

Defense Courses Little Value, Poll Shows

(Editor's note: Following is the second part of an article describing the results of a poll conducted by the Daily Maroon, University of Chicago student daily, on the status of the college and college student in the war program. The first part of the article which appeared yesterday dealt principally with the ROTC program. Today's section deals principally with changes in the college curricula made in conformity with the war program.)

The University of Oregon was one of the four Pacific coast colleges polled. The other three were University of Washington, Stanford University, and University of California.)

THE main "defense course" which swept the country after the war broke out on December 7 was of the physical conditioning type, according to a survey made by the Daily Maroon. Almost every school in the country reports some kind of emphasis on physical conditioning. That physical conditioning is an insufficient substitute for basic military training is clear on two counts. First of all it is clear that being in fine physical condition will not make a man a good engineer unless he has had an engineering training.

It cannot be expected that a fine physical condition will make a man a good soldier unless he has had some military training. It is true that being physically fit will increase the learning capacity of something like military drill, in that the trainee will not fall over from exhaustion at the third time the command "to the rear march" is given. At best, physical conditioning can only be a prelude to military training. It cannot be a substitute. The second count on which physical conditioning is insufficient is evidenced by the fact that several college editors report that student interest is petering out in these courses, and close order drill and bayonet movements have been introduced to vitalize them.

THE main argument used in favor of physical conditioning in the colleges is that proposed military training is "skimpy," to quote Editor Caulfield of the Columbia Daily Spectator. The same school that on December 12 reported 400 men petitioning for basic training reports on February 4, "No student pressure for basic military drill because of the skimpiness of such training."

President Franklin Bliss Snyder of Northwestern university has been quoted as saying that this university would concentrate on physical conditioning because of a similar opinion of improvised military training. What seems to be in the minds of the people condemning this type of training is the student army training corps of World War I.

COLLEGE editors also report that their schools are teaching Japanese, Portugese, "military German," military French, "Russian, Arabic, Ital-

ian, Turkish, and classes in cryptography have already been introduced in two schools and similar courses are slated to appear in six more curricula.

Psychology departments have taken on significance by offering "pre-service" training in "military psychology," "propaganda psychology," "morale psychology," and the "psychological causes of war."

Other courses that were reported to The Daily Maroon are courses in "the sociology of war," "the economics of war," "naval history," "military history," and courses in navigation and meteorology are standard in almost every curriculum. Highly specialized skill courses have heavy enrollments. College men are being trained in "quick computation methods," "ballistics," "electronic chemistry," "Pacific geography," "military cartography," "aerial photography," "practical telephony," "ship drafting," "first aid," "stress analysis," and "truck driving."

IN answer to the student and public demands for pre-induction military training, the educational institutions have offered these courses, but what they have not offered is any assurance that the men taking these courses will ever have the chance to use what they learn in the army. These courses are given entirely without army supervision and for the most part without army consultation. They have been instituted by the colleges and universities themselves in their hasty effort to provide some kind of war training.

On Friday, January 30, The Harvard Crimson published an editorial entitled, "Information, Please" which raised this question of special "defense courses" leading to army or navy practicability and even more bluntly, leading to a commission. "With second semester only three days away," the editorial says, "the very relevant question of what courses are acceptable to specialized army departments has been unanswered. Most of the new courses were organized without army supervision and by instructors who lacked first-hand acquaintance with the details of army requirements. Speed-up courses in languages and sciences have been arranged, based on general knowledge that physicists and interpreters are needed.

"But many of these courses have been announced without hinting at the physical requirements that may disappoint a trainee after a year of study. And insufficient attention has been paid to the fact that none of the new courses actually guarantee an army or navy position."

CLEARLY then, certain vital factors have been overlooked by American educational institutions by going all out for defense which are not

only mistraining and inadequately training students, but are endangering the life of the institutions themselves. Non-ROTC schools have overlooked the fact that specialized training is of no value unless it is accompanied or preceded by basic military training. Both ROTC and non-ROTC schools have overlooked the fact that they are giving specialized subjects without having any assurance that the men they train will ever be able to use this training in the arm or navy.

