

Charles R. Coombs

January 30, 1995

Your Views
The Oklahoman
P. O. Box 25125
Oklahoma City, OK 73125

To the Editor:

You've published a spate of letters from Norman criticizing you for presenting an unbalanced editorial page. What bothers me about this is that you regularly feature Anna Quindlen's suppurating, leftist drivel, as well as the brainless pabuluminations of Russel Baker. This should gratify the most egregious, academic socialist that even Norman has to offer. Indeed, I believe it would, if only your complainants could read it.

The problem is that illiteracy increases with proximity to the University of Oklahoma. We can solve this problem and a great number of others by shutting down OU. We can sell the physical plant to a Japanese computer manufacturer and tear down Owen Field. We can then erect a new, domed stadium (without a hole in it) on the site, using the money from the sale of the other assets to attract the Dallas Cowboy football team.

Under this plan, Norman retains professional football as its only real claim to significance besides Anita Hill. Even better, the plan makes that community a tax revenue producer instead of merely a consumer. It removes the city's dependency on government as an employer, as the OU faculty finds hotel and convention center work that doesn't require literacy. It gives Norman a counter to the MAPS project in attracting new industry. And it increases the mean IQ of both Norman and Dallas. The benefits are endless.

You may print this without charge.

Charles R. Coombs

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January 22, 1992

NOTE: The basketball coach for the University of Oklahoma used to hold his weekly television debriefings at Hooter's, a restaurant chain the name of which means exactly what you think it does. LoReacy Moses, local NOW potentate, said in the Oklahoman, "we know the relationship between objectification and rape." I guess she thought no one would respond to such irrefutable science.

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To the Editor:

LoReacy Moses' disclosure that NOW has established the relationship between "objectification" and rape fascinated me. I spent several minutes trying to determine the proportionality constant and the power of objectification that rape varies as. Alas I wasn't able to find any quantitative measurement of objectification anywhere.

A more chauvinistic observer would dismiss Moses' discovery as a feeble attempt to lend scientific verisimilitude to an argument that otherwise wouldn't be taken seriously. Not me, though: I like NOW girls. Their little noggins are so full of the most wonderful fluff!

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July 11, 1992

Your Views
The Oklahoman
P. O. Box 25127
Oklahoma City, OK 73125

To The Editor:

NOTE: The letter to which this responds treated of record stores which, in a rare spasm of Higher Social Consciousness, stopped carrying Ice T's "Cop Killer" album. Meantime, AT&T had not removed a recorded telephone message by the Ku Klux Klan. All this, the writer felt, constituted an act of discrimination against Ice T.

Sherry E. Smith rightly deplores Ice T's "Cop Killer" and the 800 number the Ku Klux Klan set up to spread a message of racial hatred. I don't see, however, how one gets a charge of discrimination out of that.

Ice T, who is quite as racist, misogynistic, and generally antisocial as any Aryan Brother, has never been denied freedom of speech: He legally spews his venom on anyone who wishes to bask in it, and his fans pay him handsomely for pleasuring them in his uniquely disgusting way.

No one censors these recordings as Smith implies. Some record shops refuse to carry them, but that's just a business decision not to spend money on something you don't want to buy and sell. Business people make that decision because they believe that a reputation for dealing in such trash diminishes their standing in the community and costs more than it makes over the long haul. It has nothing to do with freedom of speech, which Ice T, 2 Live Crew, and the many other race hate heroes exercise fully every day in pursuit of their repulsive art form.

These groups have the same sacred right the Posse Comitatus has to record anything they want. They don't have a right to make me buy it. If record stores have finally gotten tired of dealing in this refuse, we can only hope that record publishers will, too, and that hate culture will die for the best of all reasons — because no one wants it badly enough to pay for it. Surely, we can use our property as we wish and still freely express ourselves without incurring a charge of discrimination.

Charles R. Coombs

5718 Northwest 23rd Street #250W, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73127-2226

(405) 942-5358

Charles R. Coombs

May 1, 1992

Your Views
The Oklahoman
P. O. Box 25125
Oklahoma City, OK 73125

To the Editor:

The Rodney King verdict makes it clear that our judicial system, with its concept of trial by jury, doesn't work.

We should junk the system, sending all the judges and lawyers to work rice paddies in Louisiana. We should then release whatever evidence we have in a criminal case to our local television stations. They can present what they think important, and we can all vote on a verdict via a 1-900 number. We could require a minimum, say, 100 calls, to get a conviction in any but sexual harrasment cases. If no one cares, after all, why make someone suffer?

