

Letters

Homosexuality

Two recent letters to the Emerald require response.

First, Mr. Botta's attempt to characterize people opposed to homosexuality as "Nazi-like" is strange indeed. After all, in the early 1930s homosexual organizations in Germany were staunch supporters of the Nazi agenda, and many homosexuals held high office in the Hitler regime. In fact, Berlin had a reputation similar to today's San Francisco until purges within the party occurred later on.

Also, are people on earth today who oppose homosexuality really closet-Nazis?

Also, Botta, is it an act of "charity" to defend lifestyles harmful to individuals and society? Well, how about defending alcoholism, drug abuse or other counter-productive habits?

Second, as for Mr. Menlow's letter, I hate to respond to attacks weak in factual substantiation and strong in insults. Mr. Menlow accuses me of being "ignorant". Well, my information is based on extremely reliable sources — including medical publications. Where do you get your information, Mr. Menlow?

I would also add that I'd be more than willing to arrange a public debate with any individual or group which takes issue with my information or suggestions to combat the AIDS epidemic. I wonder, would those so willing to rely on nasty personal attacks, rather than substance, be willing to test their "knowledge" on this issue in a public setting?

Michael Cross
Graduate
Political Science/History

Secret plan

To the Oregon Commentator, in response to your new help wanted ad: I withdraw my employment application. What a bunch of spineless jellyfish! I thought you were tough! I thought you *really* wanted to kick butt! I thought you stood for what America is supposed to be!

What do you mean "women and minorities encouraged to apply"? How can you change your whole philosophy so easily? You don't expect me, an all-American white Republican Christian man to actually work with those people do you?

Did they threaten you? Did they threaten to take your money away? I bet they did.

I know, let's pretend to go along. Yeah, that's it, pretend to want anyone to apply, but don't actually hire any of them. We'll fool them.

Now that I know the plan, I'll reconsider the job. Boy, are they dumb!

Signed, John Doe Smith.

Lisa A. Wilson
Health Education

Arab and Jew

"A definite factor in getting a lie believed is the size of the lie. A broad mass of the people, in the simplicity of their hearts, more easily fall victim to a big lie than a small one."

In his letter (ODE 5-15) Eman AL-shemmari certainly makes use of Hitler's philosophy. AL-shemmari claims that Hitler's Oregon Daily Emerald

cruelty taught the Jews to be crueler. He says that in Israel (if AL-shemmari is a true believer in Palestinian rights he would not have written Israel, but instead Palestine) Arabs are not considered humans.

I could write about what he claims in his letter to be misinterpretation of fact and try to show the truth, but it would be pointless. Obvious what AL-shemmari says is a fabrication of an extreme anti-Semite. Having lived in Israel I can truthfully admit that, yes, there is discrimination against Arabs. Jews who live in Arab countries are treated much worse.

The discrimination that exists in Israel between people is the same that exists throughout every country in the world. Why single Israel out?

All I can hope is that AL-shemmari's opinion isn't an indication of current feeling among the rational and intellectual thinkers of our day.

Sarah Ellis
Education

Gutless Board

I had planned writing a letter thanking and praising the Emerald Board on making a wise, difficult choice by naming Paul Sturtz as next year's editor. Now I am writing in disgust that Michelle Brence has succeeded in stealing Paul's job by stamping around whining and moaning until the Board gave her the job to shut her up.

Paul Sturtz is better-qualified. Paul's imagination and freshness would have brought the Emerald much-needed change that Michelle cannot. In addition to putting in his time at the Emerald, Paul worked as an intern for Mother Jones and worked on a local music magazine.

Michelle has worked nowhere but the Emerald. While editorial editor, she wrote an editorial so lacking common sense that even Newsweek on Campus noted its stupidity.

Initially the Board had the good sense to try to reverse the two-year decline of a once fine newspaper. But Michelle was sure that because her mentor, Julie Shippen, was grooming her for the job, that it was hers. Michelle was so shocked by not getting the editorship, that she sank to running around and screaming false cries of "Discrimination! Discrimination!" The Board, in the most gutless decision of the year, didn't have the backbone to stand by what it knew was right, and told Paul he was fired.

I feel outraged for Paul and embarrassed for Michelle and the Emerald Board. But mostly, I feel sorry for those of us who have to read the Emerald next year.

