

LETTERS

Violence

It's odd to read about Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein, Northern Ireland and his refusal to renounce violence. Why should he? Have the British renounced theirs?

The cause and effect of their struggles have gone for 600 years and will never cease as long as the British occupy foreign soil as cruel colonizers (the last colony they won't give up) and fostering the religious war between the endemic Catholics and the Protestants they brought in from Scotland. It's the same grim stupidity that goes on in Bosnia where power hungry politicians fed "Nationalism" to the people who lived together and intermarried, for hundreds of years and go along reasonably well. Now the war has wiped out their former lives and the country has become as unlivable as Ulster.

If Clinton can go out on a limb for Sinn Fein, why isn't he working more closely with peace groups in Bosnia? They are there! All he relies on his lame foreign affairs "team", and a lot of empty threats.

Hilde K. Cherry
Eugene

Hoops

I have been to only four of our men's basketball games this year, and I think that there are two guys that deserve a whole lot more praise than they receive. I don't even know their names, that's because their names aren't even on their shirts, or their warm-up suits. I am of course talking about those two players that are there every game, warm-up before the game, cheer through the game and nev-

er get to play in the game. They sit on the bench. You know who I'm talking about; you've seen them there. I think we should all stand up and cheer from them. Talk about a thankless job. I mean who claps for them? When is their picture in the paper? But they still sit there. Now that is something to praise. So, thanks for putting up with it. More power to you guys. I think you're great.

K. Jellum
Sophomore

We respond

I write in response to Devon Gray's recent letter (ODE 2/2/94). Ms. Gray asserts that on April 16, 1993 she called the Office of Affirmative Action to report her experience in an outdoor art class. She alleges, "They (sic) told me there was nothing they could do." As current Director of the office, I found this allegation most disturbing.

It is very unlikely that anyone in this office told Ms. Gray there is nothing we could do. Standard office practice is to refer grievance inquiries to trained intake officers who inform the caller of the option to file formal or informal grievance within the 180 days of incident. No decision on the merit of a case is made on the basis of telephone inquiry. If an intake officer is not available, callers are encouraged to make a prompt appointment for an office interview.

Failure to file a timely grievance does not mean allegations of illegal discrimination are ignored. Indeed, I am unaware of any instance in which the University failed to respond to a serious claim, regardless of timing. When Ms. Gray reported her

experience to the office in Oct., a comprehensive informal inquiry ensued and significant resources and staff time were devoted to her assistance.

By inaccurately portraying the University's response to her own experience, Ms. Gray does a tragic disservice to others who would consider reporting an incident of discrimination.

Ken Lehman
Director, AA&EO

No harassment

In response to the letter by Devon Gray (ODE 2/2/94) I would like to clarify several things.

The class that is referred to by Ms. Gray has been offered for 15 years and over 400 students have successfully completed the course and reports of positive experiences are often received.

At no time and under no circumstances was a student instructed to harass another student in the way described by Devon Gray.

I am very sorry that Ms. Gray's experience at the University has not been satisfying to her.

Ken O'Connell
Fine & Applied Arts

Distortions

As the host of Dr. Harry Binswanger's lecture "Bridging the 'Israel Ought' Gap: How to Derive Morality from the Facts," I wish to correct a few of Juniper Brinkman's distortions. (ODE 2/1/94)

Brinkman's essay was dedicated mainly to branding Dr. Binswanger and Ayn Rand racists, because Dr. Binswanger condemned the LA Riots. Brinkman says that Dr. Binswanger called all the colored

people in LA "bloodless savages." This is ridiculous. He was referring specifically to the rioters, a large percentage of whom were white.

Ayn Rand's individualism is contrary to all collectivism, racism included. Dr. Binswanger said that values exist only for individuals, which contradicts Brinkman's altruist ideal of "collective responsibility." He said reason is one's moral faculty. Since reason is possessed only by individuals and is exercised by choice, this contradicts Brinkman's (and Hitler's) idea that one's moral status is inherited from one's race. Since material wealth is created by applying reason to action, contrary to Brinkman (and Marx), people "below the poverty line" have no right to goods produced by others.

