Questions Jackson on Latin American status

To the Editor:

After reading the Junior Eisen review with Professor Jean Jackson (The Tech, Oct. 21, 1983), I decided that I could not stand silent. I felt that the information presented was very one-sided and that there were some major inaccuracies. I would like to address several of these points. I was totally confused by the statistics presented. For example, Professor Jackson stated that the literacy rate in Nicaragua went up from "something like" 41% to "something like" 88% (in only 4 years!). I openly distrust these two figures and suppose that no one (except in the Nicaraguan government) can believe them. Besides, even before the revolution in 1979, the United Nations accepted that the literacy rate in that country was above 50%, and now it is nowhere near 88%. Nonetheless, I do agree that the Sandinistas have made several improvements in the educational system (including marxist propaganda), even if it is not true that "they had 100,000 workers go out and at night teach a great majority of illiterate Nicaraguans how to read." The interview also says that "over 30 million people have been killed" in El Salvador. Even though El Salvador is the most densely populated country in the continental western hemisphere, its population is only about 5 million people, and I hope that the "30 million" was only a misprint by The Tech. However, the number of people killed by BOTH the government forces and the guerrillas in that country since 1979 is about 30,000, which certainly is a terrible loss of human life.

Professor Jackson also said that "the government decided to relocate all of the Miskitos near the Honduran border, and, as always, seems to happen with revolution, there are tremendous problems." She seems to be very xenophobic about the Sandinistas, even if it is not true that "she had 100,000 workers go out and at night teach a great majority of illiterate Nicaraguans how to read." The latter is what she probably meant.

I would also like to add some facts that Professor Jackson forgot to mention. First, the Sandinistas are against the church, and in Pope, during his recent visit to Nicaragua (where he was not properly received) reprimanded the priests working with the Sandinista government. Second, the Cuban presence (and atrocities) is very pronounced in the country, especially in the school system (including marxist propaganda). Furthermore, her sentence is somewhat ambiguous. Did she mean that the Miskitos were relocated near the border or away from it? The latter is what she probably meant.

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