

The Evergreen lacks quality

Editor:

I am writing in regard to the serious quality problems present in The Evergreen. Examine just one issue, and one questions the academic integrity of the entire student body.

Let's turn our attention to the September 11th edition. The front page seems not so bad; at least headlines aren't misspelled, as they often are. However, "n" in "Nazi" is capitalized in the lead and not in the headline. Which one is it? One invented word also dots the front page: "race mixing."

Student Amy Corwin was asked to comment on the issue. Who is Amy Corwin? Why should we be concerned about her opinion? Was she randomly selected?

The choice of topics for the National Digest is particularly fascinating. According to Evergreen editors, the three most important issues that students need to be informed about are the "vampire family," Tupac Shakur's witness situation, and the fact that teen health is threatened by smoking and french fries. Two months before a national election, and the students' main concern is the "vampire family"?

Editor in Chief Isamu Jordan weighs in on the editorial page, "Seeing diversity in black light." He writes sixteen column-inches of babble before realizing, in an introspective moment, that no one is going to get this. He then proceeds to abstract his composition in the last three paragraphs. How about sparing us the first part and getting to the point to start; then illustrating your point with real examples?

Page six and opinions from the student body reinforce the overall nonsensical flavor of the paper. Susan Doll, an education major, discussing banning tobacco advertising, tells us that "America's (sic) based on advertising and freedom of speech." George Washington must surely be spinning in his grave.

Travis Solin, MIS student, living in

either a cloud or a cave, informs us that "if the government wants to do something sensible with tobacco products, make it illegal for minors to use tobacco." Currently, it is illegal, Travis.

The capper on six is, of course, the letter by Carena Thompson, a self-proclaimed senior zoology major. She tells us about human footprints and dinosaur footprints walking side by side down through the years. She then goes on, "...in this one small letter I do not have the space to name all the archaeological findings or the physics, chemistry, and mathematical calculations and experiments that suggest the earth is much younger."

Thirteen column inches of type and she can't even name one? Perhaps she is getting her information from "The Flintstones?"

Local to international sports fill the next three pages, followed by The Borderline, with reviews of Hong Kong karate flicks. After the classified ads, the paper ends with a half-page International section.

Evergreen editors pick the Monaco royal sex scandal and the fact that London is updating its two-deck buses as the two most important issues of the day.

Hey, inquiring minds want to know.

Using anonymous student Amy Corwin's quote from the front page, "it is just sad that ignorance can ruin the reputation of our school."

Get with it, Evergreen editors and student body. Research your news pieces and the opinion pieces that you write. Print fewer pages — think about all the trees you would save. Don't run a political cartoon unless it makes a clever, satirical point. And buy a spell-checker. What kind of image of WSU are you presenting?

Chuck Pezeshki

Associate Professor

Mechanical and Materials Engineering

'Homosexual' not correct term for gays

Editor:

I am writing in response to Jocelyn Silva's column, "Homosexuals have it rosy at WSU" from Sept. 9.

I would like to thank Silva for her positive message about the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) community and for standing up for what she believes in. Her support is appreciated.

However, I find it necessary to correct the misinformation Silva relayed to the Evergreen audience.

Let's begin with terminology.

An important distinction exists between the use of the term homosexual and the terms gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered.

The term homosexual is primarily and preferably used when speaking in a clinical or scientific context about homosexuality.

GLBT and allied individuals often prefer to be referred to as GLBT and/or allied individuals rather than as homosexuals.

This is important because transgendered and allied individuals are not necessarily gay, lesbian or bisexual.

Now that our terminology is clear.

Silva seems to think WSU is an incredibly accepting place for GLBT and allies people. She states, "At what other institutions would a homosexual student find even greater acceptance."

I can name several: The Evergreen State College, Western Washington University and the University of Washington, to name a few in our state.

Silva also is misinformed about the GLBA organizations here at WSU. It is important to first make a distinction between the GLBA Program, which is funded by Human Rights Resources, and the ASWSU GLBA, which is partially funded through ASWSU. The remainder of ASWSU GLBA funds come from fund raising.

The ASWSU GLBA is not a fully funded stu-

dent organization, and there are GLB groups on nearly every public college campus that are somewhat funded through their student body whether they are recognized or not.

While it is partially true that sexuality is an "out" topic, I question what Silva and others refer to as "the homosexual issue." GLBTA people have a plethora of issues, not all of which are comparable or parallel to other GLBTA. If you are talking about the issue of sexuality, it should be stated as such.

In addition, most of the women Silva seems to have witnessed holding hands all over campus are heterosexual.

And if it is a fact lesbian couples can walk hand-in-hand on this campus without being "accosted or beaten," then it is also a fact that gay men cannot because of the greater homophobia toward gay men.

Many GLBT and even allied individuals do not feel secure on this campus, yet we will not let fear keep us silent. I fear for my personal safety walking home on College Hill, day or night.

This campus has far to go.

Silva forgot to research another key point in her argument. While attempts to limit GLBT rights have failed in the past, there are no laws in Washington to classify abuse to GLBT individuals as hate crimes. Consequently, punishments for such behaviors are not tried as hate crimes.

Finally, GLBT individuals do not use the word "mate" when referring to their life partners, it is more common to say "partner."

Thank you, Silva, for attempting to be GLBT-conscious. Your efforts are commendable. Unfortunately, misinformation is rampant in your article.

I suggest you research your topics prior to sharing your information with the Evergreen audience. The GLBA Program Center is generally open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in CUB B-17 and B-19A.

Amy L. Burns

QUOTE OF THE DAY

No person is your friend who demands your silence or denies your right to grow.

—Alice Walker

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What do you think the most important issue is for the 1996 elections?

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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