Leaving a Lasting Impression

By Ben Weaver

The current presidential administration has been the subject of controversy ever since that fateful election that was seemingly too close to call. Indeed I have seen more than my fair share of George W. Bush cartoons in this paper alone (every one of them negative). Whatever your opinion of the President or his administration in regard to the environment, the present war in Iraq, or economic matters, there is an issue soon to be decided that has great weight and lasting influence on us as well as generations to come. This crucial issue is the soon-to-be-passed bill barring the barbaric practice of partial birth abortions by physicians in our country. I think that this issue is one that Christians ought to take great interest in, because it will have profound consequences in the moral future of our nation.

Twice during Bill Clinton’s tenure as President of the United States, both the House and the Senate passed such bills. Each time the President vetoed the bill, and each was defeated because the veto could not be overridden. Currently it appears that we are in a much different situation in that both the House and Senate are expected to pass the bill, and the President has promised to sign it into law. I think that this bill has the ability to do far more than simply limit the horrific practice of partial birth abortion and as such is very important. Even if the only objective achieved is the prohibition of this practice, however, I still would feel that the efforts of our public officials were not in vain. I have much higher hopes, though, and that is why I feel that we are at an exciting juncture in the history of our country.

First of all, the issue has arisen pertaining to the hours in which the fitness center is open for use; I believe last year it was open later, but don’t quote me on that. We are allowed to work out Sunday from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Thursday 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. It’s definitely open early enough in my opinion, that’s not a problem at all. I guess where the problem area lies according to people I’ve talked to is that it closes so early (in college student language anyway), especially on Friday and Saturday. I unknowingly arrived at the fitness center at 5:30 this past Saturday and was promptly chased out at 6 p.m. It was my own fault for not knowing the hours, but I was still a little miffed. I know there are students out there dying for a little extra cash and very willing to work even if it is until 11 or 12 (I am definitely one of them)!

Perhaps, but of course there are a few grumbles and complaints I have heard in passing relating to the Commons itself. First of all, the issue has arisen pertaining to the hours in which the fitness center is open for use; I believe last year it was open later, but don’t quote me on that. We are allowed to work out Sunday from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Thursday 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. It’s definitely open early enough in my opinion, that’s not a problem at all. I guess where the problem area lies according to people I’ve talked to is that it closes so early (in college student language anyway), especially on Friday and Saturday. I unknowingly arrived at the fitness center at 5:30 this past Saturday and was promptly chased out at 6 p.m. It was my own fault for not knowing the hours, but I was still a little miffed. I know there are students out there dying for a little extra cash and very willing to work even if it is until 11 or 12 (I am definitely one of them)! I don’t know if that’s the issue or not, but I don’t see how being open an extra hour would hurt.

Secondly, I have heard many reports of dissatisfaction with the amount of treadmills and especially the elliptical machines. I personally adore the elliptical machines because of their ultra-low impact and their generally being fun to use, but lately they’ve all been occupied or sometimes only the complicated one with the moving handlebars is open.

If EMU doesn’t want to fork out the cash for an extra machine or two, I guess I understand, but hey, we’re paying $21,000 to attend here, not to mention the $300 for books! Come on, splurge a little, or please, at least quickly fix the machine that’s broken.

Of course the Commons aren’t perfect, but honestly I am so glad to have that building as a part of our campus even though I don’t use some of the facilities (like, unfortunately, the weight room) as much as I should. Props to EMU for the good work, but with a little help they could certainly make it even better.

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