Jeff Morgan
Journalism

Restroom sex

The public restrooms on this campus were designed specifically to allow students to relieve themselves. The other day in the second floor EMU men's room there were two pair of feet in one of the stalls, obviously there for some other form of relief. I will assume that

since the label on the outside of the door said "men" that they were indeed of male gender.

Personally, I don't care what homosexuals do. However, I find it quite revolting when I am exposed to these activities in a public restroom.

I never bring my dates to the EMU bathrooms and I don't like seeing others' dates there. I must admit that this experience did eliminate the need to urinate with lightning speed and explained some of the anti-homosexual sentiment on campus.

Mark Beach
Contented Heterosexual Student

Sexist Saferide

In his zeal to logically analyze my letter concerning the Saferide Shuttle, Andrew Siegel has managed to construe a good deal, while blithely missing the whole point.

If he would familiarize himself with current anti-discrimination laws, he would discover that state funds may not be used to provide a service that excludes any group because of race, religion, age or gender. As the University is a state institution, money paid to it by the students becomes a part of the state's funds. The exclusion of men from the shuttle, which is supported by University funds, is unjust on both sexist and legal grounds.

Concerning his counter-examples to my "equity formula" (which offered only one of many possible solutions), Mr. Siegel is apparently unfamiliar with the term "comparable", as in "comparable worth" or "comparable services." The Student Health Center provides gynecological care for women and comparable health care for men. And if the University financially sponsors an anti-castration workshop, it will indeed by law have to allow women to attend.

If Mr. Siegel is truly concerned with logic, he'd best take care that his analogies are germane to the issue at hand, lest

he find himself accused of "absurd logic."

Hiawatha
Graduate, Music

Israeli Arabs

It's hard to imagine what, if any, facts Mr. AL-shemarri has used in the picture he creates of the condition of Arabs in Israel today. He mentions "Jewish" prisons and death camps.

Israeli, which is what I assume he means by Jewish, prisons are populated by Jews and Arabs alike who have been convicted of breaking Israeli law. The term death camps is possibly in reference to the Palestinian refugee camps created by Syria and Jordan in 1948. It would be hard to find a way to blame the Jews for this.

Mr. AL-shemarri asks: "how would you feel watching your kids get killed, everything you worked for destroyed, houses bulldozed, farms burned, elderly people killed, no right to speak, to protest, curfews placed?"

He has very accurately described the situation of the Jews in pre-WWII Europe. However, he fails in his reasoning that "you would turn into a terrorist." A number of European Jews fought a heroic but losing battle against the Nazis that was in no way comparable to the terrorism of today that Mr. AL-shemarri is attempting to justify.

The Arabs in Israel today have the longest life span of any Arabs in the Middle East, the lowest infant mortality rates and the highest and most extensive system of health and education. In addition, the Arab population in Israel has increased 20 percent since 1967.

If this is the destruction of a people I, too, would like to see my people destroyed.

Elizabeth Miller
U of O

Hatred immoral

As a follower of Jesus Christ, I am convinced that the in-

finite/personal God described in the Bible exists in reality. It is his own moral character that determines the moral absolutes of the universe which he made, and these absolutes, given to us in wisdom and love, are necessary for our well-being. They are neither arbitrary nor are they optional. Ignoring them brings inevitable destructive results.

Our sexuality is designed by our Creator not only to reproduce the species, but also to permanently bond husband and wife together into a loving team, the basis of a home and family. By misusing sex and making it into a self-centered grasping after pleasure, or by indulging in promiscuity and/or homosexuality, we pollute ourselves, cheapen our relationships with others and earn God's wrath.

Following the Biblical guidelines concerning sexuality may seem prudish or repressive to some, but in the long term the effect is to build lasting, fulfilling relationships where each partner is cherished, trusted and respected rather than being used and abandoned.

I believe it is wise and right to observe the moral standards that God has given us. If, while holding these standards, I hate or treat as less than human those who do not observe them, then I am behaving immorally. All people, whether heterosexual or homosexual, have the right to be treated with respect, dignity and compassion.

Hatred and immoral sexuality will both be judged by God.

William Moore
Music School

Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style. Letters to the editor should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300, EMU.

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