

# Opinions and Comments

## Is the CCCO out of step in accusing the military of luring students?

\* Editor's Note:

This issue's editorial is a point-counterpoint article on the draft. The first half is written by Mr. Larry Spears, Director of the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, and the second is written by Robert Kiefer, a Reserve Officers Training Corps cadette at Highacres. The Collegian's intention is to present these viewpoints while remaining impartial and uncommitted to the subject matter itself.

The Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, the nation's largest draft and military counseling agency, warns that the influence of the military in our schools is growing at epidemic proportions.

Larry Spears, Director of CCCO's Pre-Enlistment Counseling Program, says, "The last few years have seen a tremendous growth of militarism in this country, and much of it has been centered in the high schools and colleges."

According to Spears, the military now lures students through many different programs, including:

—The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB). This is a military aptitude test administered in 15,000 high schools by military personnel. The ASVAB test has been criticized in Congress as being of little help to a counselor and student exploring civilian occupations. However, the information obtained from the test goes to many offices around the country, and it is used by recruiters for years. Many schools never tell their students that this is an optional test.

—The Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) and Junior ROTC. The college ROTC and high school JROTC programs now exist in nearly 2,000 schools. The courses are taught by military personnel and are often of questionable academic value. They also encourage values which are at odds with the goals of academic learning. And the programs cost the American public millions of dollars each year.

—The Delayed Entry Program. The DEP encourages students to sign the enlistment contract up to one year before starting basic training. Once student enlistees sign the contract, they are bound by it, and discharges under the DEP are rarely granted. Each year, hundreds of thousands of young people who are uncertain about what to do sign up under the DEP. Once students enlist in DEP they are given bonuses for recruiting other students, thus becoming a sort of undercover recruiting force. However, if a student changes his or her mind a few months later because of a job offer, school or vocational training possibilities, or marriage plans, it is usually too late to get out of the military unless counseling is sought through groups such as CCCO.

"One of the biggest problems," says Mr. Spears, "results from counselors and school ad-

ministrators who become active helpers of military recruiters. The military often seems to be an easy way for a counselor to offer direction to a student. But the counselor or teacher is often unaware of the potential problems and disappointments facing many enlistees."

"Military recruiters are salesmen," comments Spears. "They have a quota to meet, superiors to please, and they certainly will not take the time to explain the possible problems to a potential recruit. Students who are considering joining the armed forces should have the benefit of seeing both sides of the story before enlisting."

"Counselors and teachers who are in a position to give advice on enlistment should be aware of the loopholes in the enlistment contract which put the enlistee at a distinct disadvantage, and in fact, offer very few guarantees," says Mr. Spears. "They should be aware of the problems many enlistees face. For example, verbal promises are often made by recruiters. If the military should not come through with what the recruiter promised, the enlistee has no legal recourse."

"Another problem encountered by enlistees is the fact that many important sounding job titles (such as combat engineer) turn out to be dull, meaningless jobs with no application to civilian positions. Many military jobs have no civilian counterpart, and thus the training is often useless after you get out of the military."

Additional information on ASVAB, JROTC, ROTC, DEP, military recruitment, and other aspects of militarism in education may be obtained by writing to: The Pre-Enlistment Counseling Program, CCCO, 2208 South Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146.

CCCO was founded in 1948 as the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, and is a national, non-profit agency counseling young Americans facing the prospect of military service, or those already in the military.

### By ROTC CADET BOB KIEFER

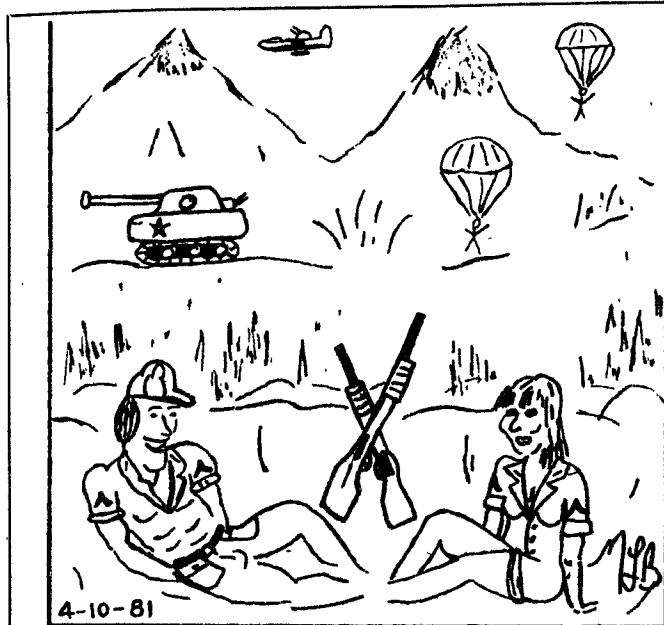
The Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors has outstepped its boundaries with the issuing of their latest newsletter. The CCCO was established in 1948 with the purpose of aiding men who were drafted into the armed forces but who, for religious or moral reasons, could not fight. The latest letter from the CCCO fails to even mention the draft. The CCCO is attempting to turn everybody against military service, including students who prefer to join the armed forces as volunteers.

