

Stratton discourages scapegoating

On behalf of the SGA, I deliver the following statement:
 "Following the strict procedures of an impeachment hearing, the General Assembly did not compose a 2/3 majority to impeach Lela Moore as Editor-In-Chief of the Campus on the grounds of incompetence. "As the governing body over the Campus, the Assembly apologizes for any repercussions from the published advertisement. We further apologize for the ad's effects and hope it will encourage continued discussion."

And now, a brief statement from myself. I take full responsibility for the following words, because

someone's got to start taking responsibility around here.

There are some who will attack the SGA for not impeaching Lela Moore for not stopping the offensive advertisement. They will say that the SGA made the wrong decision, that they are out-of-touch with the issues of students on this campus. To these people I say: where were you when nominations for representatives were

being accepted? Why were you not willing to give of your time in exchange for a voice in these proceedings? What gives you the right to take the moral high ground when you didn't stand up for your opinions and ask the support of your fellow students? For that matter, why didn't you choose to get involved with The Campus? Couldn't you have stopped that ad?

Who do you really have to blame? You can blame Lela for

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running the ad, sure. You can blame Frank Pandolfe for writing it, or you can blame the editorial staff of The Campus for not catching it, or you can blame me for appointing Dan Bryan to the head of the Finance Committee, which gave the Campus its budget. You could also blame John McCardell, because you can blame anything on John McCardell.

But are any of us really respon-

sible for the feelings of violation, fear, and disgust this ad aroused in many members of our community? For that matter, can you really blame just the ad for these reactions? I'll answer that for you. No, you can't. And that's what's really frustrating, isn't it?

You can't really blame any one person for intolerance, for discrimination, for racism. You can scapegoat people, but that never solves anything. It's a placebo. You lash out at the symptoms because you can't cure the disease.

It might be nice if we had one person for whom we could blame everything, but the only way we could achieve that is if that person had absolute power over our lives. That's fascism on a cosmic scale, and, believe it or not, we live in a democracy.

A democracy is a rule not by the people, as is often alleged, but by the people who choose to involve themselves in it. It's a scary, brutal world which offers two options: play the game or lose by forfeit.

On much more trivial matters, I've said that if you don't use your voice, you will lose it. Do you get the point yet?

Take Back the Night promotes rape awareness

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ally get a hold of, although it is required by law that security has them ready and available), rape occurred a mere four times in the past nine years. I think not. We have some programs, but I ask, how many of us actually use them or know about them? I am relatively well-informed, and I am still confused.

Some say blue lights may destroy the college community, that they will ruin the aesthetic look of our beautiful campus. I want to know how a single blue light bulb with an emergency phone in the unpopulated areas of campus will offend anyone. I want to know why a policy that will create a protocol for the process of reporting a sexual assault offense, will preserve the rights of both the survivor and the accused, will provide a detailed outline of what the options are, and will not mandate counseling is intrusive. Most colleges and universities have policies like this, as the Sexual Assault Policy Task Force and the Safety Task force discovered in the past. What happened to our policy which began its formation two years ago, was created to be one of the most extensive policies, and became a mere half column in the handbook that nobody knows about? Read the policy. What does it create that wasn't in place previously? We're not talking radical, we're talking reality.

I ask us all to take a moment and

think. Do we want to wait for something worse to happen than what occurred this fall, or for more assaults to happen behind closed doors before we do anything? We hope these things do not happen and that these provisions do not get used. Yet what if the victim was your friend, your roommate, your girlfriend? We need to begin to educate ourselves and look for the signs of danger. We need to stand up against these acts, for it is the only way we can stop them. Silence is not a defense, but an open door. To not openly reject rape is to accept it, and to openly address these issues is the first step in prevention.

So grab a "blue light button" at the Take Back the Night Week table in Proctor, and read what else is on the table. Attend at least one Take Back the Night Week event. Join us as we walk the campus by candlelight at 8:00 on Friday night. Talk to your friends, and you'll probably find out that more people than you think are affected by this issue. It is not that the blue lights will stop all forms of violence against women, its not that a policy will end the problem. It is that these commitments will bring the issue out into the open, and shows that we, as a community, understand the problem and are willing to act against it. Think about it, because it begins with you.

Kate Landis is a member of Coalition for Feminist Consciousness.

Commemorate Take Back the Night

by participating in Friday's activities

6:30 Dinner at Chellis House

8:00 Candlelight march meet in front of Chellis house

don't forget

All College Meeting Night Thursday

--Check posters-- around campus for times and locations