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# COMMENTARY

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## Editorial ASUO tickets need to have eye-catching campaigns

This year's ASUO Executive election is blessed with a large number of candidates eager to get involved with student government. Refreshingly, 10 tickets will be on the primary ballot Feb. 20, and the candidates should be commended for their willingness to be involved in student leadership.

Now that the candidates have taken the initial step of launching a campaign, they will have to do their part to engage the voters, which is no small task with turnout usually hovering near 10 percent.

Many tickets facing less opposition have tried to stand out with engaging, eye-catching stunts instead of the usual poster plastering. In the 2000 ASUO election, candidates Autumn DePoe and Caitlin Upshaw had planned to perform a tap dance before a foot injury ruined performance plans. Candidates Jay Breslow and Holly Magner hopped on tandem bicycles with flying capes and posed for "wacky" Emerald photos. The latter duo — and their quirky antics — won the election.

With so many candidates this year, active and public campaigning is even more important. And current executive hopefuls have a lot to live up to. Gorilla suits, balloons or even an endorsement performance from campus a capella band On The Rocks may be solid options to keep the campaigns lively and keep voters interested. Once interest in the ticket is sparked, candidate platforms may be better received.

If nothing else, it beats taking time to pull down all those posters — or write the grievances that follow. If candidates fail to engage voters with high visibility, they will be doomed to the poor voter turnout of the past.

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## Pondering the Playboy experience

With graduation starting to feel like a pending reality, I've been looking back a lot on the past four years. I realize I led a fairly uneventful existence until the Oct. 1999 issue of Playboy hit newsstands — with my photo in it. I couldn't have predicted how much that one photo could change my life. Of course, it hasn't all been fun and games.

When I heard Playboy was coming to campus my freshman year, I decided to try out. The impulsive move came partly from co-workers egging me on, and the rest was my remembering the tomboy image cast upon me during my formative years. Regardless, I thought it was something I would be able to laugh about later.

At my audition for the "Girls of the Pac-10" issue, I had to disrobe down to my skivvies in front of longtime Playboy photographer David

Chan. Despite my nervousness, my rational side assured me I'd merely be another body on a Polaroid in the reject pile.

I was wrong. I was selected, and several days later I was standing in a bikini with four other University girls — in the backyard of a fraternity — surrounded by yelling frat guys. Back at school the following year, just weeks after the issue hit newsstands — and seemingly the coffee tables of every frat house on campus — things began to change.

It may have been the 300-plus "fan e-mails" I received the week after the issue came out, but suddenly I had a following, although the idea that any guy (or several girls) would consider themselves my fans was ludicrous.

The e-mails didn't really bother me, although they got old really fast. It was even flattering initially when guys would recognize me on campus. My naiveté began to wear off when I began receiving solicitations for sex, offers for "beneficial weekends" in Hawaii and even sexual threats via e-mail. When a prison inmate

managed to track me down via U.S. mail, despite an unlisted phone number and address, I began to get worried.

And that sole photo also gave people ammunition to use against me, as if my appearance in the magazine somehow reduced my integrity, beliefs and all the positive things about me. Soon, my hometown was filled with rumors that I'd be appearing as a Playmate or even worse, in Hustler, complete with full frontal nudity. At first I laughed it off as small town talk, but it hurt that people would make things up for shock value.

Instead of thinking of the Playboy pictorial as some great photos taken in a popular magazine, I began to think more realistically. When I realized that there were guys out there who were masturbating to my photo, I didn't think it was so great anymore.

I have always prided myself on my intelligence, motivation and hard work. But the unwanted attention I was receiving had nothing to do with those traits. Instead, it was derived from a mirage of my

physical being, created with makeup, great photography and probably a little Photoshop. I wanted to be congratulated for good grades or my work ethic, not for how my cleavage looked.

