

Professor abhors military design on education

Few of us are aware of the pervasive influence of the military throughout our educational system, or of the threat which this poses to the character of education.

Fortunately, Thomas W. Carr, director of Defense Education for the Department of Defense, recently spelled this out for us in a speech before the National Council of Continuing Education in Los Angeles.

First, he describes recent population trends that are currently resulting in a sharp decline in the proportion of 18-year-olds in our society, and an increase in the 25-35 year-old category.

Assuming that the military must continue to maintain at least 2.1 million men on active duty, he projects that by 1984 the military must recruit more than one of every three young men of this age bracket. He asks "How will education be used to improve the odds of succeeding in such a difficult task?"

Noting the plight of institutions of higher education, which expanded to meet the wave of new students resulting from the world war II baby boom and which now face retrenchments and severe financial stress, and noting the fact that the educational community is the major competitor for high

quality 18-year-olds, Carr proposes the tried and true if-you-can't-beat-them-join-them technique: The military and the educational community should join forces, the military providing the money to keep colleges and universities going — since "the military has a particular interest in recruiting individuals who are attracted by educational opportunities."

"By 1984 the military will be recognized as the major user of, preparer for, and motivator toward, post-secondary education," according to Carr.

"The distinguishing difference between the two types of schools (military and present civilian schools) is in the manner of testing and the interpretation of scores. In civilian training, test scores are compared to other test scores and evaluation takes the form of a comparative score. The underlying philosophy of military training is criterion referenced. A test score is simply a pass/fail indication."

Thus, in a country increasing interested in tangible benefits and substantive use of education the military training system represents a different model that is both efficient and useful," Carr said.

"By 1984 the military will have become a

major instrument for youth socialization, assuming a large portion of the role once dominated by family, church, school and the civilian work setting.

"By 1984 the military and education will have entered into a massive partnership, symbolized by modern learning centers on military bases around the world. Education in the military will focus more precisely on job requirements."

"A major thrust to tie together military training and civilian education will result in the establishment of the largest degree-granting institution in the world, operating under the title Community College of the Armed Forces. The military stresses obedience, established procedures, and hierarchy — and has little interest in a more abstract search for purer knowledge."

"Education and the armed forces have come a long way together and the future looks bright."

There you have it folks — straight from the horse's mouth. The military has the money with which to "save" our educational system — just as they saved many villages in Southeast Asia — by destroying them.

One thing is perfectly clear. Congress, in appropriating money to the military had no

intention of giving over to the defense department its prerogatives of deciding upon appropriations of our taxes to other areas such as health, education and welfare.

It should not allow this to happen. If educational institutions, in their desperation, bite of this poisoned apple the results could be even worse than those in the Garden of Eden.

The military has enough spare money, not needed for military purposes, save our educational system. The remedy for this does not lie in allowing them to step out of their role and do anything they please with this money, but rather in removing this money from the military appropriation and either distributing it directly to colleges and universities, or adding it to the resources of agencies such as the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the National Science Foundation or other agencies already set up for this purpose.

I will be glad to distribute full copies of Mr. Carr's speech to everyone sufficiently interested to send 25¢ to cover xeroxing, etc.

Bayard H. McConaughy
professor, biology
Room 308 Science I

'Clap on the hustle plays'

On Monday The Emerald Sports Department printed a story entitled — "Ducks extend lead on cellar race" This story covered the Oregon-Washington State game in Pullman, Washington. Reading the article, I found it to be quite insulting, unnecessary and an attempt to misguide the reader about the game itself.

The game itself was very close until the final few minutes of the game, where the Ducks had to gamble and get the ball in order to come back. Throughout this season I find that the Emerald, other newspapers and quite a few fans have forgotten that this is the first year that Jim Haney coached a team as the head coach and that he and his staff are relatively new to each other and the players.

Instead of putting coach Haney down, we should be supporting him all we can for the future of Oregon Basketball. Please remember that an important part of the season has yet to come and anything can happen during these last 11 games.

The support we give the team now can make a difference in the final out-come of the Pac-10 and this year's recruiting program. The Ducks need the support of the fans and I hope we don't let them down. Stand, clap and sing the fight song when the team comes out on the floor, cheer for the hustle plays and intimidate the opposition with vocal enthusiasm for the Ducks. It's this kind of support that has made Mac Court one of the greatest places to play the game of Basketball.

James Aiken
senior, business and history

Animal story draws kudo

Let me commend your reporter, Dagmar Obereigner, on her rare ability to combine sensitivity with professionalism. Her feature article on Tri-Agency Animal Regulation Authority exemplified both her depth and deftness. But, more important to us, the article did much to help inform the University population about the tragic problem of animal over-population in the county.

Through extensive research and incisive analysis, Dagmar delved into a complex problem and came up with a coherent and revealing piece of journalism. Moreover, Dagmar's co-operation and professionalism made what we thought would be the task of being interviewed a pleasure. My staff was pleased and grateful.

All of us at Tri-Agency Animal Regulation Authority thank you for your concern.

David Jordan
acting director, TAARA

Emerald doesn't 'inform'

Jock Hatfield's article in the 1/19/79 issue of the Emerald serves only to further ignorance concerning the methods and purposes of higher learning and to pander to

people who don't wish to or don't know how to use their mind.

Rather than being a medium to explain to the campus community the kinds of intellectual activities which go possibly the most important reason for the thesis defense. It is not only to give the audience an opportunity to learn what someone has been doing and to offer criticism of that work, but it is an invaluable experience for the person presenting the talk.

The process of education involves not only carrying out a piece of work, but also communicating that work, both in writing and orally. I have found that the vast majority of undergraduate students on campus are not aware of what graduate work is all about — what people actually do, why they do it, etc.

Rather than go through the article in detail, let me simply point out that Mr. Hatfield has neglected to mention on here, the Emerald chooses to publish articles such as Hatfield's. Why doesn't the Emerald interview graduate students to find out what graduate studies are and what the defense is for? Why doesn't the Emerald publish articles describing the research activities being done at the University?

The reason, I'm afraid, is that the Emerald seeks to entertain rather than to inform.

Ira Herskowitz
associate professor, Biology

Professoriate owes debt

In reference to your article "Faculty group hires lobbyist" on Monday, all of the University faculty should be grateful to Professors Tattersail and Siegel for helping the professoriate to finally move toward a union of common interests so that it can collectively bargain more effectively for the mutual improvement of the profession.

John Shepherd
professor, Speech

Best work in the ODE

I would like to express my thanks to William Kogut for his first-rate reviews of "Superman" and "Invasion of the Body Snatchers." Certainly, his work is the best in the ODE.

Austin Jaffe
Professor, Business Administration

John Shepherd
Professor, Speech

Friday, January 26, 1979

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