

The Daily Tar Heel

93rd year of editorial freedom

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... who risked their lives ...

To fly across the sky, travel through space, step beyond this small planet of ours — this has always been man's dream. But that dream became a horrible nightmare Tuesday when the space shuttle Challenger exploded, killing all seven of its passengers. Today, the nation, the whole world, grieves at the loss of those who gave their lives to achieve that dream.

The explosion numbed most viewers. After 25 safe launches, the shuttle had become old hat, hardly newsworthy. But the calamity was a fiery reminder of how dangerous space travel remains — of how courageous those seven, and all space travelers before them, had been to risk their lives for the advancement of mankind.

To a nation jaded by the special effects of George Lucas and the space heroics of Luke Skywalker, the disaster was brutally ugly. But the men and women who died were real people trying to bring about a day when man can turn to space for solutions to problems on earth.

Most of the media attention has been focused on the first American civilian in space, schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe. It is terribly ironic that she should be one of the first victims of space travel since the days before man landed on the moon. She was named to the mission as a symbol that all mankind could benefit from space travel. A teacher, she

board opinion

represented the advances space travel has produced in our knowledge of the universe. Space travel and exploration is for the good of us all, not just the military.

The NASA program must not fall victim to critics who would use this catastrophe as an argument for ending the program. The explosion does not prove that the shuttle is unworkable, that space cannot and should not be explored. It proves that accidents are inevitable, that the human and material cost must be a part of the expected investment. The shuttle has successfully launched, flown its mission and landed 24 times. With all the possibility for error, it is actually a wonder that there has been no accident until now.

The disaster of Apollo 1 occurred in 1967. Just two years later, Neil Armstrong walked on the moon. No one can deny the value the latter feat has had in boosting national morale, and in providing the impetus for further space research, and the resulting, unimaginable expansion of man's knowledge about his world and the universe around it, knowledge that can be of immense benefit in solving mankind's problems.

What if the moon project had been killed after Apollo 1? The United States, and the world, would have been deprived of as much as, and maybe less than, it will lose if the shuttle program is unwisely scrubbed in an emotional and political reaction to Tuesday's disaster.

—editorialist's column—

Listen

To those of you who wish to silence Adolfo Calero on this campus:

"Freedom fighters."

You decry their role in Nicaraguan affairs — along with their claim to the name above — and oppose tonight's appearance of Adolfo Calero, their chief spokesman. But your opposition insults the tradition left by the true freedom fighters who founded this nation on certain rights and liberties, not the least of which is the freedom of speech.

Controversy is what makes that protection worthwhile. Without controversy, debate stagnates, discussion dies. Without static, everything falls apart, hung in lethargy.

Calero's views deserve to be aired, and you should be grateful that student fees were used to stimulate, not dictate, thought about the Nicaraguan conflict. You may believe Calero is wrong, but you cannot expect everyone else to believe you are right. Allow them the opportunity to see for themselves.

Like you did with speakers brought to campus by the Carolina Committee on Central America — speakers who hardly were politically neutral.

By all means protest tonight if you wish, but permit the man to speak. Harass him, seek to drown him out, clear him off campus, and your voice will choke with hypocrisy.

—DAVE SCHMIDT

The weekly Carolina Contest
Sponsored by the Carolina Union and the 'DTH'

EARLY TV TRIVIA

Answer five of the following questions to be eligible to win.

Who portrayed the grandfather on the 1959 series *My Three Sons*?

What did Deputy Chester Goode call the marshal in *Gunsmoke*?

What was the "peanut gallery" on the popular children's show *Howdy Doody*?

Which *Andy Griffith Show* character is best known for his line, "How do you do, Mrs. Wiley"?

Name the four regulars on *Leave It to Beaver*, along with their roles.

On the show *Hazel*, what were the names of Hazel's employers?

Who emceed *You Bet Your Life*?

PRIZE: Two complimentary tickets to the Feb. 11 performance of the Prague Chamber Orchestra.

YOUR NAME: _____
ADDRESS / PHONE: _____
LAST WEEK'S WINNER: Elizabeth Cheld

Clip this form and place it in the "Bits and Pieces" box next to the Union desk by 5 p.m. today. The winning response will be drawn from correct responses received.

