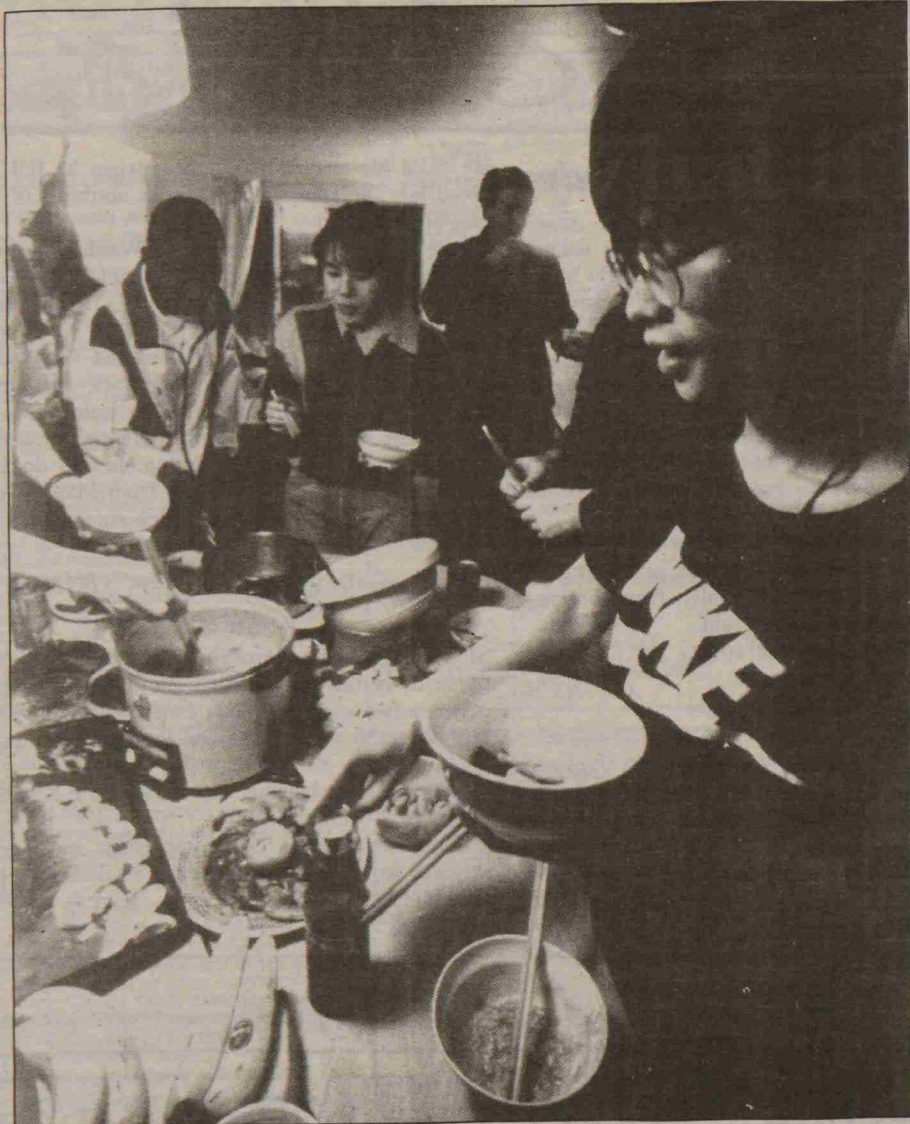


Happy New Year



Staff photo by Andrew Wong

Y Tran celebrates the Chinese New Year — the Year of the Rat — with a hot-pot dinner in his apartment Sunday night.

# Same-sex marriage issue put to voters

By Stan Carder  
Contributing Writer

Let the voters decide. This was the decision of the Washington State House when it came time to decide on the fate of House Bill 2262, which would legalize same-sex marriages in the state.

On Feb. 12, the House passed the bill 66 to 30, allowing it to go on to the Senate. A referendum stipulation allows to make the final decision on the bill. If it passes the Senate, it will appear on the ballot for voters in the coming election.

