

# Your Tuition Subsidizes ROTC



You probably know that ROTC, like the rest of our massive war effort, is supported by your tax money. But you probably didn't know that your Stanford University tuition is also used to help pay for the program.

The subsidy comes in office space and a wide variety of services.

The present contract between Stanford and the Department of the Army establishing an ROTC Army unit was signed by Alf Brandin, Vice President for Business Affairs, on March 15, 1965. The Army has contracted "to establish and maintain a senior division unit of the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps," and agrees to provide uniforms and pay, as well as scholarships to "specially selected members" of the program.

In return, the university agrees "to establish a Department of Military Science" and "to grant appropriate academic credit." In addition, however, Stanford is obligated "to make available to the Department of Military Science the necessary classrooms, administrative offices, office equipment, storage space, and other required facilities in a fair, and equitable manner in comparison with other departments of the institution."

In addition, the contract stipulates that Stanford will "maintain an enrollment of one hundred in the basic course," which includes

students from Stanford, Foothill College, Menlo College, DeAnza Junior College, Canada College, and the College of San Mateo. There is now some question, however, whether the Army will be able to sustain enrollment at this level in the face of rising disenchantment with the Vietnam war and subsequent declining enrollment.

The Air Force and Navy programs benefit similarly from Stanford's generosity.

In considering this financial burden to the university, the Ad Hoc Senate Committee on ROTC (in the Majority Report issued February 7, 1969) warned that "It should be recognized that these arrangements result in a Stanford subsidy to the ROTC programs. Stanford is obliged to provide facilities, services, and financial support to the ROTC programs on a cost-free basis."

The committee recommendations also indicated that ROTC, in attempting to counter some of the criticism of their courses by allowing students to enroll in substitute courses within the university, was merely asking the university to pay an additional indirect subsidy. "An increase in course substitution, while desirable in some ways, will increase the subsidy by relieving the ROTC programs of that part of their instructional requirements."

The report concluded that, "In the Majority's view, such subsidies of the armed forces are

inappropriate."

In recent years, Stanford has also been forced, by the terms in their contracts, to allocate large additional sums of money to provide for capital improvements in the quarters of the ROTC units. In the spring of 1968 an unidentified but action-oriented opponent of ROTC expressed his disenchantment over the presence of Naval ROTC at Stanford by twice firebombing their headquarters.

Subsequently, the University graciously agreed to finance the complete remodeling of a portion of Encina Hall, to be used as classroom space for the use of ROTC. In fiscal years 1968 and 1969, the University spent a total of \$120,000 to provide the Navy with new quarters at Stanford.

It is difficult to find out the exact amount spent in providing facilities and utilities for the armed services here at Stanford since the total is included in the administrative budget of the school of Humanities and Sciences.

Other universities have attempted to force the Department of Defense to assume these burdens. In September 1969 students at the University of Michigan began a campaign to "totally eliminate" ROTC by disrupting ROTC classes and occupying a building.

Three months later the Board of Regents, in voting unanimously to renegotiate Michigan's contract with the Defense Department, "... called upon the Defense Department to reimburse the university for full cost of the ROTC program... Direct and indirect subsidies, including secretarial support and classroom and office space to the three corps programs total about \$250,000." (New York Times, December 21, 1969.)

The Special Committee on ROTC appointed by Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird in June, 1969 recommended "that the federal government pay for institutional costs of ROTC," but Laird has refused to approve that recommendation.

At the same time that Stanford pays part of the cost of training military personnel, the gap between Stanford's income and expenditures continues to widen. Between now and 1973, the university will be forced to reduce the budget base by \$2.5 million, while utilizing several million additional dollars from previously uncommitted reserves. But it looks like the ROTC subsidy will continue.

And next year your tuition goes up to \$2400.



The Navy ROTC building at Stanford was destroyed by a firebomb in May, 1968.



# Stanford Workers and the War

By Pacific Studies Center

Workers and students at Stanford are fighting the same battle. But few of them know that, and few know each other. The chances are that neither group will make any real gains until they unite.

Students are fighting against the Vietnam war and, in a larger sense, against the destructive economic forces that produced the war. So they resist the militarization of their own lives and try to prevent, individually and collectively, the oppression of others. For example, during the April 3rd Movement last year, many Stanford students put themselves on the line in an attempt to get Stanford and the Stanford Research Institute out of Southeast Asia.

But students do not always see their struggle against oppression as having anything to do with the problems of workers in the United States. The students are constantly told that workers have a soft life. They are "just fighting for more economic gains."

So every day students walk past working people—janitors, plumbers, electricians, laborers, gardeners, clerks, secretaries—without seeing them at all, much less as potential allies. There are about 7,000 of these invisible people at Stanford.

