

North Korea: nuclear threat

Sam Krause

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For a long time now, North Korea has been a threat to the United States, its own citizens and the world.

North Korea has been building its nuclear arsenal since 1993, according to the C.I.A. Now, in 2005, it is rumored that North Korea now has six nuclear weapons and they are ready to test.

South Korea, Russia and China tend to side on a lenient approach to the threat North Korea poses.

South Korean officials who have met with the hostile nation, and claim North Korea has no plans to test any nukes. But even Ministers and state-controlled media outlets in North Korea have neither denied nor admitted to any wrongdoing.

Nevertheless, U.S. satellite images show construction equipment in the northeast area of the country. U.S. intelligence speculates that North Korea may be planning underground tests of nuclear devices.

I don't know about anybody else, but why in the world would the United States redeploy troops stationed at the demilitarized zone on the 38th parallel to Iraq? More so, why does the Bush administration downplay any problems that might be occurring within North Korea?

Using George W. Bush's own plan of

action (according to the Bush doctrine), we should already be in North Korea; not only that, but North Korea is part of the president's "axis of evil."

But where is the president spending the United States' time, money and energy? The answer, of course, is the Middle East and the War on Terror. Oil and profits are worth more than us, the meager statistic read to Georgie at 9 p.m. after he hasn't read the Presidential Daily Briefing.

Besides, North Korean missiles will be able to reach the Blue States before they will ever be able to reach the nation's capital or New York City.

More than just a threat to the United States, North Korea has been the culprit of serious human rights violations. Globalsecurity.org, an international watch-

dog, estimates that about a quarter of North Korea's population has been killed or starved to death by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The chairman of Korea's National Defense Commission (the highest position of authority in North Korea), Kim Jong Il, has been the direct or indirect contributor to his people's suffering. Kim labels people with the threat of political level they are to the government, making it nearly impossible for those labeled to get work.

The government at one time sported the purchase of over 500 Mercedes-Benz, and they have a useless army that has more than 1 million troops.

Food, money, and petroleum given in aid to North Korea have been recklessly dolled out, ill spent and wasted by the country's upper class and government officials.

But wait, there's more! North Korea has

been a trafficker of many different drugs to the world, using diplomatic immunity as a means of protection, especially China, Japan, Taiwan, and the Russian East. Many of their government officials have been apprehended with voluminous amounts of Rofinol, heroin, or methamphetamines.

Now sit back and take all this information in. What is the difference between North Korea? Answer: the United States knows that North Korea has nuclear capabilities and Iraq was no immediate threat. For Christ's sake, people are dying by the millions; political leaders live lives of parties, private casinos and anything they could ever possibly want, while the North Korean has to bow the prostrate and worship a leader that oppresses just to get their pittance of rice.

Don't get me wrong, Iran has the potential to build nuclear weapons, but they let the International Atomic Energy Agency in for inspections. North Korea booted their inspectors out years ago with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and has been unnervingly uncooperative in the Six Party Talks.

The priorities of our country aren't completely skewed. Bush has an opportunity to do something right. All these moralistic Georgie Boy likes to preach from the pulpit would come in perfectly for this situation. Safety is our duty, as Americans, in the world.



Illustration by Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print

High cafeteria prices call for desperate measures

CJ Ciaramella

The Clackamas Print

I like just about everything at the cafeteria here at Clackamas. Quality, selection, service, cleanliness – it's all there, but one thing I don't like is the prices. Luckily, I've found a great (and perfectly legal) way to enjoy cafeteria food without the steep prices.

Now don't get me wrong, because I think the staff at the cafeteria does a terrific job, but I've never felt the justification in some of their prices. About midday, though, with hunger gnawing at me, not enough change in my pocket, and Haggren's a long walk away, I've got to eat something. What's a strapped-for-cash college student to do? Well, I'll tell you what I do:

I eat out of the garbage.

Yeah, you heard me. I rummage through the garbage at the cafeteria and eat that's leftover food. OK, honestly I don't do that every time; sometimes people just leave their food on the table for me to eat. Hey, I'm not picky.

It's not like I eat food people have chewed on either. Taking a peek at the garbage bins during lunch reveals trays of uneaten, and most likely untouched, finger foods like french fries, onion rings, and chicken tenders. It's a veritable goldmine of free food, and it's all mine for the taking.

I can already envision the reactions of most people who are reading this:

"That's totally disgusting. You are eating out of the GARBAGE."

Society has this really weird stigma about the garbage; everybody believes that for some reason a garbage can, even with a fresh plastic garbage bag, is infinitely dirtier than its surroundings. If something merely grazes the liner of a garbage bin, it is forever banished. I proclaim that a garbage bin is only as dirty as the objects inside it! And considering the garbage bags in the cafeteria are changed with high frequency during the lunch

rush, the objects within usually aren't more than 15 minutes old. Yummy.

The other criticism I hear is that I don't know what people have done to the food.

"Oh, gross dude! Someone could have totally spit in that!" they say.

I have never in my life seen anyone spit in their food and then throw it away.

A lot of people who eat leftover food describe themselves with hipster terms such as "freegan" or "dumpster diver," but I will just as readily answer to "guy who eats out of the garbage." Likewise, these people will often imbue their garbage-eating tendencies with political and social commentary, bandying about statistics of how much food Americans waste and how many people in the world die of starvation. That's all fine and dandy, but in the end it comes down to me being hungry. Free food in the garbage = full stomach.

Actually, I do happen to agree with these "freegan" folk. The United States is the most gluttonous, slovenly nation on the planet, but I'm not going to discourage you from throwing away your tray of french fries. More for me, right?

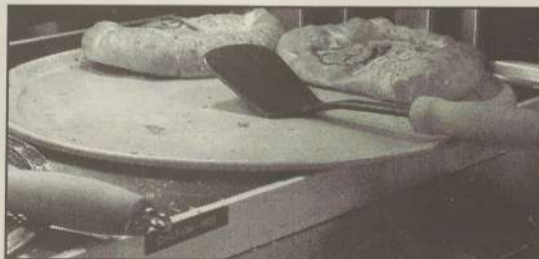


Photo illustration by Shannon Armstead and Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print

Letter to the editor

Filibuster needed tool to keep majority in check

I am writing in response to last week's commentary piece by Shannon Armstead entitled "Filibuster needs to go 'nuclear.'"

In the piece, Shannon refers to the filibuster as a "fickle technicality." Though she is correct in stating that it is based off of a rule that allows a senator to have the floor as long as they wish, it has developed as a senate tradition for a reason. It is the only tool that the minority party has for stopping the majority party from doing whatever they see fit. In our last election, 51 percent of people voted Republican. This is only a very slight majority. If there was no filibuster, then the majority in the House of Representatives and Senate would be able to pass any laws requiring only a simple majority. This would mean that nearly half of our citizens would have no effective representation in Congress.

Quite possibly, in the next four years, up to four out of the nine Supreme Court judges will be chosen to serve. These judges, most likely, will be with us for the remainder of their lives. Needless to say, it is a crucial decision for whom to appoint to these positions. If we are to let the majority party decide, then, again, 49 percent of Americans will have no say in this.

What the filibuster does is allow the minority party to exclude those who they think are too radical. Remember, the president nominates the judges while the senate confirms them. So regardless, the Republicans will be able to appoint a judge they approve of.

When you completely silence the minority party, you get dangerously close to something that Alex de Tocqueville called "the tyranny of the majority." We should not allow huge decisions to be left up to the whim of the majority, whoever the majority in power might be.

Randy Thrall
CCC student

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