

The Lottery and ROTC

The nation's new lottery system has decreased the uncertainty of young men about when and if they will be subject to the draft, but it has temporarily increased speculation about the future of the Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC).

In response to questions, Lt. Col. Jack W. Morris, head of the military science department at Washington and Lee, said he expects "no drastic changes in the program here."

Part of the speculation centers around this question: will current ROTC enrollees whose birth dates were drawn toward the second half of the lottery—the 200s and 300s—seek to withdraw from the program? On the other hand, will men who drew low numbers and who were not enrolled in ROTC seek to join the program as an alternative to being drafted?

"It is too early to say what might happen," Col. Morris commented. "Factu-

ally, not one of the 211 men currently enrolled in ROTC at Washington and Lee has come to me and said that he will definitely drop the program. This does not mean there won't be any leaving. On the other hand, some students have come to us to express interest in enrolling."

It indicates there possibly will be "some shifting" in the ROTC enrollment, but Col. Morris envisions the program remaining a sound and viable one.

Col. Morris emphasized that the military department encourages students to complete ROTC, not because of their vulnerability to the draft, but because of the valuable leadership training the subject provides.

The military science program at Washington and Lee is a voluntary four-year program consisting of a two-year basic course, normally taken in the freshman and sophomore years, and a two-year advanced course, normally taken in the junior and senior years. Academic credit for ROTC is given by the University.

Only students who demonstrate a potential for becoming officers are selected for the advanced training. Upon entering that level, students enlist in the Army Reserve, sign a contract with the Department of the Army, and are paid \$50 a month during the school year.

After being commissioned at graduation, the student serves up to two years of active duty as an officer. Deferments are

granted for graduate degree schooling.

Col. Morris said it is possible for students to compress the basic and advanced courses into a two-year program. However, the department has discouraged students from completing ROTC in two years because of the amount of study time that would be required. Top priority for two-year completion programs has been given to students who have transferred to Washington and Lee from colleges which do not offer ROTC programs.



New draft lottery may mean making war no more for some.