

## Diplomacy

*U.S. policy toward El Salvador should adapt to developments*

While the focus of U.S. foreign policy toward Central America has been on Nicaragua for the past few years, the situation in El Salvador has become increasingly unstable. The administration of President George Bush needs to take a close look at this country, analyze recent developments and work toward peace in the region.

Since the early 1980s, El Salvador has been ripped apart by civil war. A leftist guerilla force called the Farabundo Marti Liberation Front has battled the government, which has received hundreds of millions of dollars in military and economic aid from the United States. Although moderate President Napoleon Duarte brought about some reforms, human-rights abuses continued by right-wing extremists. In 1988, the situation only got worse as death-squad activity increased and the economy slowed. Then Duarte was diagnosed as having liver cancer.

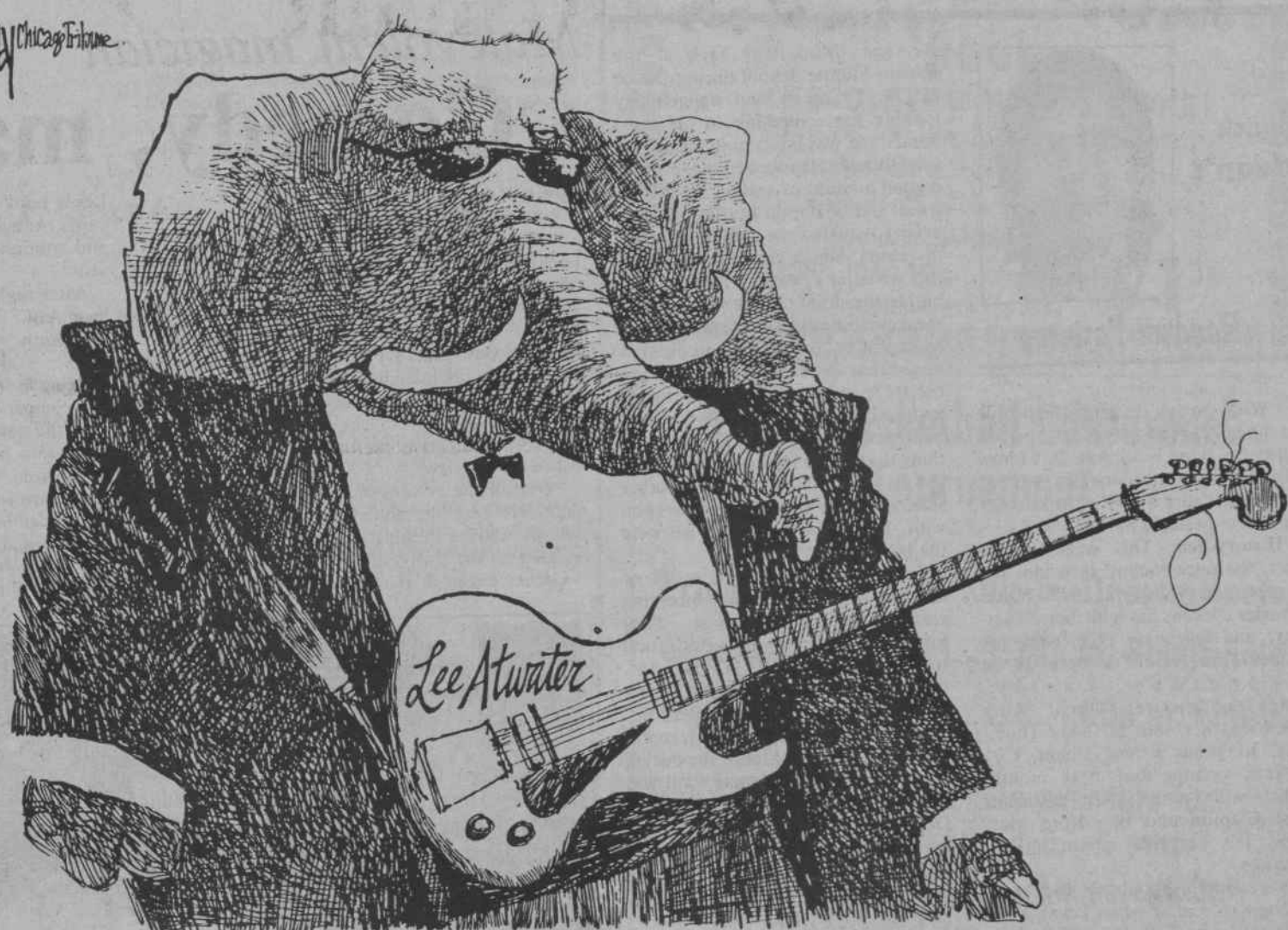
Now the rebels have proposed postponing presidential elections, which were originally set for March, until September. Such a move from the FMLN signals a significant break from previous policy; the rebels have refused to participate in past elections. Apparently, the FMLN leadership is willing to accept the government enough to get involved with its balloting process.

