

Tougher standards 'elitist'

by Ramona Reeves and Michael R. Wickline
Evergreen Staff

Legislation calling for tougher college admission requirements is "elitist" and could slash freshman enrollment at this university by as much as 40 percent, university officials and student lobbyists say.

Under the bill, high school graduates would apply to a statewide board, instead of to individual institutions, for admission. The board would screen students' high school academic records and Washington Pre-College Test (WPCT) scores to determine which colleges that the students could attend.

Students with a 3.2 GPA and above a 60 percentile score on the WPCT would be eligible to attend this university under the bill, written by Rep. Jay Vander Stoep, R-Chehalis. It is being co-sponsored by Committee Chairpersons Helen Sommers, D-Seattle, and Rep. Dan Grimm, D-Puyallup.

"THE BILL STRIKES me as having an elitist attitude — it implies that only the best and brightest students should have the opportunity for a university education,"

said John Startzel, associate director of admissions.

"I do think it is elitist," said Ann Price, the university's at-large representative to the Washington Student Lobby. "It would classify students (in college) on their grades in high school, which are very often different from their grades in college. Students would go through college with a label on them that they could not get rid of."

"Job recruiters would run to the University of Washington because the people attending that institution have already been determined (by the board) to be the best scholars and the good people," Price said. "I am glad to see they are thinking about quality in education, but this is a bad way to do that."

Registrar C. James Quann said he thought the bill would be "destructive" to higher education in the state.

"I am not at all opposed to raising entrance requirements, but I think by law and philosophically that right belongs to the faculty — it should not be done legislatively," he said.

QUANN SPECULATED that Reps. Grimm and Sommers are

reacting to "bad press" about this university.

The university admits a small number of "otherwise qualified" students with less than a 2.5 GPA, but only in accordance with federal statutes dealing with affirmative action, Quann explained.

"The bill reads like it is purely a method of improving the quality of state institutions, but it appears it could also be a way for the legislature to reduce expenditures," he said.

If the number of students attending universities decreases, the state would have to pay less for higher education, so the bill ends up being a budgetary issue wrapped up in a quality-enhancing measure, he said.

Startzel said freshman enrollment at this university would probably decrease by as much as 40 percent if the bill becomes law.

Quann said the purpose of the bill would be defeated by what he calls "grade inflation" in high schools.

High school students would probably put pressure on their teachers to give them A's and B's, so they would be eligible for entrance into a university, Quann said.

Admission proposal would require a 3.2 grade point

by Mike Shepard
Managing Editor

A new state college admission proposal now before the Legislature — one that would require students wishing to enter this university to have a 3.2 cumulative high school grade point average — is aimed at challenging these students, the bill's author says.

But a Whitman County legislator says it's too early to raise admission requirements to the state's colleges and universities because the plan would further cut already decreasing enrollments.

Rep. Jay Vander Stoep (R-Chehalis) said in a telephone interview yesterday that forcing the state's schools to raise their admission standards is only a secondary reason for his drafting the bill.

"First reason for the bill is to have a positive effect on the K-12 system. Right now, we do not require enough of our (state high school) graduating students if they want go to a state university," he said.

THIS UNIVERSITY has an indexing system that requires students to have about a 2.7 high school GPA to be granted admission.

And in all fairness, universities are

taking a substantial number of students who have GPAs under that, Vander Stoep said.

High school students only have to show up for class to get a 2.5 GPA, he said. "We need to ask more of these students."

Rep. Eugene Prince, R-Thornton, says he agrees that the K-12 schools should be more demanding of their students, but questions whether Vander Stoep is using the right method to do that.

"I think he's a little too tough," he said of Vander Stoep proposing the increased admission standards. "The quality (justification for the plan) is great, but I do not think that type of thing is good with decreasing enrollments (at the state's higher education institutions). I don't think it makes much sense."

The enrollments are expected to decline for another three or four years, Prince said, but they are expected to increase after that.

