

# Editorial

## Diplomat speaks voice of reason

**A**s long-time opponents of President Reagan's M-16 diplomacy in Central America, we were happy to hear an honest voice of reason when the former U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, Robert White, spoke here Wednesday night.

White has lived and worked in one of the worst "trouble spots" in Central America. He tells a little different story than Reagan and company do.

For instance, standard administration rhetoric portrays all Central American revolutions not supported by the United States, as calculated Soviet efforts to undermine the security of the region, establish communism there and, the theory runs, threaten the United States. Rebels supported by the United States are "freedom fighters;" those we oppose are "leftists insurgents."

White, however, posits that Central American revolutions are "home-grown, authentic and would exist whether the Soviet Union and Cuba existed or not."

When the revolutions do occur, the United States is firmly entrenched on the side of dictators — too often the yoke revolutionaries would throw off has a "U.S.-approved" stamp on it. That tendency has produced some specific and negative consequences for the United States. Many people in many Central American countries have developed a hatred for the United States, reducing the odds for peaceful co-existence between the United States and the countries in the region. We are committed to military ventures in El Salvador and elsewhere, ventures costly in dollars and lives. Indeed, we may well be defeating our stated purpose of enhancing our national security by actually driving governments such as the Sandinistas to the Soviets.

White said the United States should define its national security in Central America as policies that exclude Soviet and Cuban military advisers and personnel from the region. He cited Reagan's refusal to sign the Contadora peace treaty last fall as an example of the administration's insincerity over U.S. national security in regard to Central America, and specifically Nicaragua.

While we are encouraged by a voice of reason such as Robert White's, we are at the same time disheartened because he was lecturing in Lincoln, not negotiating in El Salvador or Nicaragua or making policy in Washington.

While White is telling UNL students we should allow Salvadorans, Hondurans and Nicaraguans to decide how they wish to govern themselves, our president and his henchmen are telling the nation we need to "remove the Sandinista government in Nicaragua." U.S. military advisers are teaching Salvadoran soldiers how to use the guns we gave them — guns which often end up pointed at children. And Nicaraguan contras are toning up their assassination tactics by reading C.I.A. manuals.

When it comes to exporting terrorism, we're tops in the hemisphere.

Secretary of State George Shultz outlined the administration's goals in Nicaragua — our terrorist demands — in a March 4 Time magazine article. There are four: The Sandinistas must "stop serving as a Soviet surrogate and expel Soviet and Cuban advisers, reduce the size of their armed forces to levels comparable to those of neighboring nations," they must "absolutely and definitively stop their support for insurgents and terrorists in the region" and they must include opposition groups in the political process.

Presumably, if the Sandinistas do not comply with our U.S. demands, they will see the invasion they have long awaited. In the meantime, U.S. policies of supporting the contras and bellowing belligerently about removing the Sandinistas will continue to make it difficult for them to do what the United States wants them to do. How can the Sandinistas reduce the size of the armed forces when they are facing a U.S.-backed revolution and expecting a U.S. invasion? How can they embrace political opposition when they're fighting a civil war? And who are they to turn to when one of the two great world powers is bent on removing them?

Big Brother to the North is not only watching little countries south of the border — he's breathing down their necks. And while holy crusaders such as Ronald Reagan are stoking the fires in Big Brother's belly, men such as Robert White with cooler heads are lecturing on college campuses.



HI, I'M DAVID...  
FARMERS ARE  
DUMB!... MILITARY  
PENSIONS ARE  
TOO FAT!!!...  
CUT EVERYTHING!...  
MY SON MICHAEL  
IS A TURKEY...  
NANCY, WHERE ARE  
MY SOCKS?...

## Politician sells her image Ferraro 'loses her taste' as Pepsi advertiser

**O**n Feb. 10, Geraldine Ferraro and John Zaccaro renewed their wedding vows — a real-life reenactment of the country-western hit, "Stand By Your Man." Here was the virtuous wife reaffirming her love for a husband convicted of fraud and accused, in the course of the presidential campaign, of everything from having mob associations to misapplying the assets of a widow. Now it turns out the two have more in common than we thought: They don't let propriety stand between them and making a buck.

career is over. "I find it interesting that Pepsi-Cola must be seeing something in the market research about her appeal," he said.

If that's the case, let's reverse the logic and assume that Michael Jackson, who got far more for a pop commercial, is even more qualified to run for public office. God knows how many votes Ferraro could get if her hair caught on fire.

