

# opinion

## ROTC controversy spreads to PSU

The controversy over whether or not ROTC programs violate affirmative action guidelines has spread from the University to Portland State University. This might clue in some people that the inquiry is not simply indigenous to this campus.

Douglas Pyle, a former University student, now the coordinator of PSU's Students for Lesbian and Gay Rights, is intent on getting PSU's ROTC program either in compliance with affirmative action guidelines, or terminated as a PSU program.

Pyle says ROTC conflicts with PSU's affirmative action policy by prohibiting homosexuals from participating in the program. Prohibiting anyone participation in the program on the basis of sexual orientation is in violation of PSU guidelines.

Pyle readily admits that he pursued the complaint against PSU's ROTC as a result of the controversy generated last year over the University's ROTC program and charges it violated University affirmative action guidelines.

It should be clear to college and university administrators in the state's system of higher education that the ROTC/sexual orientation issue will not simply disappear — go back into the closet, as it were. The controversy will surely spread to campuses with ROTC programs. Even those colleges and universities contemplating instituting ROTC should pay heed.

The good thing about the University and PSU's ROTC complaints is that it may take the burden off university and college administrators (who may be reluctant to terminate a lucrative program) and put it squarely into the hands of the State Board of Higher Education. Ultimately, the State Board will have to address the issue of affirmative action, sexual orientation and ROTC programs.

## One, two, three, four what's that again?

Novelist, host of PBS' "Firing Line" and icon of conservatism William F. Buckley would have been rather piqued at our College Republicans last week during their counter-protests of the peace parade and the Die-In Friday.

Buckley, widely respected for the exactitude of his language, wouldn't have been piqued by the College Republicans' counter-protests, nor by their dedication to the conservative ideology. But he certainly would have taken the pencil out of his mouth and asked them to "hold-hold-hold on a bit" when they started their chant: "Freeze today, fry tomorrow."

"Freeze today, fry tomorrow" is an ambiguous chant, not the sort in which the chanter's political stand is simultaneously loud and obvious.

Why ambiguous? An advocate of the nuclear freeze might have unwittingly chanted along thinking:

"Yes, it's true, if we don't enact the nuclear freeze today, we'll all fry tomorrow." Nuclear freeze advocates don't think about missiles incoming or outgoing, West to East or East to West. Instead, they look at the totality of nuclear arms and see the threat as more global than chauvinistic.

