

LETTERS

Readers discuss election issues

Stay out of it Harris Constituency counts

Editor,
The multicultural/diversity debate on Thursday, March 7, brought more to light than just the issues of diversity that concerns the students of WSU. I saw a private meeting between Jessie Harris, Aleana Wixson and John Robinson which disturbed me because no other ticket received the same treatment. Shortly after, I saw Jessie with the panelists in a heated discussion about the questions being asked of the candidates.

I am aware that the mediator/facilitator has the ability to regulate the questions that the panelists are allowed to ask. Seeing that private meeting followed by Jessie's immediate containment of the panel, I knew there was more to be seen in the shadows.

Jessie Harris has supported the Wixson/Robinson ticket, and their platform is quite similar to his 1995-96 presidential platform. As the mediator of the debate, as well as the acting president, this is a conflict of interest and is politically unethical.

Furthermore, Jessie is aware of all the questions that are to be asked prior to the debate. (Now that seems pretty convenient!) It is unfair to the other tickets when Aleana and John get support from the acting president.

Harris' interest transcends into his role as a mediator of the debate.

The acting ASWSU president should be non-partisan concerning the tickets, and should be able to perform mediation with reason and integrity.

In regard to this 1996-97 campaign, Harris' blatant disregard for political guidelines and his flagrant abuse as mediator should be scrutinized to a great extent. Furthermore, Jessie's involvement with Aleana and John makes me question their ticket's integrity.

Is their success in this campaign due to Harris' support and censoring?

That seems to be the case, and because of that, I am compelled to say that they are not the ticket I want representing me. And if they do become president and vice-president I am fearful because Jessie Harris will not be around to hold their hands.

Leah Taguba

Editor,
As a vocal member of the Residence Hall Association, a candidate for ASWSU Senate, and more importantly as a student of Washington State University, I found some of the comments at this year's ASWSU presidential candidates' debate appalling.

An example that sticks out in my mind is a comment the senator, and current candidate for ASWSU vice president, John Robinson made. Robinson said he had gone against what was popular and voted on what was right pertaining to the GLBA (Gay, Lesbian and Bi-sexual Association) Petition 25-26. In his statement, he told the audience that despite all the negative feedback that he received from his constituents he

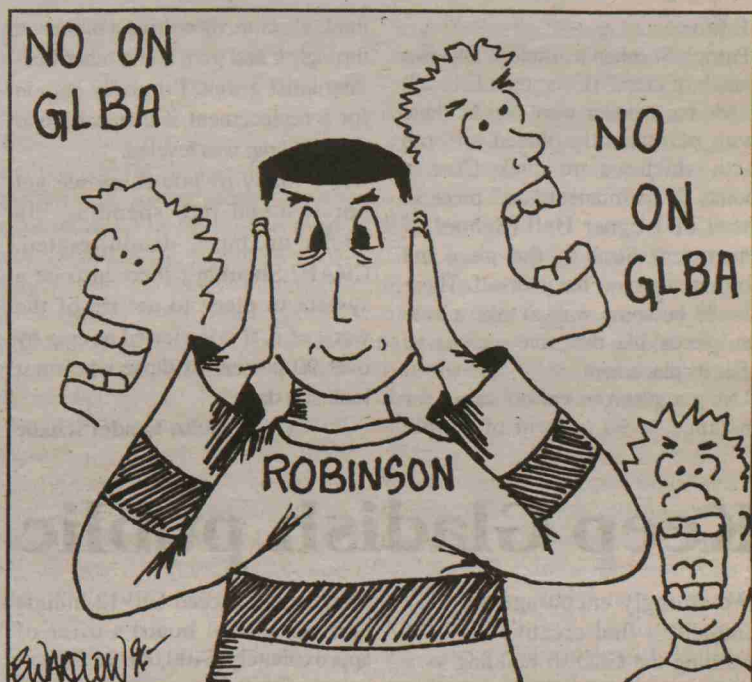
went against their wishes and voted "Yes."

Knowing that Robinson did not listen to the people he represented frightens me. Fortunately, I do not reside in the district that he "represents," but unfortunately he has an effect on each and every one of us.

The ASWSU vice president represents all of the senators. The senators are supposed to represent the residents of their district. When one aspect of the system fails, the whole system fails.

Personally, I support the GLBA and have a tremendous respect for all the hardships that they have overcome through the years. It is unfortunately that controversy follows them, yet I feel that my voice must be heard.

Shawn Price



If Wirtz is upset Caires is on the right track

Editor,
After reading Hank Wirtz's letter to the editor, it is evident to me he is still extremely jealous and envious of Matt Caires. Caires and Wirtz went head to head last spring for the position of ASWSU chief of staff, and Wirtz failed miserably.

Perhaps this attack is just Wirtz's "periodic immaturity" showing through in a bogus attempt to denounce Matt Caires and all of his major accomplishment as the chief of staff.

After working with ASWSU this year, and seeing each of the presidential candidates in action in their current position, I would only support one ticket.

If Matt were to be elected president of ASWSU, he would be a major benefit to every student on this cam-

pus. Having the leader of the student body voting on city issues that effect students is an excellent opportunity. When issues such as the parking permits on College Hill arise, who better than the president of the association to represent us?

Wirtz's argument about time commitment is unfounded and obviously a lame attempt to discredit who Caires is and what he stands for.

Caires, in his first semester as the chief of staff, worked more than 10 hours a week in the ASWSU office, 40 hours a week as the manager of the WSU football team, was an intern with the office of admissions, and ambassador for diversity, and maintained approximately a 3.35 GPA with honors. I know for a fact that Matt Caires generally spends his evenings in the ASWSU office

working into the late hours of the night. Now that's a commitment to serving students.

Even with all of these activities, Matt Caires was able to spearhead the College Hill lighting proposal and was able to effectively lobby on behalf of the students to get it passed and make WSU a safer place.

There is no one, by far, more qualified and committed to serving students than the Caires/Carlson ticket. The other tickets talk about safety and diversity, when it has been Matt Caires who is out there meeting students, working on safety, and being involved in the multicultural student community. His caring about students didn't start with this election like other candidates, but instead is who Matt is. He deserves to be president because he has shown his con-

tinued commitment to the students of WSU.

During this election when other executive tickets have discussed dropping out of the race or being tired of being nice to everyone, Matt Caires and Karen Carlson have kept plugging away. They are running because they want to give something back to Wazzu. Matt and Karen could have both graduated, but instead they want to spend one more year in Pullman working for us.

The bottom line is that Matt Caires must be doing something right if Hank Wirtz has his dander up and is writing to The Evergreen. Vote for the candidate that truly cares about you and is willing to dedicate their time to and for you.

John Musella

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