

04/29/2007

Dear UWM Leader,

After reading former Student Association Vice President Jon Tingley's resignation letter, it is obvious why it was published in the letters-to-the-editor section: It is first and foremost an op-ed, a partisan screed against those whose efforts were taken out of context. Despite Tingley's claims, breast feeding was a salient issue near the end of the fall semester, or otherwise no senators would have sponsored a bill addressing that issue. Tingley neglected to note that the breast feeding bill was one of three bills the entire academic year that were authored by students who were not SA officials, with the other two being a proposed revision of the elections bylaws and a referendum bill. The SA-as-cat metaphor was introduced by an unsuccessful applicant to the Senate.

The most asinine material lies in the fourth paragraph of Tingley's letter: How can Tingley say that SA officials are worse than politicians who started a war of indeterminate length? How do comparisons to celebrities who died in 1997 factor into the equation? Tingley may have crafted a seditious letter to leave in his wake, but the fact is that if he would have not resigned, he would have been impeached for mismanaging the Student Organization Project Center (SOPC) and for neglecting to post Senate Finance Committee meeting notices in obvious places in a timely matter. The SOPC was allocated funds and delegated to Tingley's management in summer but not opened until mid-February, causing it to be vastly under-utilized considering its half-million dollar budget. Tingley's delayed notice of SFC meetings was the primary reason why the funding levels were questioned, as viewpoint neutrality violation claims were found to be unwarranted. On the bright side, at least Tingley can be famous for being the first SA Vice President in over a decade to resign.

Joseph Ohler

Deputy Speaker of the Senate