

Objectivity 'laid to waste'

The political left has deemed this week to be Latin American Week here at the University of Massachusetts. Awareness of the people and politics of Central and South America cannot be realized unless the student body is presented with all sides of the complex issues that surround those nations south of the U.S. border. Since the Republican Club was not asked to participate, the dogma of the radical left will dominate this week's "awareness."

On the menu, no doubt, will be the usual emotional pleas and deceiving rhetoric served by an assortment of left wing activists and a few ivory tower academics. Swallowing their message whole will surely cause the student seeking objectivity indigestion.

With the vote in Congress on funding for the Contras pending, Nicaragua will be a focal point of this week's activities. Many U.S. citizens who have traveled to Nicaragua will give testimony to the benevolence of the Sandinista regime, just as many U.S. citizens traveled to the Soviet Union in the thirties proclaiming that system's virtues only to later discover that Stalin had murdered some twenty to thirty thousand of his own people. Typical of the unquestioning North American tourist is Massachusetts Congressman Ed Markey. Much of the border area population having been forcefully removed to camps within the interior of Nicaragua, Congressman Markey set out to talk with the people living in one of these camps. The Congressman speaks no Spanish, so the Sandinistas cheerfully provided a translator. Through the lips of the friendly Sandinista translator, Markey found these to be some of the most happy and satisfied peasants he had ever seen.

The person seeking to understand the nature of the Sandinista regime would do better to listen to former Sandinistas who now fight the perverted course of the revolution. A founding father of the Sandinista revolution Arturu Cruz writes: "I joined the Revolutionary Government with appreciation and pride. I served it with a loyalty founded on the conviction that the revolution would be good, first and foremost for Nicaragua. My experience has disillusioned me:

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dogmatism and adventurism seem to have wiped out the democratic and pluralistic ideals, which in 1979, united all Nicaraguan advocates of freedom. My lamentation and criticism is that these ideals have been shattered and the moral defense of the Revolution has well nigh vanished." Indeed, many former Sandinistas now lead the fight against the regime now in power.

Likewise, many of Somoza's associates can be found in high ranking positions within the Sandinista government. They include the Sandinista Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto and Junta member Sergio Ramirez, who has written magazine articles praising Somoza, to name only a couple.

We will hear this week that the Sandinistas pose no threat to their neighboring Central American nations. In this case, we would do better by listening to the Sandinistas themselves. When Interior Minister Borge was asked whether the revolution would be exported "to El Salvador, Guatemala, then Honduras and Mexico," he responded by saying "That is the one historical prophecy of Ronald Reagan's that is absolutely true...the Nicaraguan revolutionaries will not be content until the imperialists have been overthrown in all parts of the world." There is no nation in Central America today that is not gravely concerned with the threat the Sandinistas pose, including democratic and unarmed Costa Rica.

Objectivity will be laid to waste to this week. Already the Contra vote has been compared to the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. Helping people to fight for their own freedom is quite different from massive U.S. military intervention and in fact, may serve to prevent such intervention in the future. The well being of the people of Central America, and ultimately ourselves demands that we examine the conflicts in that vital region carefully, thoroughly and above all, responsibly.

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