

# Evergreen forum provides chance to voice opinions



**TRACY CUTCHLOW**  
Editor in chief

It's time to talk about the ping-pong match being played in the opinions section over the Greek system.

The best place to discuss this — and any other issue regarding The Daily Evergreen — is at our forum Friday at noon in CUB 123. All section editors, the managing editor, the advertising managers and I will be there to listen to your comments

and concerns. I hope you will be there to share them with us.

I would like to preface the forum with some background information about newspaper opinions sections.

The claim that the Greek system is unfairly represented is a prime opportunity to do so.

The opinions section is aptly named because it represents people's opinions. The letters to the editor do not necessarily represent the views of The Evergreen, nor do the columns. They represent the views of the author.

When it comes to letters to the editor, that author is you. When it comes to columns, that author is a student who takes the time to consistently write for the newspaper.

We do not censor these ideas.

The opinions section is a forum for you to express

your views. Thus, we edit only for libel, obscenity, clarity and space — not for ideas. That is why the section may appear biased toward one group or another. It just depends on what motivates how many of you to write.

A society can only be furthered by the discussion of ideas, and that is what a newspaper opinions section tries to do.

Most every group has positive and negative aspects, and no one likes it when the latter is in the spotlight. All people have the right to voice their opinion about either side, however, and it behooves us as a community to respect that.

The opinions section is your voice on campus. Without it, we all suffer — no other means of communication on campus is as widespread.

We would not take that from you. We want to enhance it, and we want to hear your ideas for doing so. Of course, the opinions section is not the only part of the newspaper deserving of your attention.

If you cannot attend the forum, please get in touch with us by visiting, calling, writing or e-mailing. This information is in the staff box every day on page 2.

If you can attend, please bring any question, comment or concern about any aspect of The Daily Evergreen. We really would appreciate your input.

*Tracy Cutchlow will return your call if you leave a message at 335-2488.*

# Comparing GLBA and Greek system like apples and oranges

Editor:

I am writing in response to the column by Steve Wymer titled "Greeks: Just a matter of choice." I have a problem with a point Mr. Wymer brought up and the motives behind it. The point I'm referring to is the issue of the GLBA receiving funds to bring in a speaker to campus. If I remember correctly, ASWSU funds are to be used for the benefit of the entire WSU student body.

With that in mind, when ASWSU grants thousands of dollars to the GLBA it is so the organization can bring in a speaker to benefit the entire WSU student body. Not everyone at WSU is going to want see the speaker, and most will not, but they have the option.

Apparently the Greek system also asked the ASWSU for funds (for its leadership retreat) and, after much deliberation by the Senate, was granted a few hundred dollars. The funds for the Greek system are different than those for GLBA. The Greek system, by its nature, is discriminatory: Only a select few can join and take part in the activities it provides.

I'm not making a judgment call; the Greek system provides a service and has its place on campus. However, its activities are not open to all WSU students. Understanding that, I commend ASWSU for not instantly granting thousands of dollars to the Greek sys-

tem.

I realize this was a small blip in Mr. Wymer's column, however I found it interesting that he used the GLBA as an example to help prove his point.

Personally, I think it was a cheap shot. He was obviously playing on people's homophobia to make his point more valid.

By pointing out the GLBA gets thousands of dollars for a speaker while the Greek system — a largely heterosexual organization — gets only a few hundred, he is trying to persuade through ignorance.

Comparing the GLBA and the Greek system is like comparing apples and oranges. He might as well have mentioned Coffee House, KZUU, or Veterans' Affairs, but that wouldn't have had as much impact as the GLBA, now would it?

The GLBA is a committee under the umbrella of ASWSU. That being the case, it is entitled to be given funds so that it may provide activities for all students. If it didn't, it wouldn't be doing its job.

The Greek system, although it may believe the contrary, cannot theoretically benefit the entire student body and therefore should be happy that ASWSU gave them any funds at all.

It is true we make choices — choices about which major to pursue, which school to attend and whether or not to be in the Greek system. We also choose to learn and choose to take part in things. Therefore, I make a suggestion to those who were upset about the Greek system getting less money than the GLBA: Go see that speaker for whom your money has paid.

See if you learn anything — after all, that is what you are in college to do — and then decide whether the GLBA should have brought the speaker or not.

You may be surprised.

Aaron Starr

# Drops: Students sometimes forced to drop

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another few hundred bucks could lead to having to drop out of school. I really doubt McDonald, or any politician for that matter, would like to see a student forced to drop out of college because of this extra fine.

McDonald does a good job pointing out some problems with our system as it now stands. The problem of students not able to get into a

required class is something needing to be fixed. Perhaps increasing class size or adding another section could help.

But there are times when students have to drop a class after the deadline. A student deciding what classes to take while at WSU doesn't usually select two classes, knowing beforehand one of them will be dropped.

When a student is forced to drop a class, the feelings of failure and embarrassment are bad enough. Those feelings are the payment, and they can be costly. Having to pay out-of-pocket as well just adds insult to injury.

*Craig Murphy will return your call if you leave a message at 335-1140.*



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## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Why do you think the curriculum should or should not be changed to embrace north American diversity?

You can call in your response at 335-1140 or e-mail in your response to [fkios@wsunix.wsu.edu](mailto:fkios@wsunix.wsu.edu) with the correct spelling of your name and your phone number. The best responses will be published in the Wednesday edition of The Daily Evergreen along with the question for the week.