

## The Carter upheaval

Political developments in China receive peculiar — and sometimes amusing — treatment in the American press. In trying to sift the news from the rhetoric of wall posters and official sources, American journalists have created a rhetoric of their own.

Let's see what a news story about recent political developments in the U.S. might look like if Newsweek were headquartered in Peking instead of New York.

HAVANA — Old America hands here in Cuba seem to agree that after a power struggle of monumental proportions, strongman Jimmy Carter's grasp of state and party leadership is secure.

The dramatic fall from power of the once-omnipotent Republican faction began in 1973 when rival Democratic forces usurped control of the press and began denouncing former Chairman Nixon as a "conspirator."

As the Democrat's drive for power accelerated, the Nixon-Erlichman-Haldeman-Mitchell "gang of four" was forced to install Gerald Ford as party leader, a man characterized in recent campaign posters as "centrist." Ford managed to suppress demands for a public trial of Nixon, though "criticise Nixon" became the ideological watchword of all American political factions.

The Republican's prestige was further shattered by the discovery of the Reagan-Schweiker "anti-party clique" operating within party ranks. Reagan and his lieutenant were discredited, but the Republicans lost the popular support needed to gain the upper hand in the recent power struggle.

When the Democrats named Carter, an obscure rural functionary, to be the new party strongman, most veteran America watchers were surprised. But Carter proved to be exactly the man the Democrats needed to clinch their control of the state apparatus: a ruthless politician capable of crushing opposition and purging obstructionist elements within the Democratic ranks.

Carter consolidated his control over the Democratic party, then proceeded to smash the Republican regime. Ford retired to luxurious isolation far from the centers of power.

America watchers are not sure what to expect of the era which began with the Carter upheaval. Massive demonstrations of popular support in Washington upon his ascension to power would seem to indicate the days of strife are over — at least for the time being.

## Letters

### Offense unintended

In my article which appeared in the opinion column on Wednesday of this week, I made reference to a "sex change operation." My intention was not to offend anyone's sexual orientation but rather to create a satirical com-

ment on the number of Greeks currently on the Incidental Fee Committee. It has been pointed out to me that I have indeed offended people by treating the subject of sex change so lightly and for that, I apologize.

Gary Feldman  
I.F.C. Chairer

## Lesson in life

At the end of the trial Judge Allen asked, "Who remembers the victim?" It is not easy to think of Eric Thede as a victim. He was our friend. We will always remember him.

Eric wanted to be a landscape architect. He was fond of plants and knew their Latin names. He loved San Francisco, his home town. He liked people and liked being with them.

Eric had the strongest kind of love for life, for the world and the people of it — he demanded truth. He had integrity and expected it from others. Eric cared enough for people to set them straight. He was alert to the world and saw it clearly.

Sometimes people die and you find you had not realized how special they were and are to you. We knew Eric was an important person in our lives all the while we knew him. It is hard to think of all he might have done.

There is no way that society can appropriately avenge for a lost life because there is nothing that will make him alive again. Eric's life shows how much we should value living.

Richard Slayton  
Junior — Architecture  
Stephanie D. Slayton  
Senior — Anthropology  
Jessica Dole  
Senior — Geography

*Eric Thede, a University student, was shot and killed on July 10 while working at Tom's Market at 19th and Agate in Eugene. The killer was convicted and sentenced to life in prison. — ed.*

## Problems relative

In regards to the article published on January 12th concerning certain Australians brought "up-short" by the recent devaluation (18 cents per dollar), consideration should be paid to the relative financial positions of their fellow students, graduate, undergraduate, foreign or otherwise.

To most foreign students the undertaking of a course of study at a university such as the U of O involves existing on "saved" resources and very little can be ex-

pected in the form of other monetary assistance. Very few students attend universities under a scholarship provided by the home government and therefore are responsible for all costs incurred.

