

letters

Damn proud

God bless America. We are two of the very few people on campus who are still proud to be Americans. We drive American cars that we bought with our own hard earned money. We're still proud of this country and are willing to fight for it even if it means nuclear war. We believe we can win a nuclear war with President Ronald Reagan's increased spending on the Star Wars defense system.

That is why we are so outraged at our socialist anti-American classmates who attempt to impede the path of the glorious White Train. We see

the White Train as a symbol of America's greatness. As the White Train rolls boldly to its destination in Hanover, Washington, we feel that the only thing wrong with the White Train is that it is lacking two colors, blue and red. Yes, the red, white, and blue train rolling on to preserve the American way; baseball, apple pie, and well-built steel cars. The vodka drinking anti-Americans in our country should be ashamed of themselves. If they don't like it, then get the hell out. Long live America and let the red, white, and blue train roll on. Damn proud.

Doug Gates
John Dempsey

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Immigration

To paraphrase a couple of recent letter writers, we need legalized abortion because, "If the 1.5 million children now aborted in America each year survived, then overcrowding, overpopulation, and more poverty might result." That's not necessarily the case. In fact, even if population growth was at issue, we could still abolish abortion and not have population growth.

Why not just ban our liberal immigration policy and put more emphasis on curtailing illegal immigration as well? We allow about a million and a half immigrants to come into our country per year (the same number of children we allow to be aborted, coincidentally), and we might keep in mind that these immigrants are generally young, seek employment, and place many burdens on our welfare services in the event that they can't find work. America's population growth currently is due to immigration and increased longevity — without these two factors, our population would be declining due to excessively low birthrates.

I feel it's more morally justifiable to end abortion and stop immigration (in order to check population growth, in case that presents any problems) than to allow immigration and then justify the cruel practice of abortion with the argument "We need abortion to curtail population growth."

Tereasa McNew
Elmira

Veracity

Brandon Sheppard (ODE, Feb. 18) equates textual authority with textual veracity. An authoritative text means simply that the text is an accurate copy of the original manuscript. An authoritative text does not imply that the content of the work is factual.

We have authoritative texts of "Huckleberry Finn" and "The Great Gatsby." These texts accurately reflect the original manuscript as written by Twain and Fitzgerald. Nonetheless, such texts do not prove the stories by Twain and Fitzgerald to be factual accounts (and I'd really like to believe in Huckleberry Finn). Similarly, the New Testament may accurately reflect the prose of the original manuscripts, but the veracity of the ideas must be taken on faith.

George Bergeron
Graduate, English

No point

I was greatly intrigued by the letter, "Beef Up", written by Roch Steinbach (ODE, Feb. 13). Mr. Steinbach uses the time honored technique of posing vital questions which force us to re-examine our own beliefs and assumptions. Apparently, we then realize our many misconceptions about the world we live in, and we are hurled into an enlightening face to face confrontation with truth. However, upon further reflection it became clear to me that my own confrontation with truth had not yet come about. I realized that not only did I not know one of the answers to his profound questions, but neither did I have any idea what the point was of asking them in the first place. So, in response, I can only pose some more intriguing and illuminating questions to further stimulate thought.

1) Should we publish letters to the editor which we ourselves or others we know may not understand? Does this not interfere with our freedom to believe that we know everything? Should the authors of letters to which we take offense be tracked down and tortured?

2) Does the conspicuous absence of good Christians during the demise of ancient Sumerian civilization prove conclusively that abortion is right, wrong, or both?

3) Mr. Steinbach asks if it is significant that D.H. Lawrence was impotent when he wrote "Lady Chatterly's Lover". Would it be significant if this condition were rectified upon his completion of the book? Is impotence a natural consequence of writing an important novel? Can you catch it by writing to the Emerald?

Joseph Person
Eugene

Biased man

How could the Emerald give front page coverage to John Trever's anti-Semitic views (ODE, Feb. 15)? A thoroughly biased man sponsored by a thoroughly biased organization delivers a thoroughly biased speech and you give it above-the-fold front page placement? Where's your news judgment?

The Emerald showed equally poor judgment in not using Trever's speech as a forum. The very least you should have done is provide space for responsible commentary.

Of course, the Zionism of European Jews after World War II was single-minded and

xenophobic. Not to recognize the temperament of Holocaust survivors is to be short-sighted and historically blind. Ghetto mentality burned to create the ultimate ghetto — a bristling little armed country. "Never again" is no mere slogan. It's a vow.

However, second and third generation Israelis, though steadfastly nationalistic, are nevertheless politically pragmatic. They accept the necessity of a Palestinian state, yet like any protectionist government, understandably they want this concession on their own terms. To cite David Ben-Gurion, that devout orthodox Zionist, as Trever does, to prove his spurious thesis is to ignore current evolution of Israeli policy. Trever fails to acknowledge Israel's growing political maturity and its place among the civilized nations of the world.

Lisa Siegle
Journalism

Oh goody!

Are the committees and vigilantes responsible for designating a "crisis" in American education mad because their children came back from school stupid and unemployable? What happened to the goodhearted and sensible Americans, like my Dad, who know damn well that I'm being educated, but want to know when I'm going to get a degree? Come on you guys — don't change the rules on me now. If you keep talking like this, I fear you'll quit buying Reagan's "American is well" shirt and start seriously funding higher education. Next thing you know I won't be aborted by the financial aid office at 186 credits — and just when I was about to declare a major. Maybe I'll be granted a student leave from the "peace keeping" action in Latin America. Oh Goody.

Christopher Bollweg
Senior
Undeclared (Academically)

Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style. Letters to the editor should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300 EMU.

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