

Forum speaker feels misrepresented Rau responds to criticism

To The Print:
Heidi Hoffman's article, in the December '91 Print, maliciously quoted me out of context in her poorly written article about the Political Correctness Forum. For the record, I am opposed to being forced (by the 1964 Civil Rights Act) to renting to a Black or any-

body else for that matter. I am not opposed to renting to Blacks per se. Had Hoffman listened carefully to what was said and the context of my responses to the questions, she would have needed some other issue to write another typical poor example of simple minded journalism.

John C. Rau



Photo by Vivian Johnson

John Rau, social studies instructor, speaks at the political correctness forum, while colleagues question him.



Editor's comment Article fairly portrays Rau's remarks

by Heidi A. Hoffman
Editor-in-chief

Instructor John Rau has submitted a letter in response to my article "Politically correct or Prejudiced?" in the Dec. 4 issue of *The Clackamas Print*.

The paragraph in my article that Rau has responded to reads as follows: "The problem that I see here is not one of political incorrectness but one of prejudice. Professor John Rau said that he would not rent to a person of a different color or sexual preference. He went on to say that this is his 'choice.' Is his justification for that choice being 'politically incorrect?' I think not. It is obvious that political incorrectness really has nothing to do with this whole issue. The issue is that we have some prejudiced teachers who refuse to recognize and accept any sort of diversity among our students."

Although I did not directly quote Rau, he technically did not say that he would not rent to a black person. In my opinion, however, my article represents the spirit of his comment. Following is a transcript of the forum, upon which I based my comments:

Uris (to Rau): "Why did you bring up the issue of homosexuality?"

Rau: "I think basically the issue of homosexuality is one today where it's being forced upon people who don't want it."

Uris: "Are students here in danger of being forced into homosexual acts?"

Rau: "I think in many instances, people are being forced to rent their boarding house rooms and rentals to people of homosexual persuasion. It may be their individual right to choose not to do so."

Uris: "How is that different from forcing someone to rent property to a person of color?"

Rau: "I'm opposed to that, also. I oppose the Civil Rights Act of 1964."

(Later in the forum another important question was asked)

Rau: "Most of our administrators are people of liberal persuasion. The majority of the college board is Democratic liberal. Look at most of the promotions here on campus; the story is, 'White male? Forget about it!'"

Student: "What if you were black?"

Rau: "If I were black, I'd be a conservative Republican, as I am now."

Student: "But you wouldn't want anybody to rent a home to you?"

Rau: "As a black conservative, I'd have the right to rent... I believe in individual freedom; perhaps you don't."

I feel that my article was written in good faith. What my article is about is my opinion of what happened during that forum. I do not feel that I was alone in my beliefs, as to what was said during that forum. Several students made comments referring to the fact that Rau would not rent to a black person. Even in the transcript a student mentioned that she felt that was what he was saying when she asked:

"But you wouldn't want anybody to rent a home to you?"

In Rau's letter of response he says that I maliciously quoted him. First of all, I never directly quoted him. Secondly, what I said in my article was not even close to malicious. The definition of "malicious" taken from Webster's *New World Dictionary* reads: "Active ill will designed to harm another. Having, showing or caused by malice; spiteful"

After reading Rau's response letter I would like to know which is more 'malicious': his name-calling letter, or my article?

In my opinion when someone is opposed to something they will not do it. I am opposed to drugs; therefore I do not take them. I am opposed to abortion; obviously I am not going to have one. So in light of that, I imagine that Rau's being opposed to being forced to rent to blacks and homosexuals means that he would not rent to any blacks or homosexuals.

Rau seems to be upset because in my article I said that the issue is bigotry and prejudice, while he feels it is about political correctness.

The definition of a bigot, taken from the Webster's *New World Dictionary*, is "One who holds blindly, intolerantly to a particular creed, opinion." The only person I see holding blindly to a particular creed is John Rau.

EMILIO ESTEVEZ ANTHONY HOPKINS
MICK JAGGER

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