

Student movement evoked freedom, revealed corruption

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Last year, I taught English in the People's Republic of China. My students were an elite group, and I doubted they would join in the strike.

Before the violence began, I received a letter from my favorite student, a 16-year-old freshman. What follows are his words, abridged but without corrections. My notes and explanations are in parentheses.

Dear Jillana:

It seems a pity that you have not been staying in China for these days. The student's demonstration and hunger strike have been so vigorous in China, especially in Beijing. Almost all ranges of people rose up to support students.

I've taken a part in this movement. First, I joined the parade in Tianjin with my classmates. We went to Beijing, and just caught the one-million people parade in Changan Avenue on 17 May. After the parade, we settle down on Tiananmen Square and began our sit-in demonstration.

At that night, the Square was full of people. When I pushed my way to the monument and looked down, I was dizzied to see so many "black heads." And I also saw some fasters. In a short while, there were four students fainted and be carried out in front of my eyes! Their dedicating spirit were really moving.

Now the demonstration inclines to be subsided. I think the main reason is the ideology of freedom and democracy were still rather meager in the Chinese mind. The populace pursuit could be color TV set, electric refrigerator, more money, etc., but as to freedom, democracy, these are just, dispensable to them.

So when they rose up, their motive were just to show sympathy for students, to express their resentment to the government, but few pursue the supreme destination — freedom and democracy. So the students couldn't gang with them really and tightly.

So when they rose up, their motive were just to show sympathy for students, to express their resentment to the government, but few pursue the supreme destination — freedom and democracy. After some time, when the government's principle became firm, and when they saw it would form a deterrent against their promotion, bonus, going abroad ... they hung back.

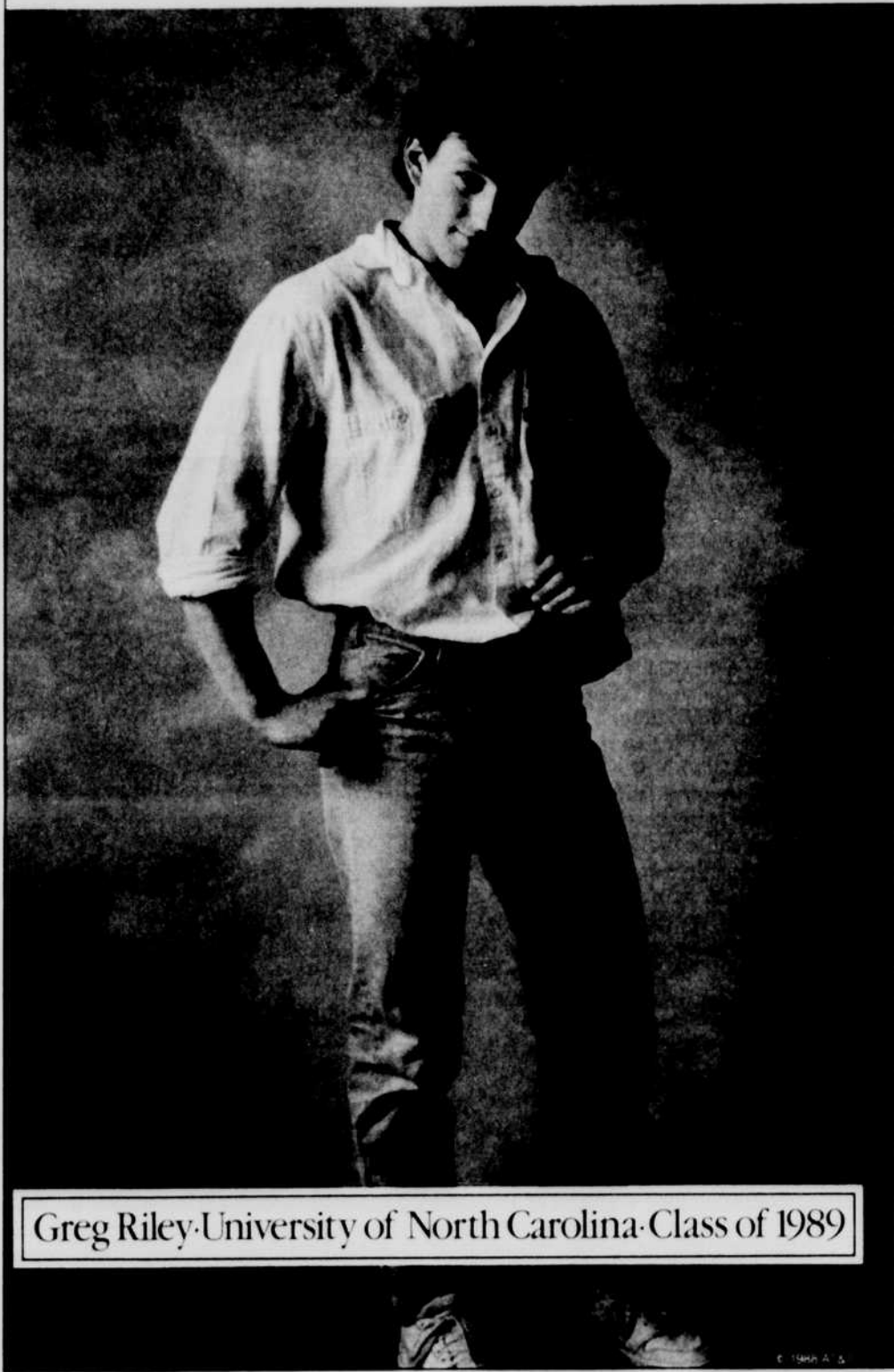
Without the support of these populace, only students certainly couldn't maintain any longer to oppose the powerful government.

However, I think this movement was successful. In some degree, it evoked the populace's consciousness of freedom and democracy. It revealed and denounced the government's corruption.

After this movement, the conservative power will be enlarged. By its protection, the previous corruption, autocracy will continue. And the coming check in government and all regional mechanism will put an ominous atmosphere on everybody's political life. Chinese will experience a long, dull, silent period. So I feel disappointed to the government. I think, going abroad, making my career, and returning with honour may be the optimal way for me.

Your genuine friend (Name withheld)

“I don't want a lot of hype. I just want something I can count on.”



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2. Do you think the following should be a requirement to receive financial aid for college?

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