

Friday, May 9, 2003

Homosexual men should hide their disgusting acts

Guest commentary

Being a conservative on this campus is a difficult chore. Attending classes where liberal ideology is practically forced down your throat — while any attempt at voicing a conservative opinion is oppressed at all costs — is quite the task. Then you have individuals such as sociology instructor Chuck Hunt who stretch the truth beyond belief, and it's sad to see impressionable college students soak up this leftist propaganda.

Before coming to Eugene, I was fully aware that this university was a liberal campus, but I'm a fairly tolerant guy and figured I'd be able to put up with the various environmental, pro-choice, forced diversity, hatred of anything remotely associated with America causes that were sure to be presented as part of our supposed "balanced education." However, there is one prominent issue on this campus that simply drives me nuts.

On more than one occasion I've been walking to class and have been subjected to an absolutely disturbing display of two homosexual men making out. To me, witnessing this is offensive, and I fail to understand how anyone can openly be proud of such a lifestyle. I do not base my position on any sort of religious belief, but I do obtain a sense of moral decency that provides me with the knowledge that homosexual behavior is wrong.

I've had people argue with me on this topic, saying that I'm narrow-minded and should somehow be more accepting with my views, but who has any right to tell me, or anyone for that matter, what should or should not be accepted in society. I apologize to any of you liberals out there who are shocked to hear that there are indeed individuals such as myself who harbor such views, but you do not necessarily always have to believe such things simply because it is politically correct to do so.

I'll admit I'm uncompromising when it comes to this issue, but I am not one of those people who thinks I have some sort of authority to preach about what is right and wrong, and to make things clear — I do not flat out hate gay individuals. I do, however, openly oppose the gay community as a whole, and I am not afraid to say it.

Despite its existence throughout history, I believe that homosexuality is a disgrace to society and just because it has existed for a long time does not make it right. I long for the days when homosexuality was viewed by society as an illness, and gays opted to remain in the closet.

Today, it seems like there's a gay pride parade every other day, and all of a sudden gay individuals are actually proud of their queer lifestyle, which by definition is strange and odd.

Now, I know some of you would like to label me as a homophobe, but I personally am completely comfortable with my sexuality and understand the correctness in preferring the opposite sex.

Look, I have no problem with gay individuals, as long as they stay in the closet and refrain from using the idea of political correctness as a ploy to tell me that I should be more accepting of a lifestyle in which I find absolutely disgusting.

Vincent Martorano is a freshman political science major.

