

Group discusses problems of gay people in society

by John Hill
Evergreen Staff

Dealing with homosexuals as members of society was the key issue discussed in last night's meeting of "Who We Are: Relating to our Lesbian and Gay Relatives, Friends, and Selves."

The chair of the meeting, who preferred not to be named, announced at the start, "There are two rules for these meetings. First, no one is required to say anything. Second, no one is to

talk about any person he or she saw here tonight."

Acting as a subcommittee of the Heterosexual Awareness Committee which is sponsored by the Young Women's Christian Association, the group will be discussing several important issues throughout the semester.

Misinformation about homosexuality was an issue talked about in last night's meeting. Members said many people refuse to accept them, because they are not "normal."

One person said, "A lot of people don't know that 10 percent of society has always been gay. Not just today — all of the time."

Another member said self-oppression by the gay community itself still remains a big problem in terms of guiding themselves and society to the point where both can communicate on an equal level.

One of the topics this spring will be Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, or AIDS, whom

one group member said it is unfairly termed "the gay disease."

Another issue mentioned to be in future meetings was the concept of "doublethink" — taken from George Orwell's novel "1984". The chair referred to the notion that people often say, "It is wrong to be gay but since I know you, you're OK."

Stereotypification, or labeling, of people in society based upon their sexual preference, will

also be talked about in meetings to come.

Another subject to be presented is gay people and the laws which restrict their rights as citizens in the United States. One group member used an example of a law in Idaho which prevents the teaching of the subject of homosexuality in the classroom.

Other concerns are the abridgement of gay people's rights in the adopting of children, and housing.

ASWSU to meet tonight

The aspiring politician's big chance has come.

Those wishing to run for an office of the WSU student government may pick up filing packets at the ASWSU office on the third floor of the CUB.

Ticket fees are \$10 for senate positions and \$50 for the president/vice-president team. Fees will be refunded if there are no campaign violations.

ASWSU has a short agenda for today's 6:30 p.m. meeting in room 232 of the CUB.

Reports from ASWSU President Barb Gorham and Vice President Bill Gruber will be followed by committee reports and a second reading of an old bill dealing with a funds transfer to co-sponsor a spring on-campus leadership conference, Gruber said. No new bills will be presented.

The Senate, Executives and Committee Chairs have returned from a retreat to Spokane, where they reviewed goals from last semester and developed goals for this semester, Gruber said.

Goals for this semester include mobilizing students to higher education efforts taking place in the legislature, representing student needs concerning any alcohol policy, and continuing involvement with campus safety through Sexual Assault and Campus Safety.

ASWSU also plans to work with the University of Idaho Senate to maintain athletic competition, Gruber said.

Gruber said a new project involves the development and distribution of a brochure explaining the opportunities and benefits of getting involved in ASWSU. Its purpose will be to increase awareness of what student government is all about.

Rape shield issue to be discussed

The Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF) will meet at 4 p.m. today in CUB B-5 to discuss the rape shield issue.

The SATF will be signing an open letter and a rape shield law fact sheet that will be sent to the alleged victim in the Leandro Gonzalez case.

The open letter, drafted by Jill Thompson and Nancy Keifer, commends the 17-year-old Lewiston girl for her courage in this situation, Keifer, a member of the SATF, said.

The rape shield law fact sheet was drafted by Deb Nelson and Chris Benker. It will be alloted to the public and residence halls.

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