

Flier targets gays, fraternity

Hannah Bringhurst
The Daily Evergreen

Fliers advertising a non-existent "Gay Porn Fest" allegedly sponsored by Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity were posted around campus earlier this week.

Members of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity said they have no idea who might have posted the signs or why anyone would go out of their way to defame the fraternity.

"I don't know if someone was just upset at us or thought it was a funny prank or what," said Chad Epeneter, Pi Kappa Alpha president. "There's always animosity between fraternities, it's something we are always trying to improve on."

More than 30 fliers posted around campus read, "Are you gay, straight or bi-curious? The brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha invite you to Gay Porn Fest '99. When? Every night. Where? Pi Kappa Alpha House. What to bring? An open mind and lots of Vaseline."

A quote at the bottom read, "We've upped our standards so we really want to get up yours!"

The fliers were posted in and outside of buildings and in restrooms — "mainly men's restrooms," said Melinda Huskey, director of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Allies Program.

Many outraged faculty, staff and students saw the fliers and contacted Huskey, she said. She received her first report at 8 a.m. Monday.

"People all over campus are upset about this," Huskey said. "These fliers on top of other recent events reflect a very serious climate of homophobia on our campus right now."

Huskey said whoever produced the fliers was "very

"This whole thing just shows how ignorant some people are."

**Chad Epeneter,
president,
Pi Kappa Alpha**

thoughtless and ignorant on every possible level."

"Stupid people do things like this," Huskey said. "I'm really, really unhappy about it."

Huskey said whoever created the fliers probably thought they were playing a "funny prank" on the fraternity and did not think about "all the people it would hurt."

"I am very concerned that the flyers are out there," said Cindy Empey, assistant dean of students. "Someone chose a very hateful way to malign the fraternity and at the same time maligned a group of people — gay, lesbians and bisexuals — that we have a large population of on campus."

Although the chance of finding the party responsible for creating and posting the flyers is unlikely, the issue will be addressed by the university, Empey said.

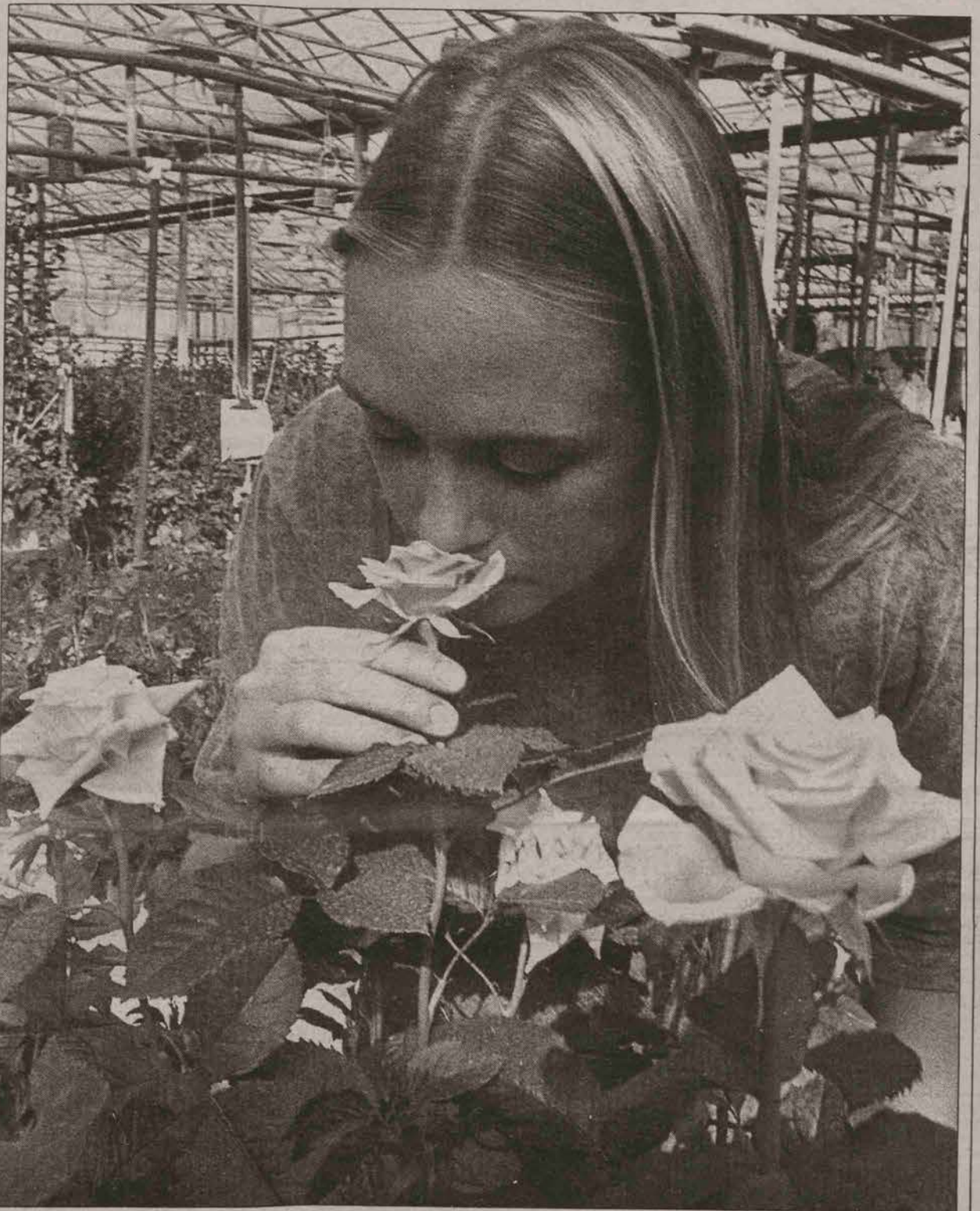
"We had a group meeting today to attempt to strategize how to deal with bias-related issues in the future," she said.

