

opinion

Fact-finders start on ROTC issue

University Pres. Paul Olum has at long last appointed and empaneled a fact-finding committee to study the ROTC/sexual orientation question.

The *Emerald* must confess to a certain impatience in this matter. That impatience was not born of disrespect for Olum, but was impatience toward resolving what may prove to be a discriminatory wrong committed against a minority group on this campus. This wrong may not be in strict violation of the University's equal opportunity guidelines. However, it probably violates the University's affirmative action guidelines.

Olum was anxious to ensure the committee did not take a political posture or make policy pronouncements. In his letter to the six committee appointees Olum emphasized they deal with "simple, factual questions."

We echo Olum's concerns, structuring the committee's role as fact-finders is important to establishing whether or not the ROTC program violates University rules against discrimination or affirmative action. The issue is not black and white, as much information as possible is necessary for an acceptable resolution.

The issue of possible ROTC discrimination is definitely emotional in many quarters. We, like other interested groups, strongly object to any discriminatory practices being allowed to take place overtly or covertly at this University.

We heartily approve of Olum's six appointments. He was wise to retain ASUO Pres. Mary Hotchkiss' choice of law student Alan Contreras and Sherri Schultz, ASUO executive assistant, for an original committee. The appointment of John Lallas, executive dean, Shirley Menaker, graduate school associate dean, Richard Steers, management professor and James O'Fallon, law professor and chair of the fact-finding committee, certify the group will more than adequately serve its function.

Don't expect a quick solution to question of ROTC discrimination. Olum has asked the committee to release its findings by the end of 1984. Then the appropriate governing bodies will evaluate the committee's findings and take necessary action. The wheels of bureaucracy are slow — if indeed they do have wheels at all.

Law school chooses the right policy

It's odd, but apt that while the fact-finding committee studying ROTC discrimination is now sitting, the University Law School has adopted a resolution for that school's placement center to follow the University's equal opportunity policy.

University Pres. Paul Olum has concluded that the placement centers of individual schools do not have to adhere to the equal opportunity policy as long as they do not violate the law. This reading of the equal opportunity policy was prompted by recent protests of specific recruiters who have a history of discriminatory hiring. Ironically, it was FBI recruiters at the law school who inspired the protest.

The equal opportunity policy states the University "affirms the right of all individuals to equal opportunity in education and employment, without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, national origin, marital status, or any other extraneous considerations not directly and substantively related to effective performance, including sexual orientation."

The equal opportunity policy and the University's affirmative action guidelines are two separate, distinct yet similar policies — and therein lies problems for the University. As the occasion dictates, either policy has been evoked. Consequently, there are cracks in the University's strong front against discrimination.

We commend the law school's placement center for choosing the more inclusive of the two non-discriminatory policies. And we urged that other placement centers in the University community follow suit.

But, eventually, the University will have to address its two policies and either choose one or combine the two.



A mother's plea for the future

I am writing to you in the desperate hope that you may be able to help — by printing my letter — to let your readers know just how desperate I and so many other mothers are here in England, about the deployment of U.S. cruise missiles so close to our homes.

letter from abroad ann toms

We are not admirers of the Soviet Russian system, but neither do we believe we are in imminent danger of attack from them — except in response to these new missiles. They will make us the world's most important target. In any nuclear exchange we cannot possibly survive. The overwhelming majority of British people do not want these foreign weapons on our soil. We have our own defense systems, our own destiny to follow.

I love my two children dearly (David, 21, is a fine clarinet player and Mandy, 13, is doing so well with her cello). They both deserve a future, and I look forward to grandchildren one day — yet all I can see ahead is the grim spectre of death for us all.

This island is so beautiful, rich, fertile; my home is so dear to me — I, like all my friends, feel I am just not prepared to stay silent whilst this country is turn-

ed into a scenario of despair. It must be possible for "civilized" peoples to live and let live side by side in peace — we don't want the provocative cruise missiles — we don't require American interference — let us take our own risks — they cannot be greater than the risks which your weapons, controlled by your president, expose us to.

Freedom is what America has always stood for — but now we are asking who's freedom? And freedom from what? What kind of freedom shall we have left when the power of life and death, the future of our country, our continent is under the thumb of someone else's elected president. Are we to live our lives on our knees to a culture not quite like our own, in the day to day expectation that our history is drawing to a close, that our children may be destined to be sacrificed to the American Dream — or its anti-communist hysteria — or in "defense of U.S. overseas interests"?

I am not anti-American, lots of my best memories are of time spent with American friends. There is so much to admire and enjoy which emanates from the far side of the Atlantic — but if the Reagan administration persists with his ego-dominated, hawkish attitudes it won't be long before the graffiti — Go Home Yanks — reappears on the ancient walls of Europe.

Ann Toms lives on Weston Road, Totland, on the Isle of Wight in the United Kingdom.

letters

Errors

Melissa Martin's article on foreign language enrollments (Nov. 21) contains several glaring errors.

According to the Registrar's fourth-week printout, course enrollment for Chinese is 287, comparable to Russian, whose course enrollment is 258, and Italian (247), though less than Japanese, which is 356 (a significant jump from its last-year figure of 285).

To say that only "some 65 students are taking Chinese this year" is false, since first-year Chinese students alone exceed that number (77 registered at the

beginning of the term). Additional students are taking second-, third-, and fourth-year Chinese literature courses and seminars.

To attribute this misinformation to Prof. Contrum, Head of the German Department, adds some comic relief to the seriousness of the error, since Stephen Kohl, Japanese instructor, is our department head. But I do not believe that Kohl would have given out such misleading information.

Misleading also is the chart accompanying the article, in which the course hours of one entire language program are juxtaposed with numbers of first-year students of another without specifying which is which.

The *Emerald* reporter's playing with enrollment figures does not alter the actual figures of our program. Nevertheless, there is cause for concern about the Chinese program which has been short-changed for many years. For instance, whenever a faculty member goes on leave, he or she is invariably replaced with a part-time person who is paid coolie wages.

In her letter to the *Oregonian* (Nov. 20), Linda Walton, at PSU, boasts that 120 students are enrolled in Japanese this year. She attributes the success to the dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences and other members of the PSU administration "have taken firm steps in very difficult cir-

cumstances to show their commitment..."

The same holds true for PSU's Chinese program, which has more than 120 students, according to Wendy Larson, new instructor of Chinese at PSU a PhD candidate in Chinese Literature from UC, Berkeley, she, by the way, was among the 12 candidates who applied at the University and were not even considered. The dean, according to Kohl, did not have the extra \$6,000 to hire a full-time replacement for Lucia Yang, who is on sabbatical.

When monetary values are placed above the value of human resources, then a language program can be permanently damaged. It is not unlikely that the East Asian program at PSU will have a "cutting edge" sharper than our own, if we allow budgetary considerations to interfere with hiring.

Angela Jung
professor, Chinese

Worn thin

I'd like to complain. Professor LaRusso's 301 students are wearing thin the linoleum of the library reading room. Where do you expect us to realize funds to repair the floor? A couple new copies of Aristotle and Quintilian would also be nice.

Jamieson Dickie
RMCM

oregon daily emerald

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