

RCYB illustrates democratic principles

Those who happened to be within earshot of EMU Friday afternoon were treated to the amplified rhetoric of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade.

The RCYB are a branch of the Revolutionary Communist Brigade headquartered in Chicago, Ill. At last count the Eugene group boasts eight members. Their ideology is described as "Marxism Leninism and Mao Tse Tung thought."

This ideological posture appears to be an extract of what was commonly referred to as "Marxist Leninist dialectical materialism."

In whatever guise, this ideology is the basis of socialism practiced in the People's Republic of China.

The bemused crowd in front of the EMU deserves credit for their restraint. The RCYB speaker harangued the onlookers. He made caustic comments and by all appearances attempted to force a political philosophy down the onlookers' throats.

Throughout the harangue there existed the possibility that RCYB's message, delivered so abrasively, might anger someone to a violent response. At times it seemed the RCYB speaker was deliberately trying to provoke such a reaction.

Provocation and confrontation tactics have been associated with RCYB in the past. Recall the ill-conceived bravado of the RCYB when ex-hostage Victor Tomseth spoke in the EMU ballroom. RCYB members are presently facing charges of arson in connection with lighting a yellow ribbon in the crowded ballroom. And they look to be peculiarly proud of that incident — if you've noticed the spray-painted "Burn yellow" on various buildings around campus.

The memory of the Tomseth incident might've provoked someone. So might've the banner RCYB unfurled Friday declaring "Red, white and blue, we spit on you."

But this wasn't the case.

The crowd, for the most part amused, let RCYB have their say and responded with questions and opposing views.

What occurred was a vigorous debate. To RCYB's credit, they relinquished the microphone allowing those disagreeing with their ideology to address the crowd.

Despite that "Red, white and blue, we spit on you" banner — and whether or not they were aware of it — RCYB Friday was illustrating one of democracy's most important principles.

"Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech ... or the right of the people to peaceably assemble."

Whether they'll admit it, RCYB are the children of the American democracy. Perhaps they

are the "spoiled" children of democracy.

Such open dissension would not be looked upon favorably under the ideology RCYB advocates. In fact, they'd be denounced as counter-revolutionary — then squeezed like a lemon and thrown in the street.

It's to the credit of the onlookers Friday that they understood the democratic principle of tolerating diverse viewpoints from those of the mainstream to those of the lunatic fringe.

There is only one question remaining concerning the RCYB "Rally" Friday. They are a reasonably well-known campus group. RCYB members are students at the University. Would the rights of free speech and peaceable assembly apply equally to more radical (right or left wing) groups?

It has to, or the democracy doesn't work.

theirs



yours

Bagels explained

Having just eaten one of the "quality" bagels the EMU food service now imports from a Portland bakery, I understand why so many Portland establishments entail the expense of having Humble Bagels shipped up north.

The new EMU "bagels" do bear some resemblance to the baked good of that name — they're round (mostly) and have holes in the middle (although many also had strange protuberances — handles for the fastidious Northwest bagel eater? — attached to them.) In taste and texture, however, these "bagels" seem like an attempt, a very failed attempt, to convert the basic WASP white dinner roll into something vaguely Jewish. The texture of these "quality bagels" indicates a certain inability on the part of this bakery to distinguish between bagels and sponges.

Anyway, here's some data on the heinous 20 percent price increase inaugurated by Humble Bagel which precipitated the EMU food services' switch to these "quality bagels" — data which the Emerald might have discovered if its reporters used more than one source for a story — then again, the story was probably written by a "quality" reporter.

The data: Humble has not raised wholesale prices in over two years, quite possibly the only food supplier in the Northwest to hold the line against inflation for this period of time.

Humble's price increase was done in such a way that the percent increase was a bit larger for its major distributors (such as the EMU), in effect lessening the discount these distributors receive for their larger orders, while somewhat protecting smaller distributors.

Humble's 20 percent price increase to the EMU food services only raised the EMU food services' cost per bagel from

\$1.11 to \$1.1333, indicating that the EMU food services finds a 225 percent markup (based on selling bagels at \$.30 each) insufficient.

Incidentally, the University of Oregon Food-Op, at 1535 Agate, on campus, which has lower operating costs and different philosophies than the EMU food service, offers Humble Bagels, received fresh every week day, for \$.18 each.

Ken Packman
Junior, history

Ignore rhetoric

For years, various individuals, groups, and government agencies have attempted to shove the idea of limiting families to two or less children down the American people's throats. But why should we sacrifice the joy of raising the kind of families we desire while our government carries on the policy of encouraging millions of foreign immigrants to settle here? Worse yet, these people usually maintain their extremely high birthrates, common in their previous countries, after they arrive here.

The usual rationale promoted in the press and our schools to coerce people not to have children is that America only has a limited amount of land and resources to accommodate its citizens. Well, if that's the case, we should immediately halt all movement into our country. If not, then talk aimed at persuading Americans to stop having children should cease.

The worse outcome of the population reduction movement is Americans best suited for raising kids — those with intelligence, finances, health, etc. — have generally cut their birthrates the most. The

strength of America depends on its families, so its only reasonable that our survival depends on the environment most of our youth are being raised in.

America has no population worries even if one looks far into the future, and people should ignore the rhetoric of the population reduction movement. Not only is it wrong to pressure people whose ancestors settled this country not to bear children, but it's detrimental to America's future if the people most likely to raise good families fail to have children.

S.L. Van Leuven
Springfield

PNRC complexities

Your editorial of Sept. 28 defends the Pacific Northwest Resources Clinic at the law school and concludes that Pres. Olum "would rather sacrifice a valuable law program than dare incur the displeasure of business interests."

The Pacific Northwest Resources Clinic is supported by a grant from the National Wildlife Federation and makes possible greater participation by students in the law school's environmental clinical course. As law dean at the time the grant was accepted, I believed the educational program it supported for law students was appropriate in a University setting, and I still believe this. Others do not agree. Some critics have taken a hard line against the Pacific Northwest Resources Clinic, and others have raised sincere questions about the appearance of a lack of University neutrality, and related matters.

The issues are considerably more complex than your editorial would indicate. Pres. Olum's view that there are various ways to structure outside finan-

cial support and arrangements for the environmental law clinic and still achieve its educational objectives is a reasonable view. The law school has defended the present arrangement with the National Wildlife Federation. It does not follow that because Olum may see problems with it and prefer another arrangement, he is necessarily capitulating to business interests, as your editorial claims.

Your editorial does not serve its own cause in defending the law school when it attacks Pres. Olum. I am sensitive to this point because I have been treated in a similar fashion by some critics.

Your editorial states that, "Olum proposed the Pacific Northwest Resources Clinic (and its Environmental Law Clinic) be disassociated from the University." In fact, the environmental clinic does not "belong" to Pacific Northwest Resources Clinic and Olum has never proposed that the clinic as a part of the law curriculum be terminated.

Chapin D. Clark
Professor of Law

letters policy

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The letters **must** be limited to 250 words, signed, and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in to The Emerald offices, EMU 300.

The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content. Publication is dependent upon the space available.