

Keep writing; we haven't stopped listening

Sometimes people have more words they want to use than things to say. And sometimes letter-writers have more things to say than we have space in which to print them.

That latter, regrettable situation arose in the case of letters the Emerald received regarding issues and candidates on Tuesday's general-election

ballot. Despite the addition of several opinion pages over the past two weeks used solely for letters, we didn't have room for several.

In selecting those that would be run before election day, we tried to maintain the proportion received supporting or opposing a given candidate and issue. We also considered the number

of letters already printed on the particular races.

The Emerald attempts to print most letters to the editor that it receives, except those that appear libelous or unredeemably obscene. We place a priority in printing timely letters referring to specific, local events of public

import, but space limitations occasionally delay publication of longer opinions.

We hope these obstacles do not discourage our readers from continuing to express their ideas and opinions on any and all public themes.

We're still listening.

yours

Flails IFC endorsements

Concerning your column endorsing certain candidates for the Incidental Fees Committee, Nov. 7:

Your opinions concerning why certain candidates are fit for a position on the IFC are obviously colored by an undue amount of arbitrary personal observation of intangible qualities possessed by these candidates.

Responsible endorsements are based upon concrete observation and substantive fact, which were almost entirely omitted from your analysis of the candidates. Past accomplishments should be given credence over observations of subjective nature (which you, in your unilaterally omniscient state of being, have seen fit to print).

In the case of Ms. Eggleston, a two time incumbent, such qualities as "spirit and determination" were enough to win your support for her cause. Does she not have any past accomplishments to call upon so that we may be enlightened as to her true legislative ability.

You have clouded the issue by presenting qualities instead of qualifications. Thus you have been derelict in fulfilling your duty as a community information service.

I, personally, have not the least interest in Ms. Eggleston's disposition, or her reputation for "insensitivity and bullheadedness." What she can and cannot do, what she has and has not done for the student community is the true issue of general concern to students.

The sort of tripe present in Tuesday's opinion column is better suited for Dear Abby, rather than a pre-election endorsement.

In another particularly ludicrous endorsement, unworthy of noting, one Debra Ehrman was supported for the IFC on the basis of a comment which she made. She thinks "The EMU and the Athletic department budgets could be cut."

Contradictory to this comment are two statements from the same endorsement; "she doesn't yet have a solid working knowledge of the various funded programs" and "she lacks substantive administrative experience!"

This is hardly the "stuff" of which legislators are made. How can the Emerald suggest that we select a candidate who, if she is elected, has no working knowledge on how to approach the problem and how this problem would be solved.

What audacity for the Emerald to express their support for her upon such meager substance as this (the height of cleverness).

Why are we given inconclusive and unsubstantive views in the place of analysis based on solid ground?

Yesterday's opinion page was quite uncomprehensive in the search for fact and the basis upon which these endorsements were founded. This type of colored endorsement seems rather innocuous when viewed in the context of a democratic process.

Are we to choose IFC members merely through our own ignorance, which has only been accentuated by this uninformative and highly irresponsible form of journalism (if in fact it may be called that)?

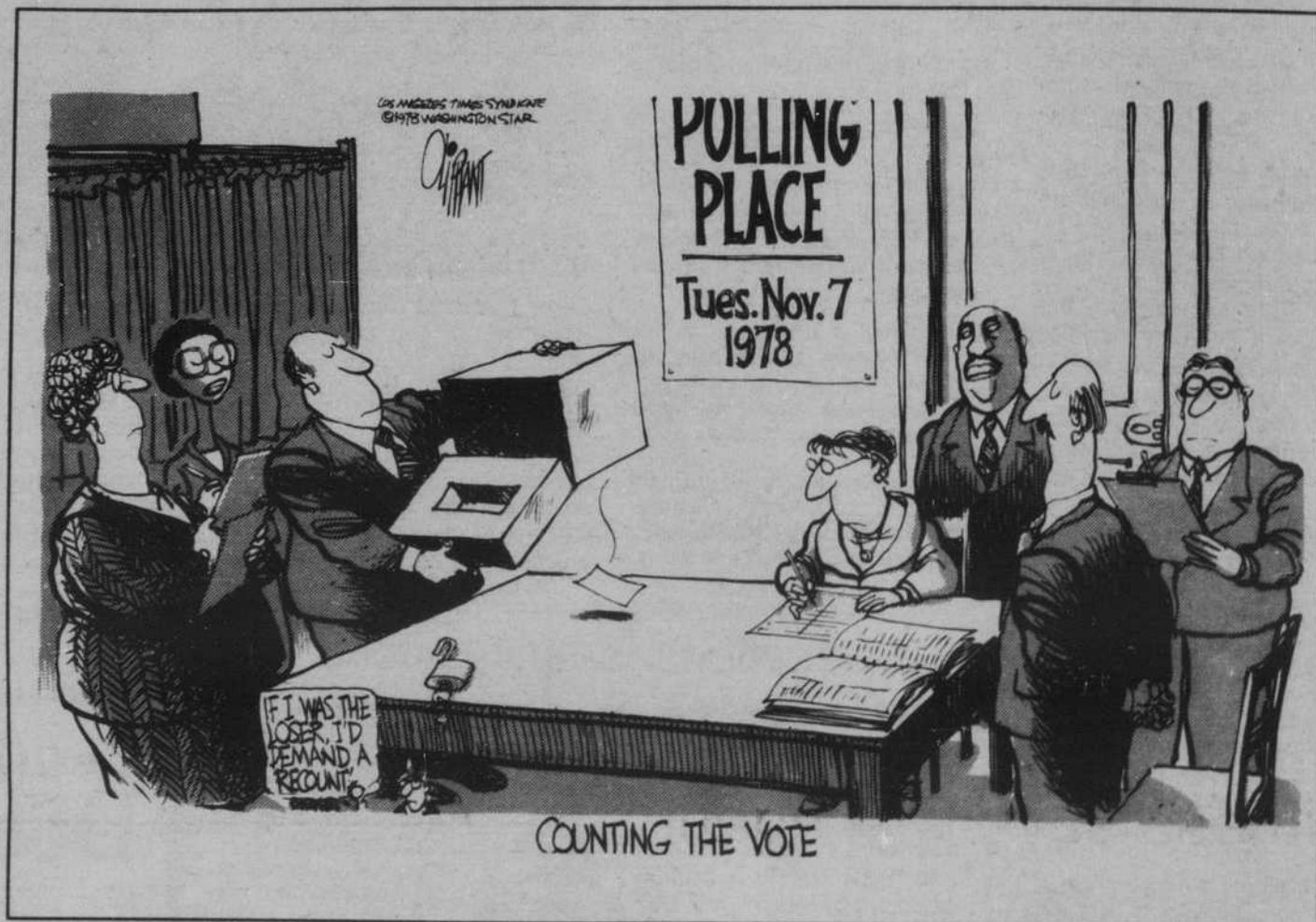
The information presented in the pre-election endorsements would better suit the purposes of a computer dating service.

