Letter to the Editors:

’Vane Wastes Time, Paper

First of all, my congratulations to Andrew Jenner on producing resounding confirmation in the Sept. 25 Weather Vane of Jeff Thoman’s stunningly accurate and well-written criticisms that appeared in the Sept. 18 issue. There’s nothing quite like having your point concretely and irrevocably proven. However, the “Donor Manipulation” article contained a few misleading comments that should probably be straightened out for sake of clarity.

The article implied that this fall semester began with issues regarding the “firing of Dr. Tom Arbaugh.” I would like to clarify that it has not yet been dismissed from EMU and that he will not be leaving EMU on the grounds of personal sexuality nor will he ever be “fired” on such grounds.

The “Donor Manipulation” article also makes a pretty large leap from this issue to the relationships between administration and financial donors of EMU in a richly and fictitiously woven tapestry of corporate conspiracy theory that has little if anything to do with reality. For a more accurate idea of the motives behind administrative decision-making at EMU, I urge the reader to turn to the Confession of Faith in the Mennonite Perspective. It is upon this foundation that all administrative decisions of this nature are made and if you take time to actually sit down and read through it, you’ll find it far less vague than you probably have not. I’m not denying a connection between administrative decision making and financial support of EMU, I’m merely suggesting that the relationship operates in converse of that suggested by Jenner in his article. EMU makes administrative decisions based on the Confession of Faith in the Mennonite Perspective, which has been agreed upon on a national level by the Mennonite Church. People in support of this Church or with EMU administrative decision-making policy.

Secondly, congratulations to Kurt Rosenberger in defending the Weather Vane in true Weather Vane columnist style from Thoman’s cunning and skilled criticism. With the use of skilled word manipulation, a little beating around the bush, and some heavy doses of sarcasm, Rosenberger was able to fill Thoman’s mouth with words he didn’t say and Thoman’s article with intent it did not have. I would like to present one small correction to the “Thank You, Jeff Thoman” article in the Sept. 25 issue. Thomas wasn’t actually trying to “change EMU” (for the better as implied by Rosenberger); he was challenging the Weather Vane staff to produce a higher quality of newsworthy journalism and to approach journalism with a higher level of integrity. Jeff’s criticisms may have, in some small way, been linked to the waste of time and financial support from EMU in like kind.

Jenner’s article also implies that decisions prone to “strong pressure and criticism” generally get made near the end of a president’s term. I wouldn’t call a few ill-informed, extreme leftist articles in the school paper now and then “strong pressure and criticism.” These decisions enjoy far more widespread support from students (myself included), faculty, staff, and community members than Jenner’s article suggests.

The article also makes reference to bigotry and morally reprehensible behavior on the part of EMU administration and finance donors. Since when is sticking to company policy more morally reprehensible than men furnishing with one another? And bigotry? Get serious.

Jenner also includes a commission to future president Loren Swartzendruber, to act in accordance with Jenner’s own personal agenda for social reform. Fear not, Swartzendruber’s virtue and high moral standing will not allow him to make decisions in any way incongruent with the Mennonite Church or with EMU administrative decision making policy.

In conclusion, I (and legions of my contemporaries) have and will continue to support, trust, and encourage EMU administration; former president, Joe Lapp; current president, Beryl Burbaker; and future president, Loren Swartzendruber as well as the EMU administrative decision-making process.

Matthew Yoder