The privilege question cuts both ways. Workers see clearly that students can demonstrate against the war and fight the system because they do not have to support themselves. Workers do not necessarily resent this. In fact many of them admire student idealism and militancy. But if workers fight, it has to be to keep their jobs. Most of them have families to feed, house and clothe, and no one is offering them any fellowships or allowances.

In the past year or so, Stanford workers have increasingly felt the need for some kind of power. Most of them are fed up with the company-oriented Stanford Employees Association (SEA). As one disgusted maintenance man says, the most militant thing SEA ever did was buy a flagpole for the University.

## Employees Organize

Employees are moving in two directions. One group formed United Stanford Employees (USE) which, although independent of any outside union, has been much more forceful than SEA in taking grievances to the administration and raising demands for housing and other benefits. USE publishes a newspaper, *Employees Organize*, which recently published university wage scales and job classifications. Workers had previously found great difficulty in obtaining this information and determining if they were paid fairly for the job they were doing.

Other employees, most of them in the physical plant division which maintains Stanford's buildings and grounds, feel that they must go further. They have concluded that the university will not give them an even break until they have a labor contract and the power to back it up. So they are organizing themselves into a local of the Teamsters Union.

Stanford refuses to bargain with what it calls an "outside group," so the Teamsters have carried the case to the National Labor Relations Board. They hope that the government will force the University to recognize them as bargaining agent for the organized workers.

One important factor is that not all the workers want the same thing. The gardeners and laborers, for example, need more money. The University recently raised their minimum wage to a pitiful \$400 a month. But in the case of unskilled workers (many food service employees also fall into this category), the minimum does not apply because the workers are kept on an hourly wage. People who are paid by the hour are not eligible for retirement or other benefits, which makes their work cheaper still. And if the University decides to lay them off (as in the case of Treadder employees over Christmas), there is no obstacle to cutting off their wages.

