

OPINION

Voice opinions with courage



Tim Olmeda
Opinion Editor

I love the idea of freedom of speech.

As editor of the Opinion page of the *Foghorn*, it's basically my job to make sure that any student or faculty member who has a valid opinion about an issue or government official is allowed the opportunity to express it.

However, contrary to popular belief, we do have a review system in place to make sure the articles printed in this section do have some facts to back up the author's opinions.

Now, you may or may not have noticed that the name of this section is Opinion. Most of you, I'm hoping, are operating under the assumption that this follows the definition of that word, which is "a personal belief or judgment that is not founded on proof or certainty." Well, we don't quite work that way.

Editorials are based on the opinion of the newspaper's staff. A meeting is held between page editors on a particular issue and we discuss it until we come to some form of agreement on what stance to take when the editorial is written.

Think of it as a joint statement between countries when they denounce terrorism or whatever; they disagree on almost everything but in the end must reach a compromise for the sake of peace.

Columns, those articles with pictures next to them, are opinions of the writer listed and shown and should be treated as such. However, those opinions must be valid and serve some purpose to both inform the public and get them involved in the democratic process.

I'm not going to print a column from someone who thinks homosexuals should be stripped of every civil liberty known to man and treated like a third-world citizen; that's just not going to happen. I will, on the other hand, print something from someone who has a valid argument as to why Proposition 2 was necessary in the first place; I have yet to receive one.

You cowards who voted for the Proposition made it a point to keep your voices silent until the amendment had been passed. It kind of reminds me of that kid who waits until the bully is a good distance before shouting out what a jerk he is and running away.

The great thing about this country is that we are all afforded the right to disagree with one another on particular issues; that's what makes a democracy great. If you read something in this section that you don't agree with, make it known.

Send a letter to that email address listed at the end of the column that got your attention; we always welcome another point of view, just as long as it's valid.

TIM OLMEDA IS OPINION EDITOR FOR THE DMC FOGHORN. READERS MAY CONTACT HIM VIA EMAIL: EDOPS_FG@DELMAR.EDU

OPINION

Women deserve proper candidate



Dianna Hamilton
Journalism Major

President Bush's actions in response to Sandra Day O'Connor's desire to retire have been both chauvinistic and insulting. He has neglected equally qualified and experienced female candidates such as Janice Rodgers Brown, Consuelo Maria Callahan, and Priscilla R. Owen and has nominated John Roberts, Harriet Miers, and Samuel Alito.

John Roberts was initially nominated to replace O'Connor but instead occupied an additional vacancy as a result of the death of Chief Justice William Rehnquist in September. Bush's second attempt to replace the first woman to sit on the Supreme Court was Harriet Miers.

Unfortunately, Miers was grossly and pathetically inept in addition to being grossly underqualified. Unlike Brown, Callahan, and Owen, Miers has never served as a Federal Appeals Court judge and does not possess a paper trail.

Samuel Alito, whose Senate hearing is scheduled to begin on Jan. 9, is the President's current attempt to reshape the Supreme Court. Alito seems intelligent and experienced but, unsurprisingly, is a man.

According to the 2002 United States Census Bureau, women make up about 51 percent of this country's population. As such, it is imperative that we be granted

greater influence upon the highest court in the land.

Issues such as abortion, domestic violence, and privacy not only deserve but demand the perspective and scrutiny that only a woman can bestow upon them.

I'm not saying men are the enemy. Chief Justice Rehnquist, for instance, served his country well for 19 years. Newly appointed Chief Justice John Roberts has auspicious potential, but the fact remains that women need to be fairly represented in the Supreme Court.

Bush's failure to name a female Supreme Court nominee is akin to dereliction of duty. How could the President, who swore to uphold and defend the constitution not once, but twice, disregard 144 million women?

In July 1848, in Seneca Falls, New York, the women's rights movement was born. Ever since then, we have been granted suffrage and the erosion of the cult of domesticity, among other things. Yet despite a legacy of strength and commitment to be active and respected members of our society and government, as well as the current population majority, men like President Bush continue to undermine our gender.

