

OPINION

THE BATTALION

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FUNDING WHITE EDUCATION

United White Person's College Fund signals end to scholarship discrimination

Texas Tech University student Matt Coday has done the unthinkable and is ready to go to court to defend it. Coday is the creator of the United White Person's College Fund, a scholarship that will award money to white students in the United States, according to the Texas Tech newspaper University Daily. The scholarship serves as a source of financial assistance to students whom Coday feels have been discriminated against by organizations designed to give money to minorities. This scholarship is justified in confronting the policies of such minority-only organizations.



KELLN ZIMMER

Coday is taking the much-needed step of calling attention to the idea that black-only groups and scholarships are acceptable, whereas the same kinds of "white" activities would be labeled racist in today's society. "If I were to have a white students' association or host a Miss White Lubbock pageant, people would say I was racist," Coday said. However, rather than viewing this scholarship as such, it should be seen as merely another opportunity, another distinction in scholarship funding.

According to FastWeb.com, there are more than 600,000 scholarships available in the United States today worth more than \$1 billion in money for college, and applicants fall into every eligibility requirement imaginable. Adding a white-only scholarship to this list should not be viewed as racist, but rather as an advancement of opportunity. Families across the country, regardless of color, require the help of outside funds to send their children to college. There are scholarships exclusively available to applicants from any number of majors or fields of study, and even to family members of military or government employees. This is simply a continuation of that trend.

The Department of Financial Aid at Texas A&M offers information and applications on their Web site for many scholarships, all with distinct and specific qualifications. They are offered through academic colleges, The Texas A&M Foundation, the Corp of Cadets, the Hispanic College Fund, the United Negro College Fund, the Native American College

Fund and by residency. The eligibility requirements for scholarships available to students cover every distinction, and there should be no problem establishing white as an eligibility requirement for one of these.

Coday's motives are in response to scholarship funds such as the United Negro College Fund. "For the longest time, members and supporters of the UNCF have said that their practices are not discriminatory," Coday said. The UNCF's stated mission is "to enhance the quality of education by providing financial assistance to deserving students, raising operating funds for members of colleges and universities, and increasing access to technology for students and faculty at historically black colleges and universities," according to uncf.org.

Whether the scholarships are discriminatory or not, the fund is clearly designed to aid black students in obtaining a college education, and the purpose of the United White Person's College Fund is the same. Out of the national graduating high school class of 2000, only 64 percent of whites enrolled in college, compared to 56.2 percent of blacks and 53 percent of Hispanics, according to the National Center for Educational Statistics. The statistics point out the need of scholarships for all races, as less than two-thirds of high school graduates in the United States are attending college. The number of students not graduating is equally staggering.

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SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION



RADHIKA THIRUNARAYANAN • THE BATTALION

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The creation of this scholarship should be viewed not as a response to other minority scholarships, but rather as an opportunity for white students in need of college funds to obtain needed financial backing.

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fundraising, is adding to the abundance of college funding available to students today.

The scholarship is a welcome idea to white students who feel they have been exposed to reverse discrimination in America, have been denied access to funding because they are not the minority. The establishment of a white-only scholarship may do nothing more than shed light on the futility of having scholarships based entirely on race, but the bottom line remains that funding for higher education should be widely available. The more opportunities for intellectual enrichment, the better.

Kelln Zimmer is a senior English major.

MAIL CALL

Tanks being transported through campus at night

It's 12:15 Monday morning, and I'm driving down University after cramming for ACCT 230 at West Campus Library for the previous three hours (I'm being generous). Before proceeding through the underpass, movement above on the train tracks catches my eyes; trains are not uncommon during the night, as anyone living along Northside/Northgate can attest. Tanks, however, are.

There's no poetic or profound way I can say this: tanks were being transported along our College Station train tracks.

I should be catching up in my ACCT and ECON right now, considering I have tests in both this week, and I'm three chapters behind in each, as well. But my mind returns to those tanks - I shudder every time I think about what I saw.

Curiously, though, is the fact that this vast number of tanks (I lost count even after stopping and putting on my hazard lights so as to count each one) was being transported at night.

But, it makes sense. They'd never be transported during the day when everybody could see them. What kind of field day would there be if we were in buses, stuck behind the train, late to our classes, anxious to take our respective tests, and impatient as to what's making us late, and we look out to see these tanks going past us. E-42, E-51, E-40 scrawled on their sides, blowing by.

