

Joined the Military?

You can change your mind

Something made you think that joining the military was a good idea. Maybe you just graduated from high school. Now you are having second thoughts. Maybe the promises made by the recruiter don't sound so good anymore. Maybe you found out about some of the drawbacks to military service. Here's the good news: You are still a civilian, as long as you have not sworn in at basic training. That means you can change your mind and not go.

It really is as simple as that. You can just not go to basic training. Or you can write a letter to the commander of the recruiting office stating that you changed your mind and want to separate from military service. Include in your letter that no one is to contact you about your decision.

People changing their minds after signing enlistment papers but before going to basic training happens so frequently that the military has forms, used internally, just for this purpose. So here are some tips about writing that letter of refusal. Find the address of the recruiting office on your enlistment papers. You do not need to know the name of the commander, just address him (probably a him) by title. You do not have to state a reason for declining to enlist; any reason will do. Definitely state that you do not want recruiters to contact you to try to change your mind because if you don't you can count on pressure from them.

Some recruiters try to pressure you to go to basic training with misinformation that you have already sworn in or that something else negative will happen to you such as prison or some sort of "black mark." These are not true and recruiting regulations prohibit this behavior on the part of recruiters!

Whatever you do, if you change your mind, don't go to the recruiting office or to MEPS (Military Entrance Processing Station) thus making yourself available to be talked out of your decision.

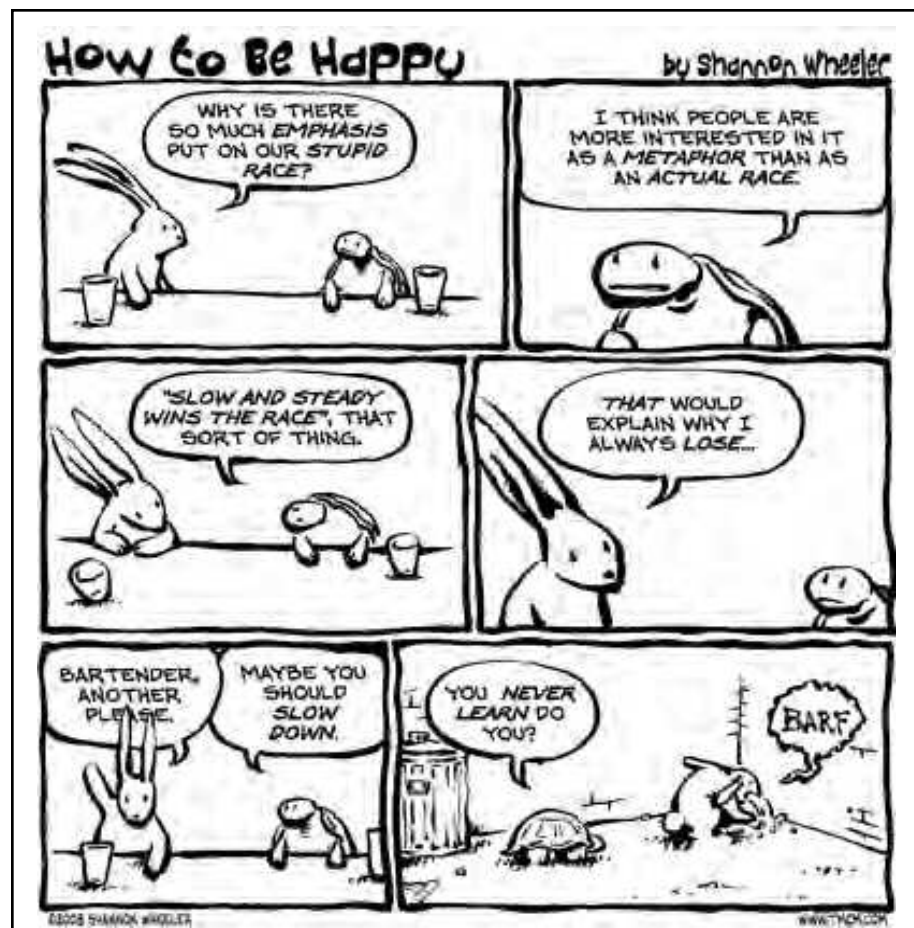
Nothing negative will happen to you if you don't go – except hassle by the recruiter. Need this confirmed in "bureaucratic" writing? Google USAREC 601-56, Sec 3-3.

