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- use his or her discretion as to what material is published in the Gateway
- submit the annual budget for the Gateway to the Administration Board in compliance with By-Law 700
- ensure the smooth operation of the Students' Union newspaper.

Salary: \$800/mo. (under review)

For further information, please contact:

Gilbert Bouchard, Editor-in-Chief, Gateway, at 432 5168 or in Rm. 282 SUB.

Deadline For Applications: Tuesday January 29, 1985, 12:00 noon to Rm. 282 SUB.

El Salvador: p

by Fred Judson

Why is the United States in El Salvador with millions in arms, Special Forces "training" units, sessions in interrogation and propaganda techniques? It seems like a question so often asked, and so often answered. It is a question that either invites derision or commitment, apathy or passion. Maybe today it calls some passion from me, passion that cannot begin to match the collective suffering of El Salvador's people, but which is offered in respect.

Central America is a land of poets who are guerillas, and to the known and martyred Salvadoran poet, Roque Dalton, to the unknown and martyred (yet all are known to some) and to those poets who struggle and will win, I offer:

The Magic of the Marketplace

*Knee-deep in blood and profits
their faces
shout contortions about communists
and subversion
hey business is business just as
Bonzo
a stable investment climate that
burns and
dreams of attaching electrodes to
the genitals of
the hungry and the liberators.
the junior partners of the multinationals
and the oligarchs
creatures of nocturnal and daylight prey
attending the formal dinners at
"Mister's" embassy
prime rib, whisky and Coke
(registered mark)
forget that justice will find you
with gun in hand and revolution
singing
from a million throats.*

The reason that the U.S. government is in El Salvador with advisers and money, napalm and jets, is that there is a war on. And the U.S. government has judged it in its interest to choose the side of vested interests, entrenched privilege and military dictatorship. For fifty years, El Salvador has been ruled by a succession of military men, and yes, they have had their disagreements, but they have ruled in the interests of an oligarchy. In El Salvador, they call this oligarchy the Fourteen Families. With fortunes based on their virtual monopoly of coffee production, the Families have moved, over the decades of the last fifty years, into the other sectors of the economy: banking, tourism, light industry like textiles and electronics assembly, food processing, transport.

Their control of the national economy, the wealth it produces, and the distribution of that wealth is complete. And where they do

not control it, as in the case of multinational investments and holdings, they are junior partners.

What does this control mean for the majority of El Salvador's five million people? At the most basic level, it means malnutrition and a consequently high infant mortality rate, topped by an average life span in the forties because the best lands, and far too much of the land overall, is held by the oligarchy and devoted to export crops—coffee and cotton, in the main. So not enough land is given to the corn, beans, rice and vegetables which have been staples in the area since long before the Pharaohs. It means, simply, that El Salvador is hungry. It means that the majority, who are rural peasants, must live in rude poverty, if lucky with a partial subsistence plot of their own. From this plot, or from estate lands they might rent, or sharecrop or live on in semi-serfdom, depending on the circumstances, the peasant must move seasonally to find wage work picking or tending the export crops for the oligarchy.

The oligarchy (and that means the repressive forces of the army, the guard, the treasury police, etc.) controls the state. They have relied on these forces to protect their own opulent lifestyle: mansions, trips to Paris and Las Vegas, real estate purchases in Florida as a hedge against revolution, numbered Zurich accounts. In 1932 the oligarchy faced their first real challenge, a popular peasant/Indian/urban worker revolt. With the assistance of outside powers, including Britain, Canada and the United States, the revolt was brutally crushed at the cost of 30,000 lives, or four per cent of the population in one month.

General Martinez, in charge and subsequently dictator for years, ordered anyone wearing Indian dress or heard speaking an Indian language be killed. The dead had nothing to worry about, remarked Martinez. They would all be reincarnated. To crush an ant was worse, since they never got a second chance on earth.

Why the revolt? Indian vengeance after centuries of ripoff? Running amok? No, the world depression had cut the bottom out of coffee prices, so there were massive layoffs and wage cuts, and the coffee oligarchy entrenched itself to wait it out. All the best land was in coffee, and food imports were curtailed. There was no work and neither food nor land on which to grow it. So Salvadorans had organized to demand access to land, had even taken over some idle coffee estates. They were led by Farabundo Marti, a man who had fought the U.S. Marines with Sandino in Nicaragua. He and many others died hoping to reconstruct El Salvador's economy in the majority's interest.

With El Salvador in the firm grip of Martinez, there was little difficulty in relieving

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