

Kraus' Conservative Column

BRANDI KRAUS
Contributing Writer

Before I begin my article I would like to personally thank the *Herald* for this fantastic opportunity. I would also like to encourage others to volunteer your time and write for the *Herald*. There is no room to complain if you're not willing to do your part to change what you don't like. Please note that I do not intend to speak for anyone but myself. I do not claim that my column is a report but rather commentary.

There is no doubt that the recent law-breaking frenzy in San Francisco is an imminent danger to American society. Let's get the full picture. We see a mayor, Gavin Newsom, who has illegally taken upon himself authority to break the law by allowing, even encouraging, city officials to issue marriage licenses to homosexual couples. Newsom continues to be outspoken and defiant to law and order by taking the law into his own hands and stating that the President's only purpose in a constitutional amendment is "a ploy to appease the right wing of his party and change the subject from his dismal record on job creation and foreign policy". Yes,

Ladies and Gentleman again we see the infamous Liberal whining "Right Wing Conspiracy... grab your children and run for ... F r a n c e ? "

Secondly, we find activist judges who need a refresher course in LAW 101 to remind them that their job is to interpret, not write law, according to their personal preferences. California family code section 300 clearly states, "Marriage is a personal relation arising out of a civil contract between a man and a w o m a n "

Thirdly, we see city officials that have also made the choice to disobey California state law and issue marriage licenses to homosexual couples. Next we see the homosexual couples congregating at the county courthouse to openly defy state law by partaking in illegal activity. Finally, we have the newly sworn in Governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger, who wrote a letter to California's Attorney General's office requesting they take "immediate steps" to stop San Francisco's marrying of homosexual couples. Come on Governor, you can do better than that! This is overt disregard for

the law and it deserves more than a letter.

When I look at this despicable display of criminal activity, it is hard not to get lost in a nightmare where I fear the perpetrators will suffer no persecutions and the moral fiber of our country will slowly but surely erode away. However, on Tuesday, February 24 at 10:43a.m. my soul was comforted. At that time President George W. Bush stated, "the Defense of Marriage requires a constitutional amendment. Today I call upon the Congress to promptly pass, and to send to the states for ratification, an amendment to our Constitution defining and protecting marriage as a union of man and woman as husband and wife".

The Defense of Marriage Act, passed in 1996 by Congress (House 342-67, Senate 85-14) and signed into law by President Clinton, shows that a majority of Americans believe in marriage as the union of one man and one woman. Of course, they all have their own reasons for their beliefs but still come to the same conclusion, the sanctity of marriage must be held in the highest regard. As one of civilizations

oldest and most cherished institutions, its survival is crucial to American society.

If homosexual marriage becomes legal, I fear consequences of gargantuan proportion. Where then will legal marriage limits be drawn? Will brother and sister or perhaps human and animal be allowed to marry? What about polygamy? Where will it end? For example let's take the North American Man/Boy Love Association, NAMBLA. "NAMBLA's goal is to end the extreme oppression of men and boys in mutually consensual relationships". One way to get their point across is "by cooperating with lesbian, gay, feminist, and other liberation movements" (www.nambla.org).

Folks, the issue is clear. Americans must resolve this issue once and for all. For me, the choice is obvious. I support a constitutional amendment that defines marriage for one man and one woman only. I am proud to have a President that will stand on principle in the face of immoral and irrational opposition. Where do you stand?

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Babysitter needed in my West Raleigh home, M-W-F from 10:45 - 12:45 p.m. beginning Monday, March 15. Two sweet children, five minutes from campus, \$50/week. Please call Stacy Rusak at 859-8087.

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The Fuel for the Drive

RACHEL FORSHEE
Staff Writer

Rivalry is at the heart of college sports, work place ambition, and classroom performance. This driving force has the ability to make athletes push themselves beyond all known limits to win a game or beat a particular world record. This same driving force is what makes employees at a company try to do better than one another so the best one will be noticed and promoted, just to repeat the cycle all over again. In fact, this same driving force is what pushes some students to excel in all their classes so that they can have the right to give a speech on the day of graduation. Thus rivalry is at the heart of many reasons to succeed in life.

