

Student not guilty of code violations

The University's get-tough policy on hate fliers posted on campus is treading a fine line on First Amendment rights.

A student is charged with unauthorized use of University and personal property for posting two fliers, one depicting a blown-up doll for women to send to their husbands and boyfriends in the Persian Gulf, and another one picturing a Patriot missile as a vibrator. Neither poster can be interpreted as a hate flier.

The problem began in January when two other fliers showed up on campus, one derogatory toward Hispanics and another derogatory toward blacks. University President Myles Brand called for an investigation to find the person(s) responsible for posting them.

The Office of Public Safety began an investigation and interviewed nearly 100 individuals on campus and in the community. No one has been charged regarding those posters.

But it appears the University wants to find someone to set an example. Because it can't find anyone responsible for hate fliers, officials nab a student whose alleged crime at worst is poor satire.

The University is grasping for proverbial straws. It appears the campus wants to show it is sincere in tracking down violators of civil rights. But the two fliers involved in the charges are not targeting a minority group.

The posters seem to be an attempt at satire, but more offensive depictions and commentaries have appeared in campus publications. But campus publications have student funding, and all have standards to protect against the printing of libelous and offensive material. If a student-funded campus publication published the Gulf satire posters, they might get hate letters and dirty looks, but would not be charged with violating the student conduct code.

The student is simply being charged with the unauthorized use of campus property. But fliers are posted all over campus advertising bands, speakers and upcoming events. No one is ever charged with misusing University property while posting advertisements. Are telephone poles and bulletin boards for the posting of only "University-sanctioned" fliers?

If the student is charged with posting fliers on campus property, then thousands of other groups and causes must be charged, also. If the student is being charged with harassment or hate material, then a clear definition of what constitutes a hate flier is needed.

The one questionable item in both posters state that order forms for the blow-up doll and the vibrator are available at the College Republicans office. This is not true.

OPS spent a lot of time pursuing and investigating those responsible for posting hate fliers. So far they have only accused a student of poor satire. And free speech.



LETTERS

Term-innate

In Dehelia McCobb's article entitled, "Pro-abortion rally planned" (ODE, May 3), she states that "pro-abortion activists from nine states will gather in Eugene this weekend for a regional conference titled 'Pro Choice Pro-Active in the 90s.'"

By calling the pro-choice movement pro-abortion, she claims that people who advocate a woman's right to make her own decisions regarding her body are somehow pro-abortion.

This is simply not true; no one is in favor of abortion, but rather, most people demand that women maintain the fundamental human right of control over their bodies and lives.

By using the term pro-abortion, McCobb must be totally unknowledgeable about the events that she reports.

In either case, it is irresponsible for the Emerald to print this headline and article as if it were unbiased news.

Shelly Wilcox
Philosophy

Editor's note: Emerald style for identifying the two factions debating the abortion issue is pro-abortion and anti-abortion. Both sides prefer to be known by other titles. However, the Emerald believes this is the fairest way to cover the issue.

from seemingly ordinary people, confronting us with images of the soul and eternity?

If our cultural assumptions are wrong, then we could be wreaking enormous havoc upon our species by following these to their logical ends. It would seem just as arguable to pose that men and women are two equal parts of a whole (as they are quite literally biologically) and deserve to be treated as such, with equal part dignity and compassion.

I don't mean to suggest that misogyny doesn't exist, doesn't affect women, isn't mainly perpetrated by men or doesn't need to be combatted. The question that must be addressed is this: Do we stop war by waging war? An eye for an eye is an outdated ethos.

In conclusion, perhaps it would be healthier, or at least more fruitful, to assume the problems of men to be part of the larger problems of one seamless group of individuals, forever contingent upon one another for moral support, sustenance and survival.

Kelly O'Connell
Philosophy

Confusing irony

Political and social conservatives seem to be confused as to the difference between the terms political correctness and justice. Justice is the protection of an individual's cultural, political, social and economic rights.

Political correctness is a term used by those who have the privilege of printing or saying what they please without regard for justice. They are determined to protect this privilege; therefore if you challenge what they say you are accused of "limiting their freedom of speech." How ironic.

The right of free speech comes with responsibilities. Those who have the opportuni-

ty to speak their mind often forget their responsibility to think before they open their mouths. If their words are full of bigotry and ignorance they should be challenged vigorously.

This is no threat to democracy; this is democracy.

John Lunsford
Student

Allow cretins

I have witnessed some of the various hate fliers that circulated campus earlier this January. These fliers are repugnant, repulsive, violent, racist, sexist, homophobic, and seemingly devised by some lowly cretin. However, the creator of such ignorant messages deserves to be heard.

In a truly progressive environment all ideas must be allowed to surface. Once censorship plants its seed it flourishes, grows, and flaws other facets in the diamond of expression. Closing our eyes and turning our heads only further perpetuates it.

Thanks, Myles Brand, but no thanks. I don't need potential protection from ideas. Most college students are capable of making decisions. I'm tired of this protective condom labeled liberalism. It's no more liberal than the fundamentalists who want to ban Huckleberry Finn and Slaughterhouse Five.

It seems that our conservative administration has attached an "except" clause to the First Amendment. The so-called liberals better start their walk from the left to the right; the far right.

We should allow sexist, racist, and homophobic publications to surface and let their stupidity speak for itself. This way incognizant arguments can diffuse by their own existence, and the term "celebrate diversity" will become a logical appeal to humanity instead of a dictatorial command.

Todd Barker
Student

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