An opinion section is supposed to present arguments (pro or con) based on firm and sensible reasoning. If the editorial opinion cannot show this responsibility, it then becomes a clouded argument which has meaning for only editor and supporters. The information presented takes on a self-serving nature rather than one of service to the community.

If you wish to maintain as a viable medium for campus information, then your credibility as an unbiased mediator of information must also be maintained.

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theirs



Your's is a function of analysis, not opinion-forming for a segment of the public. There are some of us here in the real world who wish to be given the facts so that we may form our own opinion. When editors of the Emerald realize this, then they will have resumed their task of acting as a catalyst to stimulate the well-informed public to a higher degree of civic awareness.

Christopher Mazza
junior, journalism

Revolution, Iran and China

As a student of the social sciences, I am naturally concerned about what is happening in this world. After reading the two letters 'Flag shows aim' and 'Shah aids wrong ones' that appeared in your column on Oct. 31, I felt compelled to put down some of my ideas in black and white.

Iran is in turmoil. Iranians are desperate right now. Those who know what goes on in Iran — especially international students from Iran and their counterparts from home — could not just stand by and watch.

Let Iranians determine their fate. They will not shed their blood for nothing. They know what they are striving at. Even if what the western media maintain is correct — that the turmoil is a result of the Shiite Moslems' opposition to the Shah's westernization programs — please keep Uncle Sam's agents at home.

Your oil interests or your ideologies do not constitute your right to interfere in some other people's business. Do not let Allende's Chile happen again. All the super powers of the world keep your hands off Iran! Let us look to the final victory of the Iranians.

People's Republic of China is still a developing nation. Indeed, she is developing in its early stages. The agriculture of this nation is still far behind most modernized nations.

Due to the power struggles that have been evolving on and off since the day she was established on Oct. 1, 1949,

we witness the stagnation of the country in every respect. I interpret the Cultural Revolution as a political struggle sought by Mao to strengthen his personal power and carry out his doomed revolutionary ideas.

The idolization of Mao came as a natural consequence of this movement. Almost every established system, be it scientific research, education or political structure, was smashed.

The present ruling emperors, as our friends of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade are so nice as to crown them as such, give some light to the future of Mainland China. Though I doubt very much their vow that China will be a modernized industrial nation by the end of this century, as do most of western China-watchers, I believe firmly in their sincerity of modernizing China.

Mao and the Gang of Four (Gang of Five as coined by our RCYB friends) had put China backward for several decades, now is the time to cast behind those ideologies that hinder the development of China.

'No matter it is a white cat or a black cat, one which catches mice is a good cat.' Teng Hsiao Ping said the right thing at the right time and indeed won the approval of numerous overseas Chinese, except the KMT dogmatists on Formosa.

Ivan Wong
junior, history

letters policy

The Emerald will accept and try to print all letters and opinion columns containing fair comment on ideas and topics of concern or interest to the University community. Letters and opinions will be run on a first-come, first-served basis. Both letters and opinion columns must be typewritten, using 65 character margins, and should be triple-spaced. Letters and opinions must be signed and the author's field of study (or faculty status) noted.