

# Nicaraguan speaks on US aggression

By ALEX PATTERSON

Amidst banner proclaiming "Stop US Intervention," "Viva Nicaragua Libre!" and chants of "No Pasaran" ("They will not come in"), Commandante Olga Aviles Lopes of Nicaragua's Sandinista government took the stage at Convocation Hall on Monday night.

The first Nicaraguan Commandante to visit Canada, Lopes was here to speak about "American aggression" in her homeland and elsewhere in Central America. Organized by Canadian Action for Nicaragua, as part of their "Tools For Peace" campaign, Lopes addressed the audience on the issues they wanted to hear about: the elections held in Nicaragua earlier this month, the progress of the country during the past five years, and the possibility of a Grenada-style invasion by American armed forces.

Lopes spoke without a script, beginning with a brief history of the Sandinista Liberation Front (FSLN), explaining that, due to an information blackout by the previous Somoza regime, the movement had been believed to have been inoperative

from 1970 to 1975.

The US-backed dictator discovered that he had been mistaken when a popular uprising brought the FSLN to power in 1979.

The new government then embarked upon a programme of "rebuilding the country," said Lopes, and spreading literacy—including what she called "political literacy."

The Commandante told her listeners that US aggression has continually escalated since Reagan has been president, with fears of an all-out attack running at an especially high pitch since his re-election.

Lopes said that every morning between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. an American SR-71 aircraft streaked over Managua for five days following Reagan's return to power. The planes terrorized the rush-hour commuters, sometimes breaking the sound barrier and causing sonic booms over the city, Lopes said. This was done plainly in violation of international airspace agreements, she said.

Another current issue is the leaked CIA "murder manual," which was

written in Spanish to instruct counter-revolutionary forces there in methods of "neutralizing" Sandinista officials.

These tactics are being used, the Commandante said, because the US has the irrational idea that the Sandinistas are "exporting their revolution" to El Salvador.

"Look at the arms stockpiles of Nicaragua versus those of the States," Lopes said, "then decide which one is preparing for war!"

Lopes said the rest of the world is free to visit her country and free to talk to anyone they choose once they are there. She said that only by seeing and meeting real Nicaraguans could an outsider get the proper feel for the positive changes occurring there. She hoped that all interested individuals would someday journey there, though in the meantime she was grateful for the freighter full of tools and medicine Canadian donors will be sending this January. She invited the audience to see for themselves, "by putting their feet and their brains" forward for Nicaragua.

# Tuition increase may hinder accessibility

By HEIDI SILVERMAN

Two provincial representative university organizations say students will face higher tuition and reduced accessibility if the provincial government continues its current education policies.

Students can expect an increase in tuition fees as early as next September, Michael Connolly, information officer for the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) said.

The Ontario Council on University Affairs (OCUFA) also said funding universities "has shifted somewhat to other sources of revenue such as student fees."

OCUFA statistics on funding show that during the period of 1978-79 to 1982-3, the provincial government gave 6 to 38.8 percent less in grants to Ontario's different universities than in 1977-78 school year levels. Decreased government funding leads to university cutbacks and higher costs for students because of increased tuitional fees, OCUFA says.

OCUFA figures also show tuition for Ontario universities rose by 42.3 percent in the Arts, 37.2 percent in the Sciences, 43.1 percent in Commerce, 47.8 percent in Engineering, and 43.5 percent in Medicine over the past five years.

OCUA expects the Bovey Commission report will suggest students should pay at least 25 percent of the operational costs of Ontario universities. OCUA says in 1977-78 students were already paying 19.1 percent of their educational costs.

"Government policy in the past has been that any student in Ontario should be guaranteed a place in post-secondary education," Connolly said. "As long as that student has the ability, he should not be blocked or hindered by financial obstacles."

Connolly was also concerned that the government wouldn't hold to their policy of universal accessibility. "We have argued that increases in tuition and inadequate student aid go against the government's own policy of the accessibility policy which could limit student enrollment in future."

Connolly said the rise in tuition fees is a conscious act by the government to limit student accessibility to a university system which they can no longer adequately fund. "Since hikes in tuition fees are a barrier to students in low income families, we see high tuition as being used by the government to arbitrarily limit enrollment and to help make up for their irresponsible funding."

# Don't listen to Reagan, says Oxfam chair

By STEVE STRIBBELL

Ronald Reagan is telling an outright lie when he accuses the Nicaraguan government of being totalitarian, said Meyer Brownstone, Chairman of Oxfam Canada, in his recent discussion at Osgoode Hall of the Nicaraguan elections.

In fact, Brownstone said, there is no human rights problem at all in Nicaragua. This point of view is the result of Brownstone's first-hand observation of the elections in Nicaragua.

Brownstone's lecture in Osgoode Hall was basically a discussion of the post-revolution system of democracy in Nicaragua, which was born after the Sandinista overthrow of the Somoza family who ruled Nicaragua

in a hereditary autocracy for over 40 years. He also spoke at length on the election process in Nicaragua and what he said was the democratic quality of the election.

