

# green observations

## A well-tailored suit

I'm not sure if there is a Daily Evergreen Libel Defense Fund, so I'm a little uneasy writing about Karl Herrmann.

Herrmann is the state's insurance commissioner. He is waging quite a battle in what might have been an easy re-election campaign, if the elections had taken place six months ago.

But Slade Gorton, the state's attorney general, recently charged Herrmann with "malfeasance, misfeasance, and nonfeasance" in office. Herrmann, in a show of class, hit Gorton with a multi-million-dollar law suit the day after Gorton's pronouncements.

Since the incident, Herrmann has been running scared. Before the primary elections last September, his office mailed a letter to newspaper publishers, asking them to refrain from publishing ads describing Herrmann in unfavorable terms.

If "libelous" ads were displayed, the letter warned, the result would be a law suit.

The letter was written on Herrmann's office stationery, and was signed, "Karl Herrmann by Mark Litchman, deputy insurance commissioner."

That letter resulted in a charge against Herrmann by the Public Disclosure Commission that Herrmann had violated state law by using facilities of his office in his campaign.

After the charges by Gorton and the Public Disclosure Commission, one might think voters would be wary of this particular politico. But a statewide pre-election survey printed in Sunday's Seattle Times shows Herrmann is running ahead of opponent Richard G. Marquardt.

The reasons for Herrmann's popularity are fairly obvious. Incumbents, for one thing, have an advantage over challengers, especially in a relatively anonymous position (such as insurance commissioner) in the state's vast bureaucracy.

Another reason is that Herrmann has been using his office to promote himself for years.

Think back to some time when you have been in an area that had been declared off-limits to smokers. The no-smoking signs read: No smoking, by order of (in large letters) KARL HERRMANN.

Herrmann is the state's fire marshal, a part of his duties as insurance commissioner.

Most people would have gotten the message about smoking even if Herrmann had left his name off the signs. Knowing Karl Herrmann has ordered you not to smoke—instead of some faceless bureaucrat—really doesn't affect the smoking patterns of most people.

But the name, in bold letters, makes it appear as if Karl is running around posting all those signs by himself. His work is visible, unlike the work of many bureaucrats.

So Herrmann, with his subtle messages and incumbent status, won re-election to his job in a landslide in 1972. In fact, the man won by the biggest victory margin in the history of state balloting. Alertly, his campaign staff ran an ad in the Seattle Times thanking the electorate for its support—another subtle reminder, another presentation of the man's name in a "public" place.

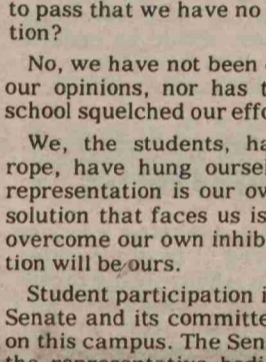
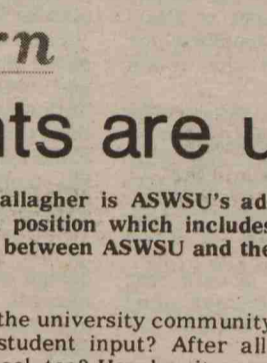
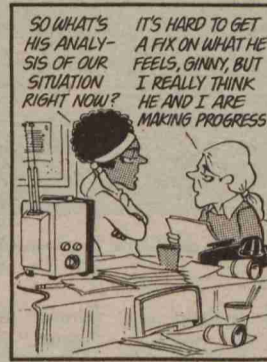
So Karl Herrmann may win re-election again. But the poll lead is not insurmountable for Marquardt.

One fortunate facet of American law is the man cannot sue everyone who votes against him.

—Mark Hendricks

## DOONESBURY

by Garry Trudeau



## My Burn

### Students are unplugging inputs

**Editor's Note:** Paul Gallagher is ASWSU's administrative assistant, a position which includes acting as student liaison between ASWSU and the University Senate.

