

Clear away clutter, get to ROTC issue

It's time to clear the air regarding the ROTC/sexual orientation issue. A lot of charges and counter-charges have been hurled back and forth between the *Emerald*, the ASUO and Pres. Paul Olum. All that has been achieved is a cluttering up of the situation with a lot of debris.

Let's sweep away all that has occurred — or hasn't occurred — and start from square one.

We are deeply concerned about resolving the issue of whether the military science department violates the University's affirmative action guidelines by discriminating against homosexuals seeking ROTC scholarships, obtaining faculty posts or entering into its upper-division program.

The ROTC/sexual orientation controversy raged for five months last spring ending with Cheyney Ryan, a philosophy professor, calling for the termination of the department unless it ceased its discriminatory practices. The University Assembly voted to "indefinitely postpone" Ryan's motion. The postponement didn't sit well with students and some members of the faculty. A formal debate last spring between Olum, Ryan, Lt. Col. Steven Wolfgram, head of the military science department and Barb Ryan, director of Gay and Lesbian Alliance, also didn't offer any satisfactory solutions to the issue.

It was after the debate that Olum is said to have agreed to a fact-finding committee to investigate any affirmative action violations by the military science department. Faculty members were behind it. Students were behind it. But Olum apparently had reservations about a fact-finding committee, reservations that he didn't make public until last week.

At a press conference Thursday Olum charged the committee concept was set up by the *Emerald*. "The *Emerald*," Olum said, "made its own decision about what the committee would be."

We hadn't realized the fact-finding committee concept was out doing. If we'd known it was up to us we wouldn't have waited so long to get an investigating committee under way.

Charging at this time that the *Emerald* "made its own decision" regarding the formation of a fact-finding committee seems like more clutter getting in the way.

For the record, the *Emerald* objectively reported the facts in the issue and never made such a decision.

Olum denies having agreed to the fact-finding committee even though Mary Hotchkiss, ASUO president and Doug Marker, director of the campus ACLU last year, were under the impression he had agreed if not through statement, than by implication.

Thursday Olum said there would be a committee — but not the faculty-student-administration committee originally agreed upon. Olum objects to the committee partly because it would be selected by Ryan, Hotchkiss and himself. His objection no doubt stems from the possibility a selected committee could become highly political.

If that is Olum's objection, we agree. A highly political committee would only mire the findings of such a committee in the muck of political pronouncements.

However, while Olum raises legitimate objections, he also seems to be objecting too much and raising issues that do more to obscure than clarify the ROTC/sexual orientation situation.

After he said he never agreed to a committee, but said a non-political committee is necessary, Olum said, "I think a small committee is all we need to collect some facts." Is the original six-person committee all that large?

With all due respect to Olum, he seems to be cluttering the basic ROTC/sexual orientation issue with denials, objections and demands for changes in the fact-finding committee. This is no way to resolve the issue of whether the ROTC violates the University's affirmative action guidelines.

Olum has repeatedly stated his support of affirmative action at the University. This is good opportunity for Olum to show his support of the affirmative action guidelines.

But if the clutter keeps heaping and the ROTC/sexual orientation never comes under the scrutiny of a committee what are we to infer?

There have been enough delays, enough denials, it's time to empower a committee to find the facts and ascertain if the military science department violates affirmative action.



"WE HEAR YOUR SON MAY BE A CASUALTY IN THE BEIRUT BOMBING. GIVE US SOME COLOR ON THAT— LIKE ANGUISH, GRIEF, HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT IT..."

letters

A question

I have just one little question about the value system of our library. Why does our tax-supported library subscribe to *Fag Rag*, a magazine featuring bondage, sodomy and child prostitution, but not to Madison Avenue, a legitimate trade publication for advertising?

Sue Little
senior, advertising

'Semper fi, Mac'

Some thoughts and questions on recent manifestations of American diplomacy and on America's number one diplomatic instrument, the United States Marine Corps.

