G.A.L.A.

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the past. In the summer of 1984, The Gay Peoples Alliance - a recognized student group - lost over \$3,000 in newly-received S&A funds. The group was one of many that lost funds because of a technicality. The S&A fee committee failed to provide proper public notice for funding hearings, so the money was collected for redistribution.

When GPA reapplied for the funds and committee status, ASWSU ran a \$500 survey to see how the general campus population felt about the issue. After survey results came in, ASWSU senators voted to deny GPA funding and committee status.

Troubles go back to 1979, when a student group, The Gay Awareness Committee, was stripped of ASWSU committee status after more than 60 percent

of WSU students voted against the GAC retaining status.

"I've heard a lot about what went on in the past. That's one reason why they (G.A.L.A. members) want to hold off for a while on committee status there was a lot of controversy back then," Perkins said.

But it is time WSU recognized the diversity of its student population, Perkins said.

"Who's going to decide which groups are right or wrong? Recognizing the groups only recognizes the diversity not the validity of one group over another.'

WSU President Sam Smith said he doesn't find it particularly unusual that WSU has not had a gay student organization for several years.

'Those (organizations) cycle on campuses. Any organization

will grow for awhile and then drop back down for awhile. On any major campus around you may or may not have one."

ASWSU President Bill Stauffacher said he will support the efforts of G.A.L.A.

"There's no reason why any group that wants to organize shouldn't be able to do so.

"It's a healthy environment to be open minded and look at things with fairness and tolerance," Stauffacher said.

He said he would rather see G.A.L.A. as a recognized student group than an ASWSU committee since ASWSU has become so large.

"From an organizational perspective it would really be hard to take a (new) group unless they are really well established and have a big impact on what we're (ASWSU) doing there aren't many groups like that out there.'

Activities and Recreation Director Bob Stephens said it might be easier for the group to get funding as an ASWSU committee. He said S&A funding is more likely to go to large groups, like ASWSU, to be passed down to committees.

Stauffacher predicted an uproar on campus if the G.A.L.A. attempts to get S&A funding.

'This is a pretty conservative campus. People here often aren't as open minded as on an urban campus," Stauffacher said.

The basis for granting funds will be the same for all organizations, he said. Money will be given on basis of group stability and quality of programming.

Anderson said a gay and lesstudent organization enhances programming.

"Without an organization, it is very difficult to do some of the educational programming about issues such as AIDS and STD's. that are important to deal with in a sexually active gay community.

"I would have a problem in us treating a group differently, based on the fact of their sexual preference," Anderson said.

It is the administration's responsibility to act in advisory role to student organizations and make sure they don't act in an unethical, immoral or illegal manner, Anderson said.

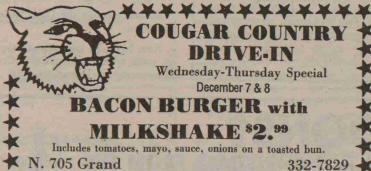
"I think to discriminate against a group simply because of sexual preference falls under those guidelines of an adviser telling them it is not appropriate," Anderson said.



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