

## **Statement on Constitution Day**

On this day in which we celebrate our freedoms protected by our Constitution, I am aware of a vigorous dialogue being held on campus over the issue of the right to life, and the constitutionality of abortion.

We must all be thankful for the freedom we have to speak and debate in the open without fear of governmental censorship, and it is for this reason, that the Associated Student Government of Sacramento City College has organized a series of events on the importance of the Constitution.

I want to make it clear that the ASG has not endorsed any one side of the debate on the constitutionality of abortion. However, the ASG will continue to endorse vigorous discussion and debate on the importance of our Constitution and the freedoms it protects, including dialogue on freedom of speech and reproductive rights.

On September 2, 2009 the ASG unanimously approved the plans for Constitution Day which included an array of events designed to encourage discussion about the importance and relevance of the Constitution. Among these events was the Genocide Awareness Project, presented by the Sanctity of Human Life Network (SOHLnet), who requested to come to our campus.

The ASG does not take into consideration the specific viewpoint of those who request to be a part of ASG events. The determining factor in our Constitution Day events was based on whether or not they addressed constitutional issues that were relevant to students and stressed the importance of our nation's founding documents.

If a group of an opposing viewpoint had come to us in the same manner as SOHLnet, we would have certainly given them the same opportunity to present their viewpoint on the constitutionality of abortion; this event did not discriminate on the basis of viewpoints. Any group may come to the ASG and seek to be included in any event, so long as the group's activity is related to the ASG event.

The Genocide Awareness Project did not receive any funding, manpower or equipment to put on their presentation, and were not required to obtain a permit due to their speech being protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

I want make it clear that as ASG President, I had no vote on this proposal, nor was I a part of the Student Affairs Committee which handled the planning of this event. It is my responsibility as student government President to put any personal views aside and advocate for—and stand behind—the rights guaranteed to all.

It does appear that some ASG members who voted for the Constitution Day plans, later expressed concerns about this vote, due to GAP's presentation. However, this presentation was clearly listed as part of the day's events, and in the future, I would encourage all students and ASG members to practice good leadership skills and discuss any concerns they have in the time allotted before the vote.

In closing, I would like to address some misinformation being presented about the Genocide Awareness Project and its relationship to the Sanctity of Human Life Network. SOHLnet spokesperson John Ficker has explained the relationship to me in stating, the "Sanctity of Human Life Network is the one who brought the Genocide Awareness Project to the campus [and] uses pictorial displays to compare abortion to other forms of genocide." SOHLnet is a 501c3, educational organization registered with the IRS.

Signed,

Steve Macias  
ASG President, SCC