



Emerald photo
Campus communist Nancy Whitley is led away by Eugene police officers following an incident last year involving ex-hostage Victor Tomseth. In the background is John Kaiser, another RCYB member.

Radical youths continue to encourage revolution

Radicalism remains on campus, although in smaller doses than in past decades. Two 'revolutionaries' discuss their own brand of Marxism, Leninism and Maoism.

By CORT FERNALD
Of the Emerald

What turns a person into an avowed revolutionary?

For Nancy Whitley and Claire Cheng, members of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade, it was the situation in Iran and the results of the last presidential election.

Whitley, a 29-year-old sociology freshman, describes her Colorado background as upper middle class. Whitley says she became a member of RCYB as a result of what she perceived as wrong-doing in Iran on the part of the United States.

Prior to this, she says she was a "pacifist," but now feels the times call for the efforts of the RCYB.

"No one likes the system," Whitley says. "There's a lot of anger. The anger needs to be redirected towards what caused it — instead of people fighting each other."

Cheng, 22, is a junior English major, and she describes her Midwest background as "middle class." Events in Iran and the last presidential election swayed Cheng to the RCYB.

"There was no choice in the last election. It shattered any illusions about bourgeois democracy," Cheng says.

The RCYB is the youth branch of The Revolutionary Communist Party that is based in Chicago, Ill. The Eugene group has a core of eight people. The youth branch of the party generally is "more outrageous," Cheng says.

The form of communism the RCYB uses as its theoretical basis is called Marxism/Leninism and Mao Tse-tung Thought. "What's to be Done" written

by Lenin in 1902, is the primary source of study for the RCYB. Cheng says they also read Mao and works by Karl Marx.

Whitley and Cheng are quick to differentiate Marxism-Leninism and Mao Tse-tung Thought from communism as practiced in the Soviet Union. They consider the Soviet Union to be under a system they call "state capitalism."

European communism, which they term "revisionism," has the cover of being communistic, but

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