



Margaret Thatcher may be a failure at solving unemployment, but she is a master when it comes to handling the press. Here she breezes through a half hour press conference at Government House Wednesday morning. Maggie expressed her views on everything from the Cruise to oil prices. However, for the most part she evaded reporters' questions and extolled the virtues of supply-side economics. She also said she liked Edmonton and would "be sad to go."

photo Martin Beales

gateway

Thursday, September 29, 1983

Evil...

...is in the mind of the beholder

Salvadorean intellectuals threat to government

by Margaret Baer

Central American Awareness Week (September 26-30) presented its first speaker, Armando Paredes, Tuesday afternoon. As a member of the General Students' Association of the University of El Salvador, Paredes came to provide the viewpoint of Salvadorean students.

Forced to flee El Salvador because of his involvement in the political student movement, Paredes, a medical student, set up an El Salvador medical aid campaign based in Toronto.

This is his third speaking tour across Canada in two years, sponsored by the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

Paredes explained why Salvadorean students are members of the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) — the umbrella group of various social factions, which, along with the FMLN, forms the popular opposition to the U.S.-backed ruling junta.

"Over the last ten years we've become a major voice of opposition," Paredes stated.

Though university students form only 1 per cent of El Salvador's population, their strength lies in their education and thus increased awareness of injustice. In a country where literacy is a privilege, the intellectual student movement presents a potent threat to the government.

The student movement's present political clout, let alone its survival, has not been easily achieved. The University of El Salvador has been closed by the government four times since 1971.

Besides repressing the

freedoms of assembly and speech (for as long as a year in '71), government forces "killed a hundred of us students in 1980," Paredes said.

The 1980 incident was precipitated by a move in 1979 when, for the first time in the history of Latin American universities, students proposed the Dean of the University of El Salvador. He represented the interests of the students; he was killed in October, 1980.

"The government didn't want a professor with a social conscience," observed Paredes.

In 1981, the students, due to closure of their university, used high schools and church basements for classrooms. Despite this, the number of students increased.

"The increasing repression of students made more students politically active," Paredes explained.

Paredes was critical of United States intervention. He said the U.S. sees El Salvador as "a country that doesn't know where it wants to go," full of "dumb, naive, native people." U.S. interests ignore the nation's right to sovereignty as well as the developing professional and technical talent in El Salvador.

Increased awareness of El Salvador's reality is badly needed, said Paredes. "El Salvador is out of the newspapers, so people have forgotten. But there are still the same bad conditions."

Throughout, Paredes emphasized the human aspect of his war-torn homeland.

"It's more a problem of survival than ideology," he stress-

ed. "We are human beings, we are suffering...but we are determined and optimistic we are going to win."

Central American Awareness Week, sponsored by the External Affairs Board of the Students' Union continues on Thursday (Sept. 29) with the Consul-General of Nicaragua, and Friday, with a representative of the FDR-FMLN. In addition, a recently released film about Nicaragua will be shown on Thursday and Friday.

Swords, SU and SORSEry

by Mark Roppel

The latest chapter in the SORSE-SU feud is unfolding and it promises to be just as bloody as the last.

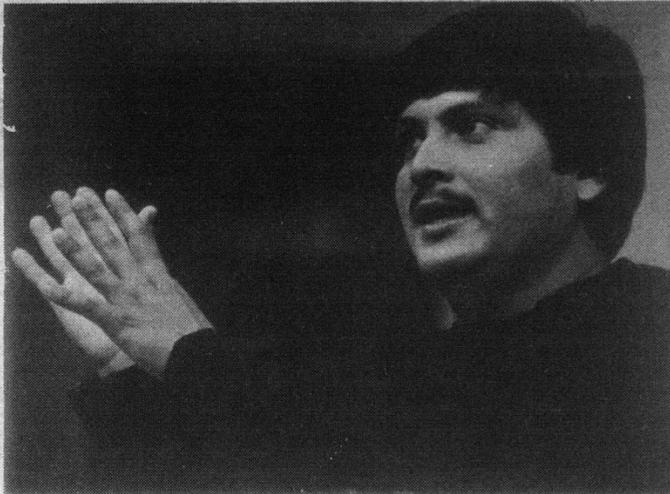
At issue is a \$20,000 "revenue shortfall" incurred by SORSE for the month of August. There will also be an expense shortfall, but over the year, SORSE may still lose a lot of money.

"We (SU) budgeted for SORSE to lose \$3589," says SU VP Finance Greg McLean. But now it looks as if they will lose \$24,530.

McLean hopes to account for about \$11,000 from the Board Of Governors grant to the SU, but this will still leave the SU "approximately \$10,000 out and it isn't even the end of the year yet."

"They (SORSE) don't get the numbers of people they used to," said McLean. "They budgeted \$47,000 for registration (fees from students attending the SORSE seminars), and so far they've got \$10,000."

"We're going to budget and it is this area that is the most out of



Armando Paredes, El Salvadorean student.

whack," says McLean.

But Debra Nichols, the Director of SORSE, is not impressed with McLean's math.

"I have really no idea where this came from," said Nichols, "there is no way he can say that, he is just guessing... if he is using budget printouts they are ill-timed and inaccurate... whatever he is basing it on is wrong."

Nichols thinks it is too early in the year to make accurate predictions about revenue.

Nichols is not surprised at the difference between projected and actual registration fees. "That's the way it has always been done... last year we discovered that there is a base number used to plan the budget that doesn't reflect reality."

Nichols is also concerned that "basic communication problems are not being helped, if he (McLean) has a problem he should discuss it with us... we have not heard anything."

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