

Reflections on a march for peace

Ed. Note: Dawn Leavitt, a second year arts student at Saint Thomas has recently returned from a peace march in Central America. She is writing a three part series of articles relating her experiences there and her views of the situation, specifically in Nicaragua.

By DAWN LEAVITT

Christmas Night, 6.15pm - The lights of Nicaragua's capital city, Managua, come

into view through the aeroplane window. I can't believe I'm really here at last.

Marchers on the flight are welcomed by Sister Margarita, a North American nun who works in one of Managua's barrios. Five of us squeeze into her jeep (with our luggage) for a ride into the city.

En route we are stopped for a security check. Is Reagan

right after all? Am I about to see Sandanista repression in action?

The soldier asks for circulation papers, but my friend's cramped position - knees under chin to accommodate a large backpack - makes the glove compartment inaccessible. Sister Margarita tells him we are Peace Marchers and he smiles and waves us on. Only then do I see how young he is.

Dec. 26, 10am - We are at the office of the Organization for Disabled Revolutionaries waiting transport to the northern town of Esteli, where the March participants are camped. There are about 40 of us - Canadian, American, Norwegian.

A young man in a wheelchair is next to me. He is a member of the ODR. As we talk I learn that he is disabled due to a war injury and that he has no family. He smiles and I can think of nothing adequate to say. His name is Jaime, just like my son. He is 26 years old. He writes down my Canadian address and I take his picture.

This war is real as never before for me. I am filled with rage at those who tell me this man is my enemy. There are many like Jaime in Nicaragua and the injustice makes me want to weep.

Dec. 27, Esteli, Nicaragua - Sights and sounds of Esteli:

Fruit stands on the sidewalk with ripe tomatoes, fresh oranges, fragrant onions; barbecued meat sizzling on outdoor grills in the Central Plaza; snacks for sale (salted dried plantain chips - a taste of heaven); cold bottled Coke (a rare treat outside the cities).

Bullet scarred buildings near the post office; boys in

uniform playing baseball in the street; barefoot kids in front of a backstreet shanty (strains of Tchaikovsky coming from inside), friendly soldiers waving greetings; people bathing in the river at the edge of town.

Memorial shrine to the Telecor (similar to NBTel) workers who were murdered in an ambush; their uniforms lie clean and folded under the dead workers' photos on the wall; there are flowers and, on the centre wall, two crossed rifles.

Near the Esteli post office, I meet a Salvadoran refugee named Jos. He tells me how everyone in town welcomes the March.

Evening: After saying Mass in Esteli, the Foreign Minister (a Roman Catholic priest) Miguel D'Escoto, comes to visit us at the school. He tells us how much the Nicaraguan people want peace, but not at the cost of United States domination, never again.

Later I sit with the campesino guard outside the school while he sings and strums a guitar. The night is warm and the crickets are singing. A little boy curls up half-asleep in his father's poncho. Tonight I sleep on the school floor.

Tomorrow we are to travel by bus to the Honduran border.

Foreign students benefit Canada

Foreign students in Canada enrich our culture and are not a drain on the economy, a recent report says.

The report, Foreign Students in Canada - A Neglected Foreign Policy Issue counters the view that foreign students use the tax-supported education system and leave without making a contribution.

"The point we try to make is that accepting foreign students in Canada can ... benefit both the foreign students and Canada" said Brent Copley, a researcher at the North-South Institute which sponsored the report.

"Foreign students are quite often high-calibre students and they improve the quality of the education environment by bringing a variety of viewpoints and customs" he said.

"Many of them will occupy positions of authority when they return home and they will be familiar with Canada. They are very likely to place orders for Canadian goods and services

"Canada benefits from having people in all corners of the world who were educated in Canada, who understand Canada and who are sensitive to Canadian interests."

Copley said the report is intended to influence the federal government's current review

on foreign affairs, including international students.

Its main point, he said, is that there must be more coordination of federal and provincial government policies dealing with foreign students.

"Fee levels for foreign students, for example, should be included in discussions of funding for post-secondary education and should involve provincial and federal governments as well as academic institutions," the report says.

It adds that the link between foreign student policy and Canada's foreign aid efforts should be looked at. "This issue has been largely ignored...because of the provinces' constitutional mandate in education."

Copley said the number of students from developing countries has dropped by 12.5 per cent since 1982, twice the rate for students from industrialized nations.

"Higher costs of foreign study in Canada not only raise the prospect of a decrease in total foreign student enrolment but also risk tilting the composition of this group toward more privileged students."

The report by the Ottawa-based international affairs agency says foreign students spent about \$400 million in Canada during 1982....Three-quarters of that money came

from abroad in the form of personal savings, support from family or friends or scholarships from non-Canadian sources."

"Owing to their expenditures within Canada, foreign students boost demand for Canadian goods and services, which in turn expands employment," the report says.

The institute's report was released in the wake of federal moves to make foreign students bring more money to Canada. New guidelines, issued in September, require the students to have \$5,500 to \$12,000 depending on the province they are in. The money is for living costs, on top of tuition fees which are far higher than ...Canadians pay.

Except for Manitoba, Newfoundland and Saskatchewan, all provinces charge foreign student fees ranging as high as 13 times the Canadian rate.

The report notes that foreigners don't keep Canadians from studying at university, since they represent only 5 per cent of the student population.

"Even though foreign students make up a larger percentage of total enrolment at some institutions and in some programs such as mathematics and engineering, there is little evidence that they have blocked the way of Canadian applicants," it says.

In some cases, the presence of foreign students has even bolstered enrolment in programs with weak domestic demand.

Many of the countries that send their students to Canada are among this country's most important trading partners, especially the United States and Hong Kong.

The report says that accepting foreign students in Canada may be necessary to gain reciprocal access to institutions abroad. About 20,000 Canadians studied in other countries during 1983, the last year for which figures are available.

Reprinted from University of Waterloo Gazette

Community Connections

A Calendar of Development, Disarmament and Social Action Events

January 20

People Opposing Pornography (POP) holds its regular monthly meeting in Room 103, Edmund Casey Lounge, STU at 7.30 pm.

January 22

CUSO will sponsor a workshop for its Local Committee members at 7 pm in the lounge of the Alumni Memorial Building. Alyson Huntly from CUSO's Ottawa Development Education department will facilitate the session which will include needs analysis and adult education techniques. These sessions are geared for fun and education - CUSO committee members plan to attend the evening's meetings and preceding potluck. Members are asked to register by calling the CUSO office, Mon., Wed., or Fri. - 453-35621.

January 23

Fredericton Anti-Poverty Organization holds its regular bi-weekly meeting at 629 King Street, 7.30 pm. Everyone welcome.

UNB hosts CUNSA

By DONNA RUSSELL

UNB will be hosting the 15th annual Canadian University Nursing Students Association national conference.

More than 250 Nursing students from across Canada will be taking part in the conference which will be held at the Fredericton Motor Inn from January 29th to Feb 1st.

This marks the first time

the nursing students of UNB will be hosting CUNSA's national conference.

The theme of this year's conference is legal and ethical issues in nursing. A wide variety of speakers will be addressing this important issue. A number of workshops and social events are also slated.

UNB's nursing association welcomes their counterparts from across Canada and hopes the conference will be successful.

*Celebrating 25 years
of student broadcasting!*

**CFSR-FM presents an
Open House!**

**Wednesday, January 22nd
From 10 am to 4 pm**

*Everyone is welcome to tour the studios and facilities of
CFSR-FM, located on the 3rd floor of the office wing in
UNB's Student Union Building.*