

## et cetera



## Local activist

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These were the most overt instances of violence to occur during the delegates' stay, but the group also was constantly watched and harassed by security forces, Till reported. During the visit, several delegation members returned to their hotel to find that their luggage and rooms had been searched. Death squad and security vehicles regularly followed the delegation members as they traveled about the capitol, Till said, adding, "It doesn't mean they were threatening to kill us, but they were making their presence known to intimidate us."

At one point, when Till was getting out of a van carrying delegation members to another demonstration, "an armored personnel carrier pulled up, security forces jumped out and one of them grabbed the bag I was carrying," he reported. "They accused us of carrying gasoline to the march. When they found nothing,

they arrested our driver." The driver was later released.

The route of the July 29 march was entirely lined by security forces. As the marchers passed by, the forces fell in behind them. Meanwhile, helicopter gunships continuously flew over the crowd.

"That march was much more intense," Till said. "We knew, yes, we could be shot at because of the first march. We were told later by student leaders and representatives of UNTS that our presence in the march prevented violence."

The delegation also participated in an unplanned march that grew out of Orellana's funeral procession on July 30. Police attempted to block this march, but a contingent of the foreign supporters — including Till and his group — moved to the front and passed through the police lines, enabling the procession to continue.

In addition to the marches, the group talked with students and union workers, met four union leaders who were being sought for arrest, visited factories and refugee camps, and en-



Protestors overturned a security bus and several people were injured after a reportedly peaceful anti-government march was broken up with tear gas and gunfire.

tered guerrilla-controlled territory to see conditions in the countryside. The guerrillas did not meet with the group, Till said, because their leaders were afraid for the safety of the visitors.

During the 13-day trip, the group discovered wide-scale dissatisfaction with the government and support for the guerrillas in the places they visited, Till reported. "It became kind of clear that there's a close relationship between the guerrilla forces and the people," he said. "(The people) see the military as an occupying army and the guerrillas as their own army." The counter-insurgency efforts of the government have failed, he added, and "the guerrillas are now stronger than they've ever been."

Another sign of increasing dissatisfaction with conditions in the country is the growing opposition of labor unions and decreasing fear of the government, Zielinski said. "Labor groups that formerly supported the government are now joining UNTS," he claimed. "It's a very volatile situation down there, with more and more people going in the streets to confront the government. The people are not back-

ing down any more."

Zielinski also claimed the U.S. government is virtually censoring media reports here on the activity of El Salvador's opposition movement. "If a march of 20-25,000 people took place in downtown Managua, it would have attracted national press coverage," he remarked.

Till said the responsibility for spreading the news falls upon people who had visited El Salvador and a network of human rights groups in contact with the Salvadoran opposition forces. He has already spoken on a local radio talk show about his experiences, and will show slides and give an account of his trip at the First Unitarian Church in Rochester on Sunday, September 18.

Although he has been involved with the Rochester Committee on Latin America since 1985, Till said he was deeply affected by the trip.

"The trip opened (my) eyes to what the situation is there," he concluded. "Now when I do my solidarity work, it's not just ideas. I see the people's faces."

## Pastoral

Continued from Page 6

your mind, rather than identifying some of the structures that have been put in place or kept in place by sexist attitudes," acknowledged the group's leader, Barbara Classen. She reported that one of the group's members pointed out that the bishops quote papal documents more than they quote Scriptures — and that those papal writings are influenced by the traditional understanding of the place of women in the Church.

Examining the Church's structure would involve looking at the question of ordaining

women, noted Sister DeRycke, who facilitated the "Partners in the Church" group. "At this point, those who are ordained are not only the leaders in worship, but in governance, authority and economic control," she said.

At the same time, she acknowledged that ordination is such a controversial topic that people need to be cautious when discussing it. "Even though it is a key issue, the question is whether politically it would be wise that it be pushed at this point," she noted. "It's important, but there's preliminary steps we need to do first, like women and men supporting each other in the roles in the Church that they can take on — realizing that in the Diocese of Rochester we are fortunate in the jobs that women can take on."

Rosalie Muschal-Reinhardt, who facilitated the "Partners in Society" group, pointed out, however, that if the bishops fail to look at Church structures and the ordination issue, they will undermine the effectiveness of the pastoral.

"The bishops seem to be judging society as if the Church is separate," she noted. "How does (the Church) have any right to say anything to the culture until it addresses the issues in the Church itself? They have to be just in their own structures before telling anyone else to be just."

She also noted that the structures in the Church must be changed before sexism can be eliminated. "When you're going to build something, you build it from a foundation," she explained. "When that foundation contains sexism, that affects everything else."

She observed that change is beginning in the Church, but is occurring from the bottom up. Women and lay people are creating their own communities, and are increasingly taking on roles once reserved for priests. She noted, for example, that in 1975 no women served as Catholic chaplains, whereas today 2,000 serve in that capacity. "The bishops have always been behind the lay people," she said. "They need to get in touch with the lay people and get be-

hind them."

Miriam Snyder, who has lived in the Philippines for the last 14 years, called the document a "magnificent report" that indicates that the Church in the United States has indeed changed a great deal — especially in light of the situation of women in so many other nations. "This is far ahead of other places where people are not even thinking in terms of women being equal," she noted.

Despite suggestions during the discussions that the document needs to be much more radical, Snyder, the new head of the Harley School, called for patience, saying that rushing ahead might "provoke a backlash of resentment."

"I think that frankly speaking, the eradication of the complete sexual orientation in the Church will take some time," she noted. "Remember, we are coming from a Judeo-Christian tradition where men are dominant."

"(The document) is a light," Snyder concluded. "If you strike a match in a dark room, it's a light. The room is not inundated with light yet, but you have to remember great things take time."

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