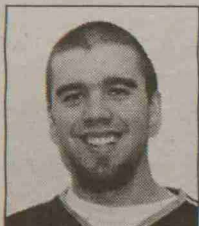


# OPINIONS

## Clinton money matters seedy



**TRAVIS SHIELDS**  
Columnist

Those dam Democrats are at it again.

Somehow the White House, under the leadership of Bill Clinton, has gotten itself into a little bit of trouble — about \$46 million worth of trouble.

Clinton has yet to do anything truly pivotal since being reelected as president.

He has, however, spent a considerable amount of time sitting in the hot seat. And rightly so.

One of the first things Clinton did after winning the election was contribute to the deficit by wasting a whopping \$43 million.

What, you might ask, was so important that Clinton deemed it necessary to spend such a large amount of money?

The answer is a big \$43 million party. Otherwise known as the inauguration. And for what? To be known as the president who threw the best party in history? Or was he really that happy he beat Bob Dole?

As a Republican, Dole most likely would not have wasted that much money on a party. He doesn't seem to be the party type anyway.

If Dole had won, he probably would have just wanted to take a nap, thereby saving our country millions of dollars.

And where did Clinton, the same man who claims he will balance the budget, get \$43 million worth of party money from anyway?

Recent headlines might lead you to believe it came from illegal contributions.

The Democratic National Committee (DNC) has returned almost \$3 million in contributions since inquiries were made about money given by three major Asian-American donors last year.

The contributions were returned for a number of reasons, including

"lack of information about the donors to determine if the contributions were legal."

Come on. The government has ways of getting information on anybody they want to. They know if a contributor is on the up-and-up or not.

It's obvious the Democrats just needed some party money. They didn't care where it came from as long as they got it.

Now that Clinton has been safely reelected, they can conveniently return the extra money, claiming they are now unsure of "legal issues."

This leads to the question of how the Democrats go about soliciting such contributions.

Last week Congress came upon an unsigned memo written by someone inside the DNC that reveals a list of 10 perks used to sway potential contributors. Recommended incentives listed in the memo include:

1. Two seats on Air Force One and two trips.
2. Six seats at private dinners.
3. Six to eight spots at all White House events.
4. Official delegation trips abroad.
5. Better coordination on appointments to boards and commissions.
6. White House mess privileges.
7. White House residence visits and overnight stays.
8. Guaranteed Kennedy Center tickets.
9. Six radio address spots.
10. Photo opportunities.

Is the White House turning into some kind of patriotic Home Shopping Channel? I can see it: "Hi, I'm Al Gore, and I've got a deal you can't refuse. For a contribution of only \$500,000 dollars, you and a friend can be the proud passengers on the president's own airplane. Call now, seats are limited."

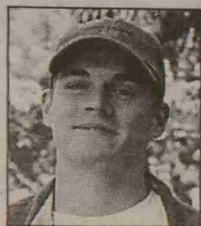
Hopefully the country will never have to experience this. (Who wants to watch Gore any more than necessary?)

Needless to say, with the Democrats in the White House, we are going to have another fun four years. But look at the side up: Clinton can throw one heck of a party.

*Travis Shields will return your call if you leave a message at 335-1140.*



## Taking interest creates diversity



**STEVE WYMER**  
Columnist

Diversity, and a need for more of it, is mentioned at WSU and all over America each day. However, what isn't discussed is what diversity means and why we need more of it.

It is sad to hear this term used so flippantly because the need for diversity, especially at WSU, is so great, yet we are so far from having a unified and diverse campus.

Students at this campus have this stupid hate for each other. They write hateful letters about each other, condemn each other based on looks and affiliations, and refuse to take part in any activities that are not their own.

It is OK to disagree or voice your opinion about the way you feel, but why the hate?

It comes from having no respect for a person's beliefs, and that is a direct result of people simply not knowing each other or blocking out others before they have a chance to see them for who they really are.

Getting more African American, Chinese, Indian or any other ethnic group of people to become students at WSU will not solve our problems concerning a lack of diversity.

We don't need a precise number or percentage of minority students to be diverse because race is only a small portion of diversity.

Diversity is taking the students who are here now and making opportunities for them to not only get to know each other, but begin to learn about other cultures, interests, and people.

If WSU students could actually have a diversely uni-

fied campus, not only would we all have a better college experience, we would produce a much better environment for students of all races, countries and origins.

True diversity would be a function involving a Greek house with the GLBA. True diversity would be saying hello with a smile to someone with whom you disagree on every count.

In the middle of a great campaign for an ASWSU President, we have heard a great deal about the need for more diversity, but what is the definition?

Is there a specific number of people from certain ethnic origins that need to be enrolled at WSU to fulfill the diversity requirement? Would that number make everything all right?

I think the solution lies simply in us taking a valid interest in each other. Go visit a Greek house for yourself so you can meet some of the people who live there. Go to events like the Chinese New Year celebration and take part in activities that allow you to be a part of others' lives.

I wonder what would happen on campus if every student here would take the time to talk to someone outside of their comforting sphere of friends or go to an event sponsored by a group they disagree with.

My prediction is we, as a campus, would be getting a good start on making WSU a truly diverse place to be.

Will people with almost directly opposite lifestyles ever be best friends? No, probably not, but if all the people who claim to strive for a more diverse campus concentrate their efforts on the students who are here, ripping each other apart, we could get somewhere in the pursuit of diversity.

*Steve Wymer will return your call if you leave a message at 335-1140.*



**ISABEL ALLENDE**

## LATINA WOMEN IN HISTORY

Isabel Allende is a writer and journalist. Allende's works are known for their underlying feminism and her sensitive depiction of both Latina and American culture. Her books have consistently been bestsellers with English- and Spanish-speaking readers, both in the United States and abroad, making her the first internationally acclaimed Latina writer.

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BY GARRY TRUDEAU