Full-time UNC graduate and undergraduate students eligible only. 'DTH' and Union committee members not eligible.

White wash, smooth talk, cover truth

By ASHLEY OSMENT

To hear live justification for the most brutal of international terrorism, one should be at Memorial Wednesday at 8:00 p.m., when the Union Forum Committee will co-host with the College Republicans, Adolfo Calero, the head of Reagan's CIA-backed contras. And after Calero delivers his plea for the \$100 million in military aid that Reagan promised last week, will the Union Forum Committee chalk up this event as a victory for free speech?

If the Union were truly interested in free speech it would sponsor a speaker and discussion based on relevant information as to the truth about the Contras. The White House already has given Calero regular press coverage as it whitewashes the terrorist Contras as "freedom fighters." On the other hand, numerous respected human rights observers — including Witness for Peace, America's Watch and even ex-contras leader Edgar Chamorro (New Republic, Aug. 1985), have accused the FDN (Calero's group) of

engaging in a strategy of systematic terrorism against the civilian population of Nicaragua. Unfortunately, the Union has agreed to the terms of Calero and the College Republicans that Calero alone will speak — allowing no debate or even panel discussion — and that all questions be submitted in advance.

After passively listening to Adolfo Calero's carefully contrived justification for the Contras (without even an open question and answer period afterward), what are UNC students and the Chapel Hill community to do? It seems unbelievable that anyone could discern from such a talk whether or not Calero is a terrorist, or whether the Reagan policy of backing the contras to the tune of \$100 million is a ruthless disaster or not.

Has the Union considered that there are thousands of murdered Nicaraguan civilians, almost half teenagers or younger who had every right stripped from them as they were kidnapped, raped and tortured by Calero's "freedom fighters"? Or does the Union feel let down by the Reagan administration's attempts to white-

wash the contras, thus creating the need for student fees at UNC (estimated \$600) to give a platform to Calero, from which he can tell us that all those dead children were subversives, all those destroyed health clinics and schools were hotbeds of subversion and that all those blown-up granaries were full of food grown by peasant cooperatives, the mainstay of subversive radicalism?

Adolfo Calero is coming to the Triangle with Reagan's blessing, to smooth-talk us into backing his terrorism. While he's here he'll campaign first at Duke, Tuesday at 8:00 p.m., and then he'll stop off at Raleigh's Velvet Cloak Inn for some fundraising from local business "leaders" (the Congressional Club). Local activists from the Triangle Central America Movement are ready to respond. We will protest the reality of terrorist activity in Nicaragua, and Calero's efforts to legitimize these kinds of crimes.

Ashley Osmont, a senior French and history major from Sylba, is a member of the Carolina Committee on Central America.

READER FORUM

Q & A favors Calero

To the editors:

So I got here from the Federal Republic of Germany (for the many who do not know, that is one of the two parts of Germany that has existed since WWII) and I was told this here is the land of freedom and democracy. I know that there are many ways to define these two, but I believe that the following two facts are difficult to include in any of those definitions:

Democracy equals pluralism equals different points of view. But there are certain limitations to that: having a Contra speak on campus follows the same principle as having the police escort a KKK rally, which costs students' or taxpayers' money (you now "they" did not prohibit SA rallies in Germany between 1930 and 1933, but after 1933 the SA prohibited every other rally.) For this consideration it does not matter whether you consider the Contras terrorists, what they are, or "freedom fighters," what they aren't (see e.g. the Edgar Chamorro quote in

a DTH editorial on January 28).

Just like it should be in a "pluralistic democracy" there will be a question and answer section Wednesday night after Calero's speech, but just like it should not be in a "democracy," you have to hand in the questions one day in advance so that they can be censored (they might not be, what I hope, but whether they will be or not, I oppose the procedure). This censoring of the questions to Calero is not pluralism anymore, but favoritism of the Contra's side.

After all, one should not forget that Calero's mission is not to point out his opinions about U.S. policies in Central America, but to raise funds for more terrorist activities (e.g. intimidating the civilian population by assassinations of farmers, teachers, etc.) and right now so-called liberal treatment for Calero is worth nothing.

