

University presidents discuss local economy

By Matthew Smylie
The Daily Evergreen

The presidents of WSU and the University of Idaho presented their visions of how the two universities influence the local economy at a summit at Pullman City Hall on Monday night.

At the event, titled "The Role of Universities in Economic Development," WSU President Samuel Smith and UI President Robert Hooyer discussed the current effect the schools have on the Palouse, and how their involvement might change in the future.

The summit, the third since Dec. 1996, was presented by The Palouse Economic Forum, a group of 20 local organizations that was formed to promote the economic vitality of the Palouse.

Smith focused on the WSU commitment to the local and state economy, ensuring the quality of life on the Palouse and cooperating with other organizations

to achieve economic goals.

Citing the amount of "brain power" in the two universities, Smith said such knowledge is essential in assisting the local economy. One example he used was that of Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, which was created as a result of WSU alumnus Ed Schweitzer's Ph.D. project to develop a digital relay. Since the company's incorporation in 1982, Smith said it has grown to employ 334 employees by the end of last year.

In addition to the local economic impact, the company has created a powerful national and international impact, Smith said.

"We're looking for more Ed Schweitzers," he said.

Smith also referred to the WSU Research and Technology Park, which houses tenants such as the WSU Wood Materials and Engineering Laboratory and the Social and Economic Sciences Research Center. With more than 67,000

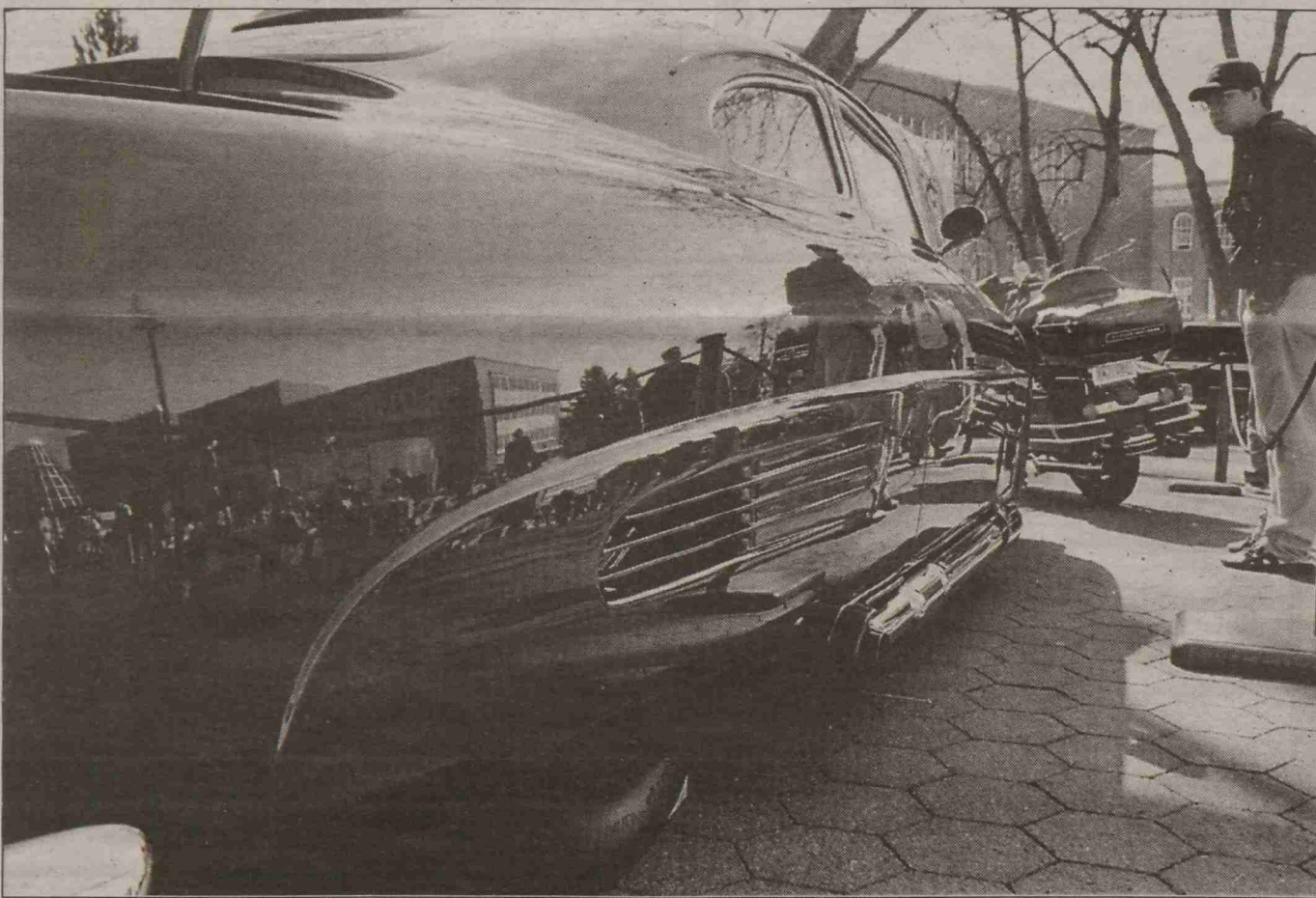
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THE DAILY EVERGREEN/KEVIN GERMAN

