Bevis Names Committee
To Aid Potential Draftees

Park to Head
Advisory
Group

300 Students Subject
To Draft This June

Dean of Men Joseph A. Park was named today by President Bevis as coordinator of the University's program to assist students who are registered under the Selective Service Act.

Three thousand Ohio State students are registered, and their deferment under the terms of the act expires in June. Of this number 2,096 registered on the campus last October, while the remainder registered with their home boards.

A three-member advisory committee has been named by President Bevis to assist Dean Park, the members being Dr. E. Allen Helms, department of political science; Prof. Ralph S. Paffenbarger, department of engineering drawing; and Harold K. Schellenger, director of the News Bureau.

SET UP COMMITTEES

Faculty committees also are being up in the various colleges, to pass on the cases of their respective students who may be seeking deferment on occupational grounds.

Dean Park is preparing special blanks which will be given to registered students at his office, first floor of the Administration Building, Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. All instructors will make an announcement to their classes Wednesday concerning the availability of these blanks.

MAY BE DEFERRED

Federal regulations, according to Dean Park, provide that local boards may defer certain students where they are "in training for" occupations and professions essential to national defense and welfare. To be considered in making such deferments are such facts as the student’s previous record and his promise for professional success, and the length of time needed to complete his studies.

Dean Park calls attention to the suggestion of federal authorities that before starting any quarter, including summer, a registered student should determine from his local board when his call is likely to come. If the call is likely to come near the beginning of the quarter, then federal authorities suggest that the student consider the advisability of remaining out of the University that quarter.

If, on the other hand, the call is not likely to come until the middle or latter part of the quarter, the student may resume his studies and when his number does come up ask for a 60-day deferment, provided in the regulations, permitting him to complete the studies for that period.
3 Groups Advertise in OSU Paper Urging Students to Dodge Draft

By JOHN HUDDY
Of The Dispatch Staff

A drive aimed at teaching college students how to dodge the draft — directly related to local pacificist activity — has been openly launched at the Ohio State University.

In a paid advertisement which appeared in the Ohio State Lantern, OSU campus daily, Thursday morning, three separate “peace” groups urged students to refuse military service.

THE GROUPS, the Student Religious Liberals, the Young Friends and the Friends of Peace, also denounced the Vietnam war in a lengthy statement tied in with the conscientious objector move.

The advertisement read:

“REMEMBER,” the paragraph said, “. . . if you think the deliberate refusal of the U.S. to permit free elections promised for all of Viet Nam in the 1954 Geneva Accords is a strange way to defend democracy in Viet Nam . . . if you think the use of napalm bombs against the civilians in Viet Nam is a war crime . . . if you think torture and terrorism is anti-human, no matter who does it or for what purpose, or on which side . . . if you think it is irrational and immoral to send men to kill and die in a war in which there can be no victory, only death, destruction, suffering and injustice for the people of Viet Nam . . . THEN YOU ARE NOT ALONE!”

The advertisement then urged students to “come hear an active pacifist, John Perera, speak on conscientious objection.”

ACCORDING TO Alfred Ferdi, business manager of the Lantern, the advertisement was submitted by Perera, a 31-year-old Arts College sophomore at OSU.

“We don’t endorse this kind of advertisement,” Ferdi noted. “If submitted ads are not libelous or vulgar, in fairness we run them, provided they have some relationship to the University.”

However, Ferdi said, future pacificist-styled advertisements would be carefully screened. Lantern officials said it would be possible that such advertisements might, in the future, be rejected.
OSU Draft Dodging Drive Probed by U.S. Attorney, FBI

Ad in Campus Paper Stirs Peacenik Check

Dispatch 8 April 1966

The FBI and the U.S. attorney's office are investigating the possibility that a drive to aid Ohio State University students in dodging the draft is a violation of the selective service laws.

Three OSU peacenik groups sponsored an ad Thursday in the campus newspaper, the Lantern, urging students to refuse military service.

