

# Mandatory gun law first of many steps

State Rep. Liz VanLeeuwen of Halsey introduced legislation Friday that would make it mandatory for Oregon residents to own a gun. She reasoned that gun ownership would deter crime because the state would become "too dangerous for criminals." Citizens could take the law into their own hands.

We think that's a great idea. With legislators like this, who needs enemies?

We could also make it legal to run off the road motorists who drive too slow in the passing lane. That would, after all, deter slow drivers.

Students should be allowed to club classmates who ask more than three questions during an average class period. If an especially stupid question is asked, the limit of three should be suspended so students can legally smack the offender every five minutes.

All citizens should be armed with a guitar tuner and muzzle to use on unsuspecting campus folk singers. Just imagine. Grizzled folkies well into their third verse of "American Pie" are greeted by an angry mob of tasteful music listeners, who proceed to cut down more dangerously bad musicians.

We should make it mandatory to steal from any home worth more than \$300,000. The distribution of wealth is horribly skewed in the United States. The middle class is rapidly disappearing before our eyes while the rich are getting richer. Therefore, it makes sense for poor people to take matters into their own hands.

The Oregon State football team should be required to lose at least 10 games each year, for tradition's sake. After all, it's dangerous to our morale for OSU to win any more.

Everyone should be required to wear condoms at all times — even when fully dressed — to keep the state safe from AIDS. People need to take matters into their own genitals, er, hands.

All students should be required to read the *Oregon Daily Emerald* in order to keep them safe from the inane ramblings of the *Oregon Commentator* and *The Student Insurgent*. It's the safest thing to assume.

All University graduates should have to take a "real world" workshop before entering society, to keep the state from turning into one giant Eugene.

All University underclassmen should be prohibited from owning cars. This would help clear the streets for bicyclists and pedestrians, thus cleaning the environment. (Actually, this was proposed by Mayor Ruth Bascom. No joke.)

Students should be required to wear nothing but tie-dye shirts and Birkenstocks, to promote diversity.

And finally, all state legislators should have to own at least one alternate brain at all times. Occasionally, they lose their only working copy.

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OPINION

## Hearing proves 'left' isn't right



The day that everyone on this campus agrees with me is the day everyone wakes up with the face you see at the top of this column.

That will never happen — we aren't supposed to agree about everything.

Humans will naturally disagree about matters. But there are people at the University who would have you believe there is one correct way to think. And if you aren't right (or, supposedly, "left" in this matter), don't bother applying to the club.

To find out, just get nominated to the Incidental Fee Committee.

Ed Carson, who the right "left" painted as a lesbian woman of color's nightmare, was confirmed by the Student Senate as the newest IFC member Tuesday night, but not before the usual politically correct mud was slung at his face.

ASUO President Bobby Lee announced his nomination of Carson last week, a move that stirred the hearts and fists of those who love to hate the *Oregon Commentator*, a journal of usually conservative opinion of which Carson is managing editor.

How dare Lee subvert the democratic political process and appoint a racist, sexist, homophobic student like Carson.

Well, he is ... isn't he? After all, he works for the *Commentator*, a publication that doesn't even deserve to be breathing the same air as those of the right "left."

And everybody knows that everyone on the *Commentator* is a racist, sexist homophobe. Right?

Oh, the irony of it all.

Some members of the IFC, which is predominated by a "liberal" view, don't want Carson in the club. Go back to your own playground, they said. You don't belong on our swing set because you're different and don't necessarily share the same views.

Well, folks, isn't that what diversity is all about, sharing different views, experiences and beliefs? Or is it about being in the club and telling each other how perfect we all are, and wouldn't it be great if everyone else was just like us?

But if you keep to your perfect little clubs, then you won't have to look and see the different views working the monkey bars outside on the world's bigger playground.

Apparently, Carson (a Republican, by golly) won't be invited to the club's games too frequently. But who would want to, anyway? Liberals, by definition, are supposed to be "tolerant" and "broad-minded," but in dealing with Carson's confirmation, they were anything but.

Racist. Sexist. Homophobic. Who says? Well, it was in the *Commentator*, said the right "left." And though none of the articles in question had Carson's byline, everyone at the *Commentator* believes the same thing. Right?

Tell you what, there will never be a time when all of the employees at the *Emerald* agree on everything. Still, this column is bound to convince some readers that my opinion stated here is entirely representative of the *Emerald's* newsroom. Give me a break. Not everyone has my face yet, and I never expect anyone to — or share all of my beliefs.

Allegations that women and students of color had concerns with Carson's nomination came to light at the hearing. One person who spoke against Carson said his presence on the IFC would create an inhospitable climate, according to her sources.

As a matter of fact, her sources were so concerned with Carson's nomination they didn't even show up to voice their

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opinions themselves.

One other person present likened the Carson confirmation hearings to those that the U.S. Senate goes through with U.S. Supreme Court nominees.

Well, at least Anita Hill had the guts to show up and face questions concerning her allegations against Clarence Thomas. Those who showed up at the Student Senate meeting to complain were simply playing a game of "he said" and "she said."

Another person said a number of students had told him they had heard some "stuff" that Carson was to have said about certain ethnic groups.

That a friend of a friend (etc.) "said" some "stuff" has rarely ever been credited with giving the most reliable facts, and they certainly had no place in a confirmation hearing.

The hypocrisy of the whole hearing was summed up in a quote Wednesday from an IFC member. She said Carson was "not the point" of the hearing. The same member, ironically, was one of three people who signed a letter listing five points of complaints concerning the appointment, three of which focused specifically on why Carson, the individual, should not be confirmed.

She was right in one respect, though, because Carson — and his political beliefs — should not have been the point. The "left" was certainly not right.

*Jake Berg is news editor of the Emerald.*

# Oregon Daily Emerald

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