Ferraro, O'Brien, et al, miss the point — and the importance of Geraldine Ferraro. If she were any other politician who made a commercial for a soft drink, the question of taste would arise and the answer would be in the negative. Politicians, public servants, elected officials — call them what you want — are not for sale. They do not endorse products for money — especially when they do not need the money. Ferraro, after all, just signed a \$1 million book contract and reported a net worth last August of almost \$4 million. That kind of money, and not any soft drink, is the real thing.

But Ferraro is no ordinary politician. By hard work and shrewd politicking, she became the first woman to run for national office on a major party ticket. Her mere presence on the ticket meant something grand and wonderful and noble to millions of people.

Ferraro's Diet Pepsi commercial reportedly ends with a shot of her and her

two daughters and the announcer saying, "There are a lot of choices for a woman and one of them is to be a mother." Not only is that a tasteless echo of Ferraro's campaign speeches (Is pro-choice about picking up a soft drink?), but it is a message she has managed to ignore. She, too, made a choice. When she chose to go gunning for the vice-presidential nomination and when she chose to accept it, she chose also to be a spokeswoman, a symbol. Now instead of standing unambiguously for that, she's chosen to sell a piece of it to Pepsi.

Ferraro has hurt the cause she chose to lead. It seems that she's just determined to prove that her critics were right all along — that she was not qualified either by experience, stature or judgment for the office she was seeking. Now she has made it harder for the next woman who is chosen to run on a national ticket. That person will be obligated to prove many things — one of them being that she is not a Geraldine Ferraro.

So it is fitting that Ferraro and Zaccaro renewed their wedding vows. Everything seems to be real estate to them, to be bought and sold in a world, inexhaustibly supplied with suckers. Now it's Pepsi's turn to be snookered. For a commercial about good taste, it's chosen a woman who has lost hers.

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Richard Cohen

The evidence for this is Ferraro's commercial for Diet Pepsi. For this, she is to be paid what's known in the movie business as the "high six figures." Some say the amount is \$1 million, others that it is as low as \$500,000. At any rate, it is enough to provide a respite from the pressures of her husband's real-estate dealings.

Francis O'Brien, Ferraro's campaign press secretary and her current adviser, defends the Pepsi deal by saying it probably won't spell the end of her political career — thereby all but conceding that her



### Students aim to end violent pornography

We are writing in response to the Daily Nebraskan's Feb. 18 editorial concerning last weekend's pornography protest. Why was there no news coverage? As two UNL students out of 11 participating women, we committed ourselves to this particular act of civil disobedience to draw attention to the violence against women found in Hustler and Penthouse magazines. By tearing up Penthouse and Hustler magazines in the place of distribution, we are standing up and facing our opponents in a non-violent and effective way. We chose to tear up copies of Penthouse from the north desk in the Nebraska Union to illustrate how easily accessible these magazines are. We were not arrested there because the UNL police were understaffed and had to be available because of a weekend incident of assault on campus.

What we are concerned with is the direct link we see between violence in the media and violence in society. We are not opposed to nudity or sexuality, but rather to the use of violence against women to sexually arouse men. The December issue of Penthouse contained 10 pages of photo-

graphs depicting Oriental women bound and gagged. One of the women in the photos was tied to a tree, left for dead. In early February of this year, an 8-year-old Asian girl, Jean Kar-Har Fewel, was awaiting adoption in North Carolina when she was found beaten, raped, gagged and tied to a tree — dead. This is a dramatic example of the direct link between the type of violence toward women in the media and actual violence that occurs against women in society.

Too many women are incest survivors, too many have been raped, beaten and murdered to continue as silent conspirators in our own destruction. Our aim is to make the violence directed against women socially unacceptable by exposing the public to pornography's images. Who are these images of violence appropriate for? You can't tell us the problem is house-keeping or makeup. Those are merely symbols of the greater oppression against women which too often result in self-hate.

C.L. Delgadillo  
sophomore  
English

Patty Spitzer  
senior  
women's studies

## Letters

### TURD enters race

Well, I guess the First and Fourteenth amendments and freedom of speech have been reserved for the people running for an ASUN position (second vice president) and not for Jerry Besumont.

Think again. I'm going to grasp what I said and am announcing my bid for ASUN president.

We're not going to take it. Bang your heads hard rock fans — the TURD party has arrived. Yes, TURD (Trying to Undermine Reasonless Democracy) has broken on the scene like a Chicago streetkid breaking out of juvenile court. I'll need a snappy slogan, but don't worry. How about: "Vote TURD and be a turd in ASUN's punch bowl."

Well, UNL, vote. Vote STUPIDLY or go with the winners — the TURDS. The people who know how to deal with people and just want to be turds in ASUN's punch bowl.

Jerry Besumont  
presidential candidate  
TURD Party  
senior  
textiles

## Daily Nebraskan

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