

Poor morale doesn't justify discrimination

Should people be barred from public service simply because they are different? After all, such people would damage morale and inhibit others from doing their duty.

Currently, there are two places where this type of discrimination is openly endorsed — the military and the Incidental Fee Committee.

The military advocates banning homosexuals, some members of the IFC advocate banning anybody who does not march lock-step to its ideological drummer. This became glaringly evident Tuesday when members of the IFC lobbied in opposition to the appointment of Ed Carson to the committee.

Carson, managing editor of the *Oregon Commentator*, a student-run journal of opinion, was confirmed by the Student Senate Tuesday, no thanks to IFC Chairman Steve Masat, member Zoe Pargot and former member Barbara Rodgers (whose vacated seat Carson filled).

Masat, Pargot and Rodgers submitted a two-page letter to the Student Senate requesting Carson not be confirmed "even if he is qualified to sit on the IFC," out of fear that his "appointment would disrupt the functioning of the committee." Sound familiar?

Currently, there are two places where this type of discrimination is openly endorsed — the military and the Incidental Fee Committee.

If you remove Carson's opponents' politically-correct frosting, you'll find the same rotten cake that's being served up by the military. Marginally different ends, identical means.

The main focus of the letter was the editorial content of the *Commentator* and how, simply by association, Carson was guilty of any sins, real or imagined, that have been committed by the *Commentator* against any of the University's sacred cows.

Although the letter was little more than two-pages of bitching and moaning in an attempt to establish a case for keeping the *Commentator* from serving on the IFC, it made absolutely no attempt to address Carson the person.

The letter did raise some interesting questions, though, as to the mentality of the IFC members opposing him. The letter said there were several other "very qualified candidates who are past members of the IFC" (Emphasis added). Apparently the concept of "change" in government has not yet filtered down to the letter writers. They would prefer to see a clone of themselves rather than a person capable of independent thought.

While writing for the *Commentator*, Carson has delved into the secret inner-sanctum the IFC calls "home." In doing so, he has gained valuable insight into how the IFC operates and how it could be improved.

Why the IFC should be afraid of having a competent member is a little fuzzy, especially considering its purpose, which, according to the ASUO Constitution, is to "act only on matters relating to the allocation and appropriation of incidental fees."



SUDDENLY, HILLARY CLINTON FEELS ILL...

LETTERS

Don't lynch Ed

I am offended by your character assassination of Ed Carson. It would have taken less space to have put a better picture of him with the caption "lynch this man."

I guess you felt this was the time to bite the *Commentator* back. Pick on someone your own size — guilty by association is a bad rap. I support Carson and believe he will bring balance to this minority spend-thrift IFC.

I wish the IFC would pull their heads out of the Erb microcosm and realize there are 15,995 other people on this campus with the same interests Ed has. The members of the IFC are crying foul before the milk is spilled. They're worrying about their piece of the pie. Why don't you give Ed a chance? Ed for higher ed.

W. Elizabeth Wickham
Chemistry

Strike one

I am writing in response to sports editor Dave Charbonneau's column on the Portland Trail Blazers basketball players and their alleged sexual interactions with the two 16-year-old runaway girls in the players' Utah hotel room.

Although I believe the column is well-written and provides a marginally appropriate level of criticism of the players, I am concerned about one critical mistake I believe Charbonneau has made. He said the players are not "totally at fault," and that since the girls allegedly consented to the sex, they are therefore "just as guilty as the Blazer players."

This is ludicrous. Two runaway girls in a room full of extremely large adult men lack the social skills, maturity and sense of protection necessary to make the best decisions regarding their health, safety and sexuality. In this situation, these girls may have been too scared not to "consent."

To claim, as Charbonneau does, that these two girls are partially responsible for this action is a tragic and erroneous statement. As an adult culture, we should take full responsibility for the care and safety of our children, even when they seem

to exercise poor judgment.

Coerced sexual relations with minors is nothing less than sexual abuse. The victims of these crimes need our full, unconditional support, and the perpetrators should be forced to accept all the blame.

Will Sturges
Adjunct Professor
Architecture

Language is fun

Ack. What a headline. My commentary in the Feb. 1 *Emerald* ("Language not fun, but needed") was in no way meant to imply that language isn't fun. On the contrary, my five-credit, stress-from-hell, study-a-couple-hours-every-night Latin 102 class is quite possibly one of the most intellectually stimulating and enjoyable classes I've taken here.

I may complain about the stress level, but given my notorious lack of motivation, I wouldn't be taking it if I didn't love it.

David Weingarten
Student

Fish for diversity

This is regarding Martin Fisher's column "Sorry, but I'm not a Euro-American" (*ODE*, Jan. 26). My passport says I am a citizen of the United States. So then I, too, am simply an American, no hyphens, thank you.

Seriously though, I would ideally prefer to be perceived as just an American and not have people make all kinds of judgments and assumptions about my Asian looks.

Also, I don't appreciate the categorization of the vocal minority Fisher conveyed. The implication that any group of minorities who speak out on issues is a band of rambunctious students is wrong. I realize the sarcasm, but I believe he is missing the point about diversity.

The substance of the matter is in the population demographics of America. I have heard that within our lifetime, minority children will be occupying close to half the seats in American schools. The person I heard this from was Professor Ronald Takaki from the University of

California at Berkeley.

Takaki is nationally recognized in the field of ethnic studies. Last year, Takaki came to our campus to speak and publicly called the University's race/gender requirement a joke. If people treat diversity as something politically correct, they have missed the point. Diversity is real, and we must be aware of this.

Stephen Muraoka
Co-director
APASU

Going downhill

If Oregon was once the most progressive state in the nation, it must surely now be near the least. I'm an exchange student from South Carolina, and I came here in part to escape the political insanity of the deep South. However, it seems I've gone from the frying pan into the fire.

Not only does the state allow a state-wide measure of discrimination (Measure 9) to be on the ballot, but now Rep. Liz VanLeeuwen wants to require every household to be armed with guns. This makes Jesse Helms and Strom Thurmond look like flower children. Aside from the fact that the bill VanLeeuwen has proposed is horrifyingly ridiculous, if not shockingly outrageous, what else might we ask of it?

VanLeeuwen says the bill would cut down on crime as it has in parts of Georgia. This may be so, but a much more effective measure would be to mine everyone's yards. Why don't we require everyone to own an automatic assault rifle instead of a mere revolver?

One becomes giddy with sarcasm as one carries out the logic, but this is serious. Can a presumably intelligent elected official really believe aiming citizens against one another can promote peace? Think of the message: We want you, the civilian, to take the law into your own hands. Burglaries would decrease in correlation with domestic homicides and accidental shootings.

I stand aghast at yet another monument to political stupidity.

Morgan Melekos
Philosophy

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