

Draft

counselor's corner

By PAUL BRIANS

Editor's Note: This column, written by an experienced draft counselor, appears weekly in the EVERGREEN, attempting to answer some of the most commonly asked questions about the Selective Service System and military service. Individual counseling is available from: Paul Brians (Foreign Language Bldg., 6-D, Rev. John Butler (Koinonia House--Common Ministry) and Rev. Doug Rich (Foreign Languages Bldg., 6-J). Information on alternatives within the military is available from ROTC in Johnson Hall.

If all goes well, ASWSU-sponsored professional draft counseling should be available by the time this is published and the hard-worked volunteers listed at the head of this column can get a well-deserved rest. More details on the advent of professional draft counseling at WSU next week, but in the meantime "Draft Counselor's Corner" will continue to bring you current information on the draft. I will attempt to deal with any questions sent this column care of the EVERGREEN.

First a bit of news of major importance. The Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors has explained some of the rather startling ramifications of a new Selective Service decision. If a man becomes I-A in a particular year (say 1970) and can--by use of appeals or other delaying tactics--succeed in staving off an order to report for induction for at least 90 days after the beginning of the new year (say, the end of March, 1971), he will not be inducted. In my opinion, this represents the first genuine loophole in the draft system.

SSS explains that pursuing men beyond that point simply isn't worth the trouble. A man who is so opposed to military service and so ingenious in avoiding it that he can delay induction for that length of time is not likely to make good Army material. After all, the Army requires a high degree of docility and cooperativeness in its members. There are enough willing inductees to fill the quotas.

The new ruling also affects men approaching the magic 26th birthday. A man who can delay an order for induction until 90 days after his 26th birthday will not be inducted, even though he

may have been classified I-A before it.

One somewhat unhappy effect of this ruling will be the filing of large numbers of bogus conscientious objector claims, since a CO claim guarantees a stay of induction for the duration of the appeal process. The SSS is in fact rewarding men for using their ingenuity to stay out of the Army: a sort of reverse intelligence test. If you are smart enough to stay out a while, you will be out for good. The loophole is particularly useful for men who have lottery numbers which are high, but not high enough to exempt them.

Men from small boards have a distinct advantage since such boards often meet only monthly and delay is consequently easier than for a man whose board meets twice a week and can deal with his delaying tactics expeditiously. The whole thing is an anarchist's delight and could well create such chaos that it will have to be rescinded. Watch this column for future developments.

The ruling has another unhappy effect: it further biases the system in favor of the affluent and well-educated who are apt to have access to counseling and to be able to exercise their appeal rights, while the poor and less educated continue to contribute disproportionately to filling of draft quotas. Draft counseling in poor rural areas and city slums is almost nonexistent, though the need is urgent. The bias of the system becomes obvious when we note that the number of IV-F's actually rises with income and education, though the poor and ill-educated are notoriously less healthy. It is knowledge of the man's rules and

the habit of coping with them that counts--not the actual state of one's health.

Many men wonder what effect a IV-F or a I-Y will have on their future careers. The answer depends on what that career is. A man seeking a security clearance for a sensitive nuclear defense job would be in trouble with a psychiatric IV-F, no doubt, and a man who got out because of his bad back would have trouble finding work as a stevedore. Technically, draft files are closed except to the FBI and an employer need be told nothing more on an application form inquiring about "military service" than that the applicant received a IV-F; but the employer might well want to know why that classification was given, and if the answer is not a truthful one, the job applicant will have violated the law. Anyone can get a IV-F by claiming to be a homosexual, for instance, but then he has to live with it. This is only a special case of the general rule: anyone can get out of the Army if he wants to badly enough, but he will have to pay a price.

Psychiatric IV-F's other than the homosexual one (Army officials seem to feel that anyone weird enough even to claim to be gay is too weird for the Army) are not hard to get if one has received treatment and letters of support from a friendly psychiatrist or psychiatric counselor. Read David Suttler's IV-F book for further information.

Only genuine illiterates and mental defectives get IV-F's for mental reasons, and if the doctors think you are faking stupidity they can pass you administratively.

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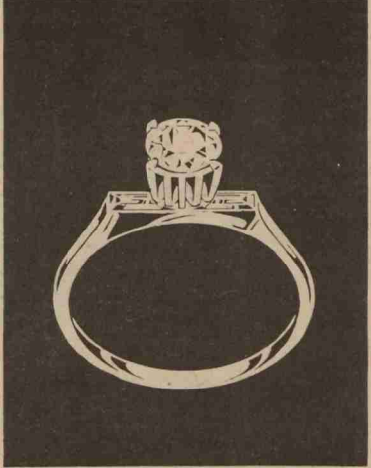
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