

# WHAT YOU HAD TO SAY

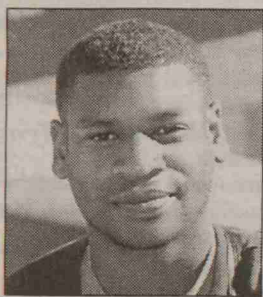
## The atmosphere for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered

**Editor's note:**

In conjunction with *Coming Out Week*, *Daily Evergreen* reporter Kristine Pinley asked students what they felt the atmosphere was like for non-heterosexuals on campus.

Although the responses varied, most thought activities such as *Coming Out Week* were good tools for improving the general atmosphere. Some didn't think it was their place to even answer the question; they weren't sure they could adequately judge the atmosphere if not personally involved.

Here are some of the responses:



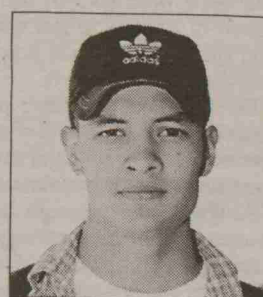
• "It doesn't bother me if they want to increase their visibility on campus with things like 'Coming Out Week.' I think it helps."

**Bryan Johnson**  
Communications



• "I don't know. That's a really hard question because I don't know what kind of experience they're having."

**Michal Tyree**  
Journalism



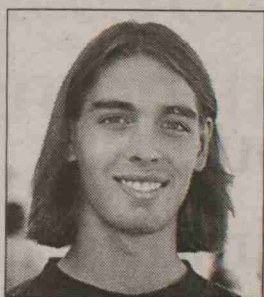
• "Apparently, it's not a very welcoming atmosphere because I, as well as many others, don't have a clue as to what the general attitude is."

**Steve Lewis**  
Sociology



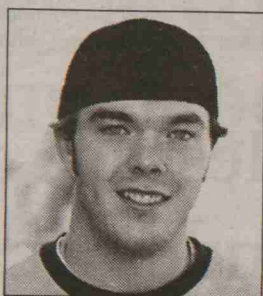
• "I'm comfortable with myself and with everybody else. Anything that supports people making their own choices I think is a good thing."

**Matt Mackenzie**  
International Business



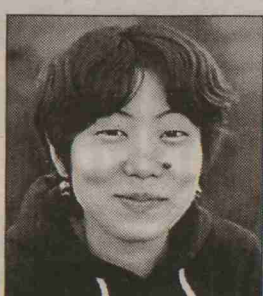
• "It's hard to say what the views of campus in general are. Creating a comfortable environment for homosexuals is a key part of our activism against violence on campus. I know there's a lot of ignorance and a lot of hatred towards homosexuals on campus. People like Gloria Anzaldua (who spoke at *Coming Out Week*) are a real inspiration to me. We've got to move from just being conscious of these problems to being active against them. Speakers like her really get people motivated."

**Casey High**  
Anthropology



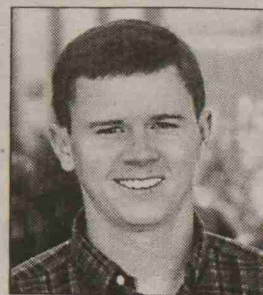
• "Compared to what I'm used to at home, I feel that there's a lot of support here. The hatred is still around, but there's also a lot of support."

**Scott Reed**  
Psychology/Business



• "I want to be supportive of lesbians, bisexuals and homosexuals because I think loving someone means being free."

**Naoko Taguchi**  
International Exchange Student



• "A lot of people are afraid to voice their opinions for fear of being alienated. When people say, 'gays are this, or lesbians are that,' it hurts me. People are supposed to become more openminded at a university. They should judge people for what they're worth and not their sexual orientation."

**Scott Lennon**  
Public Relations

**Telephone response:**

Our culture is so sexually repressed that I can't even imagine what it must be like to try and be different in your sexual orientation. Especially this campus is very conservative. There is nothing bad about different sexual orientations — they are completely natural — but being open about your sexuality is bound to get you persecuted.

