

# Campus reacts to draft talk

By Carrie Dennett  
Emerald Reporter

As tensions in the Persian Gulf continue to mount, the possibility arises that the United States will see its first draft since the Vietnam era ended almost 20 years ago.

Unlike during the Vietnam era, male college students would not be exempt from the draft. This change was made because of allegations that the Selective Service unfairly targeted young men who did not choose or who could not afford a college education.

"It was an inequitable system," said Steve Johnson, a member of the Eugene Draft Board. "The poor were more likely to be drafted than the rich."

University Senior Garth Fernandez would probably go along with the draft if he were called, but he would not go unquestioningly, he said.

At one point he was "gung-ho" on the Gulf idea, he said, but work done for Sen. Mark Hatfield gave him a new perspective.

"I still feel a sense of duty, but I would like a reason," he

said.

Fernandez said that in past wars, people seemed more selfless about going to fight for their country; today many are willing to go to the gulf but are questioning the rationale behind Operation Desert Shield.

Senior Mike Belding said he would declare himself a conscientious objector on religious grounds if drafted.

Belding, a Catholic, said he would base his objection on his church's views on the gulf build-up. U.S. Roman Catholic bishops recently expressed their opposition to a war in the Persian Gulf.

"If you can be censured by the Catholic Church for abortion, then I'm sure you can be censured for fighting in a war they are against," Belding said.

Draft board member Johnson said a deferment could be granted based on religious objections, as well as for conscientious objections on other grounds.

Anyone hoping to be granted conscientious objector status must show that his objection is a lifelong part of his

values, and not an objection to the current conflict only.

Applications for deferment must be filed within 15 days of receiving draft notification, at which time a hearing is scheduled with the draft board.

Students called in a draft would be permitted to complete the term before reporting for duty, and temporary deferments would also be granted to seniors near graduation.

Students who attempt to evade the draft by going underground or moving to Canada or another country, as many did during the Vietnam War, may find such measures would not work as well as they have in the past, Johnson said.

Changes in Canada's political climate may mean it would not be the haven it was for draft-evaders during the Vietnam War. Canadians opposed Vietnam, but current support for U.S. presence in the Middle East means Canadian authorities may turn away American draft-age men at the border or deport those already living there.

# Car break-ins reported

The following crimes were reported to the University Office of Public Safety and the Eugene police department between Nov. 25 and Dec. 4.

- A theft from a vehicle was reported Nov. 28. A female University student whose car was parked on 15th Avenue and Agate Street returned to find the driver's side window shattered and numerous cassette tapes stolen. The damage is valued at more than \$400.

EMU reported \$600 worth of sweaters stolen Nov. 27. The vendor left a box of sweaters on the loading dock while setting up inside. Upon returning, the vendor found the box was missing. Police have no suspects.

- A theft from a vehicle was reported Nov. 28 from a University's student car parked along 15th and Agate streets. Stolen was a pair of speakers valued at \$120.

- Theft from a vehicle parked at a University lot at 1987 University St. was reported Dec. 1. An unspecified amount of damage was done to the vehicle, and the stereo was stolen.

- A Christmas tree displayed on the sixth floor of the University Inn was reported stolen Nov. 30. Unknown suspects took the tree, lights and decorations. Loss is valued at \$45.

- Two transients were arrested outside Rainbow Optics on 13th Avenue Dec. 3. Robert Day Higgins, 44, transient, was arrested on an outstanding warrant and for second-degree criminal trespass.

Also arrested was Earl Lawrence Foster, 36, transient, for second-degree trespass.

Rainbow Optics complained the two men were harassing passersby and had urinated on the tire of a parked car.

## Police Beat

- A theft from a vehicle parked at the University lot at 1700 E. 15th Ave. was reported Nov. 30. Stolen were a bicycle, a television and a blanket with the total value of \$581.

- A bass guitar amplifier was reported stolen Nov. 25 from the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity house. The item was stolen over the Thanksgiving break, and the loss is valued at \$500.

- A reckless burning was reported Nov. 27 in Riley Hall. Custodial staff found toilet paper lining a hallway on the second floor. Unknown suspects were apparently attempting to light the end of the paper on fire.

- A vendor operating in the

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## OPEN LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON LESBIAN AND GAY CONCERNS

We wish to acknowledge the courageous act of Greg Johnson, whose honesty serves as a statement that sexual orientation is no longer a reason to be silent. We recognize a heterosexist climate that supports and encourages hostility toward Gays and Lesbians prevails at the University of Oregon. However, we hardly expected such an overt example of this to be displayed by the School of Law administration. Many of us have found ourselves in circumstances similar to that of Greg Johnson at one time or another, the difference being that we are not usually subjected to the public humiliation imposed on Johnson. Intimidation and silencing are more often accomplished behind closed doors.

It is not uncommon for departments to receive student complaints about classroom instructors. It is, however, unheard of for a department to coerce an instructor into an admission of wrong-doing for identifying her or him-self as a member of a protected class. If an African American instructor had chosen to discuss Civil Rights on Martin Luther King's birthday and had discussed her involvement in that movement, the University would have, no doubt, supported these actions. And rightly so.

The President's Task Force on Lesbian and Gay Concerns recently released a report documenting the discriminatory practices and attitudes encountered by Lesbian and Gay students, faculty, and staff. (Copies of the report are available through the President's office.)

President Brand has been very clear about his commitment to diversity and tolerance on campus. The Law School administration displayed its disrespect for the President's agenda, its disregard for University policies, and its obvious contempt for Lesbians and Gays.

The unfortunate message conveyed by the actions of the Law School administration is that it is permissible to silence certain individuals by virtue of their minority status. Gays and Lesbians are being told to keep quiet and run back into the closet. This is the same administration which has historically devalued African Americans, Hispanics, and women. Intentional or not, the Law School has created a dehumanizing atmosphere that has a chilling effect on all of us and is an embarrassment to a progressive educational institution.

The President's Task Force on Lesbian and Gay Concerns, University of Oregon

November 27, 1990

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