The CCCO's letter misrepresents the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). Larry Spears, the director of CCCO's Pre-enlistment Counseling Program, claims that the ROTC classes are of questionable value. Spears fails to explain what his statement actually means, or to which classes he is referring. The ROTC teaches a very informative series of military history classes which

are necessary to the students planning to join the military as officers. These classes are complete with mid-term and final exams, and the classes conform to university standards. ROTC also teaches such skills as survival, map reading, as well as many others. Spears also feels that ROTC instructors "encourage values which are at odds with the goals of academic learning." This statement is again quite vague and Mr. Spears fails to tell his readers what the "goals of academic learning" really are. The CCCO should not be attacking the ROTC for any reason. The ROTC cadets enroll of their own free will, they have not been drafted or pressured.

The CCCO has not only tried to discourage students from enrolling in the ROTC, but it has also tried to dissuade high school graduates from joining the military directly after high school. The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is a test given by the military to any high school student who wishes to take the test. The students are informed that the test will be used by the armed forces; in fact, the military proctors wear their uniforms. Mr. Spears claims that the test has little value to counselors and to students interested in civilian occupations. The test shows students in which vocational fields they show proficiency. Contrary to the opinion of Mr. Spears, the ASVAB is of great value to counselors. For the student who has chosen not to attend college, the test is a starting place toward finding an acceptable vocation. Spears is correct in stating that the ASVAB information is used by military recruiters. The test is given to show which students have the backgrounds to be useful to the armed forces. The military offers students an emotive opportunity for free training and then a good paying job. If a student wishes to pursue a civilian career after his 'hitch' is over, he may do so without pressure from the military. The armed forces is a great place for many young people to get needed training which might not otherwise be available, be it for financial reasons, or other factors. Military service records are also very desirable when applying for civilian jobs. Practically every job application provides a space to include service records. Most employers realize that the armed forces have very rigid standards when teaching soldiers a vocation.

The CCCO's newsletter is nothing more than 'mud slinging' at the military establishment. Mr. Spears has made vague and undefined arguments. The soldiers and perspective soldiers concerned with Mr. Spears arguments have picked the military of their own free will and the CCCO should put its effort to better use in counseling the people who, for moral reasons, do not wish to fight to defend the country.



"A TYPICAL FOXHOLE?"

## From The Editor's Desk

Now that the final issue of the COLLEGIAN is in print and summertime is just around the corner, we Chris Tarler, Kelly Yale, and George Yanoshik, as new executive editors of our campus publication, would like to take this opportunity to say "thanks."

Without the help, encouragement, and patience expressed to us by Charlene Scheib, Bill Sheman, and Ken Skuba — former executive editors of the COLLEGIAN under whom we worked — we probably would not have continued to uphold the professionalism they strived so hard for in past publications.

Also, we wish to thank all of the sophomore staff members who worked so hard showing us "the workings" of the newspaper. In retrospect, the time and talent

put forth by all of the sophomores who will be leaving us this term, and also the freshmen who were new to the campus this year and served as reporters and the like, deserve to be commended.

Dr. Margaret Cote, our adviser, deserves as much credit as the entire staff does because of the many ideas and helpful tips she gave us throughout the past year.

We hope to uphold the precedent of quality reporting established by our former editors; and, we wish to encourage all journalism majors on campus and anyone with a talent in art, writing, layout, etc. to fill out an application for a position on the staff for the Fall of 1981.

Without student input, our goal to continue to produce a quality publication will not be realized.

### THE HIGHACRES COLLEGIAN

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Unsigned editorials represent the official view of the COLLEGIAN. Views expressed in bylined articles are those of the individual contributor and do not necessarily reflect the official view of the COLLEGIAN. Responsible comment is invited. Letters To The Editor must be signed and mailed or delivered to THE HIGHACRES COLLEGIAN office.

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