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'U' committee demands abolishment of ROTC

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The MSU Committee Against ROTC presented three demands to President Wharton in his office following an anti - ROTC rally at Beaumont Tower Monday afternoon.

Nearly 150 people attended the rally and walked to the Administration Bldg. to deliver the demands. They carried signs reading "Abolish ROTC" and "Support Oppressed People, End ROTC" and chanted "Smash ROTC."

The demands were:

- 1) that ROTC have no access to University facilities on any basis.
- 2) that there be no contractual relations between MSU and the U.S. military for the

training of officers at MSU on a curricular or extra - curricular basis.

- 3) that students who are currently receiving ROTC scholarships be given equivalent MSU scholarships.

The committee plans to return to the Administration Bldg. on Friday for an answer to the demands. Wharton told the group that he will be in Flint on Friday but he would "see what we come up with."

The rally began with a satirical skit on the University's relationship with ROTC. The actors charged ROTC with perpetuating racism and imperialism.

An ROTC cadet from the crowd said that anti - ROTC supporters were making

emotional appeals to the administration without facts. ROTC instructors receive proper training, and creativity and individual thought among cadets is stressed, contrary to a recent State News editorial, he said.

An anti - ROTC spokesman agreed that many cadets claim ROTC is the most liberal department on campus. But he urged the crowd to remember that 50 per cent of the second lieutenants in Vietnam are ROTC graduates. ROTC also trains 70 per cent of the Army's officers, and 50 per cent of the ROTC graduates die in Vietnam, he said.

"Fight ROTC," he said, "because it is an integral part of the war."

Another ROTC cadet addressed the crowd:

"I'm scared," he said, "because this is the first demonstration I've ever attended and I'm scared because I see plainclothes policemen, Lt. Col. Clark from ROTC, and I'm

scared because I'm an ROTC cadet."

The country has created a vicious war machine which has enslaved its citizens to serve in a war no one wants, he said.

The anti - ROTC committee will meet Wednesday night in the Union to discuss further action.