

# ROTC: mechanical indoctrination versus purposeful education

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pointed out. The course content is not such that it warrants academic credit, he added.

Students in ROTC —and there are lots of them —strongly disagree. Approximately 10,000 full time male students are enrolled on the Lincoln campuses this year. Nearly 1300 of those are in one of the three branches of ROTC.

"It teaches you to grow up and learn responsibility," said Michael L. Drickey, a junior. "College is a very sheltered existence, and ROTC has helped one to come out of that shelter."

**IN RESPONSE** to those who rip ROTC courses, Drickey replied, "They serve their purpose. I've taken a lot of easier courses."

Dennis L. Lambert, a senior in ROTC, said, "Other schools give 30 hours credit for ROTC which is too much. For the way it is structured here, it's fair."

Many people tend to overestimate the credit hours students can receive from ROTC in a four year period. In Army, only 16 hours of military courses are offered. AFROTC offers the same number; Navy, a few more. In some universities, however, ROTC can be used as a bonifide minor to one's major field of study.

Noting the arguments about course content, Lambert pointed out that students can receive credit for physical education courses such as golf and archery.

**ACCORDING TO** the University course booklet, classes in angling, body conditioning, bowling and fencing are offered for one credit hour. Three-hour courses are offered in driver education, basketball coaching and kinesiology.

"Now I am not particularly comparing PE and ROTC," Lambert stressed. "Nor am I saying that ROTC courses don't need improvement. There can be some changes, like in any other school of learning."

Capt. Herschel A. Pahl, head of the naval science department, concurred. "The trend is away from drilling marching, working with equipment. That smacks of training. This is not the place for that. This is a learning institution."

Of course, Navy students do drill and march with rifles, and practice marksmanship on the rifle range. These activities are extracurricular, Pahl emphasized. Students volunteer for them.

**ANOTHER TREND** in NROTC is have more requirements fulfilled by civilian classes and instructors, he said. A history and political science class is required for NROTC.

Col. William L. McKay feels that academically, Air Force ROTC is quite progressive. He maintains almost 100 per cent authority over the courses offered. Civilian texts and speakers are often utilized. A seminar

system on the freshmen level has been instigated this year.

Both of McKay's counterparts, Wiens of the Army and Pahl of the Navy also said they maintain considerable control over local curriculum.

Wiens said that the Department of the Army publishes guidance materials, something to work with. Each detachment maintains control over their particular situation.

**THE NAVY** department sends down broad guidelines, Pahl said. He has leeway in instigating those guidelines.

The Faculty Senate's Course of Study Committee has always respected the military's judgment concerning ROTC curriculum, Pahl said.

David H. Bunnell, a senior who occasionally engages in anti-ROTC movements, said recently, "One reason why I would like to see credit revoked is that ROTC instructors don't meet qualifications." It is often felt that instructors are assigned arbitrarily by the military.

All nominations for ROTC faculty positions must be approved by this office, said campus President Joseph Soshnik. ROTC faculty are not on the University payroll, but they are approved in much the same way as other faculty members.

**BACKGROUND AND** experience are considered, Soshnik said. Certain prospective ROTC instructors have been turned down in the past.

Every officer in ROTC has at least a bachelor's degree. Many have degrees in teaching and some have had teaching experience before coming to the University.

Col. James F. Bishop, former professor of military science at NU, had a law degree. Maj. John J. Biese Jr., assistant professor of military science is working on an MA. Cdr. John I. Foster has an MA. Most of the enlisted men, who have instructor rank, do not have college degrees.

The object of the ROTC program is to prepare officers for the military, said one student. Since the instructors are trained and experienced in the field, they are prepared for what they're teaching.

**DR. RUSSELL SMITH**, who sees nothing wrong with ROTC credit, feels that instructors should be bonifide and accredited members of the faculty with all rights and privileges normally accorded teachers.

Other faculty members, however, do not feel qualified to pass judgment on ROTC teachers, or the entire program for that matter.

"I've never been involved in it, and although I am opposed to compulsory ROTC, it is not a burning issue with me," said Prof. J. A. Fagerstrom.

It appears, as Capt. Pahl stated, that a small minority is in favor of withdrawing ROTC credit. While some students and organizations would like to see that, much of their firepower is taken away since ROTC is no longer compulsory at the University.

There is one overriding argument, said Lt. Ian M. Bailey. Courses in business, teaching, etc. prepare students for their work in life, for a short or long term basis. Such courses offer credit, and since ROTC prepares the student for an active occupation, it too should offer credit.

## Negro history course gets student critique

Sociology, English and History 198, known collectively as The Negro in American Society, will not be offered next fall, but will be offered during the spring 1970 semester, according to Dr. Philip Crowl, professor of history.

"We haven't decided on the final form of the course," Crowl said. "We plan to have a student evaluation of the course and on the basis of this, decide how to organize it for next year."

Crowl explained that the history, sociology and English departments divide the course material three ways, each presenting five weeks of lectures.

"The history department deals with the Negro's development in and his contributions to American history," he said. "The sociology lectures deal mainly with current problems, and the English department covers Negro literature and the Negro in American literature."

Crowl said that there were "only about a dozen" black students in the course this semester and that student feedback (black or white) on the course has been "haphazard."

"We still need a formal student evaluation," he said.

## Senate passes policy on campus disorders

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Attached to the guideline is a statement of "right to public hearings, which would require a university policy-making group to hold a public hearing when a policy is questioned by petitioners." "It is expected that before such a petition is submitted, all other normal channels for raising questions about the policy have been exhausted."

In other business, Sen. Dave Landis announced he will not run for ASUN president, despite rumors to the contrary.

Landis introduced a motion to form a student-faculty-administration court to rule over the present courts system. "We must let the students decide on matters, not let it go in the back room of the building next door," he said, referring to the administration building.

Senate also accepted 19-5 the 1969 election rules submitted by Election Commissioner John McCollister. Changes include abolition of party identification on the election ballot.

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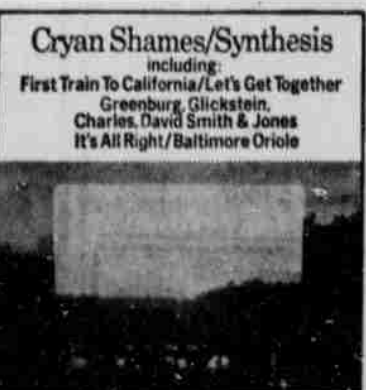
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