

opinion

High-profile ASUO a visible difference

Perhaps it's just an exuberant start, but it does seem the "new and improved" high-profile ASUO is out of the blocks at a streak.

The ASUO this year appears more politically visible which may be because they're more politically aware. This ASUO is a far cry from ASUOs of old which gave only lip service to political issues.

The headline on the page one article in Tuesday's Emerald stated: "ASUO declares war on draft amendment." It's only the first week and already the ASUO has, so to speak, "taken it to the streets."

The ASUO have gone to the barricades over the Solomon Amendment — taking a populist stand against the very unpopular amendment.

The Solomon Amendment, as anyone who receives financial aid knows, requires all males born after 1959 to provide written proof of draft registration in order to receive any federal financial aid. A test case brought by the American Civil Liberties Union and a public interest group against the Selective Service System and the Department of Education, originating in Minnesota, is pending before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Kevin Kouns, ASUO vice president, noted in the Emerald article they were "straight up" in their opposition to the amendment. And straight away the ASUO added its "straight up" objections to the Solomon Amendment by filing a friend-of-the-court brief in the Supreme Court case. That's really straight ahead action.

The ASUO objections were that the amendment forced financial aid offices into becoming "a political force." It stretches the already thin funds of financial aid offices.

Probably the ASUO's strongest objection to the amendment, and it took some wading through the rhetoric in the article to get there, was perhaps it violated constitutional protections, including the privacy act and the right against self-incrimination, the Fifth Amendment.

The "new politics" of the ASUO are evident in the "new look" at Suite Four. Gone are the layered hairstyles, bright freshly shaven faces and sorority-chic fashions of last year. Like...workshirts, beards and free flowing locks (dread and otherwise) are the Suite style these days. Groovy.

The ASUO is undertaking a "new and improved" voter registration drive on campus. The voter registration drive is an annual event. Each administration vows fervently to register such and such percentage of student-voters over the paltry percentage of the year before.

Usually these voter registration drives are doomed to failure — but this year the political zeal of the ASUO may be infectious. Who knows? If students are reminded their vote can change things, maybe they'll register and vote.

We admire and encourage them to continue in their political activism. It's been a long time since students have really taken the initiative and been so politically involved.

A 'Shot-in-the-foot' award for Kouns

Perhaps a "Shot-in-the-Foot" award, a la Interior Secretary James Watt, should be presented to Kevin Kouns, ASUO vice president, for his inappropriate remarks during the grand inaugural Sept. 19 of the New Student Host Program.

Kouns speech to the upturned eager faces of trusting first-year students was not as "Go-Ducks" peppy, nor as optimistic as the host program people hoped.

Kouns' spoke on a wide variety of topics ranging from bleak economic trends, dismal prospects for employment after graduation, world hunger and the very real possibility of nuclear war.

Reportedly, the new students were surprised and host program coordinators were outraged.

While we may agree with Kouns' views, we think he should have considered the audience and the spirit of the host program. His remarks were out-of-place, ill-timed and not "Go Ducks — Go."



letters

Favoritism

I found the Emerald's August 11 editorial on the Christine Craft sex discrimination case disappointing in that its author seems to be as ignorant as some of the courts about a major issue pointed to by this case. The issue is that of many women's tacit acceptance of sex favoritism which in turn serves to perpetuate sex discrimination.

On several occasions I have been in hiring situations where I have missed out on the job, only to find that it had been given to a less qualified (but sexually attractive) woman. Many of these jobs involved working in view of the public for long periods. Never in any of these situations have I known the women to refuse the job, even when she knew that part of the reason for her hiring was her sex and appearance; in point of fact, many women, even those who would consider themselves "liberated", exploit this fact to the maximum in their job hunts. It is true that some of the women in such situations eventually find their situation intolerable and leave their jobs. Of those who remain it is only the few who are eventually demoted or fired who cry "sex discrimination", but at a very late date.

If Craft was really hired, even partially, for her looks and "sex appeal" rather than her journalistic talents (as implied by the Emerald), she should have claimed sex discrimination at the beginning and refused the job. Instead she has accepted the discrimination so long it worked to her advantage and rejected it only when she finally reaped the true fruit of her acceptance.

"Reverse discrimination" in the form of sex favoritism in hiring and job promotion are in reality a means of perpetuating discrimina-

tion against women by publicly placating a token few, shifting the emphasis, but not the attitude of such discrimination. Favoritism and equality are incompatible, yet many women seem to want it both ways. If the Emerald's editorial is accurate, the Craft case furnishes an excellent example of this. The Craft decision is a victory, but not a small one for civil rights. It is a large victory for Craft and a setback for women's rights.

Hiawatha
music, philosophy

Dear, Yuri

A copy of this letter was sent to Pres. Ronald Reagan and Soviet Pres. Yuri Andropov, August 4, 1983.

On behalf of the students of the University, I would like to inform you that the University was declared an official "Nuclear Free Zone" in a campus-wide election in April. The measure was approved by 79 percent of the voting student population.

The measure prohibits "the design, testing, production, deployment or use of nuclear weapons" on campus. Any other research supporting the development of nuclear weapons is also prohibited.

We request that the University campus be officially and permanently removed from the USSR's nuclear weapons list, as we pose no threat to other peoples and do not feel secured or protected by these weapons.

We denounce the use of and threatened use of nuclear weapons as a defense.

We believe that this declaration and our request to be removed from the target list of the USSR will contribute to individual and global life and security.

The University joins hundreds of other campuses, cities, towns, countries and geographic locations which have already made such a declaration and as a result have contributed to the International Nuclear Free Zone Movement.

We trust that you will give this your immediate attention as this is a matter of national and international importance.

Mary Hotchkiss
ASUO, president

Kouns errs

In response to the article on Kevin Kouns' NSHP (New Student Host Program) speech in the Sept. 27 Emerald — we are pleased the

Emerald decided to publicize Kouns' display of carelessness. Not only did he take advantage of the host program, he abused his opportunity to help welcome incoming students by offering all services at the University rather than just SPA (Students for a Progressive Agenda) related activities and his own political views.

As a host in the valuable NSHP program, Steve Hansen observed many reactions to the Kouns' speech: boredom, adversity, confusion and student departure from the Hayward Field stands. He observed people feeling that they had come to the wrong place. Some seemed to wish that the University would be divided into two parts: one for "them" and one for "us".

In the future, if Kouns is provided another opportunity such as the one by NSHP, we hope he acts more responsibly and will provide useful facts and information about our University. We also hope that NSHP will have more responsibility when choosing its speakers.

Scott Thompson
senior, geology
Steve Hansen
senior, architecture

Soap box

Your recent editorial that chastised our Secretary of the Interior, James Watt, was uncalled for. Liberals (both Democratic and Republican) merely used the remarks Watt used in describing a committee to get on their soap box and embarrass this decent man.

Is it the remarks they really object to or Watt's policies? I feel this issue shows insight on how anti-conservatives go about making their decisions...not by the real issue (Watt's performance as Sec. of the Interior) but by emotion.

Watt's remarks have nothing to do with his performance. Instead of praising his resource recoveries plan and other noble accomplishments, liberals kick Jim Watt in the teeth.

The same people who are outraged that Watt referred to a select committee as "a woman, a black, two Jews and a cripple," are calling Watt an idiot, goon and fool. Is this fair to Watt?

James Watt is not an embarrassment to our fine Pres. Ronald Reagan, nor is he a racist. Liberals of America owe James Watt an apology.

Dan Goulet
sophomore

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