Abortion language policy

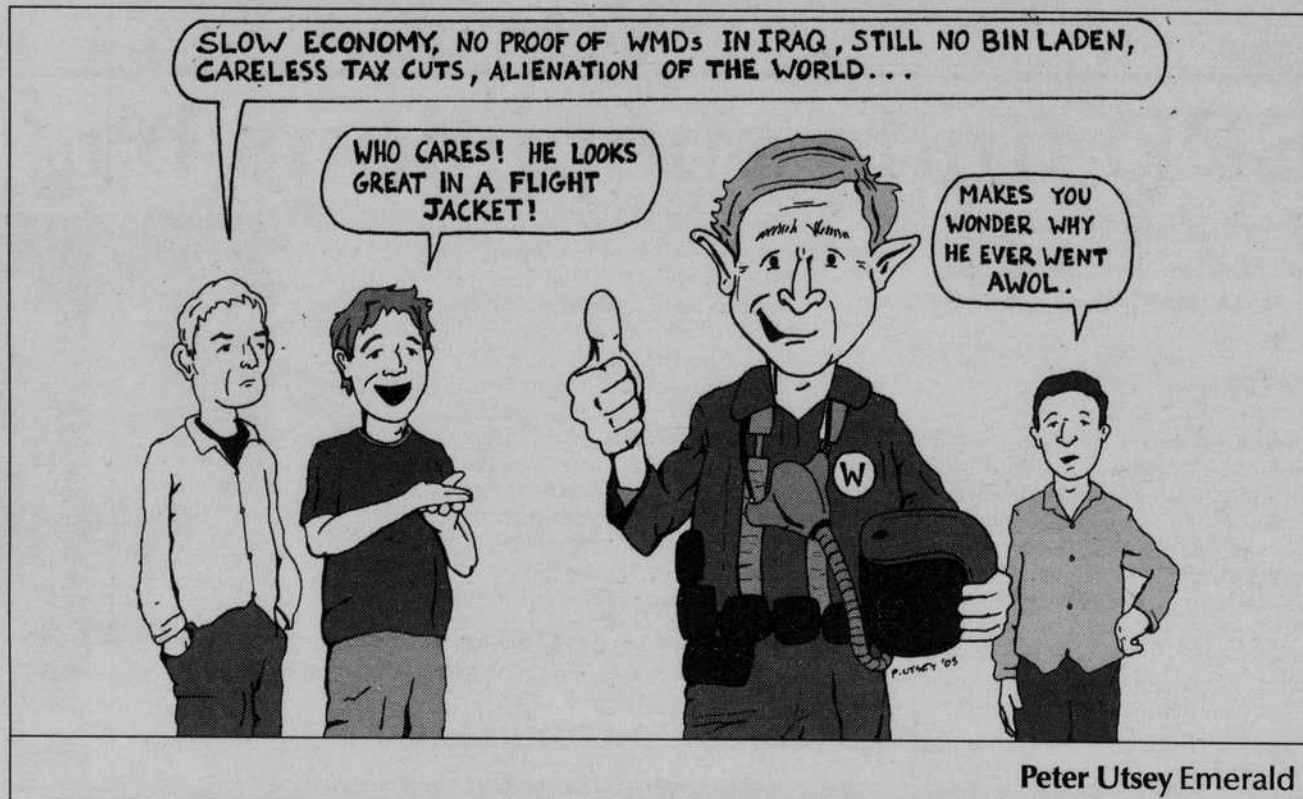
In our quest to provide as much opportunity as possible for fair and equitable discourse, the Emerald has chosen the following policy in regard to the terms used in the abortion debate:

In Emerald news stories, editorials and columns, we will abide by The Associated Press standards, which use the adjectives "anti-abortion" instead of "pro-life" and "abortion rights" instead of "pro-choice."

However, in the interest of open dialogue, letter to the editor and guest commentary writers may use the terms they wish for their arguments. As with any language, if it is libelous or a personal attack, the Emerald reserves the right to edit the submission.

Letters to the editor and guest commentaries policy

Letters to the editor and guest commentaries are encouraged. Letters are limited to 250 words and guest commentaries to 550 words.



Peter Utsey Emerald

Soldier misguidedly attacks protesters

Guest commentary

I must thank the Oregon Daily Emerald for printing Richard Berger's article, "Protesters need to review their belief system" (ODE, April 28). Berger's contempt of anti-war protesters is misplaced.

First, he makes the assertion that the war is not about oil. Who is he to know what the war is about — his job is to follow orders. Second, he resorts to name-calling. Third, like most conservative talk-radio jockeys, he suggests that the anti-war faction is not only anti-American but anti-Semitic as well. Fourth, he asserts that our president is protecting us through the invasion of Iraq and the killing of more than 12,000 Iraqis, at least 3,000 of whom were innocents, according to an "NBC Nightly News" report.

What I find particularly appalling is that while calling anti-war protesters anti-Semitic,

his language is utterly anti-Arabic. For example, "The Muslim extremists will stop at nothing to include suicide bombings to kill you (yes, you). ... Those people over there wouldn't have the money to hurt us and just wouldn't matter anymore" (if we ceased our dependence on foreign oil). A class in comparative religions would obviously be beneficial, but perhaps a history lesson will suffice.

