

ROTC battles shrinking enrollments

Most people consider the anti-war demonstrations of the late 1960s over and done with, but one organization still feels their effect: the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC).

Throughout the nation ROTC centers have shrunk considerably in size, and the University's is no exception. In fact, if it cannot meet its quota of 15 commissioned juniors by next year, the University's ROTC department may not be around much longer.

Capt. Philip Richey, assistant

By MARTHA BLISS
Of the Emerald

professor of military science, explains that the U.S. Army has decided each ROTC center may continue operations only if it is "cost effective" for \$17,000. This means commissioning approximately 15 students per year, and as Richey says, "We're not there."

Only juniors and seniors are eligible for commissioning, and right now next year's prospective junior class falls four students short. Students may qualify for ROTC's upper-division program in any of the following ways:

- Enroll in the ROTC lower-division program during the freshman and sophomore years.

- Attend a basic summer camp, completely paid, at Fort Knox, Kentucky, between the sophomore and junior years.

- Possess an adequate amount of past military experience.

Students who enroll in the lower-division program or who attend the summer camp are under no obligation to remain in ROTC.

Students who do continue into the upper-division program receive a stipend of \$100 a month and are issued all required textbooks and uniforms. They also attend a completely paid, six-week summer-training program at Fort Lewis, Wash., between the junior and senior years.

ROTC's list of benefits is substantially long. So why has it become ineffective in attracting students?

"The problem has developed because we (ROTC) have allowed it to develop," Richey explains. "I can't apologize for it; I can only understand it. The University has a stigma against the ROTC which is a carry-over effect from the late sixties and an unpopular war."

Many people nowadays imagine ROTC as a war-promoting organization. Richey denounces this image by stressing that ROTC's primary function is to instill leadership and management skills among its students.

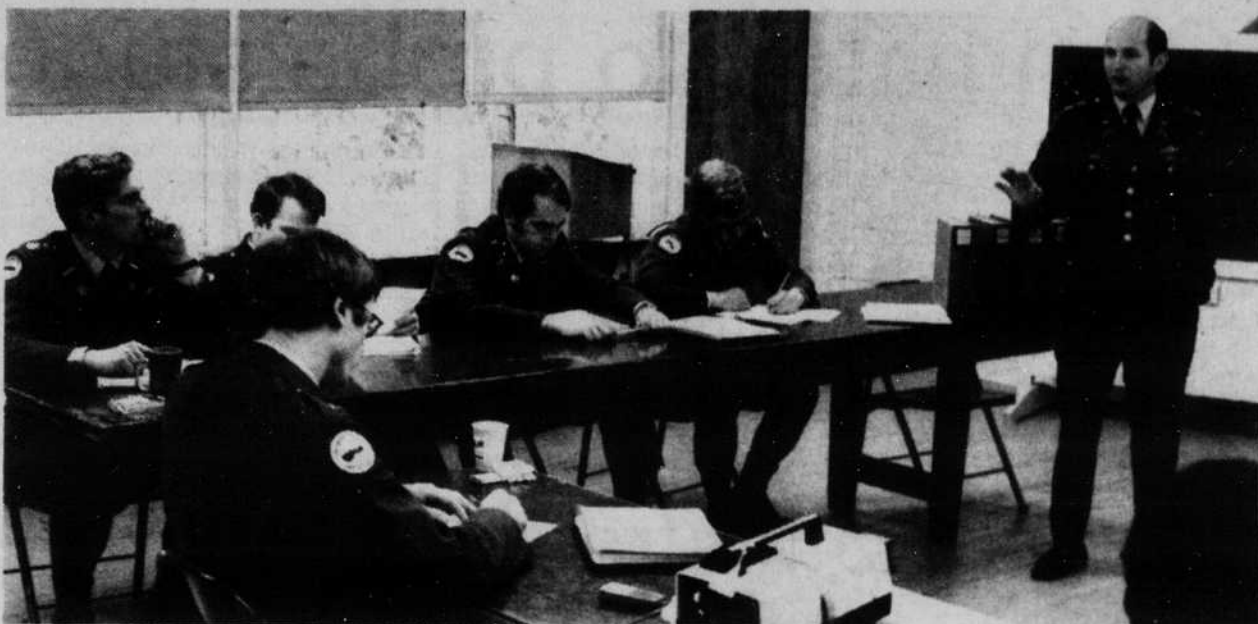


Photo by Greg Clark

Small classes such as this one are a rarity for many University students, but a common sight for those enrolled in the ROTC program.

He says the nation absolutely needs an army for its security and ROTC simply provides the leadership necessary to maintain one.

"Military leaders are just like any other leaders which the University produces, whether they be leaders in engineering, law or medicine," Richey says.

In reply to the war aspects of the military, he says, "We're all creatures of survival. We have to provide for the possibility of defense needs."

"If there were no more wars, I'd be as happy as anyone," he continues. "I know war is hell. I've been there. But sometimes it is necessary for the security of the nation."

ROTC produces 75 per cent of the nation's military officers, and

many people question its justification. They argue that officers should attain their ranks through promotion within the military instead of through a non-military college education.

Richey counters this argument by saying ROTC provides the military with a civilian type of approach which may not be available otherwise. He says the U.S. Army is a "conservative but dynamic" organization which only changes through the new people coming in.

The University's ROTC center may have a negative image in the eyes of many non-member students, but those students in the organization are avid supporters of it.

Al Tabayoyon, a senior in

ROTC, explains that "enrollment may be down, but the quality is not." He enjoys the "good balance" of academic and ROTC courses offered at the University, and the security of knowing he will undoubtedly have a high paying, lifetime job when he graduates.

Rich Murrell, a sophomore with an impressive, four-year ROTC scholarship, agrees with Tabayoyon about the satisfaction derived from the organization. He also says he gets very little banter from other students regarding his ROTC membership.

"When I lived in the dorms last year," he recalls, "and I had to wear my uniform for something, the guys would all come out and salute me as I walked down the hall. But other than that, there's no problem at all."

Milker spots saucer

MONROE (AP) — Strange things can happen to you when it's 3:30 a.m. and you're out in the barn milking your cows.

Just ask Monroe farmer Ernie Pacheco. He told Oregon State Police Sunday that he was milking the cows during the wee hours when the barn lights went out.

Pacheco told officers he got a flashlight, went outside and saw a glowing, saucer-shaped object hovering over his barn. He described the object as 80 feet long, 30 feet high, noiseless and covered with lots of small windows in rows - "like a hotel."

He reported that he watched the object until it suddenly shot straight up and "merged with the stars."

There were no other reports of UFO's in the area Sunday, police said.

Sophomores,

Last summer I attended a six-week training program in Military Science at Fort Knox, Kentucky. While there I received a two-year Army ROTC scholarship which pays my full tuition, all books and fees and gives me \$100 each academic month of the year.

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