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AFROTC axes University program

By MELODY WARD
Of the Emerald

ROTC is losing one of its wings.

The Air Force ROTC announced Wednesday that the U.S. Air Force has served notice to phase out the program at the University by June 30, 1979.

University AFROTC officials say the decision came because of "a continuing declining enrollment" over the past three to four years.

"It's one of those things you can't really attribute to any one factor," Air Force Colonel Kenneth Molly said of the decreased

enrollment. "There isn't much of a military presence in Oregon — it's sort of out of sight, and out of mind."

Having ROTC on campus has been a highly charged issue for the past 10 years. Andy Thompson, of the counseling center has been one of the more vocal opponents of ROTC.

"I'm very pleased," he said of the decision to dismantle the AFROTC program. "I suspect that they (the Army and the Air Force) have been supporting each other for some time and I wouldn't be surprised if (the Army) followed suit."

But Molly doesn't think the deactivation of the Air Force detachment will affect the

Army. "It shouldn't affect them at all except that anyone interested in ROTC will have only one choice," he said.

Thompson said the decision is good because the program "was never properly a part of the University structure. If we really controlled the curriculum and taught it, it might have fit in."

University Pres. William Boyd expressed regret for the decision because of the general low enrollment and the "highly specialized needs of the Air Force."

Boyd added that the University has "regularly reaffirmed the position that ROTC units are welcome on campus."

AFROTC currently has 32 cadets enrolled, as compared with 115 in 1974. Molly says the planned deactivation will allow sophomore, junior and senior cadets to complete their ROTC training on the campus.

But freshman cadets will probably have to complete their military training at another institution.

The AFROTC instructional staff consists of Molly, two other officers and three non-commissioned officers. Molly is scheduled to retire this summer and the others will be reassigned after the program is phased out.

The AFROTC has been at the University since 1957.



Photo by Ken Shin

Boughing to nature

While nobody heard any piercing shouts of "Timber!", this tree at 18th Avenue and Patterson Street fell on the sidewalk Wednesday afternoon. It perished amidst heavy gusts of wind during a late morning rain storm. No one was injured, although the mighty tree crashed within a scant three to four feet from a house near the sidewalk. Officials from the City of Eugene arrived on the scene, and after trimming it down to a moderate size, hauled it away.

Food workers push for seniority in contract

By CAROLYN BEAVER
Of the Emerald

University food service workers are between the proverbial rock and a hard place in their negotiations with the University on next year's contract.

The rough spot, which caused an impasse in contract negotiations Monday, is a clause concerning worker seniority. Food service workers want their positions and schedules determined on the basis of seniority.

The University agrees to some extent.

However, University Chief mediator Allen McKenzie, also Vice-Chancellor of the State System of Higher Education, says, "we believe it's necessary and appropriate to exclude two positions in each food service section from preference on the basis of seniority."

McKenzie continues that the persons in the two positions would be chosen on the basis of "skill and talent" rather than seniority and that it would be a management decision.

A seniority clause exists in this year's contract. Scott Higgins, food service worker union president, says that it's "mainly to do

away with schedule favoritism. People (last year) would brown nose the supervisor to get good shifts."

Higgins thinks it only fair that workers be chosen and scheduled through seniority. "People who have been there longer should have a choice."

The University version of the seniority clause stipulates no requirement to state which positions are not covered by seniority. McKenzie says he has given the union an idea of which positions they are considering.

Food service workers want to be able to name one of the positions not covered and

require the University to explain why someone more qualified is being chosen over someone with seniority for the other position. They say they don't want arbitrary decisions on who is qualified and who is not.

The workers contract expired on April 15, which puts them in a tight spot. They say the University has the upper hand since it could hire other people, while they would just be out of jobs.

The State Conciliation Service will assign a neutral mediator who will meet individually with the workers and the University. McKenzie says the outcome is too difficult to predict.