Frank Schleper
Chapel Hill

Contraversial issue

To the editors:

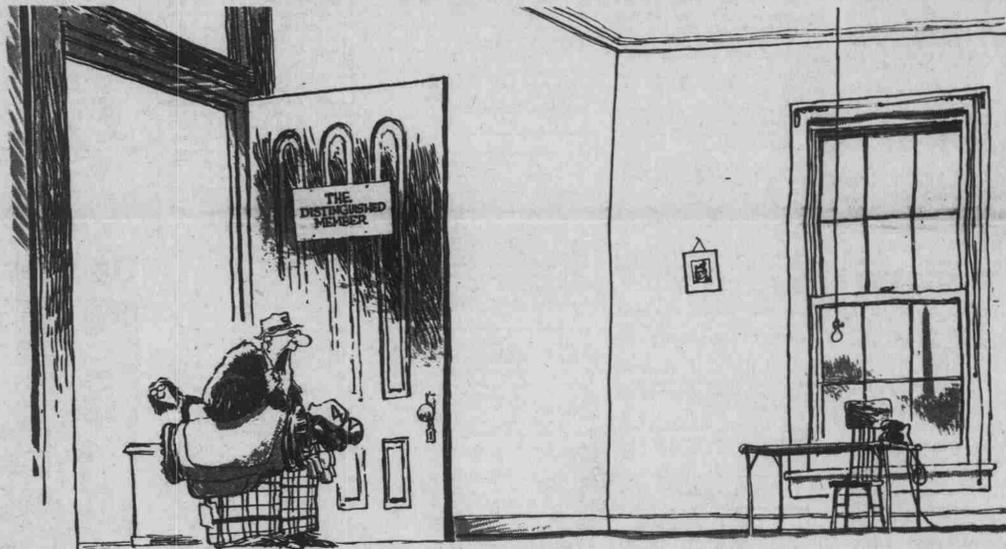
The Forum Committee of the Carolina Union and the UNC College Republicans will present Adolfo Calero, a leader of the Nicaraguan resistance, in Memorial Hall tonight at 8:00.

The United States government funding of the Contras in Nicaragua has been the subject of some controversy. Adolfo Calero is the major representative of the Contras with whom the U.S. government deals on matters of military and financial aid; indeed he is unable to attend a reception following the speech because he will be meeting with President Reagan in the morning. His address tonight presents the University community with a unique opportunity to hear firsthand why the Contras want U.S. taxpayer's money.

This does not constitute an endorsement by the Carolina Union of U.S. government policy or Contra activities. We are presenting a viewpoint on a major foreign policy issue. We have confidence in the critical abilities of students to decide for themselves as to the validity of the viewpoint.

The Carolina Union Activities Board was not unaware that this program would evince extreme opinions on both sides. After hours of discussion we felt that this program would increase awareness of the controversy surrounding U.S. government involvement in Nicaragua. We believe this to be consistent with the role of a University.

Walt Boyle Jr.
Chapel Hill



A view on Contras' Calero

By BRUCE ALEXANDER

On Wednesday, Jan. 29, a Central American political figure will deliver a speech here at UNC. Although I strongly disagree with the objectives of the organization he represents, I plan to attend. I will be in Memorial Hall not to disrupt or even to protest his presence. Instead, I will be there to listen and to ask a question or two. I urge you to do the same. The speaker's name is Adolfo Calero, and he represents the Nicaraguan Democratic Force or FDN, the main unit of the Contras.

It is likely that Mr. Calero will not say anything that we have not already heard from the lips of Ronald Reagan or George Schultz, after all, they have a common goal. Adolfo Calero will tell us that he supported the Sandinista government of Nicaragua before they "betrayed" the 1979 revolution which overthrew U.S. backed dictator Anastasio Somoza. He will warn us that the Sandinistas are Soviet puppets who desire Communist domination of Central America. Calero will also tell us that his contras are the legitimate heirs to the throne in Nicaragua, and that they are dedicated to true democracy. He might even borrow a phrase from Ronald Reagan and refer to his Contras as "freedom fighters" or "our brothers." We in the audience will listen, and we will consider what he has told us about his Contras, and hopefully we will question him about some of the things he has not told us.

