

We limit free speech through our silencing of unpopular opinions

Guest commentary

Yet again I am forced to hear "liberal" and "open-minded" members of the University community lecture me as a Christian and conservative to be more accepting of "diverse" views, yet scream bloody murder when a student of my views dares to publish a commentary on his particular thoughts concerning homosexuality.

Before I rant any further, however, let me offer my sincerest and most profound thanks to Emerald editor in chief Michael J. Kleckner for having the integrity and intestinal fortitude to allow and tolerate the views and written opinions of Vincent Martorano ("Homosexual men should hide their disgusting acts," ODE, May 9).

That being said, I find it interesting and humorous that this community sees it necessary to label Martorano's thoughts as "hate speech." I read his commentary over several times, and nowhere in it do I find a call to violence or discrimination. All I see is his per-

sonal feeling that open acts of homosexuality are offensive to him and indeed repulsive. Well, gee, imagine that, a student — majoring in political science no less — who isn't afraid of admitting that certain "embraced" behaviors that thrive on this campus are repulsive to him.

Well, now let's look at this carefully, shall we? Do any of you out there possess the ignorance or naiveté to believe that you could show public displays of homosexuality in Reedsport or La Grande and not be met with utter disregard? Are those who insist on this view of homosexuality "wrong"? Be careful not to insist on absolutes, you wonderfully "tolerant" young people, lest you find yourself admitting that the Christian right's assertion that there are absolute morals is a possibility. I presume that you wouldn't want to risk that.

Another challenge that I have for you: Are you saying that those who approve of and support homosexuality ought to be unhindered in voicing their support of that lifestyle, but those who

disapprove and are repulsed by it should be censored and limited in their ability to voice that view?

Though I can well imagine that there are those out there who are snickering and saying, "Of course they should be limited," I encourage you to think of the potential danger that this position poses to you. If you are successful in silencing those who disagree with you or have an opinion that repulses you, what is to stop a conservative element from someday silencing you in that same way?

Please don't forget that in Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Oklahoma and many other Midwestern states, your view is not only the minority, but indeed the extreme minority. Would you be willing to set the precedent that says it's OK to silence those with opinions you don't like? A dangerous thought, to be sure.

But that's OK, right? Because people at the University don't really take the time to think past the edge of their own noses.

Scott D. Austin lives in Eugene.

Letters to the editor

Why does the Emerald print bigoted words?

As a so-called "butch man-hater" on campus, I am compelled to address the May 9 issue of the Emerald. Since when has the school paper been an appropriate venue for the spouting of bigotry?

Blatant expression of homophobia, racism, anti-Semitism, classism, ableism, etc. should not be tolerated, let alone showcased. Martorano's "I don't hate gays but keep it in the closet" rhetoric is an exceedingly classic example of homophobia, coupled quite nicely in fact by Cruz's anti-choice argument that lying lesbians "could never attract a man if their life depended on it."

I am personally not trying to attract any men in my quest for reproductive freedom for all women (including an end to forced sterilization, which has yet to receive the same attention as has the more predominately white middle class issue of abortion rights.)

Also: a shout-out to all the queens locking lips in public. I know it might be quite a temptation for all the other boys on campus who, like Martorano, are "completely comfortable with (their) sexuality," but I'd like to see more affection between loving men and women alike pleeeeeease!

Just make sure to use a safe form of birth control if you adhere to his advice about "the correctness in preferring the opposite sex." While he's busy longing for reversion to constructions of queer sexuality and communities as pathological and

shameful, I long for the day when tolerance isn't on the agenda but acceptance and celebration of diverse expressions of gender and desire are.

Lezlie Frye
junior

women's and gender studies

Martorano shares 'chore' with homosexuals

In response to Vincent Martorano's thoughtful commentary ("Homosexual men should hide their disgusting acts," ODE, May 9):

As a gay man, I can empathize with Martorano, who finds it such a "chore" to be conservative at a way-out-liberal university like this one. Sometimes I feel the same way being queer in a world where almost everyone else is straight, and the heterosexual reality is forced down your throat every day of your life while any attempt at voicing your own homosexual feelings is oppressed at all costs.

You'd think that a great American "cause" like the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is something people would remotely support. But in most parts of this country — no way!

If you dare kiss a man in public, you will undoubtedly piss off some straight guy who's "comfortable" with his sexuality — but not yours — and equates his "yuk" response to some high-minded sense of "moral decency" and gets all outraged, which puts you at risk of being ridiculed, or denounced, or beaten up or killed.

It's enough to make you want to just crawl into a closet and die — which is such a chore! In recounting his plight as an oppressed conservative at the University, it's evident that Vincent Martorano knows just

what that feels like.

This is the kind of empathy I hope our community will continue to nurture and support.

John Krotchko
graduate
architecture

School of Music UNIVERSITY OF OREGON & Department of Dance



MAY CONCERTS

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- Thur. CHORAL CONCERT: "A Serenade to Music"**
5/22 *UO Choral Ensembles* 8 p.m., Beall Hall
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- Tue. CHAMBER MUSICALE**
5/27 *UO Chamber Ensembles* 8 p.m., Beall Hall
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- Wed. A FESTIVAL OF TRUMPETS**
5/28 *UO Trumpet Class Recital* 7:30 p.m., Newman Center
FREE Admission
- Wed. UO JAVANESE GAMELAN**
5/28 *UO Ensemble* 8 p.m., Beall Hall
\$5 General Admission, \$3 students & senior citizens
- Fri. THE JAZZ CAFE**
5/30 *UO Jazz Combos* 8 p.m., Room 178 Music
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- Sat. FUTURE MUSIC OREGON**
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Campus buzz

Wednesday

"Disenchantment and Reenchantment: Georg Simmel on Religion" (lecture), 3:30 p.m., EMU Metolius and Owyhee Rooms, free, 346-4051.

Knot tying clinic, 5:30 p.m., 37 EMU, free, 346-4365.

"Smoker" (fraternity boxing tournament, fundraiser for YMCA), 6-9 p.m., McArthur Court.

"Beyond Sexwork" (forum), 7-10 p.m., 100 Willamette.

"What is Art?" (forum) 7:30-9 p.m., Dymont Hall Lounge, Walton Complex, free, 346-5414.

The Oregon Wind Ensemble (concert), 8 p.m., Beall Hall, \$5 general public, \$3 students, 346-5678.

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The School of the Americas and Iraq:
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Roy Bourgeois founded SOA Watch, the Gandhian-style movement to close the SOA (now renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, WHISC). The school has trained thousands of Latin American soldiers in counterinsurgency techniques, including torture, that have terrorized civilian populations.

Thurs, May 22, 7:00 pm
Room 177 Lawrence

Sponsors include: SOA Watch, Eugene Area; UO Multicultural Center; Committee in Solidarity with the Central American People (CISCAP); UO Amnesty International; Survival Center; Newman Center; Eugene Friends Meeting; Faith in Action; Progressive Responses; Justice Not War Coalition; Oregon PeaceWorks

For more information, call Peg Morton, 342-2914