

FBI's good-ol'-boy attitude must go

That ever-lovin' group of good ol' boys known as the FBI is trying its darndest to save face without looking too bad — again.

America's highest level investigatory group recently settled discrimination claims made by an assembly representing more than 300 black agents. This follows a 1988 case involving discriminatory charges made by Latino agents, which the FBI lost.

After negotiating for nearly a year, the FBI finally acknowledged in its agreement settlement that statistical "disparities" existed between black and white agents, primarily in the categories of promotions and assignments.

This was as far as the guilty party went; the FBI refused to admit it actually committed discrimination.

So now it's offering compensatory measures to the agents amounting to nearly \$100,000, including "retroactive relief" for 83 black agents in the form of promotions, back pay, assignments, training and newly created positions. Some will also receive monetary make-up for a "shortfall" in awards and bonuses.

Good thing the FBI didn't really commit discrimination — imagine the compensatory action if it had.

Of course, organization officials are concerned about the increasing complaints from white agents regarding reverse discrimination. How politically expedient of the FBI to worry so about "their kind." In order to remedy the situation, the group contends that the relief measures are only a "one-time evening of the field."

The treatment of this case is blatantly wrong. One reason the FBI refuses to admit to discrimination is to protect itself from lawsuits. Can anyone blame it? Imagine the onslaught of legal slams this racist and sexist group would have to face if it publicly owned up to its actions.

It's great the black agents involved in the case will now be compensated for discriminatory action that supposedly never happened, but it's not enough. There needs to be some real reevaluation of stagnant attitudes whose time has come to die.

There's no longer room for the good ol' boy philosophy.

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LETTERS POLICY

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

Emerald

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LETTERS

I — filmmaker!

Thank you for printing Ron Gregg's commentary on April 17. I apologize to Gregg and possibly the others who were misinterpreted by *Emerald* reporter Tammy Batey's seemingly malicious heterophobia. I commend Gregg for fighting heterophobia. I also commend gay person Mike Walsh for revealing the gay community's "Cry-Baby Attitude" (*ODE*, April 16).

As for the OCA, they couldn't implement their way out of the proverbial paper bag. I know this. I know Salem. But don't get me wrong: I think those "STOP THE OCA" buttons are kinda cute, kinda sweet, kinda carrot-cakey ...

I may be a "foaming, mad dog," but I am not a homophobe. Nor am I a heterophobe or an OCaphobe. (In a high-pitched, cracking, whining, Kevin Costnerish voice:) I am a filmmaker!

As part of the filmmaking community, I fight fear of all types. We must institute programs to learn the necessity of stereotypes and characterizations in the filmmaking community. Our rights will be heard.

Bryan Westby
Student

Love letter

Jon Wollander writes with such penetrating insight and passionately informed understanding that I have several times become inexplicably hot and bothered, and have had to stop and fan myself. Some ancient wisdom may help to explain. What it is, Jon, is sex.

Plato showed us, in the *Phaedrus*, how eloquence combined with wisdom creates a powerful erotic force and awakens erotic feelings in the souls of those exposed to it.

I am an innocent heterosexual just passing through wicked Eugene, but I believe Plato explains the powerful attraction I felt when reading your letter in the *Emerald* last week, and I want to caution you against

spreading yourself about so in public.

Your warm concern for others makes me get all warm and melty, and I can scarce control myself. The power of your reasoning and the beauty of your sentiments and the depths of your concern for me must stem from erotic depths, to make me tremble so.

It is 3 a.m. and I feel an overwhelming urge to undress and run naked through the streets of Springfield, calling your name and begging for you to satisfy the lust you have awakened in me with your discourse.

I feel so ashamed, but I can't help it. I want publicly to confess and repent my perverted passion. I would beg Jesus for forgiveness, but he is a male, and I fear the power of the fierce desire you've awakened. I'm so confused! I beg you to restrain yourself!

Ralph Batie
Student

No more fear

Once again a letter from Jon Wollander (*ODE*, April 14). I find it extremely offensive that Wollander insinuates that gay and lesbian people such as myself are dysfunctional and not constructive members of society.

That is simply not true. I pay my taxes. I own a house with my partner of 10 years. I go to work everyday. I have never missed a payment on any bill. Yet Wollander would suggest that I, and people like me, need assistance to become more functional and constructive members of society. Some kind of medical treatment perhaps? An operation or drug therapy so I can become a happy heterosexual?

Homosexuality has existed on this planet for thousands of years. Gayness cannot be removed with shock treatments or concentration camps. It cannot be beaten out of us or legislated away. Voting for the OCA initiative would not be "a loving thing to do."

Wollander and his kind want all people to believe in their

way; they are blinded by their religious faith and homophobia.

The OCA perpetuates lies about homosexuals. We are not a bunch of sex-crazed, unemployed child molesters or unhappy drug and alcohol abusers. We are everywhere, every color and age. We do not recruit children, we do not stare at people in malls.

What I and others of my ilk want is to be able to live in peace without fear. A wish that should be a basic human right for all people regardless of sex, race, religion or sexual orientation.

Laura Kinsey
Eugene

Follow Max

Recently it was necessary for me to bring my 7-year-old son, Max, to a class in a large lecture hall. We sat in the back, brought a snack and something for him to do during the 90-minute class, and I stressed the importance of being very quiet.

It was difficult for him to understand then why the people sitting behind us talked and snickered the entire time, finally leaving about 10 minutes before the end of class.

I, on the other hand, am all too familiar with the struggle of trying to pay attention to long, sometimes boring lectures filtered through the background noise of someone's socializing.

If I'm close enough I always say, "Shh," as politely as possible, even though it usually only brings me hard looks and smirks from the chatters.

I found it ironic that I went to so much trouble to make sure my child did not disturb anyone, when right behind us (presumed) adults purposefully disrupted at least our section of the room with their juvenile behavior.

I was proud of Max for sitting so quietly, so I didn't have to miss class for lack of a babysitter. He was extra proud of himself when he saw how some of the "grown-ups" behaved.

Kristen Brandt
Sociology