GOP Club Will Diversify Campus Political Dialogue

By Sharon Kniss
Contributing Writer

The newest club at EMU is excited to be "widening the spectrum of diversity on campus," according to Audrey Berkshire, chair of the new Republican Club.

After the paperwork was over last November, the club could finally get rolling.

At this point, five persons serve on the executive committee and an additional five are attending meetings. Greg Asuagbor and Stephanie Sipe are the faculty advisors. These 10 persons, however, have been fairly active since the club's inception.

Members have attended meetings with the Rockingham County Republican Party divisions. They've had dinner with Congressman Bob Goodlatte, who was quite excited with Congressman Bob Goodlatte, who was quite excited

March 15 marks the the Lincoln Day Supper which EMU’s Republican Club is invited to attend with the Women’s Republican Club. It is usually attended by all the big names in the local and State Congress. Republican Club is also looking forward to hosting the Grassroots Leadership Institute of Arlington, a conference to encourage young people to get involved in political positions, in September 2003.

Despite the flurry of activity, the Republican Club must brace the waters of minority status on EMU’s left-leaning campus. This doesn’t scare Berkshire: “I like being the minority. I can handle it.” Members are concerned that the campus won’t be very welcoming to their politics-centered club. This is a new thing for the campus community.

"If we’re going to preach diversity, we’ve got to be consistent with it," Berkshire said. She encourages the campus to embrace this diversity and perhaps go a step further and branch out to get conservative persons to speak in chapel.

Yet not all comments have been negative. “It’s great to hear positive feedback,” Audrey adds. Even though other clubs aren’t politically-oriented, they still deal with political issues. So the Republican Club really is not so radically new.

The club wants to be sure the community knows as well that they are not going to be concerning themselves with getting money and funds. They are fully willing to participate in fundraising activities and will not be asking SGA for funds.

The club is worried about facing a lot of discrimination on this campus. We all have the right to speak our voice and be respected for it. The Republican Club may be outnumbered at EMU, but they are willing to stay the storm and bring even more diversity to this campus.

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Hugs & Slugs

A hug to the few loyal Royal fans who still attend men’s basketball games. You go, guys.

A hug to Campus Ministries for reimbursing Bowling for Columbine tickets. Now, what do you think about that new Matrix movie?

A sated slug to the evil microorganisms that incapacitated our Managing Editor this week. Get well, m.j.

A hug to the Academic Support Center, because we like you just the way you are.

The Inside Scoop

Thursday, February 6
• 8:00pm Engaged Couples Seminar, CC

Friday, February 7
• Chapel, Laurenti Magesa, 10:00 a.m.
• Suter Science Seminar, 4:00 p.m.
• Movie: Tuck Everlasting, 7:00 p.m.
• (W) Basketball at Randolph Macon, 7:00 p.m.
• Evening of Jazz - A Taste of Love, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 8
• (M) Volleyball at Medaille, 12:00 p.m.
• (M) Basketball vs. Emory & Henry (H), 2:00 p.m.
• (W) Basketball at Virginia Wesleyan, 2:00 p.m.
• (M) at Hilbert, 4:00 p.m.

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