

## Student protests are atypical revolution

Given the character of the Cultural Revolution, China's bloody revolution of 1966-76 that put the current communist government in power, the recent student protests in China and the government's response come as a shock.

The protests have not been marked by violence or suppression; at worst, the press has condemned the protesters as being "anarchists" and of being manipulated by troublemakers. Twenty-four students were held briefly last week, but all have been released.

Some Chinese professors have claimed the tone of the protests is reminiscent of the Cultural Revolution, but the facts seem to indicate otherwise.

The students' demands are quite moderate, including a broad range of topics from reforms in local elections to cafeteria food at the universities to allowing for a free press.

Some officials, mostly those critical of the pro-Western tendencies of current Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, finally came out in strong criticism of the students after four weeks of protest. Deng and other members of the ruling Politburo have not yet made public their opinion on the marches.

The students have been exposed to a broader education than previous generations of Chinese were allowed under communist rule — many now have even studied abroad.

The students have had a taste of democratic freedoms and are justifiably pushing for reform to come faster than current policies allow.

The students' chances for success may be dim in tightly controlled Chinese society, but regardless of what success their protests have, the students themselves will carry with them their ideals for democratic reforms. It is only a matter of time and dedication before these ideas overcome the administrative inertia that resists reform.

Thus, the protests in China are entirely encouraging, particularly in view of China's gradual economic changes that have allowed the slow introduction of market forces.

The last round of protests have ended for the time being with the students calling on Deng to respond to their protests. The new revolution is postponed for now — because exams are starting.

## Kesey's remarks exhibit author's callous attitude

Author Ken Kesey was awarded the University's Pioneer Award shortly before winter break; the presentation was attended by people protesting remarks about homosexuality and AIDS attributed to Kesey in the June issue of Esquire.

The protesters handed out flyers to the guests of the presentation criticizing Kesey for his remarks. Although awards often are given to controversial figures, the protesters were justified in criticizing Kesey, whose remarks in Esquire were offensive and callous.

In the article, Kesey speculated that gays are not happy though they may claim to be, and he criticized anal sex as being unnatural and thus destructive. He also is attributed with claiming that concern over AIDS has hampered his efforts to pick up "jellybeans" — i.e. women.

These remarks are not only offensive to gay people and those stricken with AIDS, but to anyone who believes AIDS should be treated as a serious and tragic disease.

We agree with Kesey when he later admitted these were dumb things to say. His remarks were bigoted and unnecessary, offending homosexuals, women, AIDS victims and many others — there is already enough misunderstanding about homosexuality and AIDS today.

### 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 or style. Letters to the editor should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300, EMU.



## Letters

### Appreciative

Several Months ago, a little-known non-profit organization approached the University seeking help. It asked for help in designing a unique recreational retreat center dedicated to Oregon's abused, neglected and troubled youth.

For this past term, 31 University students have creatively approached a unique problem. How do you design a camp, recreational retreat and professional conference center for year-round use on the Oregon coast? More importantly, how do you account for the special needs of victims of abuse and neglect?

Under the able guidance of professors Glenda and Mike Utsey, architectural studios 380 and 585 have done just that! Their expertise in researching the delicate architectural issues relating to our proposed complex was impressive.

The opportunity for the students to learn about the daily experiences of abused and neglected youth added an important human and social factor to be considered in their work.

The foundation has received expert design advice relating to our effort at developing the nation's only recreational retreat dedicated to abused and neglected youth.

The University students involved have gained a unique education. Not only have they experienced a professional design project, they did so in a programmatic environment dealing with the pain and trauma of child abuse. One student related that "the social education was more important than the architectural education."

On behalf of Oregon's abused and neglected children, The Melinda Foundation publicly thanks you for your efforts. As we progress toward our goals, we will always remember the joy of working with you!

Steve Norris  
Executive director  
The Melinda Foundation

### Extinction

The major tenet of Darwinism is that any trait which interferes with the reproduction of a species is maladaptive and will be weeded out. Ironically, secularism itself is an anti-evolutionary, maladaptive trait within the human species.

In a recent television interview dealing with the problems developing due to too low birthrates in America and Europe, a demographics expert was asked how birthrates could be increased.

His response was that increased evangelism would help since more spiritually oriented people tend to raise larger families. That actually makes sense. After all, if one loves God, has purpose in life, and hope for the future, they'll be more likely to welcome the opportunity to bring up children.

Unfortunately, the long-range result of a secular outlook has been, and continues to be, nihilism (the loss of purpose). Generally, this leads to a "live for the present" outlook, selfishness, self-indulgence and loss of the desire to assume lasting responsibility.

So when the secular man or woman puts career before family, and materialism before maternalism, few children are born into their ranks — and their genetics are weeded out of the gene pool forever.

The problems threatening to weaken and destroy Western nations can best be eliminated if people will reject the "me first" secular philosophy. Otherwise, more traditional family-oriented societies will prevail while our "modern" society declines into self-inflicted extinction.

Michael Cross  
Graduate, political science  
and history

## Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

**General Staff**  
Advertising Director  
Production Manager  
Classified Advertising  
Assistant to the Publisher

Susan Thelen  
Wayne Lottinville  
Alyson Simmons  
Jean Ownbey

**Advertising Sales:** Peter LaFleur / Sales Manager  
Teresa Acosta, Brent Collins, Beryl Israel, Janelle Heitmann, Laura Goldstein, Catherine Lijja, Rick Martz, Joseph Menzel, Joan Wildermuth.

**News and Editorial**  
Display Advertising and Business  
Classified Advertising  
Production  
Circulation

686-5511  
686-3712  
686-4343  
686-4381  
686-5511

**Editor**  
Managing Editor  
News Editor  
Spectrum Editor  
Spectrum Assistant Editor  
Editorial Page Editor  
Editorial Page Assistant Editor  
Sports Editor  
Photo Editor  
Graphic Design Editor  
Night Editor

**Associate Editors**  
Community  
Politics  
Higher Education / Administration  
University Affairs  
Student Government  
Student Activities  
General Assignment

**Reporters:** Sean Axmaker, Mary Courtis, Karen Creighton, Gary Henley, Carolyn Lamberson, John McBarron.

**Photographers:** Sheryn Bjorkgren, Shu-Shing Chen, Maria Corvallis, Derrel Hewitt, Bobbie Lo, James Marks, Dan Wheeler, Michael Wilhelm.

**Production:** Michele Ross / Ad Coordinator  
Kelly Alexandre, Elizabeth Asher, Ronwin Nicole Ashton, Virginia Baniaga, Sandra Bevans, Janet Emery, Manuel Flores, Donna Leslie, Curtis Lott, Ross Martin, Kelli Mason, Mike McGraw, Rob Miles, Angelina Muniz, Kara Oberst, Julie Paul, Kristin Sanburg, X.Kang Xie.

**Michelle Brence**  
Lucinda Dillon  
Michael Rivers  
Curtis Condon  
Stephen Maher  
James Young  
Michael Drummond  
Capi Lynn  
Michael Wilhelm  
Lorraine Rath  
Michael Rivers

Jolayne Houtz  
Shawn Wirtz  
Chris Norred  
Stan Nelson  
Sarah Kitchen  
Tonnie Dakin  
Dennis Fernandes