

U.S. policy ignores real Latin problems

by David Johnson
Battalion Reporter

Since World War II, American policy in Central America has been formed by a fear of revolution. Robert White, former ambassador to El Salvador, said Tuesday night in a presentation at Rudder Theater that U.S. policy in the region has centered around the use of military force to counter revolutions and has ignored the central issues of poverty and repression that are at the root of Latin American problems.

White spoke before a crowd of about 200 on the causes of Latin American problems and what could be done to solve them. White has served as a career diplomat for 25 years and has seen duty in Nicaragua, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Uruguay, Barbados and Grenada. He is presently a Senior Associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

White charged that the Reagan administration's policy of backing Central American regimes with military aid and advisers is "simplistic" and said that such policies do the U.S. a great disservice in the region. White said that since World War II, every President except John F. Kennedy and Jimmy Carter has "winked" at corruption and repression in Latin America. He said that Kennedy's Alliance for Progress and Carter's human rights policies were effective in achieving real progress towards solving the grassroots problems of poverty, malnutrition, and human rights violations.

Change, said White, must be accomplished by supporting moderate democrats who refute the policies of revolutionaries supported by Fidel Castro, and the policies of right-wing military juntas that have ruled many Central American countries for decades.

The people of Central Amer-

ica, White said, are desperate for stability and an end to economic and social repression. White blamed economic stagnation in Central American countries on the flight of hard currency into the U.S. from the wealthy landowners who invest it in American property or keep it in American banks to save for the day, he said, when they will be forced to flee their homelands because of the wrath of the common people who have revolted against them.

Attacks on Central American clergy and lay missionaries resulted from the adoption in 1968 by the Catholic Church of a doctrine of supporting the right of the poor to share in the wealth of the country and to participate

in the government. Several priests, nuns and lay missionaries including Americans have been murdered by right-wing "death squads" over the past 2 years.



staff photo by David Fisher

Robert White, former ambassador to El Salvador, talks with members of the MSC Political Forum committee.

Emerald Forest has its problems

Board can't decide on park area

by Maureen Carmody
Battalion Reporter

The College Station Parks and Recreation Board remained indecisive in a special meeting Tuesday night to discuss the placement of the 2.5 acres for a proposed park in the Emerald Forest area. The land is to be dedicated by Allen Swoboda,

head developer for Emerald Forest.

Board member Stephen Beachy said Swoboda is complying with the city's subdivision ordinance which requires a developer to donate one acre to every 133 dwelling units developed. Swoboda now has 236 units, Beachy said.

The area being considered is south of Bee Creek off Highway 6 between Emerald Parkway and Raintree. There are no present facilities in this area.

"This is one of the main reasons we've proposed Emerald Forest Park," Beachy said.

Some of the problems with the area are that it is near flood-

ing areas, surrounded by powerlines and has limited road access. Although nothing was decided at the meeting and no votes were cast, there was a gen-

eral consensus to accept land in this area if road access can be obtained. The issue will be considered again at the Board's regular meeting next week.

Smoking tortilla sets off fire alarm in library

by Beverly Hamilton
Battalion Staff

Heat and smoke in a custodial closet on the fifth floor of Sterling Evans Library was intense enough Tuesday to set off a library fire alarm.

A tortilla had been left on a hot plate to cook inside the closet, said Thomas R. Parsons,

director of security and traffic of the University police. The smoke from the cooking set off the alarm.

Charles Smith, a reference librarian who accompanied police to the fifth floor, said nothing was on fire but "something was getting ready to ignite."

"The alarm did its work,"

Smith said. "It could have been a potentially big fire."

There was no damage to the closet, Smith said.

Students left the library when the alarm rang around 12:15 and could not re-enter the building until University police and library officials gave the OK — about 15 minutes later.

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