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Letters

GLBA obtaining committee status is an issue of civil rights

Editor,

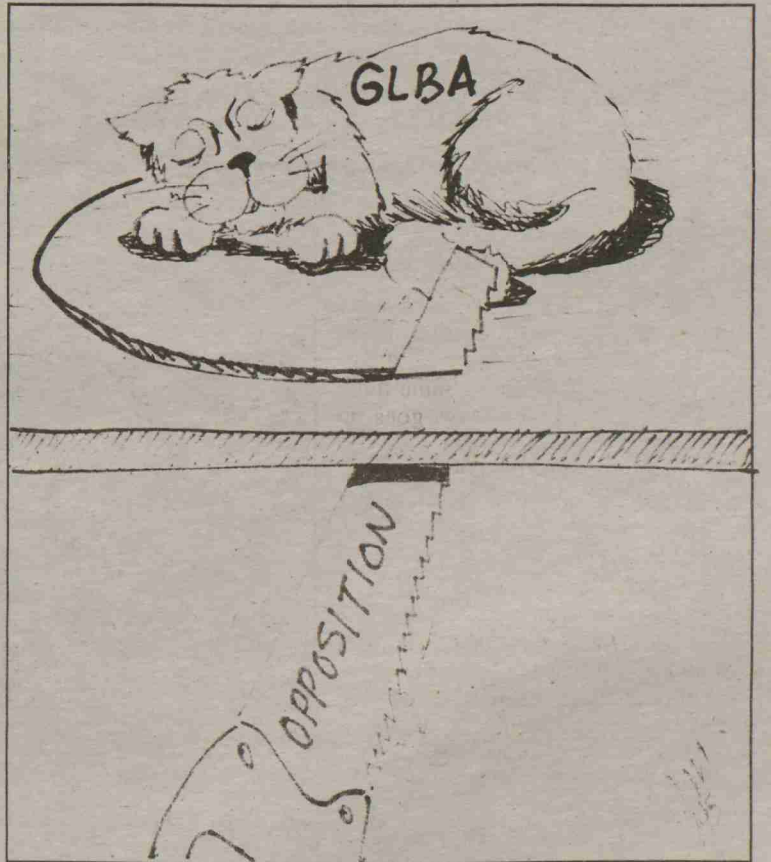
I am writing in response to a letter that was published in the Dec. 5 edition of The Evergreen from Amber Marchant. I feel I am forced to write today because Marchant makes some disturbing claims about the ongoing debate concerning the committee status of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Allies Association (GLBA) which she presents as fact.

First, Marchant refers to homosexuality as a lifestyle choice, completely ignoring the fact that scientific research has not come to a conclusion regarding the biological or environmental nature of homosexuality.

Marchant then has the audacity to compare homosexuality with bestiality and crack cocaine use, stating that because these are lifestyle choices, she should not have to support the GLBA and the like with her student fees. Furthermore, the mere thought that anyone would make an association between homosexuality and bestiality simply shows how desperate Marchant is to shed a negative light on the GLBA. The categorization of the two, one a sexual orientation and the other a non-consensual, sexual relationship with an animal, allows people to think the two not only have a common thread, but they are one in the same.

Marchant then goes on to claim that "the acts in which homosexuals partake are perversely vile and an abomination to God." There are many heterosexual couples who, under her definition, would also be considered as "perverse" because of the "acts" in which they participate. Marchant creates a disservice to sexual minorities because like many before her, she has reduced gays, lesbians, and bisexuals to merely the sex acts in which they participate. She strips them of their dignity, thoughts and feelings, but more importantly, she disregards the fact that these individuals are still human.

She goes on to complain that information regarding the GLBA and its committee status was not made available until after the organization received committee status for the first time. Marchant is mistaken, because information about the first



public hearing on this issue appeared for several days in The Evergreen before the hearing actually took place. The GLBA certainly did not try to "pass the bill quietly," as Marchant phrased it.


Marchant repeatedly states she does not wish to support the GLBA with "her" money, ignoring the fact that the members of the GLBA pay the same fees as she does. These students have a right to be represented just like everyone else. Regardless of how you may feel about sexuality, there is a definite need for this organization to be on this campus, in much the same way there is a need for student groups of color on this campus.

Contrary to the rhetoric which has been appearing in The Evergreen in recent weeks, this is not a moral issue. The recognition of the GLBA as an ASWSU committee is a civil rights issue. Like other students on this campus, sexual minorities should no longer feel compelled to apologize for who they are, nor for

who they happen to love. Like everyone else, gays, lesbian and bisexuals should be able to fight against the oppression that is part of their everyday life. They should be able to walk across campus without the threat of physical or verbal violence. In other words, sexual minorities should be allowed the same luxuries heterosexuals take for granted every day.

The WSU environment, as it stands, is not safe for these individuals, and therefore cannot be conducive to living, let alone receiving an education. Regardless of your personal views on homosexuality, please stand up to the hatred and ignorance which has been surrounding this issue. By supporting the GLBA you are enabling this organization to continue education about homosexuality. With this education we will be one step to closer to breaking down walls and creating an environment that is safe for everyone.

Andie Rivera



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