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# The Summer Evergreen

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## Supreme Court ignites gay club

*Colorado measure strikes down anti-gay measure, GLBA satisfied with rule*

By Laura Shireman and Fekadu Kiros  
*The Summer Evergreen*

The ruling of the Supreme Court concerning an anti-gay Colorado measure gives gays and lesbians at WSU hope that the environment at WSU and Pullman will continue to improve, said bobbi bonace (sic), director of the Gay, Lesbian and Bi-sexual Association (GLBA).

In an overwhelming victory for gay rights, the Supreme Court struck down an amendment to the state constitution of Colorado that the court said would deny

equal rights to gays and lesbians. The 6-3 ruling struck down the measure that was passed by a 53 percent margin by Colorado voters in 1992.

The justices said the amendment denied homosexuals a right enjoyed by other citizens — the opportunity to seek protection from discrimination.

"It is not within our constitutional traditions to enact laws of this sort," wrote Justice Anthony Kennedy, writing for the majority. The amendment as written would have made it illegal in Colorado to make

any law that protects gay rights.

"(The amendment) would have blocked the open and free participation in our democratic process for gays, lesbians and bisexuals," bonace said. "The Supreme Court acted in the true interest of justice when it overturned Colorado's discriminatory Amendment 2. This is a moral victory for all people who identify as gay, lesbian or bisexual."

Mike McCurry, a White House spokesman, said President Clinton thinks the decision was appropriate.

Aaron Stoss, co-chair of the GLBA, said he hopes the ruling sends a message to other states and people who try to legislate anti-gay measures that such laws are unconstitutional.

"I knew they (the justices) would make this decision," Stoss said. "Because it is clearly unconstitutional."

Not everyone was as pleased with the ruling as the GLBA. Justice Antonin Scalia, who dissented in the ruling, said the amendment was "Colorado's reasonable effort to

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## Pullman high student awarded

By Alan Bloss  
*The Daily Evergreen*

Two years ago, Derek Lyons lost everything and was left homeless.

Last week the Pullman High School Senior was named a Presidential Scholar, the top honor for a high school student.

Lyons, 18, was the victim of a domestic violence dispute in which his former stepfather threatened his mother and younger sister with

a loaded gun. They were abruptly forced to leave their Seattle home "with nothing, not even our shoes," his mother Tina Lyons said.

Derek had to leave school a month early and the three of them remained homeless for four months, living with friends, before coming to Pullman in August of 1994.

"It was one of the defining experiences of my growing up," Lyons said. "It was so shocking it was kind of galvanizing."

Obviously, he did not let it affect his school-

work. Lyons has never dropped below a 4.0 G.P.A. and he received scholarship offers from nine colleges including Stanford and Yale. Lyons also scored an almost perfect 1580 points on his SATs.

Lyons is one of 141 scholars, chosen from a pool of 2.6 million high school seniors, that will visit Washington, D.C. next month to be honored. The trip includes meeting President Clinton and a ceremony at the Kennedy Center where each honoree will receive a Presidential Scholar Medallion.

Lyons said that meeting the president is "hard to visualize."

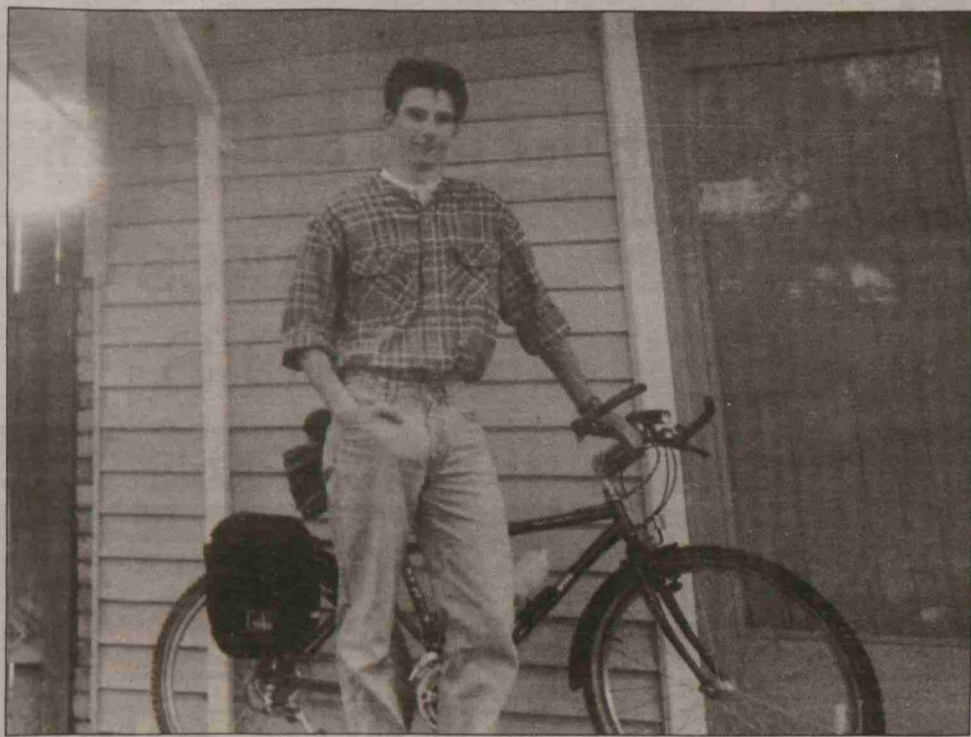
Each Presidential Scholar was asked to name the teacher who has had the greatest impact on his or her academic accomplishments. They were also invited to Washington, D.C. to receive an award for excellence.

