

Many ignore draft consequences

By Frale de Guzman
Emerald Reporter

For many young men, registering for the Selective Service is simply a fact of life.

According to Joyce Gudger, head counselor of the Draft and Pre-Enlistment Counseling Project, "most young men think that registering for the Selective Service is nothing."

Yet between 1964 and 1971 1.7 million young men were drafted into the United States Army. This eight-year period marked the height of American involvement in Vietnam — an involvement that resulted in the loss of thousands of American lives.

However, despite the strong protest regarding draft registration in the 1960s, public outcry soon diminished after American forces pulled out of Vietnam, and by 1975 the issue of draft registration was silenced.

But once again, the question of draft registration arises. As a result of the re-instatement of draft registration by the Carter administration in 1980, young men who turn 18 each day are again legally compelled to send their names and addresses to the Selective Service System in Washington, D.C.

But unlike their counterparts of the 1960s, 18-year-old men today seem to be unconcerned with the possibility of a draft.

This sentiment is echoed by

Ron Phillips, an ex-Marine and an anti-war activist who coordinates the Outreach Program at the Draft and Pre-enlistment Project. Through the Outreach Program, Phillips and other veteran volunteers attempt to educate young people about the Vietnam War, registration and the draft.

According to Phillips, because the possibility of war is not an issue that concerns many students, many young men think nothing about registering for the draft.

"It's quick. It's legal. It's the law," Phillips said. In addition, most young males are interested in resolving the "pressing problems of the day."

"We live in a high-stressed society, and we deal only with the immediate stress," Phillips said.

As a result, young men often register for the draft with the impression that they can deal with the reality of their actions later, he said. In addition, the registration process has been simplified.

Many 18 year olds believe that all they do is fill out the form, sign their name and send the information to the Selective Service, Gudger said. Contrary to popular belief, draft registration is the first real step towards an actual military draft, Gudger added.

However, since the passage of draft registration in 1980, only 20 people have been prosecuted

for their refusal to comply with the law.

Steve Kasner, a University senior, is one student who, because of personal and political values, refuses to register for the draft.

By not registering, Kasner hopes to avoid being forced to kill other people, and he hopes to "undermine the war machine," he said.

Although many students share Kasner's views, many are unwilling to tangle with the law. According to Lewis Brodsky, assistant director of public relations at the Selective Service System headquarters in Washington, D.C., the department's motto is "registration, not prosecution."

However, Gudger believes that there is another facet to this argument.

"The Justice Department just doesn't have the time or the money to prosecute all the people who refuse to register," he said.

As a result, emphasis is being placed on registration or the recruitment of young men.

Because draft registration is a federal law, those who refuse to comply with this law may be subject to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. In addition, passage of the Solomon Amendment in 1982 makes it almost impossible for students to defy the federal government.

According to Carolyn Boswell, Selective Service

System public affairs specialist, the Solomon Amendment mandates that male students applying for federal aid must have first registered with the Selective Service.

To further emphasize the importance of draft registration, 14 states have passed Solomon state laws. Legislatures in Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi have voted to deny state aid to non-registrants. Other states that have passed Solomon state laws

include Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma and Tennessee.

In Oregon, some non-registrants are barred from receiving federal job training funds, while others are ineligible to hold down civil service jobs.

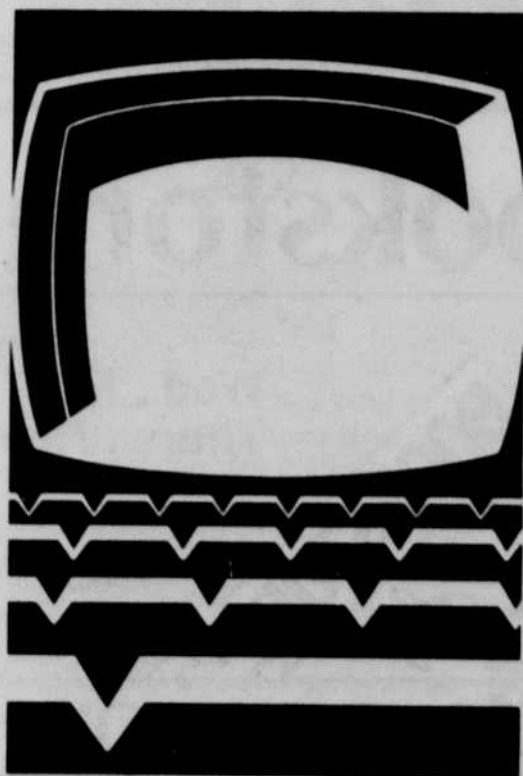
According to Boswell, passage of these laws make perfect sense.

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Program helps youngsters 'say no'

By Charlie Korn
Emerald Contributor

A new program in Eugene middle schools is helping students say no to drugs without losing friends.

The program is called Refusal Skills Curriculum and is being taught to all sixth graders in the 4J School District. It started a year ago in Eugene after circulating nationally for four years.

"The media say, 'Just say no,' but it's not that easy," said Dottie Hardie, a health specialist responsible for implementing the curriculum throughout the district.

"What's really important for them is to keep their friends," Hardie said.

The refusal skills are taught to students in a one-week process that involves extensive role playing. Five steps are examined and practiced to help children resist peer pressure

and stay out of trouble.

- When asked by another child to participate in an activity that sounds mischievous or illegal, the student should first ask the other one to clearly name the activity.

- The student should say, "That's trouble."

- The student should state possible consequences of getting into trouble.

- The student should suggest an alternative activity.

- If the one initiating trouble doesn't agree to the alternative, the student should walk away, leaving the door open to the harmless activity with a comment for an alternative activity.

"The more they can say the consequences, the more power they will have over the other person," Hardie said. Students are taught to stand firm under pressure, even to the point of saying the child's name and "Listen to me."

In the case of a child who is confronted by a group that is up

to no good, the curriculum teaches students to isolate one member of the group and exercise the five steps.

"Divide and conquer," Hardie said. "You can't take on the whole group."

Students are videotaped during their role-playing. Then they view themselves and discuss their behavior and ways to improve.

Four out of five sixth graders surveyed said it was a good way to stay out of trouble, Hardie said. Although the drug problem kindled the program, Hardie said the skill can be used in many areas.

"I haven't seen one child who hasn't responded and learned the skill," Hardie said.

At a meeting last Tuesday of the Roosevelt Middle School Parent Group, Principal Jerry Henderson said it is much harder to say no in real life than in a role-playing situation.

"If we had a relationship

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