

opinion

ROTC should march to University's tune

The University's ROTC department has gone public with its policy of denying scholarships to homosexuals.

Rules are rules, after all, and everyone knows the Army can't allow gays into its ranks. They could be "compromised," according to Col. Steve Wolfram, head of the ROTC here.

If anything is being "compromised," it's the University, which apparently has turned its back on this blatant double standard of equal opportunity.

Let's put the University's ROTC department in perspective.

"ROTC — whatever else you might think about it — is an academic program," University Pres. Paul Olum told an Emerald reporter last year.

Then why isn't it treated as one?

If the University's English department refused to give scholarships to homosexuals, heads would roll and law suits would fly fast and furious.

If a campus fraternity had a written regulation banning gays from joining, its charter probably would be revoked.

Yet the ROTC discriminates with impunity.

By definition, the ROTC is a University department, falling under the control of the faculty senate and subject to University regulations. One of those regulations states: "The University of Oregon affirms the right of all individuals to equal opportunity in education and employment without regard to . . . any other extraneous consideration not directly related to effective performance. (Emphasis ours.)"

By singling out gays, the ROTC is clearly violating University rules. It gets away with it because it is the military that really controls the ROTC, not the University.

The University faculty, with a few notable exceptions such as biology Prof. Bayard McConnaughey and philosophy Prof. Cheyney Ryan, has quietly relinquished its control over ROTC policy and contented itself with collecting tuition from the 80 or so students enrolled in the program.

The current discrimination problem is allowed to exist because the University has allowed a government-run establishment to remain on its campus for 66 years.

If the ROTC wants to remain welcome on this campus it should play by the University's rules, not the military's.

letters

IFC cuts

I was disturbed by Jeff Nudelman's statement regarding the prospects of future IFC program cuts. He stated that he may favor budget cuts for "political organizations" such as the Survival Center and Students for a Nuclear Free Future.

I feel that it is unfair for him to label these groups as "political," for, in effect, he is questioning their validity and threatening their survivability as valuable student organizations. The legitimacy of these groups deserves fair evaluation and should not be confused by the use of a misrepresentative term.

In the future I would hope that Jeff Nudelman use some discretion in his selection of terms used for labeling these

organizations and that he keep any personal biases separate from his duties as an IFC board member.

Adam Schultz

Austerity

In this time of austerity, ASUO programs are being asked to cut-back their budgets. This is reasonable given the fiscal state of events today. Yet, those who are bearing the brunt of the cutbacks are the small and middle-sized programs while the large and inefficient programs continue unaffected.

We are being reduced disproportionately in relation to the EMU, the ODE, and the Athletic Department. The EMU is requesting another large seven-percent increase in employees salaries; the ODE

with its inflated budget of \$80,000 and mostly non-student administration (which daily over-prints by 2,000 Emeralds and in which most stories are from the Associated Press wire and not student reporters) is again raising its fees for ads; and the mal-managed Athletic Department which was bailed-out last year by the IFC to the tune of \$130,000 dollars, is requesting large increases to offset similar losses next year. The budgets of The Big Three just seem to inflate and inflate while program budgets similar to ours diminish more and more.

This funding practice is unequal and contrary to student needs. We propose, therefore, a freeze in reductions to programs similar to ours; a 10-percent reduction in the budgets of The Big Three; and a general reconsideration of which programs are actually fulfilling student needs.

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Fire Healy

Why doesn't sports reporter John Healy change his attitude about Ducks basketball and stop demoralizing the team, the coach and the fans?

In last Monday's Emerald, after Saturday's tremendously exciting game that was lost in the very last two minutes of play, Coach Haney was made to sound like a flustered emotional wreck: "The result left Haney glum and shaken — seemingly on the verge of tears."

Damn it, the guy cares! That's one of the most important qualities any human being can have — to care passionately about what he's doing! How much more admirable were Haney's tears than Washington coach Merv Harshman's sour-grapes remark after losing to the Ducks Monday night: "It looked like Oregon wanted to win the game more than we did at the end."

Does Harshman (or Healy) think feigned indifference is a more manly virtue than an

honest admission that the Ducks played better ball than the Huskies that night?

Why the complaint that the attendance at games is down ("a sparse crowd of 3,684")? Considering the downbeat, disparaging, almost contemptuous tone of the coverage the games get in the Emerald, it's amazing that anybody shows up at all. But 3,684 loyal fans did come to that Monday night game, despite the fact that Emerald sports "reporting" suggests they were fools to waste their time and money when they could probably have been better entertained by staying home watching television, going to a movie or playing video games.

Let's start giving credit where credit is due! The Ducks are being damned if they do and damned if they don't. Monday's victory was made out to be some sort of freak of Fate. Healy made it sound like the Ducks are almost willfully losing: "This was a win that appeared headed for the great basketball void that Oregon seems to chuck all of its potential wins into."

Let's have more objective reporting of games — and if we must have "commentary," let's have it by someone who's on our side. Enough of this cynical, pseudo-sophisticated banter that is so nauseatingly common among local TV sportscasters with the blow-dry hairstyles.

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