

Taiwanese reject columnist's view

The opinion by Tom Thompson, "New U.S. policy hurts Taiwanese," which appeared in the Emerald on April 9 was so irresponsible, inaccurate, biased, and unkind that we, Chinese students born and raised in Taiwan, feel the responsibility to clarify the facts. The following are the most important.

1. The author's complete ignorance of Teng Hsiao-ping's ambition concerning Taiwan was revealed when he wrote that the KMT's (the Chinese Nationalist Party) domination in Taiwan, "apparently also includes (Communist) China's Vice Premier Teng's acquiescence."

Evidently, he does not know that the "Liberation of Taiwan" is a part of Communist China's "Constitution." Also, when Teng stopped in Japan en route from the U.S. to Peking, he said that taking 10 years to solve the "Taiwan problem" would be too long and that he would like to see it handled within this year.

2. The author rather flatly contradicts himself when he writes concerning human rights. He first bemoans that, "Mr. Carter's policy has abandoned the majority of Taiwan's population...to further domination by the KMT..." and then he says, "One wonders if President Carter is still willing to proclaim his administration's commitment to human rights..." But then he writes that, "the human rights issue...is not sufficient cause to ignore and to refuse to recognize the reality of Communist Party rule in China."

Thompson is inconsistent. Apparently

for him the standard shifts and human rights is a "sufficient cause to ignore and refuse to recognize the reality of..." the Nationalist's Party rule in Taiwan. Even aside from this contradiction, does Thompson ask us to believe that human rights violations are greater in Taiwan than in Mainland China?

3. The opinion article was inaccurate when it mentioned that the Taiwan elections would only have replaced Taiwan provincial and Taipei city administrators. That's simply not true. The elections were scheduled to replace part of the members of the National Assembly (which elects the President) and the Legislative Yuan (equivalent to the U.S. Congress).

These are the highest directly elected offices in the country.

4. The Republic of China is a democratic country. Every one is treated equally regardless of sex, age, race or place of birth. All people born in Taiwan and on the mainland are Chinese. There is no differentiation between people who had been in Taiwan before 1950 (the so-called "Taiwanese") and people who came to Taiwan after 1950 (the so-called "mainlanders"). And we don't think anyone has the right to make such differentiations.

The article also mixed "mainlander" with "KMT member." It ignored the fact that many KMT members, including nearly half of the central committee, are "Taiwanese" and that not all "mainlanders" belong to the KMT. The KMT is just a political party like the Democratic or Republican Party in the U.S.

5. The author has been to Taiwan twice. He must know that the people on Taiwan are at liberty to express themselves, to travel, to learn and to lead a good life. Compared to the Communist regime on Mainland China, Taiwan is usually called Free China.

The article was biased in that the author, seeing the sign written only in English at Taipei's International Airport ("Welcome to Free China, where Freedom Lives for All Chinese.") jumped to the conclusion that the sign was to "fool" foreigners. First, he assumed no Chinese on Taiwan understand English.

Secondly, he did not mention that there are hundreds of signs like this written only in Chinese in many places outside the airport.

6. Any one with even a little common sense would agree that the martial law of one country may be different from that of another. The one adopted on Taiwan is to protect the people's life and property. Only those who intend to rob, spy or do some illegal action to impair the national interests hate it and use it as an excuse to say that the Nationalist Government represses freedom. Frankly speaking, we can't tell the difference between the way of life in this country and in Taiwan except that over here we are always told we have to be careful on the street at night because it isn't safe.

Back home in Taiwan, people can walk anywhere at any time without any threat of violence. If this is what Thompson calls a "police state," he is being unfair to the people of Taiwan.

7. The people on Taiwan and most overseas Chinese strongly support the Nationalist Chinese government's anti-communist policy and have concurred with the Nationalist's decision against negotiating with the Chinese Communists. They know that no communist regime is trustworthy. How could the Chinese people not realize the nature of the Chinese Communists after so many years' experience in struggling with them?

This is shown by the fact that when Carter announced his U.S. -Communist China decision, all the people on Taiwan and most overseas Chinese felt very upset and most enthusiastically donated the equivalent of \$80 million U.S. dollars within four months to the Nationalist Government to establish the National Defense Fund in order to accelerate research on the production of new weapons.

It is really unfortunate that the American public has been continually misled by people such as Thompson who espouse beliefs based on distorted facts about Taiwan. The Nationalist Chinese government welcomes the American public to visit Taiwan. Even those who have been to the mainland are quite welcome. Unless you carry some myopic misconceptions, after you have been to either or both of these places, you will know which one is the real free China.

Jiing Liang Shyu
doctoral, accounting
and 21 Chinese co-signers

theirs

How effective?

Tom Thompson's column "New U.S. policy hurts Taiwanese" makes a number of interesting points, and raises some questions also. Agreeing that it would be better to support a government more truly representative of the Taiwanese population, and agreeing that the principle that Taiwan is an integral part of China may currently help perpetuate rule by Nationalist mainlanders, we may still ask how effective a contrary position by the United States could be, given the fact that both the Nationalists on Taiwan and the PRC agree that Taiwan must be considered "part of China." Unless the PRC abandons this stance, what can Western governments do to oppose it?

Secondly, if Western governments ought on moral grounds to adopt the position (contrary to that of both the Communist government on the mainland and the Nationalist government on Taiwan) that Taiwan should self-determination, and not be classified as "part of China," then on what moral grounds would the same policy not apply to the vast territories whose indigenous population is totally non-Chinese, and which have been annexed to the PRC by force of arms (Tibet, East Turkestan, and so on — about 60 percent of the land area of the PRC, with a non-Chinese population of between 40 and 50 million)?

