

Read It Carefully

ROTC Poll 'Incredibly Biased'

By The ROTC 44

Within the next few days, some 14,000 members of the Stanford community will be receiving a mail poll from the President's Advisory Committee on ROTC. The wording of this poll is incredibly biased, and it is urgent that members of this community be fully informed about the consequences of each option and the necessity for a write-in vote on question VIII: "The Role of ROTC on the Stanford Campus."

There are four options given: a) ROTC as an organized, official activity with academic credit; b) ROTC as an organized, official activity without academic credit; c) ROTC as a Voluntary Student Organization; and d) ROTC not on campus, even as a Voluntary Student Organization. The first two options are reasonably straightforward, and it is the second option (b) which currently prevails.

The latter two options are our main concern. Before discussing them, it is necessary to explain what the category of "Voluntary Student Organization" means. The principal advantage of being a Voluntary Student Organization is as follows (as quoted from the "Stanford University Bulletin, Information, 1970," p. 39): "In order to use University facilities and/or the Stanford name, and in order to advocate publicly a position on a public issue, all voluntary organizations must register with the University through the office of the Dean of Students." The corollary to this should be clear, and is confirmed by the Dean of Students office: groups which do not register as

Voluntary Student Organizations are free to exist on this campus, either as individuals or as a group; they do not, however, qualify for the use of University facilities under this clause and may not legally make use of the Stanford name.

Misleading Alternatives

Options (c) and (d), then, do not exhaust the possibilities, and are quite misleading, particularly in the "comment" below each option. The clear implication of these last two options is that ROTC either must be a Voluntary Student Organization or "should not be allowed on campus at all." That is a very dangerous and inexcusably biased listing of the alternatives. The two options, (c) and (d), should be expanded into at least three: 1) ROTC as a Voluntary Student Organization, with the concomitant use of University facilities and the Stanford name; 2) ROTC as an informal group, not granted such privileges, but nonetheless allowed freedom of access, existence, and assembly on the Stanford campus; and 3) ROTC banned from the Stanford campus, presumably with members being shot on sight, or arrested by local law enforcement authorities. It should be noted that items (2) and (3) are very different: at least one former member of the Stanford community, Paul Rupert, faces arrest should he enter Santa Clara County; such excommunication is thus a very real option, not just frivolity.

The "Comments" accompanying options (c) and (d) also deserve a few words. The libertarian implication of comment (c) is that any group which desires it should be allowed Voluntary Student Organization status, and "ROTC would only have the same unofficial status as other voluntary groups, such as SDS, the Young Republicans, or The Daily." The fact is that "just any ol' group" is not allowed Voluntary Student Organization status. To confirm this duplicity, we called the Dean of Students Office to see if the following group might qualify as a Voluntary Student Organization: a Guerrilla Insurgency Training Unit, which would teach people how to use guns, grenades, and bombs; the unit would be affiliated with similar units at other colleges, and it would receive its training from "Guerrilla Central" in Chicago. Several hours later, after the report of such a group spread rapidly through the

administration, we were phoned back by the Dean of Students Office and told that "the goals and aims of Voluntary Student Organizations should not be contrary to the educational goals of the University." Dean Bulkeley declared such an organization to be contrary to these goals, and thus it was not eligible for registration as a Voluntary Student Organization.

The conclusion from this interchange with the Dean of Students Office should be clear, and it is contrary to the implications of the Comment for option (c): there already exist limitations upon which groups may register as Voluntary Student Organizations. That leads us to the Comment for option (d), probably the most inflammatory part of the whole questionnaire. This comment strongly suggests to people that a McCarthy-styled witch-hunt might be started if option (d) were selected—that if ROTC were the first to go, others might well follow in being exterminated. There is no support for this insidious and irresponsible innuendo, particularly when it appears as the most extreme position on a purportedly objective ballot.

An Academic Community

This is an academic community, and there are clearly characteristics which differentiate this community from society at large. Classified research, it is now widely accepted, does not belong in an academic community where the free exchange of ideas is paramount. Blatant war research also has no place in an academic community dedicated to the betterment of society. The fact is, we are not setting a precedent; that precedent already exists.

Last week on May 14, by a 17-9 vote, the Senate of the ASSU strongly urged a restriction on Voluntary Student Organizations excluding military programs. Such a restriction would legitimately deny status to both a Guerrilla Insurgency Training Unit and ROTC. It would not single out any one group; it would not establish a witch-hunt precedent; and it would consistently apply the notion that teaching people how to use armed force in the implementation of goals is out of keeping with the spirit of an academic community. Such a restriction would not discriminate politically, as is currently the case, but would simply say that certain activities do not belong here—i.e. teaching people how to

kill—regardless of their place on the political spectrum.

None of the options on question VIII of this ballot are acceptable. We have no assurance that option (c) would eliminate ROTC, and option (d) has very dangerous implications, as worded. Consequently, we advocate a write-in vote. We strongly urge members of the Stanford community to enter an (f) option on the ballot for question VIII, to read "no organized military training at Stanford." Put a box to the left of that (f), and check it as your vote. It is hereby stated that the full content of option (f) is as follows: 1) ROTC is to have no organized, official relationship with this university; and 2) Groups whose primary function is that of organized military training, that is, teaching how to use armed force to attain strategic goals, are antithetical to the principles and goals of the academic community and therefore shall not be eligible for registration as Voluntary Student Organizations."

The effect of the vote will be to eliminate current official ties with ROTC. The only other formal relationship that such an organization may have on this campus is as a Voluntary Student Organization. Entering and voting option (f) will eliminate this alternative to ROTC and any other group whose function is to teach techniques of armed force in the implementation of goals.

Violent Weeks

This campus has undergone some rather violent upheavals in the last few weeks. Most departments voted to go out on strike for a week, and the ROTC issue was one of the chief targets of all this tumult. Decision-making bodies on this campus are gullible, and unwilling to take a strong, principled stand on virtually anything of consequence. Now they are taking a poll, an incredibly biased poll, which works against an objective analysis of the situation.

The military and the Trustees are anxious to keep ROTC at Stanford, in almost any form that they can get it.

Off ROTC. Peace. Enter and vote on the left-hand margin of question VIII:

(f) No organized military training at Stanford.

(This column is signed by the ROTC 44, a group of students who have sat-in at the ROTC building and chosen to go before the SJC for sentencing.)

Fiasco Lyde Summerville

ing areas are quiet and empty. Downed
lea black access roads to the base. On
bes, freshly dug the day before, extend
the trenches lie long coils of concertina
barbed wire, but a new and improved
or blades throughout.
ng troops carrying rifles, bayonets, flask
al two-way radios slowly patrol the
equipped with tear gas rockets rest with
nir field. Behind the tower are poised
d armored personnel carriers. Hunkered
sickly, government green command post
of the 10,000 men on base. Rifles,
ad gas grenades; all is in readiness. The

ected the protesters as they peacefully
y, May 16, Armed Forces Day.

Shut It Down?