

ROTC students thrive on campus

Although the training is rigorous, students say the ROTC program is a great opportunity

By Kristina Rudinskas
Student Activities Reporter

It's dark outside at 6:30 in the morning, and a quiet cold permeates the campus. Not many people are around except for a jogger running by or an occasional OPS van. One by one, the ROTC cadets file into Esslinger gym in their Army uniform shorts and sweatshirts to endure another physical training class.

Indira Rice, 20, looks like your average, happy-go-lucky college student, but she is in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps at the University.

She wakes up at 6:45 a.m. to run a few miles to Autzen stadium and back or to Valley River Center. Sometimes she gets to run the scenic route around Hendricks Park after she finishes sit-ups and push-ups.

She can do 88 sit-ups and more than 40 push-ups in two minutes, and she works hard three to five mornings a week to stay in shape through the ROTC physical training classes.

"Just because we're in ROTC doesn't mean we are brainwashed to do everything the government is going to ask us to do," she explained. "We're in the same classes as everyone else, we have our own majors. We're just regular college students, but we're involved, pull good grades, have multiple extracurricular activities and school leadership positions."

She didn't plan on joining the ROTC program, but her parents

talked her into trying it. She had doubts about joining the program.

"It was the physical commitment of the whole thing, like P.T. [physical training] and everything else," she said. "I didn't think I was going to hang with all of them."

The cadets have a sense of humor about getting up that early in the morning to exercise together. Their instructors do the work-out with them; there is no need for slacking. They all push themselves. The rounds of push-ups and sit-ups seem to go on forever as the cadets sweat, rest and catch their breath on the floor of the mat room in Esslinger gym.

Rio Miner, 20, didn't think of joining the program either until he received a scholarship through it. He said ROTC provides him with structure and keeps him on track while he studies to become a doctor.

"I can go through college on the scholarship, get medical training and get experience as a doctor for the army," Miner said.

Scholarships can be a big incentive for students in the ROTC. Erin McLaughlin, 19, says the program will pay for her college education and housing and finance her education in physical therapy school after graduation while she makes an officer's salary. By the time she completes physical therapy school, she will be ahead of the game as a captain in the Army.

"Everybody in the program has different motives for joining," she said. "For me, it's a smart thing to do. I have an awesome scholarship and meet awesome people."

Cadets can form great friendships in the ROTC program.

"If you can see past the military demeanor, these are just real people," Miner said. "We all go through the different esoteric rites together. We even have our own language of acronyms for everything."

The program is designed to be challenging, Rice explained. "Nobody fails because they don't let you."

Rice said she was worried she wouldn't get along with the cadets when she first joined.

