

Equality achieved in Court's ruling

All-male clubs could become a thing of the past after the Supreme Court's ruling on Rotary clubs last Monday. The 7-0 decision stated it was not within the constitutional boundaries of Rotary International to deny women membership.

This ruling emphasizes a growing trend toward opening the doors of male clubs to the opposite sex, as well it should. The personal and social benefit that members gain should not be denied to women simply because of their gender.

The case was brought to the Court after the Rotary Club in Duarte, Calif., was kicked out of the larger Rotary International club because they gave membership to women.

Rotary International said women membership violated its charter. It also claimed it was within its constitutional rights to exclude a person on the basis of sex because of the First Amendment's right to freedom of private association.

But the Court did not agree. In the majority opinion Justice Lewis Powell said the association was not "intimate or private" and did not fall under the constitutional protections.

Lewis also pointed out that the Rotary charter also states community service goals. These objectives could be more easily attained if women were allowed in the clubs. A more representative cross section of community leaders with a broadened capacity for service can be obtained, Lewis emphasized.

This decision follows a 1984 ruling which forced the Jaycees to admit women because membership was determined on a "large and basically unselective nature."

Allowing women into these clubs will not harm the reputation or prestige of membership. As women enter into jobs once dominated by men, they become an integral part of the field. They can offer the clubs a different level of prestige.

In turn the women also will get the job benefits that their male counterparts get from socializing at the clubs. Despite the non-business atmosphere the clubs claim, these opportunities do exist. One member of the Metropolitan Club in Washington, D.C., said he joined because "it impresses the hell out of out-of-town clients."

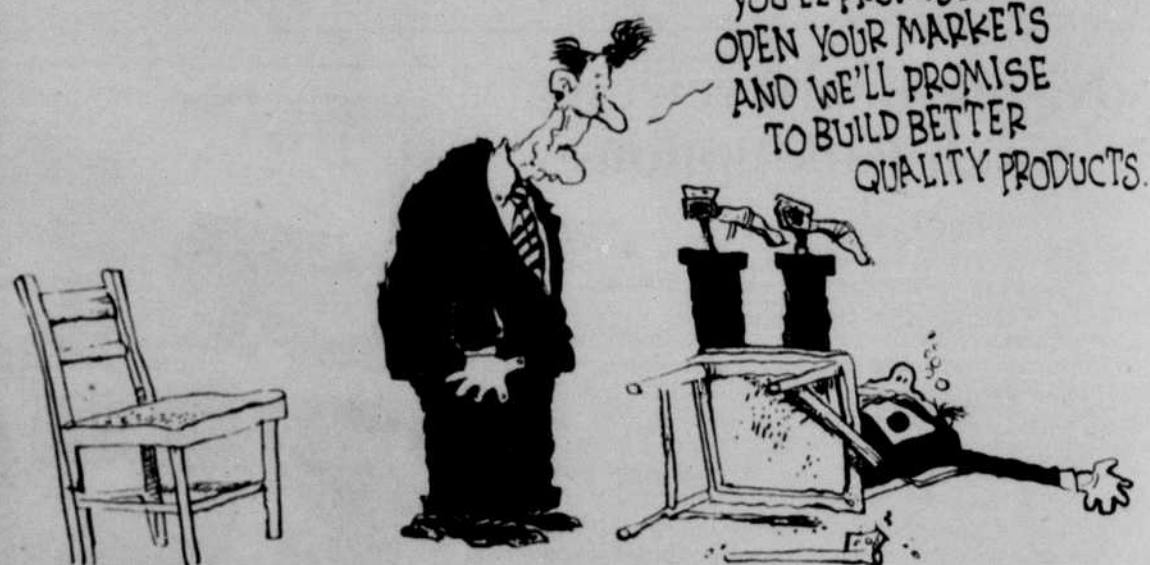
It is inevitable that women will gain access to these exclusive clubs — by force or changing attitudes. State laws prohibit discrimination in club admission, but despite financial pressures the clubs still refuse.

