

## HOW ABOUT THE DRAFT!

You may be the next one drafted, according to recent news from draft board officials. The last two months have seen the draft call more than double, with the promise that this increase in the number of U. S. troops will continue. The college campus is to become a focus for the draft soon. The Michigan director of selective service estimates 20,000 to 30,000 male college students in that state alone may be drafted. California is listed as one of the states planning restriction of student deferment policies.

Your student deferment may well not be renewed. If you are carrying less than a full program, or if your grades are low, you may well spend next semester in the army or the marines--perhaps fighting in Viet Nam. What does this mean for the future?

If you are drafted, it means at least two years away from education, with the difficulty of renewing study when you return. It means at least two years delay in fulfilling your vocational goals. It means being at least two years behind your present classmates when you return. If you are in a specialized vocational program, it may mean taking courses over to catch up with the most recent knowledge in your field. Though no one has asked you how you feel about this interruption in your future, yet you may be called to fight because of the undeclared and undemocratically conducted war in Viet Nam.

The university or college may well be of no help to students who wish to stay in school rather than join the army. The factory atmosphere of many schools subordinates the individual and his choice just as the military does. The school, especially in southern California, is often tied to the military system through defense grants and campus-sponsored military training programs. Schools cooperate with the selective service system by providing draft boards with students' grades and lists of those on academic probation.

Many students are beginning to ask questions about the arbitrary nature of the draft and its expansion because of the current war. Should a young man be able to determine his own future? Should the university cooperate in the emphasis of wars over education? Should a student be sent to fight because he attends school part-time or has lower grades than someone else?

Would you rather serve American society as a doctor, teacher, artist, engineer, businessman, mechanic, musician, social worker, or writer than as a dehumanized and destructive man? Educated men should work for better human life, not to destroy it. The choice should be up to you.

There are alternatives to the impending draft. Anyone who opposes the killing of other human beings may be eligible for status as a conscientious objector. Conscientious objectors are not limited to members of pacifist religious groups. Nearly all religious groups--Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant--give support to the conscientious objector's stand. The selective service system also grants such status to many persons who belong to no religious group.

The recent Supreme Court decision in the Seeger case set a precedent for those who do not believe in a Supreme Being as such to become conscientious objectors. A conscientious objector may serve in non-combatant duty or in alternative civilian service. If you think you may qualify, ask the selective service board for Form 150 and apply for status as a conscientious objector.

If your request is denied or if you are denied your student deferment, you have the right of appeal, including personal appearance before the draft board officials. Such an appeal must be made within ten days after the denial. A person making an appeal should seek draft counseling before he appears.

There are other alternatives with less or no legal precedent which a person may wish to pursue with legal assistance. He might declare his willingness to serve building a stronger United States by working to eradicate poverty or by offering to teach those the army finds illiterate, for example. These alternatives should be explored by thoughtful students who oppose the war and rather desire to make a positive contribution to human existence.

If you are concerned about the draft soon to reach local campuses, contact Students for a Democratic Society, 702 W. 27th St., Los Angeles 7-918-9045, for:

- 1) counseling about various alternatives
- 2) further information about conscientious objection and other alternatives
- 3) further information about the war in Viet Nam and its effect on the democratic system, especially the universities and colleges
- 4) announcements of informational meetings and speakers on the draft.

Please contact SDS also if you are interested in helping to develop this program on the draft system.

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Name

Address

Phone

School

Class

Draft Status

Interests