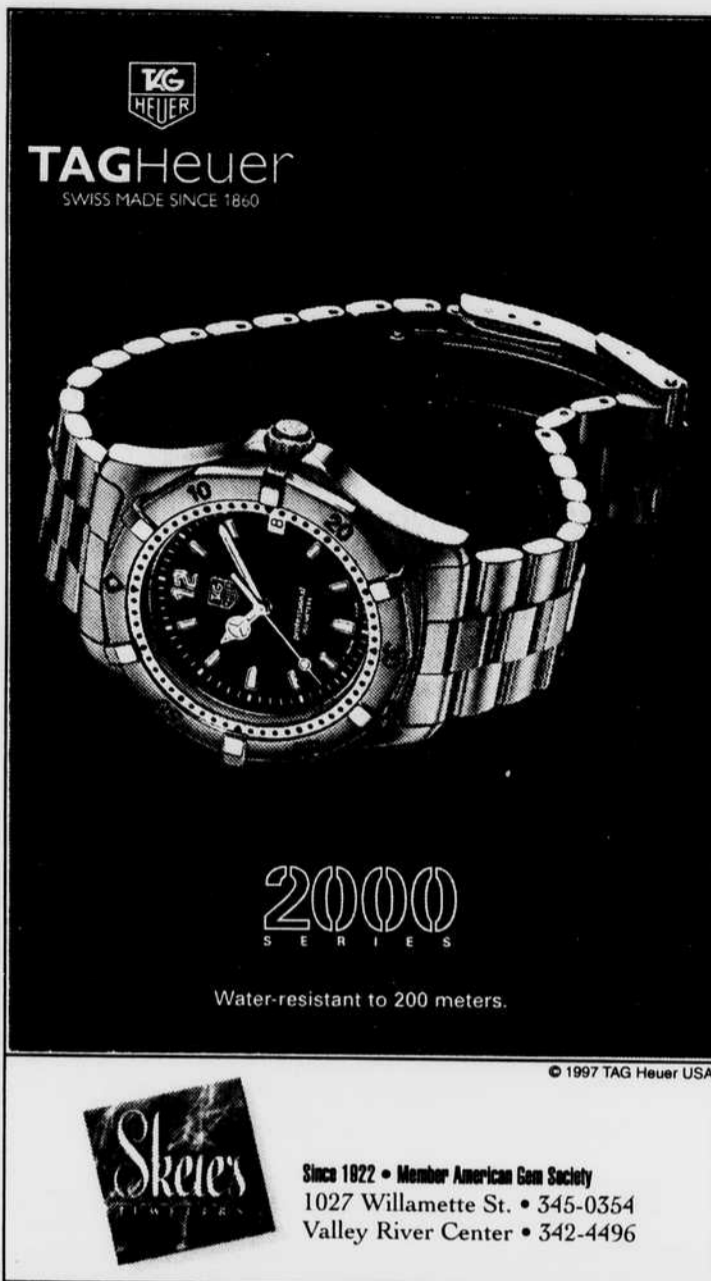
"I thought the guys would be jerks, gung-ho, army-army this, guns-guns that, like the stereotypical stuff you hear about in the media," Rice explained. "They're not. They are educated young men going to the University."

Male and female cadets do the same workout with the instructors. There is no separate or special treatment. They all work together as a team and are expected to treat each other equally.

"I had no idea what I was getting into," Miner said. "At first I was intimidated, but then I got into it more and found people in the same place as me."

Many cadets stick out on campus when they wear their BDUs, or basic drill uniform. McLaughlin, as part of the color guard that performs at football games, has had people think she can arrest them because she's in uniform. Rice has had people call her a baby killer.

"We don't have a blood lust or hate foreigners," Miner said. "We stick out because we have to wear uniforms. But we all have our own form of uniforms. Ours just has U.S. written on it."



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<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~emumain/>

The EMU wishes you a safe and happy holiday season.

Building Hours

for December 13, 1997-January 4, 1998


December 13-14	.....	Closed
December 15-19	.....	Open 9:00 A.M. Close 4:00 p.m.
December 20, 21	.....	Closed
December 22-24	.....	Open 9:00 A.M. Close 4:00 P.M.
December 25-January 3	.....	BUILDING CLOSED
January 4	.....	Building open for Academic Advising
January 5	.....	Building open regular hours

7:00 A.M.-11:30P.M. M-F
10:00 A.M.-11:30 P.M. Sat. & Sun.


The EMU Computer Lab will be open until

1:00 A.M.

Monday, Dec. 8 through Wednesday, Dec. 10th!



Thank you!




To the Women's Center, Eugene YWCA, Alpha Chi Omega, Pi Beta Phi, Sigma Kappa, Theta Chi, Tri Deltas (and Katie Williams from Delta Gamma) for your help volunteering at the November 23rd CCDC Children's Barndance Carnival.

Your time was greatly appreciated by the families and staff at CCDC!

Give the gift of Tickets this Holiday Season!!!

How about tickets to

GREASE . . . or a Eugene Symphony.
Treat a dance fan to a rare appearance by the Bolshoi Ballet.
The Eugene Ballet performances of the Nutcracker or Die Fiedermaus by the Eugene Opera are great ways to get into the Holiday spirit.
Bring in the new year with Trillian Green at the WOW Hall.
How about seeing the Rolling Stones on A GIANT movie screen at the Omnimax theater in Portland.
Come see us at the ticket office for more holiday gift ideas!!
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Food Service

The EMU Eatery Naming Contest entries are due on Friday, December 12th. Look for our ads in The Emerald for more information.

