

Letters

A politician's history means a lot

Editor,

I must take issue with Doug Hughes' Monday column stating what happened before an election doesn't matter.

Not only are the events prior to an official's election important, they are paramount to the kind of legislation we can expect from them. It all stems from that old-fashioned idea of ethics. Lately, it seems very few of those people in our nation's capital have them. If a man cheats on his wife, cheats on the draft, and can't keep his aides out of other people's offices, what's to say he won't sell the soul of the country for a shoe string? If another man obtains funds illegally before an election, who is to stop him from doing it again? Exposure of these symptoms of a weak ethical backbone are the most

important way the electorate can decide who is worthy of re-election.

Mr. Hughes is right in that there is a fine line between what needs to be forgotten and what needs to be remembered. But actions that break laws, betray trust and point to questionable motives are not the kinds of actions we should forget.

Good-ole-boy mudslinging politics is a festering sore on the back of this great nation. It's time for us to bring out the antiseptic and cleanse the wound. It may sting a few government big-wigs, but it is the only way to bring ourselves up to the position of world leadership and respect we once occupied. We have to quit ignoring our politicians' history. Their history is who they are, and what we stand to become.

Jessica Reyes

GLBA thanks the world for support

Editor,

We, the Executive Board of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Association (GLBA) would like to thank the ASWSU Senate for their passage of bill 25-26, which grants committee status to the GLBA. We feel the senators, both for and against, did their job in representing the constituents in each of their districts. We recognize every senator thought long and hard about the bill and what it would mean for the students of WSU. We are impressed with each of the 18 senators and how seriously they take their jobs and are very proud of their conduct and willingness to listen to both sides of the issue. It took a lot of courage for senators to cast their respective votes and for that we commend you.

To the students of WSU, we also thank you for giving your support to the GLBA. We now invite you to hold us to our commitment to you by taking part in the activities and speakers we bring to the campus. We will work hard to fulfill goals outlined by our constitution and our responsibility to the ASWSU.

Our thanks also go out to the many graduate students and to the members of the faculty and staff who showed their support. It was and is greatly appreciated.

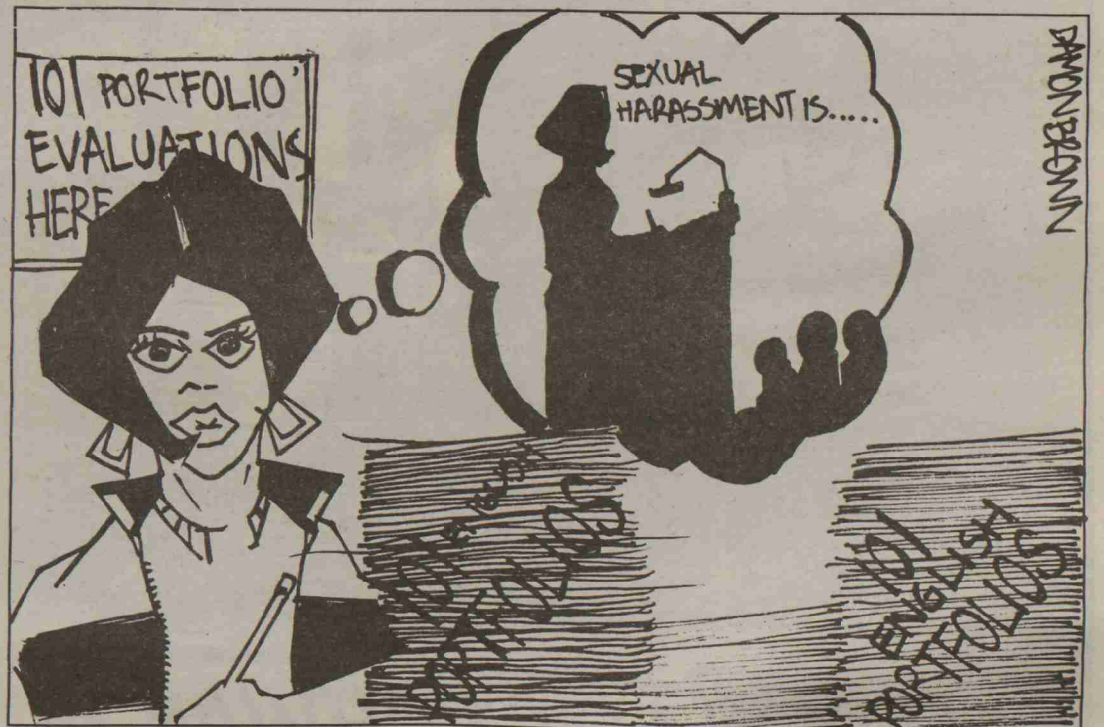
We would also like to note that on this campus there is a myriad of programs and committees that enrich the academic atmosphere of WSU. These include MeCHA, Mujeres Unidas, the African American Association, the Black Women's Caucus, the Asian Pacific American Student Center, the Filipino American Student Association, Americans Concerned with Tomorrow, ASWSU Lecture and Performing Artists, KZUU Radio (90.7 FM), the ASWSU Homecoming Committee, Student

Legal Services, and the ASWSU Entertainment Committee. These organizations are here for the students of WSU. They are excellent programs and can offer a lot if students utilize them. We encourage you to do so and we encourage you to get involved.

Once again, we would like to thank everyone who came out and showed their support. Bisexuals, gays, lesbians, and transgendered persons are a part of WSU. Now, because of the support ASWSU has given the GLBA, they can feel like they not only have a place but a home in the WSU community.

John S. Spong, an Episcopal Bishop, wrote: "When the dust settles and the pages of history are written, it will not be the angry defenders of intolerance who have made the difference. That reward will go to those who dared to step outside the safety of their privacy in order to expose and rout the prevailing justice."

Stephanie Howard
Aaron Starr
Aaron Stoss



English 101 portfolio evaluator acted unprofessionally

Editor,

Anyone enrolled in English 101 this semester is well aware that a final folder was due on Nov. 29. The folder was to contain an essay as an example of the student's writing and a cover letter describing this essay along with what the author sees as his or her writing styles and problems.

The rationale behind the folder was for "students to develop the ability to talk about their own writing. We [the 101 folder committee] want to encourage students to be ultimately responsible for their own revision, but to do so by engaging in a dialect with a number of readers (including the folder reader, the teacher, and their peers)."

"The reader's function is less evaluative and more responsive: Readers will primarily focus their responses around the areas which students identify as strengths and weaknesses of their writing."

The paper I submitted for the folder concerned frivolous sexual harassment cases and their negative impact on the women's movement, and their detrimental effects on falsely accused men. I stated in my cover letter that the reader's interest in my paper was my primary concern as a writer.

This concern was ignored in the response I

received. The reader of my folder began her response with "as a reader who also happens to be a woman I find your point of view appalling and scary. True/Real sexual harassment as defined by an intelligent person is...." She continues to explain her definition of sexual harassment and to suggest a hypothetical situation, and then asks me whether I would consider her scenario to be a sexual harassment situation. She provided no suggestions on improving my paper, nor did she evaluate my writing style.

The purpose of the folder is to enhance my ability as a writer, not to demean my point of view or question my beliefs. I find her reference to the perspective of an "intelligent person" to be insulting and unprofessional. I should be able to write a paper as the devil's advocate and receive an evaluation of the quality of my writing without commencing a debate on the topic of the paper.

If the final folder is to be of any use to students, the readers must approach the content with an unbiased view. Evaluators should merely criticize the writing itself, and not the author's point of view.

Steve Hilborn

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