Why have American reporters not been allowed on Grenada to make firsthand reports of U.S. military activity there?

The Pentagon has not released figures of the number of planes of the Grenadian air force shot down or of the number of ships of that country's navy that have been sunk. Why?

A Marine, unable to speak because of wounds received in Beirut, handed the general visiting his bedside the terse, handwritten note "Semper fi." During World War II, this rejoinder, a shortened form of the Marine Corps slogan, was usually expressed as "Semper fi, Mac," and meant "up yours." (I doubt that the language of the Corps has been cleaned up since then). Did that interpretation occur to the tearful general?

On the bright side, in Grenada the Corps has finally found an enemy it can beat. Except for the Dominican Republic in 1965, the Corps hasn't had one of those since World War II.

You have plowed iniquity, you have reaped injustice, you have eaten the fruit of lies. Because you

have trusted in your chariots and in the multitude of your warriors. Therefore, the tumult of war shall arise among your people and all your fortresses shall be destroyed. Thus it shall be done to you...because of your great wickedness.

Guido Palandri
library

Ignorance

In John Healy's article "Autzen Observations" he did a fine job expressing the problems with the football crowd. His so-called embarrassment with the rally squad was ignorance. He implies the rally isn't leading cheers. Perhaps Healy needs to open his eyes to the fact that the cheerleaders are attempting to lead a cheer every three minutes of the game. Ironically enough, the reason he and many others may be blind to this is the dead crowd fails to chant along.

As for the band being "awed" over Washington's band is also ignorance. Again, Healy and other observers tend to tune out the band's attempt to play constantly throughout the entire game. Not to mention a great halftime show.

Yes, Healy, the band and the rally put in a great amount of hours for someone like yourself to fail to see how hard these teams work to please the crowd. Sometime, why don't you try to motivate the crowd to yell "Let's go ducks" enthusiastically? Better yet, at the next game motivate your section to cheer along with the rally and the band. You might be surprised. That is, if you're paying attention.

Heidi Hedberg

Morons march

Right here in the *Emerald*, I saw an article on Oct. 27 entitled "Eugeneans Protest U.S. Military Involvements." I read a short story once entitled "The Marching Morons." Never mind the story, the title fits these protestors to a "T."

Why? Protest marches don't ac-

complish very much. Sure, you get headlines. Sure, you get noticed — but those who notice your marching don't think much of it, and sometimes they are the police who have been sent in to break it up.

So you want people to hear your opinion, you don't like this, etc. A protest rally just makes you a big, fat nuisance. And few take you seriously. Instead, write letters to the people you're protesting to, to your Senator and Congressman, to the editor of a newspaper, and anyone else you can think of.

It's been said that the pen is mightier than the sword — it is also mightier than the sign-carrying chant.

David Nott
freshman, computer science

Aggrrrression

Perhaps in the interest of journalistic integrity *Emerald* sports writer, Steve Turcotte, might have considered a less superficial approach to the reasons for change in the intramural football rules. Turcotte seems to feel that the University ought to be in the business of promoting aggression among unpadding students. Obviously, he is not impressed that the rate and seriousness of injury under the new rules has drastically been reduced. For what is University life without a few concussions, broken bones, and sprains on the gridiron, eh, Turcotte?

Turcotte's lack of enjoyment under the present football rules is probably attributable largely to his limited experience. Having been expelled from one game and suspended from the subsequent game for abusing the referees, I'm surprised that he's had sufficient experience to merit comment on the new rules. But what's football without swearing at the referees, eh, Turcotte? I'm sorry that we've so limited your outlets for physical aggression.

Robert Brustad
department of intramurals

letters policy

The *Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community. Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content. "Comment" is an *Emerald* opinion feature submitted by members of the University community. "Comment" columns must be limited to 500 words and typed. Letters to the editor and "Comment" columns should be turned into the *Emerald* office, Suite 300, EMU.

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