THE AD STATED, IN PART, "If you are 'conscientiously opposed to participation in war in any form,' and are interested in learning more about alternatives and civilian service, come to discussion Sunday evening, April 10."

The advertisement also launched into a typical left wing diatribe against U.S. involvement in the Viet Nam struggle.

The advertisement urged draft-aged students to hear an "active pacifist," John Perera, a 31-year-old OSU sophomore, speak on conscientious objection.

STATE REP. JERRY O'SHAUGHNESSY, D-Franklin entered the controversy, pointing out that there is presently a national debate as to whether college students should be drafted at all. "Students should not use their fortunate position to strike out in subversive areas," O'Shaughnessy said.

He continued, "They should be happy to be in the position they're in instead of inciting unAmerican activities."

Ohio selective service officials said they would study the advertisement before commenting on its contents.

PERERA WILL SPEAK at 7:30 p.m. in the Unitarian Universalist Campus Center, 121 E. 16th Ave.

According to Alfred Ferdi, business manager of the Lantern, the advertisement was submitted by Perera. Sponsoring groups were listed as Student Religious Liberals, the Young Friends and the Friends of Peace.

"We don't endorse this kind of advertising," Ferdi said. "If submitted ads are not libelous or vulgar, in fairness we run them."

A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION of the advertisement by government offices indicates there is no apparent violation of federal law.
Perera Denies Any Draft Dodging Intent in Campus Advertisement

John Perera, who sponsored an advertisement in the Ohio State Lantern, student newspaper, on April 7, inviting students of draft age to attend a rally "on conscientious objection," has taken issue with The Dispatch on its coverage of the circumstances.

He has submitted the following statement:

"THAT ON SUNDAY, April 10, 1966 at 7:30 p.m. he made a speech in the Universalist-Unitarian Campus Center, 121 E. 18th Ave., Columbus, Ohio.

"That said speech was advertised through an ad appearing in the Ohio State Lantern, Thursday, April 7, 1966.

"That said ad indicated that the purpose for said talk was to inform men of draft age concerning the legal provisions for conscientious objectors to war.

"THAT THE TALK as made and as advertised was designed to inform young men concerning provisions of the Selective Service law for conscientious objectors to further inform them concerning problems involved in how to apply for conscientious objector status.

"That the speech further indicated that young men were not informed about the provisions of the draft law through their schools, because schools would not let people speak to students concerning this part of the Selective Service law.

"That none of the advance notices of said talk contained any statements whatsoever urging evading service or "draft dodging" or any acts or conduct not recognized by the Selective Service law.

"THAT SAID speech concerned itself with the giving of information concerning conscientious objector stands and the procedures to be followed by those who are conscientiously opposed to participation in war. The difficulties involved and the hardships which could be met were clearly pointed out. No statements whatsoever were contemplated or made concerning evading service or "draft dodging."

Perera has been identified as a member of the Friends of Peace.
Student Protesters Lose II-S Deferments

By JENNIE BUCKNER
Lantern Staff Writer

It is just over a year since Selective Service Gen. Lewis B. Hershey issued his controversial directive to local draft boards, advising them to reclassify and induct antidraft demonstrators.

Since then, a number of student demonstrators—Ohio State students among them—have found themselves without important II-S classification.

Two undergraduates, Michael Wright and William Gantz, who were arrested for their participation in a Feb. 7 demonstration in Hitchcock Hall have since been reclassified I-A.

Other participants in the Hitchcock Hall incident and the Jan. 31 demonstration in Hamilton Hall also found their student deferments in jeopardy.

Their names were sent to their local draft boards for reconsideration by the Ohio Division of the Selective Service.

Local Board Changes Classification

"We did not tell any board to reclassify any student," said Maj. R.J. Thomas, assistant chief of the manpower division for the Ohio Selective Service. "Each local board was made aware of these two incidents, however."

