

Unabomber's manifesto may explode on media

■ **OUR OPINION:** The promises of a terrorist should not be believed

For nearly two decades the Unabomber has stalked, murdered or seriously injured his victims through the postal system. He has also remained silent while evading and perplexing investigators for the past 17 years.

Suddenly, after taking the life of his latest victim in April, the Unabomber all but shut down busy Los Angeles International Airport with a written bomb threat early in July. It was his version of a joke, but the ensuing media blitz was enough to shame a Fortune 500 public relations firm or ad agency.

The new controversy is over the Unabomber's sudden desire to stroke his ego by seeing his views printed in *The Washington Post* and

The New York Times via a 35,000 word self-styled manifesto. The Unabomber says he will stop killing if this document is printed. The issue is whether the media should cooperate with a terrorist — and whether the man can be trusted.

The answer to both questions is no. The media should not let a murderer coerce them into voicing his ideology. An individual who kills people and ruins the lives of others cannot be trusted to "keep his word."

We are not dealing with a rational person here. We are dealing with a clever but sick individual who needs to be stopped. Until the killer is caught, authorities and editors should continue to keep him in the headlines — anything to make him feel powerful. Then maybe he'll get careless and give himself away.

Increase in teen smoking not caused by ignorance

■ **OUR OPINION:** Young smokers know the risks; they just don't care

A recent survey by the American Lung Association shows a 10-year high in the number of teenage smokers; 31.2 percent of high school teenagers admitted to smoking cigarettes in a one-month period.

Anti-smoking advocates are calling for stricter regulation of the product, a ban on unattended vending machines, a reduction in the number of smoking ads directed at teens and larger warning labels to combat the increase.

While all of the proposed regulations may help reduce the number of teenage smokers slightly, it misses the larger question of why teenagers are taking up the habit in the first place.

All teenage smokers know

that cigarettes cause cancer. They live in a nation of non-smoking offices, airports and restaurants. Their parents are less likely to smoke than any generation of parents before them. Will any of the new regulations keep them from lighting up? Probably not. Teens smoke for reasons that cannot be legislatively removed.

They smoke because it is rebellious. They smoke because they feel invincible, but they also smoke because they see a world of violence, drug abuse and absentee parents — a world where they think they are more likely to be shot or get AIDS than die of cancer. They rationalize that in the face of all that, what difference will a little nicotine make? The solution to teen smoking, then, lies in showing America's youth what they have to live for, not what can kill them.



LETTERS

Reanalogize

I'd like to respond to the letter submitted by James L. Bumpas (*ODE*, July 25). Beside the fact that he is poorly informed about Bosnia-Herzegovina, his "Oregon analogy" makes me feel that he tries to obscure the core of the problem.

First of all, it was not Muslims, but all of the Bosnians (Muslims, Croats, Serbs and all others) who decided to secede from Yugoslavia. It was the Serbian nationalists (different from the Serbs who are loyal to Bosnia) who started to prepare for the destruction of Bosnia well before Bosnia's bid for independence. Bosnia is different from Yugoslavia. Yugoslavia was indeed an artificial creation by the major powers in the West. However, Bosnia has been its own distinct historical and political entity since medieval times.

Secondly, it is true that atrocities have been committed by both sides. But he misses the point. The Serbian offensive was not a result of a spontaneous explosion of intercommunal hatred, but rather a well-coordinated, well-planned ethnic cleansing by Serbian politicians, intellectuals and the mass media in both Bosnia and Serbia. Atrocities on non-Muslims have been done by Muslim extremist units who have always been disciplined or at least condemned by the Bosnia government. The Bosnia government, representing all sides, followed every suggestion that the international community proposed before its independence. Does Mr. Bumpas know that the Bosnia President Alija Izetbegovic, a devout Muslim committed to multiculturalism, proposed the plan to preserve Yugoslavia when Croatia and Slovenia intended to secede from Yugoslavia? It was the Serbian nationalists, with an insensitive, nationalistic policy of the Croatian government, who caused the disintegration of Yugoslavia.

There is a dangerous implication in Mr. Bumpas' analogy, because he portrays that the

"Muslim" government selfishly sought independence, disregarding a will of the Serbs. Well, there is "another" way to look at Bosnia. Let's regard the Serbian nationalists in Bosnia as separatist Oregonians. That clearly explains the situation in Bosnia. Like A.M. Rosenthal and Alexander Cockburn, his analysis only gives a wrong impression about Bosnia to readers. Certainly, oil politics is involved. The Serbian leaders and army officials knew that the West could care less about Bosnia or Croatia than Kuwait after analyzing the Gulf War in 1991.

Shin Yasui
Committee for World Peace

Farm Aid

When I was a boy growing up in Texas, I was told that farmers were the backbone of our community. The theory was, if the farms were doing well, the schools, businesses and churches in rural towns would do well, too.

In the '80s, rural America's backbone was broken. Farmers were hit with an economic crisis that caught the attention of the entire nation. It seemed like every nightly news report brought new images of devastated families watching their precious farms being sold piece by piece on the auction block.

In 1985, when we organized the first Farm Aid concert, we never imagined that we would still be around 10 years later. The artists and farmers involved in putting together that show honestly believed that if enough people were made aware of the difficulties facing rural America, the problem would be solved.

But it wasn't solved. In fact, the family farm crisis is more serious today than it was a decade ago. True, farm auctions and foreclosures no longer end up on the front page or the evening news. But, while many view this as a sign that the farm crisis is over, the fact is, the dilemma in rural America is less

evident today because there are so few farmers left to tell their stories. Just last year, the Census Bureau announced that they would no longer include farmers as a category in the census, because farmers now make up less than two percent of the population.

Since 1980, nearly 400,000 family farmers have lost their land, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Every week, more than 500 farmers are still going out of business. That's 70 every day.

It's no wonder that young people are moving out of rural areas to find opportunities in the cities. This shortage of young people entering farming could create an even bigger crisis in the next 10 years as a whole generation of farmers reaches retirement age.

The reason so many of them are going out of business is very simple — farmers are paid less for their crops today than they were 10 years ago.

With every family we lose, another piece of America's heritage is lost. Now is the time for the 98 percent of us who depend on farmers for our food and clothing to do what we can to help families stay on the land. Call your representatives and make sure they support farm policies that ensure increased income for family farmers and increased opportunities for young farmers.

Willie Nelson
Singer, songwriter

LETTERS POLICY

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.

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