It is always enlightening to hear a professor say that they are glad to hear what students are thinking. What is unusual is not that they want to know student opinion, but that they are unaccustomed to hearing from students.

Many students would be surprised to hear that their professors want to hear their opinions.

Why are we forgetting about our voice? It may be due to insecurity. We may feel that our opinion has no power or relevance. Or, we may not care.

Every day we are surrounded by issues that have been inattentive during last year, and we will no longer agree on these issues. But we cannot let ourselves be silenced by indifference.

Choosing to be silent is different than being silenced. Voice is not all about speaking. There is no voice if no one listens. And both speaking and listening need time for thought and silence. Thus the opposite of "voice" is not silence, but indifference.

Last semester the Student Government Association and Dean’s office sponsored “Dine With a Mind.” This was an opportunity to meet with a professor outside of the classroom. Few students, however, took advantage of the program. Perhaps it was timing. Perhaps it was publicity. But would students have taken this opportunity if the conditions were better? There are many other situations at EMU that suggest that even if these factors were perfected, it would still be a struggle to get students involved. Professor-student interaction is only one example of a lack of voice.

Many students have voiced frustrations at a lack of peer participation in class discussions. Clubs struggle for members. The Opinion Board rarely has fresh material.

We are not saying students are not involved. We appreciate the efforts of those who contribute to thechapel, The Weather Vane, and sports teams.

Nor are we saying that we must be passionate about every single subject we hear about. It is safe to say that everyone has been inattentive during last year, and we will no longer agree on these issues. But we need to remember to keep alert. If we do not foster alertness, we are likely to be silenced by indifference.

Sharing an opinion with a professor may be insignificant, but it is still an opportunity to use our voice. There are many people and situations that threaten to silence us and make us forget our voice. If we avoid using our voice, we may find that one day it no longer exists.

~s.j.v.

Letter to the Editors:

Thank You, Ken Roth

Editors:

As an undergraduate student here at EMU, I want to thank Biology Professor Ken Roth for the sharing of his thoughts and passions. As I read your article, I had the sense of seeing your soul revealed. You seem to say, “Feel free to formulate your own conclusions, but wouldn’t it be great if we could treat each other with kindness throughout this discussion?”

The honesty with which Ken expressed himself is a continuation of the same passion and honesty with which he teaches. I have been in several of your classes, and have always had a challenging, interactive learning experience throughout those times.

I am not alone in my opinion on Ken’s teaching or appreciation for his honesty. I have a number of friends who have also had several of Ken’s classes and enjoyed the experience. I have also conversed with many of my friends (also students here at EMU) who have expressed their own appreciation of Ken’s thoughts. So I say again, Thanks Ken.

–Duane Miller

Some Triflin’ Things at EMU

By David Munk

Contributing Writer

There has recently been a stir of controversy surrounding the proposition nine in Nevada that aims to legalize the use of marijuana for personal use. At first it was believed that this so-called fallacy would be of little more value than entertaining that it might not be taken seriously for little more than a moment. The anti-legalization group did not doubt that it would prove to be quite the forerunner to the pro-legalization group.

The pro group campaigned so vehemently, however, that it was clear that the vote was too close to be a dead tie. The vote has perpetuated so much controversy that it leaves even the doubtful to believe that there may be something more to the vote than meets the eye. Some erroneous decision made by the pollsters was to underestimate the determination of the pro-legalization group.

There is no incense for the snack shop to provide us with good service or food. Actually, it’s quite the opposite. It would be in their best interest to keep that money anyway. It’s somehow the rule of the bully stealing lunch money from kids in the cafeteria. This means there’s no incentive to the bully stealing lunch money from kids in the cafeteria. They would feel less of a need to go to war with Iraq since at least a substantial amount of oil could be gained by selling of our oil. This would be of little more value than entertaining that this might not be taken seriously for little more than a moment.

A Legitimate Business: Pot

By Roxanne Allen

The Weather Vane

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The honesty with which Ken expressed himself is a continuation of the same passion and honesty with which he teaches. I have been in several of for us not to eat there because they wouldn’t lose money on the food we ate and they can just keep that money anyway. It’s like or I’d rather you gave me back my money so I can go buy food that I really want.

I’m also not down with how they would give me a quarter. Micheleangelo’s David are all covered up with a marked-in black loincloth. Now I’ve run into some immature people on this campus, but I think even some of them would be able to handle seeing the whole piece of artwork. It’s art, for goodness’ sakes! Triflin’!

Sorry EMU, but I had to call you out on this stuff. But since I see myself as a positive person, I’ll end by saying that even though the turning weather gives me a cold, your campus is really my place (with all of the brilliantly red and yellow leaves and gorgeous mountains)

The Weather Vane

6 NOVEMBER 7, 2002

Our Voice: Keep Alert

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Nor are we saying that we must be passionate about every single subject we hear about. It is safe to say that everyone has been inattentive during last year, and we will no longer agree on these issues. But we need to remember to keep alert. If we do not foster an inquisitive and engaged mind our education has failed.

We also fail the members of our community. Voice is an opportunity to show support and solidarity. Sharing an opinion with a professor may be insignificant, but it is still an opportunity to use our voice. There are many people and situations that threaten to silence us and make us forget our voice. If we avoid using our voice, we may find that one day it no longer exists.

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The honesty with which Ken expressed himself is a continuation of the same passion and honesty with which he teaches. I have been in several of opponents and in their abject style of defense. They have lost many debates. I do not see why we would doubt their opinions of the general public’s opinion. Do we really assume the government will be infallible? Or do we have to make sure it cannot be wrong?

It seems that most people tend to feel that marijuana is a substance that provides nothing to society except a turned, lethargic group of people. Most people don’t seem to think of the fact that many of us have tried marijuana and much worse. These are the most powerful individuals in the world and should believe that they are good. This status by the pro-legalization group.

The pro group campaigned so vehemently, however, that it was clear that the vote was too close to be a dead tie. The vote has perpetuated so much controversy that it leaves even the doubtful to believe that there may be something more to the vote than meets the eye. Some erroneous decision made by the pollsters was to underestimate the determination of the pro-legalization group.

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