Millions before me have said much more eloquently what I wish to express, but if a scene as surreal as this past morning's isn't enough 'Folgers in your cup' to wake you up, I'm not sure what is. I'm not a cynic, nor a pure right-wing, nor a pure left-wing. But I am scared, scared of what I witnessed this morning. I'm sure that tanks have been escorted many, many times over those very tracks, but none affected me more than the ones I saw today. Remember the Vietnam War? Black Arm Bands, baby.

Nazer Taqvi
Class of 2005

Lack of support heading into war disheartens soldiers

I am bothered by a few things that are happening at our University as well as in our country right now.

I will be commissioned as an officer in the United States Navy upon graduation of Texas A&M, and I look forward to serving a country that I love and respect with all of my heart.

What bothers me is seeing anti-war protests and anti-American values, though I am still willing to fight and defend the freedoms that people at A&M and others in America demonstrate.

What I do not appreciate is the lack of support that is shown for our troops that are being deployed overseas and those that are already there.

Whether you agree with the war or not, these troops are doing their job and in doing so, are protecting our lives and our freedoms.

I do not understand why some of the states in America are banning the pledge of allegiance in schools. If you feel so compelled to show disloyalty to our country, try going over to Iraq and burning their flag, and then see how long you might live over there.

Jake Baker
Class of 2006



Manhattanville senior exercising free speech

(U-WIRE) STILLWATER, Okla. -- Over the past few decades, hypocrisy has become a standard in this country. Our national anthem calls America the "land of the free," yet racial profiling is now acceptable in many in certain circumstances in light of recent events. We rely on media outlets, this one included, to relay information about what's going on in the world, but often get irritated or offended when a contrasting viewpoint is expressed.

Think back to your American government class, whenever that might have been. One of the rights guaranteed under the First Amendment is freedom of speech, which includes the right to protest against our country and its government.

When an ordinary citizen chooses to exercise that right, a few eyebrows might raise and every great once in a while, some good comes out of it.

However, when an athlete opts to protest, all hell breaks loose. At the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City, American sprinters John Carlos and Tommie Smith silently exercised their First Amendment right during a medal ceremony by raising a single fist and lowering their heads during the national anthem in protest of segregation, despite the 1964 Civil Rights Act and 1954 Brown v.

Board of Education decision. Consequently, they were banned from the Olympic Village.

A few years ago, Denver Nuggets guard Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf sat during the pregame national anthem at a home game and was suspended indefinitely by the NBA. Recently, Dallas Mavericks star Steve Nash was harassed by reporters during a post-game conference for wearing a T-shirt sporting an anti war slogan.

In the real world, most people don't pay much attention to D-I women's basketball, let alone Division III. Manhattanville (NY) College senior forward Toni Smith has caused quite an uproar this season. Smith, a sociology senior, has refused to face the flag during pregame ceremonies all season long in protest of the potential war with Iraq and many of the inequalities and hypocrisies that our government stands for. Although her actions are supported by the university and are protected by the Bill of Rights, she has been subjected to taunts, jeers and protests at home and on the road, including a Vietnam veteran approaching her on the court with an American flag while another player was about to shoot a free throw.

At a recent road game at the U.S. Merchant Marine

Academy, roughly 300 midshipmen spent the bulk of the game harassing her, going so far as to call for her deportation while she sat on the bench in foul trouble. Several alumni and athletic supporters have demanded for Ms. Smith's scholarship to be revoked and for the senior to be dismissed from the team, a moot point as their season is over, save for the conference tournament. Despite the public condemnation by several well-known figures in the sports world -- most notably University of Connecticut women's basketball coach Geno Auriemma and, ironically enough, ESPN's Dan Patrick -- the Manhattanville senior will continue to exercise her right to express her disgust, as well she should.

Change only comes about when people are brave enough to stand up for what they believe in. However, this should not be such a big deal. Many people, myself included, decline to participate in reciting the Pledge for personal reasons and minimal, if any, fuss is made. This courtesy must be extended to Ms. Smith and other athletes who choose to express their views in pre- and postgame events, lest any individually held beliefs be squelched by the ever-growing groupthink trend.

Lenzy Krebbiel is a columnist at Oklahoma State University.