

# Louisiana shuns Duke but 'message' remains

OK, America, you can breathe again. Louisiana didn't totally screw up.

In Saturday's election, voters bucked former Klansman David Duke, giving the keys to the governor's mansion to Edwin Edwards. But despite only garnering support from 39 percent of the 1.7 million voters, Duke accomplished his mission.

The Louisiana race captured the nation's attention and gave the hate-monger a large forum to express his views. Duke's sordid brand of populism — trash the social programs, bash the welfare cheats, wage wars on crime, poverty and drugs — got much support among Louisiana's white blue-collar community, struggling under recession.

A last-minute media blitz did Duke in. Edwards pleaded to the business community, saying a Duke victory would bring economic plague to the state. Black voters streamed to the polls with 96 percent opting for Edwards. That 4 percent even considered Duke is hard to comprehend.

So Duke quietly — for now — becomes just another state legislator, albeit a high-profile one. But the lure of another campaign may be too much. The man got a taste of national politics, and according to post-election comments, he liked it.

The support Duke got for his "solutions" will not end in Louisiana. Voters in other southern states will also react favorably. From any place suffering economic stagnation — pretty much everywhere — Duke supporters will appear.

Although it is not unfair to tag Duke with every racist, neo-Nazi label in the book, it is definitely not fair to apply the same logos to all his supporters. There are surely some who share his racial views, but they probably rank in the minority.

What attracted Duke supporters was the illogical hope he offered. People are discouraged at the present-day politicians and are searching for an alternative — any alternative that offers a way out. Had a mule come along spouting the same "New Populism" slogans, some Louisiana voters would have probably voted for it.

In the end, common sense prevailed, but for putting themselves in such a precarious position, Louisiana deserves some face-slapping.



'ALL WE WANTED WAS A LITTLE ALIENATION.'

## LETTERS

### Logic

Given: The University is a Good.

Given: Discrimination against homosexuality is a Wrong.

Given: To have to go off campus to see military recruiters is an Inconvenience.

Assumed: Financial support for the University will be lost if military recruitment on campus is banned.

Solution: Raise the status of the Inconvenience to a "violation of a right," i.e., a Wrong, and allow the discrimination.

Question: Is the University that remains as much a Good as the one that it was or could have been?

Andy Thompson  
University Counseling Center

But then again, having unethical or corrupt politicians in government is certainly not a new phenomena. Look at who is in Washington today! Liars, thieves, and a Congress of elected officials who write bad checks. Jo Sonja Watson is getting a good start to her political career here at the University.

David Zartman  
Eugene

ciation for all members of our humanity community. I believe this is the conviction that serves as the foundation of our political system.

Pasquale Anolfo  
History

### The Weas

Where's Weasel? The *Emerald* has been totally erratic in printing *Weasel's World*, some weeks printing it five days and others only two days. I wish you would decide what days you're going to print it and stick with it.

Every morning I look forward to reading about Weasel, and when it's not in, I get in a lousy mood.

*Oscar*, on the other hand, has got to go. Neal Skorpen's drawings look like crayon acid trips, and he's trying so hard to make a point that he's rarely funny. My roommates and I agree, get rid of *Oscar the Freshman* and give us more *Weasel*.

Michele Flynn  
English

### Cover-up?

It was with indescribable disappointment that I read about ASUO Vice President Jo Sonja Watson's shoplifting from the student bookstore and President Jennifer Bills' subsequent cover-up of the event during last year's campaign.

Even worse were Watson's continuing mockery of the legal system and refusal to even apologize to the student body for her actions.

Instead, she justifies her actions by the fact that she is a student, making it acceptable to steal troll dolls and write bad checks.

Bills and Watson have so far failed to satisfy the expectations of the students who gave them our trust.

Matthew Chism  
Student

### Acceptance

In response to Andy Sauerwein (*ODE*, Oct. 30), yes, I do espouse homosexuality, but I did not suggest that it is represented in nature. Its existence in nature is not the issue; the issue is, as I see it, the need for our society to accept the gay community, and allow it a safe place to dwell.

I used the diversity of nature as a model to follow in our human part of environment for the very reasons I will stance once more. The diverse parts of nature makes it beautiful and interesting. There is survival in diversity because each diverse part of the whole adds richness and a unique essence to the experience of living in a community.

All of us should be allowed to play our own part in the community we live in, and this was the point I wanted to make to Jon Wollander.

My opposition to Wollander's views are no more an attack upon his freedom of expression than opposition to my views are. Rebuttal is debate on issues, not a force which threatens personal expression of thoughts and convictions.

It's not a personal attack. That important fact seems to have been overlooked. If my message was vague, I'll restate it. I spoke for social equality for all, no matter the lifestyle or political position. We should advocate tolerance and appre-

### Education

To read about ASUO Vice President Jo Sonja Watson's criminal activities at the University Bookstore and subsequent convictions was disturbing. But to read her blithe comments that her crimes would have no relevance on her leadership ability was disgusting in its hypocrisy.

After all, in last year's ASUO presidential campaign, candidate Michael Colson's ability to lead was repeatedly called into question, due to allegations he had tampered with IFC minutes.

If Watson had any sense of honesty, she would have tried to quash these doubts of Colson's leadership qualities, because as she has said, criminal activities have no bearing on ability to lead. But I only seem to remember the Bills/Watson ticket exploiting and profiting from the charges against Colson. When Colson's ability to lead was called into question, where was Jo Sonja Watson? Perhaps she was at home, writing the \$232 rubber check to pay her court fines.

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