

# OPINIONS

## Labeling keeps us from uniting as one



DOUG HUGHES

Columnist

As a White, heterosexual male, carbon-based life form and an American citizen of Anglo-Saxon and Northern European/Germanic descent, I condemn labels.

Our society treats people of Black/African-American ancestry so poorly that they, like any non-White, non-heterosexual non-male group, are not even equal in society.

I once knew an African homosexual who was a man just the same as any other carbon-based human life form.

Although he preferred to live a lifestyle different from my own, I accepted and loved him like I love all humans, be they Chicana lesbians, White women, learning-challenged or somewhat more gifted with flesh than the so-called norm.

Labels are bad. Labels are evil. The goal of every member of modern society, even the new Russian immigrant women, should be to eliminate labels.

I was talking with a graduate student friend of mine who happens to be very conservative.

We had a wonderful conversation. Although he has facial features often found only on persons of African heritage, I was able to accept him as a fully enfranchised member of the White, male, heterosexual power structure.

The White, male power structure of this world creates labels for all people, be they transgendered Asian humans living in Florida (while they are residents of Georgia and registered to vote in Delaware) or height-challenged African men who cannot dance or dunk a basketball.

I have a dream that one day all children will be able to play together without the use of labels based on race, sex, religion, creed, sexual orientation, criminal history, hair color, weight, height, political orientation, gun ownership, choice of newspaper, economic status, source of vitamin C, favorite football team, favorite song, musical preference, definition of beauty, definition of love, ownership of stock or mutual funds, visual impairment, hearing impairment, mobility challenge, belief in gaia (the Earth as one huge organism) and feelings toward literature or favorite novel.

All of these labels are used to determine who we are in the stereotypical, racist, White male, heterosexual power structure of economic wealth.

Until we get rid of them, we will have to live under them.

*This is satire for those of you who can't understand. It is meant to show that using labels to describe ourselves may be helpful, but it in no way helps us to attain the dream of many, including Martin Luther King, of a colorblind society.*

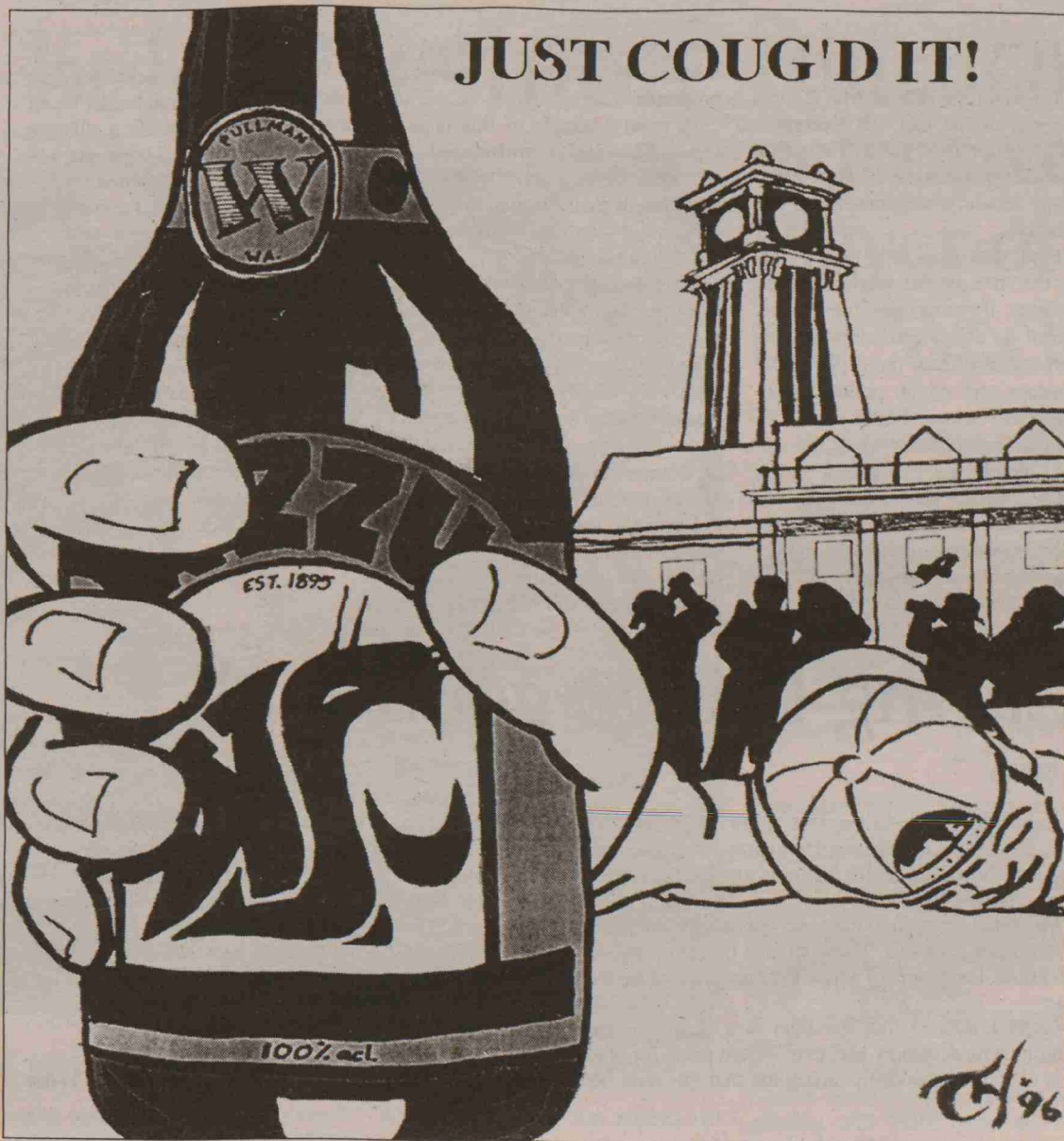
By using racial, sexual or other labels, we reinforce the notion that labels are useful and even part of who a person or group of persons is.

