

Women's sport to be added

Colleen Pohlig and Trevor Kearney
Oregon Daily Emerald

By the end of the term, University athletic officials expect to announce a new women's intercollegiate sport, which would bring it closer to complying with Title IX, the controversial gender-equity rule.

Title IX, a 1972 federal statute that bans sex discrimination in educational institutions receiving federal money, mandates that institutions achieve sports-participation ratios that match the proportion of women and men in the student populations.

For example, if women make up 50 percent of a student body, the rule mandates that they account for 50 percent of its intercollegiate athletes.

According to a ruling by the University's intercollegiate athletic committee in the spring of 1993, Oregon was to add a new sport and up to 25 new scholarships within the next five years in order to come closer to gender-equity compliance.

The three options for the new women's sport, which is to start in the fall of 1996, were then narrowed down to crew, soccer and swimming, all of which are current University Club Sports teams. Of the three, soccer appears to be the front runner because of its current popularity, especially in the Northwest.

With other obstacles — mainly the naming of a new athletic director — out of the athletic department's path, the next step is to decide on the new sport.

"I would like to get the decision made so that we can start the planning process," vice president for administration Dan Williams said earlier this month. "Our goal was to add a sport within the next five years."

Barbara Walker, associate athletic director, said the decision is well on its way.

"It is just dotting the 'i's' and crossing the 't's'," Walker said. "I feel very comfortable saying we will have a public decision by the end of spring quarter... hopefully sooner, but definitely by then."

The decision comes in the wake of one of the most successful athletic years in recent Oregon history. After earning almost \$1 million in direct and indirect income from the football team's trip to the Rose Bowl, Williams said, now is the perfect time to add a sport.

"We are going to take advantage of the success," he said.

Title IX has divided university officials, sports enthusiasts and players into two sides. One claims that women still get short-changed when it comes to sports funding. The other argues that so-called affirmative action for athletes is jeopardizing budgets for men's teams and unfairly tilting the playing field toward women.

The Intercollegiate Athletic Committee plans to recommend which sport should be chosen after its May 31 meeting. The athletic department is expected to undergo a random Office of Civil Rights investigation to measure its compliance with Title IX.

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The Nation publisher praises debate

Amy Columbo
Oregon Daily Emerald

The publisher and editorial director of America's oldest magazine, *The Nation*, lectured at the Hult Center Thursday about the importance of such journals of opinion in the age of homogenized mainstream news.

Victor Navasky, said it is the hope of journals of opinions to generate debate and out of this debate there will evolve a new consensus and ideology. He said it is the role of magazines like *The Nation* to watch the mainstream press and provide readers with alternative opinions.

Navasky cited the recent news coverage of the Oklahoma bombing as an example of how the mainstream press immediately reported a speculated link to middle eastern terrorists, a link that turned out to be incorrect.

"The media don't apologize for anything when all of them



NAVASKY

are guilty," he said of the mainstream press. He said that *The Nation*, a 130-year-old weekly magazine known for its liberal, leftist views, monitored this coverage and wrote an editorial about it. He said he believes this was the result of deep set stereotypes that affect the way the media report the news.

Navasky was this year's School of Journalism and Communication's guest lecturer for the Johnston Lecture. It was a free lecture held in the Hult Center's Soreng Theater. The lecture was titled "Opinion Magazines: Century Relic or Agent for Change?"

Navasky was promoted in Jan-

uary to the position of publisher and editorial director of *The Nation*; he had been editor-in-chief since 1978. Before working for *The Nation*, he was an editor at *The New York Times Magazine* and a columnist for the *Times Book Review*.

In 1994, he served as a fellow at the Institute of Politics at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and then as a senior fellow at the Freedom Forum Media Studies Center at Columbia University.

The annual Johnston Lecture is made possible by a 1984 endowment in honor of Richard Johnston. He died in 1981 at the age of 66, and the lecture endowment was established by his wife.

He was a University journalism graduate who went on to a career as a World War II correspondent, a writer for *Time* and *Life* magazines and the founding editor of *Sports Illustrated* magazine.

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