

Opinions

What you had to say about...

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Association

Daily Evergreen columnist Sara Lovell asked students whether they believe the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Association should be granted ASWSU committee status, which includes privileges such as the right to promote an organization and its activities on campus, free use of CUB meeting rooms, right to apply for student office space in the CUB, and free use of banking service through the University Controller's Office. Most students believe GLBA should receive committee status, but a few did speak out against GLBA. Here are some responses:



"I think they should be allowed to do it. I think we're behind as far as having that association. At Western we had it. It was no big deal. They had their functions and it was just another club."

Andrea Dixon
Communication



"I don't think they should be recognized as a club and receive money because that would open it up to all sorts of other clubs and personally I'm against it and that lifestyle."

Gretchen Visser
Architecture



"They should be recognized. They deserve representation from ASWSU because they're serving a need in this community, whether people want to admit it or not."

Charlene Taylor
Criminal Justice

• "I think the more clubs we have the better. Everybody deserves something."

Tom Miller
Biology

• "I think it's fair because everyone has a right. If they have what it takes to become a strong committee then they should have every right like everyone else."

Stacie Karnoski
Psychology

• "I think they should be a committee. I think they (ASWSU) should let people do whatever they want. I don't think they (GLBA) should be condemned. Let them be a club."

Tua Vang
Political Science

• "I think they should because anything can be used to classify a minority—say brown eyes to blue eyes, but no one's persecuted based on that. People are attacked on their sexual orientation. Homosexuals as a minority deserve attention."

Grant Hatten
Microbiology

• "I don't think there's anything wrong with it. They have a voice like everyone else."

Kimber Rolfe
Business

• "I don't think they should be discriminated against. It's an individual opinion that not necessarily everybody agrees with but they're people, too."

Jessica Rentola
Communication/Fine Arts

• "They have a right just like anybody else to have a committee. If they don't have what it takes then they shouldn't be but I hope they are not being unfairly criticized."

Amy Giorgetti
Sociology

• "I agree with it because they should have equal opportunity like any other group. They've proven to myself that they are supporting their constituents while catering to those who may not be their constituents. I've worked with them, I've attended their meetings. At a public forum they were asked questions about future programs and they talked about an AIDS awareness program and a gay, lesbian history month, dealing with education."

Leon Strayer
ASWSU Minority Affairs Director
Elementary Education/Psychology

Gov. Lowry thwarts access efforts with education spending cap

The quest for funding for higher education is under fire from its latest opponent, Gov. Mike Lowry.

At a recent meeting, the Governor's Task Force debated a proposal, which Lowry's administration supports, to cap state higher education spending at current levels. State leaders say the Office of Financial Management's promotion of options like this, and the one to lid university enrollment, is the source of the problem.

By putting a cap on university enrollment lawmakers are able to let higher education funding stagnate and consequently be left behind by the rest of government.

This is evident in the higher education expenditure decrease from 16 percent of the state budget in 1983 to 11 percent today.

We at The Daily Evergreen disagree with Lowry's decision to continue this pattern, leaving higher education with little funding for the growing number of students.

We believe putting a cap on spending for higher education is not the best way to meet the future demands. If anything this is counterproductive to solving the problem of access.

With so many students expected by the year 2,000, Lowry, along with the rest of the state leaders, has a responsibility to see to it these students have a fair chance to compete for a college education.

Proponents of increased state funding for higher education have challenged the government to show a commitment to our universities and for the sake of the students we hope that challenge is met with vigor.

The question for next week:

"Should students who have withdrawn from impacted classes for reasons of poor academic performance be allowed to retake them?"

You can call in you response at 335-2764 or E-mail in you response to green95@aol.com 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 next week.

Letters

Himmel's line draws poor, inaccurate conclusions

Editor,

We read with great interest Peter Himmel's column titled, "ASWSU gays: A line in the sand" in the Nov. 16 edition of The Evergreen. In response, we would like to make several points.

First, Himmel states that homosexuality is merely a behavioral choice. However, the scientific jury is still out on this question. Some studies found there are links between homosexuality and genetics (see studies by Dean Hamer, J. Michael Bailey, and others); others have not shown such a connection. Even if we eventually "know" scientifically why people are homosexual or heterosexual, that knowledge will not be just cause to devalue or persecute either group of people.

We would like to call attention to the list of "perversions" Himmel lists as common to all homosexuals. Only a small percentage of the homosexual and heterosexual populations are involved in these actions or interests. Indeed, the mushrooming "adult entertainment" industry is aimed largely at heterosexual men, and here is where countless acts of violence against women and children may be found. We can assure you from having worked in rape crisis centers at the local, state, and national level, that the overwhelming majority of child offenders are heterosexuals. Contrary to Himmel's claim, the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Allies Association at WSU does not and has never supported organizations calling for children to be involved in sexual acts, nor supported or worked for a lowering of the age of consent. Please get your facts straight.

Secondly, the idea that same-sex coupling is a genetic dead-end, and therefore a perversion, has its roots in the 1890s when people viewed non-reproductive sex as "perverted." This view changed with the availability of birth control, and the eventual acceptance that erotic urges themselves were not perverted, but simply a part of human nature. Interestingly, the term "heterosexual" was not even coined until 1892, when it was equated with the perversion of having abnormal manifestations of sexual

appetite, and it referred to the desire for both sexes (see Jonathan Katz's book, "The Invention of Heterosexuality"). If we follow Himmel's logic, any sexual coupling that doesn't result in procreation is a perversion. I'd be willing to wager, then, that the majority of our students, faculty and staff could be classified as perverse.

The final and most important point is this: when you want to subjugate a people, you must do three things. First, you must demonize them. Equating homosexuals with perverts, equating Jews with vermin and rats as Hitler did, or equating African Americans with being lazy or criminal as is often done in our country, are all examples.

Second, you must separate and silence them by terrorizing them, denying them rights, and physically excluding them and cast aspersions on anyone who comes to their defense. Keeping gay people in the closet, forcing Jews into ghettos, and putting Native Americans on reservations are examples of this.

Third, even if average citizens may accept the presence of gays, Jews, or whoever, make sure they won't protest the elimination of that group. After all, if they really are vermin, rats, child molesters and criminals, the rest of the population should fear and shun them. Who could protest their elimination or suppression? This is the reason Hitler chose homosexuals as the first group to be exterminated. If it worked on gays, he knew he could use it on Jews.

We urge Evergreen readers to draw another line in the sand, to stand against bigotry. We ask readers to recognize how Himmel's lies and smears about gays, lesbians and bisexuals are cleverly designed to incite violence against our friends and family. We ask all readers to publicly affirm their support for the existence of these people and their right to organize and have a presence on our campus.

Patti Gora
Judy Meuth
Meera Manori

Opinions policy

Unsigned editorials represent the collective thinking of the Editorial Board. The Editorial Board is composed of Michael McLaughlin, Chris Mulick, Mike Plaster, Chadd Cripe, Barbara Hallett, Isamu Jordan, and Patrick Sheehan.

The views expressed in all other columns are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of The Daily Evergreen, its staff, management, advertisers, or the WSU Board of Regents.

Letters to the editor can be mailed to Murrow Communication Center Room 113, and should be typed and double spaced. All letters will be considered for publication but those that are 200 words or less are preferred.

A name, signature and phone number must accompany letters. The Daily Evergreen reserves the right to edit for space, libel, obscene material and clarity.

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