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or from the graduate program director of the program to which the candidate is applying.

El Salvador in upheaval

by Alan Christensen

El Salvador is a nation in the midst of a bloody Revolution. According to human rights grounds both within and outside of the country, at least 8000 people have been killed so far this year by the military or by rightist death squads. Among these victims was Archbishop Romero, National University rector Felix Antonio Ulloa and most of the members of the Human Rights Commission of El Salvador. It is estimated that between 35 and 45 people are murdered each day by these groups.

It was against this background that a Dutch film team visited this country last spring. The result of their efforts is *El Salvador: Revolution or Death*, an immensely moving and shocking film which tries to show the suffering undergone by the Salvadorian people and also tries to explain some of the reasons behind the current situation. By and large the film seems to have hit the mark.

The film offers a totally different version of El Salvador from that seen in most of the western press. Two notable events which caught the eye of the media last spring were the assassination of Archbishop Romero by rightist death squads and the massacre that occurred at his funeral. Most reporters portrayed Romero as a "moderate" caught in the crossfire of leftist and rightist terror. However, in an interview on the film, the archbishop him-

self stated that the "left-wing terror" was itself nothing more than the people fighting back against government and right-wing terror tactics. Although the government denied any involvement in the violence at the archbishop's funeral and blamed "leftists" for the violence, a fact which was promptly reported by the western journalists, a spokesman for the archdiocese noted that soldiers had been seen in the area at the time.

In one of the most moving scenes in the film, a campesino described how he was beaten and shot by soldiers and then left for dead. There were also shots of people being hauled away by police and of the aftermath of a peasants' meeting which was broken up by rural police.

Unlike most journalists in El Salvador, the Dutch film team were not afraid to explore the causes of the unrest. The film explained how the tiny nation has been ruled since 1931 by a succession of military regimes. All of these regimes have worked to secure the position of the small ruling elite known as the "14 families" or the "coffee oligarchy". Since the turn of the century these people have been able to buy up large portions of land until they have reached their present position of owning 60% of the land. This land has mostly been planted with coffee and cotton while the peasants who had formerly owned these lands have become migrant farm labourers who follow the harvest looking for work much

like American and Canadian farm labourers who followed the wheat harvest from Texas to Saskatchewan around the turn of the century. It is these people who have become the backbone of the revolution and the main victims of right-wing terror.

In recent months various opposition groups have united into one umbrella group and have begun attacking supply depots and army patrols. Morazan province has now been the scene of a heavy assault by government forces since early October. The area has been completely militarized as security forces have moved in with heavy artillery and helicopter gunships. According to the Inter Church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America, civilian populations have been bombed, leaving hundreds dead and over 30,000 as refugees. No humanitarian aid has been permitted to enter the area since operations started.

The film also talked about the United States and its support of both the present and past juntas. According to the film, many American leaders see this situation as a further spread of "Communism" in America's own backyard. They see Nicaragua as the first domino to fall and El Salvador as the possible second which must be saved. With the victory of Ronald Reagan in the recent U.S. elections, the possibility of intervention by the U.S. or its Guatemalan friends haunts this tiny nation.

Universities should please business says bank VP

WINNIPEG (CUP)—"Earning a BA only means you have mastered the first two letters of the alphabet backwards."

That summed up the attitude of Jack MacDonald, vice president and general manager of the Royal Bank of Canada when he spoke at the University of Manitoba.

According to MacDonald, universities are corporations whose finished products are skilled people and they should aim to produce what business and industry need.

If the university is to survive, MacDonald said, it must produce what the market demands, just like a corporation.

The U of M dean of arts disagrees.

MacDonald "doesn't understand the nature and function of a university education," said F.G. Stambrook, dean of arts at the University of Manitoba.

"I take issue with his use of the term 'product' in referring to human beings who graduate from the university," Stambrook said. "I also take issue with his obvious view that the purpose of the university is to turn out

products."

"In university the emphasis should be on the word 'education' which means more than merely giving a narrow vocational training to our students," he said.

MacDonald saw a shift away from non-practical, non-business oriented courses. He said the universities should plan their courses in consultation with business and government. Asked what he thought of this recommendation, Stambrook responded, "I would regard that as a dangerous route."

"University is a sort of social conscience where all types of ideas should be critically analyzed," he said. "We must avoid situations where government or business would tell us what we ought to teach. That is the whole mark of a totalitarian society."

MacDonald also felt counsellors should have a knowledge of the business world, and give advice to students accordingly.

In past eras, he said, someone going into banking would rely on accounting and business skills as training. In the modern age, new skills

such as communications, a knowledge of foreign affairs and a second language, and marketing training were highly desirable in a graduate entering the workforce.

MacDonald said if universities fail to respond to private sector needs, then the companies will train their own employees.

MacDonald said education was a "lifelong process" and that university training is only one aspect of that process, a fact he feels many students overlook. While skilled people are the finished products for universities, he said, they are still raw material in the business world.

Stambrook emphasized the need to "train people for the long run rather than for today. We should be sensitive to the needs of 2020 and not just the needs of 1980."

He said a society which does not produce thinkers is "like eating our own cornseed, eat that and you've got nothing to plant. Then we'll all starve."

If we don't keep producing broadly-educated people, or scholars, we will end up with a barren society, he said.