The electoral system in Nicaragua was initiated by the people, Brownstone said, and has served in the institutionalization of the revolution. Most Nicaraguans believe that the election was held only as a result of American coercion and encouragement, Brownstone said. Brownstone also said American attempts to control the election and the fate of Nicaraguan politics are evident in the withdrawals of several of the similar parties and in American monetary support to counter-revolutionaries to the tune of 150 million dollars, not to mention the rumors of

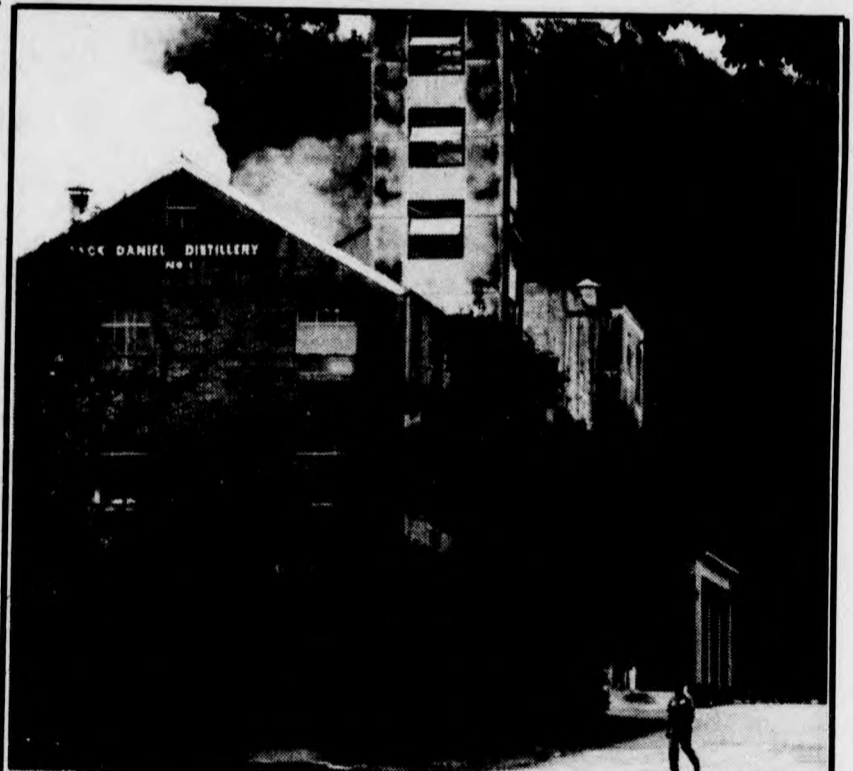
an impending American invasion.

Brownstone also said the Nicaraguan political system, as an applied demonstration of pluralism, is possibly more democratic than our own. One aspect of the new Nicaraguan electoral law, Brownstone said, is a system of proportional representation that virtually guarantees small parties a seat on the National Assembly. Brownstone suggested that this was, perhaps, the reasoning behind the alleged American involvement in the withdrawal of a number of the political parties formerly running in the election.

Brownstone concluded that the only infringement on the human rights of the people of Nicaragua may be directly related to American foreign policy in that country.

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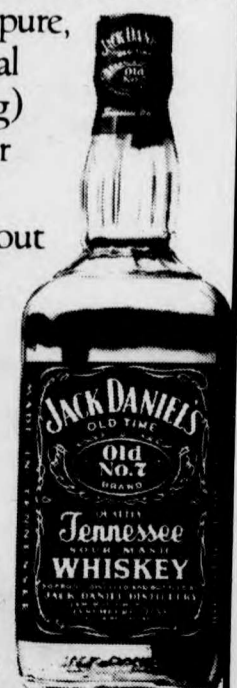
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# Other Campuses

By ADAM BRYANT

## Not such nice guys

The engineering faculties of Queen's and U of T are infamous for their gruelling orientation programs and occasional unsaintly antics. The non-academic reputation these faculties hold is the envy of many engineering students across Canada.

Recent incidents at two Eastern Canada universities, however, indicate that students there are determined to force their way into the spotlight.

Last month, a group of engineers at Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland physically ejected a polling officer and his ballot box from the engineering building to show their displeasure with the student council, which recently barred them from the student pub.

In a separate incident, some engineering students were locked out of the student pub because they were carrying fire hoses on their backs. In retaliation, the engineers poked their hoses through a window and sprayed students who were eating their lunch. Other engineering students in the pub protested by sitting on the floor. The student council at Memorial is debating what punitive action to take.

At the University of New Brunswick, engineering students have drawn criticism from the

UNB student women's committee for the sexist content of the undergraduate society's latest handbook.

The handbook apparent contains a rhyme about a wife who is ripped apart during intercourse with a machine designed by her engineer husband.

One UNB woman, who asked to remain anonymous, said the handbook is especially disturbing because it was published by students.

"We (women) want to pursue an education. We are as dedicated as male students. We want to succeed just as much. But we do not want to fight this crap," she said.

—The Carillon University of Regina

## Texas needlers

Last month, a man convicted of killing a police officer was executed by lethal injection in Huntsville, Texas. Hundreds of students from nearby Sam Houston University were on hand in support of the execution.

As 39-year-old Thomas Andy Barefoot was executed, the students cheered and yelled slogans like "We're Republicans." They also carried placards reading "Bring Back Old Sparky," a Texan nickname for the outmoded electric chair. Another pro-injection sign read, "Hit me with your best shot." One demon-

strator carried and wave a four-foot long mock syringe.

Efforts by Barefoot's lawyer to have the death sentence stayed were rejected by the US Supreme Court.

In his final statement, Barefoot asked for forgiveness and said he felt no bitterness towards anyone.

—Imprint University of Waterloo

## That smarts!

Administrators at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver feel too many SFU students are being awarded excellent marks. To reverse the trend, they are putting the pressure on professor to lower the number of students receiving those high grades.

Dean of Arts Bob Brown says the administration's crackdown on the number of A and B grades is only an attempt to ensure courses are marked properly.

"Grades begin to lose their meaning," Brown said. "Other institutions would question these grades."

Two Communications classes were affect by the crackdown last year. The professor for both classes was told he had to scale down the marks before the university would accept them.

—The Cord Weekly Wilfrid Laurier University