

## 1866 court ruling finds breath of life

On Tuesday the Supreme Court took a major step in addressing racial discrimination and unanimously ruled to expand civil rights protections for Arabs, Jews, Hispanics and other ethnic groups.

The Court recognized an 1866 federal statute banning racial discrimination, which states "all people in the United States shall have the same rights as white people to make contracts, including employment contracts, and to inherit, purchase, lease, sell, hold and convey real and personal property."

This all should sound like a foregone conclusion, but what makes this ruling significant is that Asians, Jews, Arabs and Mexican-Americans — ethnic groups that often have fallen under the somewhat ubiquitous heading of "Caucasian" — now have a solid legal remedy when victimized by racial discrimination.

Although all ethnic groups generally are protected by other laws, in some incidences discrimination victims will have an easier time bringing their cases to court. Every ethnic group, from Armenian to Norwegian, could recover damages if they could prove they've been discriminated against on the basis of their nationality.

Hispanic-Americans and Arabs especially will benefit from the recent ruling. These two groups often bring claims to court on grounds they've been discriminated against, but they often are classified as Caucasian, and until the Court handed down Tuesday's decision, they had a hard time bringing their racial suits to trial.

The recent ruling will complement the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bans employment, housing and other forms of discrimination on grounds of race, religion, national origin or sex. The inclusion of ethnic white Americans under the umbrella of discrimination protection speaks well for America, and should help in alleviating the specter of discrimination in our society.

## For sake of convenience keep Friday beer gardens

The fact beer gardens frequently falls on Wednesdays rather than Fridays has not escaped our notice. Frankly, we don't approve of switching the date.

Linda Dievendorf, program assistant at the student activities resource office, explained that conference rooms adjacent to the Fountain Court Cafe often are needed on Fridays, hence beer gardens are moved to the middle of the week. Beer gardens also move to Wednesday every time high school students are scheduled to make Friday visits to the campus. The former reason for re-scheduling beer gardens seems, well, reasonable; the latter excuse does not.

Wednesday night is an extremely inconvenient time to drink beer. Moreover, the gist of the latter argument implies beer-drinking college students have a bad influence on high schoolers. That's fine, but those under 21-years-old are not allowed in the beer gardens anyway, so that argument is moot.

We're confident high schoolers already know we college students occasionally drink beer, so the EMU and the cultural forum should see fit to keep beer gardens on Fridays when "youngsters" visit the campus.



## Letters

### Like Hitler

I am coming to the end of several years' classwork at the University. Having been a regular and usually avid consumer of the Emerald during this time, I suppose I have only myself to blame for masochistically following the ravings of the now-old New Right.

I think the last straw was Dan Goulet's stupid equation of the jailing of 4-J teachers with Charles Manson (ODE, May 14). But Goulet's is only the recent of a long line.

Let's name the names: Jon Wollander, Michael Cross, Lori Parkman, and Goulet. These characters have accused, damned, exulted, but mostly irritated us with their agenda of what they want society to be.

They want gays expunged. They want biology to begin with Genesis and science to end with Aristotle. They want to stamp out the commies wherever they raise their godless heads.

They want their version of humanity to breed and spread over the world like a cancer. They want to outlaw every kindness legislated since FDR and subject us to the whims and mercies of Corporate Amerika (and I use the term as originally coined by Abbie Hoffman, and not that televised pablum of a few months back).

In short, Wollander, Cross,

Parkman, Goulet and Co. want to take the rich and variegated strains of America and the world and turn them into a gooey, homogenous gray mass, bleating "hallelujah" all the way to the boring, gray pastures to which the Righteous leadeth us.

Despite talk of God's love, these people hate. They hate so much they would love to see people they consider sinners languish forever in the pits of Hell. They are prejudiced, as indicated by their behavior toward other groups they see as threatening; they are bigoted.

Remember Rod Serling's statement about Hitler: "He's alive... where there's hate, where there's prejudice, where there's bigotry. He's alive because through these things, we keep him alive..." If comparisons need be made, I see one here which is closer to reality than Goulet's.

Michael E. Peterson  
Graduate  
International studies program

### Not worth it

The only threat I personally perceive from AIDS is that it's going to cost me, as a taxpayer, to research for a cure and take care of those with the AIDS virus (who probably couldn't be helped even if a vaccine were developed).

Those who can't be satisfied with one loving, caring, faithful monogamous (eternal) relationship have reason to worry, though.

Sure, AIDS doesn't discriminate; have sex with a carrier and it doesn't care if you are male, female or homosexual — it will take hold.

## Commentary Policy

The Emerald is interested in printing commentaries on topics of interest to the University community.

Commentary dealing with a subject that the author has expertise in and has researched will be given preference.

Commentaries should be 500-800 words and typed. The identification of the author will be verified when the commentary is submitted.

The Emerald reserves the right to edit any commentary for length or style. Commentaries may be submitted to the Emerald office, Suite 300 EMU.

In Africa, AIDS is at epidemic levels — and it's striking about an equal number of men and women. According to Newsweek, "Africans with AIDS had had an average of 32 sex partners." (Nov. 24, 1986).

I would hope that AIDS would cause people to avoid promiscuity like the plague (no pun intended). I would love to see AIDS go away for lack of new victims, and the only way that's going to happen is if we return to the principles of faithfulness which many in the last couple of generations have tried to ignore.

With AIDS, one can be as promiscuous as they want — but it may mean a very shortened lifespan. It's not worth it.

Julie Beam  
Springfield

### Awesome

I have but one thing to say: Mr. Dan Goulet is so f—ing awesome!

Erin O'Shea  
Pre-journalism

### Dignity

I would like to thank the co-directors and the volunteer staff of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance for making Gay and Lesbian Pride Week happen this year.

Their dedication and hard work, amid little thanks and often outright harassment, is appreciated. As do many, I applaud the celebration of diversity in the struggle for human rights and dignity for all.

Judy C. Finch  
Senior, Sociology

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