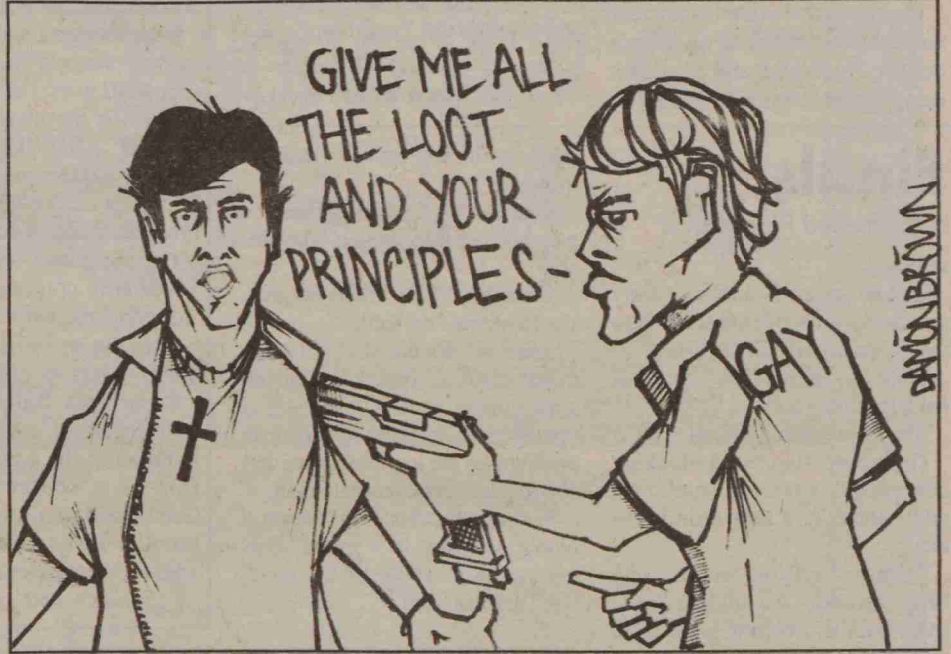


Opinions

Should we make GLBA a committee?



Resurrection of the '90s Negro



MIKE McLAUGHLIN
Editor in Chief

The saga of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Association's quest for recognition as an ASWSU committee should end Wednesday night when the ASWSU Senate votes on its revised proposal.

However, no matter what the Senate decides, the debate will most likely rage on.

The pages of this newspaper have been embroiled in the debate. Letter writers and columnists alike have written both for and against the proposal, often using the inflammatory language that accompanies a controversial subject.

Lost in the debate is that, if the GLBA proposal meets the criteria set forth in the ASWSU bylaws, it should be given committee status.

Nowhere in the bylaws does it state committees must abide by the intolerant moral structure of right-wing extremists.

And even if the bylaws did specify certain moral criteria, the GLBA should still be given committee status because, at least in the eyes of this writer, there is no justification for stopping it.

These pages have been filled with half-thought-out accusations against the gay community. The way many people would have you think, gays and lesbians are rounding up children as their followers and force-feeding them perverted sexual information.

These people really need to get out of the house.

Gays have been accused of promoting a destructive social agenda, one that seemingly would include their so-called perverted views on an unknowing public.

This couldn't be further from the truth. Most of the people in the gay community are normal folks. They breathe oxygen, walk upright, watch "ER" and do most everything you and I do in the course of the day.

They just happen to have a different sexual orientation than the majority of the population.

It is difficult to fathom any evidence that the GLBA (which does and will exist regardless of the Senate vote) actively promotes some horrible sexual agenda.

Saying that the gay community will go around recruiting heterosexual people and trying to convert them to homosexuality is like say-

ing the African American Association is going to try to convert White people into being Black.

Speaking of the race issue, many of the arguments against GLBA becoming a committee reek of misguided arguments used to justify unequal treatment of non-Whites. Instead of "I don't want my son/daughter going to a school that admits Blacks," as the call was in the 1950s, now it's "I don't want my son/daughter going to a school that recognizes gays."

What's the difference? Back in the '50s, and decades before, people actually believed Blacks were inferior to Whites and Whites should be separated from Blacks in almost every instance because of that perceived inferiority.

Progress has been made against those horrific stereotypes, so now the right-wing mind turns against homosexuals.

Some people also argue the GLBA should be denied committee status because, they believe, homosexuality is a lifestyle choice and not genetically determined.

Get real. Even if you disregard scientific studies showing homosexuality is indeed genetic, do people really believe someone would choose to go through the persecution involved with being homosexual? No rational person would choose to be attacked not only in the media, but physically as well.

