

# ROTC Poll Draws Attack

By LARRY LIEBERT

Questionnaires concerning ROTC's future are being mailed to every registered student and teaching staff member by the President's Advisory Committee on ROTC Affairs.

But the "ROTC 44," those charged by the SIC in the ROTC Building blockade, have already launched an attack on the survey's wording as "incredibly biased." They claim hypothetical options for ROTC's futures will confuse voters and have urged a write-in vote for wording they approve.

The Academic Senate's May 7 meeting had asked the ROTC committee to study campus opinion on ROTC in preparing a June 1 report on the military training program's future.

The 13-question survey was scheduled to be mailed out by midnight last night. The committee will first tabulate those results postmarked by midnight, Monday, May 25. But no final deadline has been set for returning the surveys, and results will probably be held until the June 1 report to the Senate.

Survey questions were prepared by a subcommittee consulting with Prof. J. Victor Baldrige, an Assistant Professor of Education and Sociology, and were revised and approved by the entire ROTC advisory committee.

## Choices Offered

The "Role of ROTC" question, number VIII, poses what Baldrige emphasized were four "hypothetical" choices. They are: A) keeping ROTC with credit; B) allowing ROTC to remain, but without academic credit; C) not allowing ROTC "EXCEPT as a 'voluntary student organization'"; and R) no opinion.

Respondents were asked to check the option "which most nearly represents your view." But the "ROTC 44" claim explanatory "comments" under each option are slanted and leave no acceptable choice for those opposed to any formal ROTC activities on campus.

They have asked students and faculty to write in a vote in the left-hand margin of the survey: "(F) No organized military training at Stanford." (Their arguments appear on page 2 of today's DAILY.)

Prof. Baldrige confirmed the write-in votes would be tabulated.

In addition to the major question on ROTC's future, the survey asks for demographic facts such as the respondent's sex; military, and draft status; and the

student's class or whether the responding teacher is a member of the Academic Council.

Other questions include: what should be done about current ROTC cadets if ROTC course credit is ended, what stand the university should take on the ROTC "punitive clause," and a page for general comments.

The controversy over Question VIII centers on the option of ROTC as a "voluntary organization." The explanatory note hypothesizes a situation in which "ROTC would only have the same unofficial status as other voluntary groups, such as the SDS, the Young Republicans, and the DAILY."

Prof. Baldrige suggested respondents should vote for that option only if they would actually approve of continuing ROTC under that hypothetical situation.

## Political Motives

But the "ROTC 44" fear people will support that option as a political maneuver with the hidden motive of completely eliminating ROTC. Provost Richard Lyman said he believes it is "99 and 44/100 percent" certain that ROTC would decide to leave campus if only allowed as a "voluntary organization."

Lyman commented, "I have to think that anyone who votes in favor of maintaining ROTC as a student voluntary organization is really voting not to maintain ROTC at all."

But the protestors object that ROTC might instead decide to stay on campus under a "voluntary organization" option. One administrator conceded there is a very slight possibility ROTC may make such an unprecedented move in order to stay involved in "prestige universities" such as Stanford.

Thus, it may not be clear whether those voting for the "voluntary organization" option will have the motive of "offing ROTC" or keeping it as a voluntary activity.

The "ROTC 44" also object to the wording of the questionnaire option completely eliminating ROTC. It is followed by the comment: "Many people believe that this could set a precedent for the removal of other voluntary organizations." Other people insist no such precedent would be such.

Even with the remark that there are two sides to the issue, "Off ROTC" supporters say the comment is biased by the "insidious and irresponsible innuendo" that "offing ROTC" could set a dangerous precedent.

Provost Lyman agreed that, "If you want to vote to off ROTC, I don't see what you can vote for, because if one votes for 'D', one is (being warned) one might be violating the rights of other student organizations; and if you vote for 'C', it is not made clear that you'll probably be voting for an end to ROTC on campus."

The "ROTC 44", in urging write-in wording, insists ROTC can be completely eliminated as a formal organization without any risk of setting a precedent for future banning of SDS, FCM, or other groups.

They say ROTC can be eliminated under current definitions of a "voluntary organization" which demand that any such group have "purposes and procedures not inconsistent with the goals of the university." They argue military training violates such goals.

The Dean of Students office evaluates all voluntary organization applications. Other current requirements which might be difficult for ROTC to meet include depositing funds with the ASSU treasury and membership open to all of the Stanford community.

## New Policy Possible

To compound the confusion, President Pitzer's Committee on Student Services is now debating a new general policy on "voluntary organizations" to submit for Pitzer's approval. Committee members said that anti-ROTC student members are advocating new requirements which would insure that ROTC operation would be impossible as a "voluntary organization," while pro-ROTC committee members are pushing for a policy facilitating ROTC operation.

In spite of the controversy over the questionnaire, Prof. Baldrige believes the results will provide valid information on community opinion.

He said that both left and right-wing students "were attacking technical points (of the survey) to gain political ends."

"We simply cannot respond to every criticism," he added. "Our

Law Professor Keith Mann, chairman of the ROTC advisory committee, issued this statement: "Given the difficulties of constructing a poll and the time constraints under which the sub-committee and the committee have had to work, I view this poll something like Johnson's analogy to a dog's walking on his hinder legs. It is not done well; but you are surprised to find it done at all."