

## Miller gets passing grade for first year

Since Eugene Mayor Jeff Miller has marked his one year anniversary of taking office, it's time to grade his work thus far.

Miller came into the job riding a cloud of high expectations. During the campaign, he described himself as a "social liberal, but a fiscal conservative." In translation, that meant updating and improving Eugene social programs without destroying the city's economy.

It was an intriguing proposition. Miller promised to deal with some of the city's most difficult problems: the homeless, racism and the housing shortage to name just a few.

One year later, Miller gets a passing grade. Not an outstanding one, but a strong C-plus.

When he took office, he didn't take on any impossible tasks. Mostly, he planned. The city became inundated with task forces, study groups and committees; debating a wide range of topics. Miller patiently awaited the reports on the various studies.

Most of the studies are now in, and Miller, in his State of the City address last week, outlined his three-part agenda for 1990. His plan included opening churches for homeless families, reopening Willamette Street through the Eugene Mall, and renovating the youth sport programs in the city.

While Miller's agenda is a step forward, it isn't as far-reaching and ambitious as some people may have liked. But because he isn't attempting to do everything at once, Miller may just be able to accomplish his 1990 goals.

So far, the proposal to turn churches into homeless family shelters has received the most attention and the most controversy. Just about everybody has an opinion on establishing these shelters, using entirely volunteer staffs.

The plan is a good one, but still needs a little work. Church officials seem to like the idea, and the city is blessed with a wealth of volunteer labor. It is a serious attempt at reducing one section of the homeless population.

Unfortunately, the proposal also has its drawbacks. It would exclude single homeless persons, drug users and alcoholics — who make up a large percentage of the city's homeless population. The plan's complete dependency on volunteers is also a problem. Miller doesn't want the city to shell out any bucks for the project. But to make it work, he's going to have to spend money, as well as try and get additional state funding.

Increasing the amount of youth sports facilities is also a popular idea. There is a large differential between program participants and the number of fields, gyms and playgrounds available for their use. The facilities that are being used are in sad shape, woefully behind in maintenance schedules.

Again, Miller wants to use volunteers to fix the city's ills. Being careful with city dollars is one thing, but Miller's "fiscally conservative" mentality, at times, comes dangerously close to stinginess. If he wants these programs, he's going to have to provide money for them.

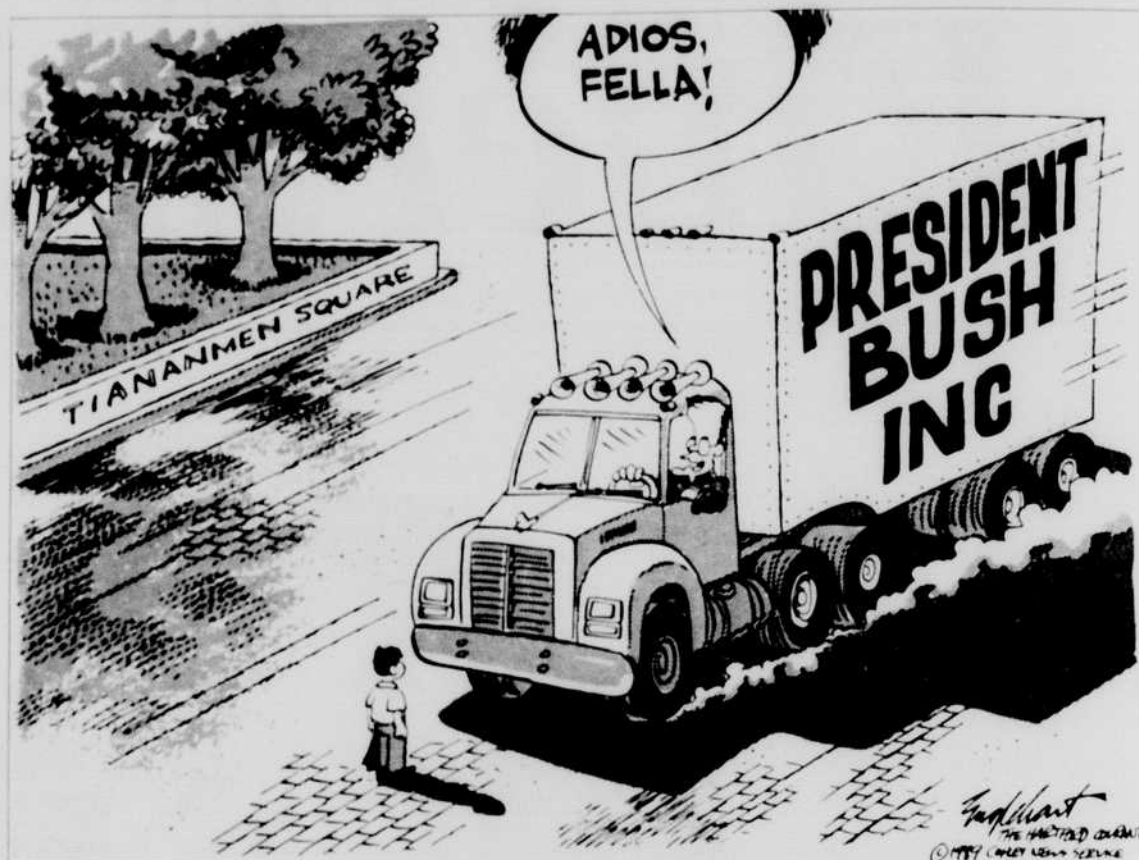
Miller's last plan will probably be his most difficult political hurdle. Reopening two-way traffic through the Eugene Mall has been an unpopular idea in the last few years. Former mayor Brian Obie brought it up for debate, only to see the city council slap it down.