"If we feel a local board should be informed of the activities of an individual, we would be remiss in our duty if we didn't inform them."

Thomas said it is the local board which has authority to change a classification because of participation in demonstrations. If a board determines that a student's deferment is no longer in the national interest, the deferment is ended, he said.

Deferments For National Interest

"The Selective Service defers a student so he can contribute to the national interest through his college education," Thomas said. A determination is granted not in the interest of the individual, but in the national interest."

Thomas said the Selective Service had "no quarrel" with responsible dissent or orderly demonstrations.

He said there were no specific guidelines, differentiating responsible dissent from dissent in violation of the national interest.

"It is up to each draft board to decide in each individual case," he said, "but, for instance, interfering with the operations of military recruiters would not seem to be in the national interest."

Both the Hitchcock and the Hamilton Hall incidents involved protesting the presence of military recruiters.

Thomas said his office has no systematic method of identifying demonstrators. "The newspapers are one source of information. Calls from public spirited citizens are another."

No university or college in Ohio has ever volunteered information on student demonstrators, he said.

At a demonstration before the Administration Building last month, students complained the University was supplying information to the Selective Service on student demonstrators.

University administrators also deny that such is the case.

Under the law a local board does have the right to subpoena University officials or records when deciding on a student's classification, Thomas said.

There are about 100,000 student deferments granted in Ohio, he said, and less than one percent of these students are ever reclassified because of participation in demonstrations.

"Some states, like California, have much more of a problem with this sort of thing than Ohio," he said.
Protestor Indicted
3 Apr 69
Despite Registration

Michael R. Hall, Biological Sciences I, arrested last Wednesday for failure to register for the draft, changed his mind Monday, shortly before he was served with a U.S. District Court grand jury indictment.

Hall registered for the draft after a 3 p.m. hearing before U.S. Commissioner Alphonse P. Cincione, according to Hall’s lawyer, Michael F. Colley.

Colley had requested the hearing to announce Hall’s intent to register and to leave the Franklin County Jail under his own recognizance.

Hall agreed to return to his home and to attend classes in lieu of a $10,000 bond set earlier.

Colley said Hall had decided to ask the grand jury to review his case after he registered.

McKenna said that Hall’s indictment is not changed by the fact that he registered for the draft.

The indictment states that Hall failed to register on or about April 1, five days after his 18th birthday on March 24.

Youth Indicted for Not Registering
While Signing Up with Draft Board

An 18-year-old Ohio State University student registered for the draft Monday as a federal grand jury indicted him for failing to do so.

A publicity campaign preceded Michale Regan Hall’s refusal last week to register with the Selective Service.

He was arrested last Wednesday by the FBI for failing to register after his March 24 birthday. He had remained in the County Jail.

U.S. COMMISSIONER Alphonse Cincione had placed bond at $10,000. Hall appeared again before the commissioner Monday, requested to be released on his own recognizance, and indicated he was willing to register.

Cincione lowered the bond on the condition the youth return to classes and live with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward S. Hall, 156 Oakland Park Ave. The youth had refused the conditions during his first appearance.

Immediately following Monday’s 3:15 p.m. hearing, Hall registered with his board which also is located in the Federal Building.

WHILE HE WAS registering, a federal grand jury made its partial report, and

Rally Set for Student
Jailed in Draft Case

A rally will be held on the Oval at 9 a.m. today in support of Michael R. Hall, Biological Sciences I, who was arrested Wednesday for refusing to register for the draft.

Hall was awarded a certificate of appreciation on Jan. 24, 1968, by Columbus Mayor M.E. Sensenbrenner for his help in apprehending a criminal. He had sent letters to the mayor, Safety Director Frederick J. Simon, and Police Chief Robert H. Baus asking them to be present as character witnesses at 3:15 p.m. today, when he had planned to turn himself over to federal authorities.

Simon and Baus have refused and a Sensenbrenner aide said no letter was ever received.

