

# ✓ Opinions

## Parting is such sweet sorrow



PETER HIMMEL

Commentary

I've heard it said that the best view of Pullman is in the rear view mirror. Well, I'm about to find out. I finish my

degree in horticulture in two weeks and, failing the onset of total insanity, this will end my peculiar personal "paper chase". I want to leave you with three — a little less random than usual — thoughts.

• I feel an apology is in order. And, no it's not the one I'm sure all you folks in "comfortable shoes" (Reference to Robin Williams, "Good Morning Vietnam") are expecting. Two weeks ago Peter LeBeck died in a nursing home. You remember Mr. LeBeck, don't you? Mr. LeBeck was the spry, outgoing, 81-year-old gentleman from Spokane who loved to go dancing at the local community center. He loved to greet and talk to the people of his downtown neighborhood. Peter LeBeck was a father, a grandfather, and a proud veteran of World War II. Mr LeBeck died two months after being beaten by a common street hood because he was "ugly white trash."

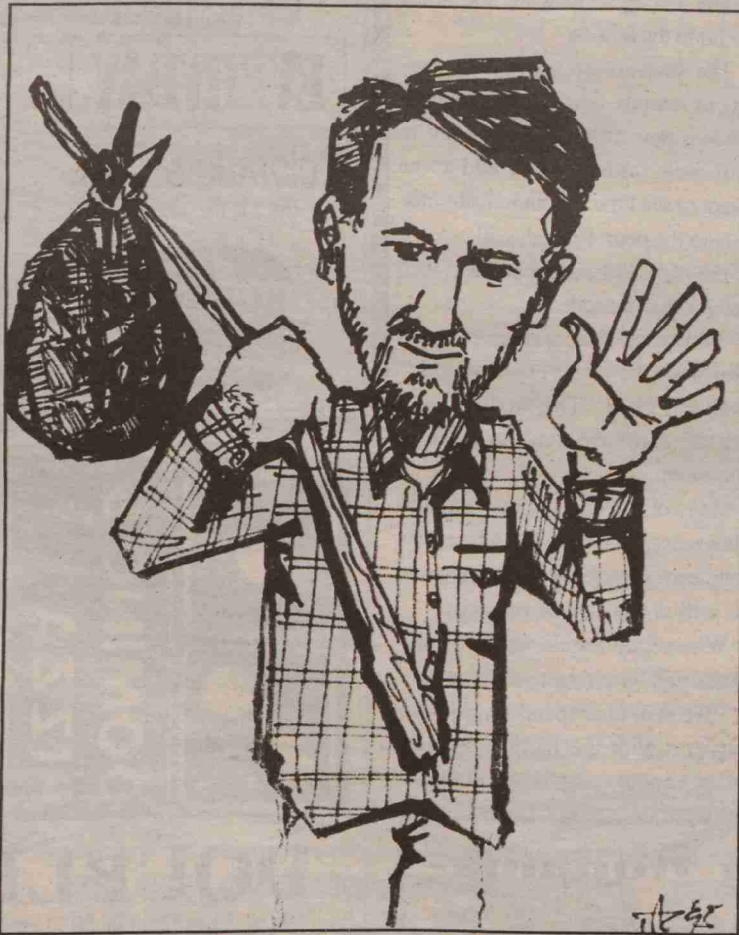
A sorry epitaph to a life of 81 years. A damning judgement of this "Pulp Fiction" society with it's "who are you to judge me" attitude. Mr. LeBeck, I am truly sorry and I will remember you.

• I have a confession to make that will shock you. I, Peter Himmel, right wing ultra conservative — man recently voted to yell "fire" during a crowded showing of "Dances with Wolves" — was a liberal. Yes, I'll put my record of liberal activities and ideologies up against anyone on campus. From 1970-1975 I took Conscientious Objector status in the draft, marched against the war in Vietnam and for civil rights, grew my hair long and did my best (which was often not very good) to experience the era of "Free Love".

What happened? I grew up. I worked in the real world. I paid taxes. I had children of my own. To put it simply, when I was young I was a liberal because I had a heart. When I got older, I became a conservative because I had a mind.

The liberal policies of the last 25 years have been a disaster. I wanted them to succeed. I bought the Clintonesque idea that if we only cared enough, we could make a difference. The problems of crime, poverty, illiteracy and the inner city could be solved. We could have our "Age of Aquarius".

Since the mid-1960s this country has poured \$5.4 trillion dollars (that is over \$5,000 billion to you long-suffering PE majors) down the welfare state rat hole. All for nothing. Not only are all the old problems still with us, but they are demonstrably worse now than they were then. These are not just empty dollars, but represent the confiscated earnings and stolen dreams of millions of honest citizens.



"a handful of gimmie and a mouth of much obliged." We have become a society addicted to entitlements, addicted to wanting things not earned. It is time we stood up squarely on our own two feet, earned our own way, and took responsibility for our own actions.

I have come full circle in the last 25 years. In 1970, as a liberal, I was a radical who challenged the establishment. In 1995, I am still radical, still challenge the establishment, but I am a conservative. The ironic part of this is now that the staunchest supporters of the status quo are 20 years my junior. Think about that, kiddies.

• Finally, to GLBA. My, my what a snit I've stirred up. It is hard to hear the truth, much less see it in

print in the morning. Let's get this straight, once and for all. You came out of the closet, I didn't come in. Did you actually believe that when you presented yourselves to society, warts and all (just a figure of speech, like "mankind") and said, "accept me," that it would happen? Didn't it ever occur to you someone would say "NO."

We have a lot of work to do in America. Hard work. Unpopular work. GLBA is the perfect example of what we don't need. A whining, uni-dimensional, orgasmocentric clique that cannot seem to get their minds out of each others pants, or skirts, as the case may be.

Peter Himmel will return your call if you leave a message at 335-2764.

## New technology is fine, but stay out of the students' pockets

In case \$15 million WSU administrators requested from the state Legislature isn't enough, they may also ask students to dish out a technology fee to help fund technological upgrades.

Because of budget constraints with the Communications Infrastructure Renewal (CIR) project, costs for Virtual WSU are mounting and one potential option administrators are entertaining is student funding. The technology fee would be similar to fees at UW, where students pay \$120, and at Western Washington University.

Like at the UW, students will have a choice in the decision of paying the technology fee. However, it has not been decided if student approval will be decided by an ASWSU Senate vote or a student vote.

We at The Daily Evergreen have two suggestions.

Primarily, we believe students should not approve this technology fee because increased student fees should be a last resort for such luxuries. And in this case, student money is certainly not a last option to fund the project. Administrators have already said they will find a way to get the money should students reject the technology fee proposal.

Our second concern is that all students have an opportunity to represent themselves in a student vote rather than an ASWSU Senate vote. Past Senate votes, such as the GLBA incident, have shown a failure to represent all WSU students.

If the Senate can't justly speak for the students, let the students speak for themselves — we don't need to compensate for the administration's poorly planned projects.

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Letters to the editor can be mailed to Murrow Communication Center Room 113, and should be typed and double spaced. All letters will be considered for publication but those that are 200 words or less are preferred.

A name, signature and phone number must accompany letters. The Daily Evergreen reserves the right to edit for space, libel, obscene material and clarity.

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