

# Brand, ASUO call for calm over mustache issue

If you thought the now-famous Clinton/Gore quick-response team operating out of the "War Room" in Little Rock, Ark. was fast, you haven't been paying attention to University politics.

The ASUO and University President Myles Brand called a press conference Thursday to nip in the bud a controversy concerning the facial hair of the University administration's top banana.

The confab of politicians and higher-ups was responding to a letter printed in Thursday's *Emerald* calling for an end to the "madness" surrounding the Brand mustache question.

In the letter, failed ASUO presidential candidate Chris Pharis called on current student leaders Bobby Lee and Karmen Fore to take a stand on the tough issue of presidential facial hair.

The ASUO did, saying the student government supports everyone's right to choice, including that of Brand's facial hair.

But Lee refused to slam the door completely shut on the issue by adding, "Whether or not his choice was wise is another question."

Whew, these kids are quick. The "Myles Brand mustache question," as Pharis so eloquently coined it, got its beginnings in an *Emerald* "Streetwise" printed on Page 6 of the Nov. 2 issue. The person-on-the-street piece posed the question, "Do you like President Myles Brand better with or without his mustache?"

It was an irreverent and silly question designed to add a light moment to the stressful and tension-filled day before the climax of this stressful and tension-filled election year.

It was a joke.



University President Myles Brand (left) and ASUO President Bobby Lee met with reporters Thursday to explain the mustache-removal phenomenon.

But reflecting the oft-times lack of humor pervasive on this campus, several respondents used the opportunity to be downright hostile toward Brand and his facial-hair decisions.

Lee took offense. "There have been too many floating rumors and outright speculations on the topic, and it would appear our University is bitterly torn on this hotbed of controversy," Lee said as he stood on the steps of Johnson Hall. "To all those students planning to ruin Homecoming this weekend by rioting and attempting a hostile takeover of Johnson Hall: Please, let's see this through together."

I believe Lee was being sarcastic, but having listened to his speeches on other issues, it's hard to say for sure.

For his part, Brand appeared to be distancing himself from the controversy by invoking the supernatural.

"Last year my wife and I were hiking in Sonora, Arizona," Brand said. "It turns out to be the center for New Age ('New Age, folks,' Lee repeated for emphasis.) We were walking in the woods minding our own business and we came across a vortex. I knew it was a vortex because of all the carvings on the tree, and there was a circle of rocks."

"A vortex is a place in the universe where all the energy is focused. I walked into the middle of the vortex kidding around and making jokes," he said. "Two days later I shaved my mustache."

Insert theme from *Twilight Zone* here.

The vortex. Uh, huh. Sure. This might explain why the athletic department's "Pit Happens" slogan for the basketball team was not killed while still in the brainstorming stage.

But Lee pressed on before such questions could be asked.

"Let's make one thing clear," Lee said. "Some people don't have a (facial-hair) choice. Like me. So others are fortunate to have a choice."

Brand and Lee were also going to go on and offer solutions to the issues of jobs vs. spotted owls, welfare reform, health care legislation and the environment, but I wanted to get back to the office and listen to my Daisy Chainsaw tape, so I left.

Pat Malach is editor of the *Emerald*.

**'Some people don't have a (facial-hair) choice. Like me. So others are fortunate to have a choice.'**

— Bobby Lee, ASUO president



WRITE ANGLES  
Pat Malach

## LETTERS

### Enemy mine

Public Enemy is arguably one of the best rap groups ever, being both original and innovative. They draw thousands to concerts across the country. They also have a member who is virulently anti-Semitic.

And they're coming to the EMU Ballroom soon. I hope we don't forget their anti-Jewish sentiment when they come. Prof. Griff of Public Enemy has said, "the majority of wickedness that goes on across the globe" is the fault of Jews, and Jews "have a grip on America." He said "the Jews come against me ... they can send their faggot little hit men. I mean that don't move me."

He also has in a May 22,

1989 Washington Times interview, created a linguistics and philosophy argument, for he stated, "is it a coincidence that the Jews run the jewelry business, and it's named Jew-elry? No coincidence."

They might make great music, they might stand up to the "white power structures of the United States of AmeriKKKA!" But they do so at the expense of Jews, and in my book, that "ain't cool."

Though they tried several years ago to distance themselves from this hate speech, Griff and Public Enemy carry the same message. I hope you will take a moment to think about it.

Jonah Bookstein  
Jewish Student Union

### Clearing up

I am writing to clear up misconceptions from last year's budget process with regards to funding for the EMU. There has been some discussion about the EMU administration electing to cut student jobs in order to save their own. This isn't so.

The EMU Board of Directors requested last March from the IFC a budget quote that would allow us to prepare a budget that met their income projection. They refused to give us a firm number until two weeks before our budget was due for review in May.

At that time, they gave us a quote which, due to mandated state salary increases, required us to either consider closing the

building or laying off people in order to meet this budget quote. We chose to consider laying off student employees and have since been blamed.

Our recommendation for our budget did not include any student layoffs. We recommended cuts to programs where we felt they would not overly impair student access or adversely affect large portions of the student body. We felt we had prepared a good budget proposal. This proposal was ignored by the IFC and replaced with terms we could not meet without hurting people.

It was never our intention to hurt people.

Jon Organ  
Political science

### It's not over

Todd Helton's (*ODE*, Nov. 5), belief that "it's over" after the election results are in couldn't be further from the truth. It's just beginning.

Clinton's agenda is for change. That means work and action. The OCA has a new agenda. It is not stopping to rest. We can't sit back and smile thinking the issues are "hopefully resolved."

The elections are over, I agree, but let's prove our point and let our post-election actions reflect our powerful vote.

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