

Lawmakers show support for ROTC

By SHANNON JACKSON
the Lantern, Ohio State U.

New legislation in Ohio and Illinois prohibiting the removal of ROTC programs from public colleges and universities has ensured that group's status on campuses nationwide.

But some activist groups see the measure as a reinforcement of discriminatory hiring policies carried out within those Army reserve units.

The Ohio measure, buried inside the state budget, passed July 11. The Illinois legislature passed a bill June 26 amending the current statutes governing Illinois higher education.

"It's a bleak day for those 'politically correct' at Ohio State University," said Ohio Sen. Eugene Watts, R-Galloway, speaking of the ROTC measure.

Watts, who is also an OSU associate professor of history, said the measure ensures all students equal access to education through ROTC scholarships.

ROTC adheres to the U.S. Department of Defense policy, which states "homosexuality is incompatible with military service."

Nationwide, the ROTC program has been criticized on college campuses because of the Department of Defense's anti-gay and lesbian policy. That policy often conflicts with some schools' nondiscrimination policy.

"The measure gives colleges and universities the legal authority and

SCHOOLS PROTESTING ROTC POLICY

Bowling Green State U.
California State U. system
U. of Cincinnati
U. of Connecticut
DePauw U.
Harvard U.
Illinois State U.
Indiana U.
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Kent State U.
U. of Kansas
Lynchburg College
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
U. of Minnesota, Minneapolis



State U. of New York
Northern Illinois U.
U. of Pennsylvania
U. of Pittsburgh
Pitzer College
U. of Rhode Island
Rutgers U. SOURCE: The Lantern and ACLU

backbone to say, "We can't (remove the ROTC from campus)," said Ohio Rep. Robert Netzley, the chief sponsor of the measure. Netzley said he plans to bring this legislation to other states at the American Legislative Exchange Council meeting this month.

However, schools like Ohio State and Illinois State say the legislation will not affect campus ROTC efforts because neither calls for the removal of the program.

"The legislation means we can't throw ROTC off campus, but we weren't going to throw them off in the first place," said Pat Smith, of the Illinois State Student Board of Directors.

But the Ohio legislation could stand in the way of a U. of Cincinnati faculty and student resolution calling for the ROTC's removal by 1992 if the policy is not rescinded.

"This legislation is not a setback," said Bill Rubenstein, director of the American Civil Liberties Union Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. "(The legislation) is evidence of how scared the other side is."

In order for the Department of Defense to change its policy, gay rights advocates and campus organizers say a major university needs to set the trend by removing ROTC from campus or taking a firm stand against its disciplinary policies.

But so far, no schools have stepped forward.

"A big school needs to set the precedent," said Paul Hendley, an ACLU spokesman. "All eyes are focused" on schools like the U. of Wisconsin and the U. of Minnesota where there has been a lot of progress lately, Hendley said.

Nationwide, the ACLU has tracked at least 70 campuses that protested the Defense Department's policy.

The ROTC, with more than 40,000 students enrolled supplies more officers to the military than all the military academies combined, said Joe Bartley, public information officer at Fort Knox, Ky.

Last year, six ROTC scholarship students were discharged for being homosexual, said Major Doug Hart, a spokesman for the Department of Defense. In all, the military discharges about 1,000 people each year for homosexuality, he said.

Nationally, a bill introduced by Rep. Gerald Solomon, R-NY, would deny federal funds to schools that refuse access to the defense department. Solomon created the bill in response to two California school districts which banned federal recruiters.

"The Illinois and Ohio legislation is just one more roadblock we have to overcome," said Michael Verveer, co-president of the Student Association at the UW and a national campus leader in the ROTC movement. "In addition to fighting on the campus level, we are going to have to fight on the state political level as well."

No more 'Bert and Ernie' for Oregon State prodigy

By LAURI REES and KIMBERLY WHITE
Daily Barometer, Oregon State U.

Like the average kid, David Noor has been having fun with his friends this summer.

But he won't be seeing much of them this fall. David, who will be 12 when classes begin, will be busy with his freshman year at Oregon State U.

David is the youngest student ever admitted to OSU.

"I'm as nervous as a college freshman would be," he said. "I don't think the other students will bother me."

