

# EDITORIAL

## Resignations mark year of little change

As the 1993-94 academic year sails across the halfway mark, it presents a nice time for reflection, a time to look back and see what un-accomplishments have been made here at the University.

The first that comes to mind is the Incidental Fee Committee, which oversees more than \$4 million in student fees. Its track record is easily summed up — resignation, resignation, resignation and resignation. Three members resigned in September, and last month, Preston Cannon, removed himself because of a lack of time available for him to adequately fulfill his role on the IFC. All of the members had reasons (excuses) as to why they were stepping down. Many of them having to do with frustration from a lack of change.

The ASUO has had a few shake-ups as well, including the resignation of its vice president. Diana Collins Puente stepped down out of frustration, ending her political bout near the end of January. Her reason was a lack of change and a feeling of racial tension at the University. Certainly the two new internships in Washington, D.C., that Collins Puente was to start this month had little to do with her decision.

The University Assembly Committee on Multicultural Curriculum has an empty seat as of last Thursday, a seat recently vacated when the ASUO presented its colorful resignation. Unfortunately, the lack of input from the vacated seat won't be a great loss as Collins Puente failed to show up for many of the meetings while she was vice president, one ACMC member said. The ASUO pulled out because of a lack of change and a feeling of "suffocation" as the ACMC was "hijacking" the ASUO's original intentions.

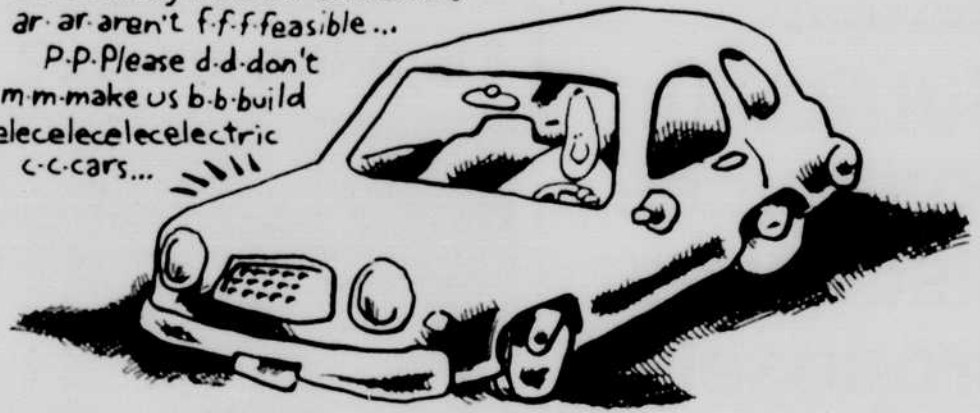
The most recent resignation is Eden Ajrian-Omari, ASUO multicultural Advocate. He cites lack of change and frustration as one of his reasons for resigning. We can't count him officially, as his official resignation doesn't come until Feb. 25.

That's six official resignations and one unofficial resignation in the last half of the academic year. Most of the reasons stem from lack of change. Cohesion must become a key in the University's political world, a world that every student is directly or indirectly involved in. The positions above have been occupied for less than a year. To cite lack of change for grounds of resignation is simply selling out.

Change is slow, especially when such issues attempting to be tackled have been so deeply rooted in administrative proceedings for so long. Cohesively forming a tradition of change that is handed down term after term would greatly strengthen the system as a whole. Most positions filled on this campus require a year's term, a mere sliver in the big picture of University history. But a year of hard work passed on to a successor in a cohesive way could, in turn, provide for great change.

When the wheel of a supertanker is turned, the ship is slow to follow. People have taken initiative, grabbed the wheel here at the University and begun to turn, but it will take time to see the turn around.

We-we-we-we-we-we-we  
C-C-C-can't im-m-improve  
g-g-gas m-m-m m-mileage...  
Th-the p-p-p-p-public  
d-d-d-doesn't wa-wa-want  
air-r-r-r-r-b-b-bags...  
C-C-C-Catalytic c-c-c-c-converters  
ar-ar-aren't f-f-f-feasible...  
P-P-Please d-d-don't  
m-m-make us b-b-build  
elecelecelecelectric  
c-c-cars...



If Detroit cars worked the way Detroit works.