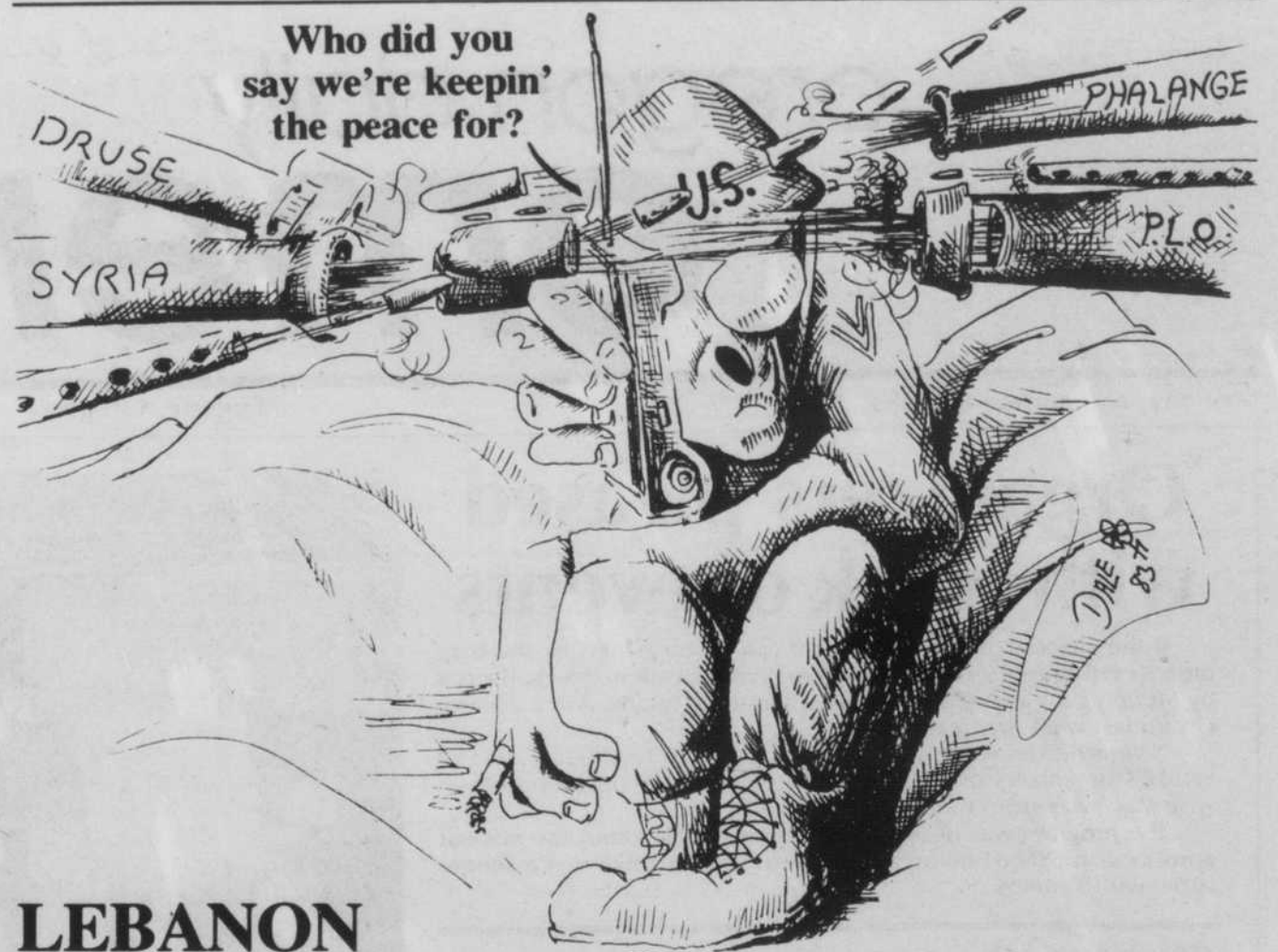
The College Republicans were actually professing their belief that if the U.S. enacts a nuclear "freeze" today the Soviets would "fry" the U.S. tomorrow.

Who's to say this isn't true? No one has a crystal ball to decipher the future and see that if the U.S. took the first step to freezing nuclear weapons then the Soviets wouldn't take advantage.

However, by the same token, if we're crystal ball gazing, it's possible that if the U.S. had the courage to take the step to a nuclear freeze the Soviets might perceive less of a threat and also embark on a nuclear freeze.

Unfortunately, crystal balls aren't to be trusted, nor even consulted for a glimpse of the future, especially on the issue of the nuclear freeze.

In the meantime, it would certainly be a great service to University students if the various chanting groups on this campus, like the College Republicans, make damn sure their noisy politics are readily understood. If not, how can students knee-jerk to the left, knee-jerk to the right or knee-jerk — if at all?



## LEBANON

### letters

#### Stairway to . . .

On Monday, Oct. 24, I ate my lunch sitting in my favorite place in the EMU — the main staircase overlooking the foyer beside the Fishbowl. While I ate my sandwich, many people passed me on their way up or down the wide staircase with no problem, until a particularly rude office employee deliberately bumped into me and asked me not to sit on the stairs. She went on to say how there are many other places to sit in the EMU (which there aren't at noon) and that it's dangerous to sit on the stairs. Well, my wife and I were taking up perhaps three feet of a twelve foot wide staircase off to one side.

My point is, there are too many places which do not provide for variety in use opportunities. Even if there were many places to sit in the EMU, this person does not realize the opportunities a staircase offers. Stairs are not just a means to get from one floor to another, but can also act as a balcony, since they are excellent places for sitting with an overlook of public areas. The main stair in the EMU provides such an opportunity. People-watching is by far one of the most frequently carried out activities in nearly any public building, particularly during the lunch hour.