But times have changed. Most people would agree the Eugene Mall is dying out. Major department stores have left the mall, seeking more lucrative pastures in other spots around the city (most notably, Valley River Center). The mall was a good idea which just didn't work out as planned.

Reopening Willamette Street for a test period — as Miller wants — is a sound plan. If it causes problems, or there is a new influx in pedestrian mall traffic, the street can always be closed again. But as of now, there isn't enough of a reason to keep the street closed.

In summary, Miller's agenda for 1990 is not overly ambitious, but has every possibility of being successful. The only criticism is that the mayor needs to put more of the city's financial resources to work and not rely totally on the community to support his programs.

Overall, a laudable first year for the freshman mayor, with the hope of better, more ambitious things to come.



## Forum

### Struggle in China must not be forgotten

By Kelvin Wee

For many students at the University, the memory of June Fourth is just that, a memory. However, for some it is a nightmare they will relive over and over again.

These students are among the 40,000 citizens of the People's Republic of China, their friends

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and family currently living in the United States. The nightmare is the June Fourth Massacre in Tiananmen Square.

In light of the positive change taking place in Eastern Europe, many people tend to forget the negative. The thousands who were brutally murdered when they peacefully demonstrated for what Americans already had — freedom and the right to free speech.

Take a moment and place yourselves in the shoes of the Chinese citizens in the United States. Your home country has returned to "normal" because the United States has sent a high-ranking envoy over. However, your future as a human being is still at stake.

If you return, you run the risk of being arrested and imprisoned without a trial. After a show trial, you could either remain in prison or be sentenced to execution. After all, you are a dissident in the eyes of the Chinese Communist Party.

Then consider this. What if the United States did something to protect you? What if Congress approved a bill to allow you to stay in America, allowing you safe haven in a land of the free? Your hopes rise. You feel inspired, only to be shot down by a veto from the U.S. President, the man who represents humanity in the world.

Well, that is exactly the situation that many Chinese students find themselves in today. Last year, before Congress adjourned, it unanimously ap-

proved Pelosi Bill (H.R. 2712). The bill, sponsored by House Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-Ca), would have allowed students from the People's Republic of China safe haven in the United States.

While hopes rose, rumors that President George Bush would veto the bill also appeared. Apparently, high ranking officials from China sent a letter to Bush telling him they opposed the bill. Bush buckled his knees and kowtowed to the Chinese Communist Party, vetoing the bill moments before he left for Malta.

President Bush offered his own version of protection for the Chinese students. His executive provision allows them to stay in the United States and assures them safe haven. However, unlike a bill when it is passed into law, a presidential provision may be revoked at any time.

Where does this leave the Chinese students? For now, they are safe. However, the question is for how much longer.

If Beijing puts more pressure on President Bush, will he once again buckle and kneel before the shrine of the Chinese Communist Party? Will he revoke the provision? There is no guarantee that he won't.

It is therefore important for everyone to work hard to ensure that Congress will override the veto when it comes back to session on Jan. 23. It is important because it will show the world and the Chinese Communist Party that, despite what the U.S. President does or says to the Chinese government, the American people do not tolerate brutality and violation of human rights.

Beginning Monday, the Associated Students of the University of Oregon and the University's chapter of the United States Student Association will host a week-long campaign to urge Oregon congressmen to override the veto.

On Monday and Tuesday,

Jan. 15 and 16, a table will be set up in the EMU Lobby with volunteers who will collect signatures on individually pre-printed cards. These cards will be sent to the congressmen in Washington, D.C., telling them that the people of Oregon support the right of the people of China to live without fear of persecution.

All students, faculty members, administrators and University staff are strongly encouraged to sign these cards. Only by sheer show of numbers can we ensure the congressmen that they did the right thing by initially approving the bill.

On Wednesday, Jan. 17, a forum and a slide presentation will be held in the EMU Walnut Room (next to the U.S. Post Office in the EMU) at 4:30 p.m. Presenting the slide show is University graduate student from the People's Republic of China Tang Zizhou. The slides will include shots of the demonstrations in Tiananmen Square and the massacre that took place on June 4, 1989.

All interested persons are strongly urged to attend this event.

On Tuesday, Jan. 23, a phone-in campaign will be held. Everyone is strongly urged to phone in their support for the Chinese students. Students at the University may phone in at the ASUO office, EMU Suite Four.

It is important, in this time of positive change in Eastern Europe, not to forget those who were not so fortunate. The students in China, like the students in Eastern Europe, have inspired many of us with their courage.

All it takes is a few minutes out of the day to save a life. Won't you take that bit of time and do the right thing and show the students in China that they did not shed blood in vain?

Kevin Wee is the International Student Representative on the United States Student Association's Board of Directors