

'Environmental' Bush fails title miserably

Question of the election year: Will he or won't he? Will he or won't he make a double-talking campaign pledge — again — that is.

Which "he" are we referring to here? Our environmental president, of course.

If you recall, George Bush labeled himself the "environmental president" during the last election campaign held in 1988. Whether he was hoping America would forget that promise the day after his inauguration no one can say, but Bush has failed miserably in fulfilling that tag during his presidency.

Desperate for this year's presidential votes, he's again shown his true colors by calling off the bulk of the country's environmental protection measures in an effort to jump-start our sagging economy.

Now, the man is hesitant over whether to attend this year's "Earth Summit" to be held in Brazil. The summit aims to address the world's environmental problems via sustainable resource use and various environmental management strategies.

On one hand, it would look politically great should Bush go to the meeting; on the other, however, Bush, along with the United States, would no doubt get a big ol' hand slap/scolding for their failure to participate in the international effort to resolve the pending natural crisis.

Even worse, the meeting's leaders would probably want a commitment of some sorts from the United States, asking for such ridiculous things as our taking responsibility for our share of the big mess. C'mon now, that's just asking too much.

So poor George is in a tough spot. Looking environmentally correct vs. actually acting environmentally correct: two totally different animals. Bush has so far chosen only to look the part, and poorly one might add.

It's too late. We've already seen through our environmental president. Should he hope to garner these votes by a summit appearance, he'd better think again. It will take more than near pretenses and claims to restore the environmental faction of voter confidence in the president.



LETTERS

Lessons

You would think University students would have learned a lesson by Measure 5. We've taken heavy losses and not much savings. Well now Don King and Holly Ferguson have a new "Measure 5" on the University level.

King has ignored some important factors in introducing his measure. He has ignored the need to prioritize student groups.

Ten dollars per term will not keep people out of school, but how do Don and Holly plan on responding to a student mother whose child care has been cut? How will they explain themselves to a woman whose access to Saferide has been diminished, or an international student whose job in the EMU has been removed?

Our university needs to embrace its diversity, but Don says his concern is that of the mythical "average student." What Don and Holly need to know is the "average student" is far from average.

If Don King is so concerned about student fees, maybe he should be running for the IFC. Then again, maybe he doesn't want to clean up the mess if his "Measure 5" passes.

If maintaining already struggling safety and retention programs and services is important to you, don't support the petition. If lower student fees is important to you, vote in responsible IFC candidates.

Do not support Don and Holly's University Measure 5.

Joseph Wong
Student

Attitudes

I've become increasingly disturbed by the blatant perpetuation of attitudes such as Bryan Westby's (ODE, March 31) toward rape.

Westby, you must stop trivializing rape and sexual harassment as an invalid and irrational fear. Rape is a savage attack on both a woman's body and her soul. It is denigrating. It destroys her sense of worth, reducing her to a means to another's sick ends. Rape denies a woman the right to security in her home and her body and with other men.

Rape is not about sex; it is about control. When a woman is raped, she is robbed of control over her life. She is victimized, demoralized.

Rape is a terrifyingly valid fear for all women. The inane suggestion of martial arts as a solution to this fear maintains the folly that women are responsible for rape. By insisting she could have fought harder, Westby implies she is at fault for the attack. Think: A woman never "asks for it" — she is never to blame.

So Westby, when your mother, your sister, or the woman you're in love with is raped, will you continue this asinine insistence that martial arts could have prevented an attack? Will you criticize her for how she fought the rapist? In doing so, will you perpetuate the rape culture of ignorance, violence and control?

Or have you the strength to understand what rape truly is? Have you the courage to battle other men, the true perpetrators

of rape, and actively, intelligently work to end the savagery?

Leslie Galliano
Student

Message

In an effort to bring our grassroots movement to you, we posted flyers trumpeting our campaign on Friday, April 3. Already, several have been removed.

Obviously, our ticket has struck fear into the hearts of the powers that be. Firmly entrenched government officials, administrative fat-cats, and those in positions of management will undoubtedly continue to try to limit your access to our message of student power.

They will fail.

Though we are new to the dog-eat-dog world of politics, it is obvious to us that proper steps must be taken to ensure our safety in the face of hostile opponents. We have formed a security contingent to protect our interests. Because our interests are also your interests, we are protecting you.

Our message will get out. We will continue to oppose the power system that oppresses us all.

Vote for us, and we can all bask in the warm glow of victory that will hail the dawning of student control at a university that until now has been kept in the darkness of the exclusionist power structure that currently exists.

Chris Pharis
ASUO presidential candidate

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