

## Foreign students have right to voice

Editor:

This letter is in response to Jim Wade's letter in The Evergreen regarding renaming The Evergreen "The Evergay."

Wade, I couldn't have said it better, except for one little "important" oversight on your part.

I agree with you that The Evergreen played out issues such as GLBA, Greek affairs and others.

I share your views on Fekadu Kiros' pointless and sometimes nerve-racking columns on Apple Cup, the increased incidence of abuse in heterosexual homes versus homosexual homes (There are more heterosexual homes than homosexual in the United States.), as well as her outlooks on other life issues as a self-proclaimed "Third World Lesbian."

However, I have one problem with your approach. In your letter, you addressed to Kiros the comment "... where do you get off coming here from Ethiopia ..."

I think you forgot that WSU is not a little redneck town (as you probably would like it to be) where Blacks and foreigners are off limits.

Students from more than 100 countries, who mostly pay out-of-state tuition, are legal attendants of WSU and residents of Pullman.

**You had no right, U.S. citizen or not, to bring in (Fekadu) Kiros' country of origin to judge her estranged outlooks of the environment.**

These students have issues (sometimes ignorant) about their environments which they are free to discuss.

You had no right, U.S. citizen or not, to bring in Kiros' country of origin to judge her estranged outlooks of the environment.

There are as many ignorant Americans in Ethiopia as there are vice versa.

I know you and people similar to you get most of your education from "Late Night with David Letterman," or other credible quips on TV about other countries, but international students have as much voice to discuss what goes on at WSU as any U.S. citizen.

As far as The Evergreen is concerned, it is as "green" as any newspaper can get. (Therefore the name fits.)

Tirsit Asfaw

## The Combine provided memories; will be missed

Editor:

The purpose of this letter is to extend my thanks to the owner and employees of The Combine for providing a unique coffee house atmosphere in Pullman.

I have lived in Pullman since 1992 and have been to the Combine literally hundreds of times in the last five years.

I have bought cookbooks, greeting cards, spices, lotions and even henna to dye my hair from The Combine.

I have eaten breakfast, lunch, dinner and dessert there. But what I will remember most about The Combine are the countless times I have sat with dear friends, sipping hot beverages, while we shared the details of our lives.

The Combine provided the ideal atmosphere to reconnect with friends and provided a quiet place to discuss frustrations, joys, fears and disappointments.

It provided a place to study or

spend time reflecting away from hectic homes and jobs, and it provided a place to enjoy tail-decaf-skinny-hazelnut-lattes, cheese twists and the best soups and sandwiches in Pullman while talking with friends, studying or escaping.

I guess I took it for granted that The Combine would always be in Pullman, and that when I returned to visit WSU, I could step into the same atmosphere, looking around to see memories all around me.

As dear friends have left Pullman and graduated from WSU, we have made promises to return to The Combine to reconnect and share our memories over lattes.

Now I am left with memories of The Combine, struggling to hold onto fragments of discussions, laughter and tears shared there.

The announcement of The Combine closing left me feeling sad and empty because, with its closure, a chapter in my life in Pullman is closing.

I wish Pat all the best in her new

life. I understand her need to move on and hope Seattle and San Francisco will welcome her.

I also wish the new owner luck in establishing her restaurant.

Just please be patient with people like me who are sad to see The Combine, and all it has offered, go. The climate of downtown Pullman will not be the same.

My friend Miles and I always talk about different places in Pullman where we have had discussions which impacted our lives greatly.

Some of those discussions were full of laughter, some screamed of frustrations and some shed quiet tears. The vast majority of those conversations happened at The Combine.

Thank you for providing the atmosphere for those memorable discussions.

I will smile when I think of The Combine and all of the hours I spent there with dear friends.

Tara L. Walls

## Diversity, cultural appreciation cannot be taught in classrooms

Editor:

The letter on March 3 about Gen Ed reform was pretty good, I thought, although it was weird that so few scientists were represented as signers.

It was notable because there was little if any contempt displayed, which is remarkable and should be applauded.

As a science guy myself, though, I have to say I think both sides of this issue need a reality check.

The faculty listed three goals for the World Civ series, only one of which seemed both reasonable and attainable.

First was "to develop... an understanding of and appreciation for the wide variety of human values and human behavior exemplified in major civilizations, ancient to modern."