Hall is being held in lieu of $5,000 bond.

He refused the offer of recognizance bond, which hinged on the condition that he remain at home with his parents.

Hall said he refuses to register because war is contradictory to the teachings of Christ. He said he has decided that being a good man, obedient to the laws of God, and being a good citizen, obedient to the laws of society, conflict in the United States and he has decided to be a good

DISPATCH 29 APR 69
Counselors help men with draft problems

By STEVEN JAY
Eastern Staff Writer

There are many ways to oppose the draft system, but some people are satisfied with the results obtained through draft counseling.

At least this is the opinion of Glynn Moulton, director of the Columbus Draft Project (CDP) located in St. Stephen's Church at 30 W. Woodruff Ave.

"We help about 20 out of the 25 guys who come in here each week," Moulton said.

According to Moulton, when a man seeks help at the CDP, his draft situation is examined by one of six available counselors. He is then advised on the best thing to do to avoid induction. Moulton added, however, that the decision-making is left to the individual who is seeking counsel.

Work for resistance

Although the CDP's primary function is counseling, Moulton considers draft resistance important also.

"Active resistance and public support is necessary for the ultimate destruction of the Selective Service System which permits involuntary servitude," Mountol said. "Public support is hard to get, though, because people do not like to think about getting drafted."

The CDP, in cooperation with the other draft counseling programs in Columbus, the American Friends Service Committee at 1954 Indianola Ave., and the Columbus Area Resistance and War Resisters League are sponsoring a movie "David Harris—Political Prisoner" on October 30th. to "get people interested in the draft resistance move," Moulton said.

The CDP is also trying to show the Ohio Council of Churches (OCC) the need for resistance. Moulton said.

In this effort, the CDP's counselors are helping the OCC make preparations to bring a draft counselor here from Chicago to speak to them on October 29th.

Christmas boycott

The CDP is also planning a Christmas boycott of Lazarus "to get people to think about the soldiers in Vietnam."

"People do not think during Christmas," Moulton said. "They do not think of how conscription and the corporation are making them slaves."

In addition, the CDP is distributing the Union for National Draft Opposition-Charlottesville Pledge which requires the signer to turn in his draft card to the local or national draft resistance headquarters when 100,000 other draft eligible men have also signed the pledge.

According to Mountol, 11,000 draft cards were turned in during May and 15,000 pledges were signed during the summer.

Moulton, who is 20 years old and a former student, has been director of the CDP since its foundation in 1969.
Draft counseling

By Mary Huntzinger 29 Sept 71

Not far east of the vast Ohio State campus the Friends Center is functioning as a big brother for those in need of draft counseling. In one month’s time, this branch of the national American Friends Service Committee interviews hundreds of young men who visit or call the unimposing residence at 1564 Indianola Avenue.

Military deferments are not as rare as many believe. Between 1961 and 1970 there were 1.4 million men who avoided any form of military service through legal deferments. Legal deferments include occupational, medical, hardship or religious circumstances affecting draft status.

Bill Herd, a slight 25-year-old who serves as a counselor, explains the purpose of the center. “We don’t try to make draft dodgers out of people but try to help them be human in a system that is anything but human. Our counselors, men and women from 19 years on up, aren’t all Quakers but they are interested in helping others in trouble.”

A co-worker also stressed that counseling does not include making up someone’s mind for him. “We are here to help people, not to push ideas.” He noted that one service of the center is to refer possible medical deferments to physicians who will examine them for minimal fees. “They will not fabricate reports,” he warns, “but they are more aware of potential deferments than other physicians might be and they might not charge as much.”

The five-year-old counseling service has garnered support from such area groups as the American Civil Liberties Union and the Open Door Clinic. Much of the center’s success has been credited to John Perera, the unofficial godfather of the draft counseling headquarters.