If President Carter's policy exhibits "disingenuousness and hypocrisy" with respect to the (culturally, linguistically, and ethnically Chinese) Taiwanese, it would seem that these same qualities are present about threefold in American "progressives" who refuse to acknowledge the brutal imperialism of the PRC over whole nationalities of colonized non-Chinese.

Stephen Reynolds
professor, religious studies

Food Day fan

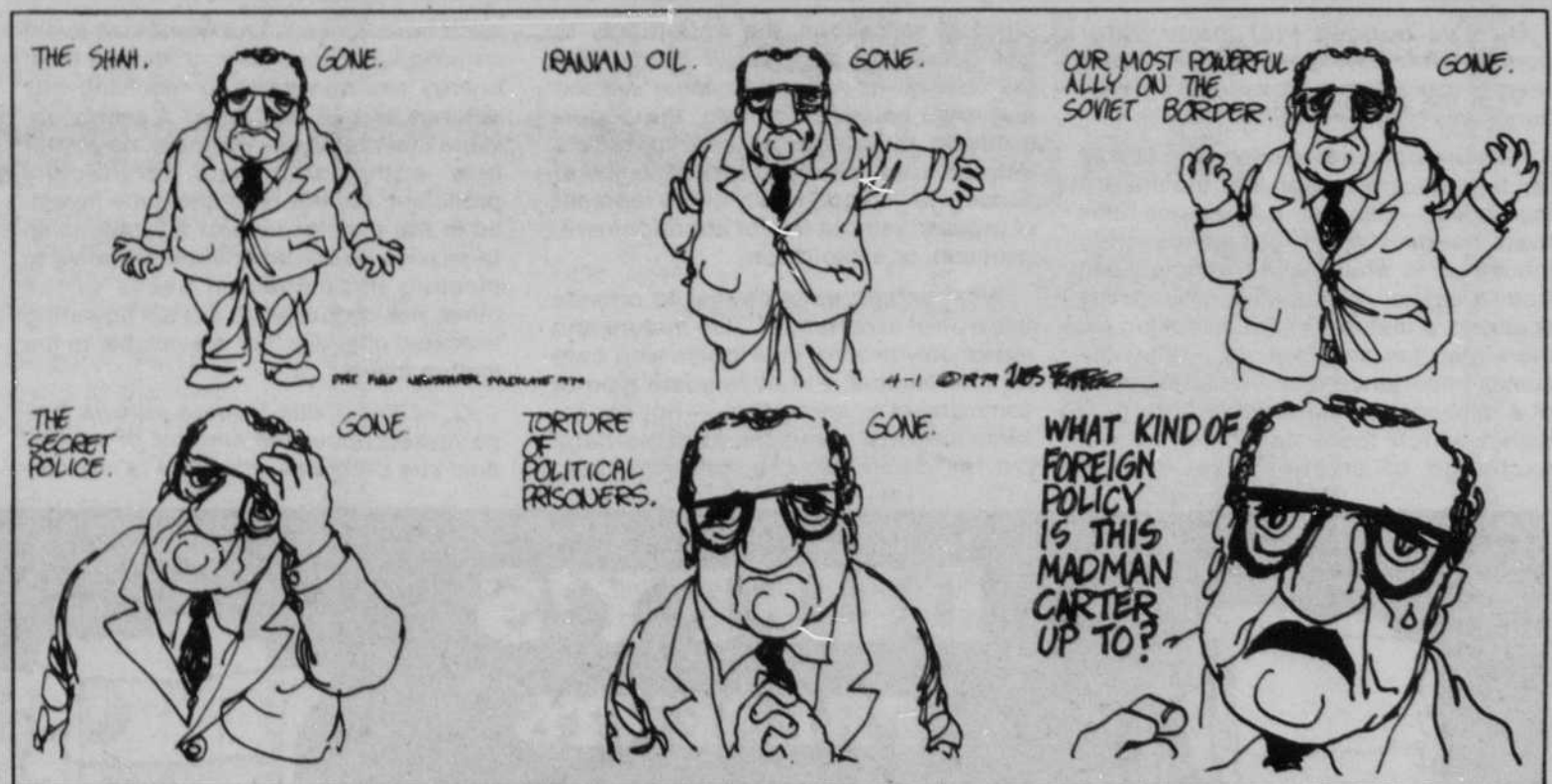
Today is Food Day. What that means to each of us depends largely on what we intend to make of it. What it can mean

Oregon Daily Emerald

Carol Hamilton,
manager, Food-Op

Subtle art

Last week your paper published a column by Jock Hatfield entitled "Easter Sunday Seance," in which the Campus



for all of us is that there are options — nutritional options: We don't have to buy foods processed with additives, sugars and food preservatives. Options of access: we don't have to depend on supermarket chains and agribusiness.

Food-Op is an ASUO-supported program that offers options. Food-Op is more than just a food store; it is an instrument that can and should be used to discuss, explore and examine food issues and food options. But we can do that only with your interest and support. So, this Food Day, think about options — think about us.

Christian Ministry was portrayed as dispensing Easter Nails, and conjuring up the second coming of Christ at the base of the Skinner's Butte War Monument.

I gather that Mr. Hatfield, indulging in his usual brand of satire, has delivered a crushing blow to fundamentalist crazies everywhere, which I also gather includes those of us in the Campus Interfaith Ministry (formerly "Campus Christian Ministry").

One suggestion to Mr. Hatfield. The use of satire is a subtle art. It demands insight and restraint, both of which imply a certain measure of compassion. Mr. Hatfield has exhibited none of these qualities. I suspect that the stupidity and irrelevance of Mr. Hatfield's intended jibe is as apparent to critics of campus ministry as it is to those of us who make our living over here.

Kurt Hoelting
Campus Ministry

letters policy

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