

# Opinions

## Congress not willing to fight Communists

By Richard A. Viguere

Last year, the federal government came up with \$8.4 billion to bail out the big international banks. It spent \$2.5 billion to keep the price of milk high. Right now, a bill to forgive the debt of the Kennedy Center (where rich people in Washington go to the opera) appears headed for passage; it will cost the U.S. Treasury up to \$850 million.

It is amazing how the Washington establishment can find billions of dollars for all sorts of boondoggles that benefit a tiny minority. But when President Reagan requests \$93 million in aid to help El Salvador fight the communist guerrillas, and a paltry \$21 million to fight the Nicaraguan communists, liberal Congressmen decide that that expenditure would be a waste of money.

Recently, while Congress fiddled with the aid request, the people of El Salvador were hard at work restoring democracy to their country. May 6, their election day, was like the Fourth of July in smalltown U.S.A. Daddies carried their three-year-olds on their shoulders. Vendors sold ice cream and hot dogs to people waiting in line. The streets were filled with cars and buses carrying voters to the polls. Young male and female poll-watchers, proudly wearing the jackets of their political parties, walked to polling places hand in hand.

Some citizens were so determined that they walked three hours to the polls, waited in line three hours, and walked three hours back home. One Salvadoran adult in thirty spent the entire day at the polls as an election official or poll-watcher. And the turnout was higher than the United States has experienced in any election this century.

In the last 26 months, there were three elections in El Salvador to replace the ruling junta with a democratic government. Three times the communists threatened to kill anyone who goes to the polls; three times the people stood up to the communists. Each time it gets a little easier.

Now the transition to democracy is complete and El Salvador is

ready to take its place among the free nations of the world. The only thing that stands in its way is the possibility of a military victory by the communists.

For four years, the communists have tried to destroy the economy of El Salvador. They have sabotaged bridges, demolished factories, burned farms to the ground, and knocked out electrical power. As a result, the gross national product had declined 25% and the income of the average Salvadoran has plummeted by one-third. The Salvadorans are among the hardest-working, most productive people in the world, but while the communist guerrilla activity continues there is no way to lift El Salvador out of poverty.

The Salvadorans don't ask us to send our boys down there to fight. They don't ask us to risk our own lives to protect them. All they ask is that we provide them the military and economic aid they need to keep the system of government they have chosen freely.

We cannot help El Salvador if our President is hamstrung by Congress. Members of Congress must stop interfering in President Reagan's efforts to eliminate the communist threat to that country's new democracy. And they must understand that any successful effort to defeat the communist guerrillas must include aid to the anti-communist forces in Nicaragua.

The communist guerrillas in El Salvador can never be defeated as long as Nicaragua provides them with sanctuary and with all the Soviet-made weapons they need.

We will either provide assistance to the *contras* fighting the Nicaraguan dictatorship, or we will force the Salvadorans to fight a no-win war that can end only with a communist victory.

We cannot, like Pontius Pilate, wash our hand of the whole affair. The Salvadorans are too much like you and me. Just like us, they drink Pepsi and eat Big Macs. Just like us, they drive Toyotas, watch movies on Sony videotape, and play Pac-Man down at the arcade. Just like us -- Heaven help us! -- they turn on the radio to hear Boy George singing "Karma Chameleon."

More important, they have the same faith in God, the same determination to succeed, the same drive to build a better life for their children. But there is one difference. We in the United States take democracy for granted because we have never lived in tyranny. We have been free for so long that we have forgotten what it is like to live without freedom.

The Salvadorans have not forgotten. For 50 years, until now, they have lived under one dictator or another. They know how precious and how fragile democracy is, and they are willing to fight to protect it.

Patrick Henry asked: Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains or slavery? By risking everything to bring democracy to their country, the people of El Salvador have given us their answer. When they ask us for help, what is our answer to them?



*Before we start arguing about whether the schools need money, let's get our terms straight - it's not a bomb issue!*

## Greensboro is tops in living

By Cliff Blue

We have just read that Greensboro, North Carolina is the best place to live in the United States and Fresno, California is the worst.

The survey used a variety of factors in ranking 277 cities including economics, climate, housing, education, health care, recreation, transportation and the arts.

**OLDER THAN OLD . . .** We have just been reading that a five million year old fossil bone fragment of a humanlike creature, which scientists said is one million years older than the previous oldest known ancestor of mankind, has been discovered in a remote region of northern Kenya.

**REPUBLICAN . . .** Republican campaign strategists are still confident President Reagan will be reelected in November. But foreign policy victory in recent months appear to have shaken up confidences in Republican victory to a great extent.

Reagan's China trip and his visit to World War II's Normandy beachheads were two media events designed to elevate the president above the sordid in politics as usual.

But the Republican leaders can't

### People & Issues

snuff out growing doubts about the Reagan foreign policy. The President has been rebuffed by the new Russian leader.

Democrats are claiming that if reelected, Reagan will move forcibly in Central America and that U.S. Troops may eventually be employed. That frightens some voters, who remember the loss of life in Lebanon.

**THE SOUTH . . .** Twenty thousand vote changes would have lost Reagan North Carolina in 1980. Six thousand changed votes would have cost him South Carolina. Three thousand would have given Carter Tennessee.

Ten thousand changed votes in 1980 would have given Jimmy Carter Alabama. Less than 3,000 changes would have given Carter Arkansas, less than 10,000 changes would have given Carter victory in Kentucky. Six thousand would have given Carter Mississippi.

**JESSE JACKSON . . .** Jesse Jackson has been running for the Democratic Presidential nomination, and has been getting a reasonable number of votes.

However, Jackson has led the

efforts to eliminate run-off primaries. Surely, Jackson should realize the importance of the run-off system, which is an important factor in maintaining democracy and good government.

The run-off primary is as important to Jackson's race as it is for the white people.

In fact, a person of Jackson's race will have a better chance of winning in a run-off than in a first primary.

Jackson runs as a Democrat, but would eliminate a second primary. Surely, Jackson knows that the runoff system is an important factor in the Democratic Party, as well as the Republican Party.

If the Democrat withdrew from a second primary, soon the Republican Party would be the major party in North Carolina. A second primary will mean more to black candidates and office holders than a one primary system.

The second primary gives the people more democracy in voting and choosing the public officials voting in just one primary. If we didn't have the second primary, Jackson would be likely for a second primary.

Jackson should think over his suggestion if he really wants to have a part in good government.



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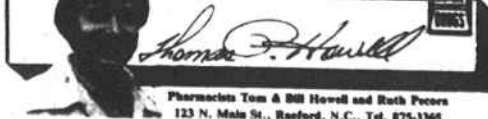
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### How to watch eclipse, May 30

Television offers the safest means of viewing the solar eclipse this Wednesday, while observing it through sunglasses, smoked glass, negatives, or binoculars may leave you with retina damage and permanent blind spots.

If you must view the eclipse outdoors, follow this plan: Take two pieces of white cardboard, punching a pinhole into the center of one of them, and holding them up parallel to each other with your back to the sun.

On the bottom cardboard you'll see an exact shadow image of the moon crossing the sun. Change distance of sheets to focus.

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