

Wednesday's sit-in came from the heart

Why would a person willingly go to jail in support of a political cause?

It's a question that has been sparked by Wednesday's arrests of more than 90 Eugene residents. All were protesting apartheid and the U.S. government's connection with the racist regime that controls South Africa.

The majority of those arrested were University students who took part in a sit-in at the Eugene Federal Building. The sit-in came after an early afternoon campus rally that culminated with a march to the steps of the Federal Building. Almost all of those who went to jail were charged with trespassing in violation of Eugene municipal law. Most of the protesters spent 15 to 20 hours in either the Lane County Jail or the Skipworth Juvenile Home.

Why would so many willingly spend a night in jail?

Sometimes petitions and rallies can only go so far. Forums and seminars are good educational tools, but they also have their limits. When concerned citizens believe that our government is not listening, they often feel it is time to do more — to make a more effective statement. But effectiveness doesn't mean violence.

Mahatma Gandhi demonstrated the power of passive resistance as a protest strategy through its use in India during the 1920s and 30s. Throughout the 1950s and 60s, U.S. civil rights and anti-war activists showed the effectiveness of civil disobedience by protesting U.S. government policies. In both instances protesters proved that a peaceful, well-orchestrated demonstration is an effective tool for focusing attention on their cause.

The Wednesday arrests were both peaceful and orderly. Eugene police carried the demonstrators off, individually, to a waiting police van. But the arrests were truly dramatic.

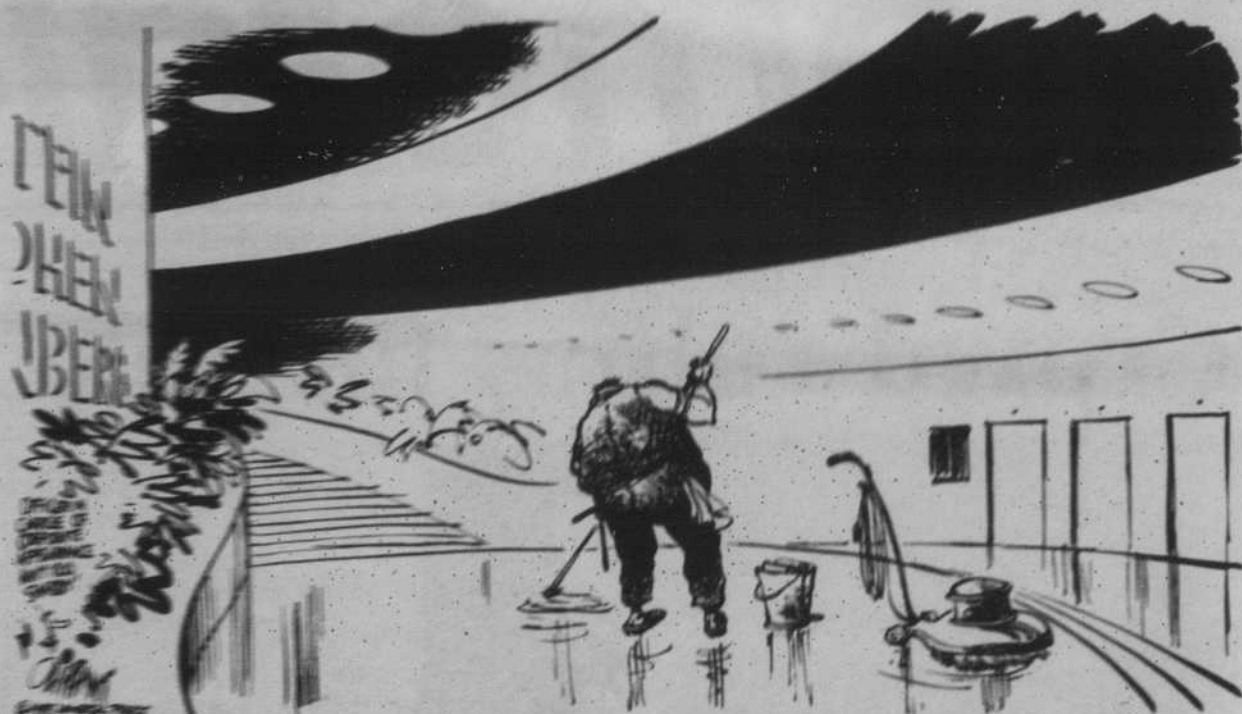
The protesters sat inside the Federal Building, bound together in groups of five to 10 people, awaiting arrest. They sang, they cheered for one another and they spoke words of reassurance to their fellow protesters. Through it all they chanted slogans against the racist regime in South Africa. And they denounced President Ronald Reagan's support of South African President P.W. Botha.

The protesters went to jail in order to show their hatred for a South African government that treats its black and colored citizens as if they were dirt. The protesters went to jail in order to tell an American president that his policy toward South Africa is morally reprehensible. The protesters went to jail in order to focus local media attention on the issue. Were they effective in getting their message across?

