

Student taking on world, or parts he hasn't yet

Andy Harris' resume might look something like this: student radical, former Marine, National Rifle Association member, The Insurgent contributor, future guerilla.

During a talk with the Emerald over a few drinks ("Two pints of Hefeweizen, please."), Harris takes on the world — from the White House in Washington, D.C., to the ASUO in Suite 4 EMU.

In his own words, the 26-year-old political science major is "past the bitter and cynical stage — I'm at the I-don't-give-a-fuck stage."

Following an order of a large basket of fries from the mEating Place, the interviewer and interviewee begin their talk after noticing a similarity in the attire for the day — a U.S. Army T-shirt and a U.S. Marines T-shirt.

Andy: Were you in the Army, or anything like that?

ODE: No, I was at an Anthrax concert a couple of weeks ago, and I found it on the ground. Pretty scroungy, huh?

Were you in the Army?

Andy: (Points to shirt.) Marines — six years total.

I was in North Carolina, San Diego, Korea and the Persian Gulf — from January to late April.

ODE: What was that like?

Andy: It sucked.

It wasn't a traumatic experience like people in Vietnam or other wars had, but it wasn't any fun being over there. I didn't really believe much in it, either,



Drinks with...

ANDY HARRIS
University student

By Jake Berg

which doesn't help.

ODE: Were you just filling out your time over there, then?

Andy: Yeah. After that, I got off active duty only a few weeks after I got home. The rest of the time I spent in active reserves until November '91.

ODE: Why did you get into it, originally?

Andy: Eighteen years old, too many John Wayne and Rambo movies. I did it for the sense of adventure, and looking back, I don't regret it. It's not something I would recommend to everybody, and I'm certainly glad I'm out.

But I had good times, got to travel, learned a few things.

Sometimes it was a lot of responsibility. Some of the places I've been, some of the things I've seen ... I think I can appreciate

life a lot more, and I can appreciate some of the things we have in this country.

I traveled a lot outside of the military before I went in, so it didn't change me that much. I've been to the Middle East, Central America and stuff like that.

ODE: Just visiting?

Andy: Yeah.

ODE: Did you have the money to do that, or were the opportunities just available to you?

Andy: There's different ways of doing it. I guess if you can ... think of the right scam or charm the right people.

ODE: You spent some time in Europe this summer; how long were you there for?

Andy: About two weeks total. I was there for five days, then I came back for a month, and then went back for a week.

ODE: That's a lot of traveling for a short time.

Andy: Yeah. I went to Switzerland, Austria, the Czech Republic, Poland, Lithuania, Germany, Belgium and Holland.

I liked Poland a lot. I liked the countryside, and I liked the old part of Warsaw — the pre-World War II section.

As far as cities, without a doubt, it'd have to be Amsterdam.

ODE: (Laughs.) What did you do while you were there?

Andy: Let's just say I was kind of naughty.

ODE: (Laughs.) When I went to Europe with my brother and sister this summer, we started fighting, so I hopped on a night train to Spain and they eventually

went to Amsterdam. I never went.

Spain was great, though; I'll probably move there or to Mexico when I graduate — expatriate myself for a while.

Andy: That's what I'm going to do. Whatever I can do to get out of the U.S.

ODE: So are you going to go back to Europe, or where are you going next?

Andy: No, I think I'm calling it quits as far as these trips go.

ODE: "These trips"?

Andy: Yeah, these trips in particular.

ODE: What can you say about "these trips" to Europe?

Andy: I really can't say, but it involved the import/export business — and it wasn't drugs. We'll just leave it at that, if that's all right. I hope it's not too much of a disappointment.

ODE: I understand. The tape recorder's on.

Yeah, when I came back from Mexico, I got all my bags searched at LAX, but when I went to Mexico City, I had no idea what was going on and they were still really friendly.

And that whole thing coming back from Mexico through LAX really just makes me think about this country, the attitudes and things that go on here sometimes. I realize that we have a lot of advantages living here, but it's just the attitudes.

Andy: Yeah, honestly, I don't like most Americans. Of course, I am from the U.S. and I can't escape that — that makes up who

I am — but I can't wait to get the hell out of here.

ODE: Then where would you like to eventually end up?

Andy: I liked El Salvador a lot, and I liked Guatemala, but there's getting to be too many Americans there. I liked parts of the Middle East, and I've been up to Israel and the West Bank — I like that area, but it's just too intense.

ODE: What do you think of the peace talks that have gone on about that area recently?

Andy: Actually, I've followed that issue for quite some time. I had a girlfriend that was Palestinian, and I've spent some time on the West Bank. I think it's a step in the right direction; however, I think any Palestinian that just settles for some sort of autonomy — collecting their own garbage or whatever — is selling themselves short.

At the same time, Israel is one of the most powerful countries in the world — definitely the most powerful country in that area. They're there, they're not going anywhere; the best thing they can do is make peace between Israelis and Arabs.

ODE: What other kind of national issues have you been keeping up on?

Andy: Somalia seems like kind of a quagmire right now.

ODE: Can you compare that to what went in the Persian Gulf?

Andy: I think a lot of times the U.S. goes some places where they have no business going to. I think people are sometimes over-ide-

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