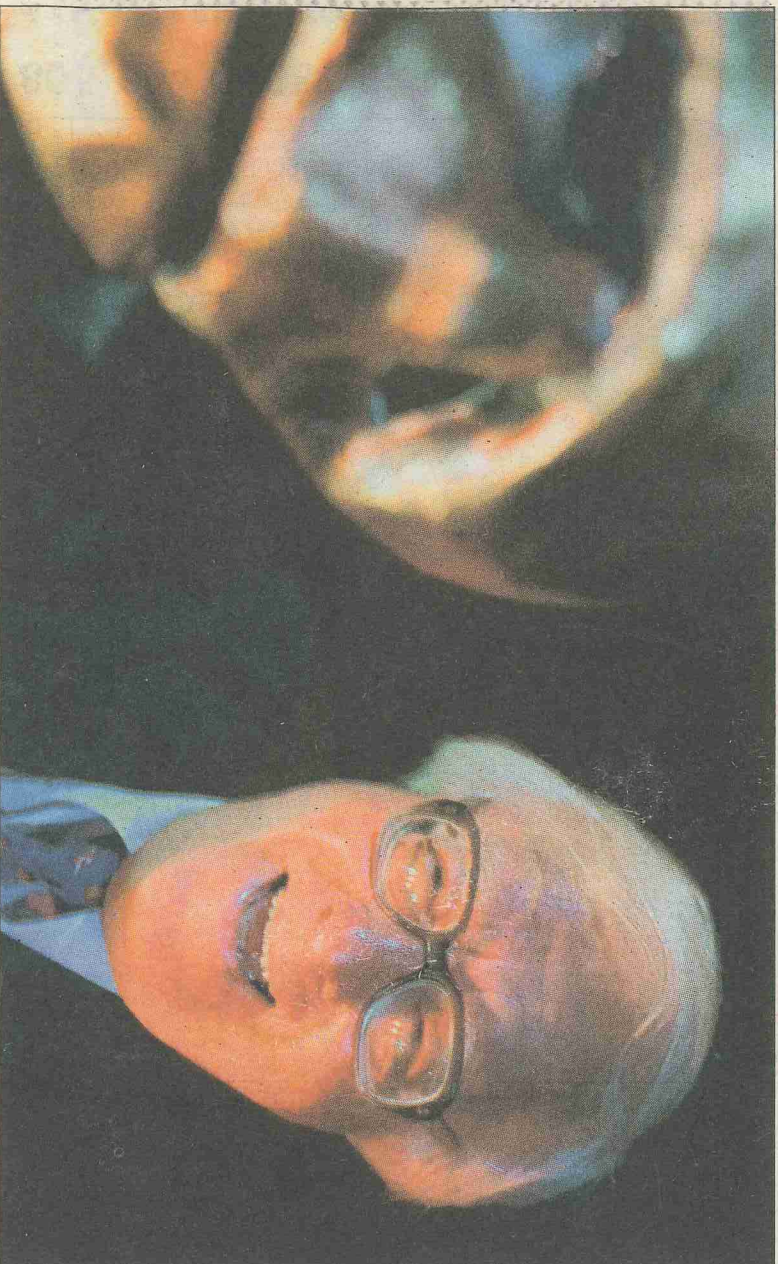


# OPINION

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**LETTERS**

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PAUL MORSE Los Angeles Times

**AUTHOR** Ray Bradbury (with a mask from one of his plays) was popular with generations of readers.

## Master of his craft

Re "Champion of fantasy," Obituary, June 7

As a humanities teacher in Culver City, I've found Ray Bradbury's novel, "Fahrenheit 451," to be the book that my eighth-grade students connect with the most. On Tuesday, the day Bradbury died, my students hosted a screening of their film adaptation of "Fahrenheit 451."

Students edited their scenes into a 27-minute film about censorship-enforcing, book-burning firefighters. Preserving the right to freedom of expression matters as much to teenagers in 2012 as it did to Bradbury.

Yet our film had limits. Students could neither start fires nor spend money. This led to a great deal of resourcefulness and creativity for the first scene, which depicts the firefighters invading a person's home. As the actors uncovered books to the blasting music of the Black Keys, the books were burned utilizing special effects.

Earlier this year, one of my students discovered Bradbury lived less than two miles from our school. For a group of students who embrace e-books while still valuing physical books, they are old enough to understand the irony of Amazon naming its e-readers the Kindle and the Fire. By making this film, my students were maintaining their freedom during the Digital Age. This is their lasting tribute to Bradbury.

ALEX CUSSEN, Los Angeles