A person with strong feelings about a case could vote as many times as needed to insure that justice is done. We could make the calls free to certain groups to give the poor, the homeless, and the victims of drug dealers a greater voice in our judicial system. We could let our children vote, empowering them and enhancing their self-esteem. We could give every voter who signs a pro-choice pledge two or three votes per call to level the playing field against the pro-lifers. The benefits go on and on.

Once convicted, a criminal could be released to The People for whatever punishment they think fit. Such obvious, capitalistic racists as, say, Korean immigrants, could be publicly punished by, for a purely hypothetical example, having 1100 or so of their businesses looted and burned. That would teach them not to exploit the system by taking more from it than they really need.

As the greedy, biased, polluting, chauvinistic, lantern-jawed, abusive, rightist, homophobic, stereotyping, close-cropped, insensitive, dysfunctional, white-robed, politically incorrect, anti-choice, teutonic, exploiting, militaristic, self-esteem-undermining, demagogic, Japanese car-buying, victimizing, union-busting, pin-striped, Republican, sexually-harrassing, protestant, pro-crypto Ton Ton Macoutes you are at *The Oklahoman*, you won't have the guts to print this. But then, what could we expect?

Charles R. Coombs

5718 Northwest 23rd Street #250W, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73127-2226

(405) 942-5358

Charles R. Coombs

September 1, 1991

Your Views
The Oklahoman
P. O. Box 25125
Oklahoma City, OK 73125

To the Editor:

Who's to blame when a fifteen-year-old, driving illegally on a learner's permit, and speeding in an overloaded car, loses control with the results we saw in last week's Oklahoman?

The driver of that car was inexperienced. Could that mean that she didn't know when it was important to obey a given law and when it wasn't? Did she see example after example of people she respects consistently, willfully, and casually violating the traffic laws because they don't like them?

That girl learned somewhere that it's all right to drive five or ten miles an hour over the speed limit. Everyone, after all, does. She learned from someone that laws you consider unfair are not to be obeyed, including licensing laws that place restrictions on the way young people drive. Inexperienced as she was, she took these teachings as principles, and, in trying to apply them in a perfectly reasonable, logical way, she tried to violate the laws of physics on which the traffic laws are based. Now three kids are dead, two more are hurt, and that driver gets to live with the results of the principles she was taught.

The deaths of those three kids wouldn't be in vain if just a few of us would think about them before we deliberately speed on the freeway, especially when there's a kid riding with us or watching us from another car. Those kids would not have died vainly if only one or two of us would think about them before we deliberately violate any law, including even the traffic laws. Especially the traffic laws.

Of course, though, that won't happen. The deaths of those teenagers was just as pointless and just as nonsensical as all the thousands of others.

Charles R. Coombs

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November 29, 1991

Your Views
The Oklahoman
P. O. Box 25125
Oklahoma City, OK 73125

To the Editor:

Your editorial series on hate groups in Oklahoma is one-dimensional. Mind you, I don't sympathize with any of these groups. For one thing, I'm dead set against socialism in any form, including National Socialism. For another, it's quite demonstrable that no good ever came of race hatred or discrimination in either direction. But I've seen how these groups recruit. And I see in their approach a response to the kind of frustration and anger that keeps them growing. I think I know how this stuff gets started.

I was laid off a little over a year ago. I found another job. It hasn't paid nearly so well as the one I lost, but I'm willing pay some dues, and I'm not complaining. Recently, Oklahomans who aren't working just got another 13 weeks of unemployment benefits precisely so that they wouldn't have to do what I did. These payments make a significant difference in what my employer is able to pay me, and puts me in the position of subsidizing people who refuse to work on the same footing I do.

I see on television every day, and I hear from Congress and the Legislature, that all businessmen (white, male, protestant) are corrupt, evil, and rich. I feel that I'm paying a rich man's taxes to support a "safety net" that for me (white, male, protestant) simply isn't there. One person out of four in Oklahoma City works for the government and one in three in Oklahoma County receives some form of public assistance. This almost has to mean that we have some government employees on welfare. I pay for that, too.