The bill is being reviewed by the Senate Committee on Law and Justice before it goes to the Senate for a vote. Sen. Eugene Prince, R-Thorton, said he normally supports gay issues, but still believes marriage should be between a man and a woman.

Reaction to the passage of the bill to this point was mixed.

"We're happy that it has made it to this point, but in all honesty it would be better if they (same-sex marriages) had never been banned in the first place," said Rob Painter-Johnson of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Association at WSU. "Even by allowing homosexuals to marry, the government is still trying to make homosexuals conform to a heterosexual society."

Bobbi Bonace, GLBA adviser, said, "HB 2262 singles out gay and lesbian couples. It equates us with criminal bigamists and those committing incest and declares that already unrecognized relationships will still not be recognized."

Father Mike Kreig, a priest at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Pullman, was hesi-

tant about the bill being on the ballot. "Personally, I don't mind same-sex relationships. However, the Catholic church frowns upon them, and I don't think we would be allowed to perform any marriages for people of the same sex, at least not any time in the foreseeable future," he said. "By making that type of marriage legal, it puts a

lot of pressure on the churches...  
Mike Kreig  
Catholic priest

lot of pressure on the churches not only in this state, but worldwide to decide if they will not only recognize those unions of marriage, but also whether or not they will perform them."

This problem lies not only in the churches, but in state government as well, as Hawaii looks to pass a law allowing same-sex marriages in the state.

Washington state already has a law in place — in effect since 1927 — that bans homosexual marriages and refuses to recognize them if they were done elsewhere.

Locally, voters not only don't seem to care one way or the other about whether the bill passes, but many have not even heard of it.

"I didn't even know something like that was going around," senior Eli Hazard said. "I guess when you live in a more rural community such as Pullman you really have to search to find out what's going on outside of our little community."

Leandra Reuble contributed to this report.

## Griffin: System searches EWU

Continued From Cover

"There is more material (in Griffin), but I can't see if an article is in or not," Sutton said.

Spitzer said the staff is working to load the circulation records on Griffin, as well as working to get the call numbers to display on the first screen without patrons having to type in an extra command.

She said Griffin is advantageous because it gives more ways to search: by subject heading, word and even context, thus providing more reference material.

Sutton said he has not seen any advantages to the switch yet, but that with more time the advantage might become clear.

Some students don't realize their search gives them material from EWU and the other WSU campuses, which also resulting in frustration,

Spitzer said. They are trying to enable students to look at information found only at the Pullman campus, with the option to search at the other WSU campuses and EWU, she said.

Is Griffin worth the \$1 million invested on it? "I think it is. In the

long run it will save money," Spitzer said.

She said libraries can share resources and won't have to spend as much money acquiring material another library has.

"In the long run, it will save money."

Alice Spitzer  
Reference librarian

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## STUDENTS BOOK CORPORATION

### GPSA TA EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Ten WSU TA's, selected by students, faculty and staff for outstanding teaching ability, will be awarded the 1995/96 TA Excellence Awards. Five \$300 awards will be presented to Independent TA's who lecture courses and five awards \$300 will be presented to Support TA's who teach labs, lead tutorials or grade assignments/exams.

Faculty, staff and students can nominate TA's by submitting the attached nomination form to either their department's office or to the GPSA office at CUB 308. The nominations are open to those TA's who worked in Fall 1995 and/or Spring 1996 semesters.

The deadline for TA nominations in the GPSA office is 4 p.m., Friday, February 23, 1996. The deadline for supporting material from academic departments is March 8, 1996.

The TA Excellence Awards Committee, comprised of representatives from the GPSA, Graduate School, Alumni Association and WSU Faculty will then determine winners. Awards will be presented at the Annual GPSA Awards Banquet to be held April 15, 1996.

QUESTIONS? PHONE THE GPSA AT 335-9545

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#### TA Excellence Awards Nomination Form

TA's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ TA's Department: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TA's Course: \_\_\_\_\_ Independent: \_\_\_\_\_ Support: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ Your Department: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your Status: Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Faculty: \_\_\_\_\_ Staff: \_\_\_\_\_

Why should TA be considered? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

(Please attach this form to any other nomination materials you submit)