

## ► Future of ROTC homosexual ban remains unclear

He said he was gay so Navy ROTC said he was dismissed.

Reserve Officer Training Corps officials at Pennsylvania State U. immediately initiated disenrollment procedures in December for a midshipman who admitted his homosexuality. But now this student, who wishes to remain anonymous, says he has been informed by a university official that the procedures have been halted temporarily. ROTC officials refused to comment on the cadet's status.

"I'm on hold — with the Clinton regime, no one knows what's in the future," the student says. "They don't want to be hasty and then do something that's irreversible. They stopped disenrollment procedures."

Caught in the web of uncertainty shrouding President Clinton's proposal to end the ban on gays in the military, this student exemplifies the difficulties facing colleges and ROTC officials trying to follow the policy.

While recognizing the prominence of Clinton's pledge to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military, university administrators and ROTC organizations still are unclear as to what impact the action would have upon college ROTC programs.

The president's proposal — which has yet to go into effect — would end a nationwide ban on gays in the armed forces. Many colleges, however, already have taken steps to implement the proposal, threatening to end their association with ROTC if the programs fail to lift the ban.

One school which had extended such an ultimatum, California State U., Sacramento, recently reaffirmed its participation in ROTC after learning that questions concerning sexual orientation will not be included on required forms.

Dartmouth U. and the State U. of New York at Oswego are among other universities which have set deadlines for ROTC programs to end the ban.

Other colleges have taken a more passive role toward the issue. Lt. Col. Stephen Goodrich, professor of military science at the U. of Nebraska, says the matter has not affected the support of ROTC programs from the university administration.



ROTC cadets train under the uncertain specter of Clinton's plan to lift the ban on gays.

"The chancellor and his associates... are fully supportive of ROTC and they're not in the mood to have anybody throw us off," Goodrich says. "They understand the situation and they support us.... We're still here and we're not planning on going anywhere."

ROTC officials say they are not sure what impact a lift of the ban on homosexuals would have upon college ROTC programs, but they will abide by the president's policy.

Though the ban technically still exists, Linda Martlett, public affairs officer at the 4th Army ROTC Region, which includes most Western states, says they have eliminated a question regarding homosexuality from enrollment forms.

"It's still on the form; we just cross it out now," Martlett says. "We don't ask them anything, so we don't know [if students are homosexual], although the ban itself is still in effect."

Still, students involved in ROTC programs say the situation has been cause for conflict.

"It's very hard," says one ROTC cadet who wishes to remain anonymous. "Everybody has a different view of [gays in the military], and you've got to be careful with what you say now." ■ **Jake Batsell**, *State Press*, Arizona State U. and **Ramit Plushnick**, *Daily Collegian*, Pennsylvania State U.

## ► Riders for Bike-Aid pedal up awareness for AIDS

It will be the ride of their lives.

And for 120 cyclists who embark on a journey across the country this summer, that's the point.

Six groups of cyclists — including a core of about 80 to 90 percent college students — will cycle from points across the United States to Washington, D.C., to re'cycle' thoughts about HIV and AIDS for Bike-Aid '93.

The money the bikers raise from pledges will go into a pot, which has topped \$800,000 since the Overseas Development Network started the Bike-Aid program in 1986. In the past, the money has gone to homeless shelters, farmer's cooperatives, environmental groups and Native-American communities.

Vivian Chang, who rode the Bike-Aid tour last year as a student at the U. of California, Berkeley, says the program is an incredible experience for the riders.

"You get a snapshot picture of what life in this country is really like," she says.

Though the ride is not without risks (two Bike-Aid riders died from injuries sustained in a collision with a tractor trailer in 1991 in Virginia), the riders accept the hazards to raise money for their causes.

"It made us realize that we put our lives on the lines for the



Students participate in bike ride to re'cycle' thoughts on HIV/AIDS.

issues we believe in," says Mike Spiegall, a senior at the U. of California, Santa Cruz, who is the co-coordinator of Bike-Aid this year. ■ **Steve Murphy**, *Arkansas Traveler*, U. of Arkansas

## ► Don't call me twentysomething

There's a GAP for every generation  
Instastyle, instaworn, instanique  
History is born in the jeans,  
so stop your search  
for yourselves,  
your rallying cry  
your Vietnam.

Ask the boomers,  
and they'll tell you:

"These wars aren't as good  
as the one we had in college."

The boomers are laughing at us:

They know from real pain,  
activism that *meant* something  
the organic variety  
(yet, strangely, with no half-life)

Ask any boomer:

Style, Movements, Moments  
don't just erupt like they did  
in the Wonder Years

Now it's

MTV-jays with  
baseball hats,  
backwards  
like, cool band,  
"Rock the Vote"  
man, after these  
messages  
for stonewash,  
classic-fit  
button fly  
blues.

Describe *your* face,  
so far from chiseled,  
a pimple  
resting on your  
ass

Tell them you've grown  
fond of it:  
your ampleness, your scrawniness,  
your doubt  
your debt, your little rat-turd studio.

Tell them  
the suits in mailmerge  
don't know shit  
about what Eternity™  
is supposed to smell like.

Were our bathrooms clean?

Don't blame the waitrons,

it's not their fault

I peed on the seat.

How much do you earn in a year?

Enough to buy plastic explosives.

Who told you about us?

I was three when I ate my first

shitburger, how should I know?

Tell them the survey

got it all wrong:

you're a homosexual Marine,

a bassoonist with a hairlip.

Tell them this,

and

waking from your

jaded

sodden

search

live to mean it:

I serve no segment.

I abide no niche.

■ **Mike Fisch**, *Daily Iowan*, U. of Iowa

