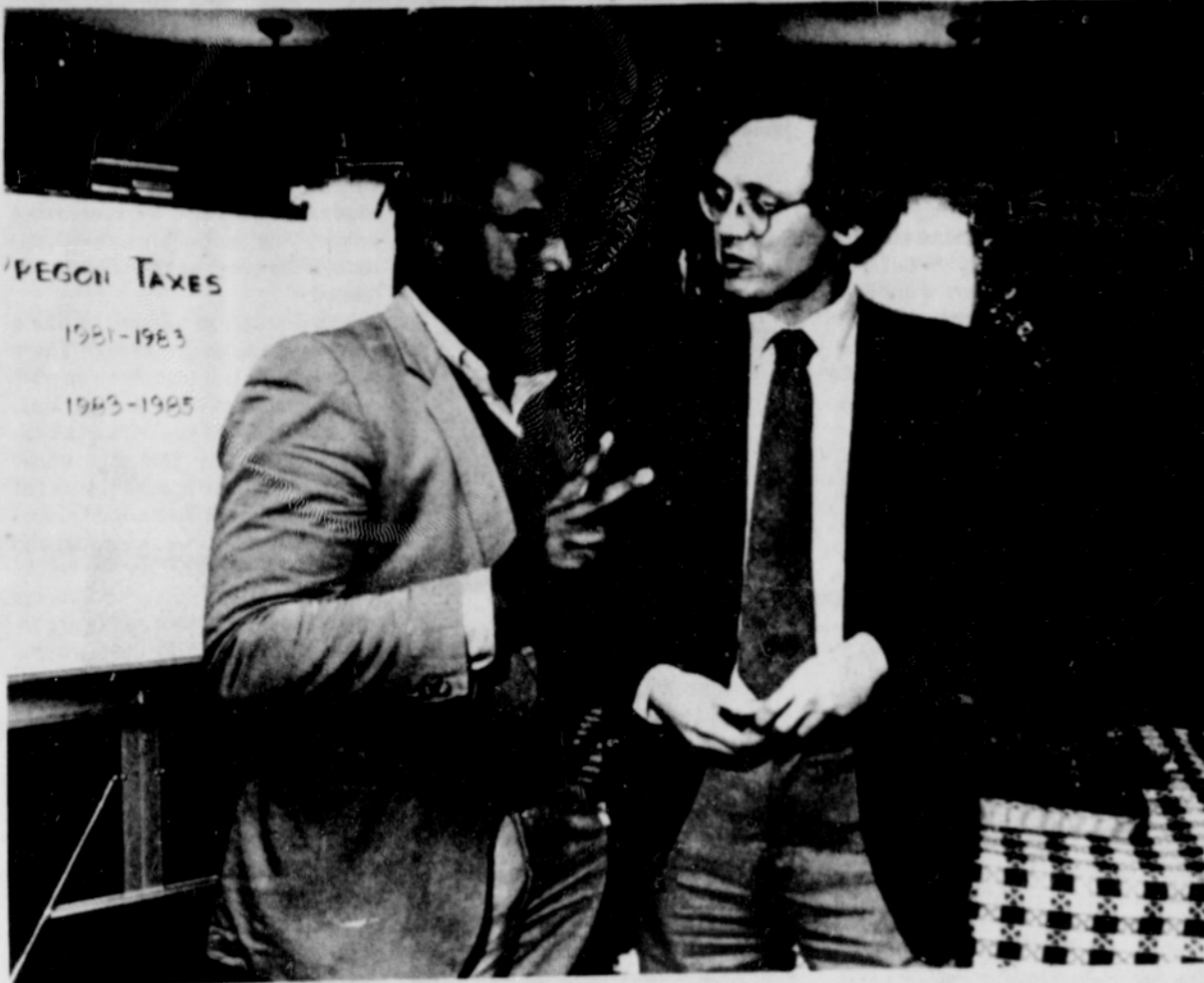


METROPOLITAN



Chad Debnam and Representative-elect Ed Leek discuss economic development at *Observer* political forum. Forums will be held twice a month during the Legislative session to discuss legislative issues. (Photo: Richard Brown)

PSU considers ROTC program

The Faculty Senate of Portland State University this Monday postponed until December 13th its decision on whether to recommend establishment of an Army Reserve Officers Training Corps at Portland State.

