

Military life gives insight to class

By John Stearns
Of the Emerald

After spending 20 years in the Air Force and visiting 36 countries Denis Snook entered college and is working toward a political science doctorate in his eighth year of school.

Snook, a teaching assistant in the political science department, likes to think of himself "as a delayed pilgrim" — a late-comer to college life.

Attending school for 12 years, including 14 different grade schools, influenced his enlisting in the Air Force the day after his 18th birthday.

He entered the Air Force intending to serve a few years "to sort things out."

Snook says his 20 years in the military gave him "some insight and some experiences that have enabled me to enrich the classes that I deal with and be able to offer perhaps more than the person who is less experienced."

This term, he's putting that knowledge to use assisting for the U.S. Foreign Policy course.

He says his mobile military experience, mostly as cargo plane navigator, led him to a better understanding of who he was as an American by having the perspective of seeing America from a different viewpoint.

He flew cargo into Vietnam, took part in the invasion of the Dominican Republic and helped stage troops in Florida during the Cuban missile crisis. He also helped evacuate refugees from Bangladesh when Pakistan split into two countries.

In Bangladesh he witnessed "misery in the mass," noting the refugees were suffering from grievous injuries and starvation.

"Until you see the effect of some of the

decisions made by politicians in remote locations, I think you're missing a dimension of understanding," Snook says. Politicians rarely see how the decisions they make affect others, he adds.

Meeting people of various countries, listening to their stories, walking the streets and visiting shops gave him a familiarity and sympathy with other places. He says such experiences benefit his teaching assistance.

Teaching assistants are selected competitively for their qualifications and in many cases have a lot to offer, Snook says.

He says the best thing he can offer is a way of humanizing and leading students through the class experience in large classes and making the students feel more involved and more like an individual.

After returning home on leave from Vietnam, Snook noted how his perspectives of Vietnam differed from his civilian friends.

At that time, he believes, the public's picture of the war was more horrifying than his, but notes his experiences as a navigator may not have been typical of the dangers in Vietnam.

Although some of his friends weren't as lucky in escaping death, he says "that's the nature of the business."

Snook co-authored a reference book entitled, "John Rawls and His Critics," and would like to teach college level political science.

Snook speaks modestly of his capabilities.

"Because I'm older and have known more people through the years and been involved in more situations, everyone says I can do it a little better than most people," Snook says.

"I claim no special talents. I think it's mostly on experience."

No-shows mar IFC budget hearings

Incidental Fee Committee members sat back and relaxed Monday as three of four ASUO-funded programs failed to appear for the first round of scheduled budget hearings.

Representatives for Switchboard — a program which serves as a "clearing-house"

for community services' information — University Theatre and KWAX did not appear for their hearings. IFC members chatted for the last one and one-half hours of the meeting.

"This is a waste of the incidental fee dollar," said committee member Mary

Shrauger.

"If I thought that committee meetings would be this intense, I wouldn't have run (for office)," added IFC member Jeff Nudelman.

The committee unanimously approved \$5000 for next year's Off-Campus Housing budget in its sole hearing. The allocation was an 11-percent cut from this year's \$5673 budget, with most of the decrease coming in reduced work-study pay.

ASUO recommendations for cutting some program stipends will be a trend during hearings, said Sheila Schain, ASUO budget director. ASUO is suggesting cutting some stipend pay periods from nine months to eight months, she said.

The ASUO does not want to pay for the one-week periods programs work in September, December and June, Schain added.

Man charged in rape of student

A Corvallis man was charged with first-degree rape and first-degree burglary Monday after he raped a 30-year-old University student last weekend, according to Eugene police.

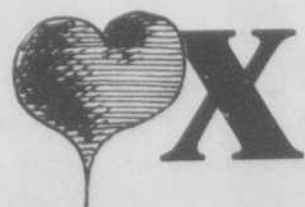
Police said Rickey Allen Robbins, 33, apparently entered the woman's apartment near 22nd Avenue and Alder Street about 4:30 Sunday morning. Robbins stole some cash and credit cards, then raped her.

Afterward, the woman escaped from Robbins' grasp, talked her way into another room and got a pistol, according to Detective Wayne Irvin. She pointed the gun at Robbins and demanded he leave, then shot him in the back as he reached for his clothes.

Robbins, partially-clothed, ran for help to a nearby resident, who called the police. The suspect was taken to Sacred Heart Hospital for surgery, and Irvin said his condition was listed Monday as stable.

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3. "2010: Odyssey Two" by Arthur C. Clarke
4. "Master of the Game" by Sidney Sheldon
5. "Valley of Horses" by Jean Auel
6. "Foundations Edge" by Isaac Asimov
7. "Life, the Universe and Everything" by Douglas Adams
8. "Crossings" by Danielle Steel
9. "E.T." by William Kotzwinkle
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NON-FICTION

1. "Jane Fonda's Workout Book" by Jane Fonda
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3. "And More by Andy Rooney" by Andy Rooney
4. "In Search of Excellence" by Thomas Peters
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6. "Living, Loving and Learning" by Leo Buscaglia
7. "Growing Up" by Russell Baker
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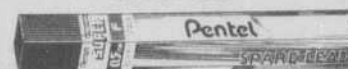


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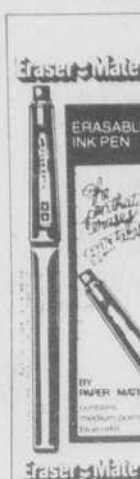
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