



Face off: College diversity

Diversity programs bridge the racial gap

Liz Travers

The Clackamas Print

As a country, we have made leaps and bounds in acceptance and diversity.

There was a time not even that long ago when an African American child could not go to a white school. Even in our parent's time, it was uncomfortable to make contact with someone of a different race.

People now seem to feel that diversity is shoved down our throats. We can all remember, during grade school, how Martin Luther King Day was a staple of every year. It is only natural to assume that these programs would also seep into college. Except this time, it is geared to help those in the minority category with grants, scholarships, clubs, etc.

What is so wrong with that? It's not as if the majority doesn't have a million opportunities thrown in their laps every day. We live in a society where the majority thrives. It is, after all, the American way. I had no idea that helping had become a problem in society.

These days, the average student can barely afford to go to college, let alone pay for the cost of living. Unless you are a prodigy or can spank the competition on the field, college is pretty much paid for out of pocket. The rest of us are forced to rely on government aid.

The more we introduce the idea of diversity in schools now, the better off we will be in the future. Yes, it's true that some people will never change their ideals about race, but every generation reaches a little farther towards that goal. Maybe we will never have true equality, but what's wrong with making a valiant attempt?

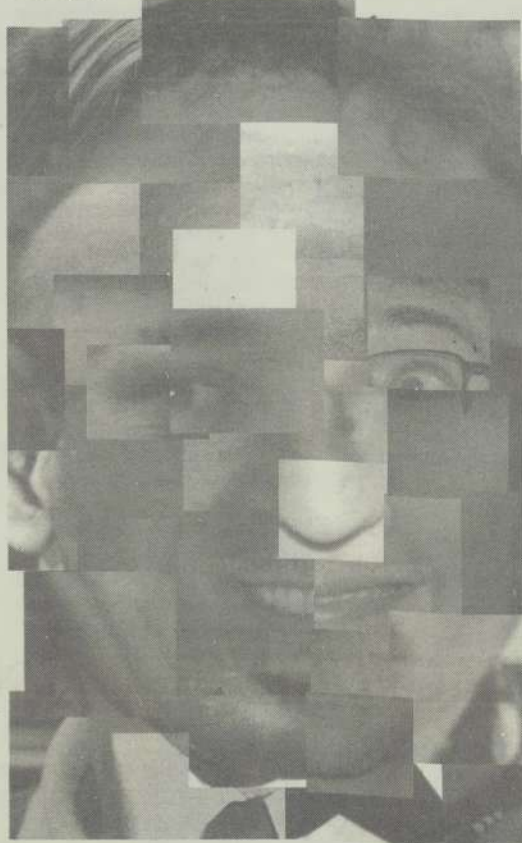


Photo illustration by Elizabeth Hitz and Geneva Laubach Clackamas Print

Diversity programs divide instead of unite

Tayo Stalnaker

Commentary Editor

Racism has, and always will be, a fact of life. There is no way to end it, and it is pointless to even try.

College diversity programs, along with all the other ones, were created in an effort to promote cultural awareness, unity and to end discrimination. I admire this about diversity programs because I wish that this country was more tolerant of other cultures and racism and sexism were non-existent. However, I am smart enough to know that that will never happen. Why? Because humans are stupid, and forcing people to get along with each other doesn't work.

Race should not be a factor when it comes to being accepted into a college. What should matter is what the person has to offer the college, such as previous academic success, community service work, student leadership, etc.

Another problem I have with diversity programs is political correctness. Political correctness is the dumbing-down of society. It brings everything to the lowest common denominator. What these diversity programs do is put everyone into hyphenated phrases, such as "African-American" and "Asian-American." The only thing this achieves is dividing people up into different groups, only taking into account their cultural background. I'm sorry, but if a person lives in America and is a tax-paying citizen then that makes he or she an American, nothing more and nothing less.

