

mike rust

rust never sleeps

It is sad to report that attendance of Wednesday's Friends of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade's "forum" on the Gang of Four trials was limited to less than 20 people — a dismal turnout for a campus with a proud history of sucking up to the more fashionable variety of totalitarianism.

The low turnout is symptomatic of the sinking fortunes of some former campus cultural heroes. Mao's star has been in decline for some time, and the possibility exists, when all is said and done, that he will emerge in the pages of history as little more than the pudgiest mass murderer of our century.

Some of the Great Helmsman's one-time colleagues still

are hanging around, however. But the times may be a-changin' for them as well.

Take for example the case of Fidel Castro, whose revolutionary aura has been fading as of late. While the civil war in El Salvador has occupied most of the press' Latin American focus, a one-time comrade of Castro has been providing evidence that the Cuban Revolution might be reactivated.

Last year, Huber Matos, once leader of the Cuban Revolution, was allowed to leave Cuba after completing a 20-year prison sentence. Matos was among the leaders of the revolution that threw out the Batista dictatorship, and after the success of Castro's revolution he was, for a

brief time, in charge of Camaguey province.

He resigned his post, however, when it became clear that Castro was assuming dictatorial powers. On Oct. 21, 1959, two days after his resignation, he was arrested and charged with treason. He emerged last year at the age of 60.

Matos' release was little heralded — it's unlikely you were aware of it unless you read Amnesty International publications. In the time since, however, he has sought to build a Cuban liberation movement — an effort that resulted last fall in the founding of a new organization, Cuba Independiente y Democratica.

Resistance to Castro is not-

ing new. Many have suggested that Cuba for all practical purposes is an outpost of Soviet colonialism, with a political system as brutal as its economic system is unworkable. Even Rolling Stone a couple of years ago published an article about the dissatisfaction of youth in Cuba at the time of a tour by American musicians.

However, in an article in the latest American Spectator, Carl Gershman, the vice-chairman of Social Democrats, USA, suggests that because of Matos' past revolutionary record, social democratic orientation and commitment to political freedom, Matos' words carry "unique moral authority."

Matos, Gershman says, feels that internal dissatisfaction makes a Cuban uprising "inevitable if not necessarily immin-

ent." In addition to the deterioration of the Cuban economy and last year's exodus of over 125,000 people, it is estimated that as many as 3,000 Cubans have died in combat in Angola during the past five years. Those deaths, as a portion of the population, exceed American combat deaths in Vietnam.

However, Matos also says there are 12,000 — not 3,000 — Soviet troops in Cuba. Which raises the interesting question of what American policy should be in the event of a Soviet attempt to quell a Cuban uprising. It's a question, Gershman says, that should be addressed "before we are overtaken by events."

The opinions expressed in this column are the writer's and are not necessarily shared by the paper.

Law Clinic

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detractors, like Eugene timber producer Aaron Jones, to launch a political attack. And according to law school Dean Derrick Bell, the attack has been pervasive.

"Somebody called me and said that the major topic of discussion up there is the law school and its environmental clinic," Bell said. "Those people (legislators) are dealing with a lot of problems they are not really in control of, and they've got to find something else to focus on."

In January, 44 legislators sent a letter to the dean expressing their support for the program. Included in that number were all members of the Eugene delegation except Rep. Vern Meyer, R-Springfield-Eugene, and Rep. Larry Campbell, R-West Lane. Records on file with the secretary of state show both Meyer and Campbell heavily supported by timber interests, with Campbell receiving \$600 from Jones' timber company.

Bell dismisses claims by the clinic's opponents that they're interested only in ensuring the cleanliness of the educational system.

"They're talking about the ethics of it," Bell said. "There's no problem with the ethics or principle. People who make money cutting trees don't want us to be involved in any way in anything that makes it harder for them to cut trees."

According to Portland's Willamette Week, a major portion of FORE's funding comes from the timber industry.

Prof. Gene Scholes, past president of the Association of American Law Schools, said because the legal system in this country is an advocacy one, students involved in actual cases have to argue a certain view point.

"If you want to have experience on public issues, it's going to be impossible to consider

them in a clinic unless there is somebody on the other side," Scholes said. "If we have the opportunity, we would very much entertain other issues and other sides of issues."

But Scholes doesn't see timber interests funding a similar clinic.

"Most of those who are able to go out and hire their own attorney simply aren't very interested in us."

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