

# Letters

## Examine polls

A couple of years ago, I received some literature from a group that defends abortion. I found one brochure, a poll on public opinion concerning abortion, quite fascinating. I actually discovered that since I felt abortion was justified if the mother's life was in danger, I "strongly" supported legalized abortion. Huh?

This national group combined those who supported legalized abortion (whatever the circumstance) and those who could think of a situation where it might be justified into the "strongly" supportive category. Using this tactic, the brochure claimed over 80 percent of Americans were "pro-choice" (support abortion on demand).

Given three choices in which you could basically only answer as never allowing abortion, sometimes allowing it or always allowing it, I would have answered in the sometimes category if they had contacted me. But how honest is it to claim that over 80 percent of the people support your agenda if you only allow such a narrow choice and then lump the largest category (sometimes) with the abortion-endemanders? Such tactics make it necessary to examine surveys in detail.

In his book "Aborting America," former abortion-rights advocate Bernard Nathanson devotes considerable attention to analyzing surveys on abortion, including Gallup polls. In these polls, and most I've ever seen, the majority of people are not supportive of the agenda of the "pro-choice" movement.

Michael Cross  
Senior, Political  
Science/History

## Terrible trust

Bravo Emerald! Your editorial Feb. 11 was right on mark when it said, "Seemingly progressive forces resort to excluding groups they oppose with disturbing ease."

The ballyhoo of the progressive left on campus has become, "You can't hide behind the First Amendment!" Politically incorrect forces such as ROTC, the CIA, and even the *Commentator* and the *Emerald*, have felt the brunt of this argument. Supposedly, if a group is "wrong," it cannot excuse itself by claiming its civil rights under the First Amendment.

I'm sorry, folks, but that's exactly what the First Amendment is for. Telling ROTC it can't

hide behind the First Amendment is shockingly similar to white Southerners telling blacks they couldn't hide behind the phrase, "All men are created equal."

However, since I am a conservative and a demon, I would love to see the left chase ROTC and the CIA off campus, setting a precedent for exclusionism and moral purity. Sooner or later, my kin, the far right, will come to power, and we can use that precedent to establish our own version of moral purity. We are all comrades of the devil in this sense.

It's a terrible trust to expect individuals to make up their own minds when faced with temptation such as ROTC or the CIA on campus. But it's a terrible trust we must endure in a democracy.

If it's not a democracy we want, well, hell, that's fine with me too (peals of evil laughter).

Rob Young  
Senior

## Bored to tears

Comrade Sacks:  
YOUR STAY IN THE UNITED STATES MUST BE PREMATURELY TERMINATED — STOP. YOUR UNIQUE STATISTIC INTERPRETATION ABILITIES ARE REQUIRED ON OTHER PROPAGANDA FRONTS — STOP. THE KREMLIN REQUIRES YOU TO CANCEL THE CUBA PLANS AND PROCEED DIRECTLY TO MOSCOW — STOP.

Glen, even articulate, well-constructed arguments become bland, washed-out and tiresome after the seventh or eighth presentation. Yours brought tears of boredom to my eyes on the second reading.

If you feel compelled to share your unsolicited perceptions of world politics, please show some compassion for the intellect of your audience, and spice it up a bit.

Alex Gardner  
Student

## Morals dictated

During the past few weeks, I have watched the abortion debate with my usual fascination. And I must admit that I never cease to be amazed and irritated by the semantic legerdemain the "pro-choice" folks use to gussy up what is a rather grim and nasty business — killing unborn children by dismemberment.

Yet there is one argument that is so unthinking, so extraordinarily diddle-headed, that it never fails to get my dander up. That argument is a variation of,

"You can't legislate morality."

Oh yes, you can. We do it all the time. If students learn nothing else about law before they leave this university, they should learn this:

Law is legislated morality. For the hard of hearing, I repeat, law is legislated morality! Think about it.

What are laws but *commandments*, a series of "Thou shalt's" and "Thou shalt not's"?

Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not bear false witness. Thou shalt not beat thy wife. Thou shalt not employ children in pornographic enterprises. Thou shalt not get liquored-up and drive backward down the freeway. Thou shalt not discriminate. Thou shalt give X percent of thy income to care for the poor and needy. (I call this *compulsory charity*; a contradiction in terms, admittedly, but true nonetheless).

The question, then, is not "Shall we legislate morality?" Rather, it is "Whose morality shall we legislate?"

Tom Visoky  
Journalism

## Unfair attention

In reference to Gary Paquin's letters (Feb. 10) about fraternity rape: I'm sure the fraternity system would agree with me when I say that I'm sick and tired of reading about such issues that make it look as if rape only happens at fraternities.

Granted, I've heard of such unfortunate incidents that have happened at certain fraternity houses. But have you ever heard of it happening at private homes, apartments or the dorms? Most people have. I've lived in the dorms for two years and YES, it does occur there too.

Why then is it that the fraternities are always singled out from these other entities and accused? I believe the reason for the constant abuse is that we are in the social eye more than any other organization. This is your definition of "bullshit," Mr. Paquin.

All that I am saying is that I'm so tired of the fraternity system being singled out and blamed for such occurrences when they also occur elsewhere. If something is to be done about this "problem," it should be on a campuswide basis, NOT JUST TO THE FRATERNITY SYSTEM.

Mark W. Olenivich  
Physics

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