

OPINION/EDITORIAL

Policy violates First Amendment

Sometimes, even if it means well, a university can go just a bit too far. Take, for example, the nine campuses of the University of California. Students enrolled in the UC system can be expelled for making remarks that offend a particular race, religion, gays or the disabled. Others, such as those at the University of Michigan and Tufts University have similar policies. Michigan's was ruled unconstitutional, while Tufts' president recently announced that their policy was being dropped. The ban, the president said, wasn't worth the threat to the students' free speech rights.

What does all this tell you? It tells you that, no matter how insensitive some students can be toward others, attempting to ban words of hate just won't work—now or ever. Racism may be on the campuses nationwide, but an administration should only consider expelling students for committing violent acts against certain minority or ethnic groups. Racist or sexist students need to change their attitudes, but using thought police tactics won't do it.

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"I'd rather see newspapers with no government than a government with no newspapers." - Thomas Jefferson

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CHAINED RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS

Students should stop whining

by Aletra Hart

After one of my classes I was walking behind three of my classmates who were accusing our professor of being lazy, and complaining that we weren't learning anything in the class.

Well, they were speaking for themselves. I was appalled and offended because I thoroughly enjoy his class.

Most of what we learn in his class is from anecdotes and lighthearted lecture. We are taught significant facts that pertain to our majors.

If college were just a place to absorb and regurgitate information, I could understand some students, myself included, being bored and dissatisfied with their professors. Some professors allow no if's, and's or but's; they only want to hear what they taught you with no room to expand with your own insights.

We are permitted to expound in our class. We call it class participation, and part of our grade depends upon it.

When students start blaming their poor education on their professors or on the institution they attend, however, a whole new arena has been opened.

When you make the decision to attend college, you are taking your education into your own hands.

If you have a professor who tells

you every answer to every test, so what?

Do you mean to say that he doesn't teach you anything and it's his fault that you're not learning? Bull! That's a cop-out and you know it! A world of knowledge and wisdom is available to us; all we have to do is reach out and grab it.

If you think you can learn more than what your professor is teaching you, you're right. So stop complaining and accept responsibility for your education.

Those other classmates of mine only see the surface and refuse to dig any deeper into themselves; we must realize that education, all we are capable of learning, come from within us. We cannot depend upon others to teach us all we need to know. To do so would be suicide.

I honestly believe that education is what you make of it. Whether you have the bucks to attend Harvard or USD, or whether you attend a community college, only you decide how much knowledge you acquire, period. A professor is not omniscient; therefore, any restrictions on you gaining knowledge are self-imposed by your belief that you can learn only from your professor.

Think about it. Maybe you're the lazy one.

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