

# Editorial

## Winning candidates deserve opportunity

Students for a Progressive Agenda (SPA) has again won control of the ASUO governing agencies. SPA-backed candidates won the ASUO presidency for the third time in four years and hold six of seven seats on the Incidental Fee Committee.

The only successful campaign by a non-SPA in a contested race for major student office was Ron Munion's victory in the IFC runoff. SPA dominates the EMU Board and Student Senate.

We supported the election of some non-SPA candidates, but we offer congratulations to *all* winners.

We are all part of the University community. It is a small community packed with differing ideas and opinions. During election season these opinions are brandished most harshly in public.

Winning candidates must now make the transition from campaigning effectively with words to governing effectively with deeds. This is not easy.

Some superb campaigners such as former ASUO President Julie Davis never adjusted, spending the year flopping distractedly from one avoidable problem to another.

We hope the new ASUO leaders work with both supporters and detractors to make the University a better place.

Conflict over ideas can be creative, exciting and productive. It can also be sour, debilitating and destructive. Each participant in the annual dialogue over student self-government must choose between going forward with the positive or resurrecting the negative.

This choice must be made by winning and losing candidates, by ballot measure supporters and opponents, by administrators and by newspapers. Bearing in mind honest differences of opinion and of role, all of these participants should try to go forward.

Ideals, goals and methods may differ. There is nothing unhealthy about straightforward conflict and disagreement over issues of public concern. Student leaders in *all* organizations should approach their duties, pleasant or disagreeable, in as professional a manner as possible.

Effectively governing an enterprise as large, diverse, independent and controversial as the ASUO programs is not for the thin-skinned or impatient.

Effective governing means careful planning, compromising when necessary, deciding in a timely manner and, occasionally, snuffing sour projects before they eat people, time and money.

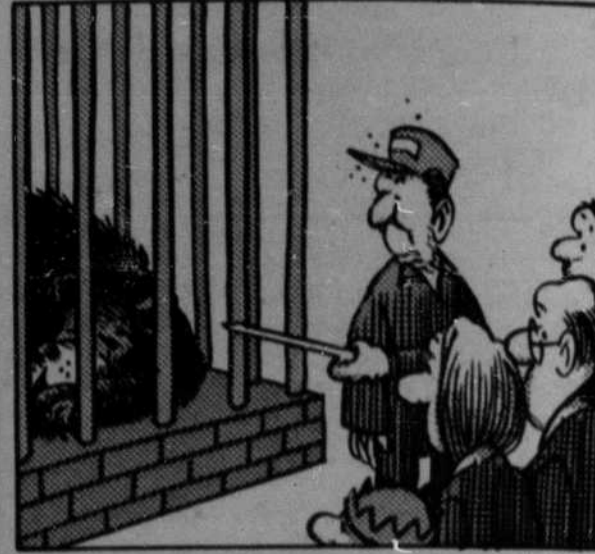
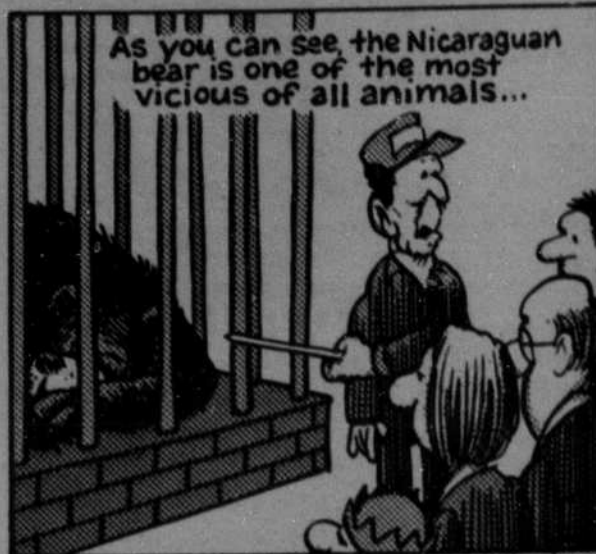
Successful governing means doing all this while newspapers pick and choose between student successes and failures and while administrators stall unpopular changes, waiting for the next ASUO election.