That's what this group is about — lending support to those who need it, and increasing awareness about the gay community while educating the heterosexual community.

At some point, we are all going to have to realize not everyone on this planet is the same. Instead of using these differences to divide us, we should work toward understanding each other and working together to solve problems that truly threaten our society.

Recognizing GLBA as an ASWSU committee is not akin to recognizing a committee advocating bestiality or crack smoking, as some refuse to believe.

They aren't flying in the face of the Constitution. Some may not agree with their way of life, and that's OK. But recognize that way of life exists, and be tolerant of it.

It seemed to work for Blacks in this country. Many people were extremely intolerant of anyone who wasn't White. This is generally not the case now, and I dare anyone to argue treating Black people as upstanding, productive and equal citizens has been a bad thing.

Mike McLaughlin will return your call if you leave a message 335-2488.

Don't make students pay for GLBA



IAN IVEY
Commentary

Members of the gay community wonder: Why do those opposed to the gay agenda waste time denouncing the ostensibly private act of same-sex fornication? The discussion about the GLBA's application for ASWSU committee status following Peter Himmel's caustic commentary seems hung on this point.

Well, here's the deal. If gay activists weren't applying for the right to use our money to advance their agenda, y'all wouldn't hear much from us.

While the language of Mr. Himmel's column distracted some from his point, it drew some illuminating responses. One reader wrote, "...behavior like Himmel's public display of meanness should not be tolerated by this campus community." What irony, that this remark should come from among the group making the most vehement demands for tolerance of marginal views and practices.

Another reader likened the denial of a committee-status budget to a denial of First Amendment rights, presumably to the freedom of speech. What line of reasoning leads people to conclude that refusing to finance public speech and actually using government force to smother speech are the same?

Supporters of the GLBA paint a cozy picture of a group dedicated to peer support, valiantly saving traumatized homosexuals from suicidal feelings induced by a malevolent society. A haven for the downtrodden gay man. A welcoming circle of friends for the outcast lesbian.

And who knows, maybe a buffet for the searching bisexual?

In reality, the GLBA may serve its members by providing a benign social setting and sympathetic counseling. But the role of the GLBA has a much wider girth — it also functions as a springboard for unopposed political activism. That's why many are enraged by the notion of granting the GLBA committee status and a budget procured from student fees.

People who believe homosexuality is immoral or who are otherwise opposed to the gay agenda have heard enough pro-gay proselytizing from officials who draw their salaries from government funds. Enough is enough.

No doubt GLBA members will point to the likes of Peter Himmel and say, "We obviously need to double our current efforts, 'cause peo-

ple just aren't educated yet."

Education. Gay activists use the word the same way Hitler used it: as a synonym for indoctrination. This is the most insidious kind of political propaganda — attempts to change the political climate concealed under the guise of education for the betterment of society.

The gay agenda demands more than tolerance of homosexuality, it requires that we show "acceptance, support, admiration, appreciation, nurturance." These words come from a column in the March edition of "Breaking the Silence," a publication of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Program, distributed around campus.

"There are those who would like for us to believe that tolerance is enough," the author, a prominent WSU Center for Human Rights employee, writes. "But I want to argue here that tolerance is not enough."

The column describes the phases of "understanding" reflected by each word in the list. This description delineates the ideological and political goals advanced by the GLBA and the GLBA Program.

The author concludes with an alarming line: "Don't make it too easy for someone who wants to keep us back to find a resource to quote." Irony aside, this line illustrates the subversive nature of the GLBA's political activity.

They understand how to use secrecy to obtain resources. Sen. John Musella's procedural tactic is the only reason most students know that the ASWSU Senate voted — and might vote again tonight — to fund the GLBA with student fees.

This evening, the Senate will reconsider granting committee status to the GLBA. Senators need not explore the reasons why we should not fund advocacy for a group distinguished only by its behavior. Nor must they decide whether homosexuality is immoral.

Tonight, the only principle senators must acknowledge is this: *It is unconscionable to force constituents to finance the advancement of a political agenda they oppose.*

A vote to make the GLBA a committee would be a grave violation of the student-electorate's trust. Worse, it would also violate the principles on which we base our concept of democracy. In America, we don't coerce people into aligning themselves, financially or otherwise, with any particular political position.

Here's hoping our senators understand this principle and have the guts to uphold it.

Ian Ivey will return your call if you leave a message at 335-2764.

The question for next week:

"Why do you support or oppose President Clinton's decision to send American troops to Bosnia?"

You can call in your response at 335-2764 or E-mail in your response to green95@aol.com with the correct spelling of your name, major, classification and your phone number. The best responses will be published in the Wednesday edition of The Daily Evergreen along with the question for next week.

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

