



## Letters: Ray Bradbury understood human nature

Your piece about [Ray Bradbury](#)'s career was much appreciated, but I would encourage the writer to read *Fahrenheit 451* if he thinks, "Like most science fiction writers, most of what Bradbury predicted failed to come to pass" ("[Ray Bradbury brought literary respect to science fiction](#)").

1997 AP by Steve Castillo

Ray Bradbury

*Fahrenheit's* central premise is that books initially fall out of favor because people stop reading. Books, and the ideas within, are too challenging to digest, and they're replaced by screens containing "families" of strangers and ridiculous characters doing entertaining but ultimately meaningless stuff. It sounds a lot like reality TV to me.

Bradbury's understanding of human behavior was more important than the specifics of his predictive accuracy. It doesn't matter whether the conflicts happened on Mars or Earth, in the present or some unidentified future. He understood the human tendency to repeat mistakes and misjudgments no matter the era or location.

Mark DiPietro; Keene, N.H.

**Stand-your-ground laws needed**

As an owner of a firearms training company in a stand-your-ground state, we teach the principles of this law ("[Officials plan to take closer look at stand-your-ground laws](#)").

In many states allowing concealed carrying of weapons, one can use deadly force only if the perpetrator crosses distinct lines of aggression, in which the victim is clearly presented with the proximate risk of serious bodily harm or death. Then and only then is the victim justified in using deadly force in return.

Stand-your-ground laws remove the victim's obligation to retreat if he or she is not the aggressor and is in a place where he or she has the right to be. Without stand-your-ground laws, the advantage goes to the criminals who, knowing you can't defend yourself with deadly force unless you have no other option, can simply intimidate you to retreat until they obtain what they want, perhaps your valuables or your vehicle. Without stand-your-ground laws, criminals can control the public spaces.

If these laws are abused, it is because grand juries, courtroom juries or inadequate instruction from judges allow that abuse to happen.

Brian Wilson; Atlanta

### [Rand Paul view refreshing](#)

I had the privilege of hearing Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., speak last month at the Cato Institute in Washington, [D.C.](#), and his refreshing message published in The Forum on Thursday matched that event ("[Wis. message: Deliver reform, voters will follow](#)").

He is relatively young, affable and reflects a positive mood young people want and need to see in their leaders. He gives them credit for being politically astute and independent thinkers.

While I was one of the few old people in the audience, and a former union member when working, I applauded when he said that union bosses wield too much control over their members, and that it is not always in best interest of members to totally heed those bosses' edicts.

Keep highlighting Paul's take on the issues. He has a future on the national scene, and we need to hear his confidence in this electorate's decision-making ability.

Kathy Megyeri; Washington, D.C.