WHEN THE ENROLLMENTS start decreasing, he said Vander Stoep's proposal might make some sense.

Under his proposal, Vander Stoep said, students wishing to apply for

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WASHINGTON
STATE
UNIVERSITY

EVERGREEN DAILY

Thursday, January 24, 1985

Established 1894

Vol. 91; No. 87

Straight Alliance forms in reaction to campus gays

by Joe Hudon
Evergreen Staff

A "sexually oriented" student group founded only a week and a half ago is in the process of drawing up a constitution soon and has plans to ask the ASWSU senate for funding.

The Straight Alliance, says its self-appointed leader Garrett Seick, will be focusing on heterosexuality as a lifestyle.

"Our purpose is to promote and discuss heterosexuality. We want acceptable behavior out in the open," Seick said.

He said that the group would like to engage in discussions of sexual experiences and let people know how (heterosexuals) feel about sexual expression.

We feel it is "necessary to propagate the human race with what we call natural sexual desires and interactions," Seick said.

He said they would be basing their constitution on their sexual prefer-

"We are not out to rank on gays," Seick said.

However, he said, "the group would not be flaunting its sexuality like the Gay People's Alliance."

"I attended a GPA meeting in Waller Hall several months ago where several members of the group stood up, said they were gay, and asked if anyone had any questions. That's not educational," Seick said.

He claims that the meeting caused paranoia among the dorm members although he said he did feel that the GPA has a right to say what they want.

Alex MacMath, co-chairman of the GPA, said the event in Waller Hall was a speakers bureau put on at Waller Hall's request and not a GPA meeting.

"We used the same format for discussion that we've used for 13 years in psychology classes right here on campus," MacMath said.

He added that this was the first time in GPA history that the group has been accused of flaunting their



Daily Evergreen/File Photo

Sometimes it seems awfully difficult to get back into the swing of things after a nice, long break. Sleeping in the library seems to be a good way to combat those post-break blues.

'Our purpose is to promote and discuss heterosexuality. We want acceptable behavior out in the open.'

—Garrett Seick

ence, but they would not discriminate against membership, although he said he felt some anti-gay persons would find shelter in the Straight Alliance.

The arrival of the Straight Alliance comes on the heels of recently heated debate over whether a campus gay awareness group, the Gay Peoples Alliance will receive funding from the ASWSU for the first time since it was denied the group in 1979.

sexuality.

The Straight Alliance, like the GPA must first find sponsors from within the student senate before a bill can be analyzed by the entire senate.

Seick said he had approached senate member Marc Burns (At Large) and said he would meet with him again in hopes of gaining senate sponsorship.

Burns said yesterday he had talked to Seick about the bill but would not

sponsor it.

"I'd be glad to show him the channels to get the bill to the senate, but that's all I can do. It will be very hard for them to find sponsorship for it. It's much similar to the situation last year with the Association of Men Students," Burns said.

Burns has said he would support a bill funding the Gay People's alliance as an ASWSU committee, on the condition that they concentrated their efforts toward being an awareness group, rather than promoting any particular lifestyle.

Seick said he was a little concerned, even if they did find sponsors, that the ASWSU senate would

not grant money to his alliance because they would be a majority group, rather than a minority.

Senate member Audrey Ross (Off Campus), said that the senate would look into the Straight Alliance the same as they would look into the GPA.

"We have a lot of special interest groups on campus that aren't a minority. You don't need to be a minority to be eligible for ASWSU funding," Ross said.

Ross has indicated she will likely be one of the co-sponsors (with At Large senator Joe Guerra) of a bill seeking to get funding for the gay alliance.

Seick said the Straight Alliance is interested in presenting such awareness lectures as, "How to get a date," and "How to meet people."

He said that among other concerns of the group are, problems with urban society.

"The more people are exposed to homosexuality, the more likely they are to become one. If we present an alternative to (gays), they might be more likely to be straight," Seick said.

He his most important concern is that his group be taken seriously.

"We are not a spoof. Obviously it will come across that way though," Seick said.