

## Rocking the vote

### *Fishpond, A-Team, Duff need to take themselves seriously*

If Fishpond wants the campus to take it seriously, it should use a dictionary.

Fishpond is one of the last ASUN parties to announce its intentions to run for student government this spring.

At least three words are spelled wrong on its Fishpond flyer, which is spread all over the university – candidate (candidate), fountain (fountain) and government (government).

Its intentions to get more people involved may have good merit, but it's losing credibility with each negative move it makes.

While A-Team and Duff, the other non-traditional parties, have been seen as more viable parties, their comical names may hurt their members.

But aside from that, Fishpond, Duff and the A-Team are a good addition to the hum-drum, predictable ASUN elections.

No member of those parties have been completely involved with student "government" before. They're true outsiders, like most students at the university.

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And that's not so bad.

Experience may be a wonderful asset for a "candidate" to bring to office, but fresh ideas minus the rhetoric can be an even greater quality.

Often, student election groups seem to fall into the same molds every year – despite efforts to create their own identities.

The same ideas are pushed at the students, such as creating a more inclusive campus community, teaching students about ASUN and restructuring the senate.

Those ideas are great, but it's time for the elections to be shaken up a bit. We commend the three extra parties for taking the initiative to jump into the race.

The parties will force the two more traditional groups, Impact and Empower, to think of fresh and creative ways to get their messages across to a mostly apathetic student body.

But it is important the parties hurry and create solid names. Impact and Empower have been developing their platforms since last semester.

Fishpond is still recruiting executive candidates.

The Fishpond platform consists of one thing: putting fish in Broyhill "Fountain."

But its underlying goal – getting students to run under their own platforms, rather than a blanket party statement – has been overshadowed.

Perhaps it's a good time for these good intentions to come out, so the party can avoid a joke-showing on election day.

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### Editorial Policy

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### Obermeyer's VIEW



## Wait - don't date

### *Dating not necessarily good practice for marriage*



It's Friday morning, and I'm sitting on my couch watching "Sally Jesse Raphael."

For a change, it's not one of those "please give my ugly mom a makeover" episodes. On the show is a couple who met on a previous episode. On this episode, they played "The Dating Game" with a twist: if the lucky couple hit it off, they were to get married right away.

What, pray tell, could cause such reckless abandon? I think the answer can be found in one word: Dating doesn't work.

Maybe you've noticed this. Like myself, maybe you've bought into the idea that dating is supposed to prepare you for marriage. Or maybe you think that dating is for fun, excitement and gratification of various desires. Or maybe you're still stuck back in that last paragraph wondering if I noticed that "dating doesn't work" is three words.

If you are part of the first group, stay tuned, because what I have to say is actually relevant to your life! If you're part of the second group, and you hope to someday get married, stay tuned, because what I have to say is actually relevant to your life! If you are part of the second group and do not hope to get married, you probably won't like this column and should skip to the sports section. If you're part of the third group, yeah, it was a joke. Please stay with me here.

For most of us, dating in the past decade has been different than dating was for the previous generation. In the past, people would go out on dates with many different people and have little commitment. They wouldn't be "boyfriend and girlfriend." In my experience, if you actually go on a

date before you become boyfriend and girlfriend, you're probably moving quickly in that direction. So, we are more apt to commit to a relationship than the previous generation, and that's good, right?

Wrong. This "commitment" that we make really isn't worth a hill o' beans. (For you third-group people, that means it ain't worth much.) I mean, think about it! If people were to draw up a contract when they began a relationship, it would probably go something like this:

We, John Johnson and Sally Smith, do hereby agree to be there for each other through thick and thin, make each other a priority, be faithful to each other and to grow in intimacy with each other spiritually, emotionally and physically, until such time as one of us doesn't feel like it any more.

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Who signs a contract that can be broken at the slightest whim, especially when it leads to heartbreak on the part of the less whimsical party? Many of us sign, and as a result, we pursue intimacy without commitment. We put our own needs before those of the other person.

We think, "It feels so good to hold her in my arms," or "I love the way he pays such close attention to what I'm saying," instead of, "Is she going to be hurt if I move after college to pursue my career?" or "By taking so much of his time, am I holding him back in school and in other important relationships?"

We tend to not think about the

future when we feel the first sparks of attraction, but pursuing a dating relationship with someone before we are prepared to commit to marriage (and by that I mean emotionally, educationally AND financially) is self-centered.

We don't do this because we're trying to be selfish. We do it because we don't know any differently! Culture says to us, "Dating is as normal as drinking soda pop. It's fun and harmless! Enjoy it!" Culture also tells us other lies, such as, "If you graduate high school without ever dating, there's something wrong with you!" and "Everyone's having sex," and my personal favorite, "All American girls shave their legs in the winter!" Boy, is that culture guy wily!

Unfortunately, this selfish attitude can cripple us when we do get married. If we practice this "pseudo-commitment" concept of dating, what makes us think our motives will be pure once we've got rings on our fingers?

When people get married, they promise to love one another. Culture has sold us this nutty idea that this is a promise to be in love. How can one promise to feel something? Our feelings are so easily swayed, they can be changed by the weather, a dirty look from a co-worker or PMS.

In a wedding vow, love is a verb. It says that regardless of how I feel, I will put what's best for you before what's best for me. It's not impossible that you will be in love with your spouse until the day you die, but a strong marriage is based on friendship and attraction. Many marriages dissolve because the attraction is gone (they fall out of love), and there isn't enough friendship to hold it together.

The author of the book "I Kissed Dating Goodbye," Joshua Harris, put it best: "Dating as we have come to know it doesn't really prepare us for marriage; instead it can be a training ground for divorce." If you now agree that dating is bad news, you may be wondering, "If we don't date, how will we ever marry?" Well, waiting is a big part of the answer, and, to practice, I won't tell you the rest until next time. Ta-ta!

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