Dear Parrot Collective,

I have major problems with your latest issue. It seems as if you have moved beyond the realm of the endearing, often humorous to the counter culture, yet offensive material. Although I have disagreed with some of your more pointless opinions (i.e. the comments you make on music), I have found myself agreeing and appreciating most of your articles. What little respect I have had for you all (the little amount is due to the incognito nature you all think is so clever and attractive) has now disappeared. I am referring to your section on relief kits. While you are most definiately entitled to your opinion about the relief kits, and I even welcome the criticism which you provide in the section entitled "relief for active Mennonites," you are not entitled to belittle someone's experience that has been a source of pain and loss. This is a human rights violation in and of itself. Here I am referring to the "some real relief" section. Relief kits for families with loved ones at war include "12 boxes of tissues" and "one bottle of Johnny Walker!" This is the most insensitive attitude I have heard on this campus, yet I am ashamed to say that you consider me your friend if this is how you really feel.

I have three very close friends in Iraq fighting for the armed forces on the front lines in the war zone. Unfortunately, I will most probably not come back after we enter Baghdad. This is because I am taking the fact that everyday I think of them and it almost cripples me from going to class when I hear the news on Democracy Now. Even if my friends come back, they will be totally different persons, unable to fully interact with society on a normal level. This is something I have been dealing with for a long time now. I never agree with my friends ideologies nor their life decisions, I still love them very much and I take great offense to people like you who do not understand what it really means to have a loved one in the war. However, I do know that you people are my friends (I just don't know which friends you are), I am caused to wonder, would you say these things to my face, or the faces of the families of my friends in the military? I don't think you would.

Your little paper is increasignly proving to be a great excuse for you people to claim about every little thing that comes into your heads but you actually too lazy to do anything about it. What I am asking here?

First, an apology to the other students and families who you obviously demeaned in your little critique.

Second, offer up some alternatives to the ideas that you so openly oppose, or at least admit your ignorance in areas such as practical action.

Third, stop sending me copies of your paper. I do not want to have anything to do with it any longer. I hope that you never disclose your identities, because I know you are friends of mine. I would never want to know which ones you are because I am sure I could never look at you in the same way.

Sincerely ashamed of what we've become,

Rus Pyle

No Turnover Problem?

I must admit that I was taken aback at the headline of the Mar. 27 Weather Vane. I sincerely hope that your reporter misquoted and unfairly misrepresented Undergraduate Academic Dean Marie Morris in her assertion that the loss of seven or more faculty members this year was “no big problem” to the EMU administration. The persons who are leaving are not simply “faculty turnover.” Collectively, they represent almost 90 years of service to this academic community. Their contributions should not ever be dismissed so lightly.

We regret that we used the incorrect title for Paul Hildebrand in “Deep Discussions: The Laramie Project” (Mar. 20). He is an associate professor of theater, not an assistant professor.

By Jeremy B. Yoder Editor-in-Chief

EMU students have spoken: next year’s Student Government Association co-presidents will be Juniors Rachelle O’Connor and Weldon Miller. The election, held Monday, also handed the posts of vice-president to Junior Andrew Jenner, secretary to Sophomore Jen Fawley, and treasurer to Junior Jess Walter. Voter turnout was just over 20 percent.

“I was happy with turnout, considering lack of advertising,” said outgoing Co-President Thaddeus Hollingsworth. “[It was] only a little bit less than fall elections, which were widely publicized.” A referendum to remove the enforced ratio of off-campus to on-campus representatives in the SGAs Senate was passed with 85 percent approval.

An SGA glitch, however, failed to put the referendum on the computerized ballot. Hollingsworth was not concerned, explaining that paper ballots showed such a large majority that the electronic ballots couldn’t have changed the outcome. O’Connor and Miller plan on continuing many of SGAs programs, such as recycling and the Student Fund.

“I was really, really, nervous because I knew who I was running against would do a good job, too,” said Co-President Elect O’Connor. “But Weldon and I are really excited.” Miller said that before elections, they didn’t do a lot of campaigniing, but just focused on talking to people. They want to continue this method of communication, so that they can present more united student opinion to administration.

Problems with PC

EMU for any reasons can involve a great deal of pain, loss, and grief. Whatever her intention, I am saddened that Dean Morris missed an opportunity to publicly honor and acknowledge EMU’s truly outstanding (and underappreciated) faculty.

Jean Roth Hawk
Professor of Education

Editors’ Note: The article in question was concerned with the overall rate of EMU faculty turnover, not the impact of the departure of any specific professors.

New SGA Execs Elected

I appreciate most of your averments, I still love them very much, and I do not know which friends you are, I know that they’re going to do a great job… I think the student body will have good representaion next year.

Pyle is aware of an apparent lack of knowledge about SGA. A lot of students don’t understand how much [Outgoing Co-President] Thad [Hollingsworth] and I speak for them.

But he also had partrt words to the incoming co-presidents. “Don’t forget who you are,” said Pyle. “And don’t forget that you’re in a position to speak for the students.”

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