

Card's experiences back opinions

Walking into Professor Douglas Card's 4 p.m. sociology class brought an unexpected surprise. Social Inequality was a class I signed up for months ago, not knowing that my professor would soon have attention on the front cover of the Emerald ("Professor sues for libel damages," ODE, Sept. 29). The article briefly explains the lawsuit he has filed against Daniel Pipes and Jonathan Schanzer for claims that Card bashes race and religion as he teaches

GUEST COMMENTARY

Social Inequality at the University. It didn't take more than 10 minutes for me to understand how such a judgment could be made about Card from a media columnist. As he described the facts of American society and the binding stereotypes that accompany it, he didn't hold back from pointing out situations around the world. Differences of race, gender, age, sexuality, religion and culture are not all accepted. Society's evolution proves that these are not all equal. Facing that fact is something that could easily bring stereotypes of Card, himself, as one who focuses on those differences. But as I sat and listened to his childhood

experiences as well as his war stories, I felt that there was much more experience behind his lessons than mere opinions. His expressions and passion can't hide his personal experiences of oppression, hence his actions in teaching about it.

The fact that he puts things bluntly is beneficial to students such as myself because not only is he a contributing human setting an example in his strive toward equality, but the classroom atmosphere openly accepts debate and understanding of this sensitive subject.

Nicholas Wilbur is a sophomore pre-journalism major.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Singelyn's letter based on faulty calculations

David Singelyn's letter ("Iraq war budget doesn't add up," ODE, Sept. 30) is itself based on rather dubious mathematics. In Mr. Singelyn's letter, he questions the Bush administration's \$66 billion allocation for military action in Iraq by dividing it by the number of soldiers stationed there. This of course makes little sense, as it assumes all of the money would be going toward the soldiers' salaries.

But what is truly spectacular about David Singelyn's mathematics is that he somehow divides \$66 billion by 150,000 and obtains "exactly" \$4.4 million. The correct answer is in fact \$440,000. Considering the tremendous operating costs involved in fighting a war across the Atlantic and how crudely this number estimates the cost of the war, this is probably reasonable. Dividing the total University budget by the number of faculty, for example, gives approximately \$300,000 and is equivalently nonsensical when evaluating

the University budget's value.

I found this letter rather disappointing after reading the editorial editor's declaration only one day earlier that this space would not be "where uninformed rants and ideologically incestuous nonsense run amok."

Note to Emerald staff: You've been had — a trivial Google search shows that Mr. Singelyn makes a habit of sending similar "rants" pushing his ideology to college newspapers all over the country. Perhaps this is because it's such an easy way to slip his fact-free agenda to such an impressionable audience.

David Mason
graduate student
physics

Music and energy drive underground scene

Helen Schumacher in her "Notes from the underground" ("From minivans to Miller beer: Indie rockers are selling out," ODE, Oct. 2) stated that kids usually get into the underground music scene because "the people that go to the shows are way hotter than the people that go to cor-

porate shows ... and that you get to be an elite member of an underground community."

The truth is, real people from the underground who are part of an elite underground community go to shows for, number one: the music. And number two: the energy derived from the independent music at live shows. People who go to the underground shows reject the hype and fashion that comes with corporate music, MTV and artists like Britney Spears (whom some would consider to be "way hot").

The majority of underground communities are not a part of the mainstream because they reject the promotions, advertising and marketing sold alongside music — this includes the fashion you see in magazines and on the backs of your "way hot" friends who shop at Hot Topic.

Perhaps the Emerald should look into the "selling out" of the independent music scene by writers who purport to be underground.

Autumn DePoe
Class of '02

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