

If Canada's number one, what does that make the US?

Look at 'em. Day after day they mock us from above with their clean, drinkable water and their good beer and their high taxes and their passion for hockey. Insulting our intelligence, ending each sentence with "eh?"

I can remember the days when, if the wind off Lake Michigan was just right, that vile stench that is their country would make its way over, causing you to be sick to your stomach.

You know who I am talking about; those filthy, dirty, bottom-feeding Canadians.

The United Nations Human Development Report consistently says that the quality of life there makes Canada the best country in the world in which to live.

As a red-blooded American patriot, I have a little problem with that. How can one bestow such an honor upon a country that drinks homogenized milk, celebrates Thanksgiving in October with no mention of pilgrims whatsoever, has the beaver as its national animal and has more trees than skyscrapers?

Who the hell wants to live in a small-town atmosphere? Not I, and I doubt anyone else either.

Give me the clutter and pollution and commotion that is America any day. For some reason, some uneducated people seem to think that just because Canada is a land of opportunity,

a land nearly free from social discrimination, and a land of peace, order and stability, that makes it a better place to live than the 'ol U.S. of A.

Ridiculous. You can take all that and shove it in your French-Canadian arse, because we have two things down here that they don't have: Guns and Greed.

That's right, America's foundations and traditions derive from killing people and making money, and no Canadian is going to take them away from us.

Our cocky neighbors to the north are consistently shoving their failed social projects in our face. Universal health care? What is the deal with that? I wonder if they realize how expensive it is to supply cradle-to-grave health care.

Never mind that Canada has one of the most efficient health care systems in the world, the real question is — How are pharmaceutical companies going to make any money with universal health care? I'd rather have the most incompetent health care system in the civilized world than spend all that money. They obviously haven't done their research.

Another plan gone wrong is their education system, which offers free tuition to most students throughout college. That wee, little, poor excuse for a North American country spends more money on education each year than the United States.

And those inane Canadians have virtually no military budget. They obviously haven't been paying attention to America. Sure, the Cold War is over, communism is all but dead, and there is peace and cooperation between the East and West, but there has got to be some nation out there worth inflating their military for.

We do it, and we are America which makes us right. Peace and coexistence are not viable reasons to take money away from the military and give it to the people through social programs. Where's the testosterone?

Canada is not all it is cracked up to be. I seriously think America is getting the shaft here.

We are obviously the country to beat, and no one comes close to us in any category. The systems in Canada really don't make any sense. They claim to be a "Modern, Progressive Political System," but have you ever heard of a political system with more than two major political parties? Your beloved Canada does, they have close to five. Plus, their constitution evolves as its society does.

If that was the case here, we might lose our guns, and we all know what happens when we lose our guns. Canada invades and overtakes the United States.

Canada is a land of high taxes, a living wage and big government spending. That should be

looked down upon.

Can you imagine? A government of, by and for the people? Preposterous.

You can't make money in this globalized world today being environmentally responsible and respectful of diversity and universal human rights.

Having an open mind and instilling it in government actions is not a smart way to run a country.

Canadians consume more Kraft Macaroni & Cheese per capita than any other nationality on Earth. That is the kind of things people need to look at.

Look past the beautiful landscapes and vast wildlife and seemingly equal opportunity, and what do you see? Policemen on horses and fishing. All things need to be put into account, and if that happened, America would come out on top any time, any place.

We would have to, right? I mean, we win more medals, we have more commercials, we have bigger buildings and we have more guns and nuclear weapons.

That means we are the greatest. It has to. Canada #1, what a joke.

Tim Paluch

Iowa State Daily (Iowa State U.)

Lennon's killer will never be free

"I'm lucky to be alive. You know I deserve to die." Recent statements from Mark David Chapman, at his first parole board hearing.

Chapman, who was denied parole after a 50-minute interview session, is the convicted assassin of music legend John Lennon — who was shot outside his Manhattan apartment in December 1980. Chapman has never been able to fully explain his decision to kill Lennon, but admits he was obsessed with the Beatles and was suicidal up to the point of the murder.

