

Colombia suffers ongoing violence

By CHUCK WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Drug-related violence continues to plague Colombia as the United States considers how to aid the South American country.

The violence erupted more than a week ago when an unidentified gunman shot and killed Luis Carlos Galan, the leading presidential candidate in the upcoming election. Galan had publicly spoken strongly against drug lords, who have a powerful grip on Colombia's economy.

Colombian drug lords control every aspect of the drug business in the country. They own coca fields, production factories, airstrips and planes that transport cocaine in and out of the region.

Within 48 hours of Galan's assassination, Col. Waldemar Franklin Quintero, a provincial police chief who had campaigned against cocaine traffickers, was killed by machine gun fire on his way to work.

The violence prompted a strong crackdown on the drug kingpins by the Colombian government. By last week, officials had arrested more than 11,000 people, seized hundreds of weapons and vehicles, and confiscated four tons of cocaine.

In a surprise move, President Virgilio Barco reinstated a law that allows the United States to extradite immediately any cocaine kingpins arrested during the crackdown.

Despite the wide-sweeping crackdown, some experts have pointed out that most of those arrested were small-time dealers. The one prominent figure arrested was Eduardo Martinez Romero, finance minister of a major cartel based in Medellin, Colombia's second largest city.

Others say the government is doing all it can in the crackdown.

"The government has put everything that it has into (the crackdown)," said an anonymous source at the Colombian embassy.

Other experts say it may be premature to judge exactly what the crackdown has accomplished.

"Most of the big shots did get away," said Rob Kurz, a scholar at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. "They have begun to retaliate. We've never seen a crackdown of this magnitude, however. My sense is that something very significant happened."

The drug cartels did respond by issuing a warning for further violence against the government. The warning was followed by the dynamiting of the offices of Colombia's two major political parties and the attempted bombing of two radio stations. These actions may indicate the cartels are feeling the heat from the crackdown, Kurz said.

"The fact that the cartel has responded tells us that the crackdown

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Watch what you wear on Tufts campus

Across the Campuses

Officials at Tufts University in Boston have created T-shirt zones on campus where shirts having sexist or obscene messages must be covered.

The ban came after a male student sold 200 shirts listing 15 reasons "Why Beer Is Better than Women at Tufts" — all of them offensive to women, according to National On-Campus Report.

Students may still wear those shirts and other shirts bearing similar messages in the privacy of their own rooms, but the shirts cannot be worn in classrooms and common areas of residence halls.

UT financial aid office swamped

About 300 students have lined up each day at the Student Financial Services office at the University of Texas at Austin to apply for fall tuition loans.

UT's student newspaper, The Daily Texan, reported that the queues associated with the latest tuition increase bring the total amount of tuition money loaned to students this year to more than \$6.3 million.

"It's typical of this time of year," said Don Davis, acting director of UT's financial aid office.

He explained that the state legislature allows students to borrow up to the full amount of tuition and

fees, which recently rose to \$450 a semester for in-state students and \$1,800 a semester for out-of-state students. The loans must be repaid with 4 percent interest within 90 days or one week prior to the end of the semester — whichever comes first.

The system works well for the most part, Davis said, although some students do default on the loan repayments. "They can't re-enroll if they don't pay. But some students just walk away from the school."

Faculty members return to work

Two of three Kent State University faculty members who faced drug-related charges during the summer returned to their positions when the fall semester opened Monday.

KSU athletic trainer John Faulstick, accused of practicing medicine without a certificate, was acquitted after his Aug. 17 trial, said Jennifer Aylsworth, city editor of Kent's student newspaper.

Edwin Ritchey, a pharmacist at the health center, faced charges of

dispensing a controlled substance without a physician's prescription, she said. He was also found not guilty after his Aug. 24 trial.

Both had been suspended without pay.

But another faculty member, Jay Cranston, coordinator of health services, awaits trial on Sept. 19. He was indicted on June 12 on four counts of illegal processing of drug documents, a third-degree felony involving the drugs cocaine, morphine, Demerol and oxycodone, Aylsworth said.

Secret society punished for thefts

A secret group at Dartmouth College has received a one-year suspension and a \$3,000 fine for a series of campus thefts.

National On-Campus Report said that when the Sphinx Society sent members on a scavenger hunt in April, they returned with valuable campus art, photographs and signs.

The school recovered most of its property, but one of the most valuable missing items — a \$12,000 painting — was returned with a scratch.

University cancels cigarette sales

Smokers at Arizona State University will have to go off

campus to satisfy nicotine cravings this fall after the school banned campus cigarette sales.

The university earned almost \$13,000 last year from the sales of more than 61,000 packs of cigarettes, but officials opted for good health over profits with the recent ban.

According to National On-Campus Report, the policy is not meant to discriminate against smokers but to promote health.

"At the very least, smokers will get more exercise walking off campus to buy their cigarettes," an ASU associate professor of political science was quoted as saying in the report.

Partying dubbed harmful

A psychology professor at Trent University in Ontario says that "work hard, play hard" may not be the best philosophy for college students to live by.

In National On-Campus Report, Carlyle Smith said students who study hard during the week and then party on weekends may lose as much as 30 percent of what they've learned and that as little as two fewer hours of sleep can impair a student's learning ability.

— compiled by Susan Holdsclaw

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