

Budgeting process

The long, agonizing process of ASWSU budget hearings has been going on for four weeks.

The Finance Committee, in charge of setting the new budget and presenting it to the new ASWSU Assembly for approval, has tentatively set the budgets for about a third of the committees. Anything it does, however, is subject to approval of the new Assembly.

The budget hearings process is an interesting display of ASWSU relations. Committee representatives often approach the Finance Committee with anxiety, and the Finance Committee members, depending on how their day has gone, either question every minor budget item or approve the entire thing with little inquiry.

This haphazardness, unfortunately, only amplifies the flaws and frailties of those involved. Tempers flare easily over insignificant happenings, personalities sometimes take precedence over issues, some Finance Committee members pass silent judgement on committee budgets—never questioning any request, and any inconsistencies in a budget presented to the Finance Committee usually spell instant slashing from amount requested to amount received.

So far, however, the Finance Committee has shown startling maturity in the handling of these budgetary matters. Most of the requests have been handled fairly, but when a committee requests four or five times the amount they eventually receive, feelings are hurt, enthusiasm is dampened and the stage is set for another summer of disassociation with ASWSU activities.

But some of the moves made by the Finance Committee even deserve applause. A recommendation of \$595 has been made to fund the Gay Awareness Committee (GAC), one of ASWSU's most active and controversial committees, despite its lack of funds. Finance Committee member Jay Matsen asked that the amount be immediately given to the Assembly to consider, so it will not be able to avoid the issue—the final outcome of a zero-dollar figure request.

The issue of funding the GAC needs to be addressed, discussed and decided upon in a fair manner, with little emotion or prejudice. Some interested students at the budget hearings last Friday suggested GAC be responsible for presenting "both sides" of the issue, i.e., homosexual and heterosexual. The suggestion is absurd.

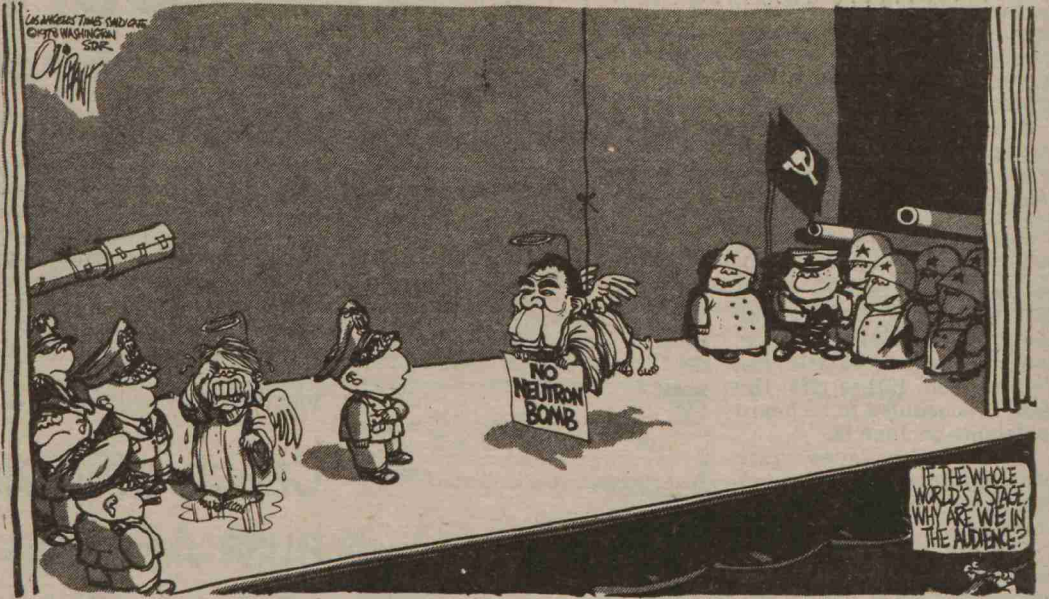
Other ASWSU committees are not forced to represent the other side. For example, the question Center does not tailor its programs to suit the needs of those who do not have questions, nor does the Films Committee alter its schedule to accommodate those who would rather watch television, listen to music, or partake of another medium.

There is a definite need to educate students on homosexuality, just as there is a need to educate people about subjects they are unfamiliar with. Misunderstanding breeds hatred and there is evidence of grave misunderstandings of gay persons on this campus.

This must stop. The total purpose of the GAC fits well within the defined goals of ASWSU organizations to serve the cultural, social and ethnic needs of the students.

The Finance Committee should be recommended for its stand on funding the Gay Awareness Committee. The committee does not make the final decision, the new assembly does. The new assembly is scheduled to approve the 1978-1979 budget May 15-19, and it can change anything the Finance Committee recommends. Whether the assembly does or not is tomorrow's news.

—B.R.S.



