

Opinion and Comment

GPA survey delays decision

On Wednesday night, the ASWSU Senate passed a bill allocating \$500 for a survey of student opinion on granting Gay People's Alliance (GPA) committee status.

Senator Chuck Kenlan argued that the \$500 would be adequate to fund a scientific poll of student opinion. A random sampling of 500 students would be selected to represent the student body as a whole.

John Tarnai, Assistant Director of the Social Research Center, which would be in charge of the survey, disagrees with Kenlan about the cost. Tarnai believes that a scientifically valid survey would have a minimum cost of \$1800.

A survey could be conducted for the \$500 allocated by the Senate, but it would require a vast number of volunteers to select a sample, draw up questions, hold interviews, program the computers, and analyze the results.

The sole way to obtain accurate findings would be to pay the professionals at the Social Research Center \$1800.

But the GPA is requesting a budget of only \$1700. Why pay more for a poll about the GPA than it would cost to fund the group itself?

In the past, the Senate has felt qualified to decide issues about which students rarely thought or spoke. Now, however, the same Senate suddenly feels extremely out of touch with constituent opinion on the GPA issue, an issue that has provoked more student debate and discussion than any in recent memory.

It seems the Senate cannot make up its mind on whether its role is to mirror exactly student opinion or rather to make an informed judgement on what best serves student interests, even if that judgement is initially unpopular.

The survey bill, which 14 of 15 senators found convenient to support, was an easy way to avoid making a controversial decision.

With the coming of spring, young senators' fancies turn to thoughts of re-election.

Wm. Smith Greig

Planning services various

Dear Editor:

Being volunteers at the Family Planning and Health Care Center of Whitman County, we have taken a personal interest in recent outcry concerning Family Planning. The verbal and printed opinions forced us to evaluate our own reasons for working with this agency, and, for that, we are grateful to those who spoke up. Our reason for writing this is not to justify pro-choice or pro-life supporters but rather to give another side of the never-ending debate.

We, too, are working on lowering the rate of abortions. We believe we are doing this in a positive manner by actively giving a method of prevention of pregnancy — birth control. As volunteers, our role is to provide accurate information about contraceptive methods and agency services. We will not deny that our agency gives out referrals for terminations. However, we are available for assistance to those choosing to continue the pregnancy and we also give referrals to those seeking adoption agencies. Our agency provides the client with the information

he/she is seeking. In doing so, our goal is to meet the community's needs as a whole.

There is so much more to the agency that the media and public fail to recognize. For instance, in February, we will be working with the local Coca-Cola distributor in raising funds for the Child Sexual Abuse Awareness Program in our area. We also have outreach programs where we go into the community to public schools, civic groups and others with education on the vast topics of health and personal care. These are just a few examples of the way Family Planning provides the community with much more than referrals for those seeking to terminate a pregnancy.

As another wrote, "before slapping a label on an organization, investigate it for yourself." We believe that once someone looks at our agency as a whole, he or she will find that we do not worship a god of convenience. In fact, Rick Sanford, our God advocate, "judge not, lest ye be judged."

Stacy Freeman
Maggie Burns

Reagan totally unlike Hitler

Dear Editor:

The author of the Reagan-Hitler letter to the editor in Wednesday's Evergreen obviously has a lot to learn. Such a tenuous analogy between Reagan and Hitler betrays a lack of a logical thought process and a limited knowledge of history. One may not like Reagan or his policies; many do not and enjoy the right to differ in opinion. But such a preposterous comparison is uncalled for, wanton, and reckless.

Do you realize, Mr. Freund, just what kind of madman Hitler was, just how much devastation, pain, and suffering he caused in this world? If you have any idea, you would not make such a thoughtless statement. Read your history, man!

I do not laugh at you, Mr. Freund, as I write this letter. But I am somewhat amazed at and concerned with the ignorant simplicity at the college level such a letter displayed.

Terry Popravak

News is all wet

Dear Editor:

It has come to our attention that someone at the Daily Evergreen has become lackadaisical in their duties. Whomever is in charge of delivering the paper to Stevens Hall has been leaving our bundle of papers in some very odd places. Among these are: buried in the snow, in the middle of the front walk, and today in the middle of the street, where we found them wet, snowy and full of dirt and gravel. It would be greatly appreciated if these papers could once again be delivered on our front steps as they have been in the past.

Sheila Wolf

Dog in jail

Dear Editor:

Until several weeks ago my friends and I had a great playground ...Greek Row. We would get up early, go find each other, and spend the

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



day frolicking together in the snow doing the things all kids do — wrestling, running, laughing, playing all sorts of games. But suddenly, one day a strange thing happened. My friend was arrested right off the playground! Her crime? Nothing really, we were just enjoying ourselves, not bothering anyone, playing like all kids do. I couldn't understand why they took my best friend away in a paddywagon. Luckily, Niki was bailed out and released after posting a \$25 bond. The gang was back together at last! Time to play again. But shortly thereafter, they came again and arrested my friend — the bail this time was raised to \$50 and \$75 for each offense respectively. My friends and I used to be proud to represent our houses "on the hill," but now we spend all of our time running from those cruel people who

break up recess. I think humans call them "dog catchers." Why must they do this? What harm do we do? Why can't they just leave us alone and let us play? Monday, Niki and one of my other friends were arrested again, Niki for the fourth time. This time bail is \$100 (\$250 total) and my human friends have to go to court to try to get her back. I don't know if I'll ever see my friend Niki again. Is my friend really a habitual offender, or is this a gross miscarriage of justice? I think it is the latter, as do my human friends. My message to you dog catchers: Leave your paws off us — DOGBREATH! We are not hurting anything. LET US PLAY.

"Zax and the Gang" and the Men of Sigma Chi

Cut athletics to fund groups

Dear Editor:

Various articles and letters in the Jan. 24 edition of this paper led me to a great inspiration. The athletics department has a budget of \$6,000,000; of which approximately \$2,000,000 comes from the students either in the form of so-called service and activities fees or from gate receipts. At the same time we have various sports groups in desperate need of a small amount of funding. These groups such as; Straight Alliance, Gay Peoples Alliance, Swingers Unlimited Alliance, and Bondage Club are all promoting their own variations of this country's favorite sport. (Also, not quite in the same league is the Virgins' Alliance promoting non-participation in this same sport.)

Here we have a sport which, while not often a spectator sport, is one that is extremely popular with students and most other adults and is completely ignored by the athletics department. We could fund these various worthy groups with a small fraction of that over \$2,000,000 that the athletics department takes from the students every year. Coaches would work cheap.

What we are talking here is support for 'America's favorite indoor sport.' Let's go for it.

Lorne MacGregor

BLOOM COUNTY

by Berke Breathed



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