

# From the Editors

I have this temper thing — sometimes I lose it, especially when someone attacks my person. So when I think about fellow students taunting me and yelling, "bitch," I can't imagine not having any means of retaliation except taking them on myself.



And I can't imagine being Doug at Michigan State U. coming home to "faggot" scrawled across my dorm door knowing whoever wrote it walked away, none the worse.

And it makes me angry. It seems surreal that any college student would have to learn in an environment in which our peers are entitled by the Constitution to destroy students with words and expressions.

But that's precisely what the Supreme Court has said by deciding in June that laws cannot target specific hate-spawned actions.

And it sucks. It sucks for Amy Jo at Pacific Lutheran U. because she's trying to improve race relations on her campus. Now the Supreme Court has told her that students at PLU may have the right to cross the line between free-speaking individuals and bad-ass bigots and racists.

But it has to be that way. You can't fight racism and sexism or any other kind of "ism" in the dark with your mouth bound and your hands tied to the gate of your university. You can't fight ignorance in a closed environment where students, like those at Tufts U., have to draw lines, designating free speech areas.

You just can't do it. The Supreme Court has said that when we leave our colleges and universities, the states and cities in which we reside cannot pass laws that restrict specific hate-speech acts.

So it makes sense, really, that our universities would not be allowed to shelter us from the reality that not everyone is going to tolerate us in silence, that people have the right in this country to call us niggers, fags and dykes and religious freaks.

If we don't hear it now, we won't know how to deal with it later.

And let's face it. What's even more frightening than being faced with the uncertainty that another student can call us names or taunt us, is the possibility that our universities can, and have tried, to bind and gag us in the name of creating a utopian environment that will never exist.

—Jackie Spinner,  
Editor on Fellowship,  
Southern Illinois U.

# CAMPUS COMMENT

STUDENT RESPONSES FROM ACROSS THE NATION



## Sleeping With the Enemy

I am writing this letter in response to the article "Flirting With the Power of Classroom Romances," published in May. It seemed to me that this article says to students, "Hey, it's OK to have a relationship with a man who has power over you." I don't believe this is the case.

These liaisons are dangerous as soon as they start. Teachers are adults, and students learn from these adults no matter what the subject. No matter if men in power are college professors, coaches or high school teachers, they are in authority and should never degrade a student by using them sexually. In nine states, these actions are against the law and the student has every right to sue the system.

Many more states and people need to be educated to rewrite the laws on this subject matter. It is a touchy subject but certainly deserves some attention. This problem is widespread and is not as easy to handle as the article leads one to believe. **Karen Trudel, Ohio U.**

## Do Unto Animals...

Though I've only read a handful of issues, *U. The National College Magazine* has impressed me regarding the attention it gives to the animal rights movement. I understand it is in your best interest to remain unbiased by presenting both sides of controversial issues, and thus I would appreciate the opportunity to respond to Mark Driscoll's thoughts published in the May issue.

Many of Driscoll's points are limited, illogical and short-sighted of an all encompassing view. He calls animal rights activists "fully misguided adults" because they feel "human and animal lives are of equal value." In his own judgment of why animal rights advocates believe as they do, he fails to consider how animals' nervous systems allow them to feel the same excruciating pain that humans would feel if acids were sprayed into our eyes if we underwent Draize testing. Such suffering and abuse is what animal rights activists hope to abolish.

While animal research has unquestionably produced remarkable achievements, this does not mean alternatives could be any less productive, especially with today's technology. Our technology and intellect allow us to create better lives for ourselves, yet we must allow our unique compassion to guide us in improving the quality of our lives without infringing upon the rights of non-human beings. **Eric Mindel, Washington U., St. Louis.**

## Save Alaska from Unthinking Money Grubbers

In your May issue of *U.*, in the Dollars and Sense section, an article on making bucks in Alaskan canneries topped the page and also the summer. Do college students in this age, of which some believe is an era of environmental awareness, see Alaska in terms of long hours on a "slime line... up to your elbows in greasy grimy fish guts?" And then to call it an "adventure!" If gutting fish is just too daring for you, one can choose from logging, mining, construction or oil companies. Soon someone will

tell us Alaskan shoreline clear cuts and 11 million gallon oil spills have a unique beauty.

When students go to Alaska, we should have respect and preservation in mind, not treasury notes. I just hope someone's brilliant timing of this article didn't ignite a barrage of unthinking money grubbers who wish to exploit the Last Frontier, rather than explore her. **Jeff E. Murphy, U. of New Orleans**

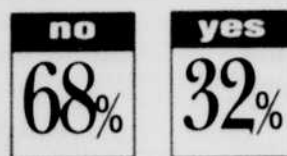
## U. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Address your correspondence to Letters Editor, *U. The National College Magazine*, 1800 Century Park East, Suite 820, Los Angeles, CA, 90067, or fax it to 310-551-1659. Include your name, year, school and phone number for verification. Letters should be 200 words or less. *U.* reserves the right to edit submissions. Letters will not be returned.

## U. VIEWS

RESULTS FROM THE U. STUDENT OPINION POLL\*

**Should universities prohibit professors from dating students?**



Our May cover story, which seemed to strike a nerve with some students, looked at the dynamics of student-professor relationships, and inspired comments like these:

"Students should not date professors while attending their class. Once the class ends, though, students should use their own discretion."  
—Alyssa Reeves, U. of Tennessee

"The problem with dating among professors and students is that it can so easily lead to sexual harassment."  
—Diane Stracken, U. of Nevada, Reno

"I think that students should be able to have sex with professors. I think it's usually a beneficial way for professors to get to know their students."  
—Eliot Fishman, Harvard U.

\*The U. Student Opinion Poll is a random sampling of comments from college students across the country. The toll-free number accepts responses to a question posed to students each month in the pages of *U. The National College Magazine*. The poll is not scientific, and percentages are figured based on verbal responses received each month.

## THIS MONTH'S QUESTION

The College  
**Vote**  
92

**If the presidential election were held today, who would you vote for?**

Tell us what you think.

**1-800-662-5551**