Some professionals, however, attend universities under the concept of a "paid sabbatical" and some will even be eligible to return to a paid position upon the completion of their degree. Therefore, the students in the latter category cannot be considered to be in a similar economic situation as exists with most foreign or other students. To those on study leave devaluation represents a decrease of 17 per cent in a source of income that a vast majority of students never have access to.

To many graduates, should they be so fortunate, a Graduate Teaching Fellowship from the host institution represents their only source of income regardless of marital status. Alternatives such as having the spouse work even with a family, indebting oneself through loans, etc., are commonplace. Even with a F visa (enabling one to reside in the U.S. but not work) employment is possible and many students have overcome this problem. Holidays are not spent travelling and staying at motels but working to remain even marginally solvent.

Devaluation does not result in a decrease of money earned while in the U.S. nor does it affect finance transferred to the U.S. prior to devaluation. An attempt by the interviewer to cover a broader spectrum of the Australian student population would have resulted in a more objective assessment of the effects of devaluation upon student life. In any event, those "up-short" Australians need only to inquire into the financial standing of their fellow students to become aware of the fortune of their position.

Keith Mountain (Australia)  
Graduate, Geography

## Biased article

In reference to the front page article on Bella Abzug by Tom Wolfe: Wolfe wrote the article in an unfair, biased manner, leaving out the most emphasized issues of Bella Abzug's speech, women's

rights and lack of women in positions of power politics. Bella stressed the fact that women, being a majority of 51 per cent of the population, are represented by a percentage of less than 10 per cent in the government.

Women have built this country as pioneers, farmers, and laborers. They have been, and continue to be, the grass roots of the nation, and yet discrimination and injustice continue in the forms of unequal pay, lack of funding for day care, and the continued rejection of the E.R.A. Bella Abzug talked at length about all of these issues and yet none of them were mentioned in Wolfe's article.

The one reference Wolfe does make to Bella Abzug is the following statement, "Bella Abzug brought an applauding EMU crowd to its feet Tuesday night with her pulsating tirade against 'the gross distortion of our times — the domination of white upper-class males in positions of power.'" Here Wolfe portrays her as a ranting, raving emotional female carrying on nothing but a "pulsating tirade."

Women will continue to be oppressed and denied equality if they are constantly misrepresented by the press.

Janice Rubin  
Junior — English

## Parking problems

I am pleased to see the article in the ODE (1-13-77) about the parking restrictions in the area directly south of the University. The restriction is an attempt to prevent students from parking in the area and force the University to deal with the student parking "problem." Support for the restrictions is not unanimous within the affected area. It causes problems for some of the area's residents as well as the students and employees who parked there.

I urge those who prefer to park in this area to express their opinion to the Eugene Traffic Engineering Department (687-5261).

Michael V. Hoffman  
1308 E. 19th Avenue  
Eugene

## Lenin — a man who shaped history

Today marks the 53rd anniversary of the death of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin; a man who has had more impact on the lives of common working people around the world than perhaps any other person who has lived in the 20th Century.

The ideas formulated by Lenin, ideas of revolutionary strategy, analysis and organization, have played an immense and liberating role since 1917. It was Lenin, and the political organization he helped build who took the science of socialism developed by Marx and Engels and fashioned it into a weapon of liberation used by the oppressed peasants and workers of every continent. Lenin's books have been printed and reprinted in more editions, in more languages and in greater quantities than the books of any other writer in the history of the world.

It was Lenin who played the key role in the creation of the Bolshevik Party in Russia in the years before 1917. And it was Lenin and the Bolshevik Party who led the Russian working class to power in 1917. Two years later Lenin and the Party smashed a counter-revolutionary invasion by more than 15 different capitalist countries, including the United States. And it was Lenin who inspired the formation of a new worldwide organization of revolutionary working class parties that made the rich and powerful of the world realize their rule would never again be unchallenged.