Your views

In 1945 when the Allied armies looked inside the concentration camps in Germany and saw the atrocities which had been committed by the Nazis and reported them, the entire world gasped in horror and writhed in conscience-stricken agony. In 1956 when Dorothy Counts was assigned to a previously all-white school in Charlotte, N.C., and was stoned and spat on, the entire nation was repulsed by the disgusting actions of a mob. When Kitty Genevese in 1967 cried out for help on a New York City street ("Help! Help! Oh my God, he's killing me!"), I, living in a different part of the city, also hung my head in shame with the rest of eight-and-a-half million New York City residents.

These examples demonstrate that there is such a thing as a universal conscience. It is because of this universal conscience and revulsion to the actions of a few that changes have taken place. However, Robin Thompson, Bill Ukropina, et al and Colleen Whitworth, in their responses to the complaint made by Loretta Bush, disclaim such a universal conscience although they acknowledge the incident to be unfortunate. Each person, in an hysterical attempt to reject the suggestion that all can be declared guilty because of the actions of one, invites the reader to pay no attention to the truth of what was said but only to the source of the remarks. Thus,

each letter resorted to emotive language which included threats, name-calling and an appeal to prejudice. Fortunately, truth stands resolute and the average WSU student can consider the reply to Ms. Bush's letter to be at worst an embarrassment and at best an adornment.

What each writer has neglected to point out and failed to realize is that each member of an organization such as a fraternity is an integral part of the whole structure. In a fraternity, the initiation rites, the fees, the inter-fraternal contact are predicted on this assumption; and when the initiate passes the ritual of inductio, he "pledges" himself to be one with his "brothers." The rest of the brothers in turn accept him as being one of them: of like discipline; of like conduct. Thus, the concept of one for all and all for one is common among the fraternal organizations, whether it be ATO, KGB, KKK or NSP. It would therefore be absurd to assume that the conduct of one member of a fraternity would be very much unlike the rest of the social unit. This statement can be easily verified by any woman willing to walk alone down "Greek row" on a very warm day. Then, too, if this member of the fraternity were not of like mind with the rest of the social unit, certainly his friends would have stopped him from further confrontation with Ms. Bush.

Perhaps Ms. Bush's impassioned indictment of all Greeks was based on a series of incidents which culminated in this one being the "last straw," and was thus constrained to write her letter. One only has to bite into a few hard, green apples to conclude that all hard, green apples are sour. But what is disturbing is the response and contention of a few who see the letter as a threat to the self-interest of a group. If such a contention were valid, then it would also suggest that Hitler—and only Hitler—was guilty and that the rest of the Nazis who manned the gas chambers at Auschwitz and Buchenwald should go free because they were only following orders. Wouldn't the Nuremberg trials then become a travesty of justice?

I submit that the argument which questions whether Ms. Bush is "fair" or "mature" (her letter does suggest a greater intellect and maturity than the replies) is irrelevant since the force of an argument does not lie in the nature of the source which advances it but on the issues which are being presented. Ms. Bush demonstrated a reasonableness of mind and a sense of balance and perspective. She was able to distinguish between evidence and emotional appeal—a distinction difficult to draw after being spat on.

Chester H. Mills

DOONESBURY



by Garry Trudeau

Daily Evergreen Staff

Published by the ASWSU Student Publications Board for the students of Washington State University each Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, except during the scheduled vacation and examination weeks of the regular university year. Ray Drujan, chairman and W.D. Calvert, secretary and general manager.

Office: Room 113 Murrow Communications Center, P.O. Box 2008, CS, WSU, Pullman, Washington 99163. Printed by the Pullman Herald. Second class postage at Pullman, Washington. Mail Subscriptions \$15.00 per year or \$8.00 per semester.

Advertising material presented herein does not necessarily imply endorsement by this paper.

EDITOR/
Stephen Woodruff
BUSINESS MANAGER/
Robin Goodrich
MANAGING EDITOR/
Marion Woyvodich
ASST TO MANAGING EDITOR/
Lenel Williams
ASSOCIATE EDITOR/
Larry Ganders

EDITORIAL ASST/
Dee A. Eaton
NEWS EDITOR/
Dan Mills
SENIOR COPY EDITOR/
Jeff Burnside

ASST NEWS EDITOR/
Cindy Evans
NIGHT NEWS EDITOR/
Donna Tarver
SPORTS EDITOR/
Dale Goodwin
ASST SPORTS EDITOR/
Steve Weber

SENIOR STAFF WRITERS/
Scott Waller
Jim Angell
Brent Siewert
STAFF WRITERS/
Georgia Lomax

Tim Jess
Megan Skinner
Jay Dexter
Carrie Parks
Tim Connor
SPORTS WRITERS/
Monte Kielling
Steve Powell

STAFF REPORTERS/
Brian Lind
Ray Krontz
Colleen Reese
Mike Dziak
Bob Ward
Linda Harber

Kim Hargrave
Susan Upington
Anna Murguia
Kevin Patterson
Marsha Hager
Jill Newhouse
Claudia Gerow
Greg Johns

ARTISTS/
Kris Miskimens
Mary Ellen Wagner
Dan Fisher
Jerry O'Day