

# College errs in giving killer a forum

On behalf of the Washington State Law Enforcement Association, I wish to express my deepest disappointment in The Evergreen State College's decision to allow convicted police murderer Mumia Abu-Jamal to speak Friday (via audiotape) for its commencement ceremonies. Honoring someone who murdered a police officer while he was serving the public is unconscionable.

We are grateful to Gov. Locke's wisdom and leadership in bowing out of an opportunity to address the graduating class. He recognized this as a situation in which the wrong decision was being made.

WSLA asked the college to take a stand against hate and murder by choosing a respectable speaker to address the graduating class. Unfortunately, they overlooked all the people who have made positive and rewarding contributions to society and chose a person who murdered a police officer. It is truly a sad reflection on the leaders of The Evergreen State College.

Never before has our county needed positive, constructive, healthy leadership from our schools as we do now. We are deeply disappointed that Evergreen disregarded the requests of the slain officer's wife and of the hundreds of dedicated law enforcement officers to choose a more appropriate person to address the graduating class of 1999.

CHARLIE ROSENZWEIG

President

Washington State Law Enforcement Association