

Nicaraguan trip:
what affect did it
have on the women?

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oregon daily emerald

Tuesday, September 27, 1983

Eugene, Oregon

Volume 85, Number 17

ASUO declares war on draft amendment

By Doug Nash
Of the Emerald

The ASUO is currently waging battle against the Solomon Amendment, a battle few students reliant on financial aid are willing to fight individually.

The amendment requires all males born after 1959 to provide written proof of draft registration before they may receive federal financial aid. Financial aid offices around the country were forced to implement the policy before the aid requests were processed.

Of the 6,017 letters that were sent to University federal financial aid applicants this summer, about 40 to 60 refused to comply, says Ed Vignoul, director of University Student Financial Aid.

"Basically, what it comes down to is the University does not have a choice," Vignoul says. "We cannot put 7,500 students' opportunity to attend this University in jeopardy. We're not saying we agree or disagree with the law. We'll just comply."

Enter the ASUO.

"We're straight up about opposing Solomon," says Vice Pres. Kevin Kouns. "Even if you don't oppose draft registration, there are still problems (with the amendment) completely unrelated to the military issue."

One of those problems, according to the ASUO, is the extra burden the rule has placed on financial aid offices, a burden Kouns says "forces those offices into the position of being a political force."

"It's just one more thing to do for financial aid offices on limited funds," notes Susan Sowards, professional ASUO staff person. "They don't get extra funds to do this."

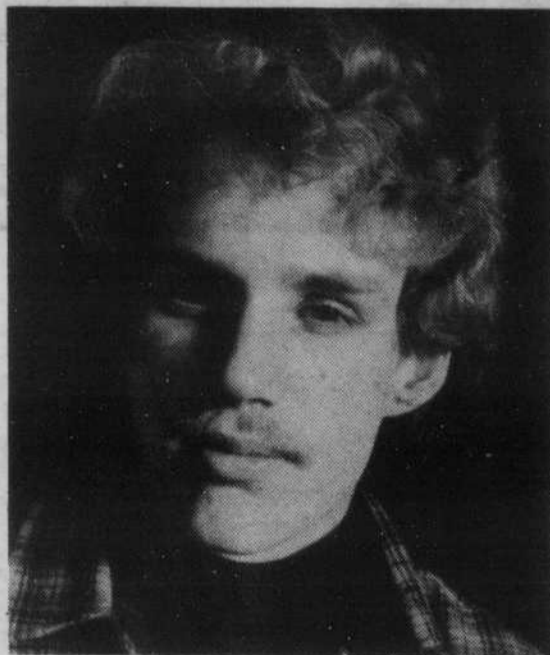
Vignoul admits that the additional workload was not easy to accomplish. "It has cost us anxiety if nothing else," he says.

The ASUO charges the amendment also violates a plethora of constitutional protections, including the privacy act and the Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

"A person is asked to incriminate themselves, essentially," says Student Advocate Bill Kittredge. Furthermore, Kittredge says the rule discriminates on the grounds of sex, age, and socio-economic standing, as it only targets young, low-income males.

"It's a desperate attempt to take a tough line to enforce a regulation that is enormously unpopular," he says.

The ASUO has articulated these objections in a friend-of-the-court brief for a decisive test case pending before the U.S. Supreme Court. The case originated in Minnesota, where the American Civil Liberties Union and a public interest group are suing



Kevin Kouns

the selective service system and the Department of Education. Kittredge says he expects a decision before the first of the year.

If the Court finds the amendment constitutional, Kouns warns that it could mean the Solomon approach would be used in other federally-funded programs, such as food stamps and unemployment benefits. Indeed, the government has already required proof of registration in a federal jobs training program.

The ASUO hopes to leave campus opposition efforts up to Students Opposing Registration and the Draft, or SORD, which has an organizational meeting Monday. Otherwise, an open mike and brown bag forum on the issue is set for next Wednesday in the EMU Forum Room. The ASUO will have an anti-Solomon rally on Oct. 15 in conjunction with Lane Community College's student government.

Until the Supreme Court reaches its verdict, Kittredge says there is relatively little his office can do for those who lose their aid by refusing to sign the registration forms.

"From a legal standpoint, the issue is open and shut," he says. "We are prepared to offer advice and assistance to members of the student body."

Those opposed to the amendment believe the ultimate solution to the problem is at the voting booth. Indeed, the ASUO is currently embarking on a huge voter registration drive "as a means to increase student power," according to Kouns.

"The only way to turn it (the Solomon Amendment) around is to elect people who will repeal these kind of ridiculous provisions," Kittredge adds.



Why doesn't he move?

These two young children react with what seems awe at the sight of the pioneer statue. These children were caught by the Emerald photographer as they strayed from the Street Faire last week. But not to worry, their mother soon noticed them gone and quickly spotted them staring with fascination at the "big iron man."

Photo by Mark Pynes

Charges dropped against 8 Eugene activists

By Joan Herman
Of the Emerald

Trespassing charges were dropped against eight peace activists who were arrested Sept. 13 when they obstructed business at a U.S. Army Recruiting Center in downtown Eugene by blocking doorways and holding a sit-in.

Sgt. Calvin Peterson originally placed the activists, members of Action To Stop Cruise and Pershing II Missiles, under citizen's arrest when they refused to leave the recruiting office at 1111 Willamette St.

The group's disruptive yet peaceful actions were done in support of the anti-nuclear "Fast For Life" movement, in which nine people worldwide fasted for 40 days. The fast ended one day after the recruiting office sit-in.

During their arraignment in Eugene Municipal Court Monday, the activists learned that Sgt. Peterson had never formally filed trespassing charges, said activist Kenneth "Skeeter" Duke, possibly because the group had maintained good interactions between police and army recruiters, he said.

Activist Olive Bowers said there were no harsh words

exchanged during the incident. In fact, "There was a lot of humor and it was a high-spirited action," she said.

Another reason for not filing charges, Duke said, may have been the army's reluctance to bring a potentially controversial issue to trial, thereby drawing publicity to the incident and making people aware of the group's concerns.

"There was a lot of humor and it was a high-spirited action."

— Olive Bowers

Peterson was unavailable for comment Monday afternoon.

If convicted, the activists could have been handed a maximum penalty of 100 days in jail and fined \$500.

During the demonstration, activists sat in front of the army recruiting office door, attempting to block entrance of potential recruits, Bowers said. When people began climb-

ing over them, the activists entered the office about 10:30 a.m. and began talking to recruiters and potential recruits, she said.

About 30 minutes later, the group attempted to place Sgt. Peterson under international citizen's arrest for violating the Nuremburg Principles instigated in 1946. The principles, drawn up in response to Hitler's crimes against humanity, essentially state that when nations prepare for war, they are breaking international law.

The government's action against the anti-nuclear group is ironic, Duke said, because the United States was a principle instigator of the Nuremburg Principles. Yet its current plan to deploy nuclear weapons in Europe is evidence it is preparing for war, thereby breaking the peaceful principles it helped write. "Yet we were the ones arrested," Duke said.

Police handcuffed each member and led them into a police van while about 100 passersby looked on. The activists were released from police custody later that day.

The group will hold their next meeting Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Wesley Center at 1236 Kincaid St. The meeting is open to the public.