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## LETTERS

### Myths

I am getting progressively more frustrated with the myths about homosexuality being spread by individuals who are misinformed. Take this from someone who knows:

**Myth:** There is a gay and lesbian agenda.

**Fact:** There is no such thing. Gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people are diverse in opinion, individual goals, political affiliation, religion, race, etc. We are no more of a homogenous mesh than the heterosexual people of the world, and we don't all agree.

**Myth:** Gays and lesbians want special rights.

**Fact:** There are no demands for extra benefits, minority status or other liberties any other citizen does not already enjoy. I venture to say all of us want to be respected as fellow human beings with the freedom to do, believe and feel what we want we want to as long as no others are harmed. As it is, we cannot enjoy that freedom without being persecuted.

**Myth:** Gays and lesbians flaunt their sexuality to provoke straight people.

**Fact:** To unlearn prejudice, you must be aware of it. Some lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgendered people have made it their job to increase awareness. We are no more flaunting in the expression of our sexual orientation than Clinton in his expression of his political affiliation or Jesse Helms in his expression of his religious beliefs.

**Myth:** Gays and lesbians discriminate against heterosexuals.

**Fact:** To discriminate against a large group of people with any effect takes power. Gays and lesbians as a group don't have that power. It is a hard struggle to gain accepting and supportive space in a society that seems pitted against us. If someone feels they must protect this frequently threatened space and makes assumptions about you as a heterosexual, prove them wrong

instead of perpetuating more myths. It could be a learning experience.

Liese Alsen  
Psychology

### Leash or leave it

I have a problem on the campus that does not have any great impact on the rest of the student body, but for me and a select group of creatures, it's very important.

I have a medical assist dog who accompanies me everywhere I go. Margot is highly trained and extremely well mannered. When she is with me she is always on a leash. Unfortunately, not all the dogs on campus are under similar circumstances. Three times in the last six weeks, I have had dogs charge up to Margot and try to fight with her. The owners did not have the dogs on a leash and usually were several yards behind or ahead of their dog. They didn't realize what their dog was doing until they heard me yelling at their dog and trying to pull it off Margot. Fortunately, neither Margot, myself, or any other dog has been hurt. Yet, I don't particularly relish trying to pull off some strange dog and possibly getting bitten in the process by it or my dog, who is only trying to protect me and herself.

I have Margot with me for medical reasons, not as a pet, and I do not have the time to stop and wait for every free running dog to come up to us. I'm a student and I'm here to go to school. Margot is here to help me do that. With the exception of the other two service dogs on campus, no other dog has any reason to be at the University. Please, leave your dog at home, or at least keep it on a leash.

Chandra Foote  
Political Science

### Divisive labels

As a member of the University community, I am sorry that fellow students experience racism and sexism on this cam-

pus. I am even more sorry, however, when complaints like those of Mr. Glaros and Mr. Sugiyama are made public (*ODE*, Feb. 10). It is too bad that these gentlemen make the assumption that the *Commentator* and the slide library are racist organizations on the basis of a proposed move and a standard abbreviation.

Racism and sexism happen because people go out of their way to treat other people differently on the basis of their skin color, their country of origin, or their gender. If the *Commentator* had avoided asking the four student unions to move for fear of offending them, that would indeed have been a racist act. If the slide library were to re-label all slides of Japanese art with the legend JPN, thus differentiating between Japanese and all other abbreviations, would that not also constitute a racist act? Where do we draw the line between acceptance and special consideration?

I suggest that Mr. Glaros and Mr. Sugiyama, and others on this campus, be a little more cautious when handing out labels of racism or sexism. These are the labels which divide people, more than skin color or gender ever could. Let us assume the best of our fellow students, until we are given clear reasons to think the worst.

S. Swanborn  
Art History

### Oops

"What's up... Klagen?" "Hey, is Greg your name? I thought it was Craig." Well, let me tell you, it is all fun and laughs until you get your picture in that mystical corner of campus insight titled "Streetwise," and your name gets utterly slaughtered. Susanne, after the ever so popular chuckle we had about the spelling, "Is it like Ronald Reagan?" to which I replied, "No, it is spelled C-R-A-I-G R-A-G-A-N," how did that get manipulated into Greg Klagen? Whoa, have another espresso, eh?

Craig Ragan  
Sociology

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