

# Di·ver·si·ty

## Accepting diversity doesn't have to be difficult

Charlie Remy  
Columnist

This June, I had the opportunity to go to San Francisco to attend a conference on social justice issues. You probably know the saying "I left my heart in San Francisco." Well, I certainly did. San Francisco is an incredibly diverse city economically, ethnically and sexually. This diversity adds to the experience of visiting the city; whether it is the unique ethnic cuisine in a classy restaurant or the architecture of the public buildings.

I am very interested in gender and sexuality studies. As many of you know, San Francisco is one of the gay capitals of the world. The heart of the gay community lies in the Castro section of the city. I happened to be in the city for LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual

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and Transgender) pride week. I am so glad I was able to experience this. I was able to attend the yearly Gay/Lesbian Film Festival and watch two excellent films. I was amazed by the solidarity of the gay community in the audience. It was interesting to see how so many of them knew each other due to the need to support themselves in spite of the struggles they have had to face in order to win rights.

I found it refreshing seeing same-sex couples being able to hold each other's hands and show affection for one another in the very safe environ-

ment of the Castro.

Many people claim the United States is superior and more developed than other countries. In terms of LGBT rights and tolerance, we fall behind tremendously. These couples deserve the same rights as you and me. It boils down to a civil rights issue. The United States Constitution should and will protect everyone.

It should be clear that the ruling in Massachusetts covers only civil marriages. Religions who do not believe in gay marriage are in no means obligated to partake in the ritual. I don't understand how

people can say that including LGBT people in the definition of marriage will somehow dilute the sanctity of marriage. Why do these people care? It is really none of their business if gay people decide to marry. It doesn't make their marriage any less valid, along with that fact that there is not a finite amount of marriage licenses to go around.

The gay marriage issue is heating up in many states as they will vote on a constitutional amendment in the November elections. I think it takes generations for social change to take place. Let's hope that our generation will be more tolerant than ever before for LGBT people. It's only the right thing to do.

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## WSOE 89.3 should cater to larger audience with its radio programming

Raphael Garcia  
Columnist

Elon University is working hard to become a place of great diversity, bringing in students from far-away states and countries. Most of their work has been successful, but some problems are still prevalent and are in need of solution.

Taking part in the move-in day fiasco that was Aug. 27, I had the opportunity to "enjoy" WSOE, Elon's student-run radio station. Throughout the day, I found myself becoming more and more disturbed with what I was hearing. For a university that is trying to do a better job at representing its "diverse" class of students, this radio station

is not doing a good job. Hour after hour the only type of music that was played was alternative music. Requests for different music were ignored, and nothing was done to change that. The lowest point of all was when I was walking past the speakers and heard the on-air personality say that if you should leave the G-Unit music in high school and mature to the sounds of WSOE. Hearing that blew me away. How could he make such a dense comment over the air? That caused me to look more into the matter, and after speaking with a WSOE student staff worker, I found out some interesting information. Hip-hop music is only played on Friday

nights and only five to eight hours a week are dedicated to that genre. I was also told that Friday nights are second to Tuesday nights in listeners, with a couple of hundred on Fridays, as opposed to a couple of thousand on Tuesdays.

Before you think that I am just making an argument for rap music, I am also concerned about those who listen to country or classical. These types of music and others are left out all morning and afternoon. If this university is trying to embrace its different backgrounds, one of its main media outlets needs to do some huge as well.

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