

# Letters

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## Extension is not penalty

I was disturbed to read comments by C.J. Gabbe, candidate for ASUO president (ODE, Jan. 31). His complaint: "We are ready to go. We feel we are being penalized for being on time." Those words in response to the extension of the filing deadline for ASUO positions made me angry and worried.

Student government should get as many students involved as possible. The reason for the extension was to do just that. The concern was really for the seven open Student Senate seats where no candidates were running.

I don't understand why Gabbe feels penalized. Campaigns for several candidates have already begun, and he's had his fair share of posters and buttons. Gabbe is very serious about winning this election, as he should be, but it distresses me that Gabbe is so concerned with winning that he feels threatened by the possibility of more competition.

More students running makes the whole experience more interesting, more fair and more representative of the students. As election coordinator Ken Best said, "It is absolutely crucial that we have people running for these positions."

These elections are about us, the students. These are our representatives, and I am completely in favor of the deadline extension. I think that if Gabbe feels "penalized" in terms of his campaign he should seriously consider what is important: the University and the students.

As one can see (ODE, Feb. 2), the extension has given way to

many more candidates. I see this as a positive sign of strength in student democracy.

**Oona M. Holcomb**  
journalism, political science

## More involvement important

It is a sad day indeed when our student leaders, who supposedly work to promote diversity on campus, work instead to stifle diversity. C.J. Gabbe, reprimanded student senator and ASUO executive candidate, stated (ODE, Jan. 31) that he felt that his campaign was being "penalized for being on time" because the ASUO elections coordinator moved the registration deadline back to allow for more students to run for office.

Does Gabbe not want more competition? Does Gabbe not want to give the students more of a choice over who will be controlling their millions of dollars worth of incidental fees? This type of power mongering is yet another example of why more students need to run for office. It is also a great example of why students need to take a close look at who they will be electing to represent them.

Gabbe also stated that voter turnout could be stifled because candidates wouldn't have enough time to put a campaign together. I would like to point out that any student can run for office, no matter what their financial background, and no matter how many friends they have. Gabbe should know that the more people who run, the better. With more people running, the likelihood of increasing voting turnout increases. This is common sense.

**Autumn De Poe**  
political science

## Myth may harm unborn children

First, the abortion lobby claimed that the mother's anes-

thesia killed the unborn baby before the horrific partial-birth abortion procedure.

This irresponsible and dangerous lie could have caused many women to postpone necessary surgery for fear of endangering their unborn children. Although it exposed the carefully nurtured myth of the industry's concern for women's health, the media chose not to notice.

Later, the industry insisted upon a health exception to the ban, knowing that the Supreme Court cleverly concealed its ridiculously broad definition of health (it can mean anything) in *Doe v. Bolton*, the largely overlooked companion decision to *Roe v. Wade*.

This old, reliable ploy destroys the support of borderline legislators by making them appear insensitive to the health needs of women if they oppose it. Ethical physicians know that partial birth abortion is never necessary and that its only real purpose is to assure a dead baby that is sufficiently undamaged and fresh that its parts will fetch top dollar in the market for research specimens. The media reliably failed to explain any such critical details.

What other practice must be sold almost exclusively on the basis of lies? What does it say about the abortion industry's relationship with the media when it can churn out lie after bald-faced lie for over three decades and never have its credibility challenged? Would any pro-life organization get away with the same tactic even once?

With such complicity by the media, will America ever get wise to the lies?

**Alfred Lemmo**  
Dearborn, MI

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