1832

The purpose of this blog is to report issues that involve the campuses of Marquette, UW-Milwaukee, and Carroll College and to comment on local, state, and national news. While this blog celebrates Andrew Jackson’s founding of the Democratic party, 1832 will criticize the Democratic Party and will offer guest blogger invites to Republicans and Independents as warranted to further intellectual development and discourse.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2005

Racism Permeating from within Marquette College Republicans’ Ranks

1832 Editor’s Note: The following blog entry is a guest blog authored by Marquette Senior Brent Bray, who has an extensive background with Marquette University Student Government and, in particular, diversity and multicultural issues. A full bio of Brent will be posted in a future entry.

I had the distinct displeasure of reading a recent blog of a colleague of mine, Joseph Kastner, (a current Marquette University Student and College Republican), from a link that I found from John McAdams blog page. While skimming the page for valid information, two blog entries in particular caught my eye: one seeking to place Arabs as terrorist race inferior to commonalities of justice of a presumable guilt before trial based solely on the color/religion of an individual, the second seeking to falsely label our Muslim Student Association as a hotbed of terrorist activity.

Kastner’s anti-intellectual racist idolatry of his own ”superior white skin” is prevalent not only in his ignorant rants, but in his eagerness to post and endorse racial epitaphs. Kastner talks of Judeo-Christian beliefs as if he were one, however let us not forget that Jesus did preach tolerance and not hatred. Jesus often held audience with outcasts of society, not in condemnation but rather a binding spirituality connecting us all. This does not disappear when we cross the racial or religious barriers, for if we are to follow Christ we must accept the example of Jesus; we must be “men and women for others and not cast our judgment of condemnation upon others. I believe it was Jesus who said “Let it be the first among you who is without sin, to cast the first stone” it is not mine nor is it your place to judge...
Kastner has again shown his true colors in his blog “PC-America Stikes Again with 'Flightplan'” in suggesting first and foremost that “Arabs males are (inherently) sinister” and that their presumption (and in this case actuality) of innocence should automatically be discredited because they happen to be of Arab decent so they must be a terrorist. Within Kastner’s assumptions it is important to point out several flaws, first and foremost the un-American assumption of guilt before innocence. This stands in the face of our noble nation and seeks to destroy our founding father’s belief in innocent until proven guilty. And because of a person’s background he/she is guilty of crimes that are inconceivable to most people.

Secondly one must question Kastner’s presumption and acceptance of his own racist ideology as normal. It is not normal to assume that just because an Arab person is innocent that this is “leftist” or “PC.” In fact I would say this could just as well be reality. Many of our Arab brothers and sisters live within this great nation as citizens (without a need for a visa), and proud Americans. Many Arabs participate in this great democracy without ever buying into the rhetoric of extremism. However, Kastner would have you believe that every Arab person wants to tear down the fiber of America - hmm why would this be? Fear and ignorance often are a dangerous combination. Add to that a web page of a naive person with black and white assumptions of small town Wisconsin, and you have a loaded gun blindly aimed at Arab-Americans.

In another blog, Kastner would have you believe that the president of Marquette University’s very own Muslim Student Association is a suspected terrorist. In reality this happened at the University of Maryland, miles away from our institution of higher learning. This blog sought to destroy the reputation of one individual, and discredit two organizations. To respond to his question of does it make me happy that we have both of these organizations of campus, the answer is a resounding yes. These organizations go to great lengths to fight against the racist rhetoric of white supremacy Kastner naturally assumes to be a moral truth. These organizations are seeking to make Marquette University a better place; what have you done?

Kastner’s radical rants are so discriminatory and based on racial epitaphs that I personally would like to extend an invitation to him to come to one event for Ramadan. If that is too extreme, then go to one MSA or ASA meeting. Let us open the doors of dialogue to produce understanding rather than misconception of hatred.
I will keep you posted if Kastner RSVP’s or shows up at any of these events. Kastner, you could even think of it as research for your next discriminatory blog entry.

1 Comments:

At 12:58 PM, Chuck said...

In order for something to permeate, it has to be spreading throughout.

If one person expresses racist views and is also a College Republican, it is not indicative that racism is a pervasive issue throughout MU CRs.

To know the CR E-Board, is to know that they are not racist.

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