The first question is why Chapman was granted the privilege of a possible release. State law in New York deems an individual eligible for parole after serving 20 years of a life sentence. Nevertheless, this arbitrary time period should not be extended to Chapman or any other convicted murderer. Victims are not given a hearing for reincarnation after a 20-year absence from life.

Furthermore, out of respect for the families and friends of a victim, parole should not even

be an option for sentenced killers. The pain that a survivor must endure must not be overshadowed — even if the killer appears to be rehabilitated. Forgiveness is to be preserved for a higher power, rather than a state government.

Yoko Ono, Lennon's widow, has contacted the New York Board of Parole expressing fear for her life, as well as for Lennon's two sons.

Last year, George Harrison, Lennon's band mate, was attacked at his home in England. Bringing us to the next issue surrounding Chapman's denied parole.

Pop culture around the world has elevated celebrities to an unhealthy plateau.

When Lennon was killed, a collection of devout fans mourned the loss to both the world and to music. While it is easy to compare ourselves to celebrities, it is unfair and harmful to publicize their private lives for our own amusement and fascination.

Lennon was outspoken and frequently

taken out of context in his public statements and through the music of the Beatles. Consequently, he simultaneously established himself as an icon for a tumultuous era and as a scapegoat for a generation passed who failed to understand his vision and clarity. Lennon chose to represent segmentations of our population that were counter to popular beliefs. Irony deemed that he was killed by an individual seeking publicity rather than someone who disagreed politically with Lennon.

Lastly, Chapman's statement included his belief that Lennon would be liberal about (Chapman's) request for freedom. Stating, "I think he would probably want to see me released." Lennon was often unpredictable, but rarely foolish in his actions. Chapman will certainly finish his sentence within the walls of his New York cell.

Wes Malaby

Daily O'Collegian (Oklahoma State U.)

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Too many people take education for granted

I think way too many people take education for granted. I see people who show up for class, "do the time," and then the instant

they see what time it is all they can think about is whether the current sentence s/he utters before they get to bolt out of class.

I see those people more as "floaters" who are here because society (or whatever "made" them come here) expects it of them, and they do not really know what it is they want in life. Those people are always in a rush, and if you were to ask them what they are rushing to, they would probably just give you some silly reason, or if unable to give a reason on demand, would stare at you with that "deer in a headlight" look, unable to give you an answer.

I also see many people who are here so they can get a good job when they "get out." Those people really stress the "get out" part. They too, are here to "do the time," and really they are kind of like the first group in that they are anxious to get on with life. The sad thing about this group is (if I may be so bold to make this claim) that half of them are only here to get this education for two reasons: First, to pay for the loans for the education, or two, because it is expected of them to get a good, high paying, respectable job, or maybe it is a combination of both. If they happen to be in a degree program which actually makes them happy, that is icing on their self-made cake. (And I speak of true happiness, not some contrived happiness they tell themselves to feel content and justified for taking the degree).

By all means this does not encompass all the types of people who are taking classes in university, but I

You know what I THINK ?

think these two groups are the kind of people who predominately make up the people who do not appreciate their education.

I think that people coming to university should not have an idea of what they want to be when they get here, instead, I think they should all come here with the expectation of finding out just what kind of person they really are. This means they will "waste" time for sure but it also means they will be taking classes that might not help them in the slightest with whatever course in life they decide upon.

I also happen to think this method will help some people really learn how to think for themselves, it will also help people discover who they really are, and not what people tell them they think they should be.

At first, education should be there to help you learn how to learn, how to see the world, and how to not take everything at face value. Everything you need in life will not be in a book, nor will it be in what your professors tell you. For most people, you will not even come close to seeing everything in life (and to those who claim they have seen everything life has to offer, they are probably the people who are most in need of a good education). If we just stop to think a few minutes a day, and contemplate the reasons we are doing what we are doing, I am sure in the long run, the dividends that will come of those few minutes of thought will pay off in a better life rather than trying to rush right through university. (I also think there should be an age limit on people coming to university ... but that is another rant for another time).

And that is what I think.

• James Ryan

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