

# COMMENTARY

## Nicaraguan diplomats expelled from U.S.

By BILL RIEDY

The United States ordered the expulsion Tuesday of 21 Nicaraguan consular officials and the closing of all six Nicaraguan consulates in this country in retaliation for the ejection Monday of three U.S. diplomats in Managua.

The State Department said that "an important reason and additional consideration" for the expulsions "was the Nicaraguan government's use of its consulates for intelligence operations." Officials declined to elaborate on the espionage accusation.

The expulsions came one day after Nicaragua announced it was deporting three State Department representatives accused of subversion. Among the accusations were charges of assassination plots and spying.

The State Department has denied the charges. The back-to-back expulsions brought the already strained relations between the two nations to their lowest point since the Sandinistas seized power in 1979.

However, the State Department said that special envoy Richard B. Stone would proceed with a planned visit to Nicaragua Friday.

Stone, needing more than a little luck, is visiting all Central American nations in hopes of the possibility of a negotiated settlement to the region's problems.

### 60 Minute Acquittal

CBS, *60 Minutes* and anchorman Dan Rather did not slander a California doctor who sued them for \$30 million over a 1979 report linking him to insurance fraud, a jury decided Monday.

The verdict ended a three-week trial that received extraordinary attention from the press for both the First Amendment

issues and the celebrity of the defendants involved.

Dr. Carl A. Galloway lost his suit against CBS for damages to his personal and professional reputation when the jury voted for CBS.

Galloway said after the verdict, "I think incompetence has been vindicated," and that he felt "like David up against Goliath."

Galloway's attorney had argued in his closing arguments that *60 Minutes*, the most successful news broadcast in history, was just a "soap opera" staged for viewer entertainment.

But CBS argued that by awarding Galloway even a dollar, the jury would signal its willingness to restrain a free press.

### Drinking Woes

In Raleigh last Thursday, the General Assembly approved, after five months of haggling between legislators, new driving-while-impaired legislation to go into effect Oct. 1.

### THE WEEK IN REVIEW

The bill, claimed by many to be one of the nation's toughest, was the centerpiece of Gov. Jim Hunt's legislative efforts for this session of the General Assembly.

The new law includes sections to raise the drinking age for beer and wine from 18 to 19 and stricter, more thorough rules to handle drunken driving in the state.

The bill also contains a watered-down version of Hunt's original dramshop proposal that would only make bars liable for accidents incurred by minors to whom they had sold alcohol.

Already the bill is being praised and attacked.

Opponents, including the N.C. Restaurant Association, have said they will continue to lobby for changes in the bill, especially in the liability sections.

Student Legal Services Director Dorothy Bernholz said that how the judges enforce and try DWI cases will depend a lot on community sentiment.

She added that with the current crackdown on student drinking in Chapel Hill, "It will be interesting to see what happens when the alumni come to town on football Saturdays, drinking and tailgating."

### Who's suing whom?

The Carolina Concert for Children may have ended with a fizzle in April, but controversy surrounding the concert and its management is far from over.

Last week Campus Governing Council member Rebel Cole (district 4) announced he plans to sue concert Chairman Ben Lee for mismanagement of the concert.

Cole says Lee neglected his entrusted duties and violated conditions set down by the CGC in extending the deadline for the date to sign bands for the concert.

Cole said the committee was supposed to consider buying rain insurance and that Lee promised it would buy it.

Dwain Wilson, chairman of the Band Selection Advisory Committee, said the committee did consider purchasing the insurance, but never at a formal meeting.

Lee, at his home in Ohio, declined to comment on the issue. A central issue in Cole's arguments is that students have no business running a concert. Perhaps he should sue the CGC for negligence in appropriating funds to do just that.

Or perhaps the students should join in suit against the CGC—including Cole.

Let's see, who's next?

*Bill Riedy, a junior English and political science major from Raleigh, is news editor of The Tar Heel.*

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