

# Editorial

## S. Koreans display ability to reform

When South Korean voters approved a new constitution last week, they not only reaffirmed a commitment toward ending the current military dictatorship, but also showed a determination to establish true democracy.

The new constitution establishes direct presidential elections and other democratic reforms.

Considering the voters' approval rate was 93 percent, the commitment of South Koreans to reform, has continued, showing the political gumption of the South Korean people.

Furthermore, the fact that 80 percent of the country's 25.6 million eligible voters cast ballots shows their ability to act decisively when political change is at stake.

By voting actively and decisively for direct presidential elections, South Koreans are demanding a complete presidential change.

In a contrasting political development last week, Kim Dae-jung, who was previously in solidarity with the opposition Reunification Democratic Party (RDP), formally announced his candidacy for president. But since Kim Young-sam, president of the RDP, already announced that he would seek the presidency, Dae-jung's announcement formally splits the opposition party. The result is a decrease in the potency of the opposition party and an increase in the possibility that government candidate Roh Tae-woo will succeed the current president, Chun Doo-hwan.

If the opposition party wants to secure the presidency successfully, however, then it must reconcile the split between Kim Dae-jung and Kim Young-sam. Otherwise, the opposition's quest for a true end to the current military-backed government will be sabotaged by their own failure to put forth a single candidate.

Nevertheless, approval of the new constitution is a big step toward democracy. The trend hopefully will continue into the future with a fair and free presidential election.

## Incident shows people must overcome biases

On the morning that Victor Adonri was to appear in court to testify that a Springfield store owner pointed a real-looking toy gun at him, he encountered damage to his car and racial slurs from two unidentified white males.

According to Eugene police, one of the suspects yelled without provocation a degrading and offensive remark at Adonri, who originally is from Nigeria.

Next, when Adonri returned to his Ford Escort, he found damage to the license plate and a branch from a fir tree lying across the top of the car.

This incident raises concern with regard to racial discrimination in the Eugene and Springfield area. Moreover, the incident serves as a harsh reminder that racial biases still exist in what is otherwise known to be a fairly liberal place.

Each and every individual should consciously reflect to determine the extent to which certain unfounded prejudices underlie behavior toward other groups of people.

Such racially motivated behavior should not be tolerated by the community in any form at any time.



## Letters

### Misquoted

I would like to express, through this newspaper, my thanks to the people of Eugene for their hospitality and for their interest in the situation in Argentina.

I greatly appreciate the participation of the students who attended the brown bag lunch forum organized by the Council for Human Rights in Latin America, the Latin America Support Committee and the psychology department, which your paper covered in its Oct. 26 issue.

I would also like to make clear that the journalist who wrote the story attributed to me things that I never said when he spoke of "a well organized and active leftist guerilla movement in Argentina."

At no time in my presentation did I approach the subject of the guerillas of Argentina. In fact, I believe that to attribute the repression of the military government to the existence of leftist guerillas is the argument that the military uses to justify its actions.

On the contrary, I have tried to explain that the military

repression was indiscriminate and affected the whole of Argentinean society — all those who dared to think independently and wide sectors of the population who didn't have any political activities at all.

Mario Epelman  
Doctor

I urge University and business leaders to reconsider their involvement with United Way for the above reasons, and to allow employees to choose to contribute directly to charitable causes through payroll deduction, bypassing United Way.

William Moore  
Music

### Opposing goals

It is beginning to seem like a fall ritual — United Way executives announce their fundraising campaign and tell of the many worthy organizations funded by their agency. This is followed closely by letters from community members (such as myself) urging people not to support United Way because it assists Planned Parenthood.

Our opposition to Planned Parenthood is neither arbitrary nor uninformed. Rather, it is a reasoned response to seeing Planned Parenthood, whose stated philosophy, values and goals are totally at odds with a large percentage of our country, given access to public school children and supported in the promotion of those values and goals.

That this particular affiliate of Planned Parenthood does not perform abortions does not alter the fact that it does refer young women to abortionists and actively advocates abortion as a moral alternative to giving birth.

Further, its views on moral and sexual issues, which are decidedly controversial and divisive, are being presented as an "official" point of view to children. We feel that such blatant, one-sided indoctrination in our tax-supported school system is grossly inappropriate.

United Way's inclusion of Planned Parenthood among the many honorable organizations that it supports does a disservice to those organizations as well as ensuring that active opposition to United Way will remain.

### The facts

Over and over again I see the same old arguments come up opposing U.S. foreign policy regarding the Contras (ODE, Oct. 26). What I find annoying is that people are arguing and making decisions based on bad information.

As University students, it's hard to see the big picture of global politics as an intelligence community can. I would be more apt to trust our CIA than some student or non-profit group's secondhand, hearsay propaganda-related exploits in Nicaragua. I realize our intervention in Third World countries has a terrible record. So let's either not intervene or do it better.

The real issue here is what the facts really are. A large consensus doesn't believe Nicaragua is communist now and believes Nicaragua is better off at this date. With human rights violations and reports of unlawful opposition imprisonment, I find it hard to see the "better off" aspect of Nicaragua.

In any event, to think communism is a good system providing for freedom, civil liberties, human rights violations and a closed country is naive at least. While the "us vs. them" policy is childish, it's also the present state of affairs with the Third World at stake.

I'm not going to argue what we should do regarding Nicaragua until people start realizing what is really happening down there.

Timothy Flippen  
Political science

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