

Merciless media

Were you frustrated by having to choose the lesser of two evils in this year's election? Do you want to vent your frustrations on somebody?

Let me suggest Jesse Bohrer-Clancy. His column contained a litany of moderately colorful adjectives to describe this year's ASUO presidential candidates who obviously are not up to his "standards" (ODE, April 10).

He can't seem to understand why nobody with "any brains" is running.

Well, Jesse, probably for the same reason that so few good presidential candidates appear at the federal level. The only people who would subject themselves to the amount of abuse dealt by the media are the naive and the masochistic.

Last year, I ran with Kantrowitz. I thought I could make a difference and genuinely wanted to see change occur within the ASUO.

I predicted some personal scrutiny based on relevant issues that dealt with my capability to govern the ASUO. What I did not expect was a tirade of personal attacks.

Now, a year later, I'm casually referred to as the "bimbo" Kantrowitz ran with.

I'm pretty thick skinned, but that hurt. Receiving this sexist insult would hurt anyone who has worked as hard and devoted as much energy over the past four years to this University as I have.

I want to make a statement about what the media is doing to our "democracy."

We trash politicians for being sleazeballs, but who else would willingly submit themselves to this kind of abuse when they can maintain leadership roles elsewhere? Think about it.

Niki Scott
Marketing

Bigfoot sighted

Is the *Emerald* becoming a tabloid paper? Reading the column by Larry Haftl (ODE, April 9), one would think so. Haftl touted the investigations of one Richard Hoagland, who claims that photos by NASA and other space agencies show evidence of artificially constructed structures on the moon.

A maxim that is most apt in this case is "extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence."

I've examined the "evidence" as presented by Hoagland (available via world wide web at <http://www.artbell.com/art/hoagland.html>) and the only extraordinary thing about all of it is just how much he can read into such things as shadows, lens flares and glare.

The structures to which he points are more likely based in the limitations of photographic equipment than artificial structures on the moon. Where I see a glint of light on a lens, he sees a castle floating in the sky (to be fair, he says that this "castle" is supported on a glass-like structure which, upon close examination, can be seen as light shining on the dust that's gathered on the faceplate of Alan Bean's helmet).

His approach to these photographs is completely unscientific, and I think the *ODE* does the University community a great disservice by printing this sort of nonsense. What's next? Bigfoot sightings? Elvis on campus?

I know that some people reading this may think I'm not being open-minded. I would hope that we find evidence — conclusive evidence that there is life beyond our tiny planet. But the pictures touted by Hoagland are not that proof.

The universe has enough wonder without the need to fill it with imaginary castles on the moon. Leave this stuff to the supermarket tabloids. It has no business in the *Emerald*.

Jim Craig
Department of Sociology
undergraduate secretary

Blatant sexism

While discussing the various candidates for this year's ASUO Executive race, Jesse Bohrer-Clancy said Chris Kantrowitz selected "another blonde bimbo to run with" (ODE, April 10). After labeling Farrah Bostic in this way, he then described her as "the farthest thing from a bimbo."

Bohrer-Clancy has the audacity to think that labels can be applied or removed on a whim.

Where does he get off calling anyone a bimbo in the first place? The word is sexist, ignorant, and perpetuates a stereotype that is demeaning to women, whether or not they are blonde.

Does Bohrer-Clancy think all blonde women are automatically bimbos? What about blonde men? Was Robert Carichoff, blonde candidate for ASUO president, called a bimbo? No, he was not.

Why are women so often judged solely on their appearance? How does being blonde make someone less of a person?

Society continues to look at women as objects, sexualizing them in a manner that is dehumanizing and can potentially lead to violence.

If the media continues to represent women as simple bodies, not people with thoughts and feelings, sexual harassment and sexual assault will continue to increase.

Obviously, Bohrer-Clancy has never met Niki Scott, Chris Kantrowitz's running mate last year, or he would know her as the intelligent, creative, thoughtful person that she is.

The world will be a better place when neither she nor any other woman is put in a place to defend themselves against this kind of ignorance and blatant sexism.

Bonnie Kanter
Women's Center Interim Director

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