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Some people believe regulations are different for the National Guard. Often the Guard will try to persuade you that you can't get out, especially if you have gone the so-called "split training" route or if you have been paid to attend some training. Split basic training can mean that between the junior and senior years in high school you do half the basic training. You can still get an "entry level separation" from the Guard if you do so prior to swearing in at basic training or the second summer of basic training if you go the "split" route. Check AR 963.10 Sec 5-2.

Need more information? Contact the Committee for Countering Military Recruitment, which is a joint project of Community Alliance of Lane County (CALC) and Eugene PeaceWorks. Call 485-1755 or 343-8548 or visit www.counterarmilitary.org

Carol Van Houten of Eugene is co-coordinator of the Committee for Countering Military Recruitment.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EASY PIT CHOICE

By far, the best of the five old Sears site proposals the City Council will discuss at their work session on July 16 is the one by WG: local developers Wally Graff and Nathan Philips.

They hired the nationally recognized design firm RTKL to design the 200,000 sq. ft. half-block site across from the Eugene Public Library in collaboration with John Lawless of TBG Architects here locally. And the overall layout of the site makes very good sense. It's a five-story, mixed-use building, arranged in a south-facing U-shape toward the sunlight, the south hills and the library. The interior of the U is open space on two levels, a ground floor Event Plaza and a mezzanine they describe as semi-public. The upper three floors consist of a mix of one- and three-bedroom apartments, which should ensure a fairly wide range of potential tenants. A substantial amount of their office space would be occupied by Pacific University.

Architecturally, it's a contemporary building that would easily complement our new library, unlike the Opus proposal for six stories of student housing, which looks like a cheap housing project out of the 1950s. Our own Eugene Hotel is a better-detailed, more refined version of this older-style hotel and apartment construction. The Opus building schedule is also so tight that they only have two months for further design development in order to fit their targeted school calendar. So, what you see is unfortunately probably what you'll get: a six-story student "project" across from the library.

The WG proposal could still be improved, I think, by moving its Event Plaza east so that it is more directly across from the entry to the library. It might also be better to relocate the police kiosk, the inclusion of which is a very smart move, and the café at the corner of 10th and Olive, over to the plaza.

All the proposals require public partici-

pation in order to "pencil out." Only the WG proposal appears willing in return to enter into a dialog about the public space contribution this site could make to city design. And isn't this, after all, an important part of what we want and what we're paying for?

*Jerry Diethelm
Eugene*

DEFENDING INEQUALITY

I have been reading the letters in *EW* surrounding the Taser "incident" with amusement. I have noticed that the outraged liberal is present, as is the proto-fascist, who is always ready to excuse any police action because their "tough" job or, my personal favorite, the "they're only doing their job" line (the Nuremberg defense).

I wish I could say I was surprised by this brutal attack by the government against free speech, but it was no aberration, no isolated incident. Any group to the left of Attila the Hun has faced similar attacks. The root cause of these attacks can be found in the reason police exist, namely, the preservation of order. In a society like ours, where inequality reigns, it becomes the job of the police to preserve that state of inequality. So when the existing order is threatened, even a little as it was in Kesey Square, they crack down. But it is nonsense to talk of police brutality; police are brutal — that is their function.

The ruling class was not threatened by the politics of the group because they are largely moderate (OSPIRG types); what they were threatened by was the shift from lobbying and petitions to demonstrations and direct action. We need many more people to make that shift, as groups and as individuals, so that our political power does not rise and fall with that of a certain political party.

*Johannes Pedersen
Eugene*

BEST OPTION?

I would like to point out some errors in the July 10 Slant: First of all, Opus, one of the developers responding to the 10th &



Info Session

Thursday, July 17

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Eugene Library

100 W. 10th Avenue

Eugene, OR 97401

peacecorps.gov | 800.424.8580