Our legislature just passed a whopping tax bill for "education" in this state that doesn't even require a teacher to be minimally competent. They want to buy computers for kids who can't write, do math, or solve logical problems. Of course, they want me to pay for this. But they're not going to buy computers from me. They'll buy them from a new business set up by a failed minority attorney paid five times what I make in the name of "economic development." My firm and the others like it will thus subsidize these new competitors until, presumably, we're "developed" into bankruptcy. We're not eligible for these programs ourselves. We merely pay for them.

Our County just offered United Airlines over \$200 million to locate a maintenance facility here. Thank God, we lost this to Indiana, who will ultimately pay them half a billion dollars for

5,000 jobs. That means that our Hoosier bretheren who aren't working for United can look forward to subsidizing the paychecks of those who are.

This kind of thing does happen here, though. One local corporate welfare recipient actually competes with my company through a subsidiary. I pay for that, but my firm isn't eligible for this kind of public assistance.

I don't use illegal drugs. This, coupled with the fact that I'm white and male, means that 1) I can't get away with drive-by shootings or other felonies, and 2) that I can't even buy a syringe to recycle ink cartridges with anymore. Time was when my druggist would sell me one, but today I'd have to ask my neighborhood ACT UP representative for a free one in our local needle park, for the upkeep of which I pay, and wherein I go at my peril.

I don't sleep around, and I don't dally with other men. All the same, I'm expected to support taking money from heart or cancer research, which might benefit me, and putting it into AIDS research, which benefits me and mine not at all, on behalf of the people who do these wicked and perverted things.

Whatever I believe in, I'm going to be condemned and villified for it by the growing number of people who either don't believe in anything or whose beliefs are measurably perverse. I'm a criminal because I'm trying to succeed in a producing business, rather than trying to make my mark as a promiscuous ball player, a government employee, or — even better — a dealer in crack cocaine. I'm a racist because I think that everyone ought to try to make it on his or her own, rather than bringing up succeeding generations of illegitimate children on welfare. I'm a sexist because I avoid working closely with women for fear of inadvertently offending them in some actionable way. I'm a homophobe because I see at least some voluntary element in the transmission of venereal disease. I'm a religious bigot because I think people would be happier if they heard wisdom it's taken humanity thousands of years to acquire. I'm a Nazi because I'm a capitalist. And so forth.

Considering the sources, I'm comfortable with that. But when you next do a series on hate groups in this state, you might also mention that when these groups recruit, they claim to be the only ones who speak for people like me. They're very careful to point out that they're the ones who don't villify or threaten me. They don't use my tax money to attack me or to compete with my firm. They don't apply for work at my company with the sole aim of establishing grounds for a lawsuit. They don't offer condoms or syringes to my kids as alternatives to decent behavior. They claim to be the only groups who don't, implying that people like me are being systematically alienated from and rejected by a society into which we simply no longer fit. Their overriding message is that we'll eventually come around, accepting their racial and economic values as the sole means of preserving the moral and ethical values we live by now. We have, they tell us, nowhere else to turn.

Well. Do we?

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April 29, 1995

Your Views
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P. O. Box 25125
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To the Editor:

Not long ago, the television series *Picket Fences* aired an episode about a murder trial. Two policemen have broken into the defendant's apartment with drawn revolvers. He has killed them with a machine gun.

The story proceeds from the standpoint of the jury, of which the local police chief and star of the series is foreman. At the end, he convinces the other jurors that the killer, afraid for his life, has acted in self defense and can't be convicted of murder. The trial ends in an acquittal.

There was no legislative resolution condemning *Picket Fences* or demanding that it be taken off the air.

Evidently, some people can speak of a right to defend their lives against police, but not others. Because when G. Gordon Liddy did just that, our legislature vilified him and demanded that WKY drop his program.

Could our lawmakers be hypocrites as well as drunks and dunderheads?

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February 6, 1996

Your Views
The Oklahoman
P. O. Box 25125
Oklahoma City, OK 73125

To the Editor:

So Kenny Collins thinks Brenda Reneau watches too many gangster movies. Would he justify for us a union election that results in the murders of a candidate and his entire family? Can he recall an instance of some union commissar's being shouted down as the featured speaker in a public meeting the way our governor has been twice now? Will he explain how a local union hall's telephone number shows up on the caller IDs of people who concurrently receive threatening and abusive phone calls during a union action?

Gee, Kenny, maybe if fewer union guys comported themselves like a gang of Bolshevik thugs, fewer of the rest of us would so regard you.

Charles R. Coombs