"I'm not nervous about the curriculum because I've seen it before and it's at my level."

Because of state admissions requirements, David needed to take a high school equivalency test. He passed the test, which is normally given to students 16 and older, with no problem.

David's mother, Jackie Noor, said her son has been ahead of other children since an early age. She said David could count to 10 at 22 months, could say the alphabet at 2 1/2, and taught himself to read before he was 3.

"He just picked up a Bert and Ernie book and started reading it," she said.

His ability to read at an early age meant

David had to grow up fast. At 4 or 5 years old, while reading from an encyclopedia, David discovered that Santa Claus wasn't real.

"He came in crying, saying (the encyclopedia) said it was a myth," his mother said.

David attended kindergarten mostly for the social interaction with other children, then skipped to the third grade. He soon finished elementary school and then had some correspondence schooling from a private school.

Last year he completed his high school education at home. Math and science are among his favorite subjects, David said.

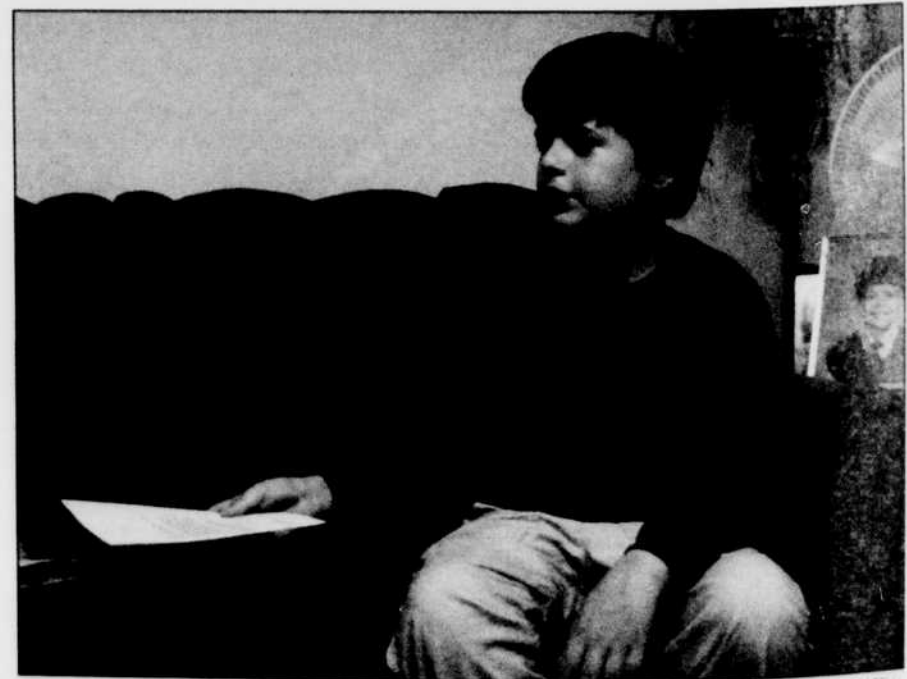
He is studying pre-calculus, which should help with his fall classes in electrical engineering orientation and chemistry.

As for David's career objectives, he plans to major in electrical engineering, then study law. He also hopes to graduate from OSU by age 15, he said.

"I might not be able to work at law until later, so I could work in electrical engineering," David said.

David plans to attend law school at Willamette U. in Oregon, then pursue a political career.

He is attending OSU because the school is close to home, and it is his father's alma mater.



DERRICK LEE, DAILY BAROMETER, OREGON STATE U.

David Noor, 12, will be the youngest student ever at Oregon State U. when he starts classes this fall.

He plans to live at home with his family without participating in extracurricular activities.

"I don't think I'd be able to relate with the older students," he said.

In his spare time David likes to play with his friends, many of whom also are gifted and home-taught.

He likes to play with his dog and cat, program computers and watch television.

He said his favorite television shows are "Quantum Leap" and "Newton's Apple."

David also enjoys playing the clarinet. He placed first in the solo and trio division of a regional music competition.

At first, his parents believed that David would attend college through his musical talents first. "We thought he might attend college on a clarinet scholarship," his mother said.