



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wagner misses God's point

Kimberly Wagner's commentary ("Gays violate God's canon," ODE, March 15), has convinced me. I'm now completely convinced that the God of Ms. Wagner and our bigot president is an ignorant child, a moody baby who seems to have granted us free will as a goof. If God is even slightly concerned about homosexual love with all the hopelessness, death, starvation, war, lies, and idolatry in this country alone, then God's priorities are ridiculously misplaced. There is not enough love in the world for anyone. God included, to condemn it for being between two people of the same gender.

And as for God's canon, what is it but one book made by men (not God) almost 2,000 years ago? The Bible is no more the word of God than this letter. If your God lives and thinks only as one old book surmises, Ms. Wagner, he is as dead as the trees that make up its pages. And rightfully so, if he has nothing better to do than condemn those who have the courage to love each other in these times. For what it's worth, I believe that for a living God to exist in our world, God must be in those moments where we are brave enough to love one another and have compassion without judgment, without prejudice, without some illusion of God as a judge, jury, and executioner who condemns and kills in accordance with our own flawed morals.

Matt Chorpenning
senior
theatre arts

Emerald ignores fraternity services

As a fraternity member, I am very distraught that the Emerald, an unbiased organization, would only print one side of the story ("Fraternity incidents elude University sanctions," ODE, March 12). Only until the end of the article did you even remotely mention community service, scholarship and philanthropy. These are the bases of all fraternal organizations on campus and nationwide. One mistake shouldn't rise to the top of the headlines and overshadow the greater good that we achieve for the community.

If you report on our mistakes, at least have the decency to report on the good that the greek community is doing as well. Running an article on greek philanthropy will only help the charity involved. All of the proceeds go to such good causes, and the Emerald constantly demeans that by running articles that almost demand looking down upon greek organizations. The greek community does make mistakes, just like any other group of students; but the fact of the matter is, because members of fraternities and sororities make up more than 11 percent of the undergraduate student body, our flaws show up more than those of a smaller group of students would. I am not one to sugarcoat things; mistakes have been made and repercussions have been felt. I am not trying to "change the system," but instead I am asking you to open your eyes and your mind, and glance at the other aspect of greek life, the good side.

Walter Jones
freshman
undeclared

Emerald Board right in criticizing Illinois mascot Chief Illiniwek

On behalf of thousands of students, faculty and alumni at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, I would like to thank the editorial board of the Emerald for its efforts to end the racial stereotyping in sports that is inherent in the University of Illinois' sports mascot, Chief Illiniwek ("Oregon takes backward step by scheduling Illinois game," ODE, March 1). Your advocacy that the University of Oregon not compete with the University of Illinois on the sports fields sends a clear and important message to those empowered to end this form of invidious discrimination. Racial stereotyping has no place in our educational institutions or elsewhere. We truly welcome this support from Oregon.

GUEST COMMENTARY

We sincerely hope that Oregon President Dave Frohnmayer joins Illinois Chancellor Nancy Cantor, UC-Berkeley Chancellor Robert Berdahl, former Illinois President

Stanley Ikenberry, the United States Commission on Civil Rights, the NAACP and the hundreds of additional national and local organizations that urge an end to these practices. As stated by the NCAA Minority Opportunities Committee, "Member institutions with Indian mascots that promote Indian caricatures and mimic ceremonial rites do not comply with the NCAA's commitment to ethnic student welfare. The use of these symbols and mascots is not respectful to Native American culture and is considered by that culture to be sacrilegious. The continuation of this practice sends a clear message that administrators, who have the responsibility of nurturing our students, have an insensitive disregard for the native culture of this country."

Your advocacy has made a substantial impact in this debate and your continued efforts to see this issue through are essential and greatly appreciated.

Stephen Kaufman is an Illinois resident and a biology professor at the University of Illinois.

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