The kinds of opportunities which a set of stairs embody is best described by William Kleinsasser, University professor of architecture, as a "precisely general" place, that is, "... (a) structure that (is) accommodating and evocative without being one-sided or limiting — open-ended in its possibilities without being underdeveloped..."

The architects, Lawrence, Tucker and Wellmann, who designed the old portion of the

EMU, use this concept when they provided a grand staircase opening on to a grand foyer. They were designing a place for people to see others, and to be seen by others.

There are perhaps some opportunities that the architects missed, but as the situation exists, there is now no way one could declare that stairs exist only for vertical circulation. Ronald Lee, University architecture graduate and Portland architect has said, "There has to be a sort of mystery and a sense that there is still something to be found out. If all the answers are immediate, there's no seeking. Let the user search and discover his own answers and meanings, his own uses, his own patterns."

After all, isn't that what learning is all about?

David Clarke  
architecture

#### Demeaning

The Oliphant cartoon in the Nov. 7 Emerald presented a demeaning racist view of Jesse Jackson's entrance into the Democratic presidential race. By picturing a black entertainer running onto a stage covered with military hardware, Oliphant implied that Jackson's emphasis on the rights of the poor, international peace, and an end to the nuclear arms race is nothing but comic relief in the serious drama of war and destruction.

What kind of vision regards war as serious, while seeing the struggles of humanity for peace and dignity as comic? Some of us remember the fun Oliphant had with the ERA struggle, and we can only wonder what jokes he will think to make about the new national holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King.

Louise Westling  
English

#### Observations

This is in regards to the liberation of Grenada from a bloodthirsty Marxist regime by U.S. forces and the subsequent reaction of various groups.

A few observations:

The people of Grenada welcomed the U.S. Marines and are glad the Cubans are being sent home.

Democracy would never have been possible under the well-armed, Soviet sponsored regime of Bernard Coard that had taken power.

Democracy now has a chance to develop without threat of violent

reprisals from Marxist extremists.

Had we sat back and done nothing Grenada would have become an authoritarian base, located at a strategic location, and used to funnel arms to Marxist terrorists throughout Central and South America.

Now for a couple of questions:

Why are groups calling themselves "peace organizations" vehemently protesting Pres. Ronald Reagan's policies even though the people of Grenada and the vast majority of Americans support the liberation?

Why don't we ever see these protestors coming out to condemn Soviet actions or actions from their authoritarian allies?

Ron Munion  
Eugene

#### Doesn't wash

The Emerald's Nov. 2 editorial ("Hatfield Doesn't Wash, as a Republican) was disappointingly shallow and replete with inconsistencies.

You correctly state that Hatfield doesn't "wash" as either a Republican ideologue or as a "ranting and raving Democrat"; but then you incorrectly conclude that the only appropriate adjectives left to describe his posture are "quirky... strange... knee-jerk... etc." Another quite plausible interpretation of Hatfield's style is that it exudes creativity, independence from special interests, and deep conviction. Would the Emerald prefer that Hatfield become a predictable mindless ideologue of the right or the left?

Also, it is implied that it is grossly inconsistent for Hatfield to be both for nuclear arms reduction and against abortion-on-request. Is it not the case that Hatfield regards all human life to be precious, whether that life is threatened by a nuclear blast or by an abortionist? Thus, it follows that Hatfield's life-affirming stance on these two issues is a rare example of lonely integrity and logical consistency in the face of virulent and hostile lobbies on both the right and left.

Finally, the editorial closes with coyly veiled references to Margie Hendrickson as "a politician looming on the horizon who has made quite a name for herself and just might win Hatfield's Senate seat." One gets the distinct impression that the Emerald would actually prefer a "ranting and raving Democrat."

John Hubbird  
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Monday, November 14, 1983

## oregon daily emerald

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