President Sam Smith explains the WSU economic impact on the Palouse on Monday.

A hunky Hudson



THE DAILY EVERGREEN/CHUCK ALLEN

Chia-Yuan, Chang, a junior majoring in business, eyes a '48 Hudson exhibited Monday on Glenn Terrell Mall.

'March Madness' celebrates gay life

By Hannah Bringham
The Daily Evergreen

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Allies Program is sponsoring "March Madness," a week of activities celebrating student life on campus.

"The purpose of this week is to educate people about GLBA and gay life in general in a fun way," said Jason Sloan, assistant director of the program.

"We want to encourage all students to participate in the activities whether gay, lesbian or straight," Sloan said.

The event-filled week began Monday night with a stand-up comedy show titled "Gay Comedy for the Whole Family," by actor/comedian Jason Stuart.

The weekly meeting for the program is open to all students Tuesday night at 5:10 p.m. in CUB B-17. The meeting will be an informational session for students to learn about and meet program members.

Students can attend an interactive symposium Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. in the CUB Ballroom. The Spokane AIDS Network and Friend to Friend program will lead a discussion on safe sex. Representatives from the GLBA, University of Idaho Queer Student Association and the Stonewall Health Project, a community program supporting gays and lesbians, will hold a discussion on

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Forum luncheon will honor 'WSU Women of Distinction' Thursday

By Denise Holley
The Daily Evergreen

Four local women will step up to the podium to be designated "Women of Distinction" on Thursday at the WSU Women and Leadership Forum Luncheon in the CUB Ballroom.

Sister Kathleen Ross, president of Heritage College in Toppenish, Wash., will speak on the topic "Half the Population and Half the Leadership Responsibility" at 8:15 a.m. as the event gets under way.

"We've got a full house," said Kathy Zeches, interim director of the Women's Resource Center.

About 350 people registered for the forum, Zeches said, and the luncheon is sold out. Following the day-long event, the folk-rock group "The Righteous Mothers" will perform at 3 p.m. in the CUB Ballroom. The free concert is open to the public, but seating is limited.

The Woman of the Year Award will be announced at the luncheon. The 1999 Women of Distinction award winners are:

- Doctoral student Sara Ewert, who teaches women's, environmental and U.S. history at

WSU and chaired the history department at the College of Eastern Utah. Last summer, she pedaled across the country with her husband to raise funds for the American Lung Association.

- Ruth Pettenger Emerson, who wrote a grant to establish the Southeast Washington Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Clinic and helped found the Parent Resource Center at Neill Public Library. Described in her nomination as a healer, Emerson graduated from WSU last year with a bachelor's degree in genetics and cell biology.

- Associate Professor Sandra Cooper, who communicates her enthusiasm for math by

hosting WSU Math Day for high school students from across Washington and Idaho. A co-author of a calculus textbook, Cooper encourages women to pursue science and engineering through a WSU course she co-founded called "Women, Science and Culture."

- After raising five children and being widowed at 47, Althea Spencer took in foster children and opened her home to women fleeing domestic violence.

A retired city administrator and WSU employee, Spencer shares her business expertise with churches and people who need help with taxes.

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