

Seven In ROTC Off Campus

By ELIZABETH POLLOCK

Seven Stanford sophomores, including two women, are preparing to enroll in the Army ROTC program at the University of Santa Clara, but they will not receive academic credit from Stanford for their work.

President Richard Lyman announced the students' intention to the Faculty Senate last Thursday to allay any suspicions that the administration is trying to bring back ROTC secretly, according to Vice President for Public Affairs Robert Rosenzweig.

"In view of those suspicions it seemed better to announce it publicly," Rosenzweig said.

He emphasized, "The whole premise of the thing is that the students are making individual decisions." A student wishing to take ROTC is "no different from a student going to Santa Clara to take a course in sociology" for no credit, he claimed.

After undergoing summer training, the ROTC students will attend one hour of class per week and four hours per month of outdoor drills in skills such as compass use. ROTC students are eligible for scholarships and receive commissions in the Army upon graduation.

The students' interest was nurtured by Robert Barker, graduate student in applied physics, who canvassed the current sophomore class's interest in military training in March 1974 and contacted the 117 students who indicated interest in taking ROTC courses.

Barker spent four years in Air Force ROTC, terming it "an outstanding program." He claimed that "the circumstances under which Stanford ousted ROTC [in the early 1970s] were gross."

In a letter to Brig. Gen. Sinclair Melner, commander of the fourth ROTC region at Fort Lewis, Wash., Lyman wrote, "I am impressed by the willingness of these students to enter an ROTC program at no little inconvenience to themselves."

Lyman also wrote, "Since there is no University policy here which restricts the participation of Stanford students in programs at other institutions, I am writing to record my endorsement of the indicated arrangements."

Although a tripartite agreement must be reached between Santa Clara, the Army and Stanford, Rosenzweig said, "There aren't any administrative details to be overcome at Stanford." If the two other parties can agree, the Stanford students could enroll in basic training this summer, he added.

Barker, however, claimed "there are a lot of 'ifs'" still present in the negotiations. He is seeking to smooth the reintroduction of the ROTC option through a Stanford Committee on ROTC.

Actual reinstatement of ROTC at Stanford, Rosenzweig said, was "a long, long way away" because "the bases on which the faculty acted [to phase out ROTC]" still exist.

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