

# Evergreen, Kiros attack unfounded

Editor:

"We like Ike," "Pom squad prepares for first nationals" and "Ike: Fontaine will receive game ball on March 8" are three stories found in the Monday issue of The Daily Evergreen.

Yet Jim Wade wrote a letter to the editor on Thursday claiming, "The Evergreen doesn't do a thing for Cougar pride or support."

He also implies The Evergreen doesn't do enough for sports. He obviously doesn't read much of the paper.

In the Monday issue there were three sports stories featured in sections other than sports. Not only that, the sports section was five pages of stories. That's nine full length stories on sports plus a national scoreboard to catch up on daily scores.

There were ads for sport events and a teaser on the front page for a sports story, however there was not a single story on gays, lesbians or bisexuals while

On page four there was a huge advertisement for a women's basketball game, yet there are no ads for GLBA meetings in the entire paper.

There were also seven local news stories, yet you condemn the Evergreen for not having "news relating to WSU." Huh?

The stories about the GLBA and other "habitually worthless trash" were printed at a time when it was appropriate. National Condom Week, and the coming of the AIDS Quilt are just some of the things these stories relate to.

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I don't think so much attention should be paid to sports, but that will

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never change. I read the stories and open my mind about other things. Maybe Wade should do the same with the other articles.

Where does he get off asking "Who cares about with whom gays have sex and what type of sex it is?" First, I don't recall an article informing anyone on whom has sex with whom or in what way. Second, how impersonal can that be? If I said "Who cares about sports?" many people would be offended and maybe even furious.

Millions of gays, lesbians and bisexuals care about themselves and each other (as well as sports). They have open minds. Why can't you, Wade?

And another thing: The personal attack on Fekadu Kiros was uncalled for. You shun her for her opinions and supposed lack of Cougar pride, yet you don't even know her.

What does her "coming here from Ethiopia" have to do with anything. Does that mean she can't form her own opinions? Um ... no.

Some people got the opinion that you were ignorant from the false information you provided about The Evergreen. Others thought you were rude by the written slap in the face you gave Kiros.

Wade, you should think before you speak or write.

Jodi Rooks

# Caires speaks for same-sex marriage, no tuition increase

Editor:

I would like to address a number of issues that have come up during the present legislative session in Olympia which will affect the students at WSU.

A great deal of my time this semester as ASWSU President has been spent focusing on legislative issues, and I have spent a number of days in Olympia lobbying for student interests.

ASWSU has a clear legislative agenda during the session. The primary issues we are concerned with during this biennium's budget are tuition and financial aid rates for the next two years.

ASWSU has decided the "best financial aid is low tuition."

The Washington Student Lobby (WSL) has introduced a bill in the legislature (SB 5604) that would have no tuition increase for 1998-1999 and a tuition increase of 3 percent for 1999-2000.

ASWSU supports this bill and has dedicated a week-long campaign to it, during which 800 WSU students wrote postcards to the legislature to voice support for this legislation.

This bill is being sponsored by Representative Larry Sheahan and Senator Eugene Prince, both from the 9th legislative district, which represents WSU and Eastern Washington University.

The WSU Board of Regents and Administration have also supported SB 5604. However, the University of Washington Board of Regents

and Administration have decided to endorse a 5 percent tuition increase for both upcoming academic years. We at ASWSU feel this increase is unjust and have been fighting against the proposed 5 percent tuition increase.

Senate Higher Education Chair Wood has introduced a bill to raise tuition 4 percent each year for the upcoming biennium as a compromise between the positions of WSU and UW.

ASWSU will continue to support SB 5604, which keeps tuition rates predictable and affordable for all students in Washington.

House Higher Education Chair Carlson has introduced a financial aid bill (HB 1851) to the legislature. Although ASWSU supports this bill, we have a number of concerns with it.

We will be encouraging a number of amendments to this bill, with the focus on meritorious student aid and aid to students of color.

WSL has also introduced legislation to put a student member on each Board of Regents in the State of Washington. ASWSU has voted to support this bill; however, I have a number of concerns with the present language within this bill.

As written, this bill will give the power to the governor of the state to nominate an "at large student, in good standing at the university" to the Board of Regents.

This concerns me because it takes the power of student representation from the student body and gives it to the governor.

The students at WSU should demand the best student representation, especially to the governing board of the university.

The students should be the individuals who empower their student leaders, not the governor. This bill's present language does not give the students that opportunity. This bill is still sitting in the Senate Rules Committee.

Finally, both the House and Senate passed legislation banning same-sex marriages in Washington.

Last week, Gov. Locke vetoed this legislation, and it has now returned to the House and Senate.

Although some students may say this legislation is not a student concern, I think that anytime a law is created which takes away fundamental civil rights, it is a student issue.

I support Governor Locke's decision to veto this legislation. I will not support any type of legislation which denies individuals the same basic rights as others because of their race, color, gender, ability, religion or sexual orientation.

ASWSU has taken a pro position on this legislation. I commend the leadership demonstrated by the senate on this issue.

If anyone is interested in becoming more involved with the present legislation in Olympia, the Washington Student Lobby, or ASWSU please feel free to call 335-9676, or stop by the ASWSU office, located on the third floor of the CUB.

Matthew Caires

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

**"Nothing makes you more tolerant of a neighbor's noisy party than being there."**

— Franklin P. Jones

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

**How do you feel about the closing of The Combine and Sidewalk Cafe?**

You can call in your response at 335-1140 or e-mail in your response to fkiros@wsunix.wsu.edu with the correct spelling of your name and your phone number. The best responses will be published in the Wednesday edition of The Daily Evergreen along with the question for the week.

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