In 1979, the Nicaraguan people were successful in overthrowing Somoza after 30 years of oppressive dictatorship. They inherited a devastated economy under which poverty, disease, malnutrition and illiteracy had been the lot of the majority of the population for decades. Exercising their newly won freedom with the help of various existing U.S. and international loans, they successfully began a literacy program, built medical clinics, and established immunization programs. The people began the difficult task of increasing food production for domestic use while maintaining coffee exports to obtain badly needed foreign capital, since Somoza fled with billions of dollars from Nicaraguan banks.

In 1980, the new Nicaraguan government suffered a serious setback. The American people elected Ronald Reagan. Within days of his inauguration, the new U.S. president cancelled as much aid to Nicaragua as was legally possible

and pressured U.S. allies and international organizations to do the same. United States purchases of coffee, Nicaragua's main export, declined by 90 percent. Along with isolating Nicaragua in the Western economy, the administration began to exert pressure in other ways. U.S. military exercises in the region increased dramatically in size, frequency and duration. In Honduras, where in recent years, military maneuvers have followed one another like clockwork, construction of permanent barracks, radar installations, airfields, etc., has proceeded at a furious pace, far exceeding "war game" needs. There have been corresponding increases in military aid to Nicaragua's neighbors. For example, despite a greatly increased Pentagon budget in the last year of the Carter administration, Honduras and El Salvador only received combined military aid of less than \$10 million. In the first three years of the Reagan administration, military aid to these two countries exceeded \$286 million, almost a ten-fold annual increase.

Shortly after taking power, the Sandinista government requested a moderate amount of military equipment, mostly defensive in nature, from the Carter administration. When only a portion of the aid was approved, Nicaraguan Interior Minister Thomas Borges replied, "We prefer the U.S. market, but if it is closed to us then we will have to seek another, possibly the European market." So, in 1981, the Sandinistas agreed to purchase \$15 million in military hardware from the French. This represented a greater amount than they had spent on Soviet military equipment in the previous two years combined. This move by the French, described as a "stab in the back" by Secretary of State Alexander Haig, resulted in increased American pressure on the French and the sale was not completed. Wary of U.S. anger, other allies similarly refused to trade with Nicaragua.

Facing a U.S. military buildup in Honduras and El Salvador, and observing U.S. attempts to revive the disbanded Costa Rican army on their southern border, the Sandinistas sought help from the only source the Reagan administration left open to them, the Soviet Union. The Russians, along with the Cubans, were quite willing to help, and the Reagan administration's prophesy of Soviet influence in the region became self-fulfilling.

Applying still more pressure on the Sandinistas,

the administration began to support anti-Sandinista rebels or Contras such as Adolfo Calero. The Central Intelligence Agency was directed to arm and train Nicaraguan exiles to overthrow the government of Nicaragua. In addition to providing assistance such as the publication of the infamous assassination manual, the CIA undertook certain actions on their own, such as the mining of the civilian port of Corinto. However, the majority of the direct action was undertaken by the Contras who possessed skills of their own, namely in economic and political terrorism. In addition to engaging the Nicaraguan military from protected bases in Honduras and Costa Rica, Reagan's "moral equivalent of our Founding Fathers" was responsible for the destruction of 100 state and privately owned coffee farms and the displacement of 120,000 civilians (as of February 1985). During the same period, Contra raids forced the closing of 840 adult education centers and almost 400 schools. In 1984 alone, 300 teachers were either killed or kidnapped by "our brothers." These figures don't begin to tell the story of the effect the Contras have had on the rebuilding of Nicaragua.

During the past five years, there have been serious disagreements among the various factions of the Contras. Last spring, Edgar Chamorro, a former spokesman for Adolfo Calero's FDN, identified himself to American journalists as a CIA employee. He characterized the FDN as containing many members of Somoza's National Guard, and detailed numerous atrocities committed against Nicaraguan civilians by the FDN. Not surprisingly, the FDN quickly disowned Chamorro and the U.S. Immigration Service began investigating the likelihood that Mr. Chamorro was a long-overlooked illegal alien.

Now the Reagan administration proposes to spend an additional \$90 to \$100 million over the next year on military aid for the contras. Adolfo Calero's speeches are one of the means by which they hope to convince Congress and the American public to support funding for the overthrow of the Nicaraguan government. If you feel that they are not telling the whole story, attend Mr. Calero's speech on Wednesday... and ask him some questions.

Bruce Alexander is a graduate science education major from Saxapahaw.