

free room and board and transportation in exchange for "indoctrination into the military," according to Capt. Danny Lynn, an ROTC recruiter and professor.

Upon graduation from this camp, they are commissioned into active duty, if they choose.

At Advance Camp, the students participate in a number of grueling obstacle courses. They also learn to use many types of weapons, including throwing live hand grenades at each other.

Resnick, a junior in telecommunication and film, has been through a similar camp for his National Guard work and will attend Advance Camp this summer.

"It is the most mentally, physically and emotionally stressful position I had ever been in. At basic training you are the lowest life on earth, and the drill sergeants are the meanest people on earth," he says.

Resnick does not enjoy the combat training aspect of ROTC and remains critical of some of the camp activities.

"I dread having to do the chemical gas chamber drill again. You wear a uniform and gas mask and enter into a makeshift gas chamber. The gas permeates the uniform and makes your skin itch and burn. Then they make you take off the mask and ask you questions while you hold your breath. Once they're confident you've had a nice taste of it, they let you out. The gas pours out of your nose, and for about three minutes you think you will die."

Gragg maintains that a standing army is vital for the United States survival, and perhaps the entire world population.

"You can't just dump all the arms in the ocean and cross your fingers and hope — that would be very stupid.



University student and ROTC cadet David Vincent, one of 103 such students at the University, practices his marksmanship at the ROTC Rifle Range. ROTC first came to the University in

1915, bringing with it leadership training for managerial positions and objections from those who would like to remove ROTC from the University campus.

Photo by James Marks

You can't afford to be without an armed force," he says.

But Gragg is very philosophical about the Army — a philosophy that strays slightly from the hard-line dogma normally associated with military commanders. After spending the past 10 years as a roaming consultant for Army bases, training high-ranked officials to improve interpersonal communication and relations within the Army ranks, he came to the University six months ago, with an Army-funded salary of \$59,397. He manages a \$500,000 ROTC budget.

Affable, with a pleasantly soft voice, he speaks at length

about his pet project: helping military personnel become peaceful warriors. "The Army has a very small number of 'Rambo'-type men. The greatest preponderance are focused on creating peace."

Gragg has been instrumental in developing a new direction for the Army that is rooted in the Aquarius Movement of the '60s. He helped form many of the concepts of the First Earth Battalion, which culminated in a video in 1979 called Earth Prayer. The movie expounds such concepts as projecting power in terms of the spirit, heart and will and create a more conscientious soldier. Gragg shows the film to all ROTC cadets.

"We must break the cycles of war, and the Army must take its share of the responsibility for this. The Army can be used in more peaceful ways. They should use all the discipline it has for wartime and apply it to things that require that organization, such as natural disaster," Gragg says.

"I would like to see the students become responsible citizens of this country and world."

However, the University ROTC offers no instruction on conflict resolution that might prevent a war such as negotiations and mediation.

The ROTC serves as the best means to retain a heterogeneous military, Gragg

believes. More than 70 percent of the Army personnel are former college students who participated in the campus ROTC program, while the remaining 30 percent are graduates from strict military academies such as West Point.

"They shouldn't be narrowly channelled through the military academies. You must have a broad spectrum of values and knowledge or you will end up with a dictatorship," Gragg says.

"We should be a microcosm of society; all socio-economic areas represented and some raised in a military setting and others not," Lynn says.

Olive Bowers, a member of

A Past Marred By Violence

The area surrounding the ROTC building on Agate Street is peaceful these days. Rhododendrons bloom in neighboring yards under the ample shade of towering trees. Across the street at Hayward Field, the shouts of the track crowd can be heard on Saturdays. And to the east, Hendrick's Hill looms large and tall.

But the sites of ROTC headquarters haven't always been so serene.

In 1963 an arsonist burned down the ROTC building located where Leighton Pool now lies, causing \$20,000 in damage. Undeterred by the action, ROTC and Air Force ROTC moved to French Hall and Cherney Hall, respectively, on the southwest corner of campus.

The fire was only the beginning, however. As the Vietnam War wore on, University students became increasingly frustrated by the actions of the U.S. government and military. As student demonstrations became larger and more frequent, the ROTC found itself the recipient of violence.

In 1968 a stick of dynamite was

thrown under Cherney Hall, blasting an eight-foot wide hole in a wall and breaking a window.

In January 1970 a group of students marched to French and Cherney halls, entered the buildings and tore down shelves and stenciled fists on the walls. After a confrontation with the head of the Air Force ROTC, the students left before their identities could be determined.

The following May, more than 400 demonstrators massed together in front of French Hall after the University faculty had voted to retain ROTC on campus. They threw rocks and torches at the structure, breaking windows and office furniture, and chanted, "Smash ROTC."

In response, University officials called in state, county and city police who used tear gas to disperse the crowd. The next day, seven arrests were made in connection with the incident.

"It is the conclusion of the University, city law enforcement officials, and me that rapid response is the only answer to those who would change society by

destroying it," then-Oregon Governor Tom McCall said.

Not all of the actions against the ROTC by students that spring were violent, however. Some were frivolous. A group calling itself, "The People's ROTC," armed themselves with water pistols and Viet Cong flags, and marched around the campus accompanied by a brass horn and tambourine band. When the students reached French Hall, they rushed the building and then retreated, repeating the "field" maneuver again and again.

It turned out to be the last time French and Cherney were on the receiving end of student protests against ROTC. In the summer of 1970, the buildings were condemned to make way for a parking lot. ROTC, in turn, moved a short distance away to the old Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity house at 1761 Alder St.

It was on Alder Street that the most violent demonstrations to ever rock Eugene occurred.

On the night of May 6, 1971, a crowd of 600 demonstrators roamed the city, tossing rocks and bottles at police and

setting fires in intersections. When the protesters moved back to the ROTC building in the early morning hours, they were told to disperse by police.

But only half left and within minutes 100 police officers waded into the crowd, swinging nightsticks and throwing tear gas. In the end, 38 people were arrested and numerous others, including three police officers, were treated at area hospitals for injuries sustained in the melee.

Student protests against ROTC wound down after that, although the following spring skirmishes between police and students occurred when students dug "symbolic bomb craters" and built a bon fire on the front lawn of the building.

Before Col. Elbert Curtis, the head of ROTC at the time, retired in May 1971, a reporter asked him if he thought the program would ever be abolished at the University. His answer was brief and succinct. "Never in hell," he said.

Today, some 16 years later, Curtis' statement prophetically rings true.

— STEPHEN MAHER