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## THE SETTLER

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# Legislative black caucus should follow AASU's lead

State Rep. Stacey Campfield of Knoxville made headlines this week when he called Tennessee's black legislative caucus racist.

"My understanding is that the KKK doesn't even ban members by race," Campfield, a Republican, told the Associated Press.

Memphis Democrat Larry Miller, a member of the black caucus, called Campfield "crazy and racist."

Ultimately, the NAACP demanded Campfield's resignation from the state legislature.

Campfield was wrong to compare the black caucus to the Ku Klux Klan, a group whose mere mention is sure to put an end to any sort of intelligent discourse. The group is far too stepped in emotional memories to be entered into an objective debate.

Despite his lack of tact in dealing with the situation, however, Campfield has a point.

Discrimination in any form should be dismissed in our society.

Too many people have worked too hard to ensure so-

cial equality to allow the continuation of separating people of varying races, regardless of how benevolent that separation may claim to be.

That the NAACP is calling for Campfield's resignation is no surprise.

The black advocacy group, largely Democrat, may be genuinely offended by the KKK remark, but they are also more than likely genuinely motivated to throw a Republican out of office.

That's why Campfield should have thought about his words before saying them. Politics is a dirty business, and the slightest comment can be propped up by political opponents for their own gain.

At Vol State, the African-American Student Union elected a white vice president.

That fact is pertinent because it shows the vice president Heather Gray was chosen for her skill, intelligence and dedication to the organization.

Her appointment proves that the celebration of various cul-

tures in American society should not be limited solely to those who come from those cultures.

The legislative black caucus should follow AASU's lead in opening their doors to members of other races. After all, diversity in culture is a two-way street.

In the original story, Miller told the AP that the legislative black caucus might consider allowing a white legislator to join. But not Campfield.

Campfield's original point is a good one. Using a hate-mongering organization like the KKK to make that point was wrong.

It is important for America to get over its obsession with skin color. Diversity has nothing to do with pigmentation.

To suggest that diversity can be achieved by filling a race and gender quota is an insult to every single civil rights leader in the history of this country. That attitude essentially states all of one race are the same.

Benevolent discrimination is still discrimination, and the state lawmakers should work together to put an end to it.

## College more than just credit; gain experience

The college experience was designed to provide training for people so they could succeed in the workforce.

Part of that training includes a well-balanced education in a variety of fields: writing, history, science, and math.

As every student knows, each major has different class credit requirements. Too often, though, students are of the mindset that the credit requirements are all they should take or experience while in college.

Extra-curricular activities

are often ignored by the majority of a college class, especially at commuter campuses like Vol State's.

Regardless of the reason for this, students should realize the advantages of being a part of student organizations, like S.G.A., student publications, and A.C.E.

When people graduate from college and create their resumes, some will have one sentence under "Education."

Others will list an impressive collection of achievements that

will have prepared them more for real world employment than any classroom possible.

Employers want employees with initiative and the ability to stand out from the crowd.

Being a part of the student organizations and activities on campus provides that level of initiative.

Take advantage of the opportunities to succeed at Vol State, because those opportunities will slip away once students embark upon the highly competitive workforce from college.