

Gay funding

'Personal Awareness,' personal attacks, kumquats

To the editor:

I would like to make this an open letter to anyone affiliated with WSU or ASWSU in anyway. I feel that the funding of Gay Awareness was the worst thing that could have happened to this campus. This gives a free invitation for any group of individuals that think they are different to demand funding from ASWSU. I felt that Gay Awareness should not have been funded, because I do not feel that they can be truly classified as a minority group. How can a person be called a minority just because their personal preferences are different? If you want to get technical, then people who like or dislike kumquats could justifiably ask for funding from ASWSU to educate the masses about the nutritional advantages and/or disadvantages of kumquats!!! I feel that Gay Awareness was getting its point across by all the free publicity they received in the Evergreen for the biggest part of the school year.

Another point I would like to make is that for most of the year, my friends and I have stood by and watched the Gay's fight for their funding. Now, we would like to be heard. If Gay Awareness receives \$460 from ASWSU for educating what I already consider fairly intelligent and well informed college students. Then I feel that it is only fair that ASWSU provides free day care services for single people with dependent children who are trying to put themselves through school. I am divorced and have a little boy, many of my friends are divorced, widowed or unwed. I feel that we are in great need of our education and yet our financial costs surmount anyone else's because of the costs incurred by having to employ a full-time sitter. For those of us that qualify for financial aid, through the EEP Program we are classified as a minority. We are considered a minority, in the sense that, under normal circumstances we would not be able to afford the expenses of attending an institution for furthering our education.

So, hear this!! I feel that besides my minority, the whole student body of WSU has been taken. I'm not really asking for funds for my minority, but I think ASWSU could have found a better way to spend \$460. I just wanted to make the point that anyone can demand funding now that ASWSU has given in to the whims of Gay Awareness. I can see no reason for them insisting upon special treatment merely because their sexual preferences differ from the so-called "norm." Personally, I feel that it's not that big of a deal, and I think that they have shown a certain lack of discretion by advertising things that I consider very personal and private. I'm

sure not going to write letters to the Evergreen to keep the student body informed of my social and sexual activities.

Karleen M. Ortiz

This letter was supported and encouraged by:

cosigned by 3 others

To the editor:

I am not a student at WSU so the issue of funding Gay Awareness does not directly affect me. However, I do live and work in Pullman.

Within the past few weeks I have been shocked and sickened by the prevailing attitude on campus toward homosexuals. For example, several days ago I was sitting in a public restaurant with a friend of mine. He was approached by a group of males who picked up his glass of water, poured it on him and cursed him for no reason except he was sitting there and he is gay.

Another friend of mine was merely walking to class when he was attacked by a group who threw water balloons at him and shouted obscenities—mocking him because he is gay. (Refer to previous letter written by Dennis Moore.)

There are many examples—debris and obscenities thrown at gay people from passing cars, obscene gestures and derogatory names from passing students, etc.

One incident was directed at me, although I am not gay. I was walking home along Greek Row, when I was passed by two sorority coeds who assumed I was gay because of my attire. They linked arms and loudly invited me to a "lesbian party" at their sorority house. I did not feel it worth my time and energy to explain to these people that my job requires that I dress in a less than "feminine" manner.

I have seen some of the more unprintable letters received by the Evergreen and read most of those printed and I cannot believe they were written by intelligent, thinking people.

All of the gay people I have ever been acquainted with are gentle, intelligent men and women who have done nothing to warrant such attacks. Yet, if the perpetrators of the acts were ever to be attacked by a gay person I'm sure the campus police would never hear the end of it. Do these people really find it necessary to resort to such vicious, childish actions to show their ignorance???

Gay Awareness has spent much time, money and energy to educate students on the alternative, homosexual lifestyle by lecturing in classes and bringing in speakers and films. All of these activities are geared toward in-

forming students that gays are not "mindless perverts" waiting to rape or otherwise force people into their lifestyle.

Any funds going to Gay Awareness are not being used to purchase "cases of vasoline" (as one woman suggested) or for gay social functions. That is as ridiculous as suggesting that the money the Greeks raise goes for beer and condoms.

I, myself, am not gay but I cannot be silent and watch my friends be persecuted for merely following their constitutional rights . . . Let it be known that the students of WSU who are exhibiting this type of mindless, vicious, ignorant behavior should be pitied (for their ignorance) should not be ridiculed (why fight ignorance with ignorance?). At the worst, they might absorb some gentleness and tolerance from the very people they need to persecute.

Terri Martin Kreckel

To the editor:

Now knowing that the majority of the ASWSU assembly will legislate the allocation of funds for just about any minority, I

have decided to declare myself a minority. And I hereby request \$460.

This isn't much money so only the bare essentials will be purchased. Part of the money will go to the installation of a telephone in my car. The phone will be used to answer any questions that people might have about my group, Personal Awareness. I as-

sure the ASWSU that the phone will not be used for any unethical activity whatsoever! The rest of the money will go to supplement my trip to Europe this summer. Through this experience I hope to become more culturally and personally aware of the world around me. My only wish is that the ASWSU would do the same.

James A. Walter Jr.

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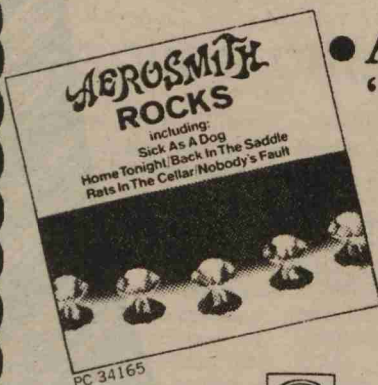
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