How representative of the university community is a body that has no student input? After all, aren't we part of this school, too? How has it come to pass that we have no say in our own administration?

No, we have not been denied the right to express our opinions, nor has the administration of this school squelched our efforts.

We, the students, having been given enough rope, have hung ourselves. The lack of student representation is our own doing. Fortunately, the solution that faces us is obvious. We need only to overcome our own inhibitions and true representation will be ours.

Student participation is weaker in the University Senate and its committees than in any other body on this campus. The Senate and its committees are the representative bodies of the university community which consider and make recommendations to the college president and Board of Regents

on all matters affecting the general welfare of WSU.

The student voice is recognized and sought after in the University Senate. Both the senate chairman, W. Frank Scott, and the vice-chairman, Dorothy Hellene, are well aware that the University Senate must be truly representative if it is to be accepted as a credible organization.

Our general welfare as students is synonymous with the general welfare of WSU. To guarantee student rights and our voice in the university community, it is imperative that we fill the 60 undergraduate positions now vacant on the senate committees.

We are faced with a situation that can be briefly summed: The University Senate and its committees desperately need student input and student members. The benefits to be reaped by the individual and the student body are infinite.

I ask that you seriously consider joining a senate committee. To do so you need only contact ASWSU on the third floor of the CUB.

It will not be until we can represent ourselves that we can expect the university to hear our voices.

—Paul Gallagher

## Maggie merely mumbles

**To the editor:**

After having listened to Sen. Magnuson, I discovered that the only positive statement he made dealt with his endorsement of a National Health Insurance plan. For the rest of his talk, he was merely asking people to pat him on the shoulder for all the wonderful things he has done. He said he had been in Congress for 40 years and it does show—he can expertly avoid a question.

I asked him what his position was on the issue of Puerto Rico and its status as a colony of the United States. He replied, "I am not familiar with the 'Portorican' situation." In the first place, the people of Puerto Rico consider it an insult to be called 'Portorican.' They are and always have been Puertoriquenos.

Furthermore, I cannot understand how the second most powerful person in the Senate (as Foley described him) could sincerely be so ignorant of an issue such as the U.S. being a colonial power. I restated my question as follows: "Senator, as I understand it, Puerto Rico will have an election sometime in November where the results could determine statehood or independence for the present colony of the U.S." His reply was that "if the 'Portoricans' want to be a state then we will probably support it."

When I faced him with the more real possibility that they would rather be an independent nation, he nervously mumbled that I was asking an empty question. Any objective reader should concur with me that the emptiness lies in the Senator and his answers.

I recall a previous letter to the Evergreen last fall dealing with the situation of making independence for Puerto Rico a reality in this bicentennial year. Despite three attempts to support the letter, the Evergreen was more concerned with the Gay Awareness issue that dominated the paper at that

point in time. I am quite aware of the total lack of political consciousness of this student-faculty-staff body. The constituency learns well from its Senator.

David Rodgers

## Ron gives a damn

**Dear Editor,**

We would like to answer some of the letters written asking "Does Ron Wachter Care?" Mr. Wachter cares, my friend!

He has been vitally concerned, as has the Palouse Producers board. What has been done about the ammonia odor? They have purchased property clear out of town. For three years they have been going through the legal details and processes of building this plant.

You can't move a plant of this type overnight. There are many ecological and safety factors to consider, as well as time-consuming legal details. In the meantime, Ron Wachter has employed every possible safety factor at the present plant. Where there is industry that produces the necessities of life, there are some conditions, including odors that must be tolerated by those involved. The agricultural industry is vital to you. Agriculture is the foundation of Washington State University.

Ron Wachter is a very active WSU supporter and is involved in Pullman city government. We personally have found him to be a listening, concerned, hard-working and honest businessman. His business judgment has helped the farmer, community, and college. Yes, my friend, Ron Wachter cares and will work for your best interests in Olympia.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Quist

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