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of the action, and the possibility of a major diplomatic confrontation with the Soviet Union. So far, five Nicaraguan ships have been sunk, and five foreign ships—among them a Soviet oil tanker, and ships from Britain, Japan, and the Netherlands—have been damaged. Britain has condemned the mining as “interference with international shipping” and France has offered Nicaragua assistance in clearing the mined areas.

The mining, according to sources cited by the *Washington Post*, was first planned in February of this year by a National Security Council planning group. Although a 1980 law requires that Congressional Intelligence Committees must be informed of such covert action plans, at a hearing in March the Senate Intelligence Committee had no knowledge of the mining. CIA director William Casey is due to appear before this committee on April 10 to be questioned on the agency's role in the mining. According to the *Wall Street Journal's* sources, the mining is being directed by American personnel aboard a CIA-operated ship in the Pacific while the mining itself is being done not by the anti-Sandinista “contras” who claim responsibility for it, but by Salvadorans and other non-Nicaraguan Latin Americans who are CIA contract agents.

The U.S. Senate has approved an administration request for \$21 million in aid to the contras for covert operations, but Speaker of the House Thomas O'Neill said that he expected the bill to be killed in the House of Representa-

tatives. In a surprise move, however, on March 10, the Senate overwhelmingly passed a non-binding resolution condemning U.S. involvement in the laying of the mines.

The U.S. government has not seriously attempted to negotiate with Nicaragua in the past, and the efforts of the Contadora group, consisting of Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, and Colombia, to mediate between the U.S. and Nicaragua have not been successful. In anticipation of the Nicaraguan appeal to the International Court of Justice (a U.N. agency), the Reagan administration has said that it will not accept rulings on Central America by the Court for the next two years. The Reagan administration seems interested only in the violent overthrow of the Nicaraguan government.

It appears that the victor in the U.S. elections in November will be Ronald Reagan. Must this be? Must we have four more years of a foreign policy made by a man who sees the world in black and white terms, who indeed at times seems incapable of distinguishing between movies and reality? Ronald Reagan has not strengthened the United States, as he claims, but severely harmed it both abroad and at home. The Soviet Union could not ask for a better ally, yet Reagan's pathetic appeals to patriotism continue to blind those pitiable individuals who confuse military power with greatness.

An Outstanding Player

by Tom Miller

Chris Garrett one of Behrend's outstanding basketball players will be leaving Behrend College and our basketball program, when he transfers to University Park next fall. Chris will be remembered fondly and his attributes will not be easily matched.

While playing for the Cubs for two years, Chris scored an outstanding 812 points. As a freshman, Chris set the school record for the most points scored in one game, 36.

This year, Chris had the chore of being the shooting guard. As usual he came through at this position by scoring 480 points and averaging 16.5 points a game which was the highest on the team. In an interview Coach Zimmerman, he characterized Chris as a “quiet leader.” He also said that finding someone with the shooting range that he had from the outside will be very difficult. Chris was hampered with a hip pointer towards the end of the season but didn't let that stop him from playing in the last few home games. Not only did Chris achieve all of the above distinctive achievements, but held a 3.9 grade point average while doing them. Chris has made his mark at Behrend and will not be forgotten.

Summer Army ROTC Adventure

For those interested and qualified sophomores, who are not currently enrolled in Army ROTC, there is a program waiting for you. The adventure is Army Basic Camp, consisting of six weeks of training at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

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As I write this, the news comes from an administration statement claiming that minelaying in Nicaraguan waters has been “discontinued for the time being” and that the CIA ship has been withdrawn from the area. It seems that pressure from both Congress and abroad forced this move. I have only one question: what will the CIA do instead of mining?

What brilliant move can we expect next from Ronald Reagan?

You will be trained in the use of a compass and a military map, marksmanship training with the M-16 rifle, machine gun and anti-tank weapons among other military skills.

You will learn to give and receive orders and endure long, tiresome hours, but the end result, a spit and polish cadet, will make

all the effort worthwhile. Basic Camp isn't for everyone, then again neither is the Army. If you want a challenge this summer, a chance to earn nearly \$700.00, check out the Army ROTC Basic Camp. For further information contact: Captain L. HAMES, ext. 218-ROTC Office Administration Building.



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