

Vets protest draft bill

A bill introduced last Monday in Congress to reinstate draft registration, as well as all similar legislation must be soundly defeated, a representative of the University Veterans Association says.

The year-old veterans' organization called a special news conference Friday to protest the introduction of Bill HR 23 by Rep. Charles Bennett, D-Fla. The bill calls for draft registration by Oct. 1 and comes after months of debate in the last Congress over the inadequacies of the current all-volunteer armed forces.

Bennett's bill recommends "serious intrusions into the private lives of all Americans," the group charges.

UVA member Russ Linebarger read one excerpt from the bill which states, "notwithstanding any other provisions of law, regulations may provide for access by the Selective Service System to age and address

information in the records of any school, any agency of the United States, or any agency or political subdivision of any state for the purpose of conducting registration..."

After a meeting of the group's elected officers, the association chose to go on record in opposition to draft registration, Linebarger said.

"Many Vietnam-era and post Vietnam-era veterans have served their country conscientiously, and we've served it well," Linebarger read from a prepared statement.

The recommendation to reinstate draft registration comes after "many of us have already completed our six year military 'obligation' to our country," he added.

"We will not have our obligation extended."



Russel Linebarger

Photo by Ed Warren

New director hired

Switchboard reopens

By JULIE KENNEDY
Of the Emerald

Switchboard, a community information resource and referral service, reopened its doors and phone lines this month under the new direction of Jay Stutz.

The agency, located at 454 Willamette Street, has served the Eugene area for nearly 10 years by providing information about local events and by "helping people find the services they need," Stutz says.

The community was deprived of Switchboard's services for a few months last year while board members searched for a replacement for former director Larry Wheeler.

Stutz got the job after he found the opening through a classified ad in The Willamette Valley Observer.

"It said something like, 'WANTED: Martyr to run Switchboard,'" Stutz recalls. "At first, I just passed it off. Then I saw an ad at the employment office. I decided to put my resume in. Then I started to find out a bit about Switchboard. When I came in for the interview, it just felt right," Stutz says of the job. "I just felt like I wanted to work here."

As director, Stutz spends a lot of time organizing, and finding ways to fund Switchboard's services.

Switchboard receives partial funding from the Incidental Fee Committee, says Stutz. The service also relies on donations and fund raisers.

Although Stutz's position is

CETA-funded, all other staff members are volunteers. Some of them are part of the University's ESCAPE program, and earn credit by contributing their time to the service. People from Oregon penal institutions are also put to work at Switchboard as a form of corrections, Stutz says.

Switchboard is still in need of additional volunteers who can call Switchboard at 686-8453 or contact ESCAPE.

With more volunteers, Stutz and his staff will be better able to operate its nationwide ride exchange line (345-7600) which people can use to "get hooked-up with a ride going just about anywhere," Stutz says. The service is especially busy before school holidays when University students are looking for rides home. Equally popular is the ride board in the EMU basement.

In addition, Switchboard helps people find temporary shelter in emergencies, and provides a limited job and housing referral service, says Alice Scherer, volunteer office manager.

Despite its many services, Switchboard "is at a low period," according to Stutz. The agency is receiving only 50 to 75 calls per day, he says. Stutz attributes this lull to the service's temporary shut-down last fall.

"The biggest problem at the time is that the community doesn't know we're here," Stutz explains. "We're working to let the community know that we're still in operation. Our motto for this year is something like, 'Hey, we're still here!'"

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