

Opinion and Comment

Gay alliance merits funding

The recent question over ASWSU funding for the Gay People's Alliance (GPA) has created much controversy. Should the ASWSU use student money to support a group composed of individuals who many students consider to be deviant? Wouldn't such financial support imply ASWSU approval of the gay lifestyle? And why, some have argued, should the ASWSU Senate allocate funds to the GPA if a student referendum would almost certainly defeat any such proposal? Why shouldn't the GPA support itself?

Homosexuality, a subject formerly taboo in genteel society, has in the last decade become a topic for heated public debate. Homosexuals no longer accept the medieval notion that their sexual preference is something shameful, and they are beginning to exercise a significant political power. For these reasons alone, whether one considers homosexuality a crime against nature or simply an alternative lifestyle, it is important for students to be aware of homosexuality.

Students come here from high school stained with multitudes of intellectually crippling prejudices — against different skin colors, foreign accents, different religious beliefs, and divergent modes of thought. Like the others, the prejudice against homosexuality — one of the strongest — arises from a mixture of fear and ignorance.

The courses and student groups that combat

ignorance and intolerance should be commended. The Gay People's Alliance, by voluntarily lecturing to psychology classes and answering students' questions, does much to increase the understanding of homosexuality and eradicate the slanderous myths surrounding it.

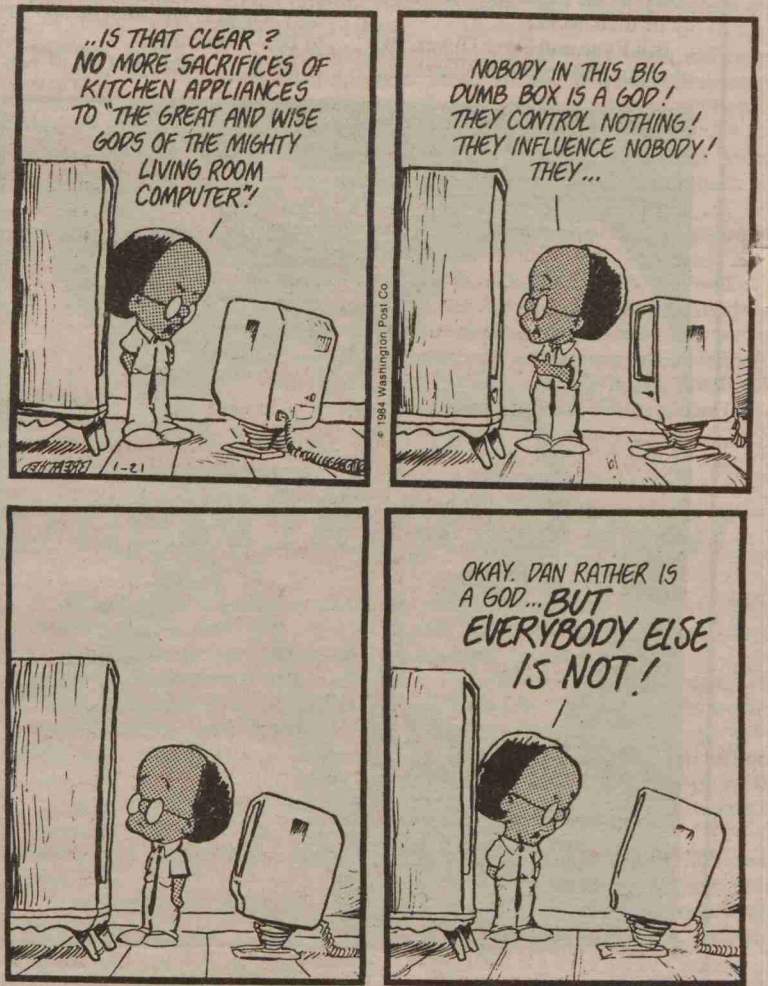
In addition to its educational role, the Gay People's Alliance provides valuable counseling to students coming to grips with their own homosexuality. The GPA's support and discussion groups are valuable psychological aids to homosexual students.

Funding the GPA with ASWSU money would in no way imply approval of homosexuality. However, it would indicate that the ASWSU Senate is willing to take a political risk in order to further the education of the student body. That the ASWSU Senate is the legislative representative of the students is true, but this does not require it to translate popular prejudice into discriminatory practice. Those Senators who have more on their minds than the coming elections should reflect on their higher responsibility.

If GPA is asked to support itself, then the standard of self-support should be applied to all student groups, from Intramurals to the Homecoming Committee, from Black Awareness to MEChA to the Political Union. Although their membership is limited, these groups provide important, mind-expanding services for the campus, as does the GPA. **Wm. Smith Greig**

BLOOM COUNTY

by Berke Breathed



Ashamed to be American

Dear Editor:

Humanity does not have to be under the ideas and beliefs of Nazism to be great low. It can happen even to the nicest people, even in what used to be a great country.

I used to be proud to be an American, but my pride has turned into shame before God. In Philip Virtue's letter, he describes the cruelty of the Nazis to prisoners in concentration camps. We are no different. What kind of people dismember babies in the womb? Nazis starved prisoners to death; do you know about the babies that we Americans starve to death in hospital beds because they are retarded? Trained doctors and nurses literally watch them die.

The Nazi doctors conducted cruel experiments on live prisoners; did you know that there are some in this country trying to pass bills that turn live aborted babies over to doctors for "experiments"? We have turned our hospitals into concentration camps!

