

Snyder: a realist yet idealist v.p.

by Brent Siewert

Vann Snyder is a walking, talking, one-man discussion group. He effortlessly flits from one subject to another, adding an anecdote here, a wry pun there, never stopping to let moss form under his words.

While jumping from topic to topic, Snyder never refines his phrases, instead preferring to attack and devour a subject before setting his mind on his next target.

As ASWSU Vice President, Snyder has been an integral part of the accomplishments of the administration he shares with ASWSU President Tom Pirie. But Snyder is definitely not living in the shadow of a dominant president. His opinions are uniquely his own, from his view of ASWSU and his coworkers to a plan for taking over the university.

About this interview, Snyder said, "I can't believe I said all that and it's been recorded, that's what scares me. It's not bad talking and just having to hear it once, but having the knowledge that somebody has that tape and could listen to it word for word . . . and point out the stony rambulations (we've been talking about)." Inventing new words is nothing new for a man who calls "Bullshit" more often than a longshoreman.

What do you think of the public's view of the ASWSU Assembly? You're the chairman and aren't you supposed to set the character of the assembly. . .

I am?
I would think so . . . you being the chairman. . . That's where we kind of disagree. Because I haven't.

You haven't set the character for the assembly? You don't think the assembly is more . . . free-wheeling than last year's assembly?

The chairman sets the climate, the environment of the meeting. They can make it very serious. They can make it very joking, very satirical and our meetings have run the gamut. We've had serious meetings, we've had off-the-wall meetings and we've had ridiculous meetings, but there are 18 other (assembly) persons playing that game. I'm not the only one doing it. And I don't think the press has portrayed that I represent the attitude of the assembly.

And what about how the assembly is viewed by the public?

Now I'd have to view that (opinion) as part of myself, because I am the chairman of the assembly. But a lot of people don't realize I chair the assembly. I mean, they're probably catching on after the (Gay Awareness Committee) vote, but before that, I don't think that many people knew I was in 'control' of the assembly. Quotation marks around control. I wasn't in control of some of those

meetings. Somebody was. There were only two or three meetings that were really poor . . . that I felt were my fault. But a lot of the other time I thought, 'Man, what we're doing is crazy and I can't win, so I just gotta play their game.'

But any way I would decide or the assembly on any issue, I would make enemies. The assembly takes things much more personally than like Tom or I, because (after) being involved for two or three years, you grow used to criticism and you listen to it much more. It's because you realize a lot of people don't want to criticize you, so when they do, you — I listen a lot more.

(But on the assembly) you can have fun and get the work done at the same time. Everybody — well not everybody — but a lot of people criticize me for being too partial.

Okay, that was especially true during the Gay funding situation.

No, I really don't think it was. I never spoke at those meetings. I called on people and then at the actual vote I just voted and then we went on.

Then there were a lot of times when I became partial because Neil (Rasmussen, assembly member and former parliamentarian) was telling me what was going on parliamentary-wise and I had to make up my mind what my book (of parliamentary procedure) or what Neil's big book says. There were times I had to be partial because I had to decide which rules to follow.

Then, at an informal assembly meeting about the Gay funding issue, I was very partial. I voiced my opinions strongly and emotionally and that was a mistake.

Now here we come to the bone of the issue. Here I had to make a decision that my religion didn't really help me out on — Catholicism never really taught me homosexuality was wrong. They said it was different. I never read where it was a sin — I'm sure I'll draw many complaints from that.

That's not what I heard in my Catholic background. I think it was the aspect of sodomy that didn't really turn on the bible-thumpers. But back to the assembly. How do you think that was handled by the the people involved?

That was their role and they played it. If I was in their places, I would have played it differently. I tried to exercise my authority as much as I could to make it go my direction. That's one of my pet theories: rules are manipulated by the people in power. It's sad, but it has to be that way.

You don't think you overstepped your bounds as chairman in what you did do to try to make it go your way. You don't have a guilty conscience about that?

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About Rolling Hills

Just what is this Rolling Hills thing anyway? Well, besides being 12 pages of newsprint that fell into your lap this morning, it's the Daily Evergreen's attempt to give you something other than the ordinary fare to read.

In creating this issue both our editorial and advertising staffs have focused on entertainment and other diversions in the Palouse. We can't cover every diversion imaginable, but we've touched on some.

Please let us know what you think of Rolling Hills. We hope you'll like it.

—Cyril Matthews
business manager

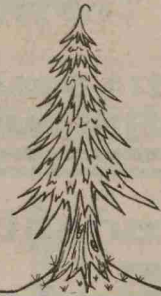
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