

## Be skeptical of Moon's church

The Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church has returned to Eugene, the place where their first American church was founded 24 years ago. Some may say they've returned to the scene of the crime.

It's not surprising that the Unification Church's first base of operations in this country was Eugene. The cultural hodgepodge that makes up Eugene is more than able to accommodate an element like the Unification Church — at least for a time. The church left Eugene in 1977 after experiencing financial difficulties.

The Unification Church is back in Eugene as part of a three-year campaign to spread Moon's message — which is to create a world free of violence, war and hatred.

Who can imagine that?

People and groups don't argue with that message — they argue with the methods of the church.

The Unification Church sees half the world as controlled by an atheistic Marxist state. Moon feels that eventually there will be a confrontation between the Marxists and the Christians. Moon, according to his followers, sees this as an absolutely urgent time for America.

Moon's alarmist philosophy and the Unification Church's vigorous stance against communism is particularly effective in these times of escalating tensions between communistic and democratic nations. People see the democratic world as becoming weak and crumbling before the juggernaut of communism.

Needless to say, international political tensions cause people extreme personal anxiety. The tensions make many people susceptible to any philosophy or religion that promises an ease from their anxieties.

We have to commend the Unification Church for keeping its campaign very low-key. They have a videomobile parked in the campus area. They have set up booths on the downtown mall and near the University Bookstore. Their intentions are to inform interested people of Moon's Christian teachings.

It seems that they've just opened the door, but not dragged people in.

In spite of this unzealous approach the Unification Church inspires fear in members of this community. An example of this is a half page ad in the Emerald last week. The ad, placed by the Office of Student Affairs, cautioned students to "Learn to be a Questioner." The ad made no mention of the Unification Church, but it was obviously a response to its reappearance in Eugene.

Controversy surrounds the Unification Church and its methods of recruiting members. The Emerald on Tuesday published accounts of parents whose children were reportedly "brain-washed" by the Unification Church. We know of no criminal charges brought against the Unification Church in response to the alleged "brain-washing."

This doesn't mean the accounts of "brain-washing" are unfounded. Everyone has read such accounts in both reputable and disreputable media.

There are numerous reports of parents resorting to "deprogramming" in order to free their sons and daughters from the Unification Church.

The church officials say its members are "kidnapped and violently programmed," while parents say their children are "brainwashed." A lay-person doesn't really know what to believe.

There is a constitutional guarantee in this country allowing individuals to worship whatever faith in whatever fashion they so choose. In this sense we support the Unification Church — if only their right to exist.

We recognize the fundamental differences between the Unification Church and a group like Maranatha, yet wonder why the Maranatha preachers that harangue students nearly everyday receive much less disapprobation from the University and community.

Through the ages human beings have endowed everything from fire to particular people with supranormal, perhaps divine, properties. People have worshipped weather, animals and all manner of brightly colored rocks. There's no evidence to suggest people have any desire to change.

The Emerald encourages students to be skeptical regarding the Unification Church. We would encourage the same skepticism with any other religious or political group. However, as long as the Unification Church conducts its mission here in Eugene without any physical force or psychological coercion, they can park their videomobiles any place they wish.

### letters policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content.

"Your Turn" is an Emerald opinion feature submitted by members of the university community. "Your Turn" columns must be limited to 500 words and typed.

Letters to the editor and "Your Turn" columns should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300 EMU.



WONDERS OF DEREGULATION — THE TWO-DOLLAR TRANSCONTINENTAL FLIGHT.

## letters

### Impeach him

Pres. Ronald Reagan is deceiving the American people. He is not telling them openly what his intentions are.

He has declared war in Lebanon by firing on one side to protect the other.

He knows that Lebanon's government has an agreement with Israel, and that this precludes any agreement with Syria and makes war imminent.

He has vilified the Soviet Union over the Korean airliner incident in a manner to incite American hostility toward the Soviets — inviting retaliation.

He has made some Central American countries allies of Israel, thereby promoting war between those nations, and calls this "fighting communists."

Reagan, by his actions, has put the American people in second place — for a "higher" goal.

Reagan must be impeached.

Betty Joachim

### Convention

Since 1964, the University has held a simulation of the presidential nominating convention during presidential election years. This event has proved to be very rewarding and educational, both for the organizers, the participants, and for the observers. Since its founding in 1969, the Political Science Student Union has played an active role in the organization and execution of this event.

