

Emerald misinterprets affirmative action speaker

Guest commentary

I am writing in response to "Panel mulls race issue," (ODE, Mar. 6) the coverage of the panel discussion on the University of Michigan's affirmative action cases. As a panelist, I am pleased that the Emerald saw fit to report on the event. I feel the need, however, to express my frustration with reporter Roman Gokhman's inability

to accurately summarize views expressed during the discussion. I refer specifically to the following excerpt from the article: "Tomas Nullick (sic) Baiza ... said the University of Michigan's defense of affirmative action is nothing more than a symbolic gesture because the university is close to a large black population. 'It goes a long way to recruit 90-95 percent of African Americans,' he said."

This is not at all what I said. To set

the record straight, I was commenting on the symbolic importance of affirmative action policies and what they meant in the Michigan context.

Gokhman's misguided version of my comments seems to send the message that the University of Michigan — and, indeed, the rest of us who work to expand educational opportunities for low-access students — are acting in an insincere manner. The misquotation also implies that 90 to 95 percent of

African Americans benefit from affirmative action. I did not say this, and nothing could be further from the truth. What Gokhman must remember is that he has a professional responsibility as a future reporter to accurately quote his sources.

Whether they warrant it or not, media correspondents are given an inordinate amount of influence when they attempt to transmit information, and if that information is incorrect or sloppily reported, both their readers and

their sources suffer. I am confident that the people in attendance at the panel discussion understood what I said concerning affirmative action. It is unfortunate, however, that Gokhman's readers must rely on his fast and loose handling of the discussion to learn more about an issue that is already so badly misunderstood.

Tomas Hulick Baiza is the assistant director of admissions and coordinator for multicultural recruitment in the office of admissions.

Lars Larson's commentary pushes viewer away from KVAL

Guest commentary

At a time when schools are being closed, school years are being shortened and our school systems are bleeding teachers to states that respect the need for education and are willing to pay for it with tax dollars; at a time when we are paying to train law enforcement officers and forcing them to take the training we paid for to other states; at a

time when the support systems that defend the old, the needy and those least able to defend themselves are being shut down, Lars Larson's 80s claptrap goes beyond meandering to monstrous.

Larson's commentary on KVAL-TV indicates to me that KVAL "news" is no longer reliable because it reflects a bias on the part of KVAL management, and that the KVAL "news" team is now the KVAL propaganda team.

For this reason, I no longer view KVAL news. Because I believe that the problem is with the meandering, out-of-touch management of KVAL, it will take more than removing Larson from the air to get me back. While I no longer consider KVAL a "news leader" or follower, I understand that KVAL has the right to air (within the FCC rules) what pleases it.

On the other hand, because I have been viewing KVAL for more than 20

years, my decision to exercise my right to discontinue the practice of viewing KVAL "news" saddens me.

KVAL management has the right to air what it pleases, and I have the right to watch what I please and share my opinions with friends and business associates. Therefore, I plan to tell those I know and advertisers of my decision to exclude KVAL "news" from my TV viewing schedule, and that advertising with KVAL reflects poorly on them, and

that their association with KVAL will adversely affect my shopping relationship with them.

While Larson's commentary disgusts me, he is not the reason I will no longer watch KVAL news. It is the lack of balance in KVAL programming, and the lack of trust I have for those who manage the direction KVAL "(propaganda) news" is taking.

A. Max Opus lives in Cottage Grove.

Letters to the editor

Wyden must end support of filibuster

A question for Sen. Wyden: Why are you supporting the only filibuster of a federal circuit court judge in U.S. history? By filibustering Miguel Estrada, you are denying the Senate the opportunity to simply vote on this man's nomination. If you do not approve of him, then vote no.

Estrada has bipartisan support. Four democratic Senators support his nomination.

Estrada has the support of many, if not most, Hispanic organizations across the country, including The Hispanic Bar Association, The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and LULAC — the largest, mainstream, bipartisan Hispanic organization.

Estrada was ranked "well quali-

fied," the highest distinction, by unanimous vote of a bipartisan ABA panel.

Estrada presents the highest recommendations from a broad range of legal professionals; both Republicans and Democrats from the Justice Department recommend him in the most glowing terms.

Sen. Wyden, you claim to "not know enough about his judicial views and philosophy" on the one hand, and then claim that his views are "out of touch with mainstream Americans." These are contradictory views; you cannot hold both.

At his judiciary committee hearing last fall, Estrada answered more than 100 questions. President Clinton's three previous nominations to the same court answered less than half that many combined.

Sen. Wyden, you are not representing my views in your support of this filibuster. Furthermore, you are failing the Hispanic community by applying a double standard to

Miguel Estrada.

End your support of the filibuster. He has earned that courtesy and we, your constituents, deserve it!

Dennis Paul
Salem

Soldiers don't make decision of war or peace

As a fellow ROTC cadet and proud member of the Oregon Army National Guard, I would like to express my thanks to Zachary White for "Citizens should be grateful of military's protections" (ODE, Mar 11). Like White, I too have been the victim of slanderous comments while wearing my uniform around campus. At first, these comments came as a surprise to me, but now I have grown to expect them — which I find disappointing. On a campus infamous for advocating free speech and openmindedness, I would expect my pro-military views to be respected. However, as I and so many other military-affiliated students have un-

doubtedly learned, this is too much to ask.

In closing, allow me to remind the gentleman who insulted White, and others like him, that no one joins the military to kill innocent men, women and children. We join to defend the freedoms of our country, and do our part in protecting its citizens.

While I do not ask anyone to thank me for being in the military, I do ask for a degree of respect from them. With that, next time you feel the need to make insulting remarks to someone dressed in uniform remind yourself of two things: First, the decision to go to war is not that of any one individual soldier. And second, keep in mind that soldiers such as myself only have to do our jobs when politicians fail to do theirs in keeping the peace.

Paul Sherwin
freshman
journalism

CORRECTIONS

In the Pulse Entertainment Calendar, the phone number for the Fifth Street Public Market should have been listed as 484-0383.

The photo caption for "Hooking up, hanging out" (ODE, March 13) listed the wrong names. It should have read as follows:

"Tippy (above) shows off back piercings performed by Jared. Members of the High Priestess family gear up for a pull (left center), Nate suspends from his back (center), Supa' suspends from his knees (right center) and Lumpy flashes the metal artistry that is his flesh, pierced by Lisa."

The Emerald regrets the errors.

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