsored murder.

A United Nations report on the human rights situation in El Salvador lists 4,777 killings of civilians outside of combat in El Salvador last year — nearly all of which, the report states, are murders committed by the El Salvadoran army and police, often in collusion with paramilitary rightist groups.

The State Department does not deny that political murder of non-combatants happens systematically in El Salvador — the Reagan administration merely points out that it's not as bad as it used to be. Those 4,777 assassinations are about half, according to the United Nations, and about a quarter, according to U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, of the violence that occurred in years before. This, according to the State Department, means that the government there is making a "concerted and significant" effort to protect human rights.

The State Department insists on this human rights progress despite the prominence in the El Salvadoran government of Roberto D'Aubuisson, the man who seems to have had El Salvador's Archbishop Romero assassinated.

Congress, however, is not likely to refuse more guns to El Salvador on a human rights basis alone. What is more likely to count in the minds of the senators on the Foreign Relations Committee is the practical uselessness of throwing good money after nearly a billion dollars bad. If a current guerrilla offensive continues, Congress might want to pull out of another potential Vietnam.



## Letters...

### Campus patrol...

Continued from Page 4

He said that my attacker probably realized this and ran. I firmly believe that the threat of the police being in close proximity was the reason that I escaped this incident physically unharmed.

If having the police patrolling campus on foot saves one woman from an attack, it is time and money well spent. This

is a concern for both men and women. We must do more than hope that someone is listening, we must make them listen. The UNL Police are very helpful when contacted, and can provide information to people who are interested in how to effect this change.

Tamara M. Rullo  
senior, theater

### Education key to rape prevention

Although I don't agree with everything that Becky Stingley said in her article (Daily Nebraskan, Feb. 22) on rape, I applaud her appeal for community action. Rape is unacceptable, it is an intrusion, it is a violation of a person's body and mind. It is our responsibility to do something about it and the Student Watch Group is that something.

The Student Watch Group is a newly formed, ASUN-recognized student organization. Our primary purpose is to develop a student-oriented rape education and prevention program. The question of rape is a much more widespread and complicated problem than Stingley presented in her article. It is not merely a question of prevention, but one of education.

Stingley said "Recent sexual assaults prove that the administration is failing to protect its students," and "We need lots of police officers . . . to prevent sexual

assaults from occurring." Honestly, they can only do so much, and we can only expect so much. The responsibility is ours. We must deal with our misconceptions about sexual assaults, from which stem the problem, if we are to effectively confront this dilemma.

We are concerned, not only with stranger rape, but also with acquaintance or date rape. Stranger rape is a problem that must be dealt with. However, there is another, more serious problem and that is date rape. It is fast becoming an epidemic on the college campus. As stated by Amy Levine, who directs the rape prevention program at the University of California, "It's hard to make women realize that if they do get raped while they're in college, it's more likely to be on a date than in a dark alley."

Troy Lair,  
sophomore, engineering  
president, Student Watch Group



**Today is National Nothing Day!**

But that's no reason to have "nothing" in your pocketbooks. Become a plasma donor!

\*\$10 is paid for each donation and you can donate twice weekly (but please wait 72 hours between donations).

That's up to \$95 a month.

Which is a lot more than nothing-in practically no time!

New donors bring in this ad for an extra \$2 for your first donation. Call now for an appointment.

### University Plasma Center

1442 O Street 475-8645

Open: Tues.-Wed.-Fri. & Sat.

8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Mon. & Thurs 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

UN No. 28

licensed by the FDA

**Daily Nebraskan**

EDITOR Margie Honz  
GENERAL MANAGER Daniel M. Shattil  
ADVERTISING MANAGER Jerry Scott  
PRODUCTION MANAGER Kitty Policky  
MANAGING EDITOR Michela Thuman  
NEWS EDITOR Sue Jepsen  
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR Patty Pryor  
SPORTS EDITOR Bob Asmussen  
PHOTO CHIEF Dave Bentz

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN (USPS 144-080) IS PUBLISHED BY THE UNL PUBLICATIONS BOARD MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY DURING THE FALL AND SPRING SEMESTERS, EXCEPT DURING VACATIONS. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE DAILY NEBRASKAN, RM. 34 NEBRASKA UNION, 68588. SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$13/SEMESTER, \$25/YEAR. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT LINCOLN, NEBRASKA.  
ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1983 DAILY NEBRASKAN

**ROFFLER**  
CUSTOM-HAIRSTYLING AND BARBER-SERVICE  
NEBRASKA UNION LOWER LEVEL  
APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE 472-2459

VVSI AAA D XY

**Which Diamond Is The Best?**  
Any of these four stones could be of poor or high quality. The terms indicated have no universal meaning among all jewelers. Your ONLY protection is the extensive training and the ethical standards of who you are dealing with.

**CONSUMER TIP:**  
Don't Buy A Name, Buy A Diamond.

**Wright's** JEWELERS  
13th & P St. Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

MEMBER AMERICAN GEM SOCIETY