

ASWSU Senate takes on AIDS and camping issues

by Karen Cooley

Evergreen Staff

The ASWSU Senate got back to business during Wednesday night's meeting, chaired for the first time by Vice President LaVonne Pruitt. The senate discussed various student issues including the camping out policy and a local AIDS conference.

ASWSU president Todd Bowers said he wanted a camping out policy drawn up before the USC game September 30. Although Dad's Weekend has not been considered a problem in the past, Bowers said it was important to clarify the policy.

Last year the senate suggested a temporary camping out policy which is still enforced by campus police. The administration decided to enforce the suggestion of no more than five representatives from each living group camping out at football games, Bowers said.

Campus police do not have to enforce ASWSU suggestions.

"We only make suggestions that we hope will be used. We want to see student input, and if one suggestion isn't working we'd like to amend it. We don't think the five or six person rule is working," Bowers said.

The senate also discussed the possibility of supporting a local AIDS conference on campus.

President of the Gay and Lesbian Association, Abraham Valencia, requested the Senate's help in finding a location for an informational AIDS seminar aimed at the heterosexual community.

"Whitman County did a survey and found that 70 percent of WSU students are not aware of how the HIV virus is transmitted, and the danger that it poses to the WSU community," Valencia said.

Whitman County Health Department has contributed about \$2,000 to the program. Volunteers hoped to reserve the CUB ballroom, but have not been able to find a large enough room on campus.

Ku-Au-Mah lets Native American students keep in touch with culture

by Sherri Bowe

Evergreen Staff

The adjustment to college life is difficult for all students, especially if it involves moving from a reservation to a major university.

The Native American club, Ku-Au-Mah, was formed in the 1970s to provide Native American students with a way to meet others who share a similar culture.

"We want to make Native Americans feel comfortable and have people appreciate our culture," said Joyce McFarland, Ku-Au-Mah vice president.

"We think our culture is very special and can give something to the university," she said.

Ku-Au-Mah is a Nez Perce word that means cougar, she said.

Last year, there were 136 Native Americans at WSU, representing about 30 tribes, said Dona Thompson, the Native American student counselor.

Wilfred Halfmoon, Ku-Au-Mah president, said he wants to promote awareness of Native American issues.

"Right now, my primary goal is recruitment."

Retention of Native American students at WSU is low, Halfmoon said. Homesickness plays an important role in the small number of students who complete their college education.

"Home is home. A lot of our people, once off the reservation, eventually go back there," said Halfmoon, who plans on returning to his reservation after graduating from WSU to work with fellow tribe members.

One reason for homesickness is that most Native

Americans have strong family and cultural ties, but the club is a way for students to maintain their strong culture, said Halfmoon.

Halfmoon said being a Native American depends on how strong a person feels about his heritage.

"I am very proud of who I am," he said.

Younger Native American students are proud of who they are, yet they are still searching for direction, Halfmoon said.

Benefits for students involved with the club include gaining leadership skills and having a support system, McFarland said.

"The club does benefit students because we're such a minority on campus," Thompson said. "We're a minority within the minorities."

The club gets involved on campus in many ways, Halfmoon said. The 15 active participate in potlucks, intramural sports and an annual powwow.

Ku-Au-Mah organizes a powwow every year that is usually held during Mom's Weekend. Native Americans from various reservations in Washington and Idaho attend the inter-tribal social event.

A powwow is similar to a county fair with arts, crafts and native foods, Halfmoon said. In addition, a powwow features various Native American dances which allow the participants to show off their beadwork, he said.

"The powwow is a good time, good atmosphere with good feelings," Halfmoon said.

The powwow also serves as a recruiting tool. Prospective WSU students can see the campus.

When they realize WSU provides a good atmosphere for Native Americans, they may decide to come here, Halfmoon said.

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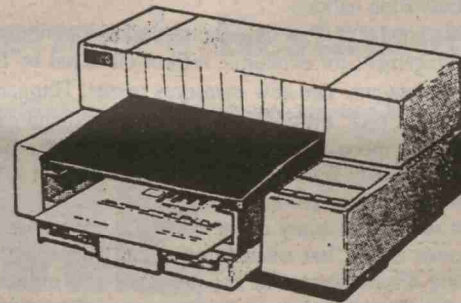
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