They have nothing to fear, however; allowing females in won't turn the club into Betty Crocker's kitchen or Jane Fonda's workout. Some clubs, like the Union League Club of Philadelphia, have willingly dropped the all-male policy. One member of the club said, "The club didn't change at all. It was almost not noticeable."

The Court's ruling is a significant first step to abolishing the men-only policy. Now the federal government must take action on this important issue. The states have started by passing anti-discrimination laws. But stronger legislation is needed.

There is nothing to fear by letting women into what some have called "one of the last male bastions." It's only a sign of the times.

OK, NAKASONE, IT'S A DEAL. YOU'LL PROMISE TO OPEN YOUR MARKETS AND WE'LL PROMISE TO BUILD BETTER QUALITY PRODUCTS.



Letters

Hard talk

Racism historically has been an issue with women's organizations. White women's voices have been heard since the suffrage movement. As time progressed this privilege has led to disparity within women's communities.

With civil rights and women's rights working hand in hand, it became apparent that we needed to look at the issues of women of color and poor women.

Now in the '80s, we are still running up against our racism. The division of women must be examined, our racism challenged and rectified. There are no more excuses.

The Women's Referral and Resource Center took and maintains a stand against the Women's Symposium and we appreciate the courage it took the ASUO to cancel it.

Women's Task Force: it is no longer valid to hide behind the excuse that "The issues of women of color are hard to even talk about."

W.R.R.C. staff
Mercea Mabry
Becky Bilyeu
Mary Sullivan
Kari Rothi

Cultural cut

It has come to our attention that the Multi-Cultural Center is one of the programs being considered for cuts to alleviate the (Lane Community) College's budget problems.

We here at the Center, as do many people in the community, feel that the loss of the Multi-Cultural Center and of Connie Mesquita, would be a great setback for Latino and other minority students wishing to pursue a higher education.

The staff at Chicano Affairs have referred many potential students to Ms. Mesquita and the Multi-Cultural Center. The feedback we have gotten from these students has been very positive.

We have seen the results the Multi-Cultural Center has produced for Spanish-speaking and other minority students. We have seen students enroll and continue in higher education who may have never had a chance otherwise.

Many of these students have come from poor backgrounds. Many have worked as farm workers all their lives. Many have come from Third World countries seeking "the land of opportunity." The Multi-Cultural Center and its staff will always be held in the highest regard by these students.

Minority education has come a long way in the last 20 years. Lane Community College has a minority education service it can be proud of. It will be a great loss to the community, Lane Community College, and especially the present and future minority students if the Multi-Cultural Center is cut from existing programs.

Juan Guerra
Chairman
Chicano Affairs Center

Double scoop

In response to Stan VerNooy (ODE, May 4):

I liked your analogy between propensity for homosexuality and taste for ice cream.

It worked pretty well until I realized that ice cream can't

give me AIDS.

Lucky for me, I can still get a double scoop of chocolate-ripple and enjoy every delicious little bite.

Blake Hastings
Sociology

No offense

I have worked in the social services and as an educator in this community for almost 20 years. I have probably made some mistakes, but it was never my intent to harm or misuse any tradition.

I do not bill myself as a Native American representative or as Indian. That was the understanding I had with the Women's Symposium. If I was billed incorrectly it was without my permission or knowledge.

The NASU (Native American Student Union) did not contact me about the final decision to boycott, nor did they give me any opportunity to voice who I was and to respond to their concerns directly or indirectly.

I was not scheduled to teach anything of Native tradition. The talk that I was to give was on women in dysfunctional families, focusing on how to empower themselves and create peace inside. The dance was a non-traditional dance given to me by my grandmother and recreated by a friend and I.

I do teach wilderness trek, called "InnerQuest: and Dreamwalk, a combination of many concepts designed to challenge physically and psychologically one's own nature by confronting Nature itself.

I do not advertise them as traditional or Native American "Vision Quest." I have lectured on a topic known as "Vision Quest" utilizing examples of many cultures as a way to illustrate our need to reconnect to ourselves, the earth, and our commitment to humanity.

I did not know that the title of "Vision Quest" was an exclusive one. I apologize if I have offended anyone with its use.

Norma Cordell
Eugene
Friday, May 8, 1987

Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

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