The party responsible for creating the fliers could be charged with libel — written defamation intending to ruin a person's or group's reputation, said Susan Ross, media law professor in the Edward R. Murrow School of Communication.

"I think it's libel because it subjected the fraternity to hatred and scorn, it is false

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A flowery field trip



THE DAILY EVERGREEN/JEFF WHITNEY

Shannon Nix, a senior majoring in horticulture, takes a second to smell a rose Tuesday morning on a class field trip to Hughes Florist in Spokane.

Cable company accused of discriminatory notices

Kiantha Shadduck
The Daily Evergreen

A WSU program has accused the local cable company of discrimination for adding a disclaimer on a gay-related advertisement. The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Allies Program accused Century Communications of unfair treatment to advertisement purchasers and renegeing on the stations equal-opportunity employer act.

Century Communication placed disclaimers before and after a \$28 GLBA Program advertisement that

reads, "Gay, lesbian, bisexual or trans? Palouse gay-positive resources: WSU GLBA Program, Stonewall Health Project, ID YOUTHNET, Unitarian Universalists and Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse."

The advertisement also included phone numbers and Web addresses of gay-friendly organizations, said Melynda Huskey, director of the GLBA Program.

The disclaimers stated the advertisement was a paid advertisement that does not reflect the views of the station or its affiliates, and to

direct all comments to the GLBA Program.

The Program's advertisement aired on the cable channel 11 reader board Friday and is scheduled to air through Oct. 14.

No other advertisements had disclaimers.

"They've discriminated against us," Huskey said. "Since when is it justified to take our First Amendment rights away by wrapping disclaimers around our ad as if it was something terrible? We aren't able to say what we need

without the station discriminating."

"We don't discriminate," said Peter Quam, general station manger, in a phone interview from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. "We put our ads with ads that we will get phone calls about. That ad is something that raises questions."

Although hundreds of concerned individuals contacted the station during the summer when an anti-gay advertisement aired, no disclaimer ran with that ad, Huskey said.

The advertisement, purchased by Neal Stenerson, said: "Warning

Moscow and area residents. How long are we going to allow gay and lesbian people to publicly demoralize and lower the standards of our city? Please voice a peaceful protest to your city council."

"Being gay is not according to God's word," said Ella Stenerson, who helps her husband Neal write their advertisements. "Homosexuality is an abomination to the Lord."

Recent complaints and threats of protest have pushed Century

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Sports:

Competitiveness right up WSU Bowling Club's alley

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ASWSU:

Three join judicial board; Senate discusses anti-gay incidents

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WEATHER

Mostly cloudy



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