They have caused the local media to concentrate on the issue of apartheid. They have spurred campus- and community-wide discussion on the issue. And they have shown that today's college and high-school student does care about important world issues.

It would be a mistake for anyone to believe that the protesters were just out for fun and excitement. And it would also be an error to think that those who were arrested were taking a nostalgic trip back to the protest marches of the 60s. We must all understand that the true message of the protesters was, and remains to be — Down with Apartheid!

Only time will tell whether this protest, along with others nationwide, will bring about change in U.S. policy toward South Africa. But in the meantime, the Reagan administration must realize that Wednesday's rally and arrests were just one indication of America's growing impatience with South Africa and its immoral government.



SOON AFTER PLANNING THE PRESIDENT'S GERMAN VISIT, ADVANCE-MAN MICHAEL DEEVER LEFT THE WHITE HOUSE FOR A POSITION WITH THE PRESTIGIOUS PR FIRM OF FEINSTEIN, COHEN AND WEINBERG.

letters

Harmony

A lot of smoke and no fire: my response to Mr. Leong's comment on "The blatant discrimination against minorities in Malaysia," (ODE, April 30).

I ask you, Mr. Leong, a Singaporean I presume, what do you know about racial discrimination when you are not a minority?

I am aware that opening up old wounds makes for juicy election manifestos for your protegee, but at others' expense.

By doing so, you selfishly turn the clock back on a nation's efforts to improve itself.

I am a minority Singaporean and Mr. Leong can look me up if he wants more juicy information about discrimination in his own backyard.

We have racial harmony because I choose to work towards it and overlook instances even a 9-year-old understands.

International studies show that only when minorities work with the majority can a nation progress.

Mr. Leong should research this if he should ever think of visiting Malaysia where he is definitely a minority.

I applaud people like Siti Mohd Nor whose positive attitude towards racial harmony gives hope for all even if it takes 20 years.

Learn Mr. Leong, go home and practice what you preach.

Jesudas Menon
Physical Education

Poor attitude

I guess you really can't get something for nothing — if a deal looks too good to be true, you just aren't seeing the whole picture.

What I'm referring to is an offer in the Campus Coupon Clipper for a "Free 5 x 7 print" (on Tuesdays only) from Agate Video on 19th and Agate Street.

I used one coupon successfully last Tuesday, so I was optimistic about trying again this Tuesday.

I had asked the last time if there was a limit because none was stated, and was told it was "two per person." So this time I went in with a friend, each of us with two coupons.

When I went to pick up the prints, the manager informed me it was only "one coupon per person." I wondered why I wasn't told this in the first place, and why the limit had changed.

It was becoming increasingly not worth the hassle, so when she asked if I still wanted one I said no, and she angrily ripped the order envelope in half, which contained the 5 x 7 I got last week.

When I told her she ripped up my 5 x 7 she said "So what?" I said "Don't you care?" and she said "No!"

I thought the idea of the coupon was to bring in customers and create goodwill. I don't think a poor attitude and rude way of treating those customers is the way to do business.

Jeff Lanza
Eugene

Typical

In the (ODE, April 25th) Lloyd Athearn was reported as saying, "Jackson is the only (IFC) committee member to have missed one-third of the scheduled meetings in a three-week period..."

That is not true. Ryne Jackson was accused of non-fulfillment on April 18th. During the same three-week period prior to that date, Lloyd Athearn and Mary Kay Menard, as well as Ryne Jackson, missed 2 of 6 IFC meetings.

During the three-week period between Jan. 27th and Feb. 17th, Lori Lieberman also missed 2 of 6 meetings.

Finally, between April 3rd and April 24th, I have missed 4 of 10 IFC meetings.

Yet Athearn charges that only Jackson has missed one-third of the meetings during a three week period.

Lloyd's approach to this matter typifies the petty and vindictive nature of these attacks by the instigators of this action.

I have lost all respect for these small-minded individuals and am greatly disappointed in the other misguided IFC members who went along for the ride.

Athearn was recently elected to ASPAC.

In light of his lack of respect for the truth, and the pettiness of his politics, I wonder how he will ever gain enough of President Paul Olum's respect to be an effective representative for the ASUO.

Lloyd and the IFC should forget about personal vendettas and concentrate on their own responsibilities.

Darris Rowell
IFC vice-chair

Friday, May 3, 1985

oregon daily emerald

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Thank you

On March 14, 1985, the light of my life went dark, my beloved son, Mick Russell, passed away.

He was not only my son, he was my partner, confidant and all around best friend all the years we shared together.

His final gift to me was the friends he left behind, so many who gave unstintingly of their emotional, physical, and financial resources, especially Jenny and Scott.

Mere words could never convey the thanks I feel in my heart for all the wonderful things everyone did.