

# Chinese protesters need support

By Yue Gang

Freedom and democracy — they're nice, aren't they? They are self-claimed by the United States to be the universal values it stands by, or more precisely, stands for.

But when many Chinese students are risking their lives for

visit to China to normalize Sino-Soviet relations (which was so overshadowed by the student demonstrations as to attract enough attention to its significance to American interests), the Mao/Nixon or Deng/Bush deals have now ended up being outdated cards thrown away by history.

One would have to live on another planet to believe that the Pentagon and the Central Intelligence Agency can still maintain, among other benefits of the old triangle relationship, their monitoring facility in northwest China bordering Soviet Central Asia, the only U.S. access for such purposes on the Asian continent, while the Sino-Soviet borders, as Deng and Gorby have promised (and let's pray for it), are scheduled to be demilitarized in the next few years with only a few border guards checking passports.

## Commentary

freedom and democracy, the White House turns its back. American interests, not those too abstract and too universal in values and principals, have defined the White House's reluctance to give moral support, let alone to take some tangible measures as it did toward Poland several years ago.

Fine. Let's be more realistic, talk about these specific American interests and forget about the abstract eternal values on which I still feed my fancy occasionally.

When Mao Tse-Tung and Richard Nixon shook hands 17 years ago, both men had turned himself into a card the other could use in dealing with the Soviets. National interests on both sides bridged the Pacific Ocean in spite of an ocean of political and ideological differences.

However, with Gorbachev's

And in that case, a reunion of the Sino-Soviet communist hardliners is not totally unlikely, because glasnost in both countries, so far, is definitely not irreversible.

On the other hand, the success of China's democratization, which will have a strong positive impact on other Eastern Bloc countries, will better serve American interests.

Finally, the tiny optimistic side of myself resists being totally quieted by the cold discussion of politics. A few American friends of mine on this campus, who are certainly not for the White House's version of American interests, have extended their sympathy and support for their fellow Chinese students, joining us in our demonstration in Salem last weekend and offering donations to be sent to China.

It would be great if glasnost can bring peace to the world. But what may happen to American interests if the democratic movement in China is crushed in blood and if such a setback touches off a series of reactionary returns to conservative power in the Soviet Union and other East European countries? With the Sino-Soviet thaw at the backdrop, China's setback would put Gorby and his glasnost in an even more difficult situation.

When most of us Chinese students return to our homeland, the "American influence" we will bring back will not be the contingency of values we find in American politics, but the dear memory of our American friends and the solidarity they share with us. Paradoxically, I believe a democratic internationalism will best serve American national interests.

*Yue Gang is a visiting Chinese student pursuing graduate studies in comparative literature here at the University.*

## Letters

### Why we do

As the year draws to a close, I wish to say a few things to the student body concerning the Oregon Commentator.

1) To those of you who didn't know, we did receive funding from the Incidental Fee Committee. No matter their decision however, we would have continued to publish anyway, not only next year but for many years to come. We have been doing so since 1983, and we will continue to do so.


2) We will continue to provide alternative views to the left-wing orthodoxy of this campus and to engage in the war of ideas by promoting intellectual and academic liberty. An example of this is our recent decision to discontinue the running of research paper advertisements. We realize that this has been hypocritical of us and we apologize for doing so.

3) We will find and use different synonyms for the word "diversity" — clearly one of the most over-used words on this campus today.

The Oregon Commentator, to the dismay of our staunch opponents, has not died but grown stronger from the controversy of last term. We will continue to strive for improvement so that you, our readers, will be better informed of the issues affecting you. After all, that is why we do what we do.

Patrick A. Perkins  
Editor, Oregon Commentator  
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