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Bills, Brand to fight policy of exclusion

By Kirsten Lucas
Emerald Reporter

University President Myles Brand and ASUO President Jennifer Bills announced Thursday that they will work together to oppose a long-standing U.S. Department of Defense policy barring gays and lesbians from military service.

The ground-breaking alliance between University administration and student leadership will target federal legislators and DOD officials in Washington, D.C. through letter writing and personal visits in late January.

The two said they know of no other university where student and administrative leaders have agreed to work together to oppose the directive, which states that "homosexuality is incompatible with military service."

In addition to preventing gays and lesbians from enlisting, military policy keeps students from receiving ROTC scholarships and other economic incentives offered for military service.

"On an individual level," Brand said, "I have to add my personal opposition to this military directive on the grounds that it is both senseless and hurtful. It is morally repugnant to suggest that sexual orientation bears on a person's ability or value to society."

"Many students across the nation recognize the DOD mistake in denying students the right to serve their country, and benefit from their service because of sexual orientation," said Bills, who is also the co-chairwoman of a national coalition of lesbians, gays and bisexuals.

The decision to join forces to reverse the DOD policy came out of a conversation between Brand and Bills earlier this month.

Brand followed up with a Nov. 11 letter to Bills proposing specific steps they could take together, while continuing their separate efforts.

Brand said this joint effort will not affect University policy regarding military recruiting on campus.

Bills said the ASUO maintains its position that the military should not be recruiting on campus because DOD policy conflicts with Oregon Administrative Rules regarding discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Brand made it clear that, while he will do what he

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Photo by Jeff Paslay

President Myles Brand takes time one Sunday morning for a ride on Star, his Tennessee walking horse stabled near Mount Pisgah.

Brand stereotype affirmed, broken

Editor's note: This is the second of two parts on President Myles Brand. Part 1 focused on Brand's day-to-day duties. Part 2 takes a more personal look at Brand's life away from campus.

By Chris Bounett
Emerald News Editor

Myles Brand is not a whimsical guy, so his wife, Peg, was understandably surprised when he shaved his trademark moustache this summer.

More surprisingly, Brand shaved the moustache he had sported for 30 years the day after the pair hiked through a mythical vortex in Arizona featuring the center of the cosmos.

Did supernatural forces drive

Brand to the razor? Not likely.

"Frankly, I think he just got tired of his moustache," Peg Brand said.

Brand called the shaving a whim, which is unusual because he is well-known for being stoic, hardworking and intelligent — someone who makes every decision methodically and without emotion.

"President Brand isn't a hugger," said former ASUO Vice President Sheila Stickel, who now works as Brand's assistant. "He's not a warm, touchy, feely person. He approaches things very academically."

The way he and Peg met even fits some perceptions the University community has about him.

Instead of some grandiose ro-

mantic moment, Brand said he and Peg "struck up a friendship" while both were teaching at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and the relationship grew. They will be married 14 years in January.

His life sounds solid and quiet, but breaking through the foundation are anomalies students wouldn't suspect.

From two Doberman pinschers that are so fat they look more like Labrador retrievers to his love of movies, to his occasional guitar playing, Brand does possess curious characteristics.

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Brand, 49, started as a mechani-

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On track

The women's cross country team finished fifth overall Monday at the NCAA Championships behind strong running from senior Lisa Karnopp.

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Cuomo's quandary

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Gov. Mario Cuomo, unable to secure a multi-year budget deal that advisers said could make it easier for him to run for president, moved for a less ambitious fiscal plan Monday.

Originally, Cuomo had hoped to combine this and next fiscal year's deficits, totaling more than \$4 billion, and solve both problems with one package.

Cuomo has said that until he gets a handle on the state's budget problems, he can't make a decision about running for president.

Group seeks to limit spending in House races

By Rene DeCair
Emerald Associate Editor

A new, small group has formed to lobby local congressmen to get them to support a bill that would impose campaign spending limits for seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The group, Oregonians for Election Reform, formed two months ago to urge Oregon Rep. Peter DeFazio and other congressmen to sponsor The House of Representatives Spending Limit and Election Reform Act.

The bill, which will be debated this week, would impose a voluntary campaign spending limit on House candidates of \$500,000 for general elections and \$100,000 for run-off elections.

One of the group's eight members, Bela Toledo, said he hopes the bill passes, instituting limits that would allow non-incumbents access to the political process.

"It's a real basic change," Toledo said.

"It will change the rules of how the game is played."

Because legislators rely on political action committee funds to run their re-election campaigns, he said, candidates without these funds are not able to get elected.

'Now you hardly know your representatives. But with less media time, they'll have to use it more wisely.'

— Bela Toledo,
member, Oregonians for Election Reform

"Usually more (incumbents) die than get voted out of office," Toledo said.

Although the bill would create voluntary spending limits rather than legal ones, Toledo said he believes candidates

will stick to the restrictions to make themselves look good.

Moreover, Toledo said he believes the restrictions will cut the number of television advertisements candidates use to get elected, which will be a positive move.

"Now you hardly know your representatives," Toledo said, adding that candidates rely heavily on TV commercials. "But with less media, time they'll have to use it more wisely."

The House resolution also would limit the role of PACs, dictating that they cannot provide more than one-third of a candidate's campaign funds.

Although Toledo's group has only eight members, it hopes to get Oregon congressmen, by way of public pressure, to add their names to the resolution's current 50-member sponsorship list.

But, he said, the real hurdle will not be getting the House and Senate to vote for the resolution. It will be getting President Bush to sign the bill; Bush has said he opposes limits on campaign spending.