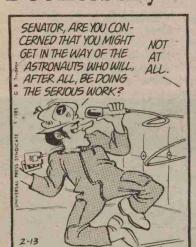
Daily Evergreen Wednesday, February 13, 1985

Opinion and Comment

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU









Old but not good values

In Monday's Evergreen (211) Janell Beman identified herself as being a member of an organization which... "would like to see people go back to those values which made our country great." YES! Somehow we have forgotten those old values and we desperately need to return to them if we are to once again be great. Congratulations Miss Beman -you're on the right track! Let's pull ourselves up by our bootstraps, stay the course, and get back to when America was great. We need to restore those values if we are to once again find that great American ideal. I, for one, would like to help Miss Beman in her efforts at restoring those old values and am providing her a list of

a few of them. Keep up the good work Miss Beman! Women and children should be seen and not heard. Higher education is proper for men only. Women cannot seek legal advice from an attorney.

Wife and child beating is not "assault" as it is defined in our law. Educating a woman only detracts from natural feminine charm. Community policy formation is not proper activity for a lady. Rape in marriage does not constitute a crime. A woman's place is in the home.

Need I go on, Miss Beman?

Robert Narby

Right to differ needs support

Although committee status and funding are the issues upon which the Gay Alliance debate is focused, the central dispute is much broader and deeper. Funding and committee status are the lightening rods; the lightening is produced by more elemental forces and contradictions, which collide as massive fronts of warm and cold air.

ONE SET OF OPPOSING FORCES has deep sources in American history. It is the apparent contradiction that challenges all democracies and that ultimately determines their strength: the conflict between majority rule and minority rights. Where do the rights of the majority end and those of the minority begin? What degree of dissent is beneficial, what degree of deviance permissible?

Opponents of a Gay Alliance committee apparently feel that the majority holds unlimited rights over the minority. Maybe they think our society is already so wise that there is no intellectual room at the American inn. Or perhaps they are ignorant and wish to

ANOTHER COLLISION occurs between those who fervently believe they possess the ultimate, absolute knowledge of good and evil and those who feel that no group has a monopoly on truth. It is the duel betwen dogmatism and flexibility.

As William Barrett, the literary philosopher, wrote, "Intellectualfanaticism consists in taking an idea or set of ideas as absolute; then imposing them without any sense of limits, boudaries, qualifications, upon all the irregular and complex

contingencies of our ordinary world." Those who wish to impose their own moral standards on the private lives of other individuals are guilty of the worst kind of intellectual fanaticism.

Such unthinking dogmatism, as the Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges illustrates in lucid essays, is the end of all creativity. Unless confronted imaginatively, it leads to the stagnation of society. Rigid dogmatism is the wicked mother of man's violence against

Some dogmatists have contended that the GPA does not merit ASWSU committee status or funding because it is a minority by choice. The devastating implication of this view is that there is no legitimate minority except that produced by genetic variances; any individual or group that chooses to think differently than the majority is automatically illegtimate and dangerous. Such reasoning is directly contrary to the tenets of democracy.

RESPECT FOR MINORITIES, diversity, dissent, difference, variation, even deviance: that is the fundamental traditional value of American politics and life. The First Amendment, the solid core of our Constitution, protects the right to differ.

A democracy tolerant of non-conformity is healthy; one that actively supports the rights of individuals and groups to promote differences insures its continued well-being.

But a democratic society that denies by any means the essential right to differ and to express that difference is deathly ill.

Wm. Smith Greig

Students' conformity rejected

Well, seeing as 'tis (once more) the season to pick an issue and dwell on it: let's talk. GPA. Otherwise known as the Gay People's Alliance. This group is currently attempting to be recognized as an organized group on this campus and is encountering the usual rash of unsubstantiated claims against them. Which is understandable. They are abnormal, immoral and are corrupting the minds of

I, for one, would not care to see this group recognized. If for no other reason, simply because they are different. I feel that only white, middle class, straight, Christian, tax accounting majors should be eligible for any sort of financial support from ASWSU. (And I know that I can count on close to 100 percent support from the student body on this.) Furthermore, it would be a deviation from

the norm (a completely unprecedented act for the students of WSU) to support anything as immoral as being gay

And, last of all, I would just like to take this time to thank God that we are all exactly the same. It saves us the trouble of ever having to deal with anything new and hard to understand. Can you imagine how hard it would be to open our minds to anything different?

Terri Worboys

Students for America clarify position

Yesterday I was once again disappointed to see the Daily Evergreen's poor use of misquotations. I would like to make clear the position that Students for America is taking on this issue, and attempt to rejumble "my" quotations to make some sort of sense! First of all, SFA does not support committee recognition or funding of GPA for the mere reason that they are a minority by

Committee recognition and funding for GPA are only the first steps of a much wider scale movement. On the national level, groups have organized who are pushing for an equal rights amendment for homosexuals, which, if were to pass, would permit homosexuals to marry, adopt children, etc... I believe we are at the grassroots level of a much more complicated problem and the issue should be stopped before it gets ahead of us.

To clearly correct some misquotations printed earlier, I do not feel homosexuals have a disease, and the only comparison I can make between an alcoholic and a homosexual is that both choose their lifestyles and both can change their habits. It's a matter of preference and free will which I, personally, do not want to pay my money to educate people to accept.

There have been numerous occasions when homosexuals have changed their lifestyles and gone "straight." This in itself, proves to me that it is a lifestyle one chooses to live in. "It's a lie" that people think they are born as

Please get your quotes straight, Mr. Hudon!

Janell Beman

Phobias

Dear Editor:

I noticed that E. S. Paul compared alcoholics with homosexuals, but did not compare Alcoholics Anonymous with the Gay People's Alliance, a perfectly legitimate comparison. Does this student support AA? If so, the lack of support for GPA is hypocritical, and stems from an irrational

Homosexuality is an individual's concern, I agree; but so are phobias, student Paul, and I suggest you keep yours out of the newspapers.

L. M. Birden

by Berke Breathed

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