

Five years could be worth the wait

Hope no one's in a rush. After long deliberation, the decision of whether ROTC stays on campus won't see the light of day for another five years.

The University Senate recently passed the motion, stating it would wait to see if the Defense Department changes its anti-homosexual policy before attempting to move ROTC off campus.

The endeavor to remove ROTC stems from its relation to the military, which doesn't allow homosexuals or lesbians to serve in its ranks. Student Sen. Brian Hoop set forth a motion to get rid of the University's ROTC program in answer to this policy.

The plot thickens with the usual red tape. Because the Oregon State Board of Higher Education ruled that DOD policy is in compliance, state universities must now follow this policy. This means ROTC cannot be removed from campus until the state board changes its ruling.

University President Myles Brand suggests rallying for DOD policy change rather than trying to get ROTC off campus.

This isn't a bad idea. Since DOD policy is at the core of the controversy, that is where we should begin to address the issue.

Yes, it is conceivable how a University booting an ROTC program would bring attention to, and hopefully end, the discriminatory policy, but it would be difficult to buck the board rulings — as difficult as going to the source of the problem and pushing for change. But if the group wishing to end the discriminatory policy wants to expend the energy to remedy the situation, wouldn't it be better to go to the heart of the matter?

Another thing to consider is exactly who is discriminating by trying to remove the program from the University. In trying to encourage diversity at the University via anti-discriminatory legislation, the movement's sponsors are now practicing just what they're preaching against: Discrimination.

What about the people who want ROTC on campus? They have every right to have this program available to them. Those wanting to kill the program must walk their talk and tolerate diversity — true diversity, which inevitably includes groups they don't agree with.

Five years. That's a long time. But if it's used wisely, it could be all the time we need to finally address this issue in the best possible way.

But if the group wishing to end the discriminatory policy wants to expend the energy to remedy the situation, wouldn't it be better to go to the heart of the matter?



LETTERS

Survey says

I'm responding to Bryan Westby's suggestion that rape would no longer exist if women only took martial-arts lessons.

I'm about to write something blatantly obvious to most people, but for other Westbys out there, I'll start at the beginning.

The cost of "decent" (please clarify) martial-arts tutoring is about \$65 a month, or \$2,340, for Westby's standards. Women have more to do in life than prepare for confrontations.

I can't believe martial arts alone will end all chances of any woman being raped. Take a handicapped woman unable to perform the art. Add a man with a gun or two men. A slip of the hand means death or severe bodily harm. Come on, Westby. Give "any" and "all" a break, these words are misused enough already.

You don't want to hear any complaints if women don't take your advice. I don't want to pay taxes, die, or dwell in human form. With these expectations, we surely will be disappointed.

Bryan says, "Martial arts are a fact of life. Rape isn't." Survey says ... Bonnnkk!! Rape occurs in life. It is also a fact. Therefore, rape is as much a fact of life as martial arts, homelessness and dryer lint.

Your argument has holes, fallacies, invalid reasoning and a pure lack of understanding or compassion. Try enrolling in a women's studies course, or Psych 330 (thinking).

Martial arts are no more a solution to rape than removing sculptures is to making football teams better.

Joe Greer
Student

Different game

I'd like to respond to the article titled "We'd rather pout than face truth" (ODE, Feb. 7).

The author apparently has a misunderstanding of where mainstream Americans have manifested an anger toward Japan. He or she believes the anger is a result of America's inability to assume responsibility for our economic descent. Perhaps the author has lived in a hole for the past several years.

In the article they state, "And

it's awful, ain't it, when someone beats us at our own game. How dare they compete with us, and win?"

Has it occurred to this person that maybe the Japanese are playing an entirely different game; that maybe America is pissed off because our products are deflected by absurd economic and cultural trade barriers, while Japanese goods are allowed to arrive on our shores and enter a free market.

How do you win a football game while wearing ice skates?

It's a situation where they stick their thumb in America's mouth while we stick ours in our butt. We are mad, with good reason. It's time for America to slip on some brass knuckles and clock Japan with a trade wall made of brick, with a sign that reads "We'll open us when you do."

Nathan E. Harrell
Freshman

Who won?

It's not surprising the University community facilitated the resignation of JoSonja Watson, for it follows a nationwide pattern that singles out black public officials for investigation.

I hope everyone is pleased with themselves. We accomplished our goal. I emphasize "we" because I don't just refer to those who signed the petitions for a recall election. I am not simply referring to the staff of the *Oregon Commentator*, which went out of its way to dig up dirty laundry.

Nor am I solely putting the blame on the College Republicans for their deliberate attacks on the progressive elements of the student government.

I place the blame with each and every student on this campus who remained complacent to this obvious personal attack on a very commendable student leader. And let us not forget those who said, "This is too much pressure on me. I hope she resigns."

Then there were those who thought to ourselves smugly, "I have never made mistakes, at least not like that."

Perhaps you haven't. But most likely you have, and didn't get caught (could it be because of your skin color?).

And even if you did get caught, how often have you been made to pay for it? How long did your mistakes haunt you?

What message are we at the University sending to students of color on this campus? Certainly it is one which screams, "We don't want you representing us, and we'll do everything we can to make sure you don't forget it."

Lisa Hartrich
Student

Real story

In response to Bryan Westby's "martial arts" solution to rape (ODE, Feb. 4), we have found some major flaws. Bryan ignores that most rapists do not jump out of the bushes. Martial arts training is no defense against coercion rape (where a man manipulates a woman to have sex with him, i.e. a boss threatening to fire a woman if she refuses him sex.)

In the occurrence of acquaintance, date or gang rape, often the woman may be drunk and/or incapable of defending herself and may wake up being raped, how will martial arts help her here?

And the largest flaw in the "martial arts" reasoning is that once again women are being blamed for being raped.

When will people realize that rape doesn't happen because a woman wears a skimpy dress, doesn't take self defense, or gets too drunk at a party?

Rape happens because men dominate women in our society and the ultimate form of domination is rape. This is a factor of life. Martial arts are not.

- In 1987, 91,111 rapes were reported to U.S. law enforcement agencies.

- One rape is reported every six minutes.

- Only one in 10 rapes is reported.

- Approximately one in four women in the U.S. will be the victim of rape or attempted rape by the time they reach in their mid-twenties.

- In the U.S., 35-60 percent of college men claim they might rape if assured of not getting caught.

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Art Psychology

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