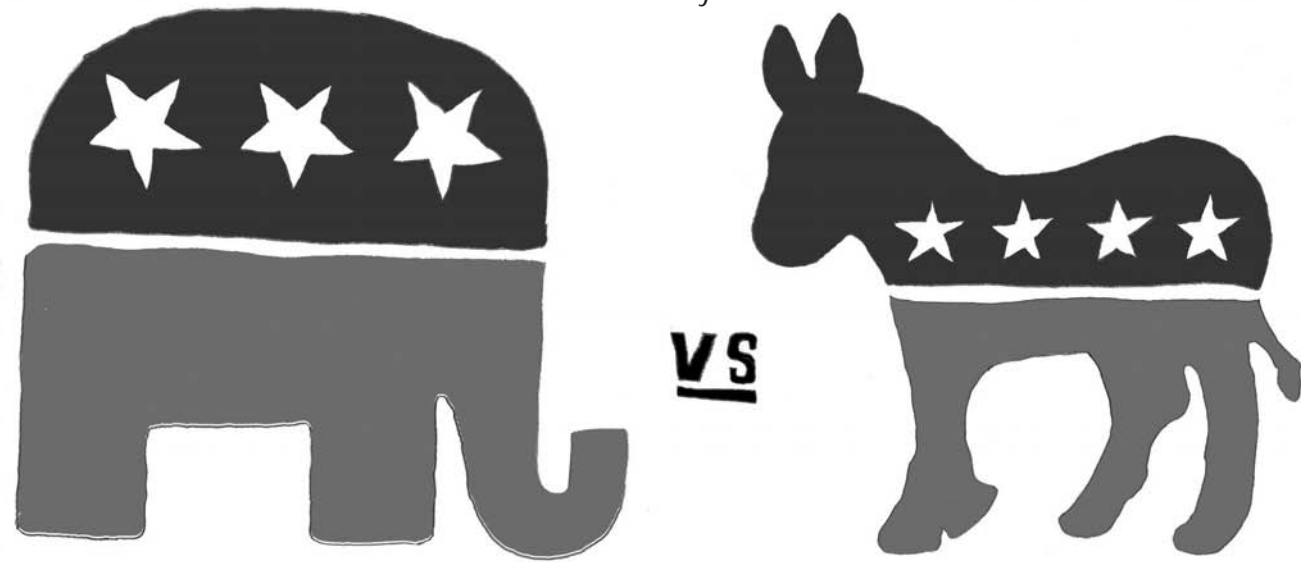
The possibility that Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Ginsburg may be the last of their kind is a degrading and deplorable thought.

Have all of our trials and triumphs been for naught?

DIANNA HAMILTON IS A STUDENT CONTRIBUTOR FOR THE DMC FOGHORN. READERS MAY CONTACT HER VIA EMAIL: EDOPS_FG@DELMAR.EDU

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Tim Olmeda | FOGHORN

EDITORIAL

Plan is needed for withdrawal of troops

The war in Iraq is growing into a volatile situation that is not only causing death and destruction in the sands of the Middle East but strife and dissent here in the United States.

Republicans and Democrats alike are now at a fever pitch with their defense and criticism of the war. Recently, Democrats have begun to accuse the President of deliberately misleading the American people with faulty intelligence leading up to the invasion of Iraq.

President Bush, in return, chose Veteran's Day to lash out at Democrats for the accusations in one of his harshest speeches directed at the opposition to date.

This back and forth between the parties was bound to happen, especially with the mounting casualties that have surpassed the 2,000 mark.

Protests are being staged all around the world, with the recent demonstration of thousands of protesters in Argentina and Venezuela a prime example of the hos-

tility this war has created.

A withdrawal of troops probably will not be feasible within six months like some Democrats have proposed. Instead, the government should operate within a one-year timetable to begin scaling back forces in Iraq.

