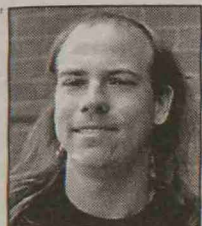


OPINIONS

ASWSU failed to talk to students



JOHN A. LARSON
Columnist

The ASWSU Senate voted 14-4 last week in favor of supporting the legalization of same-sex marriages in Washington state.

The Senate drafted a resolution that will be sent to our politicians in Olympia.

The involvement of ASWSU in state politics has been limited to student-related issues up to this point.

Recently they ran a "wake up and smell the coffee" campaign in the CUB to raise awareness about possible tuition increases.

ASWSU executives and senators staffed a table where they handed out postcards for students to send to politicians regarding a recent state Senate bill on college tuition.

ASWSU has conducted similar campaigns in the past. Most, if not all, students would agree this is an appropriate action for our student government to take.

Regardless of our various political and religious viewpoints, all students wish to keep tuition low.

Gay and lesbian marriages are not such a clear-cut issue. Not all students agree on this.

ASWSU had a table in the CUB for two days last week where students could "vote" on this, but if you don't walk through the CUB every day, you may not have known it was going on.

When I voted, no one checked my student ID to ensure I was a student or checked a list to make sure I didn't vote more than once.

Hopefully, the results of this highly unscientific poll were not used by ASWSU in drafting the resolution.

It was good that ASWSU attempted to gauge student opinion on this issue before drafting a resolution. However, any political science major can tell this was not a properly con-

ducted poll.

This should be voted on during the ASWSU election, when an accurate count can be taken.

Is ASWSU starting a new trend, or is this a one-time deal? Earlier this semester, the National Organization of Women and the College Democrats expressed support for the Roe vs. Wade decision, which legalized abortion. Does ASWSU have a stance on abortion?

Recently, several women collected signatures for a petition in front of the CUB for some environmental legislation for cleaning up Puget Sound. Why didn't ASWSU pass a resolution on this?

In April 1996, a student collected signatures for a petition to put an initiative to legalize marijuana on the Washington ballot.

In May 1995, someone had a petition about legalizing slot machines at Indian casinos in the state. In either case, did ASWSU get involved? No.

One senator at the CUB table said some gay and lesbian students on campus would like to legally marry; therefore, ASWSU has a justifiable reason to get involved.

Well, there are plenty of gamblers, treehuggers, dope smokers and pro-choicers at WSU, too. Aren't their causes important as well?

ASWSU is putting itself in a damned-if-they-do, damned-if-they-don't position.

If it supports gay and lesbian marriages and then discontinues involvement in non-educational politics, it will appear the group is giving special treatment to groups such as the GLBA.

On the other hand, it may have to start taking sides in the many controversial issues facing our state. How about that third Sea-Tac runway or the Hanford cleanup?

I'm all for getting college students involved in politics. But if 18 people are going to represent 17,000 of us in Olympia, they need to accurately assess our opinions and not cater to special-interest groups.

John A. Larson will return your call if you leave a message at 335-1140.

When I voted, no one checked my student ID to ensure I was a student or checked a list to make sure I didn't vote more than once.



Chin/Musella best ticket for job

Editorial

We at The Daily Evergreen endorse the Chin/Musella ticket for the ASWSU presidential elections. While all of the leaders should be commended for their willingness to serve students, because of their impressive campaigns and valuable ideas, the Chin/Musella ticket stands out.

Michael Chin and John Musella have the experience, dedication and commitment it takes to be successful ASWSU leaders.

They have more experience than any other ticket. Chin is the ASWSU Minority Affairs director, a position in the ASWSU president's executive committee. He has experience in the group he would be leading if elected — an insight the other candidates lack.

Musella has been a senator for two years and as witnessed in ASWSU Senate meetings, he comes well-prepared and -researched, and has no trouble voicing his opinion. Because the ASWSU vice president runs the Senate meetings, his experience is vital.

The vice president also runs Committee Squared, which consists of all ASWSU clubs; experience again is an important factor in the success of these clubs.

Campus involvement adds more appeal to this ticket. The fact that the two of them are active in different communities is a plus as it presents a good balance.

Chin has been a strong ally to the multicultural community as is evidenced by the endorsement the ticket has received from the Council of Multicultural Student Pres-

idents. Chin goes beyond talking about "diversity" and deals directly with the issues. He is also an assistant hall director for the Hill Halls, which helps him represent students who live in residence halls.

Musella, a member of the Greek system, provides a link between Greeks and ASWSU and has stood up for Greek issues and concerns such as the Team Greek bill.

His Greek participation, although not unique to this ticket, provides a good balance with Chin's involvement in the multicultural community.

The fact that Chin and Musella have different political stances is advantageous to students.

It will result in the better representation that comes from diverse opinions. While this difference can also result in disagreements, Chin and Musella have been friends for more than five years and have worked together this year.

We believe they have the maturity it takes to be president and vice president and to come to a conclusion that will benefit students in the end.

If only one ticket has all of the elements to be the best representative of WSU students, we at The Daily Evergreen believe it is the Chin/Musella ticket.



LUCRETIA COFFIN MOTT

BLACK WOMEN IN HISTORY

Regarded by many as the "mother" of the early feminist movement, Lucretia Mott had grown up in Quaker community where women's inherent equality with men was considered a given. In 1848, she co-organized the first women's rights convention at Seneca Falls, NY.

OPINIONS POLICY

Unsigned editorials are the majority vote of the editorial board, which is composed of Tracy Cutchlow, Mai Ling Slaughter, Christina Bottomley, Jeff Nusser, Fekadu Kiros, Forrest Reda and Liz Mendez.

The views expressed in columns are those of the individual authors and not necessarily

those of The Daily Evergreen staff, management or advertisers, or the WSU Board of Regents.

Typed letters to the editor may be sent to Murrow 122, or e-mailed to egreen@mail.wsu.edu. All letters are considered for publication.

A name, signature and phone number must accompany letters.

The Daily Evergreen reserves the right to edit for space, libel, obscenity and clarity.

Doonesbury



BY GARRY TRUDEAU