The analysis, strategies and organizational forms that bear the name "Leninism" are the ideological roots of the Chinese Communist Party and of the teachings of Mao Tse-tung. Leninism guided the National Liberation Front in its successful struggle to

liberate Vietnam from landlord, military and U.S. domination. The ideas developed by Lenin have allowed millions upon millions of common people in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America to rid themselves of foreign intervention and to seize control of their own lives. Today these people are no longer the tools of landlords, foreigners and rapacious corporations nor passive beings who exist only to produce wealth for others.

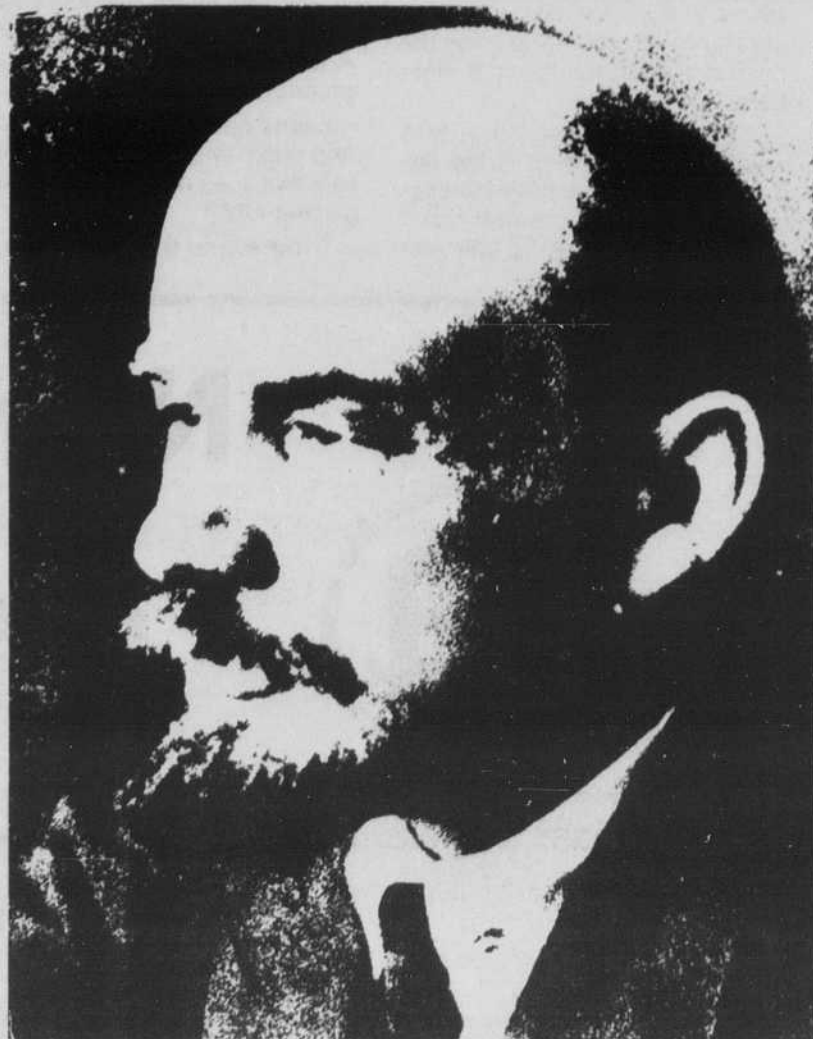
In America we are insulated from many of the forces making world history in our time. While most people in the world live in countries with either Marxist-Leninist governments or with massive political organizations of working people who embrace Marxism-Leninism as their guiding principle, we in America have grown up to believe Leninism is an oppressive philosophy.

Many are the teachers, the professors, the journalists, the screen writers, the artists, the union organizers and the political leaders who have been fired, driven into exile, blacklisted, and even executed for defying the anathema put by the rich and powerful in this country on the ideas of Lenin.

But the time is coming when the conditions of the American people will lead us all to understand what the common people of the rest of the world have already come to know: the principles developed by Lenin are essential tools for guiding us as we too send the corporations and those who run them packing and establish a truly democratic and egalitarian society in these United States.

Lenin lived, Lenin lives, Lenin will live.

Staff Column



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