

# A whites only club? Why not?

Peter Chase  
Staff Writer

A 15-year-old girl attending Freedom High School in Oakley, Calif., has proposed the creation of a Caucasian Club. Despite the name, she says the club would allow other races to join the club, but they would focus mainly on the history of whites. The question is, "Do we really need another history lesson on white America?"

The suggestion of creating a club for Caucasians is sound since numerous other nationalities have their own club. However, considering the recent history of Freedom High School, the timing for the suggestion is really off.

In the past two years, racial tensions have been heightened due to racist action. In 2001, a black teacher found a noose made of shoelace hanging on his door. A year later, a noose was found hanging from a tree on school premises.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was unhappy to hear of these events and the proposal for a Caucasian Club was

brought up hardly a year after the most recent incident. The representative for the East County chapter of the NAACP observed that the divide between blacks and whites has not yet been given time to heal, and the proposal for the Caucasian Club should wait.

Lisa McClelland, the young girl creating this ruckus, believes this new group will help ease the problems of racial disparity that have recently attempted to divide her school.

The opposite seems to be the reality and the proposition of how a group devoted to whites would actually assist the current situation seems laughable.

Despite this, McClelland has 245 signatures for a petition in support of the club from student body, to faculty and staff. Some minority students commented that the club might be helpful in assisting others to learn more about white history and that whites can have their own club like other races have theirs.

The issue of creating a group that is solely directed at one race does not stretch far from home as there are several race-based extracurricular

groups located here at the University of West Florida. The Asian-American Student Union, African-American Student Association, Chinese Student Association, and Hispanic Student Association are just a few on campus.

Despite McClelland's best efforts, the fact is that separate groups devoted only to the celebration of another culture will always bring about the argument that it is a racist group, even if the purpose of such groups is meant to draw equal attention to that particular race's culture. There will always be those who will see the group as an attempt at segregating cultures and the creation of groups dedicated solely to one race seems racist in and of itself.

A group focused on white American history is not what a small school enveloped in racial tension needs.

The timing of McClelland's proposal could not be more wrong if she scripted it. However, as a young freshman, she cannot be blamed entirely for the uproar. As she grows older, she might understand why her petition is meeting such heavy criticism.

# Walking the line one last time

William Bolen  
Commentary Editor

J.R. Cash 1932-2003

"Hello. I'm Johnny Cash."  
He always began his performances in the same, unassuming way. But his influence on music was limitless. He was a singer, songwriter, author, actor, husband and a father.

The 11-time Grammy Award-winner died of complications from diabetes on Friday, Sept. 12 in Nashville. You don't have to be a fan to know Cash's influence on music cannot be denied.

His six decades of music began in the mid 1950s at legendary Sun Records, with the likes of Elvis Presley, Roy Orbison and Carl Perkins. He would see his final works released by Rick Rubin's American Records. During this period, Cash covered contemporary artists such as Danzig, Nick Lowe, Leonard Cohen, Tom Waits, Depeche Mode, Soundgarden and Nine-Inch Nails.

The "Man In Black" lived the hard life he wrote about. He was the son of sharecroppers in Arkansas and picked cotton alongside his family in the fields. His later success as a musician would bring troubles with the law and drugs. The early pace of his career took its toll, and he began taking amphetamines to help him get through his schedule of nearly 300 shows a year.

Cash also had several run-ins with the law, including starting a forest fire and wrecking the footlights at the Grand Ole Opry after they refused to let him perform. In 1965, he was arrested in El Paso, Texas, for attempting to smuggle amphetamines into the country. He divorced his first wife a year later.

Only after meeting and marrying June Carter-Cash, did he begin to turn his life around.

His music transcended genre. Cash was a member of both the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. He remains the only performer besides Presley to have been inducted into both.

Johnny Cash's music was hardcore, old school before there was old school. His songs showed life as it really was. Quentin Tarantino referred to Cash's songs as tales of "backwoods thug life."

*"My mama told me, son, always be a good boy; don't ever play with guns. But I shot a man in Reno, just to watch him die."*  
— Folsom Prison Blues

"Do what you do. You can't let people delegate to you what you should do when it's coming from the heart," said Cash, when asked about rap music. "I wouldn't let anybody influence me into thinking I was doing the wrong thing by singing about death, hell and drugs. 'Cause I've always done that. And I always will."

Yet his music also spoke of love and spirituality. "I Walk The Line" and "Ring of Fire" were songs that came from his relationship with his wife, June Carter-Cash. His music spoke for the broken and reached across generations.

"To me, God likes a Southern accent, and he tolerates country music," said Cash.

"We, the people, put ourselves in the shoes of the singer. We want to feel his pain, his loneliness. We want to be part of that rebellion," he wrote of his craft in 2000. "At times, I'm a voice crying in the wilderness, but at times I'm right on the money and I know what I'm singing about. It's about sharing, praise, worship, wonder and wisdom. So share in the joy here and maybe the rest will follow for us all."

But these simple words do not do him justice. In lieu of condolences, go listen to a CD. It doesn't have to be a Johnny Cash CD. Listen to one that makes you experience feelings. Whether it is pain, loneliness, wonder or joy, listen to it and "share in the joy."

