

Kathmandu delegate praises democracy

By Katy Moeller
Emerald Contributor

When there was no democracy in Nepal, the student forum was the only forum for political activities, said the newly elected deputy mayor of Kathmandu, Nepal, Thursday.

Nabindra Raz Joshi is a member of a three-party delegation from Nepal sponsored by the Eugene/Kathmandu Sister City Committee.

A strong believer in student activism, Joshi made an unscheduled visit to the University to meet with the "honorable president" Bobby Lee.

"Democracy should be the concern of everyone," said Joshi, who was elected in Nepal's democratic elections.

A college student during the panchayat system, a time when political parties were outlawed and the parliament was dissolved by King Mahendra, Joshi remembers the brutality that existed.

During a visit to the neighboring city of Trissuli, Joshi and 22 others on their way to a student conference were taken by police, repeatedly beaten and left in a forested area, Joshi said.

"We told them to kill rather than keep beating us," he said.

The concern that students in other countries have shown for Nepali people has made a difference, Joshi said.

"When I was in prison for four years, someone gave us news that there was an underground meeting in Moscow. In the meeting they demanded for our release. It was great news. It was happiness for us for at least 15 days. We got inspiration from that," he said.

Joshi said he does not believe it is necessary to encourage students to get involved in student unions.

"First, let people be ready to think. If they think, then we won't have to say that they should be active in student unions. They will already be active themselves," he said.

Though thousands of miles from the Kingdom of Nepal, the south-central Asian country between India and China that boasts the highest mountain range in the world, Joshi does not feel out of place in Eugene.

"When I was in Eugene the first day, I thought I was in my own home," he said.

There have been a few cultural differences that he has noticed, though.

"There is an independent thinking in American people which is very, very positive," Joshi said.

"Nepali people feel that society is the most important for them. Americans feel the individual is the most important for them," he said.

Joshi was also surprised to find that nearly every person he talked to had been divorced.

In Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal, which has a population of about one million, there have only been 18 cases of divorce this year, Joshi said.

The independence that women in the United States enjoy is not yet a reality in Nepal, but Joshi said he believes that will change now that there is a democracy.

"In your country there is no difference between men and women. In my country there is still a difference. Most women are dominated," he said.

The Kathmandu/Eugene Sister City Committee is working with Joshi on a student exchange program that will allow students interested in going to Nepal to do internships.

STREETWISE

QUESTION:

Are you sick of the snow yet?

"Yeah. It's cool for the mountains, but it sucks in the valley."



JASON MURRAY
senior, finance/management

"Hell, no. I love the snow. You get to nail innocent bystanders with snowballs."



SAM PARKS
sophomore, undeclared

"No. It eases my tensions about global warming."



PAT DEVINE
sophomore, undeclared

"I really like the snow, and I think it's sad that people disdain it."



CHRISTIANA NICHOLS
senior, english

"Yes. I come from a desert country, and it's too cold here. It hurts my eyes."



HASSAM ALQADHY
freshman, computer science

"Yeah. I don't have a car and I can't use my bike. It's also cold, and I can't afford to heat my house."



SOPHIE HILL
senior, biology

ET ALS

MEETINGS

Asklepiads will meet for elections and pizza tonight at 7:30 in EMU Cedar Room F. For more information, call 343-3994.

ASUO will have a public hearing concerning election rule changes tonight at 7 in Room 155 Straub. For more information, call 346-3724.

MISCELLANEOUS

ASUO will sponsor elections for the Muslim Student Association tonight from 6 to 8 in Room 112 Willamette. For more information, call 346-3724.

Eugene Unicycle Club will meet tonight at 7:30 at Eugene Bicycle Works, 1st

Avenue and Washington Street. For more information, call 683-3397.

Lane County Council of Organizations will have guest speakers Virginia and Chandler Barkeley show slides and share their experiences today from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Oddfellows Temple, 1233 Charnelton St. The Barkeley's traveled the full length of the Oregon Trail last summer. For more information, call 345-8139.

Center for Appropriate Transport Volunteer Information Night will be tonight at 7 at 455 W. 1st Ave. For more information, call 344-1197.

Career Planning and Placement Service will have an office orientation today from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Room 221 Hendricks. There will also be a Computer

Career Information Training Session today from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Room 221 Hendricks.

Wilderness Cruises will have a group meeting tonight from 6 to 7:30 in EMU Century Room B.

Deadline for submitting Et Als to the Emerald front desk, EMU Suite 300, is noon the day before publication. The news editor does not have a time machine. Et Als run the day of the event unless the event takes place before noon.

Notices of events with a donation or admission charge will not be accepted. Campus events and those scheduled nearest the publication date will be given priority.

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