

## Stiff residency rules benefit all students

For the first time in University history, out-of-state student enrollment has surpassed in-state. The enrollment increase has been followed by a stiffer policy for those trying to gain residency.

**The supply of out-of-state students is the highest it has been. Increased restrictions on residency requirements will allow the University to continue to provide beneficial programs to everyone with the increased revenue it will provide.**

Higher education has been designed to serve the students in the state where the school is located. However, the desire for students to attend the school of their choice is a freedom also granted by the system.

For those students attending out-of-state schools, the trade-off is obviously higher tuition. This, in turn, fuels the need to attain residency.

The out-of-state student has a few hurdles to jump before being granted residency. These hurdles are vital to the well-being of any state school. Without proper restrictions, too much revenue would be lost, affecting the level of education the school can offer.

Many out-of-state students come to the school, attend classes, and may work while at school. Many then seek employment upon graduation. One of the new requirements that goes into effect is to question a student's intent, or their primary purpose.

If the students' intentions are to stay in Oregon after graduation, then the chance of attaining residency is much higher. However, if a student is merely here for the education and will then be off to another state, residency will be more difficult to attain.

This change in policy has the potential to be walked all over. Entering freshmen may have a more concrete understanding of what their college life will entail. Beyond that, it is ludicrous to expect someone to have a concrete expectation of post-graduate employment. But let's not forget the function of state schools.

Maybe this policy will be helpful enough for someone in their third or fourth year of study. If that is the intention, then the policy nicely complements the idea of state-funded schools, as a service to in-state students.

To grant residency to a student in his or her first years of school gives the potential to violate the fundamentals of state-funded education. The extra money generated by out-of-state schools is vital.

With the excess income from out-of-state students, the University will be able to better serve all students. If residency is easily attained, all students will suffer from the lack of money the University will have for different programs.



OPINION

## Coming-out story gets feedback



THOR WASBOTTEN

There has been a lot of response to the story that appeared in the *Emerald* Monday about National Coming Out Day. Some members of the gay community have expressed their opinions that the story was too patronizing and "safe".

The purpose of the article was to give a general overview of what Coming Out Day means to those in the gay community, or at least those who were interviewed, which it accomplished. Another article was included to disseminate information about events happening on campus in connection with Coming Out Day.

What it did not do, and what it was not intended to do, was attempt to enter the world that gays experience. Because of time and space constrictions, a story of that importance could not have adequately been published.

Most of the calls were from those who were interviewed for the story. Many of them spoke about the story's writer. In each case, the complaint was not of the writer herself or the way she conducted her interviews, but of the finished product.

In a letter to the *Emerald* (ODE, Oct. 14), Rachel Dueker wrote, "Maybe the author was so safe because she did try to be objective and non-offensive."

After speaking with the writer it became clear that Dueker is right. The article was a news story, not an editorial. Balance and neutrality is what every good journalist strives for when reporting.

But, let's not confuse what

Dueker meant. She said that in our reporter's attempt to be safe — and non-offensive — the article was offensive to the gay community. Dueker's point is a valid one.

The writer is a heterosexual writing from a heterosexual's point of view. The article would have been written differently if it had been written by a homosexual. The writer put forth an honest attempt to not offend. She researched the story and conducted many interviews in a short period of time.

The quotes listed below are from some of those interviews. Some of the sources wished to remain anonymous then, and their wishes will be respected now. All of the sources are gay.

• "Coming out is a lifetime process. The main thing I don't think most students realize is that homosexuals and bisexuals constantly must explain themselves once they gain the confidence to break away from their closet fear about being recognized as gay.

"Coming Out Day, I hope, illustrates to homosexual students that you can celebrate being out, and recognize those who want to be out, only as far as they (are comfortable with.) People have different levels of being outwardly gay in public." (Jodi Mai, co-director of the LGBA, who estimated that about 300 students are openly homosexual)

• "As a gay man, I really resent Coming Out Day because I feel like we're still conditioning a homophobic culture by taking a day. We should realize it's not just one day to be proud, it should be every day." (Roger)

• "Coming Out Day is hypocritical because it's not really realistic, no one, even if they are in the closet with uncertainty, will be phased by seeing people yelling in the courtyard or being so public.

"There's no need to be public or have a day because it's totally hyped out beyond anyone feel-

**'Coming Out Day sometimes symbolizes to heterosexuals a lot of people trapped in the closet due to their own fears, shame or anger toward the unexpected responses of others.'**

— Rachel Dueker

ing comfortable to approach without being sucked in involuntarily to the gay community and demanding you support other gays you don't necessarily agree with, care for, or even want to be with for that matter. It's just all political and superficial." (Romeo)

• "Coming Out Day sometimes symbolizes to heterosexuals a lot of people trapped in the closet due to their own fears, shame or anger toward the unexpected responses of others.

"Be you, love you, be happy with what and who you are. You should realize it's not one day, it's every day to be proud as a gay." (Rachel Dueker)

• "A closet exists when you're gay only if you let it. If you can accept yourself by being honest with yourself, telling your nearest and dearest, stand up for what you believe in about gay issues, you have control over handling yourself publicly.

"Your sexual orientation shouldn't (bind) you, but setting up zones in public to be 'out' isn't going to be necessary if you can accomplish these things. It really doesn't matter what people may think, it's how you feel about yourself." (Romeo)

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