We want the new ASUO officials to succeed in this transition from candidacy to government. Those who opposed the winning candidates need to give them the opportunity to prove themselves for better or worse.

SPA does not win by accident. It wins because it is the only year-round organized political party on campus. It retains this status because most of its activities are close to the mainstream of student views.

Until the recent IFC runoff, students opposed to what SPA does have not cared enough to mount a serious challenge to SPA leadership. Noninvolvement points to a certain level of satisfaction as well as a larger theme of indifference.

SPA candidates won the election fairly and are entitled to govern within the constraints of the ASUO Constitution. We wish them well.



## Letters

### Global stage

Bravo to all the actors, dog on chain included, who took time from their schedules Wednesday, April 23, to include everyone in a celebration of William Shakespeare's birthday.

Prepared monologues, a sword fight and bawdy impromptu aside, an hour of live theatre in the EMU courtyard was worth missing a biology lecture. A large crowd gathered, sometimes even joined in. A good time was had by all.

It was a welcome break from the usual demonstrations, the status quo rhetoric concerning political indignities. Such issues are relevant — but so is Shakespeare and other live theatre happening at the University Theatre.

Thank you to the theatre students who shared their enthusiasm with us on Wednesday. You've shown, once again, that all the world can really be a stage.

Heidi Lutz  
Journalism

### Remembrance

In our culture, we look (that is, if we bother to look) with shock, horror and disbelief at the enormous cruelty and brutality inflicted on Jewish people, on the elderly and the handicapped, and on many, many others during the Nazi regime in Germany.

The ruthless oppression endured by those living under Marxist governments (or under any totalitarian system) is impossible for most of us to imagine. (It is much easier to turn to the television or to some other means of avoiding such unpleasantness.)

We live in a media-shaped reality; television, movies, magazines, newspapers and books all feed us someone else's world view and values (which are often swallowed without critical examination). We can thus be blinded and never recognize our blindness.

I wonder how future generations will look back at us. With all of the knowledge and resources available to us, what have we done? Have we simply given lip-service to a few fashionable causes? Have we truly fought for what is right and fair, simply because it *is* right and fair (and even if no one noticed us doing it)? Is there less injustice and suffering around us because of our choices?

I wonder if the following motto might not be appropriate in the EMU:

"To those who were robbed of life — the unborn, the weak, the sick, the old — during the dark ages of madness, selfishness, lust and greed for which the last decades of the twentieth century are remembered" (Inscription on existing monument).

William Moore  
Music School

### Only a fool

Marriage is much more than what the Emerald recently labeled à-mère "legal status." Christ stated, "From the beginning of creation God made them male and female... And they shall be one flesh... what God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Mark, chapter 10).

The Bible clearly illustrates the importance of marriage in God's plan for mankind. Any other relationship, in which sex is involved, violates God's commandment that such relationships occur only in marriage.

Sure, some say it's old-fashioned to live by God's commandments. Even a few churches professing Christianity have degenerated into taking lukewarm attitudes toward marriage, morality and family (they should read Mathew 7:21-23).

There are some who enjoy attacking religion and others who think living according to Biblical standards (abstinence from sex until marriage and then no relationships with anyone but your lifelong mate) is restricting. But only a fool wouldn't endorse such moral principles in light of the consequences of disobedience to God's laws.

Because many have chosen not to live according to Biblical standards, our society is plagued by a multitude of sexually transmitted diseases — which can't be cured and often cause death or sterility. We also have epidemics of divorce, abortion, child abuse, rape and many other social ills.

To support the standards of the Bible is to support life. The "modern" admonition to "Do it if it feels good at the moment" has proven to bring anything but life and happiness.

Lori Parkman  
Elmira

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