

# ROTC recruiters favor person-to-person approach

By Liz Austin

A picture of Uncle Sam pointing his finger with the caption "I want you" may be a clever idea, but it doesn't get recruits as effectively as personal contact, according to a spokesman for the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines.

Capt. Alfred Harris, Army ROTC officer, said the effect of advertising posters and letters on recruiting is minimal compared to "eyeball to eyeball" contact.

Harris said he recruits high school and college students for the Army ROTC program.

It is important to talk to recruits in person, he said, because he considers his job as much counseling as recruiting.

A person may, for example, have more ambitions than he is capable of handling, Harris said, adding that it is his job to help a potential ROTC member realize this and to help him make the right decision.

### Word of mouth

Gunnery Sgt. J. D. Henry, a non-commissioned officer in charge of Marine recruiting, said phone calls, letters and advertising are methods used for recruiting, but the best method is word of mouth. Those who hear of the program from friends often come to the office to find out what the Marines have to offer them, he said.

Capt. Wayne Stephens, Navy ROTC officer, said his department actively recruits only through the UNL admissions office. When a student indicates an interest in the Navy, the department will send an application for the Navy ROTC and invite the student to "stop by the office," Stephens explained.

"We don't get a lead on a person and head out to hustle them into the ROTC program or to persuade them that the Navy is the only thing for him," Stephens said.

### Financial enticement

Major Thomas Skinner, Air Force ROTC officer, said his recruiting methods include word of mouth, through friends, relatives and high school counselors and personal visits to high schools and college nights.

According to Stephens, the ROTC programs also used financial aid for college education as an enticement for interested students.

Financial aid includes scholarships competed for on a national basis. Recipients of the scholarships receive free tuition, books, fees and uniforms. A commitment to the program does not have to be made until the junior year, Stephens added.

Those joining ROTC on a non-scholarship program receive \$100 a month beginning in their junior year when a final commitment is made.

Recruits serve four to five years of active duty upon graduation for both programs.

Because of the limited number of overseas jobs, the promise of these is not used as a recruiting method, all four representatives said.

Harris said whether someone goes overseas depends on how well he does in the Army ROTC program, he grades and his performance at camp.

Skinner said there are opportunities in the Air Force to go overseas and travel, but there is no guarantee.

Henry said the only guarantee of an overseas job with the Marines goes with the six-year program.

# Disturbance charges dropped for students

By Val Swinton

Charges against most students arrested during a disturbance prior to the Oklahoma-Nebraska football game last November have been dismissed in Lincoln Municipal Court, along with a warning that similar incidents better not happen again.

Charges against 10 of the 16 students arrested on Nov. 10 were dismissed while four others have court appearances scheduled for later this month.

Norman F. Langemach, Jr., the city attorney who agreed to dismiss the charges, said he didn't take the action because he thought the cases against the students were weak.

"I agreed to dismiss them to give them the opportunity to keep their records as clean as possible," Langemach said. But, he added a warning.

"I hope the word got around that our office and the city will not tolerate this type of conduct. I hope now they understand that the next time this happens, I probably won't be as lenient."

### Nine dropped

According to court records, charges against nine of the 10 students were dropped last week. Those students include Curt Brown, Ronald Kobler, Richard Placzek, Jeff Sharp, Richard Hergenrader, James Meyer, Matthew Bassett, Douglas Brooks and Donald T. Sheaver. Charges against another student, Wade Morris, were dismissed Dec. 27th.

Four additional students will appear in court Feb. 27. They include Andrew Peterson, Craig Meierhenry, John Gilmore and Samuel Segnar.

Langemach said he had not decided whether charges against them would also be dismissed. Most of the students were charged either with disturbing the peace or interfering with the duties of an officer.

Langemach said he recognizes the importance of a clean record for students job hunting after college, so he agreed to allow the charges to be dismissed.

"I was just giving them a break," he said. "I don't feel I necessarily would have lost these cases had we gone to court."

### Disturbing the peace

Two other students, Michael D. Phillips and Michael J. Zeis, pleaded guilty in Lancaster County court to reduced charges of disturbing the peace and were fined \$25 each last November and December.

The arrests came during an impromptu pep rally early on Friday morning before the home football game. The rally, according to police, got out of hand when students began throwing property, not owned by them, into a bonfire on 16th street. The arrests were made as police tried to clear the street.

According to Richard Placzek, one of the nine students arrested from Sigma Alpha Epsilon, he and the other eight students from the fraternity received a letter from the attorney saying the charges had been dropped. They were represented by Lincoln attorney John Guthery.

Placzek said he did not know why. "But I think we'll be staying out of trouble for a while."

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