

Taking the ROTC challenge

■ The ROTC program teaches students leadership and offers scholarships for loyalty and service

By Bennett Lacy
for the Emerald

The Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University offers more than just an easy way to pay for a college education.

"We teach leadership. That is the hallmark of what we are all about," said Major Bill Page, a Freshman Cadet Adviser for the University's ROTC program.

Whether seeking a future serving in the United States Army or just wanting to take survival skills classes such as land navigation and first aid, interested students may want to take a look at what the ROTC offers.

The ROTC Web site, <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~army/>, is a starting point where interested students can look at the program's history. Established in 1916, the ROTC program was required for all freshman and sophomore male students until the fall of 1962. In its 84-year history, the University's program has produced the highest number of general officers of all non-military

ROTC schools nationwide.

"Our goal for cadets is to help them become morally upright, mentally bright, emotionally stable and physically fit," Page said.

Today, ROTC is an option for all students at the University. One need not be a cadet to take classes in military science from the department.

Page teaches approximately one hundred and fifty freshmen in his military science class. Although a vast majority of the students he teaches are not cadets, he treats all students with equal effort.

"We will teach you what you need to know and how to do what you have to do," Page said in regard to teaching subjects such as survival skills.

A big draw for ROTC programs across the nation is the scholarship opportunities cadets receive for their loyalty and service. At the University, a cadet can have up to \$16,000 of his or her tuition paid for per year for four years, both in- and out-of-state.

In addition to tuition, the program will help pay for a cadet's books and housing (40 percent of costs if they stay in the residence halls). Furthermore, cadets currently enjoy a \$200 monthly stipend for extra spending mon-

ey. The stipend may increase to as much as \$600 monthly starting in the fall of 2001.

Once a cadet earns his or her degree, he or she owes four years to the military on active duty or eight years as a member of the Army Reserves or National Guard.

For those students that are looking for a way to get fit while at the same time earning some credits, the Ranger Challenge is a club sport put on by ROTC that competes against other northwest universities.

Sergeant First Class Jonathan Dinsmore heads the Ranger Challenge for the University. This year the competition will be hosted at the University. Both males and females can get involved in the Ranger Challenge by enrolling in MIL 199.

"The competition includes events such as the army physical fitness test, a hand grenade course, a one-rope bridge across a stream and M-16 weapon disassembly," Dinsmore said.

For more information on the Ranger Challenge or any aspect of the ROTC program, call ROTC at 346-2810 or visit its Web site <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~army/>.

Speech and Debate: a history of success

■ The long-lived Speech and Debate Team has garnered respect and helps students stay informed

By Eugene Chen
for the Emerald

Enjoying a long-standing tradition of recognition and success at the University, the Speech and Debate Team is more than just great oration and persuasive arguments.

The Forensic program — which encompasses the Speech and Debate Team — was founded in 1876 and has achieved high acclaim and prestige, even earning a national first place ranking in 1969.

"We've been around since the University was founded," senior and team captain Allan Tauber said. "The tremendous success of the Speech and Debate Team in 1911 allowed it to financially help aid the football program."

The team, an ASUO student organization and now part of the Honors College, consists of 40 members which participate in 15 tournaments during the academic year. The University is one of only six schools in the Pacific Northwest to have a full speech and debate program, Tauber said.

The team survived a close call when the State of Oregon passed Measure 5 in 1992. The measure proposed to limit property taxes, which are the Speech and Debate team's main source of funding. The Speech and Communications program, which originally housed the Speech and Debate team, closed as a result of the University's budget decrease.

"Our team almost went out of business," Tauber said.

However, the team survived because of the efforts of David Frank. Frank, formerly active with the Speech and Communications program, took over the position of Honors College Director in 1993 and played a large part in the transfer of the Forensics program to the Honors College.

"The University remains committed to the Forensic program," Frank said.

The team is getting off to a solid start during the 2000-01 season.

"We have one of the strongest teams in years," Frank said. "We will have students do great things."

The subject of the policy debate this year is whether or not the U.S. government should assist the Greater Horn of Africa.

"We're looking forward to a very

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The play's the thing at the Pocket

■ The Pocket Playhouse, student-run and uncensored, gives students the chance to direct, act and produce

By Lindsay Buchele
for the Emerald

The Pocket Playhouse, a group giving undergraduate students an opportunity to direct plays, is practically throwing power into students' laps. Run completely by students for students, this group supports a different play almost every weekend, said Pocket Playhouse Board member Wayne Bund.

"Most of the students submitting plays are theater majors," Bund said. "However, for about every seven theater majors there is about one director who is not involved in theater."