He began informal counseling and peace vigils after spending time in El Salvador to fulfill his military obligation. “At first there were one or two interested persons who talked with me. Now we can fill a whole room with people I’ve never seen before.”

Discussing the gradually dissolving opposition to his work, Perera says, “Our neighbors weren’t always talking to us the first couple of years. They’re friendly now, but we still get annoying phone calls in the middle of the night.”

Perera counsels men only after a thorough examination of their situation and then he cautions them to be sure of their facts. He outlines an expanded training program for potential counselors, saying, “We have a five-week course on draft advice where we have our students read material such as the Selective Service Law Reporter. Then they attend counseling sessions with some of our experienced advisers.”

The former Columbus Draft Project has incorporated with the center and this has increased the caseload for the counselors, who hold outside jobs to support themselves.
Counselors help men with draft problems

By STEVEN JAY

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Draft meets resistance on campuses

President Carter's call last week to reinstate registration for the draft has started the wheels of organized student protest, turning for the first time since the height of the anti-Vietnam, anti-ROTC and anti-draft era.

More than 200 demonstrators gathered across the street from the White House Monday, singing anti-war songs and carrying anti-draft banners.

The Washington group, which included a number of people of college age, chanted one of the most popular campus slogans of the late 1960s and early '70s — “Hell no, we won't go.”

U.S. Park Police said there were no arrests.

Though the protests sparked by Carter's comments in his State of the Union message last week do not equal some of the violent campus clashes of the Vietnam war years, momentum is picking up.

Campus demonstrations, many presided over by anti-Vietnam holdovers, began last week and at some schools, student groups dashed to the drawing board to begin organizing anti-draft activities for the coming week.

On Thursday, David Harris, a Vietnam era draft evader, burned a bigger than life craft card at Stanford, declaring students were being forced to “shoulder everybody else's macho notions of how John Wayne ought to behave in the present situation.”

About 500 people, not all of them students, attended the Stanford rally.

At the University of Iowa in Iowa City last Friday, about 200 people, including college and high school students and members of the Socialist Party, heard Bill Tracy, state coordinator of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, say “There's no bloody reason for the draft.”

At the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, David Sky, regional coordinator for Vietnam Veterans Against the War told 300 people that Carter's speech was “not something we can sit back and take lightly.”

A coalition of eight student groups at New York University, led by Students for a Libertarian Society (SLS), scheduled a planning session Monday night. Chris Szabarra, an SLS spokesman, said the group planned to declare the first week of February “Draft Resistance Week.”

Last Friday, 100 students held a peaceful demonstration on the Amherst Common in Amherst, not far from a memorial commemorating anti-war demonstrations of the Vietnam era.

Meanwhile, actress Jane Fonda and her husband Tom Hayden say they'll head for college campuses again with “a campaign of resistance.”

Hayden is convinced the specter of the draft has ended campus apathy and that “students are going to get engaged now.”
Draft evading ex-professor to talk

By Cathy Soller
3-11-80

In 1968 an OSU instructor's draft card was his ticket not to the Vietnam war, but to Canada.

David Green, now an associate professor of history at the University of Saskatchewan, moved to Canada after he was fired from OSU for burning his draft card in front of his class.

On April 3 Green will return to campus to lecture on his research and beliefs concerning the draft and political opposition groups.

The university had a special reason for inviting Green back to OSU. The American Association of University Professors censured OSU in 1973 for not following adequate procedures during Green's removal from the university.

Provost W. Ann Reynolds said Green's visit to OSU is a step toward making amends with him and toward having OSU's censure lifted.

During a telephone interview, Green said he is happy to come back under these circumstances.

In his lecture he will compare events and ideas of the 60's with those of today. He said that for the 1980 draft to be effective it will have to be reintroduced in a very different way than it was in the 60's.

Green said young people today did not grow up with the draft as did the 60's generation. He added that certain arguments now used were not needed in 1968.

