We Cannot Avoid the Issue

By Ken Roth

November 7, 2002

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Have you ever stepped in a pile of doo-doo and it sticks to your shoe and kind of makes you want to step away from the center of attention wherever you go? Well, I seem to have stepped in a pile of doo-doo. To be honest, though, I saw it coming and I still chose to step in it. I really feel like we need to acknowledge the existence of unpleasant things and stop trying to ignore them.

I’m sure the administration thinks I’m a bit naive about the potential impact of my recent Washington Post article, “Ken’s Coming Out” (Sept. 26). Although I knew it would cause some commotion, I am still surprised at how passionately some people have reacted. I expressed a personal opinion that didn’t match the opinion of the MC USA. I thought I was allowed to have an opinion. Some wonder why I thought I was allowed to have an opinion. I decided that, if I just blurt it all out and tell everyone with whom I interact that I have to dance around the issue anymore. I like to call it “honest”-ness. I also hope to initiate/main-tenance dialogue so that others might witness the church and EMU committing what I consider to be acts of violence against members of our own community and I can’t just sit still and let it happen. For example, Sue Blaach worked for EMU for fifteen years and then was fired because she was in love with, and committed to, her female spouse. You can define that action as you like, but to me it is clearly a violence. Can you imagine having someone’s life? FIFTEEN YEARS!

I read with delight Kathleen Temple’s eloquently written letter to the editor of the Daily News (Oct. 26). In the letter, Kathleen demonstrated her commitment to peacebuilding by speaking out against war. She has invested a great deal of time and energy promoting peace, not only by writing letters, but by actively answering Christ’s call to witness faithfully. She serves compassionately and walk boldly in the way of nonviolence and peace. I love you, Kathleen, and I admire your willingness to “walk the walk” and not just “talk the talk.” Unfortunately, Kathleen has been the victim of violence herself. In addition to boldly campaigning for the rights of the innocent people of countries like Afghanistan and Iraq, she has also answered Christ’s call by being a friend to, and source of support for, people of minority sexual orientations. Because of this perceived “insub-ordinate” she was forced by the Virginia Mennonite Conference to give up her ordination (after near-ly four years of intimidation in various forms).

I can’t ignore the doo-doo any more. My conscience won’t allow it. Saying nothing would give the impression that I accept it, and that’s the same as lying. We have, in a way, been asking homosexuals to be for as long as I can remember. We don’t want them to be who they are. We want them to get married, have children and pretend to be heterosexual. We basically want them to lie (I hope not), but it is a relief to have it, and that’s the same as lying.

In President Lapp’s letter he made it clear that EMU as a University is church-related and has a commitment to support the confessions and positions of the MC USA. It would appear from his statement that “all faculty and staff recognize that EMU has ‘agreed to support the confessions and positions of the MC USA.’” I would hope from his letter that “all faculty and staff individually agreed to support these as well” is a call for personal renewal and respect for EMU as a church-related institu-

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demic freedom regarding dialogue to find a new issue on the position of homosexuality, it must be done in the context of Christian education rather than an unlimited search with the mindset of secular educa-
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ing out in the name of academic freedom and do not realize that EMU is much more than a “liberal arts college.” No wonder that for some persons homosexuality has been made a particular moral concern that is men-tioned in both the Old Testament and New Testament.

Thanks to Sara Vershuis for her editorial that clearly states “EMU stands proudly on both the church and the church needs EMU.” She is to be commended for her clarity in recogniz-
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tions.” Her statement that “freedom does not do away with ideals and beliefs and morals” is explaining the life of disciple that we can have in living under the Lordship of Jesus Christ who said “the truth will set you free.”

When intelligent and academic freedom is allowed to negate faith, prayer and spiritual discernment in knowing God’s will, the search for truth has moved to a human and secular experience. When that happens, the EMU campus becomes a battleground rather than a fruitful field for discovering the supreme purposes of God in today’s world.

An encouraged long-term supporter of EMU,

Glendon Blosser

Letter to the Editors

Prayer Before Academics

To the Weather Vane:

Thanks for the Oct. 25 issue of The Weather Vane. In President Lapp’s letter he made it clear that EMU as a University is church-related and has a commitment to support the confessions and positions of the MC USA. It would appear from his statement that “all faculty and staff recognize that EMU has ‘agreed to support the confessions and positions of the MC USA.’” It would appear from his statement that “all faculty and staff individually agreed to support these as well” is a call for personal renewal and respect for EMU as a church-related institu-

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Foot In Mouth

“J’m convinced we don’t have a clue about these bodies of ours.”

Arlene Wiens

Nursing Department Chair

Foot in Mouth

Have a contribution? Send it to wvane@emu.edu along with the professor’s name and class.

Hugs & Slugs

A salmon-dole-bagged slug to the recent rains inside it in the cafeteria. The cook in the kitchen with the smoked meat. Sounds delicious to us.

A group hug to the biggest collective response ever during Wednesday’s chapel. An additional group hug called the podium and everybody heard.

A head-but-want hug to professors who provide coffee and food for their classes. We are aware of your inconveniences, though. Some of us don’t even get water.

A we-like-big-bodies (of water) hug to the periodic lake in the Mt. Clinton Apartments parking lot. Join us for a swim.

A warm-fuzzies hug to the Office for sending out multiple bill reports AND to who informs perpetrators of a rowed amo unt of shit cards. Maybe we ran out of notice on the belt.

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Have an opinion? We want to hear it.

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this Friday.

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from 8 p.m. ‘til 2 a.m.

Come check it out.

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