

# Act of discriminating cannot be justified — against any person

## Guest commentary

I am a white, middle-class, church-going conservative Christian. There, I said it. Boy does it feel good to come out of the closet!

I admit this with trepidation because I identify myself with a group of people who are becoming increasingly unpopular. Just as some of you are reading this, I have no doubt that the words "hate monger," "hypocrite" and "Bible thumper" are going through some of your minds. Please put your prejudices aside and read this before you burn it.

As a white male Christian, I'd like to point out that I have never once committed a hate crime, nor have I ever condemned anyone to hell. I've been called a "Bible thumper" numerous times, but I can't recall one single time when I actually thumped on a Bible. I don't hate homosexuals or people who get abortions — or homosexuals who get abortions, for that matter.

In fact, I don't even like to consider myself a conservative. I like to think of myself as a "middle-of-the-road" kind of guy. I'm labeled a conservative because Christians and conservatives are often lumped into the same category.

I'm also labeled as a conservative by people who are so far left of

the road that anybody in the middle of the road is obviously conservative. I feel sorry for people to the right of the road because they're obviously Nazis.

I am writing this in response to the numerous articles that have been written lately dealing with the sensitive subject of hate speech and homophobia. All too often, perpetrators of hate speech are assumed to be Christian, and in some cases these idiots even claim to be Christian. Please do not consider these people products of Christianity. They have severely twisted Christianity to justify their own personal biases.

I am against discrimination of any kind. I know what it is like to be discriminated against. Because I am a student at Northwest Christian College, I am automatically a homophobe, a racist and a closed-minded ignoramus. This kind of discrimination is often justified because it's "discriminating against discriminators," and therefore it's acceptable.

Discrimination is discrimination, no matter who you are discriminating against. When it comes down to it, discrimination is judging people. I believe Jesus said it best when he said, "Judge not lest ye be judged." What a novel concept.

Nathan Traylor lives in Eugene.

**Summer 2003**  
**GER 223**  
**Germany: A Multicultural Society**  
 4 credits  
 GER 4935,  
 2-3:50 M/W/TH  
 154 STR.  
 June 23rd - July 18th.  
 Saskia Hirtz.  
 Satisfies Arts & Letters and Multicultural IB Requirement.  
 GER 223 examines complexities of the increasingly multi-ethnic German Society through the writings of African, Turkish, and Jewish Germans as well as contemporary films on the topic. This course introduces students to the political and social challenges faced by post-unification Germany. We will consider socioeconomic, political, and cultural issues of minority populations. As we study the various groups we will investigate the ways in which they have helped to redefine what counts as "German" today.

## STUDENT CLASS AIRFARES

Paris	\$417
London	\$419
Amsterdam	\$488
Frankfurt	\$505
Madrid	\$500
Montreal	\$403
Mexico City	\$372
Lima	\$598
Tokyo	\$519
Sydney	\$883

Fares are roundtrip from Portland. Restrictions apply. Taxes not included. Fares subject to change.

**Eurailpass Sale - up to \$130 OFF.**

**TRAVEL CUTS**  
 See the world your way

1430 S.W. PARK AVE.  
 Portland, OR 97201  
 503-274-2323  
 800-592-CUTS (2887)  
 portland@travelcuts.com

**ASK US ABOUT OUR EXCLUSIVE FLEXIBLE FARES**  
[www.travelcuts.com](http://www.travelcuts.com)



# CASH FOR BOOKS.

**UNIVERSITY OF OREGON BOOKSTORE**

**UO Bookstore Main**  
 June 4 - 14  
 REGULAR STORE HOURS

**EMU Lobby and Duck Shop at Autzen**  
 June 9 - 13  
 MON. - THUR. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 FRIDAY 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

# Hate speech, intolerance hurt many groups at UO

## Guest commentary

The recent demonstrations on campus regarding the May 9 guest commentary by Vincent Martorano ("Homosexual men should hide their disgusting acts," ODE) were important and necessary to show support for the gay and lesbian community. Martorano's comment that he has "no problem with gay individuals, as long as they stay in the closet" was about as plausible as the Feb. 4 commentary by Earl Gosnell ("Nigger" has several meanings used to show acceptance, kindness," ODE) in which he argued that the term "nigger" can express endearment.

There was no demonstration or letters of outrage when that commentary was printed. There was only silence which spoke louder than any words could have.

This is why I find Martorano's disgust at the liberalism on this campus ridiculous. How many people of color are in your classes? One? None? How many professors? How many professors here would feel "safe" in disclosing their sexual orientation to their class?

I am amazed that those who are consistently marginalized on this campus are still persevering and are strong enough to have open relationships or can attend a mostly

white university knowing that hate speech will be printed in the newspaper that is supposed to represent the voice of all of the students here.

My position as a white woman grants me privilege that others do not receive. Nothing made this more clear than last term when three other classmates and I did a social research project in which we went into local grocery stores to purchase fish. The non-white students in the experiment were followed in the store, ignored when they asked for help, mistreated when they finally received help and treated as if they were invisible until one of the white students interacted with them.

Grocery shopping is something that we all have to do. If the experience of participating in this life-supporting activity was this traumatic and dehumanizing, then what is it like to be a student on this campus who does not "belong" to the majority and is singled out in guest commentaries?

It is the responsibility, in my opinion, of the students on this campus to ensure that all groups are equally supported and that hate speech in our student-run newspaper is not tolerated. We cannot be complacent about this issue any longer.

Celeste Burns is a senior sociology major.

**UNIVERSITY OF OREGON**

# 2003 Summer Session Classes Begin June 23

Register for Summer Classes

## Book Your Summer in Oregon

Pick up your free summer catalog today in the Summer Session office, 333 Oregon Hall, or at the UO Bookstore. You can speed your way toward graduation by taking required courses during summer.

**Check Out Our Website!**  
<http://uosummer.uoregon.edu>

## Raw Talent.

The Oregon Daily Emerald is always looking for young writers who want to learn and grow at a real newspaper.  
 For information on how to freelance for the Oregon Daily Emerald, call 346-5511.