

Under the Influence with Otis & Arthur

What's important to OSI? What are they up to now?

Otis

Arthur, I thought I'd let you pick the topic this week and look what happens, you pick something lame. You think I'm going to rip on Steven Hagen, OSI director, because he listed: "Events are listed in order of importance." Who cares? If I've said it once, I've said it again, "Otis don't play that!"

Now you waste my time about some press release that probably a handful of people read anyway. I bet the meaning of "Events are listed in order of importance," meant something different than you thought. Do you really think Student Government is going to say that one group is more important than another? Only if it was a reference to themselves!

Maybe it was intended to indicate the expected turnout for these events, which most of the students and I will not attend anyway. My inclination would be that it was simply a typo of some sort, though a deliberate one.

Volleyball and free food would appeal to most people because it's an open event and it's fun, Arthur. Some of the other events which are sponsored by clubs or organizations appeal to people with those particular interests. Therefore, they would be listed towards the end. That's if they were listed in order of impor-

tance, like you contend.

No Arthur, I think there is an alternative motive to your picking this lame topic of the week. (This is where I make Arthur look stupid. Excuse me, more stupid than usual.)

You see folks, Arthur is a card-carrying member of the Golden Key Honor Society. What a surprise! This proves he's a geek. (No letters from Golden Key please, I know you guys are smart and everything. I'm just playing. Now gimme your lunch money!) How dare you waste my time about this Golden Key agenda.

Do you think you're better than me, Mr. Smarty Pants? Your club should be first because your GPA is higher? As Troy Aikman would say, "Get real." You'll still be working for me when it's all said and done. The real world isn't about grades, it's about results. It's guys like you that think because you did well in college the world owes you something.

How dare you judge that your club should be first, Arthur! It represents a small portion of the student body. Free food and volleyball is more important than discussions about Star Trek and pocket protectors.

Next time Arthur, find something more interesting than the Greek agenda; we all know no one cares anyway. Next time you'd better let me pick the topic, at least, if you know what's good for you, key-boy.

Arthur

Student government has great things in store for us this month, Otis. We received in the office this week, a list of events either sponsored by, or organized through, student government.

The list took the form of a press release from Steven Hagen, OSI director, and announces itself "Activities promoted by the Student Government." It includes a wide variety of events; everything from free food and volleyball on the mall (for the first 300 students participating) to a workshop offered by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority entitled "The Rites of Passage of African American Females."

Other events advertised in the press release include offerings by the Organizations Board, Golden Key Honor Society, and the National Organization for Women. In all, a great line up.

Otis, you know that in issues past we've had some fun with student government and their in-fighting and personal issues. It's kind of in the nature of what we do. We've asked our readers to join us in keeping tabs on what our leaders do; not only for us, but to us.

So I've got to hand it to those in student government who shouldered the job of balancing their official roles with their academic responsibilities, and still found time to host this line-up of events for those of us here on campus. Seemingly, they've taken the burden of leadership seriously, now that the Joe Mills issues have faded into August. Apparently, Joe gets his monthly stipend, and we all get good, active leadership. Great!

But hold on a minute! I had to give the list another look. At the very bottom, under the final entry listing "The

Rites of Passage..." workshop for women, I found a little message. It reads: "Events are listed in order of importance." Say what?

"Events are listed in order of importance."

Importance to whom? I can't speak for the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, but it's a reasonable guess that they and many women might find the "Rites of Passage..." workshop of more substantive importance and far reaching consequence than free food and volleyball for the first 300 students, which happened to be listed first.

"Events are listed in order of importance."

I know some members of Golden Key. If order of importance is the order of the day, then it may have been nice if their event appeared first on the list. Actually, that doesn't bother me; I'm glad the event was included at all in a press release that, on closer examination, seems inflated to look like student government is hosting a greater number of events than it really is. Of the nine "events" listed, five belong to student government. But only two of those are actual events, both including music in front of MSU, which, I know many students enjoy.

Two "activities" are merely announcements of meetings, and the fifth only tells us that discounted Thunder hockey tickets go on sale at such and such a time.

It seems that the bulk of "real" events listed are hosted by other organizations! And listed in order of importance to Steven Hagen, whose job it seems, is to make his superiors look good.

THE REBEL YELL

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'It's not worth it'

Everybody wants to be a tough-guy. No matter where I go it seems somebody is out to prove themselves with immediate confrontation. It

could be something stupid like cutting them off in traffic or looking at them the wrong way. Then all of a sudden they're ready to throw down. That's fine, because I can be a roughneck when push comes to shove.

After the incident with Randy Brewer two weekends ago, I'm changing that policy from now on. Here's a guy who was a model student and athlete, had everything going for him in his future. Randy decides to out with his girl for a night on the town. Check out this new place called "The Beach." Details about what happened there seem a little sketchy; evidently somebody bumped into somebody else, or something like that. An insignificant incident like that should have been disregarded.

It ended up to be Randy's death sentence. Someone felt Randy deserved to die for not getting out of his way.

All it took was a moment and by night's end, Randy Brewer was killed over some-

thing stupid.

The man that killed Randy would eventually die by the sword he lived by. Taking his own life, in way to save what

was left of it.

He probably realized at that moment the weight of the act he had committed. Imagine being one of the officers at the bookstore when Alexander Kaye made his last stand. How could you sleep after watching a man take his own life in front of you?

This is not an isolated incident. It's a growing trend in Las Vegas, and urban cities around the country. A petty moment escalates into a shooting.

I've had it happen to me. I was a dealer downtown and some guy decided I disrespected him at my table. He waited in the parking lot till I got off work. We exchanged words and he flashed his piece. I backed off quick and talked my way out of it; I'm good at that. The point is that you just don't know; your pride could be your demise.

When a gun is fronted it's to show who will have the last word. You don't know what the next move is, so you let the

dude with the gun have his trip. It could be your last moment. This guy could be pissed off at something and you're the physical manifestation of his anger. He was just looking for an excuse to go off.

You hate to bite your tongue when someone talks smack as you walk by them. You're with your friends and you know better, but man, no one talks that way to you: disrespect rubs everyone wrong.

Randy was probably like that. A proud young man who wouldn't let someone get the best of him. Most of us are the same way.

When I look at what happened to Randy I'm starting to rethink my outlook on confrontations. You just don't know who has a gun. You may kick his ass at the bar, then he comes back later, Glock in hand, with your name on it.

Just walk away next time, have a beer, laugh it off, whatever. Don't risk your life over someone stepping on your shoes. It has nothing to do with anything. Why even take the chance? Take a lesson from Randy's tragedy. I know I am. Because it's not worth it, it really isn't.

Living at Large
VINCE CALIGUIRE