Many students have expressed an interest in holding a simulation of the Democratic Party's 1984 nominating convention. This would be an event of major proportions, as the organizational and logistical problems inherent in this sort of event are enormous. Yet, while many have expressed

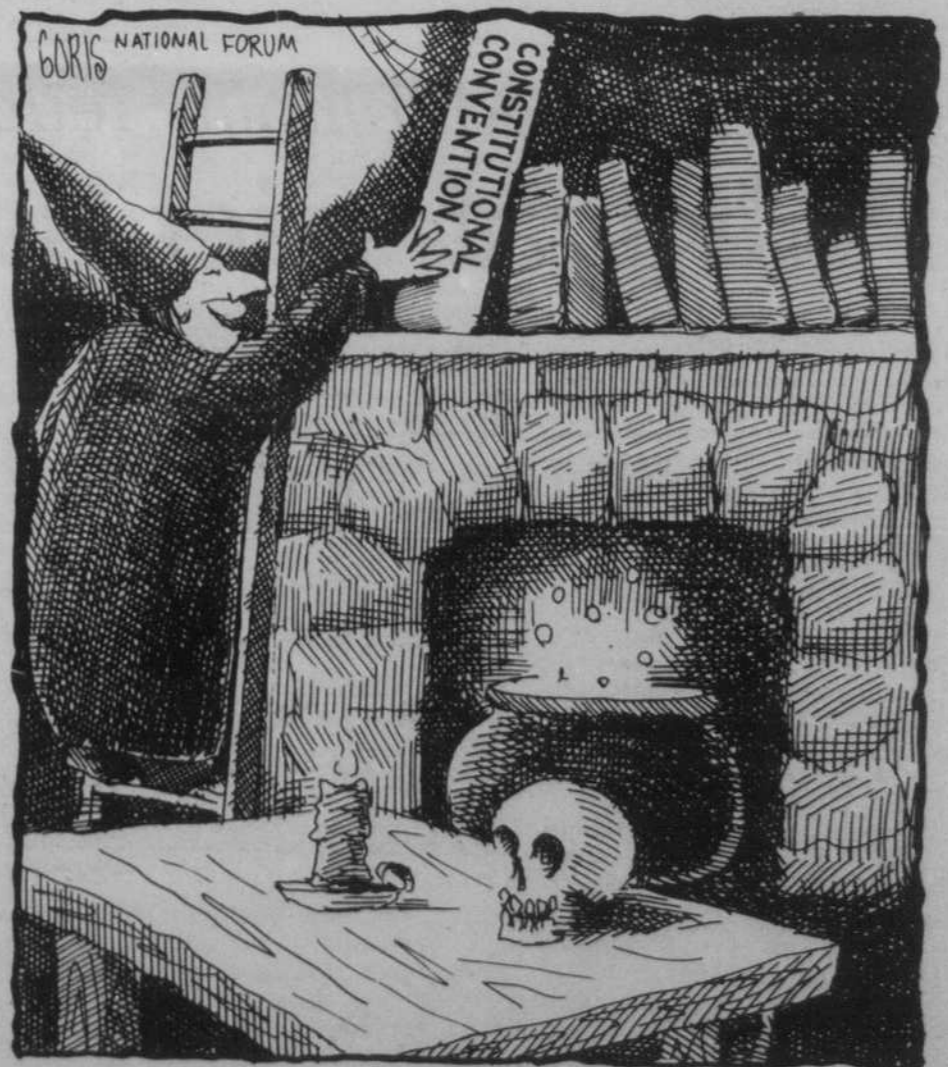
an interest in participating, attendance at PSSU meetings to discuss the event has been disappointing.

If we are to hold the mock convention, we must start planning now. The PSSU will be meeting this Thursday at 7 p.m. in EMU Century Room A. The major purpose of this meeting is to find out how much interest there really is in holding the convention. Those who have participated in mock Senate the past two years know

how much planning needs to go into such a simulation, yet the mock convention is vastly larger than the mock senate course.

I therefore encourage all who are interested in holding the mock convention to attend this week's PSSU meeting. If you can't make it to the meeting, call the PSSU at 686-4890. If we don't get started on this soon, we may not get started at all.

Tom Birkland  
director, PSSU



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