Concentration should be on building up the Iraqi security forces so that Iraq's are in charge of maintaining order in their own country. This may help alleviate attacks aimed at US soldiers because insurgents claim our

nation's armed forces are occupiers, not liberators.

For every battalion of Iraqi soldiers that is ready to operate independently within the borders of their own country, our troops are one step closer to returning home.

It does little good for our elected officials to point out past mistakes to one another all for the sake of politics.

Differences must be pushed aside and a solution must be presented soon, otherwise our country is doomed to fall apart.

OPINION

Youth controls future of nation



Erica Gilmore
Journalism Major

Our planet is growing increasingly tumultuous with each rotation and revolution. There are overwhelming numbers of natural and political disasters that demand our attention and scrutiny as a nation.

The vice president's office is the focus of a criminal investigation and our president is a figurehead who caters to the religious right. Do I even need to mention the name Katrina?

What about our families and peers who are fighting the "War on Terror" in the scorched and barren Middle East?

All of this action is swirling around so fast that it is easy, almost fascinating, to simply sit back and observe, forgetting about your voice and mobility. However, I cannot be a spectator and let the world happen all around me without trying to make an impact and neither should you.

This is not a lecture about voting because that would be hypocritical. Personally, I refuse to vote solely because I feel it is a waste of time. I know that

my vote is outnumbered here in South Texas.

However, there are other methods of getting involved. A good start is simply to be informed.

Watch the news, read articles on the Internet or in the newspaper; I guarantee that eventually you are bound to come across something that will make your blood boil.

This is a good sign. It means you are alive and conscious enough about something to be passionately opinionated.

Now that you've found your cause, research it. Write to your government officials. Organize a protest, fundraiser or vol-

unteer; whatever you do, do something because youth apathy is killing this country.

Mr. Harry Krenak, professor of history, once noted in a classroom lecture that most of the sparks that ignite the blaze of revolution start with the youth.

It is up to all of us to be aware of the consequences of the happenings in the world around us.

If ignorance is bliss, then being aware of your surroundings and controlling your fate must be euphoria.

ERICA GILMORE IS A STUDENT CONTRIBUTOR FOR THE DMC FOGHORN. READERS MAY CONTACT HER VIA EMAIL: EDOPS_FG@DELMAR.EDU

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Disapproval of 'Goats'

While I may understand that the Del Mar College *Foghorn* is used as a front for people to express their opinions, it does not excuse blatant homophobia.

As a gay student here at Del Mar, I found a recent column, "Of goats and men," to be offensive. One cannot relate the marriage of two men to a marriage between humans and animals as the writer states in her article.

As to knowing what love is, just because she's straight doesn't give her the right to define that two men can't love like a male and a female together can. I find her ignorance both appalling and completely resentful.

Instead of the title being "Of goats and men," she should have called it

"Gays do not deserve love and respect."

Armin Bivona
Former Del Mar College student

Editor's Note: The column in question, "Of goats and men," was written as a satirical look at the passing of Proposition 2. It was not the intent of the writer to offend homosexuals, but rather to show her own disapproval at the passing of Proposition 2.

Informing the Public

I am writing to you to say thanks for working so hard on the *Foghorn* newspaper. Editors are always trying to improve and push themselves in making the newspaper better and get the coverage that people want to see and read about.

In the editorial section, where

journalism majors or other students can express their views, you can see the opinions and views of other people.

I personally think that is truly what makes the newspaper special and truly American. It gives students the opportunity to know the "who," what, "where," and "why" of the happenings at Del Mar. It also allows students to discuss issues with fellow peers and express their thoughts about the stories.

Thanks a lot for putting your efforts into the *Foghorn*. I hope, in the future, I can do something that can inform people the way the *Foghorn* does.

Chandler Kuhn
R/TV Major

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Letters to the editor must be no more than 150 words in length, must be signed and will be edited for grammar. Send letters to the FOGHORN office: Room 215 Harvin Student Center 101 Baldwin Corpus Christi, Texas 78404

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