

Dear Editor

EDITORIAL STAFF

Carollei McMillin
Chief Executive Editor
Carollei.McMillin@volstate.edu

Ashley S. Wright
Executive Assistant Editor
Ashley.Wright@volstate.edu

Clay Scott
Adviser

Clay.Scott@volstate.edu

SENIOR STAFF

Lisa Eldridge
leldridge@student.volstate.edu

Tamela Harris
tharris4@student.volstate.edu

Brad King
bking4@student.volstate.edu

Candice Patterson
cpatterson1@student.volstate.edu

STAFF

Casey Campsey
ccampsey@student.volstate.edu

David Crotzer
dcrotzer@student.volstate.edu

Amanda Briley
abriley1@student.volstate.edu

Julia Bocker
jbocker@student.volstate.edu

Tyrone Harding
tharding@student.volstate.edu

Jess Morin
jmorin@student.volstate.edu

Wes Nolen
wnolen@student.volstate.edu

Ashley Perry
aperry8@student.volstate.edu

Cati Scott
cscott5@student.volstate.edu

Kimberly Smith
ksmith8@student.volstate.edu

Jennifer Wallace
jwallace6@student.volstate.edu

The Settler is located in the Student Pub
in the Woods Campus Center, Rm 206B.
Advertising rates and production schedule
available upon request.

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."
First Amendment to The United States Constitution

"The Board of Regents and the College administration recognize and guarantee First Amendment freedom and extend full editorial control of the content of The Settler to the student editors. As such, the editor and adviser shall observe a Code of Ethics recognized by professional journalists. In accordance with the laws of the State of Tennessee and the federal government no agent of the College is authorized to censor, or exert prior restraint of the content, or to impose punishment for the content of protected speech in The Settler."
Volunteer State Community College Policies and Procedures Manual
Policy Number: III:09:02, 2-24-99

Opinion or condemnation in the classroom?

In the Oct. 6 issue of *The Settler* there was a comment by a Ms. Brittany McCann stating she was offended by a church bulletin hanging in the math lab that reads "4,000 babies a day aborted, Dear God please forgive us."

She felt it was a message of condemnation and may keep women who had an abortion from feeling comfortable going to math lab. I definitely have an opinion on abortion, but I don't find that to be the issue at hand.

The questions are: is it right for an instructor to hang religious articles of his political opinion in the classroom, and what is the message intended by hanging such literature?

First I will address the intentions of the instructor I believe this instructor recognizes, as I do, that our country was founded on biblical principles. That the United States has been blessed by God because that foundation was laid, and

that we as a nation have strayed from the morals and values we once held so dear.

Decisions have been made and are in the process of being made that, although they may have become socially acceptable, are not acceptable to our heavenly father and are far from being in His will. For example the decision was made that our children could no longer worship Jesus Christ in the class room. Forty years later our schools are full of drugs and violence. I have to wonder if this is not due to the absence of God in the classroom.

I believe this instructor's heart is broken, as mine is, over both loss of life and disobedience to our maker. I believe he is repenting, as I have, for the way our country has strayed from God's truth, and is asking the Lord to help us, as a country, to return to the godly foundation that was laid by our forefathers. I do not believe that this bulletin expresses

this idea clearly and could be taken as condemnation to a person who had chosen to abort a child. I do not believe we are to condemn anyone, but are to love the broken hearted and confused as Jesus loves us.

As an American I believe the instructor is protected by the First Amendment and can voice his opinion in any fashion he chooses.

As a Christian, I do not believe that this bulletin should be allowed to stay if Jesus' message of love and forgiveness is not clarified, or if my assumption is wrong and the intent was to condemn.

April Looney
alooney1@volstate.edu

One man's trash is another man's treasure

The juxtaposition of the first two letters to the editor in the Oct. 6 issue of *The Settler* is very instructive, in that it underscores a point and also raises a questions.

For those who may not be familiar with the subject matter, the writer of the first letter, Ms. Brittany McCann, expresses her offense at an anti-abortion church bulletin placed in the math lab, while the writer of the second letter, Ms. Michelle Smith, expresses her offense at the topless photograph of four new basketball players appearing on the front page of *The Settler* of Sept. 16.

The point this juxtaposition of letters underscores is that the society of Vol State (whether or not one wishes the situation were so) surely reflects the larger of American pluralistic society-in which one person's "intimidation" is another person's "freedom of religious expression," and similarly, one person's "appalling impropriety" is another person's "just four buff guys," (as a student I talked with described

the photograph in question).

In the context of such widely (wildly?) differing sensibilities on a wide range of subjects, it is extremely difficult for an individual to avoid offending someone at any given time.

As an instructor in English, I face this challenge a great deal in giving assignments-and every now and then I find I have misgauged the sensibilities of a student.

So the question logically follows: is it fair to blame *The Settler* for not being able to predict an offense being taken?

Elkin Brown
Instructor of English
lbrown@volstate.edu

Letters
TO THE EDITOR

Be
the
face
of
Vol
State

Let your voice be heard
in *The Settler*. Send your
letters to the Editor by email
to thesettler@volstate.edu
Or stop by the Student Pub:
Room 206B in the Campus Center.



Letters to the Editor are considered property of *The Settler* and therefore eligible for editing and publication.