College diversity programs also contain false assumptions. Such as, they assume that people in a certain ethnic group all think alike, and that they will bring in different points of view. This is not the case; everyone has different beliefs, ideals, morals and thoughts, regardless of his or her race. Everyone comes from a different background and offers up something different to the metaphorical table.

Yes, America does need to be more sensitive to other cultures, and racism needs to be erased. However, forcing multiculturalism on the public is not the way to do it. So, how do we achieve this? Honestly, I have no idea, but I'm pretty sure a better education system and abolishing political correctness would help.

Silly grown-ups, 'Tricks' are for kids

Tayo Stalnaker

Commentary Editor

Adults should not go trick-or-treating on Halloween, nor should they insist on dressing up. The candy is for the kids, so back off.

I see adults trick-or-treating every year during Halloween, and it's really getting annoying. For one, adults don't need Halloween as an excuse to dress up anymore ... because they're adults. Secondly, Halloween is now a children's holiday and, unless there's a Wiccan revolution, it always will be. Furthermore, candy rots your teeth, so leave it for the kids. Hey, they'll be growing new teeth in a few years, so why does it matter?

I have no problem with adults dressing up on Halloween as long as it's

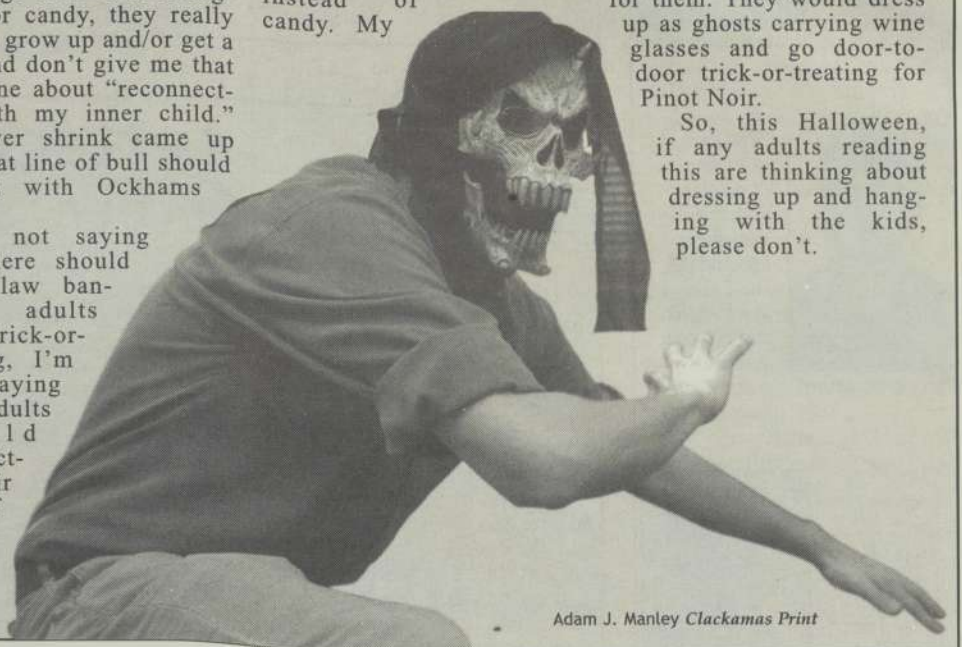
for an adult party. However, if an adult is going to dress up and go door-to-door begging for candy, they really need to grow up and/or get a life. And don't give me that tired line about "reconnecting with my inner child." Whatever shrink came up with that line of bull should be cut with Ockhams Razor.

I'm not saying that there should be a law banning adults from trick-or-treating. I'm just saying that adults should start acting their age. If they want to

trick-or-treat, then I would suggest asking for booze instead of candy. My

aunt and uncle used to do that, and it worked out well for them. They would dress up as ghosts carrying wine glasses and go door-to-door trick-or-treating for Pinot Noir.

So, this Halloween, if any adults reading this are thinking about dressing up and hanging with the kids, please don't.



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