Without rivalry no football game would have the excitement that we all have come to enjoy and associate with a day on the field. No baseball game would get people in heated discussions about whose team would make it to the World Series this year. Without rivalry no sports team would be able to harness their talent, drive and love of the game to form a unit of individuals that are willing to withstand any obstacles and survive any adversity just to hold a particular trophy or wear a particular metal. Athletics is based on the human drive to win and succeed against other participants. The fuel for this drive is usually in the form of rivalry. Sometimes this rivalry is directed against fellow teammates, members of the opposing team or a previous player's performance/record.

Rivalry in the work place usually takes the form of ambition and the

desire to "move up the ladder". This ambition is commonly aimed at a higher salary, bigger office, recognition, and/or prestige. Rivalry forces people to constantly think of new ideas so that they may be recognized over their fellow employees. This same need to win is what influences many people to raise to executive positions. These individuals often arrive at such positions through a cutthroat process of being better than their co-workers, thinking of more original and creative ideas to improve efficiency and having to deal with other individuals who are as much a victim of rivalry as they are.

Some students feel a need to show they are faster, smarter and better than everyone else. This type of rivalry based competitive nature is a great fuel to do well in school. Students who follow such a path often end up having a very arrogant and self centered view of the world. On the other hand some students do exceedingly well in their classes and excel in all their assignments as a result of a different form of rivalry. This rivalry is one not with other people or against a world record but with themselves. Truly what better opponent can there be other than ones self?

Rivalry is a force and a feeling that affects everyone; thus, it should not be ignored or repressed. Instead, rivalry should be channeled into strength and agility for athletes, ambition and creativity for employees and hard work and self-discipline for students. If it is able to be channeled and contained it can serve to help us succeed in life.

From the Editor

This editorial comes as a response to Brandi Kraus's letter last week and an anonymous letter submitted this week.

As the Editor in Chief for the *Meredith Herald*, I must say on behalf of the entire editorial staff, that we make an honest effort to represent all viewpoints expressed to us on this campus. Brandi said, "It is apparent that there is a trend in the *Herald*, Republicans and conservatism=negative coverage, Democrats and liberalism=positive coverage."

Such a trend may be evident, but the articles Brandi is referring to have always appeared on the opinion page of the *Herald*, which is where they belong. Furthermore, the paper cannot deliver opinions of all students, and we do not attempt to speak on behalf of the entire college nor the entire student body. Our philosophy has simply been to deliver what is expressed to us. So, it seems to us that liberals may just be more willing to speak through the *Herald* than conservatives.

So yes, Brandi, the *Herald* does welcome and respect your viewpoint along with everyone else's. If we were actually biased, we would have avoided printing your letter and we would refuse to print a conservative column by you or another conservative.

We received a letter from an anonymous individual about Nina Borum's *Beauty for the Body and Spirit* column. This individual said, "I know if I were to write a beauty column encouraging my atheist viewpoints, I'd be criticized to no end... Keep your religion to yourself!" Once again, the philosophy of the *Herald* is to represent all viewpoints expressed to us, if a Christian or Atheist viewpoint is expressed to us, we will make every effort to print it.

A school newspaper serves as an outlet for its students to express their opinions in addition to reporting the news. The student handbook states, "As readers and as contributors, all members of the Meredith community have both the privilege and the responsibility to con-

tribute to the success of the paper." Those who choose to take advantage of that privilege and responsibility to contribute to the *Herald* are those whose viewpoints are expressed.

Nina has chosen to write about Christianity and the *Herald* staff will not tell her or anyone else their viewpoint is not worth being in this newspaper. As such, this paper is an outlet for you to express your opinions, so if you want to submit an article for publication about Atheism, we will welcome it.

Before you begin spouting off insults about the *Herald* maybe you should approach us with your concerns in an open-minded manner. Furthermore, you should check out Page Three where it states, "The opinions expressed in the editorial columns do not necessarily reflect those of the college administration, faculty, or student body."

-Editor in Chief