"In 1968 the opposition groups carried the burden of proof to discredit the draft," he said. "Today, though, the burden of proof is on the government to convince the opposition that the draft is really needed."

Even though Green feels the Carter administration probably will not have much trouble reintroducing the draft, he was firm on one point.

"I didn't like it (the draft) then, and I don't like it now," he said.

The government should not have the right to force people into military service against their will, he added.

If the draft is reinstated, it will not only be under an anti-communist ideology as it was in the 60's. It will also take place during a more liberal age, in the sense that the government should be used to promote the best interests of the people, he said.

The liberal age cannot be spoken of independent of the question of equality between the sexes, Green said.

Carter will use the Equal Rights Amendment to reintroduce the draft. Making everyone responsible for some form of service would be the only fair, necessary and liberal way to do it, he said.

Green said his research concerning fragmentation among draft-opposition groups shows that the split was probably caused by ineffective communication between the groups.

These groups were not just opposing Vietnam, but also racial injustices.

"A curious irony of the 60's was that the more people felt the power of the government, the easier it was for people to organize opposition toward the government," he said.

It is also curious the new era today is not finding such an urgency to organize and protest the draft, Green said.
Draft registration guides selection

By Jane Schmitz
and Lynn Hull

F6 27-80

For the first time since 1975, draft registration is soon to become a way of life on college campuses across the country.

The Selective Service expects to spend $13.3 million to register about four million men between July 21 and Aug. 1.

All males born in 1960 and 1961 will be required to register, said James G. Bond, deputy director of the Selective Service in Washington.

All resident aliens, and possibly the Cuban refugees — once they are released from the refugee camps — must register. Only those currently serving active duty will be exempted.

Individuals will not be notified by mail, but must register at Post Office branches during the two-week period, or face a $10,000 fine or five-year jail term or both, Bond said.

In January, those males born in 1962 will be required to register. After January, all men will be required to register on a continuing basis as they turn 18.

The registration forms will ask for the person's full name, address, date of birth, Social Security number and telephone number.

Selective Service will use driver's license lists to enforce the registration, said Bond. If Selective Service determines someone has not registered, it will turn the information over to the Justice Department for prosecution, he added.

"If someone should miss registration for some good reason, the Post Office has been instructed to register him without penalty," Bond said. A good reason is hospitalization.

If the number of men registered does not agree with census reports, Selective Service will ask for access to Social Security numbers.

No one will receive a draft card or a registration card. "Individuals will not be issued cards because they are easily fabricated and therefore serve no purpose," Bond said.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), in an effort to stop the registration plan, filed suit in federal district court opposing registration with a constitutional argument that it discriminates because it fails to include women.

"We don't want anyone drafted," said Mark Levy of the Columbus ACLU. "We're not looking for the courts to say that women should be drafted."

If the suit is unsuccessful, the ACLU will be joining with other organizations in protesting the draft, Levy said.

The ACLU suggests that young men should not refuse to register as a protest, Levy said.

"The ACLU does not sanction any illegal activity."

The ACLU is not prepared to give general legal assistance to resisters, according to Levy, but the organization would take on a test case.
OSU says draft law hard to enforce

By Janice McCoy
Claremore staff writer 9-24-82

While OSU students are reacting
coldly to the new federal law that
prohibits draft registration evaders from
getting federal financial aid, university
officials are debating its effectiveness.

The law, which was signed recently
by President Reagan, applies to more
than 1 million young men born since
1961 who have refused to register for
the draft.

"We're not exactly sure how we will
have to implement the program into
our system," said Rodney Harrison,
director of financial aid at Ohio State.

Harrison said the problem could be
lessened by requesting students to
sign an affidavit stating they have
registered for the draft or intend to do
so.

Students are required to complete
an affidavit to get financial aid, but
this would expand the form, Harrison
said.

"The problem with that, however,
is that no list exists as to who has
registered and who hasn't. So there
really is no simple way to enforce
this. I'm sure we will receive some
guidelines, but once you try to walk
this through the system it's not that
easy," Harrison said.

