

# Martorano's opinions don't represent true conservatism

## Guest commentary

Vincent Martorano, in his guest commentary ("Homosexual men should hide their disgusting acts," ODE, May 9), manages to call himself a conservative while completely ignoring what are truly conservative principles.

I will not begrudge him the right to hold such opinions because he is certainly within his rights to do so, but the modern political philosophy of conservatism has no need for political views designed to use personal morals as a template for proper societal behavior.

True conservatism, as a broad po-

litical philosophy, rests on the sanctity of the individual, of individual rights and individual freedoms. Furthermore, conservatism is founded upon the individual right to choose. A society is simply a group of individuals who have, for whatever reason, chosen to live together under a set of guidelines. Proper governance, therefore, ensures that the sanctity of individual rights is protected; and that people do not go around doing this which will rip society apart (e.g. theft, murder, etc.).

The second duty is really an extension of the first — for instance, individuals have a right not to have their things stolen or their lives taken. Martorano apparently does not

understand this and wishes to see the rights of some individuals limited. There are no societal costs of homosexual relationships, but there are great costs for the liberty of those individuals being limited. If some individuals are told to stay in the closet, individual freedom is on a slippery slope to hell. For a discussion of exactly why there are no negative societal costs for homosexual rights, including marriage, check out James Miller's Information Sexternalities (available at <http://www.techcentralstation.com/1051/techwrapper.jsp?PID=1051-250&CID=1051-042403G>).

The violations of personal freedom that Martorano would like to

inflict upon homosexual individuals are egregious. And, as a conservative, I find them incredibly disturbing. Not as disturbing as recent comments by Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., because Martorano's opinion is only his, but his opinion amounts to "well, be gay, just don't be gay."

It is sad that someone calling himself a conservative would want to limit individual freedom, a freedom that has no costs for society, in such a way. As the old adage goes, "Get (the government) out of my bedroom and get out of my armory." Perhaps Martorano should spend more time reading truly conservative thinkers than being offended by two individuals' display of

affection for one another.

"On Liberty" by John Stuart Mill would not be a bad place for Martorano to start, nor would anything by John Locke, Thomas Hobbes, Thomas Jefferson or Jean Jacques Rousseau. Even David Hume or Adam Smith would not be poor choices, although the latter is more of an economist than a political thinker.

Whatever he chooses to do, Martorano should realize that he has no business calling himself a conservative because he obviously does not respect individual liberty enough to do so.

Timothy Dreier is a junior economics major and is managing editor of the Oregon Commentator.

## Letters to the editor

### Homophobes should look inside the closet

May I offer some advice to Vincent Martorano, who wrote that "Homosexual men should hide their disgusting acts" (ODE, May 9)?

Vincent, if you are not afraid of homosexuals (read: afraid that you might be a homosexual) and if you are so content in a heterosexual skin, then why do you care what homosexuals do in the privacy of their homes?

Usually when a man is secure in his own sexual orientation, that of others is of no interest to him. In fact, tests have shown that the most homophobic men are those who are sexually aroused by homosexual porn!

When you state that you see the "absolutely disturbing display of two homosexual men making out," do you mean that the two have their genitals in view and are performing a sex act, or that they are holding hands and kissing?

The things that we do in private are exactly the same as most heterosexual couples do! See if you can find a TV sexual advice show called the Sunday Sex Show with Sue Johansen. You would learn a lot.

Gil Williams  
Spring Hill, Fla.

### Martorano's opinion calls for homophobia, double standards

This letter is in response to Vincent Martorano's commentary regarding homosexual behavior ("Homosexual men should hide their disgusting acts," ODE, May 9). Although his letter was aimed at men in particular, I fit into the "homo-

sexual" category, and I feel compelled to respond.

What struck me most was Martorano's insistence that he is not homophobic, he merely believes that homosexuality is "a disgrace to society." I don't know what he thinks homophobia is, but that sounds like it to me.

However, I do not expect to change his or anyone else's mind from this little bit of commentary, but I would like to tell him that if he does not like to see "two homosexual men making out," he shouldn't watch. No one is asking him to watch, just like no one asks me to look at the numerous heterosexuals making out all over campus every day. And besides, if you can do it, why can't we?