Since 1971, aid to Israel from the United States has averaged more than \$2 billion in taxpayer money annually, according to a brief prepared by the Library of Congress. Most of this has been in the form of military armaments, which subsequently have been used to terrorize, subjugate and steal Palestinian lands and construct Israeli settlements on them. Many Palestinians live in refugee camps.

Can Berger imagine living in a refugee camp in his own country for 50 years?

Can he imagine, as a Palestinian, finding a shell casing from a mortar-round that ripped through his neighborhood with "Made in the U.S.A." printed on it or watch as U.S.-made Apache helicopters fire rockets at "supposed" Palestinian terrorists, indiscriminately killing women and children? Are we safe when our own weaponry is being used for dehumanization and ethnic cleansing?

Perhaps a more productive endeavor would be for Berger to examine himself for his bigoted and inherent racism against Arabs in general and Palestinians in particular. And to his patronizing question, "Did you vote?" I must ashamedly admit that I did indeed vote — for a president whose policies have proved to border on fascism. I am sorry.

Matthew Nelson is a sophomore general science major.

Taking away abortion rights is akin to rape

Guest commentary

After reading Dan Johnson's letter ("Pro-life" pictures show 'crimes' of abortion," ODE, May 6), I have some opinions to express. I am not one to respond to others' free speech, for I am an advocate. However, Johnson's letter prompted me to answer his anti-abortion spiel.

Anti-abortionists make little sense to me when they are compared to their abortion rights adversaries. If you examine the common terms for these two groups, 'pro-choice' and 'pro-life,' it will become obvious that one group, 'pro-choice,' actually encompasses the other term. Abortion rights present a choice to the female facing pregnancy: She may

either choose to carry the pregnancy or terminate it. Abortion rights carry the term 'pro-choice,' not 'pro-death.' However, 'pro-life' supporters see no choice in the matter.

Ironically, the only gung-ho anti-abortionists I have met are men. I have never met a woman, no matter how conservative or set in her ways, that completely denounced a woman's right to birth control. The oversized pictures of fetuses displayed last week were mostly in the hands of men.

I'd like to ask every male who hates the idea of abortion to take a second look at what they oppose. The only victims of rape and incest who can get pregnant are women. Having to carry a reminder of a horrifying event like that would be traumatizing. Taking away their right to rid

themselves of the memory would be against human decency.

Worse yet, the woman would not be able to love a child born of such atrocities the way a child should be loved. Abortion rights are a necessity. No woman wants to have an abortion, nor are many women capable of being emotionally stable in such circumstances. All women are aware of the life potential of a fetus. Thus the term 'choice.' It's never an easy decision.

To a woman, the idea of not having the right to choose is just as horrifying as the idea of sexual assault. And taking away their rights permanently would be just as terrifying as rape itself.

Beth Slater is a freshman journalism major.

Letter to the editor

Freedom of expression outweighs unpleasant experiences

I am nervous about the potential backlash that the appearance of the group Survivors has had on campus with regard to the censoring of images.

In Salena De La Cruz's commentary ("Anti-abortion group distorts message with photographs," ODE, May 2), she wrote, "Here on campus I think there

should be more stringent rules as to what kind of images students can or should be afforded with."

It is sad that whenever a problem is discussed in our society, the public cries out, "Oh government, protect me." I don't approve of the scare tactics and graphic imagery used by Survivors to get their point across, and I applaud our campus security in enforcing school policy. However, to enact any type of new legislation that would prohibit "certain" images in public (what images, and who gets to decide, by the way?) is just one step toward stopping the freedom of art

to challenge and provoke thought.

I would certainly advocate for warnings of graphic images to allow people the choice to view or not to view, but I would first advocate for the choice itself.

I'm glad I was able to avoid the scene, and I'm sorry for those who could not and had to view such images. But remember that this freedom is a part of the society we live in and sometimes, there is a price to pay for such freedoms. We reap the benefits often enough.

Gretchen M. Stolte
 freshman art history