It is the work of a lifetime to develop such an appreciation within our own society, never mind others.

I learned all sorts of things about the Fiji Islanders and their culture when I was younger, but didn't understand a thing.

Then one time I had the good

fortune of being able to go to India for a brief period. There is nothing you could teach in school that would bring that experience home.

It was different. That experience is not quantifiable or codifiable and thus, I think, not teachable.

Their second goal was "to provide basic cultural literacy, acquainting students with a minimum amount of common knowledge ...."

The idea that there is such a thing as basic cultural literacy or a minimum amount of common knowledge that a very educated person should know is highly suspect.

Like Christianity, it's a beautiful idea, but reasonable people may have their doubts about the reality.

I've been striving to be educated all my life, but the difference between knowledge and education is like the difference between money and wealth — you're never quite there.

This leaves their third goal, establishing a framework for future courses to draw on, which seems to me entirely reasonable and attainable.

In conclusion, the rationale for

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maintaining World Civ as it is a lot shakier when its goals are viewed realistically.

Now, if only the pro-diversity group would present a reasonable set of goals in a similar way, we might have something to discuss.

My problem with a diversity requirement — or an enhanced diversity requirement — is that I don't know what you're going to teach.

Steve Wymer's column on Monday pretty much says it all, don't you think?

You're going to make that into a semester-long course? Please.

Greg Simpson

Department of Chemistry

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Polls Open 8a.m. to 7p.m. • I.D. Required

Wondering what district you are in?

Primary on Tuesday, March 4th

- |               |               |
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| 3. Adams Mall | Complex       |
| 4. Adams Mall | 8. Regents    |
| 5. Rogers     | 9. Waller     |

- Off Campus
- Beta Theta Pi, Delta Tau Delta, Alpha Tau Omega, Delta Gamma, Alpha Delta Pi, Sigma Kappa, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Alpha Omicron Pi, Phi Kappa Sigma, Delta Sigma Phi, Pi Beta Phi, Alpha Gamma Rho.
- Phi Sigma Kappa, Delta Upsilon, Phi Kappa Theta, Phi Gamma Delta, Farmhouse, Phi Delta Theta, Acacia, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Kappa Delta, Delta Chi, Gamma Phi Beta, Sigma Nu, Alpha Chi Omega, Sigma Phi Epsilon.
- Kappa Sigma, Alpha Kappa Lambda, Pi Kappa Alpha, Sigma Chi, Alpha Phi, Alpha Gamma Delta, Theta Chi, Lambda Chi Alpha, Chi Omega, Kappa Alpha Theta, Delta Delta Delta, Phi Kappa Tau, Psi Upsilon, Sigma Alpha Epsilon.
- Rogers and Orton.
- Gannon, Goldsworthy, Kruegel, McAllister, McEachern,.
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- Coman, Perham, Regents, Scott, Streit.
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Darcy Johnson  
Bree Neilsen  
Sherrie Nelson  
Amie Parkes  
Stacy Pederson  
Dawn Saslow  
Karen Schober  
Toni Tardiff  
Sarah Torbenson  
Lisa Youngblood



We'll miss you

Good luck & best wishes

Love in ΠΚΕ,

the women of ΓΦΒ



## Same-sex union: Marriage valid only between man and woman

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Gays and lesbians are not a group that has been historically discriminated against in the United States. Individual examples exist, but as a group gays average higher incomes and more education compared to the general population, and have significant political power compared to other minorities that have traditionally been underrepresented.

Maybe instead of asking for legalized marriages (which have been accused of being inherently oppressive by some liberal and feminist thinkers) gays should make up their own, new contracts.

These could be called "unionizations" or "commitment contracts." They could then be voted on through initiatives so as not to con-

tradict the definition of marriage or the DOMA.

Ultimately though, homosexuals are asking us to legally condone their behavior, letting them reap the benefits of legalization.

Laws to prevent this are not motivated by hate or a desire to oppress.

These laws are motivated by people wanting to preserve and strengthen the institution of marriage, the foundation upon which all societies are built. We shouldn't feel guilty, as if we are discriminating, if we don't want gay marriages.

All laws are a reflection of and guide for the morality and behavior of society. Let's keep them that way.

Melissa Meier will return your call if you leave a message at 335-1140.