

Perspectives

Shortage blues

That crisis of the year, the gasoline shortage, is starting to make its presence known, even in Washington.

Although travelers coming back to Pullman had relatively little trouble finding gas (thanks to a Thorp all-night gas station), mothers going back to the west side of the mountains had problems finding unleaded gas anywhere in Pullman last Sunday.

And as California goes into huge lines and odd-even gas rationing, reports from the Golden State do not always paint a pretty picture.

The L.A. newspapers report some people taking advantage of the lines by selling food and drink to the patient line-waiters, but other people have taken advantage of the lines in another way:

Two burly gentlemen pulled into a California gas station ahead of the line and demanded the attendant fill their tank. Their physical stature appeared to reinforce their threat.

The quick-thinking attendant pulled out the nozzle and doused the line-cutters with gasoline.

"Now get out of here before I turn you into a torch," he reportedly said.

The men fled.

Considering that the amount of gas coming into the country has dropped by about 4 percent, while the actual amount of gasoline being sold in the states has been cut by more than 10 percent, perhaps the \$1-a-gallon-gas prediction will be self-fulfilling.

Why sell gas at 80 cents a gallon when in two months you can sell it at a buck a gallon?

Who said the oil companies are dumb?

—Brent Siewert

'Sic' of it

Educators from around the country complain that students are slowly, but steadily, becoming more illiterate.

And while they are trying to do something about it, the Daily Evergreen is "helping" students by correcting grammatical errors in their letters to the editor.

Earlier in the semester, this editorial assistant was using the word "sic" (Latin for "thus") to indicate that an incorrect word or phrase was the writer's own, not something that slipped past the copyreaders.

But the current meaning of the word "sic," caused some persons to think the Daily Evergreen was calling them fools or imbeciles. So the practice stopped and the editorial assistants were told to correct any grammatical errors.

—Bent (sic) Seaward (sic)



—To the editor— Grad Council rapped

The Executive Council of the Graduate Center has done several stupid things this year, but its resolution against Seattle First investments in South Africa is the "creme de la creme" of stupid acts. The seven members of the council have succeeded in conjuring an image of "en masse" condemnation of Seattle First by the residents of the Graduate Center. I am not fool enough to think I could accurately gauge the sentiments of the residents of the Center, but undoubtedly the Executive Council is.

Personally, I find this recent action to be indicative of the general ineptness and condescending attitude that has characterized this year's Council. Their action in passing a resolution

that calls upon residents of the Center to close their accounts in Seattle First (in an attempt to strong-arm the bank into changing its investment policies in South Africa) is an obvious usurpation of their limited authority.

Since there were no attempts to call a special meeting at the Graduate Center to discuss the issue and since the seven members of the Executive Council were never elected by even a simple majority of the Center's residents, the recent resolution must be viewed in the proper context. It essentially represents the views of the seven members of the Council; to claim that the resolution reflects the sentiment of the residents of the Center as a whole is not justifiable.

Any further action by the Exe-

cutive Council on this matter will only add to the indictment against them. They had no right to take such action on an important issue without first consulting the more-than-300 residents of the Center. They have provided a great disservice to a number of residents at the Center who do not want to join the "bandwagon" against Seattle First. The Council, by unilaterally passing its almighty resolution, denied those of us who disagree with the action a chance to voice our opinions. This is the poorest excuse for "student representation" I have seen in some time. I am not paying \$800 a year for the privilege of living under a dictatorship in the Graduate Center.

—Frederick B. Lokken

Prefers private life in closet

Referring to the May 4 Evergreen, we must disagree with Brent Siewert's analogy concerning the discrimination in South Africa and gays on our campus. The degree of discrimination is not at all on the same level. What discrimination exists simply by denying funds (or recognition as an official committee) to a group whose membership think it necessary to "educate" the public about a lifestyle? Personally, I have no desire to be "educated" about homosexuals' lifestyles, as was claimed to be the purpose of the group.

If there are gays working as faculty and contributing to the student newspaper, how can job discrimination be claimed to ex-

ist at this university as it so severely does in South Africa?

Suppose funds and recognition were given to the GAC. As soon as the GAC were denied an increase in funds, it would again be crying "discrimination." There are religious groups on campus who receive no funds and they exist without committee recognition to also offer a way of life, yet they don't complain about discrimination.

As for WSU's reputation, we are not ashamed, but are proud to be attending one of the few remaining schools whose students don't see a need to be "educated" about a certain group's lifestyle. Some may call us "ignorant" or "narrow-minded" but it offends us to

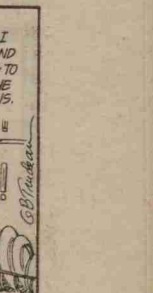
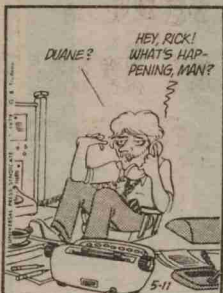
think that certain individuals want to educate us about their private lives. Yes, we'd prefer gays to keep their private lives in the closet, just as we prefer ours to be.

We consider the discrimination in South Africa to be on a much harsher scale than the "discrimination," if any, that exists here. A better definition of discrimination is necessary before it should be used in an analogy such as Mr. Siewert's.

We believe WSU's backyard was cleaned up in the recent "democratic" election.

—Peter C. Molenaar
Allen S. White

DOONESBURY



by Garry Trudeau

Daily Evergreen Staff

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