Damon Cole
Mathematics

Wacko

Andrea, your response to Mr. Thorn's article shows that you are not glorified being human. You misunderstand the role of being human. Humans are at the top of the animal kingdom. We rule it. Perhaps if humans didn't exist the lion would be the king. We rule the animal kingdom because we are capable of intellectual thought which enables us to invent tools to enhance our environment, enabling us to live longer, healthier and increase our population, making us the majority.

Humans also rule because we can manipulate the environments and populations of all other species. You confirm this at the end of your column by stating "we seem to choose to

destroy the planet." This contradicts what you said about Mr. Thorn having a thin "argument" because he stated "we're superior because we can manipulate." If you question our ability to manipulate, then how can we possibly destroy the planet? Also, as a landscape architect, aren't you manipulating land to benefit humans?

Andrea answered her own question when she asked, "Why is a man who builds a fire to stay warm better than the bear who is just warm?" With the prior statement about "lowly subspecies not wasting an ounce of energy" pertaining to items that intelligent humans have produced for humans. The answer... the bear is a lowly subspecies! Andrea thinks that human intelligence isn't significant. Her attitude is, other animals don't waste time with intelligent thought so why should humans? Humans happen to be the only specie capable of intelligent thought. If Andrea lived up to the way she thinks, she would live in harmony in a cave with a fire burning constantly to scare bears from trying to take the cave and make lunch out of her.

Finally, this notion that we need to "save the planet" is hogwash. Who or what needs to be saved? The only characters that want to destroy it are those phony cartoon villains in *Captain Planet*. We have power, but never enough to destroy the planet, only God can. Stop understating the size of our world by calling it a planet, planets are little pictures in books or tiny specks in the sky, then perhaps you will realize how enormous our world is.

John Eccleston
Eugene

N.V.M. Gonzalez

Professor Emeritus, California State University, Hayward
& International Writer-in-Residence, University of the Philippines

will be in Eugene for a series of events
today & tomorrow, February 9th & 10th.

Today:

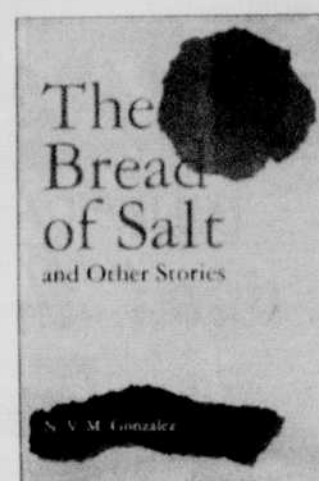
Philippine Literature: Work-in-Progress
Southeast Asian Studies Brown Bag Talk
Cedar A & B rooms, at the EMU
11:00—Noon

Thursday:

Reading from *The Bread of Salt & Other Stories*
159 PLC (Humanities Center Conference Room)
3:00-4:00

Booksigning at the UO Bookstore
Upstairs
4:30—5:30

Potluck Dinner
2092 Roland Way (Off Oakway Road)
6:30—8:30pm



In his latest book, *The Bread of Salt and Other Stories*, a retrospective selection of 16 of his short stories from the early 1950s to the present day, Professor Gonzalez "documents the struggle of Filipinos to come to terms with their sense of themselves, especially in the midst of the country's continuous and evolving relationship with the United States. The stories embody the ambivalence, the uncertainty and the conflicting values faced by Filipinos caught up in the often unpredictable outcome of the meeting between these two different cultures."

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Center for Asian & Pacific Studies, Creative Writing Program, Humanities Center, Office of Multicultural Affairs, UO Bookstore, International Student Association, Asian/Pacific American Student Union (APASU), Kultura Pilipinas-Philippine Student Organization, Philippine-American Association of Eugene-Springfield.