

LETTERS

Afta NAFTA

For decades the environmental community has fought for a clean and safe environment. If enacted, the North American Free Trade Agreement will significantly weaken or reverse these efforts.

In the next few weeks the House of Representatives will vote on the fate of NAFTA. If NAFTA passes, recycling laws, chemical bans and food safety legislation will all be held up as barriers to free trade. As a result, companies will naturally relocate to areas where both standards and enforcement are lax. Simply to keep those corporations in their communities, local and state regulators within the United States will be pressured to give in to industry demands in environmental regulation.

Help stop NAFTA before it's too late. It's critical that your voice be heard. Write your newspaper, Representative Wyden and Senator Hatfield today.

Don't think NAFTA won't effect you. For information, contact OSPIRG at 346-4377.

Amy Wachmann
OSPIRG

Standards

I emphatically embrace all major accusations made against me by Jerry Russel and Paul Iverson (ODE Oct. 29, Oct. 28). Yes, I do apply reason to economics, culture, art and morality, especially morality. I do approach these subjects exactly as I do physics — certainly not as the province of mystic edicts from the Bible or mindless prattle of

college bull-sessions.

Ayn Rand did discover objective standards of action — standards by which one can live confidently and successfully, not blindly. From where do these standards come? Your nature as a human being determines which action you must take to gain the ultimate value which is your life. You are free not to identify those actions, but you are not able to live well without performing them. Lastly, I agree with Ayn Rand that exploitation of nature is the noblest activity one can perform. Profit-seeking production is the concrete process of achieving one's life happiness.

Ayn Rand's validation of these principles makes her one of mankind's greatest heroes and benefactors.

Damon A. Cole
Mathematics

SStop hiding

In response to an article about University of Washington players arrested for burglary and attempted rape, (ODE Nov. 1), the Emerald staff and those students who read the article might need a little clarification.

Being locked in a room alone with three men who are exposing their genitals and threatening you is obviously a crime. Their arrest was warranted indeed. The disgusting opinion of the writer that follows is what concerns me, "The victims were not harmed."

Whether the writer meant that the victims were not "physically" harmed, to say they were not harmed at all is grossly unjustified and disturbing. This irresponsible journalism and editing

perpetuates the inaccurate belief that sexual assault, because of no physical scars on the outside, does no damage to the victim on the inside.

How can we dispel the myth that sexual assault is not a serious offense when our source of information tells us that victims of it are not harmed? Hey reporter, if the victims weren't harmed, why did the accused go to jail? Please stop the ignorant effort to take two steps back when our understanding of sexual assault is just beginning to take one step forward.

Joseph Borton
Economics

Safe facts

We would like to thank the Emerald and Edward Klopfenstein for the comprehensive article printed about Saferide and the services we provide. We would, however, like to correct some misinformation contained in the article.

We run three vehicles, only one of which is restricted to campus and the surrounding area. The other two, the off-campus vehicles, travel much farther and provide rides several miles from campus. As for the vans, we had always had two vans operating, but were forced to turn away women because both vans were full, not broken down. We would also like to point out that the dispatchers are hired staff and are not volunteers.

Angharad Freeman-Jones
Shaley Howard
and two other co-signers
Project Saferide

OPINION

Continued from Page 2

they don't vote, you won't hear politicians address their problems and try to alleviate their situation.

But they're a growing demographic reality, and sooner or later the rest of the population will have to stop ignoring them. The Los Angeles riots provided a glimpse into a frightening future, in which a frustrated underclass protested against an unjust system with the only means it knew: blind violence.

Some analysts regarded the riots as a one-time phenomenon caused by a single instance of miscarriage of justice. But analysts with a broader understanding of history and economics knew that the LA riots weren't only symptomatic of a justice system gone wrong. They were symptomatic of a society gone wrong.

Could the United States be ripped apart like the former

Yugoslavia? Not in the foreseeable future.

But the seams that keep this country together aren't as strong as they were just 20 years ago. If Americans don't begin to fill the canyon between the "haves" and the "have-nots," this country may soon begin to grasp the full meaning of the word "balkanization."

Marius Meland is a columnist for the Emerald.

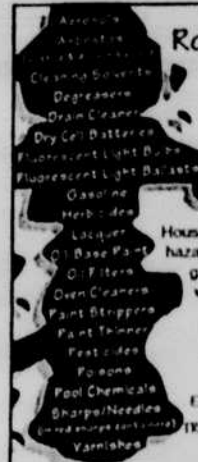


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