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THE YELLIN' REBEL

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Gays in ROTC becoming hot college issue

By Richard Crow
YELLIN' REBEL

A debate is raging on college campuses nationwide over whether the ROTC and the armed services should be able to ban homosexuals from entering the military.

Lt. Col. Michael Dunegan of UNLV's ROTC said he has not experienced or had to deal with the problem on this campus.

He said any student at UNLV can take an ROTC class.

"But," Dunegan said, "a student is not in ROTC until he or she

is contracted [signs a contract promising to work toward the goal of becoming an Army lieutenant and except a commission if offered] and meets the requirements of the current Army regulations."

Dunegan said the requirements do include questions on a person's height, weight, whether or not they have a felony arrest record and homosexuality.

If a person does not meet the height or weight regulations or say yes to the felony or homosexuality question, a person is not allowed to sign a contract, he said.

An armed services recruiter set up in the Donald C. Moyer Student Union said the question of a person's sexual preference is on the Department of Defense enlistment application.

He said the question asks if the person is homosexual or bisexual and if he or she intends to practice their sexual preference.

Sara Leon, former president of the UNLV Lesbian and Gay Academic Union, who is now a pre law student and a lesbian and gay rights activist, said that most people say no to the question of sexual prefer-

ence when enlisting.

She said she was in the military for 14 months and was medically discharged, but in the time she was enlisted she did meet and get to know a number of gay and lesbian soldiers.

"The military would be surprised if they knew exactly how many gays there were in the military," she said.

Leon said the military's belief that gays are a security risk is unfounded.

The Department of Defense tries to use the excuse that gays

suffer from a high amount of alcohol and drug abuse, said Leon.

But she said the alcohol and drug abuse is no higher among gays than anybody else in the military.

Leon said while in the military, she observed that gay and lesbians tend to be the best soldiers because of their fear of being found out.

They will have the best shine on their boots, best polished buckles and hats, and will generally work twice as hard as the other soldiers, she said.

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Recruiters give job seeking tips

By Carol Rhodes
YELLIN' REBEL

Recruiters focus on the individual, not the degree. That was the opinion expressed by several recruiters participating in Career Day on Feb. 14.

"It's nice if they have a degree in a certain area that would help them out in the position they're applying for, however that is not a major consideration," said Candice Basso, employee relations specialist for Sam's Town, Gold River.

Recruiters said they look for good communication skills, enthusiasm and flexibility when interviewing college graduates. And first impressions are still very important.

Several offered advice to students entering the job market.

Michael Rohr, director of recruitment and training for professional Food-Service Management, Inc. said, "The things that make the difference with me are people that have been active in a variety of things during their college career. I'm looking for people who have people skills, that are able to look me straight in the eye and tell me about what they've done."

Phyllis Hetzel and Janet Hunter, both store managers for Mervyn's, echoed Rohr's sentiments. They said they look for motivated individuals who have a lot of initiative.

Both said that any individual who goes into the retail industry has to be able to deal effectively with others. They also have to be

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MAY WE HELP YOU?



Yell Photo / Matt Dovel

- LOOKING FOR ANSWERS, A student gets information from an employer on Career Day.

Drug and Alcohol Awareness director named

By Zina McGowan-Thomas
YELLIN' REBEL

Rex Purkins has been hired to lead the new Drug and Alcohol Awareness Program, an addition to the Student Development Center located on the second floor of the library.

Purkins, a certified alcohol and drug abuse counselor, said most campuses across the country have drug and alcohol awareness programs.

The University of Nevada,

Reno, has had a program for almost three years.

"This campus is no different than others," Purkins said. "Like most campuses, UNLV experiences drug and alcohol problems."

Purkins said he doesn't know the extent of the problem at UNLV, and one of his first duties will be to identify the problem here and the needs of the UNLV community.

The goals of the program are:

— To create a more positive attitude within the UNLV community toward preventing abuse of

alcohol and drugs.

— To help students become aware of the consequences of drug abuse.

— To promote a healthier lifestyle for students.

Purkins and the Student Development staff will provide individual counseling for students, faculty and staff.

He is currently developing a training program for residential life called "Signs and Symptoms Detection," to recognize who misuses drugs and alcohol.

Purkins has more than 10 years experience in developing drug and alcohol programs. He worked with Charter and Montevista hospitals in Las Vegas, and operated a long-term non-profit residential drug program in Arizona.

Purkins said his program will enhance existing groups, and hopes to establish Cocaine Anonymous on campus as a part of his treatment plan.

The program will work closely with student services such as the Student Health Center, Residential

Life, the athletic department, the Greek community and Moyer Student Union.

Already on campus are self-help groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous and Adult Children of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The new Drug and Alcohol Awareness program is located in Room 258 of the Student Development Center.

Students, faculty and staff can call 739-3627 for further information.