There are students writing their own plays or wishing to direct a production who have no place to do it. There is only one directing class currently offered to undergraduate students, which leaves those students wanting to focus on directing at a disadvantage. The Pocket Playhouse exists to provide a venue for their productions, as well as financial and emotional support.

When a student wishes to direct a play, they must first submit the script or proposal to the Pocket Playhouse Board.

"As long as a play fits into the technical limitations of the theater and the length doesn't exceed 90 minutes, a play can be performed," Pocket Playhouse Co-chair Kim Harmon said. "We don't exclude a play based on content."

What this means for students is that the Board will exercise no censorship. Any play can be performed, with performance dates determined by a lottery.

"Each term, those directors wishing to put plays on for the following term draw a number out of a bowl," Bund said. "The number determines which order each director gets to pick their performance weekend. If a director doesn't get a weekend for that term (because there are too many plays), they have double the chance during the next drawing."

Directors are responsible for casting their own actors and finding their own stage managers but are provided with \$75 from the Pocket Playhouse, Harmon said.

Any other funding must come from the directors. "Spin the Bottle"

director Ben Martinsaid.

"Spin the Bottle" will be the first play to be performed through the Pocket Playhouse this term.

"Since my play also incorporates video and photography images, I was able to get funding from other places," Martinsaid.

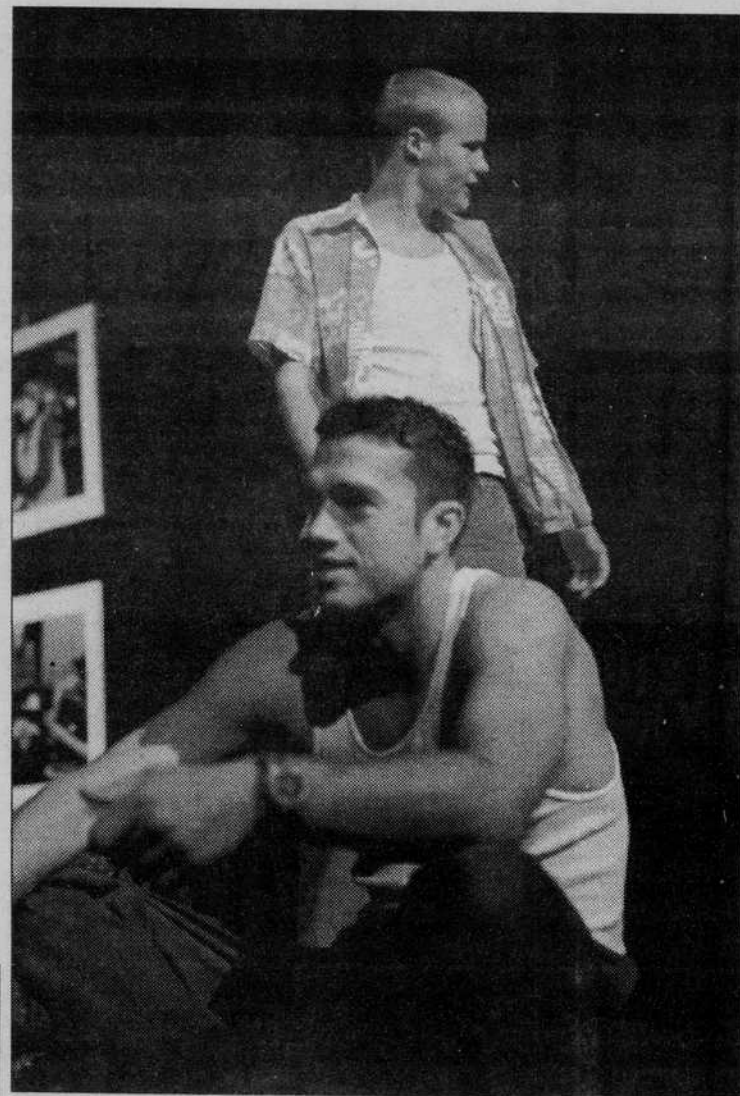
Funding is not the only thing the board provides the directors. Each director is given a director's liaison and technical directors to help the production go more smoothly, Harmon said, although some go more smoothly than others.

"I've seen all level of things happen, from directors being prepared months in advance to directors putting everything together at the last minute," Harmon said.

Even though the group is independent from the school, it is ASUO-funded and works closely with the faculty. The board interacts with the faculty based on its need for a venue and funding, according to former faculty liaison Holly Johnson.

"We interact with the faculty to get advice and help with organization problems," Johnson said.

"We help facilitate things for all of the theater department and act as the link between the students and faculty," Harmon said.



Dan Brunell Emerald
Student performers Colin Carasher (above) and Ben Hubert rehearse Sunday in preparation for the upcoming performance of Spin the Bottle at University Theater.

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