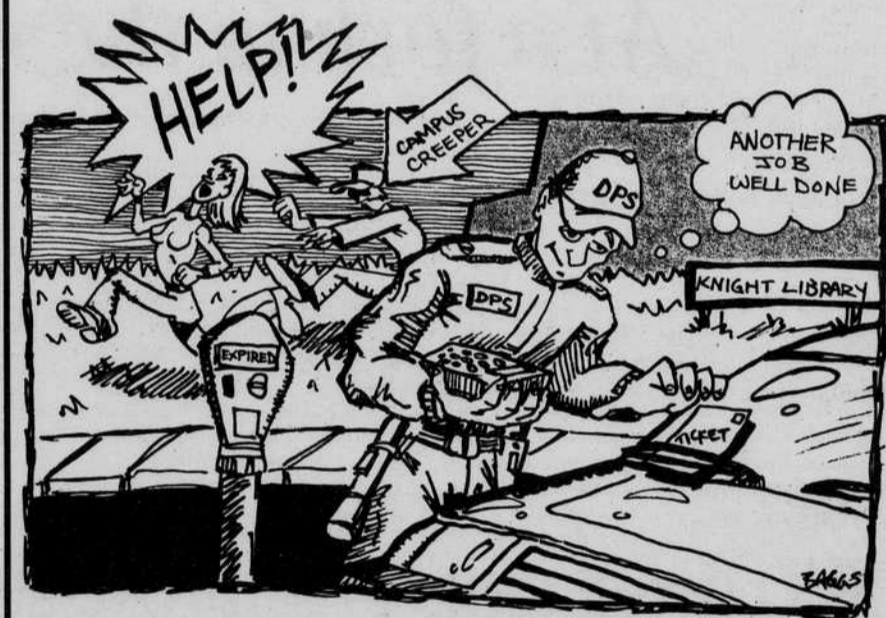
I look back upon that Playboy issue with bittersweet feelings. I have had some feminists accuse me, directly and indirectly, of contributing to the objectification and oppression of women. I can't really agree or disagree. I do think that I inadvertently contributed to the objectification of myself. But at the same time, the experience taught me more about myself, the type of woman I want to be — and what type I don't want to be. And most importantly, it taught me that what I think of myself — not how others see me — is what's important. Would I do it again? Probably not. But I don't regret where it's taken me, even though the path was definitely a bumpy one.

E-mail columnist Rebecca Newell at rebeccanewell@dailyemerald.com. Her opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the Emerald.



Rebecca  
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### Steve Baggs Emerald



## Abortion supporters must use facts, logic to persuade

Editor's note: The author of this piece has chosen the term "pro-life" to describe the political position opposed to abortion. Standard newspaper practice is to use the term "anti-abortion," as it more exactly describes the political stance. The Emerald has decided to let the author choose the terms of his argument.

With both the anniversary of Roe v. Wade and National Sanctity of Human Life Day having been celebrated recently, there is renewed talk on the topic of abortion. Unfortunately, this usually consists of pro-choicers calling pro-lifers "extremists" or other names meant to evoke emotional reactions. Such were the words of Daniel Peabody in his guest com-

mentary ("Question irony in government decisions," ODE, 2/1).

To begin with, Peabody called pro-lifers "a small but vocal group of domestic terrorists." For the record, a 1999 Gallup poll showed that 42 percent of those polled identified themselves as pro-life, while 48 percent identified themselves as pro-choice and the remaining 10 percent were undecided. Pro-lifers might be vocal, but we're hardly a small fraction of the population.

Calling 42 percent of the population "extremists" and "domestic terrorists" is not only disrespectful to the true victims of recent terrorist acts; it is also inaccurate. The people who threaten or harass abortion doctors and clinics with violent actions do not represent the majority of pro-lifers, and Peabody knows it. Pro-abortionists have hidden be-

### GUEST COMMENTARY

#### Brian Stubbs

hind the word "choice" so as to seem as though they are on higher moral ground. But let's name that choice; the choice is to end innocent human lives. To tell a pro-lifer, "If you don't like abortion, don't have one" is to miss the point entirely. It's akin to saying, "if you don't like slavery, don't own slaves." Nobody should have the choice to own slaves, because slavery is wrong for everybody. Similarly, pro-lifers oppose abortion because the choice to end innocent human lives is wrong for everybody.

The pro-life position rests on a few simple facts. It's a matter of ba-

sic biology that the fetuses in danger of being aborted are alive and human. There's no need for personal opinions, religious beliefs or talk of the soul. It's obvious that these fetuses are both innocent and defenseless. It should be clear from these two facts that abortion ends innocent and defenseless human lives. Any pro-choice response that seeks to logically persuade pro-lifers must take account of those facts.

Liberals are usually proud of their inclusion and recognition of marginalized groups within the human community. But when it comes to the unborn, many liberals take a surprising turn and decide that some human lives should be ended right after they have begun simply because they are small, hidden in the womb, are an economic burden or unwanted. Many adults

have been labeled as unwanted or economic burdens; should we end their lives, too?

As a pro-lifer, I believe that abortion is justifiable when it is needed to save a woman's life; which was entirely legal even before Roe v. Wade. Many pro-lifers would add other difficult situations such as rape, incest or severe fetal deformation as justifying abortion. Yet these cases constitute around only three percent of the roughly 40 million lives that have been ended in the name of choice. Abortion seeks to treat the symptoms of social problems at the expense of human life, instead of dealing with the problems directly. As a society, I think we can do better.

Brian Stubbs is a graduate teaching fellow in the physics department.