

Measure's passage lends deadly weapon

Having won its first major showdown in Springfield, the OCA is aimin' to cleanup Springfield like it's never been cleaned up before. Don't look now, but the sun is settin' on the school and public libraries.

Given the go-ahead to officially parade its message of prejudice via the recent passage of its anti-gay-and-lesbian rights measure, the Oregon Citizens Alliance will now scour the town's libraries for any sign of homosexuality.

The initiative forbids Springfield to "encourage, promote or facilitate homosexuality," classifying it as "abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse."

It's scary enough that the majority of the town agrees with this assumption, as shown by its passing vote. Worse, the OCA now has the option to go to sources of information and dictate what will be offered to the public.

No organization deserves that right. Sources offering information, such as libraries, should not be limited by guidelines set by special interest groups. Information relevant to the general public should be available in these institutions — not a pared-down pool of knowledge defined by a certain few.

But wait — didn't the public at large have its say at the voting booth? Didn't they just say no to homosexuality? Yes — but, the mere fact that information exists about homosexuality is reason enough to preserve its availability. By appearing in the realm of information sources, it proves it's relevant to a segment of the public, even if it's the minority of the town's population. And so it deserves availability.

Fortunately, the Oregon Library Association acted to preserve its right to offer a variety of information last April by passing a resolution against the OCA's measure. The association voiced a fear of censorship — a valid concern, since that's exactly what would happen should the OCA actually begin to push for the removal of books it finds offensive.

In response to a question asked at the Lane County Press Club's January meeting, regarding the OCA's stance on removing "wrong" literature, OCA Director Lon Mabon said, "I'm not advocating the removal of any books from any libraries."

On further questioning, Mabon admitted removal could happen as a result of the measure's passage, and said he would be dismayed should this happen.

Sure, the man has the prerogative to change his mind, or forget what he said, or whatever else may have happened between then and now. The alarming fact is he, along with the organization he heads up, have been handed a dangerous weapon with the measure's approval. Guns don't belong in children's hands.

CORRECTION

In a May 27 article on psychology research, Dr. Robert Weiss' name was misspelled. The *Emerald* regrets the error.

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LETTERS

Responsibility

The April 30th rally at the University following the release of Rodney King's abusers was purposeful and justified; the violence following it was not. Frustrations erupted when the obvious wrongdoing the L.A. police officers committed, captured on tape, was simply brushed aside, once again proving that discrimination and crime are still sanctioned by our national legal system.

The release of King's abusers sparked one of the most powerful and angry rallies to come across this campus in recent years. I agreed with the majority of what was said at the rally, yet my support of the rally ended when it turned violent and unlawful. The destruction of federal property was senseless and served no purpose but to physically vent the frustrations that had already vocally made their point.

Brian Hoop, a student senator, was recorded on tape destroying federal property during this rally. Hoop was filmed breaking the law, just as Rodney King's abusers were. I consider Hoop a brave person for rebelling against a legal system in error, yet I do not respect him for breaking the law.

I believe I have developed a good sense for what is just and right. I believe the Rodney King protests were legitimate. I believe the violence was not. I believe violence serves no purpose but to create more violence. Rodney King's abusers must be made responsible for their recorded abuse. Brian Hoop must be responsible for his.

Seth Walker
Student Senator

Mask Up

Those protesters are so smart. What better way to protest Brian Hoop's unjust imprisonment by the forces of evil and hypocrisy than by wearing a mask, just in case? Now you can all feel safe from reprisals if world events force you to resort to violence. You are no longer just

dissatisfied college students; now you get to be participants in a long and distinguished terrorist tradition. When you want to smash the system, you can feel like real revolutionaries in your brand-new anonymity.

Unfortunately, not everyone has their own mask. I propose you contact the local branch of the KKK and see if you can't borrow some of those neat white hoods they use. If the hoods are good enough for their hate crimes, they're good enough for yours. Although your goals are slightly different from theirs, I'm sure you can still learn a lot from those guys. After all, they're the American authorities on random anonymous violence.

When you've learned everything you can from them, you can go international. You can study the practices of the El Salvador death squads until you've really got your own brand of self-righteous violence down. Then, when you've crushed or intimidated everyone who disagrees with you, the world will be free of hate and safe for diversity.

Lance LeFever
Anthropology/English

Worldwide

When you believe in a cause, you must decide how strongly you feel for it. The sign of true dedication is when you consciously decide to not draw the line. The consequences of your actions are often a stronger statement than the actions themselves. The farthest you can go for a cause, short of being killed, is being arrested. This is civil disobedience.

If Brian Hoop feels strongly enough about the issue of civil liberties and the fair treatment of minorities, then he should hope that he is given the strongest sentence possible. Does the punishment fit the crime? Absolutely not, but it does fit the statement that needs to be made. Nelson Mandela brought more attention to South Africa when he was in jail than any other time in his life.

Hoop is no Mandela — he is not even a political prisoner. He was involved in the destruction of federal property.

If you feel strongly about the issues, I would suggest something a little less destructive than what Hoop chose, but I would urge you to try getting arrested. Thoreau was asked once, "Why aren't you in jail?"

To which he responded, "Why aren't you in jail?"

You do not need to destroy property to be put in jail. Blocking the entrance of the federal building will get you there. If protesters swamp the system, if the media can start quoting numbers of political prisoners in the United States, then the cause will be heard around the world.

John Thomas Field
Student

Change

Breaking glass is not going to get anything accomplished. All I saw were a bunch of self-righteous children looking for a reason to throw a temper tantrum.

Now I am forced to watch my tax dollars and student fees used to clean up their mess. If you really want to make a change in this world, start with your selves. Stop being violent. It is a short-term, shortcut solution to a very long-term problem. People on this campus protest war and violence, claiming there are better ways to solve our problems. Yet, when it suits their needs, these same people justify their use of violence as the only means of achieving change.

They want the violence against homosexuals, minorities and women to stop, and to accomplish this they themselves advocate and perpetuate violence as some kind of answer. They are hypocrites. Change yourself before you try to change the world.

Wendy Chamberlain
Anthropology