

\$15,000 vote

Tomorrow the Daily Evergreen will feature short profiles on candidates for offices with the Association for Women Students on campus. Some persons will view the AWS elections next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday as insignificant. But the informed student will disagree unless \$15,000 is considered insignificant.

AWS has been allocated 50 cents per student from services and activities fees (about \$15,000). It is given the power to fund the Women's Center, Women of Color, YWCA, Rape Resource Line and the Sex Information Center in any way it sees fit. The organization also funds activities generally taken for granted by the student body such as Mom's Weekend, the Student Information Fair, workshops and speakers.

Students historically have participated in AWS with all of the enthusiasm of a vote for May Queen or "Outstanding Man and Woman." Last year, only about 500 students (less than one out of twenty-four students) voted. This year only seventeen students are seeking offices for nearly as many positions (although eight positions are hotly contested).

Four senate positions have been reserved for dorm residents, only two dormies have filed for these jobs. Four-at-large senate positions are sought by only three candidates.

Clearly, this lack of representation is an injustice. If left unchecked, the organization is destined to become Greek dominated. The four Greek senate positions will be sought by six students.

Part of this injustice has been encouraged by AWS itself. For instance, the organization clings to an archaic constitutional provision against open campaigning financed by each candidate. But reform will not come easily from the outside.

If AWS does not now benefit every student on this campus, male and female, it certainly has the potential. The \$15,000 is paid by students for the advancement of sexual equality. It is not allocated to Greeks. It is not allocated to women.

All students, male and female, are voting members of AWS. It is time we became active voting members.

-L.G.

Letters Policy

Due consideration will be made to print every possible letter to the editor. However, letters can be printed only as space allows. They will be selected for publication based on timeliness and relevance of the issue, potential interest level of our readers and the utilization of writing skills by the author.

Letters must carry the full name, address and phone number of the author. Unsigned letters or letters signed with pseudonyms will not be printed. Phone numbers will not be printed. Names will be withheld only under unusual circumstances and with the approval of the senior staff editorial board.

Letters should be typed (double spaced) and limited to 250 words. The editor reserves the right to edit for matters of libel. Letters may be edited for length with permission of the author if they exceed 250 words.

Correspondence should be addressed to the editor, P.O. Box 2008 C.S., Pullman, Wash., 99163, or brought to Murrow Communications Center 122.

Once submitted, letters become the property of the Daily Evergreen and will be retained in a confidential file.

OUR SIDE OF THE TABLE AT THE SALT TALKS
C. B. TRUDEAU



OUR SIDE OF THE TABLE AT THE SALT TALKS

Your views

Lifestyle

The purpose of National Gay Blue Jeans Day is to provide gay people with an opportunity to affirm their lifestyle in a safe way. It is not so much intended to impress the community as a whole or heterosexuals in particular, though this is a purpose, as to give gay people who are still in the closet an easy way to start coming out, if they want to, and to increase solidarity among gay people who already are out.

Gay Awareness and Gay Peoples' Alliance wish to emphasize that just because someone does wear blue jeans on April 14, one should not conclude that he or she is gay. To do so would be to commit a simple but common logical fallacy.

Craig Sutherland and Co. made a point in their letter about members of the Gay Awareness Committee wanting to keep their names out of the paper. We have tried to keep our names out of the Evergreen this year because we feel that one's sexual preference is one's own business. Even though Gay Awareness is open to people of all sexual preferences, many automatically conclude that anyone involved with the committee is gay. This is not true. We have also wanted to avoid the verbal and physical abuse which more public members of Gay Awareness have suffered in the past.

Gay Awareness exists to educate the WSU community about homosexuality. We do not advo-

cate it as a lifestyle except in our capacity as individuals. If the assembly decides to fund Gay Awareness during the coming year all those monies will be used for educational purposes.

Gay people do not ask for special privileges. Life without fear, liberty to be ourselves and the opportunity to pursue happiness in our own way are what gay people want for ourselves and for everyone else. Gay Awareness will work to combat ignorance until gay people have the freedom to enjoy these rights.

Leonard Wolf
Chairperson, Gay Awareness
Committee

Minorities

On April 4 a very well-written and, I think, researched article was published in the Evergreen, "Racism and apathy among problems minorities face."

The point of this letter is that myself, and many other students I have talked to, find many points of the interviewed people absurd and unjustified.

To those who think I'm just another racist white, I have many minority friends, including my good friend and roommate of last year.

Jess Veasey stated in the article, "Pullman itself is a cultural shock to the average minority student who ventures here from a metropolitan area...they come

here and ask, where are all the bright lights and action?" Being from Seattle, I found Pullman a cultural shock and I'm sure the average white student from any metropolitan area gets a shock out of WSU.

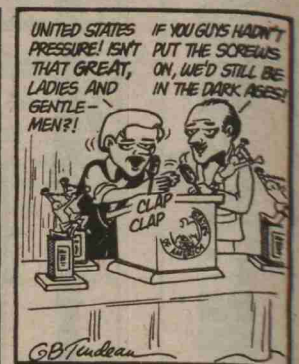
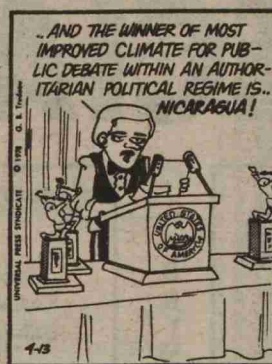
Jeanne Austin said the dormitory is an "impersonal and cold place to live." I lived in a dorm and also found it unenjoyable, but was forced, like many other freshmen, to spend a full year there.

Chicano adviser Esteban Sena, along with Jess Veasey, said the reason that minorities socialize within their own groups is that they have been rebuffed by the main student body. I find this hard to believe; possibly by part of the students, but not the main body. I feel that all students socialize within a group and have been rebuffed by some students. Due to outside appearances minorities have something in common, whites must find outside common interests.

I agree there probably is racism in Pullman, but alienating yourselves with one-sided statements and actions is not the way to go about it. Much of the problem is with whites but part is minorities' actions. As Ric Ovalle said, "Lack of communication is the main problem." I feel that educating both minorities and whites of each others' views is one way to overcome racism.

Carey Olson

DOONESBURY



by Garry Trudeau

Daily Evergreen Staff

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