

Editorial

Increased standard will preserve quality

The plan to limit enrollment at the University by raising the high school grade point average entrance standard is a good one. The State Board of Higher Education did well to approve it.

The University maintains a delicate balance between offering the class variety of a large school and the personal, friendly atmosphere of a small one. Even a relatively small amount of growth could disrupt this balance.

The school also is not equipped to handle a larger enrollment than 17,500, the ceiling approved by the Board. With this past year's fall enrollment of 16,400, 300 students who requested dormitory housing were sent away due to lack of space. The University Housing office already has more than 300 students on a waiting list for housing this fall.

Students searching for off-campus housing also faced waiting lists and housing shortages.

The journalism and architecture schools consistently have more students than they are staffed to handle. And classroom space at popular times of the day is limited.

To handle a larger enrollment would require significant investments in building and staff expansion at a time when state funding of higher education institutions is pathetically low. The University's educational quality would be severely damaged.

Using GPAs to decide who should be accepted is appropriate. It bases acceptance on the quality of an individual's work. And it is the most applicable toward an individual's performance in college.

It will raise the caliber of admitted students, which should decrease the number of students who drop out of school before graduating. It also will improve the University's image as a top-notch institution.

And the increase will not result in denying anyone an education. The University offers qualified students who did not maintain a B average in high school other ways to gain admittance. And the state has a wide array of higher education institutions for those who cannot be admitted to the University.

Board should have retained Jefferson quotation for sign

The EMU Board of Directors should have stuck by its guns and retained the original quotation selected for the statement-of-purpose sign to be painted in the EMU lobby. The original quote is specific to institutions of higher education — what the "statement-of-purpose" message should reflect. Its universal message is applicable to all people.

Houman Khosrovi, the coordinator of the Student Senate's contest to find a new quote for the sign, told the Emerald in March that the Senate had agreed to screen contest submissions to between five and 10, with the EMU Board making the final choice. He said anyone could submit a quote and that the quote could reflect "life, philosophy, politics, school — anything."

The Board chose a quotation, submitted by University President Paul Olum: "This institution will be based on ilimitable freedom of the human mind. For here we are not afraid to follow truth wherever it may lead, nor to tolerate error so long as reason is left free to combat it."

After the choice was made, then Student Senate Chairwoman Donna Lawrence contested the decision, saying the EMU Board should have allowed the Student Senate to participate in choosing the final quotation. And, she said, the quote was not "sensitive to women and people of color and minorities."

The Board then reversed its original decision, choosing instead a Martin Luther King Jr. quote for the lobby and opting to paint the Jefferson quote elsewhere in the EMU.

It certainly wouldn't have hurt to allow the Senate to participate in the final decision. But why then did the Senate agree to allow the EMU Board to pick the quote in the first place? Why didn't Lawrence complain before the Board made its choice?

And if Lawrence was looking for a particular kind of quote, why wasn't it made known in the contest rules?

The Martin Luther King quote is a beautiful message: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character; I have a dream today."

But unlike the Jefferson quote, it has nothing directly to do with the purpose of a university. And though the Jefferson quote does not specifically mention women or minorities, the pursuit of truth and freedom of thought apply to everyone — men and women, black and white.

EMERALD
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President Botha Presents Sweeping Major Reforms:

Letters

Don't call us

To all the fraternity guys who have claimed to be so innocent in past letters to the Emerald:

The next time you give one of your pledges a list of numbers for obscene phone calls, please don't include ours. Although such adolescent antics are amusing at best, please stick to the other Greeks. Obscene phone calls are rude at any time, and are especially rude during dead week. Some of us are serious students, and have better things to do with our time than listen to pledges explaining (through heavy breathing and disgusting noises) how they are going to get into a frat. How you got our number is anybody's guess, but we're tired of taking the phone off the hook.

We can, however, understand your childish behavior to some degree. You are, after all, Greeks.

Marta Smith
R. Joll
Students

No safe place

Regarding this country's obscene stockpile of nuclear waste:

It should be clear that the lifespan of these poisons is indeterminable. Therefore, the location currently proposed as sites for the "safe storage" of this refuse is just another facade in the ongoing attempt to brain-

wash the public into believing that safe disposal is a reality. Where is the proof?

The Hanford site, in our collective backyards, poses the obvious local threat. 77,000 tons!

I've an equally rational proposal to such a plan. Let these planners construct a massive disposal facility under the Pentagon. (It would make a great "containment structure.") Then, let's see if those so anxious to produce these materials continue to do so with such zeal!

Meanwhile, I suggest we write our senators and congresspeople in Washington and let them know how we feel about having their nuclear dumps in our backyards.

John Workman
Student

Based on fear

A major concern of our time is the making of policy, on the basis of fear. The entire defense establishment is based on, and feeds on, fear. We should really call it the DOF (Department of Fear) if we wish its name to reflect its true function. This is evident in everything they say and do. They exaggerate the "communist threat" and our "comparative weakness" every time budget days roll around. They threaten people's political careers if they disagree with anything the DOF wants, by portraying them "soft on communism." They assiduously

spread the fear that any cutback in weapons research and development will result in massive unemployment and economic disruption. They make us afraid of other peoples, afraid to question or disobey authority, afraid to think for ourselves.

For all major countries, the chief governmental preoccupation and policies revolve around fear. This is precisely what has brought humanity to the brink of self destruction.

Fear is not an appropriate basis from which to make policy at any level. Whether we like it or not, all of us are living together on one small planet. Any policies or actions that increase our fear and distrust of each other are deadly for all of us.

Bayard H. McConnaughey
McConnaughey is a retired University professor and a veteran of more than four years, apostrophe active overseas war-time service in the U.S. Army.

Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style. Letters to the editor should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300, EMU.

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