The program would involve 18 full and part-time students, some of whom would receive army scholarships to attend school. After completing the first year, which would involve taking one military class each term, the student would sign a six-year enlistment commitment. Following completion of the college degree (including 27 hours in "military science") the student would serve either four years of active or six of reserve duty or a combination.

If for any reason, the student dropped out or failed to complete his college degree, he could pay back the scholarship and benefit money or be inducted into the army.

The program would be an extension of the Oregon State Program. Currently PSU students who want to take ROTC can attend the army program at OU or the Air Force program at the University of Portland.

Both at the Faculty Senate meeting and in a Legislative hearing the preceded it, there was much confusion about where the idea for the program originated.

Forbes Williams, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, implied that the idea came from a number of sources including students but chairman of the curriculum committee Nancy Tong finally clarified that issue by noting that repeated requests have come from the army and the proposal was submitted by the army.

Williams, who described his role as a coordinator to assist the curriculum committee, repeatedly rose to

support the program which he believes will "harmonize" the army's officer corp by providing education for future military officers in a liberal arts setting. An OSU professor disagreed, saying research done at the University of Oregon demonstrates that ROTC programs select students who are authoritarian, politically conservative, and intensify these traits in the students.

Proponents of the program emphasized that it would be little cost to the university, would provide scholarships for a few students, would provide a military option for students who want it, and is a response to priorities set by government.

Reasons for opposition varied. The program teaches obedience to authority and not inquiry and judgement so has no place at the university; the university lost career programs in journalism and moving image as well as numerous course offerings so cannot justify starting a new program; the program is available at OSU and U of O; the program places the student under the jurisdiction of the military; the student faces induction or persecution if he does not complete the program; known homosexuals are barred from service; ROTC promotes military rather than peaceful approaches and the ultimate goal of training is to kill; the university has no control of staff or curriculum; moral and ethical opposition to military training and military presence.

There was suspicion that the interest in ROTC is a method to get funds for the university—to accept a program that does not fit the role of the university for "a handful of silver" and "Are you willing to put in all the work to start a new program for \$15,000?"—"a blatant and opportunistic attempt...to buy a piece of our curriculum."

In the Legislative hearing—held by Representative Wally Priestley, Rick Bauman, Annette Farmer and Rep.-elect Ed Leek—the audience was overwhelmingly against the ROTC proposal. Students, community members and faculty spoke against the proposal.

The Faculty Senate meeting, for the most part, heard only from faculty and opinion appeared to be more evenly divided.

The Faculty meeting will continue Monday. If the proposal is adopted it will go to President Blumel, to the State Chancellor, and then to the State Board of Higher Education.

Street Beat

by Lanita Duke and Richard Brown

With the start of the *Observer's* series on black on black crime in Portland, *Street Beat* went into the Albina area and asked, "How do you feel about black on black crime?"



Greg Allen
Salesman

It's the way the Caucasians have us centered in certain areas which creates the problem. If we were to go into a white area and commit crime we would get killed. There needs to be more facilities for both young and old alike.



Josie Richey
Tektronix Employee

I feel the same way I do about other crimes on other races. We are all human beings. We need better protection and tighter control on the police. It's a bad impression on our kids. Our children do not need to learn those skills. We as parents need to teach our children right and wrong.



William Johnson
Laborer

I don't appreciate it. People just don't have jobs or anything to do with their free time. Especially for the younger crowd. There is a lot of jealousy in this town. We seem to go against each other. It all boils down to no jobs. The blacks that have jobs are away from their home and are unprotected.



Mike Jones
Unemployed

The way that Reagan has the unemployment rate up, people just don't have jobs. You have to have some means to feed your family. And, if people are doing those things, more power to them.



Wayne Ridley
Food Service Worker

It's crazy, stupid and ignorant. We seem to get less time for black on black crime than black on white. We need to talk and get together to eliminate this. Let's also think about where we came from.



Aline Manning
Unemployed

It's bad, black going against black. There is no reason for it. I just can't see why they do it. The way they kill one another off, it's pitiful. What do we have? Nothing. Everyone's out here struggling.




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