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T'S ONLY

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DAYS UNTIL
ELECTIONS CLOSE

-like The Onion, but shittien!

Underground and Underway!

Wendell J. Starkiller

This Monday marks the start of elections for the Underground Student Council, one of Tech's oldest and most mysterious student orgs. Founded when the Michigan College of Mines sunk into the Earth and was replaced with Michigan Tech, the Underground Student Council represents the thousands of mole-people students that inhabit the underground satellite campus. And this year the elections are about as heated as the molten core, with two divisive candidates vying for the office of president. On one side is the Gypsum P. Talc, running on a platform of slashing the budget by lowering the amount allocated to RSOs (Regolith Sediment Organizations). His opponent is Julia Dirt, who's running on a platform of student mental health awareness and increasing the amount of gravel on campus.



Gypsum P. Talc

Originally from a soybean field in West Branch Michigan, Talc is a 3rd year Dirt and Soil Studies major at Michigan Tech Underground Campus. Besides USG, Talc is involved in the Stalactite Club, and is the secretary of the Root and Tuber Enthusiasts. He has proposed policies including limiting RSO budgets to 2 polished stones per semester, and is a strong supporter of students' Right to Dig.

"The average tuition for mole people at Michigan Tech is 16 polished stones a semester. Each RSO can get upwards of 3 or 4 stones per semester, and I think

that's just foolish. These orgs need to be more fiscally responsible. Some say it isn't fair, but growing up under a farm I can tell you, life's not fair, pal!" - Gypsum. P. Talc

Julia Dirt

Dirt is a 4th year Rocks Engineering Technology major with a minor in Spanish Language. Originally from Royal Oak*, Dirt is active within the CDI (Center for Dirt and Irrigation) and was a founding member of the Stalagmite Club, where she is currently president. Dirt is a long time advocate for student mental health and is in support of using USG funds to support mental health awareness, she is also a supporter of Dig Control.

*she lived under a really big oak tree in Traverse City, Michigan

"Mental health starts with us, we need to build

student support systems on this campus that people can turn to. It doesn't have to be big either. Grammy Dirt always said that 'happiness is a warm worm in your claws.' I think I like that." - Julia Dirt

Elections start Monday, February 20th and end the following Sunday. To vote, write a name on a piece of paper, drop it down Quincy Mine, and pat yourself on the back for making a difference!



USG is the **GOAT**

Private Bulltizen, DJ Benjamin

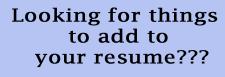
Recently, MTU's Undergraduate Student Government has been put through one hell of a week, after a very messy, emotional, and dramatic controversy involving funding for an event. To recap in brief: while USG didn't vote to recommend funding after hearing many students voice their concerns, the advisors from university Administration explained the legal background and strongly encouraged them to hold a second meeting to reconsider their decision. Admin informed USG that funding was likely going to be awarded regardless of how they voted, so they should change their vote to fall in line with University policy and avoid friction. At that second meeting, USG voted in agreement with their initial vote and still refused to award the funding, making Admin overrule their decision.

This whole affair has left many understandably upset. Some are concerned that the controversial event is being funded by the university, others are dismayed at USG for how they voted, still others are frustrated by the actions of Admin. The whole ordeal is a bundle of emotions and frustrations, and wrapped up in a much broader conversation about legal and moral responsibilities, with no way for this to end well.

However, through all of this, something that shouldn't be understated is the sheer balls USG has, and how much honor and respect they deserve. USG has the duty to represent the undergraduate population, and after all the public comments they received at the initial meeting, the emails that were sent to them, and conversations they had with their constituents, they made it clear through their actions that they truly listened to the student body. In this way, MTU's USG embodied what a true representative body should be like. Even when pressured to change their decision, even though they felt threatened by potentially getting on Administration's bad side, they reaffirmed their decision and stood by it.

To stand up for themselves and refuse to be pressured into taking responsibility for a decision that wasn't theirs shows the real *cojones* USG reps are packing. On top of pressure from Admin, the representatives have also received a bunch of crap for voting how they did and have been the butt of a lot of the frustration behind this decision. Apparently, people not even from the university have sent them some really nasty, terrible messages, which is just the pinnacle of fucked up and totally shameful. Not only do they normally pour 20 hours a week into this position, but also all this has happened in the middle of both Budget Hearings and Reelections, not to mention school and Career Fair. This is already a crazy stressful time, but your USG reps stuck it through. Despite all the messages; despite being treated like children who should think of being made to change their votes as a "valuable learning opportunity" to learn to just do stuff they don't like or agree with to cover someone else's ass; despite all the pressure they've received; they all kept their composure, stayed professional, and stuck to their guns, even with all eyes on them.

So remember to thank your USG members for dealing with all this shit so you don't have to. Thank them for listening to the student body and acting on it. Let them know you appreciate all the work they do that so often goes unnoticed, and that they are incredibly brave, empathetic, hardworking, and truly beautiful people.



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