

Trading with China in interests of U.S.

Although he will surely suffer in the polls for it, President Bill Clinton's decision to once again extend Most Favored Nation trading status to China was not only the right choice when it comes to American financial interests but may also be the best way to ensure that China's dismal record of human rights abuse improves in the future.

A year ago, Clinton issued an ultimatum to China, threatening to revoke the country's MFN status if it did not improve its human rights record by June of this year. Few, if any, improvements have been made.

So, with the deadline fast approaching, Clinton was faced with a choice. He could follow through on his threat and revoke MFN status, but this would have serious negative implications for those American companies — Boeing, AT&T and Wal-Mart, just to name a few — that have chosen to invest in China during the past few years. Or, he could recognize the economic reality of the situation, back down on his threat and make the choice that stands the greatest chance of protecting American interests and promoting human rights in China.

Clinton chose the latter, when asking Congress last week to renew MFN status for China.

Continued strong trade with China is clearly in America's — and the world's — best interests. Tens of billions of dollars can be made each year through trade with China, the world's third-largest economy and largest single market, with more than a billion potential consumers.

A nation with that much economic power doesn't necessarily require American trade. Other partners have shown their willingness to look past China's human rights transgressions. And unlike some tiny, backward Third World nation, without any resources of its own, China doesn't need the United States. It would greatly benefit from American help, but it isn't essential.

Chinese history includes many such periods of "introspection," when the country looked inward and let the rest of the world go about its business without interference. It would be highly unwise to encourage, through trading obstacles, a return to such isolationism. China is one of the most heavily armed countries in the world, with a nuclear arsenal second only to the United States and Russia. The more isolated the country becomes, the less power the world community has in controlling its actions. And global stability will suffer.

The same logic may be applied to the matter of human rights. The more interconnected the world economy becomes, the greater influence China's trading partners — including the United States — will have on China's internal policies. If trade between the United States and China continues to expand, China's need for that trade will expand as well. Shutting off MFN now won't accomplish nearly so much as shutting it off in another 10 years, after American investments have gotten a strong foothold.

Granting China Most Favored Nation status, although a 180-degree turn from Clinton's policy a year ago, is in the best interests of American and Chinese business, global stability and — perhaps ironically — the rights of Chinese citizens.



LETTERS

Special thanks

I would like to say a big "Thank You" to all the volunteers who helped make the Oregon Special Olympics Summer Games possible. I attended some of the events last Saturday morning and noticed all of the vests that said volunteer on them. I was very impressed by the number of people who were graciously giving this time to add joy to some very special people's lives.

My brother participated in these games, and I know that he couldn't have if it weren't for all the volunteers. They helped my brother go home with not only two medals but a new sense of confidence and self-worth that he doesn't often receive outside of his home. These special people learn to work together and also get an opportunity to stand in the spotlight for a weekend. These memories stay with them for a lifetime and it couldn't be done without you. Thank You!

Terra Wort
Psychology

Painful reality

About 16 of us sit in a freshman seminar attempting to recognize the dying planet and our relationship with it.

As we sit together, talking "about" the "environment," many of us are sincere only in our words and have not quite made the connection with our actions. Yes, we probably all recycle and some of us limit our consumption and participate in other measures. However, what I am talking about now is jobs. As we "discuss" how we will soon kill the Earth, we accept jobs that are destructive to the Earth. We justify our acceptance of these unhealthy jobs (fast food, mass fishing, forest-fire extinguishing, paving, etc.) by using the excuse that we must earn money to go to school.

Hello? I am the first in my entire family to attend a university; I am paying non-resident tuition (I know that is my choice); and I am paying for the bulk of my education *alone*. I must work if I want to attend college, but it absolutely does not mean that I must accept a job that will contribute to the destruction of the Earth. I would rather not work until I can find a job that is healthy (yes, I'm quite aware they are difficult to find.) However, it

is certainly not impossible. If everyone in the world used the excuse of needing money and worked in whatever job we could find, the destruction we cause would never change. I do understand that some people are limited with their skills and need to feed themselves and their families, but we are students and most of us are *not* starving. It hurts me tremendously to see that in a class where we are supposedly becoming aware of our actions and their relationship with the Earth, the real connection has not been discovered.

Lori Nelson
Undeclared

A Profit

I would like to apologize for stating that Sacred Heart Hospital is "making a killing" on dialysis treatment. My wording was grossly inappropriate for the discussion pertaining to hundreds of thousands of individuals seeking treatment by dialysis.

But I would like to "take issue" with a statement by Beverly Mayhew, at Sacred Heart, made in the ODE of May 11. She commented that "dialysis is, in fact, one of several services that the hospital provides to patients for which it receives relatively little compensation... Sacred Heart lost \$1.03 million serving dialysis patients in 1993."

I contend that Sacred Heart's dialysis treatment facility is making a positive contribution margin, but once overhead is allocated, it obviously appears that Sacred Heart's dialysis facility is a money-losing operation. Different methods of overhead allocation can have drastic impacts on the profitability of each service Sacred Heart provides. If Sacred Heart were to use an activity-based costing allocation method, allocating overhead on the basis of labor, equipment use, spatial use, etc., Sacred Heart's dialysis facility would show a profit. If Beverly Mayhew could send me the financial breakdown and ratios depicting the

dialysis facility's operation costs and profits along with its net market contribution figures to P.O. Box 24233, Eugene, OR, 97402. I would be happy to discuss this issue further.

As it stands, Sacred Heart is making a substantial profit on its dialysis operations but when it uses erroneous overhead allocation procedures, it often depicts different scenarios.

Michael Jette
Donors for Life

Rude habit

I think it is very inconsiderate of those of you who choose to smoke in the doorways of the buildings that everyone must enter in order to attend classes. While you are congregating in the doorways, you are creating mass amounts of unwanted smoke that is endured by all of us who don't want to be subject to this stale smell. I am not alone when I say it is very rude to expose those of us who don't smoke to this nasty odor. And, how frustrating it is to be walking to your classes in the heavy stream of people when someone stops just in front of you to light their cigarette, producing a cloud of smoke that you are forced to breathe.

Smokers also have the habit of throwing their cigarettes on the ground instead of in the garbage. This is littering! I have heard many people say that cigarette butts are biodegradable, and it is therefore OK to throw them on the ground. But this isn't a valid argument, because everything is biodegradable after a certain length of time. I think there should be fines for everyone breaking this law. It is very ugly to see cigarette butts all over the ground. It is tolerable when one is a considerate smoker, but becomes a rude habit when you are subjecting others to the product of that habit without their consent. After all, it is subjectation that causes the objection.

Michelle Reyna
Pre-Business Administration

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