Their blood is on us; we are to blame. We voluntarily pay for these things in Washington state. We don't need a Hitler or a Nazi party to bring us to this — we just doubletalk our consciences. If you really want your eyes opened, read a pamphlet by Melody Green called "Children... Things we throw away?" There is a picture of a fully developed baby in a garbage can — if this doesn't tear you up inside, you are colder than any Nazi criminal.

Richard Backes

Bartlett should get in step

Dear Editor:

I disagree with ASWSU Senator Bartlett's position regarding funding for the GPA. The Evergreen reported that Bartlett is in favor of funding the GPA, but that Bartlett admits that the funding would be "shot down in flames" if left to a student referendum.

It seems that Mr. Bartlett is in danger of ignoring the constituents he is supposed to represent — the student body.

Mr. Bartlett would do well to get in step with the student body and oppose funding the GPA.

Max F. Dysh

Crisis Line ought to be cautious about Open Door

Dear Editor:

There are literally dozens of potential referrals a Crisis Line worker might make for callers who request help in dealing with problem pregnancy, including private practicing physicians and psychologists, ministers, professors, and a variety of agencies.

The appropriate referral depends on a careful analysis of the problem presented by the caller. This practice of narrowing down possible referrals is the one used by virtually all professionals and agencies in Whitman County.

Thus, it is not appropriate for Open Door to ask to be included in all

referral lists given to clients of the Crisis Line.

There are additional reasons why Crisis Line staff should be cautious about referring to Open Door. If a caller states that she desires Christian Counseling of a counselor that would help her after she has made the decision to keep her child then a referral to Open Door would be appropriate. However, if a woman is struggling with the decision to have an abortion or not have an abortion, then it would not be appropriate to refer her to an agency that has an avowed anti-abortion policy. Also, it would be inappropriate to refer an unmarried woman who desires birth control information to an agency that considers pre-marital sex sinful.

Bruce Palmer

Anti-abortion, not pro-life

Dear Editor:

I witnessed the tripe emanating from the West entrance of the CUB. I'm referring to the pro-life movement's film depicting an actual abortion. As I saw this film, I could tell several of those watching were repulsed by what was graphically depicted.

This film managed to nauseate me, much like many of the R-rated films I've had the misfortune to watch.

One amazing inconsistency surrounds the majority of those supporting the pro-life movement, however. As I understand it, the pro-life movement holds life to be sacred. This is an appropriate belief. However, I do not see these same people denouncing the legalized executions of those convicted of horrendous crimes (against humanity?). Why is this? Are they too blinded by the spectre of "innocent babies" being aborted to be aware of the government sponsored executions?

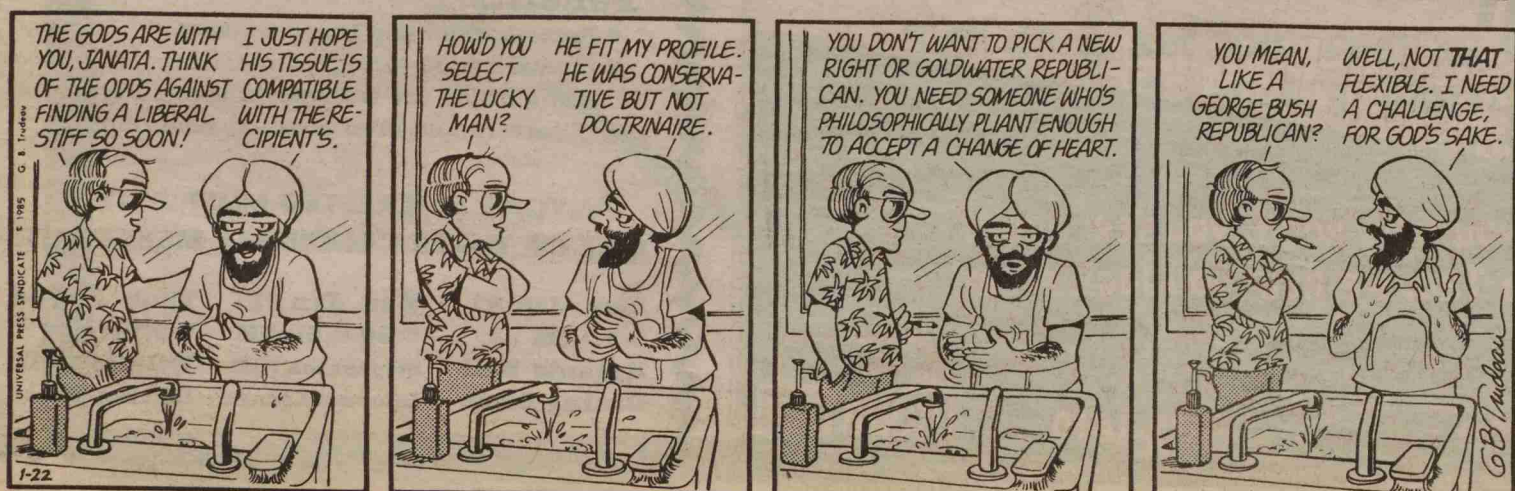
Personally, I favor abortions only under certain circumstances, such as: 1) rape; 2) incest; 3) when the mother's life is in danger.

I'd strongly suggest to the pro-life movement that they remember what their group's name says: PRO-LIFE. Killing is killing, and murder is murder. Both mean the same thing: deprivation of life.

I suggest that pro-lifers reflect on what they stand for. I, personally, strongly object to abortion clinic bombings. There is absolutely no reason for terrorism, either left-wing or right-wing. Pardon my pun, but the issue could "blow up" in pro-lifers' faces if these bombings are not condemned and stopped. I look forward to any and all responses.

Mark Neumann

Doonesbury



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