



Access World News

Northwest Voices - A sampling of readers' letters, faxes, and e-mails**Seattle Times, The (WA) - Wednesday, April 25, 2001**

Displaced boats

Allow yachts to moor but with the following Port provisions

Editor, The Times:

After reading the article on the debate over whether to allow yachts to dock at Fishermen's Terminal, it seems evident to me there is a need to bring in more income to support the Port, and there is plenty of room available that is not being used by the fishing vessels ("Fishermen ready to fight for territory," Times, April 21).

However, I can understand the concerns voiced by the fishermen, especially given recent development trends in Seattle, which have already altered the personalities of too many of our neighborhoods, while driving out many long-term residents who could no longer afford to live there.

I think the Port of Seattle's proposal could work if it were to be modified: Allow the yachts to moor, but only if the Port directs a percentage of that income to assist with the badly needed repairs of qualifying small fishing vessels that already use the Port. I think this arrangement could benefit both sides, and might ease the understandable suspicions and fears of the fishermen. It could help them to prosper alongside the yachts, rather than being displaced by them.

Seattle needs to start making commitments to protect those residents and small businesses which already inhabit an area, while allowing growth that is beneficial to all of us, not just those who can afford it.

Veronica Kavanagh, Seattle

Affluent elbow in

As the head of an organization that has not always agreed with commercial fishing industry, I want to voice my concern about the Port of Seattle's proposal to open Fishermen's Terminal to pleasure boats. Commercial fishers are being squeezed by a growing list of problems. Overfishing and habitat damage from trawling are problems the industry has brought upon itself. But dams, habitat damage from logging, climate change, nutrient pollution and urban sprawl are caused by forces beyond the fishing community's control.

Increasing demand for pleasure boat moorage is a sign of our growing affluence and leisure in Seattle and nationwide, but is yet one more threat to commercial fishers whose work is already dangerous and economically chancy enough.

If we want wild salmon and albacore in our restaurants and markets, we need to safeguard both our fish and our fishers.

Elliott Norse, president, Marine Conservation Biology Institute , Redmond

Drug war victims

Human rights violated

Your story "U.S. plane aided Peru jets' attack on missionaries" caught my attention (Times, April 22). I am left with a big question, the possible answers to which are unsavory.

If the practice of shooting down unarmed civilian planes was deemed a violation of international and U.S. law

by the Justice Department and the Pentagon, why are we still killing people?

Is it because we don't mind if innocent Peruvians are killed? President Bush is "upset by the fact that two American citizens lost their lives." Obviously, previous executions by fighter jets in Peru and who knows what other countries have been acceptable, as long as the untried suspects were not American.

Is it because the United States feels it can abrogate international treaties at will, especially when teamed with questionably democratic regimes that will play along for a few billion in aid?

Or is it because the war on drugs has never been effective? And the authorities who are frustrated by fighting and losing for so many years have shown a steadily increasing trend toward violation of human rights in the name of this "war"? If this is a war, shouldn't Bush just shake his head and regret the "collateral damage" and keep the shootings going?

Lucky for us the Chinese didn't say they thought our spy plane was a drug-runner. Then they could have just shot it down without all the fuss.

Brooke Shenfield , Renton

Why not target users?

I am troubled and disturbed by the death of Veronica and Charity Bowers in Peru. Why is the war on drugs a war on people? This incident is a tragedy because the Bowers are clearly innocent. What if, however, they had been trafficking drugs? Would that have been justification for their death?

Until we in the United States are willing to give the death penalty to the users of drugs, we cannot take the lives of the suppliers of drugs. To kill the South Americans who manufacture drugs while allowing the users to live is nothing more than a racial prejudice against those of another land. Furthermore, drug policies should be aimed at helping people, not hurting them. Success in the campaign against drugs will arise from people understanding how drugs get in the way of their goals, and choosing to not partake of them.

The tobacco and liquor cartels operate in countries all over the world; how can we push such harmful drugs as these in other countries and at the same time make such aggressive and violent actions against the native cartels operating within other countries' borders?

Ryan Murray , Bellevue

Right to life

No way to judge value

While reading "Boy wins D.C. trip for letter," I was appalled (Times, April 23). I also had a severely disabled brother; he was both injured and died through medical error. Our family was having money problems as well.

Conditions are not the major factor in someone's quality of life. Many disabled people can teach us important things; many healthy people kill each other and themselves. While he was on this Earth, this little angel worked twice as hard as anyone else and never complained. There is no way for you to judge the value of someone else's life; by saying that people have this right over others, you are giving them a responsibility no one is fully equipped for.

In addition to the moral aspect, abortions benefit neither the mothers, fathers, nor potential children of these unions. Countless women have been disillusioned and psychologically damaged going through the procedure. The main point is that abortion is wrong. No one has the right to end a life they have begun.

Rachel Woodbrook , Brier

State of the State

Salary, \$1 per year

I don't feel a shred of sympathy for the state legislators and their self-created budget crisis. We're more than

prosperous enough to meet our legitimate obligations. But they foisted two sports stadiums on us that draw away billions in tax revenues and stimulated a backlash against new taxes. It's their problem, let them pay.

Solutions: Slash the salaries of the legislators and other public officials who voted for or supported the stadiums to \$1 a year. If we're lucky, maybe they'll leave politics for good;

Tax all incomes derived from professional sports in this state at 99.99 percent--visiting teams included. Again, if we're lucky, they'll leave the state.

Will that bring in enough money to pay our state workers properly? Probably not. But it will punish those who're responsible for this mess.

Mike Perry, Seattle

Litter we can't see

Irony we don't get

Stop the presses! Stop!!

My hat is off to the courageous Seattle Times for telling us all of the threat carbon dioxide poses. To really show what courage you have, stop the presses and show us the way. Be the first to dismantle those mammoth printing presses that use so much electric power and contribute mightily to the carbon dioxide problem.

Show us the way! Be the first! Go back to printing the paper with hand presses. This may cause the paper to be smaller and eliminate the need for science writers. But no problem, they could be usefully employed in the hand-printing department which will require a larger staff.

Jerome Stipanov , Poulsbo

Edition: Fourth

Section: Opinion

Page: B7

Column: Northwest Voices

Index Terms: Letter, Op-Ed

Record Number: TT7U43ID0

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