

Letters

Look within

In "The Wizard of Oz" the main characters followed a yellow brick road in search of a wizard. They ultimately found that what they were really seeking was within themselves.

Those who participated in the student election process know about yellow brick roads. We've heard about the magical wizards that we'll find if we follow them.

But now that the elections are over, it's time for, as Paul Harvey puts it, "the rest of the story."

It begins with ourselves; not with this person who promised this, or that person who's head of that. This upcoming year will be as productive and enjoyable as we make it.

For if we want to cause a turbulent transition in ASUO, we can. If we want to play tug of war in student government, we can. And if we want to rehash old news and live in the past, we can do that too.

But if we really want to accomplish something in the next 12 months, if we really want to find the so-called "wizard," we have to look within ourselves.

There we must find the insight and commitment to realize our own potential, the willingness to cooperate and to care, and the guts to take some responsibility. Not coincidentally, these three qualities are represented by the brain, heart and courage that were sought after by the scarecrow, the tin man and the lion on their journey.

Finding these qualities within ourselves — isn't that what yellow brick roads are all about?

Phil Levinson
Student

Steady growth

Mr. Clancy, your latest letter (ODE, April 29) was one of your most amusing.

You see, I never once said anything about evangelists or their families. I hope you were not confusing Charles Darwin and Soviet writer Victor Pervedentsev with Jim and Tammy Bakker (oh well, we're all entitled to mistakes, I suppose).

Mr. Clancy wanted to know why China and India aren't as prosperous as the West. I would suggest he study these cultures.

China has vast potential, yet for centuries it was held back by a feudalistic system which stressed study of the "classics" over technological advancement.

Then it was taken over by an inefficient communist system. India has suffered under a rigid caste system and other social factors, which also retarded progress.

But look at it this way: China may be far less advanced than Western nations, but thanks to its large population, it has more power and influence today than some advanced, yet pint-sized country like, for example, Sweden.

Dear population control fanatics: Would America have been better off in World War II with only half its actual population? Would we have reached into space without an adequate population base paying taxes for development and producing Oregon Daily Emerald

diverse goods necessary to create a modern nation?

Face it, a country encouraging steady growth, a strong work ethic and education, combined with wise use of available resources has more potential than some shrinking, aging population.

Michael Cross
Graduate
Political science/history

Unfair criticism

I write in response to the comment made by geologist Ann Baker about Norma Cordell in the article on symposium racism (ODE, April 29).

I have been both a student and personal friend of Norma Cordell for many years. In that time, I have never known her to misuse Native American rituals and beliefs.

She has never claimed to be Native American, nor to be a Native American teacher. Though she has studied many years with Native American elders, her studies have been of many traditions, and she blends them together to teach what I have experienced to be very powerful teachings and experiences.

Never has she said these are Native American teachings.

Norma Cordell is a woman very committed to her work, to helping others and to helping heal this planet. She is also very involved and supportive of many Native American issues. I feel the accusations made against her are unfair and made without any true knowledge of her or her work.

Ruthanne Carosio
Eugene

Tragedy

And now a fellow Oregonian is gunned down in Nicaragua, killed by "Contra" terrorists who were trained and armed by his own U.S. government.

The terrible irony of the violent death of Ben Linder is that he was a man of peace. A friend of mine who had met Linder described him as a gentle man with a good sense of humor.

Linder was in Nicaragua to help the impoverished people of that country by contributing his talents as an engineer. He was killed by the Contras on April 28 at 8 in the morning as he prepared for a day of work on the small hydroelectric plant which he was helping the Nicaraguans to build.

I am deeply saddened by this terrible murder. I am also disgusted that our own government is waging a war against the Nicaraguans and their freely elected Sandinista government in the name of "democracy." Tom Voorhees, who was a friend of Ben Linder, said this about him:

"He was a very strong believer in the right of the Nicaraguan people to exercise their own self-determination and try to build a non-aligned country, and his work had a lot to do with relieving human suffering and was strictly of a humanitarian nature."

Ben Linder was a hero, killed by a band of cowards — and our tax dollars.

Randy MacDonald
Political science



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