The task of the average male undergraduate today is to achieve the highest possible military effectiveness, both for his personal satisfaction and advancement, and for the general effectiveness of the United States in winning this war.

To this average student three things are important. First, his college education; second, a sound basic pre-induction military training; and third, some assurance that any specialized pre-induction training he does will be utilized by some branch of the armed forces. The institutions are making it easier for men to complete their requirements for a bachelor's degree by using various devices to speed up the curriculum; consequently, men will soon be able to graduate a year or two earlier than they would normally.

COLLEGE editors from the following schools report some kind of an accelerated graduation plan: University of Oregon, Temple university, Williams college, Colgate, Oberlin, Carleton college, Amherst, Northwestern university, Notre Dame university, University of Redlands, De Pauw university, Wesleyan college, Ohio Wesleyan college, Columbia university, Yale university, the University of Michigan, and the University of Chicago. Students equipped with ROTC or similar training may disregard the problem of getting basic training. It is the non-ROTC students that must find a means to get this kind of training if they expect to enter the army with qualifications equal to those of an ROTC school graduate.

There must be a close cooperation between army and educational institutions to standardize "defense courses" before the college men can have any assurance that his specialized training will be utilized.

The Daily Maroon has conducted this poll to inform its readers of the general picture of pre-induction military training in this country. It was made possible through the cooperation of 72 leading college editors. The Maroon believes that one of the purposes of the student newspaper is to keep college youth informed. It is therefore making this report available to the college editors who cooperated in conducting the poll in the belief that college men with the correct training can give their full value to winning this war the quickest way possible.

Sailors Ahoy! . . . Commander Kerr To Discuss Navy

University men who have enlisted in the naval reserve will have a chance to learn about naval customs and traditions next week when Commander R. E. Kerr, U. S. navy, retired, speaks in Friendly hall next Tuesday and Thursday nights.

Commander Kerr was a member of the ROTC faculty at Northwestern university until this year. His appearance is sponsored by the University Defense council and is only making two lectures.

Potential Officers

Commander Kerr's lectures on "Naval Customs, Traditions, and Etiquette" are aimed at acquainting the potential naval officers with what they will meet in years to come. Enlistees in either V-7 or V-5 sections are urged to attend the lectures. Potential enlistees and interested faculty members have also been invited.

"The naval reservists must go through a 30-day training period before they are sent to reserve midshipmen schools and these lectures will be a great help to them there," commented Dr. Howard R. Taylor, chairman of the University Defense council yesterday.

Commander Kerr's lecture will be in accordance to requests from Washington, D. C., that the defense council arrange talks on naval customs and background. After the lecture members of the audience will be allowed to ask Commander Kerr questions from the floor.

Both lectures will begin at 7:15 in the faculty room of Friendly hall. The first will be the evening of Tuesday, February 24, and the second will be Thursday, February 26.

Dr. William S. Carlson, director of registration at the University of Minnesota and an expert on the Arctic, has been assigned to the bomber ferry command as a technical adviser on Greenland air bases.

Library Given Portrait Of Edward S. Burgess

Three days before her death Miss Julia Burgess presented the University library with a picture of her brother, Edward Sanford Burgess, to be placed in the Burgess memorial room.

The picture, a family portrait, is now hanging on the north wall of the special room in the east wing of the library, where the Burgess rare books and manuscripts are collected.

Miss Burgess inherited the collection on her brother's death. She considered the room a dedication to him, she said in a note accompanying the recent gift, and wanted his portrait to hang there.

Symphony Will Honor

(Continued from page one)
Chabrier. With unusual orchestration, it calls for two harps, bass drum, cymbal, triangle, and tambourine.

In this rhapsody, Chabrier combined vivacious, fiery Jota tunes and langorous Malaguena melodies in triple measure.

The concert is the third in the Greater Artist series. Students will be admitted with their educational activities cards.

In 1859 the university of North Carolina had the second largest student body in America.

Charles A. Duffy, 37-year-old New York policeman, is the oldest freshman at City college.



Let us all endeavor to serve the United States as well today as he served us in the past. Everyone must do his part.

Eugene Water Board
Municipal Electric and Water Utilities