

OrlandoSentinel.com

Letters to the Editor: No time for 'what ifs', Rollins discrimination, internet cafes

March 23, 2013

No time for 'what ifs'

It would be refreshing if the Sentinel Editorial Board used the same wisdom expressed by the University of Central Florida shooter's roommate when writing Wednesday's editorial ("Fla.'s 'no-problem' gun problem needs attention.").

The roommate, Arabo Babakhani, is quoted as saying the shooter just had "a change of heart." Then followed up with, "You can 'what if' all day. I'm a college student. I don't have time for that."

Apparently, the Editorial Board did have time.

This incident and the one involving a middle-school student who brought two handguns to school were enough for the Sentinel to continue the argument for stricter gun-control laws that only law-abiding citizens would obey. I hope the editorial was out of frustration and not part of an agenda. In both cases, the system worked, and there was no tragedy.

As far as the middle-school student is concerned, he probably wanted to show his friends a couple of the items that were causing the fuss. That is my "what if" idea for the day.

L. Karl Koering Winter Springs

Rollins right not to allow discrimination

I was dismayed after reading [Darryl Owens](#)' Monday column, "Rollins ruling enters theater of the absurd," criticizing Rollins College for the de-recognition of InterVarsity, a Christian group, as an official campus organization.

As assistant section editor of Rollins College's student newspaper, I interviewed many of the people involved in the controversy.

Had Owens done this, he would have understood why Rollins' ruling was not so "absurd."

Rollins originally de-recognized InterVarsity, not because it required its leaders to be Christian, but because it barred a student who was in a same-sex relationship from a leadership position.

It was not, as an InterVarsity spokesperson has said, about a disagreement over "biblical authority." Based on my interview with the student, I can assure you that she is very much a Christian.

So let's stop skirting the issue: The student was deemed not to qualify for a leadership position because she loved someone other people thought she shouldn't love. Clearly, this is discrimination and violates the college's nondiscrimination code, which includes sexual orientation.

Such discriminatory policies must be taken seriously, as they inevitably leave a harmful psychological impact on the person experiencing discrimination.

While InterVarsity has the constitutional right to believe whatever it wants about the LGBT community, Rollins College, as a private institution, is not required to endorse those discriminatory beliefs. Religious rights end where people's basic rights to dignity and respect begin.

Scott Novak assistant section editor, The Sandspur at Rollins College

Internet cafes offer good, clean fun

Regarding William Heap's letter to the editor in Tuesday's Sentinel about Internet cafes: I agree 100 percent with his thinking. You do not throw out the whole apple barrel because of one bad apple.

The actions of Allied Veterans of the World, if true, are a disgrace to our veterans and despicable to all, and they should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. But to ban all others and take away entertainment for thousands of law-abiding, taxpaying citizens is not the answer.

My wife and I, along with many of the senior citizens in my 55-plus community, also frequent the Internet cafes and enjoy hours of fun, entertainment and snacks in a clean, secure, friendly environment.

As typical, our leaders in Tallahassee overreacted with knee-jerk decisions when they have had years to address this problem, but chose to do nothing.

I have to wonder how much money could be generated, how many schools could stay open and how many jobs would be created or saved by a state-regulated Internet-cafe program.

Donald Paley Zellwood

FSU medical leaders thank their partners

As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of our Orlando campus, we would like to express our gratitude for the more than 550 area physicians and the community partners who educate our medical students in the science and art of clinical medicine.

Through these efforts, our students are immersed in the local medical community and are inspired to return as the physicians Orlando needs for the future.

Recently, 13 students from our Class of 2013 matched with residency programs in Orlando — seven at Orlando Health and six at Florida Hospital. They will join 37 other College of Medicine alumni already in residency or fellowship training in Orlando, along with 13 alumni already in practice here.

On Wednesday, Florida Hospital boosted our medical-education program in Orlando with a \$2 million donation that will help guarantee the continued success of our community-based approach, as well as more educational innovations to come.

Florida Hospital's generosity affirms that our model is working very well, especially in the important area of producing the primary-care physicians Florida needs.

We value the Orlando community physicians who welcome our students into their offices and share their patients and medical knowledge. Without them and the partners who support our effort, the College of Medicine's success would not be possible.

John P. Fogarty Dean, Florida State University College of Medicine

Michael Muszynski Dean, FSU College of Medicine, Orlando Campus

A telling movie review

Anti-gunners, liberal government representatives and the media continue to blame guns as the primary cause of violence and downplay or ignore mental health, violent video games and Hollywood's portrayal of violence.

How ironic, then, to read in Friday's Calendar section [Roger Moore](#)'s critique of "Olympus Has Fallen": "The bursts of blood, the gunplay and execution-style head shots that punctuate scores of deaths" make the movie just another "movie manifestation of a first-person shooter video game."

And his most telling statement being, "We've become a head-shot nation." We have.

Ron Clayton Apopka

Copyright © 2013, [Orlando Sentinel](#)