Lyons chose Gloria Tinder, an honors program teacher at PHS, whom his mother describes as a "second mom to Derek." Tinder first taught Lyons in the eighth grade and they kept in touch when he moved to Seattle.

Lyons' trip is being funded entirely by the White House. However, due to legal fees in the tens of thousands, stemming from the domestic violence incident, his mother and sister will probably be unable to afford the trip themselves. A travel fund has been established at area branches of Washington Mutual bank in an effort to send them along with him.

In the fall, Lyons will attend Reed College in Portland, Ore., where he plans to double major in biochemistry and political science. He chose Reed because it has the second highest Ph.D. rate per capita of any college or university in the country.

Later he will decide whether to enter medical research or become a lawyer.



Staff photo by Alan Bloss

Presidential Scholar Derek Lyons will travel to Washington D.C. to receive his award of excellence this summer. A fund is set to enable his family to attend.

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## UI grads set record

By Alice Thomas  
*The Summer Evergreen*

The 101st Commencement at the University of Idaho had a record 2,490 students eligible for spring graduation.

Welcomed by UI professor A. Branen, the graduates and guests were told the "greatest attributes of UI are the friendships."

"Today represents not only a change for the graduates," Branen said. "But a change for the university." This UI change is a change of leadership.

Interim President Thomas Bell is stepping down in favor of new UI President Robert Hoover.

The attendants were greeted by another friend of UI, Idaho graduate and Governor Philip Batt.

"It's a great honor for me to be a part of this ceremony," Batt said. "When I was elected governor, we were in the eighth year of a drought. It's been raining ever since."

The quality of education is becoming important, Batt said. Education does not end here, he added, changes require educating again and again.

"I urge you to take seriously your responsibility," Batt said.

The 1996 commencement speaker was Terry Armstrong.

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## Summer school numbers increas-

By Kiantha Shaddock  
*The Summer Evergreen*

No impeding force has seemed to deter students from attending summer school.

Not even the Palouse rains.

"Each year since I've been here WSU has seen an increase of students over the summer," said Corporal Bryan Jacobson, of the WSU Police Department.

Nearly 5,000 students are enrolled so far in the three summer sessions

combined, including the four week courses that overlap.

"One thing that happened this year is the registrars office allowed students who didn't go through pre-registration to register afterward," said Linda Schoepflin, assistant to the director of summer session.

"Most of the students here are seniors who realize they can be done by December if they take classes now," she said.

Linda Thomas-Buchanan, a Ph.D. student, has to finish her dissertation

### Summer School

- 5,000 students enrolled for classes
- Registrars office still accepting the first week of both second and third sessions.
- Deadlines to drop courses are within three from three days from the start of those classes

in education and defend.

"Then I should hopefully be out of here by the end of June," Thomas-Buchanan said.

Senior Greg Snyder, however, said he has a little longer to go.

"I'm tired after a whole year of school and never thought I'd really want to stick around a summer," said Snyder, a kenisiology/biology major. "But I'm getting two classes out of the way so I will be done next May."

Statistics show an increase of almost 100 more students enrolled this summer compared to a year ago and

headcounts are on the rise, Schoepflin said.

Employees of some Pullman businesses said they are thankful.

"We're making three-quarters of what we were making (spring semester), but as far as summer business goes, we have a definite increase (over last summer)," Mark Lackey, Grinders assistant manager, said.

Although Grinders has cut back their hours during these months, The

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