Harrison said the law may be inef-
fective, but it makes a point. "My
hunch is that they (Congress) felt
they had to do something about the
number of young men who haven't
registered and that financial aid was
the starting point for their actions."
LOS ANGELES — A federal judge Monday ruled the draft registration law is invalid because President Carter's order setting up the process in 1980 was not properly enacted.

In dismissing charges against a young draft registration resister who claimed he was singled out for prosecution because of his vocal dissent, U.S. District Court Judge Terry Hatter Jr. also cited the Reagan administration's refusal to let defense lawyers see White House and Pentagon documents and question presidential counselor Edwin Meese.

"This is not an easy matter," the judge said. "It involves one's personal liberties. . . . It involves the three major branches of government."

Justice Department attorneys immediately said they would appeal the entire decision to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Hatter's ruling that the registration law was "illegally promulgated" came as a surprise, initially confusing attorneys and reporters who had covered the case since David Wayte, 21, a former Yale philosophy student from suburban Pasadena was indicted.

The judge agreed with a defense motion that had gone unnoticed in the controversy over Meese's testimony and the White House documents and the claim of illegal selective prosecution. The motion claimed the government had waited just 21 days instead of the required 30 days from the time the registration law was published.

"This court does not agree with the government contention that statements made by President Carter at the time he issued Presidential Proclamation 4771 amounted to a clearly articulated and legally sufficient waiver of the notice and comment requirement," the judge said.

"The court recognizes the widespread effect that a decision granting defendant's motion to dismiss due to the illegal promulgation of the proclamation will have on this nation's Selective Service registration program.

"However, justice compels the court to grant defendant's motion. The proclamation in question was neither expressly nor impliedly exempted from the 30-day notice and comment requirement."

Both the registration law and selective prosecution rulings could jeopardize the cases against several other young men who contend they were singled out for prosecution because they exercised their First Amendment rights and publicly proclaimed their opposition to draft registration.

"What this means is that all the prosecutions that follow from the same (draft registration) system would be illegal and discriminatory if the court's ruling is upheld," said attorney Mark Rosenbaum, who defended Wayte on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union.
Draft registration necessary

Students required to sign up

By David Adams
Lantern staff writer 2-20-84

The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to decide by late spring whether draft registration will remain a prerequisite for receiving student financial aid.

Mark Levy, associate director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio, said Ohio males now must register for the draft in order to receive both university and federal aid, while women must fill out forms stating their sex.

The Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling June 29 mandating that schools require all male students to register for the draft if they are applying for federal financial aid, said Debbie Schwellert, director of the OSU counseling office for student aid.

In December, the Supreme Court, under pressure from the American Civil Liberties Union and other groups, agreed to reconsider the case, Levy said.

"It is unfair not only to ask people to register for the draft," he said, "but it is even more unfair to ask them that they sacrifice their values in order to get an education, especially now that there is no overriding national security concern."

Schwellert said the compliance rate at OSU has been 100 percent for those who have applied for federal and university student aid.

"But that figure does not represent the numbers of people who did not want to register and didn't bother to apply for aid because they knew they would be turned down," she said.

About 36,000 OSU students used some kind of financial aid during autumn quarter, she said.

Since registration began in 1980, about 550,000 Ohio males, born between 1960 and 1964, have been required by federal law to register for the draft, said George Willard, director of the Ohio Selective Service Commission.

Of that figure, about 6,000 have not registered," Willard said.

Exceptions and deferments are only applicable to the draft itself, he added.

"We really don't feel that it is appropriate for us to play the government's guardians to make sure every student complies with the law," Schwellert said.

Nationwide, registration for the draft is a prerequisite for federal aid.

But the Supreme Court last year gave states the option of tying aid to registration, said Robert Noble, director of student financial aids.

Ohio officials opted to make registration a requirement for university aid as well.