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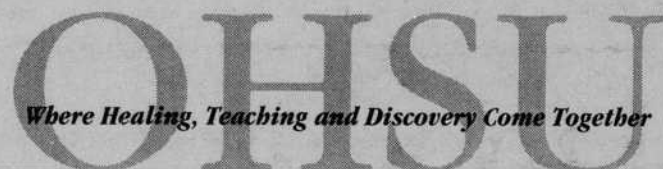
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# A 'Queer' debate at OSU

CORVALLIS — A proposal to open what supporters are calling a Queer Resource Center at Oregon State University — complete with a small library and staff — is prompting a debate on campus about what kinds of groups merit such a place.

Supporters say the center would be a resource for gay, lesbian, transgender bisexual and questioning students and a place they could feel safe and welcomed.

The OSU College Republicans opposes the proposal. Members say it would promote homosexuality, waste student money and open the door for any student group to get money for its own center.

"Being gay or lesbian should be an individual decision, not pushed on an insecure student, especially by an organization funded by the student body," said Mike Kingsella, a vice president in the College Republicans.

Currently, there are campus groups that offer counseling for gays, lesbians and bisexual students, and separate social groups for undergraduates and for staff and faculty.

"We want a place that people know is open and people can always go to," said Carolyn Dishman, one of the students pushing for the resource center.

The student fee committee will vote Wednesday on next year's budget for student activities, which includes \$7,000 for the proposed resource center. That boils down to 15 cents per student, per term. The full student activities budget is more than \$900,000.

The Queer Resource Center would be housed in the Women's Center on campus. It would post regular, open hours, house a small library and be staffed by trained people.

If approved by the fee committee, the proposal goes to the graduate and undergraduate senates for votes, to President Paul Risser and then to the Oregon State Board of Higher Education.

Naming themselves as queers was controversial to some, said Dishman, but she said it is easier than calling it the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Questioning center. The name may change, she said.

The college newspaper, The Barometer, first reported the proposal Feb. 27. Since then, the newspaper has received more than 30 letters to the editor on the topic, high for a newspaper that usually garners about two letters each day.

Editor Troy Foster said the letters are split.

"It's been crazy," he said. "You are either for it or against it, and there is no middle ground."

Robin Mimms, internal coordinator for the Black Cultural Center, said the center has decided to support the formation of the resource center because gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual students are a minority group.

But Mimms understands why some students are questioning whether the center for gays and lesbians would be a resource center or cultural center. A resource center is fine, but she said she could not back a cultural center for gays and lesbians.

"They can hide their homosexuality at any time," she said. "I can't hide that I'm African American."

The Associated Press

## Napster

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ods included the use of Pig Latin and substituting numerals for certain words. For example, anyone who wants to download songs by Metallica would search for "etallicaM."

Law professor Keith Aoki, who teaches trademark and copyright, said that currently some users are "playing cat and mouse" by naming files oddly, and others have moved on to decentralized programs such as Gnutella.

"Consequently, unlike Napster, there is no company for the record company to sue," he said about the other programs. "And it's unlikely that they would sue 60 million users."

McLoughlin, who is hooked up through the fast Ethernet connection in the residence halls, said that when the Napster controversy began, he explored other options. He currently downloads pictures, MP3 files and movie clips from a program called iMesh.

"There aren't as many users, so you can't always get what you want," he said. "But it works."

Although some students understand the music industry's copyright concerns, some disagree with the logic that Napster slows down CD sales and say the Internet service should remain in its current form.

Matt Rabe, an undeclared freshman who said he has about 1,000 downloaded songs from Napster, said he doesn't think the program should be shut down because the music industry doesn't lose enough money as a result of Napster.

"I'm too broke to buy CDs. ... That's why I don't buy them," he said. "If I had the extra money, I'd get CDs as well."

Allie Blakely, a junior education major, also said she doesn't buy fewer CDs because of Napster, but rather sometimes uses it to sample songs she may wish to buy later.

Aoki added that the record industry may try and move against universities supplying net access (ISPs) and get them to police traffic. The University of Oregon has nev-

er blocked Napster in the past, but it does have a code that deals with illegal downloading of copyrighted material.

Last year, the University of Oregon was among the many universities nationwide that received letters from Metallica and Dr. Dre's attorney, Howard E. King, urging the schools to ban access to Napster on their campuses.

The University refused to do so. Debra Eldredge, executive assistant at the Office of General Counsel, said the University's position hasn't changed so far, but she said the issue could be "re-visited" in the future.

Most students agree that although Napster may have to undergo some modifications, such as charging monthly fees to keep running, they'd prefer these kinds of changes over the popular Internet service leaving their worlds completely.

"I wouldn't mind paying a user fee," Blakely said. "But if [Napster] is taken away, I will be really disappointed."

## SAT

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mation about a candidate.

"If you were buying a car, you wouldn't look just at the price tag," he said. "We're not going to admit a student or deny them based on their test score."

Philip Romero, dean of the Lundquist College of Business, said he supports using the SAT.

"The SATs seem to be the best predictor for new college freshmen," he said. "Until we find something better, I feel we should definitely use it."

Romero said most schools have flexible enough admissions processes that if a student does not do well on one part, they can make it up in other areas.

"For example, at the University, a student can write an essay if they're weak in a certain part of their application," he said.

However, Carla Gary, director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the University Advocate, said she hopes the use of the SAT is eventually discontinued, because she said the test is a poor method of judging how people learn.

"The SAT is a measure of what you've already done, not what

## Test Yourself

Sample SAT Questions:

1) **Sentence completion:** Pick the word or pair of words that best fills the blank(s).

The author's manner in person and demeanor in interviews made it quite difficult to discern insight into his astute works.

- A) condescending...garrulous
- B) demeaning...eloquent
- C) laconic...gregarious
- D) reticent...taciturn
- E) fluctuating...frivolous

2) **Analogy:** Pick the pair of words that most nearly expresses the same relationship.

Profligate : Asceticism::

- A) spendthrift : frugality
- B) heathen : atheism
- C) devotee : religion
- D) heretic : iconoclasm
- E) teacher : pedantry

3) **Multiple choice math question:**

If  $x = 1 + 1/2 + 1/4 + 1/8 + 1/16$  and  $y = 1 + 1/2x$ , then  $y$  is less than

- A) -1
- B) 0
- C) 1
- D) 3/2
- E) 2

Answers: 1) D 2) A 3) E

Source: Taming the SAT, University of Southern California, [www.usc.edu/org/sat/practice.html](http://www.usc.edu/org/sat/practice.html)

you're going to do after your first year," Gary said.

She said some people learn visually or by experience, so the SAT is not the best judge of intelligence.

Joy Nair, a sophomore business major and diversity recruitment and retention coordinator for ASUO, said she never took the SATs too seriously, and only spent one night studying for it.

"I heard from a lot of people before I took the test that the SATs don't matter," she said.

Nair said she often reassures prospective students in her recruiting program that the SATs are not as important as they seem to be.

"We assure them that it's not the biggest of concerns and to not feel pressured," she said.

Nair said even if the SATs were a major factor for being admitted to the University, the admissions office would help students.

"I think they're very fair and would try to work with students," she said.

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