On a side note, I'd like to come out of the closet as a heterosexual and I encourage any other heterosexuals who are nervous about voicing their concerns to do so.

If any White heterosexual students feel like forming a committee which would receive ASWSU funding, as the GLBA does, here is some advice. Go to ASWSU and ask for a copy of the petition/charter of the GLBA. All students have a right to do so because the document is public.

Take the document home and erase GLBA. Fill in the name of

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## Some people just plain stupid



KERI ANDREWS

Columnist

Due to politics and other recent events, I have been questioning the intelligence of the human species.

After reflecting for a while, I realized that it's not necessarily humans as a whole who are unintelligent. There are just some people who seem to have inherited the stupid gene.

I'm not speaking of those with real mental disabilities, nor of people who have a lack of education.

I'm talking about people who, for some reason, do and say things that Jiminy Cricket or just common sense should have been able to prevent. And they do it on a regular basis.

I'm talking about people who punch walls. You lose your damage deposit and break your hand all at the same time.

It is better than taking that aggression out on another person, but couldn't you hit your couch or smash a plate or something? As you're sitting there, staring at the hole in the wall while clutching your throbbing hand, do you

really feel better?

Another thing. I strongly discourage cheating on your significant other. If you still insist on sneaking around, do not invite both people to the same party. You will be caught, and a hangover won't be the only thing you'll be hurting from the next day.

It sounds like a simple concept, but some people just don't understand. I almost have to feel sorry for anyone that stupid.

And let's say Jack and Jill go up a hill, but that's as far as they go. Jack tells Jill's best friend a terrible lie about Jill. Excuse me, Jack, but Jill's friend not only knows that you're lying, she's also going to tell Jill what you said. And you don't even want to unleash the wrath of Jill. What purpose did your little lie serve? Do you feel like more of a man now? Yeah, a man with a broken crown once Jill gets a hold of you. Do you think that fall down the hill was an accident?

I am not the smartest person in the world. I don't pretend to be. Everyone does stupid things every now and then. But sometimes I just have to wonder from which side of the family certain people inherited their intelligence. The dog, maybe?

There is only one explanation for people this dumb.

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## Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



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