

James R. Thomen
Modern Management Associates, Inc.,
Post Office Box 3754,
Wilmington, DE 19807, USA

Greenwood's use of the condemnatory term "wolf" is an insult. I am one of the individuals to whom she refers, and I certainly do discriminate, but only on the basis of merit!

Whatever the merits of Greenwood's case, the first principle of free scientific inquiry has been violated by the use of prejudicial language in making an argument.

Sheldon Bryman
Aesthetic and Neuronal Research Institute,
590 Waterview Road,
Oceanside, NY 11572, USA

While I agree with most of Greenwood's editorial, I was taken aback by the use of the same preachy, aggressive, and polarizing rhetoric that is described in the editorial as deplorable when used by those opposed to affirmative action. This mode does not facilitate open discussion or engender feelings of goodwill. I would feel uncomfortable discussing my views and concerns regarding affirmative action with Greenwood. Like many (moderate?) people, I agree with the goals but am ambivalent about the implementation and use of "diversity tools."

Among other things, I believe affirmative action should be based primarily on economic need. Humans have good reason to fear hungry, circling wolves. However, wolves do not act out of malice, but practicality. They would probably find Greenwood's characterization naïve (not unlike some Rousseau paintings). I thought Greenwood's grandmother's observation about the nature of manners more keen and appropriate to the discussion and would rather hash these issues out with her—maybe over tea.

Matt Lewin
6431 Fannin Street,
Houston, TX 77030, USA

Confident Females?

The article "Computer culture deflects women and minorities" by Virginia Morell ("Maintaining diversity in science: Women and minorities '96," News, 29 Mar., p. 1915) states that preliminary results from our ongoing study of computer science majors at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) find female students who recently immigrated to the United States "reveal no lack of confidence... even though American-

born women in the same classes are filled with self-doubts." This needs to be clarified. We have heard from female CMU students who have recently immigrated to the United States that not until they came to America did they begin to hear about math and science being a "boy thing." These women are strong in math and science; their minds are not cluttered with notions of females being out of place in these fields. But it does not follow that they reveal no lack of confidence. It is hard to be a female with little previous computing experience, thrown into a pool of top computer science students (who are predominately male), and not experience some lack of confidence.

Jane Margolis
Computer Science Department,
Carnegie Mellon University,
Pittsburgh, PA 15213, USA

Ph.D.'s as K-12 Teachers

I agree with much of the letter by Shoumen Datta (29 Mar., p. 1789), who had a good view of the "real 'action'" from the superintendent's office in the San Francisco Unified School District, especially as to the emphasis on content, presumably of subject

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