

Fishy types awarded very first annual 'Fishies,' hooray!

"And they don't even know even what they're talking about/And I can't imagine what empty heads can achieve."

— Ozzy Osbourne, "You Can't Kill Rock And Roll"

As the year comes to a end, it's only appropriate to fall back on the time-honored tradition of recapping events and making fun of them. Thus, I'm proud to announce the awarding of the first annual "Fishies."

Fishy recipients have distinguished themselves during the past as being silly, weird or just plain Fishy. Let the ceremonies begin!

Worst Letters to the Editor Award: Pre-journalism and graduate students tied for this one. Pre-journalism students continue to submit the most bizarre letters most of us have ever seen. And most curious is their anti-media slant and gross ignorance of how the media work.

Recent submissions have suggested the *Emerald* does not have the right to print what it wants. Perhaps these people haven't taken classes that deal with the First Amendment, so perhaps they can be excused.

However, it's interesting to note that few of these bizarre letters come from journalism majors. Perhaps part of the major-admission process is a review of letters to the editor. Those with the really bad ones are denied admission and sent to the English department.

On the other hand, graduate students have no excuse. Using terrible grammar, poor spelling and punctuation from nowhere, their submissions are usually an incoherent jumble of everything-I-write-has-to-sound-like-a-thesis tripe that never says anything.

Graduate students have elevated saying nothing in 1,000 words to a new art form.

The Best Name To Use Playing Hangman: Hands down, this one goes to ASUO Vice President Diana M.A. Collins Puente. Last year it was Diana Collins, then Diana

Collins Puente, and in a recent issue of the *Student Insurgent* she was given the M.A.

Obviously, the advantage to using her name as the secret word in a game of Hangman is that, because it's always changing, you never know for sure what it is.

Placing a close second was former IFC Chairman Steve Masat. Masat has decided to change his name to Tristan Masat when writing for the *Insurgent*. Is he embarrassed to be associated with the left-field rag? I would be.

The Split Personality Award: The easy winner is *Insurgent* editor and sometimes EMU Board of Directors member Jason W. (dammit) Moore. Moore appeared at the last few Incidental Fee Committee meetings to act as Masat's attack dog.

After interrupting the IFC, yelling at no one in particular, calling IFC members derogatory names and embarrassing himself by trying to read the ASUO Constitution and *Robert's Rules of Order*, he then attempts to write about it in the June 2 *Insurgent*.

Moore says he's been a reporter for eight years. Really? Here's a hint: Reporters don't play advocate-wannabes at public meetings and then report on them.

The Get A Sense Of Humor Award: And the winner is — campus radio, KWVA (88.1 FM). On Friday, June 4, *Emerald* Editor Pat Malach wrote a review in which he criticized the fledgling station for not playing "Peanut Butter" by the Marathons. It was a joke.

However, some confused employees of KWVA took seriously and thought Malach really believed KWVA was censoring a '50s song so inane that even '50s stations don't touch it. Two employees came to the *Emerald* in person to complain that the Malach wasn't being fair. Don't expect the KWVA Comedy Hour anytime soon.

The Who Are These Guys? Award: Still on the topic of campus radio, did anybody hear the station's sport talk show Sunday with Matt Aaron and Bobby Miller?

The highlight of the show was when Malach called in and requested "Peanut Butter" by the Marathons. It was a joke. It was also the best part of the show. In fact, two hours of "Peanut Butter" by the Marathons would have been more entertaining and a better use of the station's hard-earned FCC license.

The Their Agenda Is Nobody Else's Agenda Award: Hands down to Masat and Moore, again. Way to go boys. This dog-and-pony show's idea of student empowerment is to relinquish control of about half the IFC budget to the administration.

And as two anti-establishment, smash-the-system activists, funny how quickly Moore was willing to use the ASUO Constitution and *Roberts' Rules of Order*, both classic tools of the establishment, for his own agenda.

And after progressive Masat was accused of using racial slurs against Bobby Lee, a Korean-American, he hired an attorney to write a letter to Lee in an attempt to intimidate Lee from pursuing charges against Masat.

Next, the pair will probably see a right-wing conspiracy trying to remove them from their posts on the *Insurgent*.

Perhaps the old adage, "When in Rome, ..." applies here.

The Empty House Award: Again, the winner here is a cut above the rest — University Planning. The checkpoint in front of Oregon Hall has been completed since early winter term and has yet to be used.

While waiting for an Office of Public Safety officer to screw up bad enough to be assigned checkpoint duty, perhaps leasing the space to the EMU Main Desk would be a good idea. They could sell candy, newspapers and process film. Perhaps Fotomat would serve as a sponsor.

The Did Anybody Bring A Calculator? Award: Hats off to the aforementioned University Assembly. At its April and May meetings, this group of the University's brightest minds needed to vote several times before it could get the count straight.

Once, it forgot to count a whole section of voters. Another time, the person tallying the votes forgot to carry a number, resulting in a hundred more votes than there actually were.

The Democracy In Action Award: Back to our two favorite winners — Moore and Masat. The IFC needed to change its required quorum during the year because it did not have enough members to hear budgets. Moore and Masat never once protested.

The IFC needed to change its required quorum to oust Masat. Moore and Masat decried such action as a transgression of

democracy. Doubting that they support democracy over communism, I believe these two need to go back to high school and retake their civics classes. Just because they don't like the results of democracy doesn't mean democracy isn't working. It's just not working in their favor.

The Censorship Award: Continuing our long line of progressive winners, this one goes to the *Insurgent*. I, along with others, have submitted various letters to the editor and correction requests to the *Insurgent*. None of mine have been printed, probably because they were indisputable errors and Moore could not write 10,000 word responses to them.

On the other hand, the *Insurgent* did print two letters from Malach, to which Moore felt sufficiently threatened to write 10,000 words in response. The *Insurgent* needs to grow up, accept criticism and admit when it's made a mistake, rather than censoring those calling attention to its errors in a pathetic effort to retain its non-existent credibility.

The He Does That On Purpose? Award: Anyone who watches KMTR sports has watched sportscaster Steve Freidman make viewers cringe with his annoying staccato speaking style.

Such classics as "All ... the ... way ... for ... the ... T ... D" and "To ... the ... rack" have to rank among the top-10 most annoying things I've ever heard.

However, in a recent edition of "Weasel's World," the classic comic strip that appears in the *Emerald*, Freidman was parodied as being the secret lover of KMTR anchor Jim Brown. Freidman then called the *Emerald* to complain that the strip was in poor taste (why? Is there something wrong with homosexuals Steve?) and that cartoonist Kraig Norris was stealing his schtick.

This suggests that he is annoying by design and is not merely suffering from brain damage. Frightening.

Well, that about wraps up this first annual Fishies Award ceremony. No drawn-out acceptance speeches (Moore excepted), no boring production numbers. What more (or Moore) could you ask for? Until next year — See Ya!

Martin Fisher is an editorial editor for the *Emerald*.

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