In conclusion, I am glad that Martorano is comfortable with his sexuality — I only wish that he would give others the opportunity to be comfortable with theirs. While he does not have to like, or even accept, the idea that not everyone is heterosexual, I do expect him, as "a fairly tolerant guy" to accept the fact that not everyone is just like him, and that we are all entitled to live how we choose.

Jody Gennerella  
junior  
history, women and  
gender studies

### Half-page ads promoted police state, terror

I was highly disturbed to see a half-page advertisement in the Emerald that promoted police state propaganda. Even more disturbing is that this ad was sponsored by two groups set up to address student issues. Every point in the advertisement is false.

The purpose is to terrorize the

campus community into avoiding demonstrations, rallies and other constitutionally protected gatherings. True, you can be cited or arrested for not dispersing when police give an order to do so. However, no judge will uphold such a charge unless one physically interferes with the official duties of a police officer. Students should never be made afraid of the police.

They are our protectors, our servants and our employees; they must never become our terrorists.

Jeffrey Stout  
Eugene

### Segregated prom has no place in society

I just want to say good job on Salena De La Cruz's article about the segregated prom ("Turning back the clock on civil rights," ODE, May 12). I myself read that article, and I was shocked, too!

I mean, what are people thinking letting something like this go on? But I just wanted you to know that I do agree with what you say — it's just not right. Being a Mexican myself, I may not face the same prejudice as an African American, but speaking as a minority, one can only hope that eventually people will realize times have changed. So once again, I just want to say great job!

Gabino Salgado Jr.  
Northwest Christian College  
sophomore, undeclared

### Kudos to Emerald for drug issue coverage

I've been meaning to drop you guys a line all year. I want to thank you for the Emerald's consistent coverage of drug issues. So often newspaper articles on that subject present only one side of the story

and leave me feeling that I have read bullshit smeared on paper rather than newsprint.

The Emerald is different; I don't see any bias about drugs. A college paper had better have updates about drug issues because, like it or not, nearly every college student encounters them. Keep up the good work and consider me an ally.

Dan Hanson  
Eugene

### Anti-abortion 'shock and awe' campaign had positive effects

I wish to thank you for taking the time to share your feelings ("Anti-abortion group distorts message with photographs," ODE, May 2) with regard to the bold exposition of aborted babies. Like yourself, my original reaction to this type of display was shock, and I was admittedly uncomfortable.

However, I have had an opportunity to look into the results of this exercise and have discovered some interesting facts. Lives — unborn babies, of course, but especially women's lives — have been affected in a very positive way. Some have discovered their creator and others have decided to not kill their babies as a direct result of having seen these displays.

I recently visited my alma mater and experienced these displays. I soon found myself watching not the display, but the people who would walk by it. I could see the students' minds processing some very new and, for them, "real" information.

There was one female student in particular who was riding her bike and was instantly attracted to the display. I watched as she slowed down, took a quick glance and then stopped, assimilating

the information she had just encountered. She inched closer, eventually taking in each and every picture. She asked for and received some written information and then walked off ever so slowly, taking a look back every now and then.

I'm still uncomfortable with the style and presentation but feel I understand what kind of positive impact a "shock and awe" campaign can have.

Jim Harrison  
Westerville, Ohio

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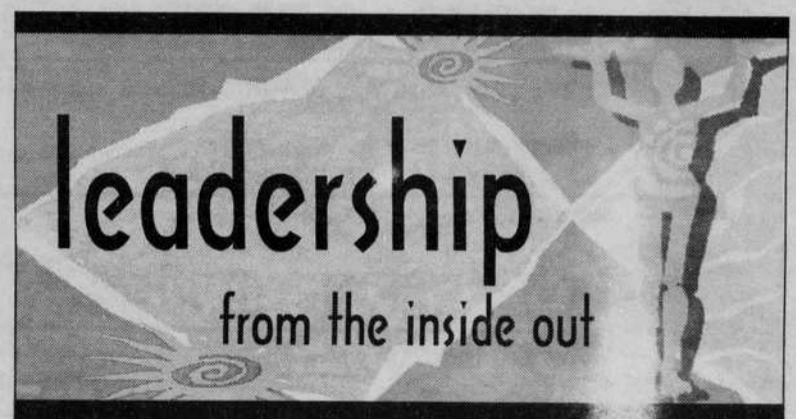
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