Still, the rebels have not said they would put down their weapons before or after the election, and Duarte said peace talks will come only after terrorist tactics cease. Meanwhile, during Vice President Dan Quayle's visit this past week, rebel forces struck in the capital city with bombings, and FMLN radio broadcasts urged leftist forces to fight on.

Quayle, displaying a surprising eloquence, met with Duarte to talk about the situation in El Salvador. In a remarkable bit of diplomacy, Quayle said the United States would not accept any form of violence, on the right or the left. He warned the government to improve its record on human rights and to continue to move toward reform.

El Salvador's government and the United States should carefully consider the rebel proposal. Although it is difficult to decipher the sincerity of the FMLN, it would be in the best interest of all concerned to open a dialogue. Beginning such talks would be the first step in defusing the time bomb that ticks in El Salvador. President Bush should work toward a settlement of this bloody civil war that has already left 65,000 people dead. Otherwise, the carnage in El Salvador can only get worse.

*M. Kelly*  
Chicago Tribune



## Look at history shows evolution of films

A lot of people would say Errol Flynn was a great actor. He had a presence, they say. He had charisma, and he had style.

That may very well be so, but the man was not a great actor.

Case in point: I was watching *Sante Fe Trail* the other night. It was Errol and Ronald Reagan playing Jeb Stuart and George Custer, two famous generals during and right after the Civil War. The whole plot was that these two men were in charge of a posse, if you will, that was seeking out John Brown and his raiders. Errol played Jeb, and Ronnie played Custer — pre-Little Big Horn.

Jeb Stuart was from Virginia. And no matter how you imagine the Virginia wilds, he was a Southerner. Virginians don't have what I consider a huge accent, but they have an accent nonetheless. Well, Errol is from England and has a British accent to match. In this movie, Flynn portrayed Stuart, but kept the English accent.

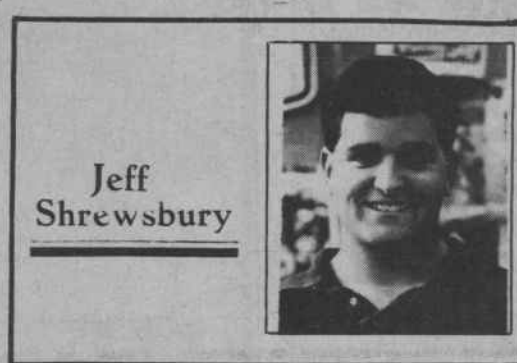
It was like watching Robin Hood command the cavalry.

I can't say for sure who would be responsible for noticing such an inadequacy in the movie, whether it be the director or Flynn himself, but somebody let him go on sounding like an aristocratic English gentleman riding horses around the plains of Kansas and the woods of Virginia.

It threw the whole movie off.

I can imagine what happened on the set. The director probably came up to Errol, who was sitting in his own chair with his name on the back, and sat down humbly to tell him he was playing a Southerner and that his accent would be out of character.

Errol, being the superstar he was at the time,



Jeff Shrewsbury

probably said something like, "Oh, don't let it bother, old man, my adoring fans will love it just the same."

And the truth about old movies is Errol was probably right. The fact is, though, that the first days of the movies (and to a certain extent now), people didn't pay to see superstars act; they paid to see superstars.

It was more prevalent then, but there is certainly enough evidence of it now.

Errol was not playing Jeb Stuart; Errol was playing Errol. He was his own character and did not care to get into the role. He was a washbuckler, and he was going to play it the same no matter what the role.

In my book, this classifies him as a mediocre actor, but big star. The two often go together.

The producers of this film did not hire Errol to be Jeb Stuart, they hired Errol to be the star.

Movies are such a fantastic medium that anytime I see distractions like this I get angry. But I do

realize the time and history of the movies like these.

In the beginning of movies, realism was not the central focus. The country, down from economic hardship and fascinated by the big screen, was looking for personalities and hype. The directors were relatively new at the process and didn't have a whole lot of regard for accuracy when it came to big production films.

This is OK, however, because every medium and art has to evolve. Film is evolving even today.

If in the beginning there was just hype and big names, now I would say there is militant realism in film. Every film challenges each of its actors to be that character and be completely loyal to the truth. Even the big stars these days can't become big stars without being great actors.

Then, it was a luxury to have a great acting star; now it is a necessity.

I enjoyed the movie as I do every Flynn movie, especially *Robin Hood*, but I have to chuckle when I see the old movies with the big names and realize just how bad the acting was.

There were the great actors then, but in that time period making the country happy and excited about the novelty of the silver screen was more important. Now, after the initial giddiness has worn off, directors, actor, writers and producers, for the most part any way, are expecting a great deal more out of the players.

It's celluloid evolution. For pure entertainment, the movies now are not any more exciting to the viewers, but from an acting and directing standpoint, movies are just coming out of adolescence into adulthood.



## Letters to the editor

### Letter writers must wake up

To the editor:

I would like to comment on the letter by Scott Lamar and Jeff Robinson ("Moral decline plagues U.S.," Jan. 30). Gentlemen, you say we should return to a time of morals, that we were better off back then?