**Kate Hubbard**  
Microbiology

Who cares? This issue is in *The Evergreen* way too much. There is too much GLBA propaganda in the paper.

**Andy Guyer**  
Broadcasting

• "As a heterosexual, I think, many homophobic ignorant statements and actions come out everyday and for the most part they go unchecked! You would think at an institution for higher learning people would want to educate themselves. But what often happens is they learn how to justify hate, homophobia, racism, and sexism. I would say the climate sucks."

**Raymond Herrera**  
Graduate Student

• "Probably as confusing as it is for anyone else."

**Kathie-Folee Galvin**  
Graduate Student

• "I can only imagine it's not very nice."

**Kendra Clark**  
Political Science

• It depends on where you are. If you go to the center, it is OK. It also depends whether you are out or not. I have not had experience.

**Jannette Bannister**  
Human Development

• It's fine as long as you are not out, if you are out but you don't push the issue or make too many waves, demand equal rights or demand to respect as a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered.

**Kristin Manum**  
Nutrition

• It's OK if you are among your friends. I know if a lot of gay people would come out our population would realize how many of the wonderful people who surround us are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered.

**Lisa Default**  
Nutrition

• "Kill a fag, rape a dyke," if this is in the Holland Library, you tell me how good of an atmosphere we have? Even if you are not personally beating up a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered person, but you are laughing at this kind of ignorant statement, you are just as much a part of the problem as the person throwing the punch.

**Kim Burden**  
Women Studies

**E-mail response:**

I can speak from experience as a transgendered student here. I came out last summer while working for WSU Public Safety, and this is the first semester I have been openly out on campus.

The atmosphere, from my perspective, is optimistic; however, a lot needs to be accomplished before I will feel safe in some places on campus.

I think faculty and staff here at WSU are beginning to see the importance of dealing with lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender issues, and in many ways progress is being made.

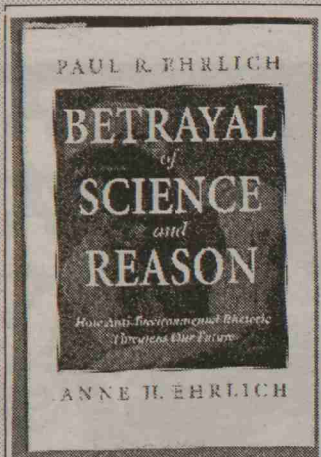
Coming out as transgendered at work has forced my supervisors to take some challenging issues seriously. My name change, restroom usage, the pronouns people use to refer to me, as well as many other related issues needed attention. Their willingness to deal with these issues directly and openly has led to satisfaction on both sides.

Politically, there is a strong fear of being accused of discrimination on campus. In many ways this fear has made it difficult because people are afraid to even ask questions. Reliable information about these issues is an important resource, and that fear is keeping people away from such information.

We have a long way to go, but forums like this are giving us a voice, and forcing people to recognize that we exist. The more we are heard, the better the atmosphere will become for us.

**Theresa Carow**  
Major not given

## Author Lecture



**BETRAYAL of SCIENCE and REASON**  
Paul R. Ehrlich  
Anne H. Ehrlich  
\$24.95

In this hard-hitting and timely book, Paul R. Ehrlich and Anne H. Ehrlich challenge those who downplay the reality and importance of global environmental problems with appealing but misleading rhetoric. Such efforts to undermine and misinterpret environmental data, labeled the "brownlash" by the Ehrlichs, prolong an already difficult search for solutions and are deeply disturbing to environmental scientists.

In *Betrayal of Science and Reason*, the Ehrlichs contrast anti-environmental rhetoric with the consensus view of the scientific community, tackling head-on such issues as population growth, desertification, food production, global warming, ozone depletion, acid rain, and biodiversity loss. They also offer a unique glimpse into how science works, and they discuss how scientists can speak out on matters of societal urgency yet retain the support of the scientific community.

Lane Family Lecture  
featuring  
**Paul Ehrlich**  
*Betrayal of Science and Reason*  
How Anti-Environmental Rhetoric Threatens Our Future

Thursday  
October 10, 1996  
7:00pm  
Todd Auditorium

Students Book Corporation