

NEWS RELEASE

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University of Oregon

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ROTC

Three University of Oregon ROTC recruiters and two students were liberally spattered with blood in an incident that occurred during winter term registration this afternoon.

Plastic bags of what is presumed to have been animal blood were thrown from the hallway outside an open doorway less than a dozen feet from the ROTC registration tables. The incident occurred at approximately 1:45 in the West gymnasium of the men's physical education building.

Two of the recruiters left immediately to change their blood-soaked uniforms. They were Army Capt. Johnny L. Lambert, assistant professor of military science and Army Sgt. Gary L. Woodle, administrative assistant in military science. The one remaining on duty was Air Force Capt. James R. Ballou, who indicated he had seen nothing from the far end of the table where he was stationed.

"I didn't notice anything until I glanced up and saw spatters of blood coming my way," said Ballou. "I only have a few spots on my trousers, but the other two (recruiters) and the students were really covered. We found an empty plastic sack, like a large Baggie, and there were some leaflets scattered in the area afterwards."

The leaflets, or flyers, read "Avenge My-Lai ... SMASH ROTC ... (signed) women's militia." The origin of the flyers has not been determined.

An eyewitness to the scene, Paul Swadener, assistant dean of the undergraduate school of business administration, was talking on a telephone located just inside the doorway from which the blood was thrown. "Just a moment before the incident happened," he said, "I saw a young woman poke her head inside the door.

Then I heard voices mumbling something I didn't immediately identify. Later it became clear to me that what they were saying was "Pigs." As I was talking on the phone I became aware of something flying through the air. At first I thought it was confetti. I had never seen blood thrown before.

"When I looked back at the doorway there was no one in sight. I'm certain that whoever threw the stuff never came inside the door."

Swadener estimated there were at least three, and probably no more than five persons involved in the incident.

The University physical plant sent two tables to replace the ones that had been covered with blood. The blood-spattered walls were washed and paper covered the sticky splatters on the floor within minutes. A new crew was sent to take up the registratoon duties.

Before he left Sgt. Woodle gave chase to the assailants. According to Army Col. Elbert Curtis, professor of military science, spokesman for the campus ROTC group, said Woodle observed four persons in the hallway. He judged from their long hair that they were all women. When he started after them they scattered in all directions and he gave up the chase.

Curtis said that the FBI is definitely investigating the matter. The Eugene police department also dispatched officers to the scene.

When he was informed of the happening President Robert D. Clark commented, "This is a juvenile act not worthy of college students, and on the level of goldfish swallowing."

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