Ah, yes, let's return to a simpler time when women stayed home and had babies, when they were owned by their husbands and when they had no rights. But throughout history, it has been acceptable for men to keep mistresses. I suppose you feel that now that women do the same things men do, the world has gone to hell.

Wake up, gentlemen. There have always been abortions, but not always safe and legal ones. A study in the '50s found that about a fourth of all pregnancies ended in abortion, and today the figure is about the same. So did legalizing it make the number of abortions go up? No. And will making it illegal make the numbers go down? Again, probably not.

Perhaps backstreet butcher shops are the morality you want to return to. If you can't see it, does it exist? I hope this isn't the kind of world your god wants.

Marie Loughmiller  
Journalism junior

### U.S. realizing abortion's cost

To the editor:

I am writing this letter in response to the one published Jan. 30. After reading the letter calling for continued legal abortion, I felt compelled

to respond to what was obviously an emotional as well as uneducated plea for support.

This letter presented the landmark decision of *Roe vs. Wade* as simply a right of choice in reproductive responsibilities. How could such an issue that bitterly divides our nation be reduced to such humble roots? I think Karen Smith, the letter writer, must first accept that her reproductive responsibilities begin with the decision to participate in a sexual relationship. Also, she and society must take responsibility for their actions instead of using abortion as a means of birth control and defending it as a right.

Sadly, Smith and pro-choicers continue to look beyond the fact that this issue concerns two lives: the mother's and the unborn child's. Smith, like many before her, spoke of the issue in terms of "the rights of the fetus vs. rights of women." Why don't we stop playing word games? "Fetus" is Latin for small one. But then this is a familiar tactic of the pro-abortionist. Perhaps by shadowing the truth or in some way dehumanizing the victims of the issue, these staunch pro-abortionists can find solace in their actions. Smith would have us believe that the pro-life activity is something new and that it marks some stark new threat to the abortion ruling. Quite to the contrary, this movement has been in full swing since the 1973 ruling. Perhaps Smith and other feminists see a turning of the tide. Pro-life activity has become more visible, but contrary to what Smith would have you believe, it has evolved from an ever-growing realization of the destruction of innocent human life.

I think Smith and women like her must realize that this resistance, conservative-leaning court and swaying of popular opinion is not some secret plot against the morals and rights of women. Rather, finally, after 15 years and more than 18 million abortions, the United States is beginning to realize the awesome destruction that it has deemed legal. I

find it very stirring to read West Germany's ruling on the issue. The government explained their opposition by stating that they knew too well where deeming one race of people less than worthy of life could lead. How educating for a nation such as ours. Can we not learn from our mistakes? Smith is disturbed that there is no action to combat the pro-life successes. May I suggest to you, Smith, that you are now in the minority that is rapidly losing ground as medical advances prove your arguments to be nothing more than lies!

Sadly, it has taken 15 years and 18 million aborted unborn citizens to begin to realize the magnitude of our own holocaust. America, the land of the free and the home of the brave, must secure freedom of life for all citizens, both in and outside the womb and be willing to defend that life! For without equal respect for life, what is to guarantee that you won't be next?

Douglas L. Novak  
Political science junior

### Bible doesn't forbid abortion

To the editor:

Well, it's no secret that the religious right is rankled about abortion, but frankly I don't understand why. The Bible, that infallible handbook for the holy-to-be, certainly has a different view regarding infanticide and fetal destruction.

For instance, the Book of Psalms bestows the blessing of happiness upon those that dash Babylonian babies against stones (Psa 137:9). Deuteronomy 21:18 tells us that we should stone stubborn and rebellious children. God's prophet, Hosea, declares that it is God's will that pregnant Samaritan women should be

ripped up (Hos 13:16), a clear case of the performance of abortion.

The list goes on. There really isn't much Biblical support for the sanctity of the fetus. The issue then is not one of rescuing babies from "Dachau-like" family planning clinics, but one of power. By using the emotionally charged issue of abortion as a focal point and a spring board, by slapping red paint onto plastic dolls and impaling them on sticks or hanging them on strings, by using demonic imagery that might easily come from the mind of Charles Manson or Freddie Krueger, the religious right hopes to force its agenda of moral absolutism on the rest of society.

If *Roe vs. Wade* is reversed, you will not see these self-appointed people of God who block the doorways to Planned Parenthood rushing to adopt the AIDS newborns. You will not see the clinic bombers clamoring to take Tay-Sachs babies into their homes. You will not see Vice President Dan Quayle play foster parent to the baby he believes an 11-year-old girl should be forced to bear, even if it is sired by her sexually abusive biological father.

You will see young women and girls die. As many as 200,000 die from botched abortions in developing countries each year. You will see more children starve. You will see more battered, murdered children. The true incidence of child abuse is unknown, but suffice it to say that it is too high and will certainly increase by many fold.

Of course, you will hear the so-called righteous saying, "If only they were right with God, none of this would be happening to them."

Jeff Ford  
School of Medicine

Editor's note: Because of space limitations and a backlog of letters to the editor on other issues, The Gamecock will end debate over abortion as of today.

## The Gamecock

Best Non-daily Collegiate Newspaper, Southeastern Region  
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