That is the legacy of Johnny Cash.



Johnny Cash

# Liars, cheaters: Whom does America hate?

Terese Jordan  
Staff Writer

A man who cheats on his wife, or a man who is responsible for the death of American citizens and citizens of other countries. Who is more despicable to Americans? Most would say the latter. However, recent events suggest otherwise.

A common stereotype foreign citizens have regarding Americans is that they are more interested in sex scandals and the secret lives of celebrities than they are about intellectual issues such as government, scientific discoveries and literature. This can be illustrated in the fact that America's lust for sex helped fuel an effort to investigate the sex life and lies of one former president, while the current administration undergoes no investigation for lies it told concerning an ongoing war in a foreign country.

The fact Americans see a greater need to investigate a president who lied about a sexual affair, rather than investigate a president who lied about a global affair, gives support to the stereotype many foreigners have about Americans' lust for sex and violence.

In 1999, former President Bill Clinton was investigated and impeached because he misrepresented his relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. American citizens were



shocked, disgusted and entertained by the news of a juicy scandal oozing from the White House. Though Clinton was not removed from office, many people will never forgive him for the demoralizing act he committed during his term as president of the United States.

Only a couple years after the Clinton scandal, George W. Bush entered the White House and orchestrated an attack on Saddam Hussein with questionable justification for his actions, without much dissent from the public.

To many who are outside looking in, this would seem extremely backward. Years earlier, Americans were upset and enraged by a president who committed adultery in the White House.

However, people seem indifferent to the suggestion that George Bush could have deliberately lied to the American people concerning a war in which American soldiers and Iraqi civilians are dying daily.

The weapons of mass destruction Bush preached about are nowhere to be found, and the government is now trying to make rationalizations by stating that the United States went to Iraq to "liberate" the Iraqis. But anyone who has watched the news preceding the attack knows that there was no talk of this so-called "liberation" until the war had already started.

If liberating countries from evil dictators is a concern, why not liberate the citizens of the Congo?

If ridding dictators of weapons of mass destruction is a concern, why not attack North Korea?

It seems that Bush isn't consistent regarding his reasons for invading Iraq. If he didn't attack Iraq for the reasons he gave, then it would only be logical to find out why.

Yet, until Americans begin to become more interested in the politics and policies of their government, and less interested in the sex and scandal, they might never be aware of the heinous conspiracies playing out right in their very own country.

# Lady Justice is not blind: Prejudice exists

Liz Peterson  
Contributing Writer

I feel obliged to offer a counterpoint to Travis Huisken in the last issue of The Voyager that claims the radical left is stripping Lady Justice of her blindfold by caving into "special rights" legislation.

Almost anyone who is innocent of a crime would love to be judged by Lady Justice. Infinite in her wisdom and fairness, blind to judicial prejudice of any kind, this mythological entity is supposed to represent what we strive for in our judicial system.

But I have yet to see this spirit in the flesh, seated in a judge's chair, producing perfect sentencing for every individual accused of a crime. Nor have I seen a jury with a knack for perfect impartiality in every decision.

The fact is that judges and juries have always consisted of regular people who tend to use their

sight, their fallacious logic and their biases to make their judgments. Regular people have never been blind to their prejudice.

Thus, we can see any case in court as being prejudiced not only by relevant counsel, but also by the personal history of all people involved, and the personal history of our culture at large.

Perhaps Lady Justice is able to overlook our country's political background and make sound decisions, but the average randomly selected individual is not.

Let's look at one of those populations, which Huisken undoubtedly believes to be an "anointed minority group;" the African-American population.

How can anyone say that the action of a few relatively new laws will completely erase all bias against this population following 200 years of abominable forced labor, then several decades of a lack of basic equal human rights and privileges? Huisken also claims that homosexuals, another

"anointed" group, are getting an unfair posthumous advantage over other murder victims as a result of hate-crimes legislation.

Here again is a case where protection is granted on the basis of obvious historical relevance. Historically, the law has not protected homosexuals when they have been victimized.

Thus the hate-crimes legislation exists as punishment, not as entitlement. We have to have more powerful legislation, more strength behind our protection for groups that have been historically abused, because we are, in effect, protecting these people from the force of that which exists in our culture.

History does not erase itself from our consciousness with the mere passage of a few new laws. Sometimes laws are needed simply to protect existing laws.

This may seem ridiculous, but it's a necessary part of the checks and balances that protect all of us from our lack of good judgment.

# Letters to The Voyager

Dear Editor,

I was both shocked and dismayed last week when I opened the Voyager and read the editorial by Travis Huisken titled "Ammunition for Gun Control Lobbyists."

This was of course, only my first reaction.

I am a fairly liberal man who has

always been in favor of gun control laws, especially on handguns.

However, by the end of the article, I was convinced.

The society that Mr. Huisken paints seems ideal. Where can I sign up to wander streets where everyone is packing?

I don't think there is any society in which I would feel safer.

In closing Mr. Huisken, if more people were carrying guns in this particular instance, there would have been a greater chance of more people dying, including one of those children who happened to be there that day.

Bryan Reingruber  
Student



Letters

# VOYAGER

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