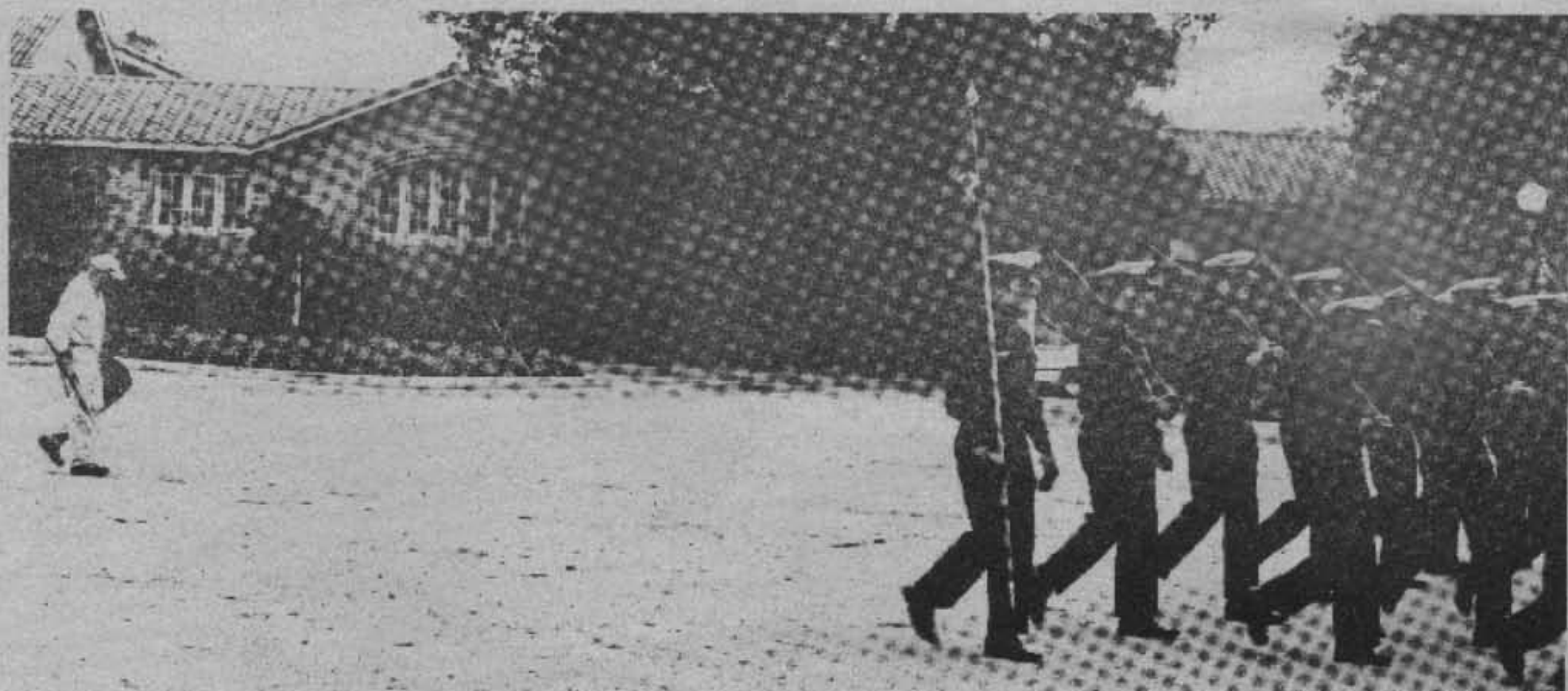


Photo by John Shoch



But many of the skilled workers—craftsmen in the physical plant, clerks and secretaries with special skills—are paid something close to what they would get elsewhere. For example Stanford pays its electricians between \$780 and \$856 a month, while maintenance electricians in the Bay Area average \$773 a month.

#### No Job Security

These people have other grievances. First, they do not have any real job security, because they do not have a contract. In the past, Stanford could afford to be paternalistic and not lay many men off. It appears that the age of paternalism is ending. In December, the carpenters and painters were told that they were not sufficiently productive, that an outside contractor would be hired to do the work, that both shops might be closed up by the first of the year. Although no men were actually fired, many of them quit, hoping to find steady work elsewhere.

Since Stanford is a non-profit institution, its workers are not eligible for unemployment compensation if they are fired or laid off.

The situation of older workers is most precarious. If they are laid off, it is usually impossible for them to find employment elsewhere. There are just too many younger men competing for the same jobs. And they face the prospect of retirement without an adequate pension. Older workers tell the story of one man who wanted to retire after 48 years service to the University and was offered \$120 a month. He had to keep working.

Al Freitas, who has worked for Stanford for 34 years puts it this way: "The main bone of contention is fringe benefits. I signed up with the Teamsters. I like their medical plan, their dental and retirement plans. They so far outclass ours that it's pitiful. But I don't see the University picking up the tab for this kind of thing."

The underlying reason for Stanford's stinginess with its workers appears to lie in the University's relationship to Washington. Stanford depends heavily on government money—from the Department of Defense, the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation—not only to finance research but also to pay for other operating expenses through "indirect cost recovery." Research grants were cut by about \$2 million last year, \$2 million this year and will fall another \$3 million in the next fiscal year, as a direct result of Nixon's attempt to balance the budget while continuing to fight the Vietnam war. In order to keep some research going, the University has been spreading its budget more thinly. Among other things, this means that employees are going to have problems getting what they need.

This is what Ken Pizer meant when he wrote Rudy Tham of Teamsters Local 856 that "the University administration believes that any problems or questions affecting its employees can be satisfactorily resolved within the University community itself by the employees and the administration without need of participation by an outside organization such as your Union." As long as Stanford employees do not have the power to bargain collectively and enforce their will, the University can "satisfactorily" hold their wages down and refuse to pay for other benefits. The money thus saved will help support research that the military and other government agencies are no longer so willing to pay for.

This means that workers are the ones who are forced to pay for inflation. It is not corporations or universities who are suffering under Nixon's war austerity plan; it is workers who either find themselves out of a job or see their wages held down while the cost of living goes up six percent a year.

This is exactly what is happening at Stanford right now. Many of the laborers and gardeners find

it impossible to support their families on what the University pays them. They have to take a second job just to get by.

#### Supervision, Military Style

In addition to its financial ties to the Defense Department, Stanford is militarized in another way that affects workers directly. Many of the supervisors and administrators are retired officers. The University advertises especially to hire these men because, with their military pensions, they will accept smaller salaries. For example, Colonel Elbridge Bacon, the widely disliked supervisor of the physical plant, came to Stanford after 21 years with the Army. Many of his assistants also have military backgrounds.

"Employees have two kinds of gripes about these supervisors. One is that they do not know their jobs. 'In the old days the foremen had backgrounds in plumbing, carpentry or whatever,'" says one old-timer. "But Bacon is an authority on delegating authority. If you ask me, they are square pegs in round holes."

Another is that military men tend to have an attitude toward discipline and a way of relating to their subordinates that the workers resent. There are stories of men who have been summarily sent home and docked pay for minor offenses. As one young employee says, "I don't think that they have any respect for the worker. They treat him like he's just another number."

The direct concerns of workers' wages, benefits, job security are related to the same things that concern students. Workers' problems are created by a militarized, imperialist economy that is oriented toward expansion and exploitation rather than the welfare of human beings. Students fight militarism and imperialism by attacking war-related research and ROTC, while workers struggle against the same forces by trying to improve their own wages and conditions. Everyone has an interest in ending Stanford's participation in the military machine.





**WORK  
STUDY  
GET  
AHEAD**



**KILL**