

# 30,000 participate in anti-draft rally in Washington

By TOM BOYER and DAVID VANHORN  
Daily Collegian Staff Writers

"Older men declare war, but it is youth that must fight and die" — Herbert Hoover

President Carter has called opposition to his draft registration plan "a gross overreaction," but those words did not discourage the 30,000 people who traveled to Washington, D.C., on Saturday to protest his plan and hear encouraging words from political stalwarts of the last anti-draft movement.

Long hair, clenched fists and gaudy political banners at the rally were reminiscent of anti-war rallies of a decade ago. Police in riot gear, mounted and on foot, lined both sides Pennsylvania Avenue at the White House, although Carter had gone to Camp David for the weekend. In contrast to rallies of the Vietnam era, however, the police seemed at ease with the marchers. The slogans and placards reflected an atmosphere more festive than militant.

"Hell, no, we won't go! We won't fight for Texaco!" was one of the popular sayings. "Draft beer, not people!" was seen on buttons and placards. One man dressed as Uncle Sam carried a sign saying "I want you to resist." One of the hottest-selling buttons advised the reader to "Question Authority." Another favorite slogan for placards was "My body is not a Carter campaign contribution."

The anarchists had their own variation of a familiar chant: "Seven, six, four, three, organize for anarchy!"

The protestors met at the Ellipse on Constitution Avenue and marched down Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol steps to hear speeches from experienced political activists.

Saturday's rally, titled "The National Mobilization Against the Draft," was sponsored by a coalition of students, clergy, feminists, gay rights leaders, socialists and other political groups and activists.

Featured speakers included Rep. Ted Weiss, D-N.Y.; the Rev. Barry Lynn, chairman of the Committee Against Registration and the Draft; Bella Abzug, former U.S. representative and president of Women USA; Michael Harrington, author and chairman of the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee; David Dellinger, author and former Chicago Seven defendant; black activist Stokely Carmichael and the Rev. William Sloane Coffin of the Riverside Church in New York City, one of the ministers who visited the American hostages in Iran.

Entertainment was provided by Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary, the cast of "Hair," Bob Killian and Band, and poet Edith Segal.

Most of these people spoke against war, big business, nuclear energy and President Carter. Several speakers were optimistic that Carter's registration plan would fail to get funding approval from Congress.

Coffin asked, "If registration and a draft are right for the United States in 1980, then what is left to call wrong?" He said, "People should not die like Pennsylvania sheep."

Abzug said young men have an equal right with women not to sacrifice their lives. "Our obligation is to make sure that no one is registered for the draft," she said.

She said there was a good chance that Carter's plan would be defeated. Abzug dared Carter to come to New York and debate the issues in time for the New York primary, "to come out of his sanctuary and face some real questions."

"People are beginning to realize that Jimmy Carter is lying to them," she said. "The future of the American hostages should not be linked to the Shah's spleen."

Judy Goldsmith, executive vice president of the National Organization for Women, said defense is a responsibility that cannot be based upon gender. "We cannot fight for peace without using all of our human

resources, both male and female.

"The present situation doesn't justify risking the lives of our youth," she said.

Lynn said the Selective Service System was the most arbitrary and inhumane system in the last 100 years, and that it is impossible to create a fair draft system. He said Carter has the "lamest ideas" for bringing back the draft.

"We were told that registration is a sign of national resolve. I can't imagine any Soviet official losing any sleep over the collection of millions of names on computer tape," he said.

Harrington said draft registration is not just a left wing issue, and is "such a dumb idea" that there is a "very good chance" Congress will defeat it this year.

He said the All-Volunteer Army is the "conscription of poor people" because people enlist when they have no jobs. "Only in a full-employment America can we think about a volunteer army," he said.

Harrington quoted former socialist leader Norman Thomas, who said in 1965, "We are not here to burn the American flag. We are here to cleanse the American flag."

"We represent the best of the American spirit, and let no one deny it and us not forget it," Harrington said.

Weiss said Americans must convince the president that "registration is the first step to national suicide."

"We are here to prevent another excursion into military madness," Weiss said. "This time we have a chance to stop it before the tragedies occur."

Carmichael was the most flamboyant speaker of the day, shaking the stage and raising his voice with each exclamation to the crowd to "orrrganize!"

"In the '60s we were mobilized. In the '80s we need to be orrrganized," he said.

Carmichael advocated destruction of the capitalist system, which he called "a bloodsucking vampire." He called the draft "nonsense" and said if Congress approves the plan, "the issue will be



The cast of "Hair" plays ring-around-the-rosy in front of the capitol Saturday, to keep warm at the anti-draft rally. The group performed "Aquarius" and other tunes from the popular '60s musical that was revived recently.

decided in the streets." Dellinger said the United States cannot try to get rid of war without getting rid of the causes of war. "The drive to war is the product of the economic system that puts products before people," he said.

Dellinger claimed that the U.S. is too strong militarily, not too weak, and is "out of touch" with the American people and the world. He suggested using one-half of the military budget to develop alternative sources of energy, the other half for social services such as education.


He said more people have demonstrated against the draft in the last three

months than in the first four years of the Vietnam War. "The 'me' generation is saying 'not me.' Today it's becoming the 'we' generation."

The rally was interrupted several times by members of the Unification Church, who tried storming the speaker's platform and distracting the crowd with megaphones. One member, Gerard Willis, a student at George Washington University, shouted, "This is for war, not for peace!" and "Soviets love the anti-draft movement!" as he charged the stage and was subdued by rally marshals.

Solicitors and propagandists were everywhere, peddling various buttons, political leaflets, bumper stickers, and nauseum. People from the Northeast, New England, the South and the Midwest made the long trek to the nation's capitol.

Alan Canfora, a former Kent State student who was wounded in the wrist during the 1970 demonstration at the campus, said a rally on May 4 is being planned at Kent State to promote positive change, carry on the tradition of student activism and pay tribute to those who died at the demonstration.



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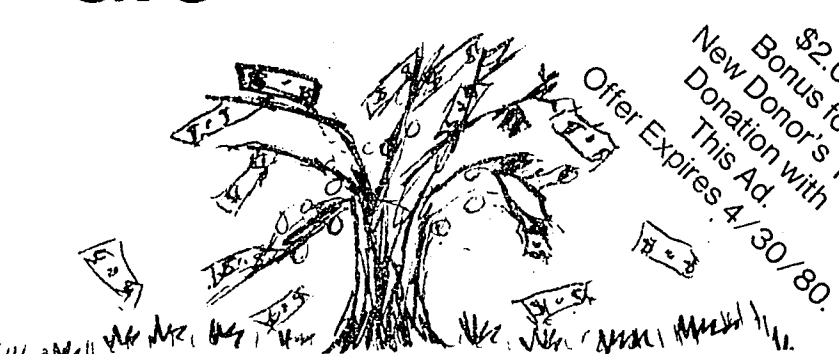
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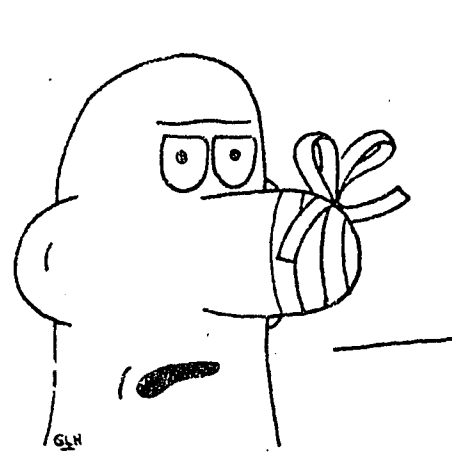
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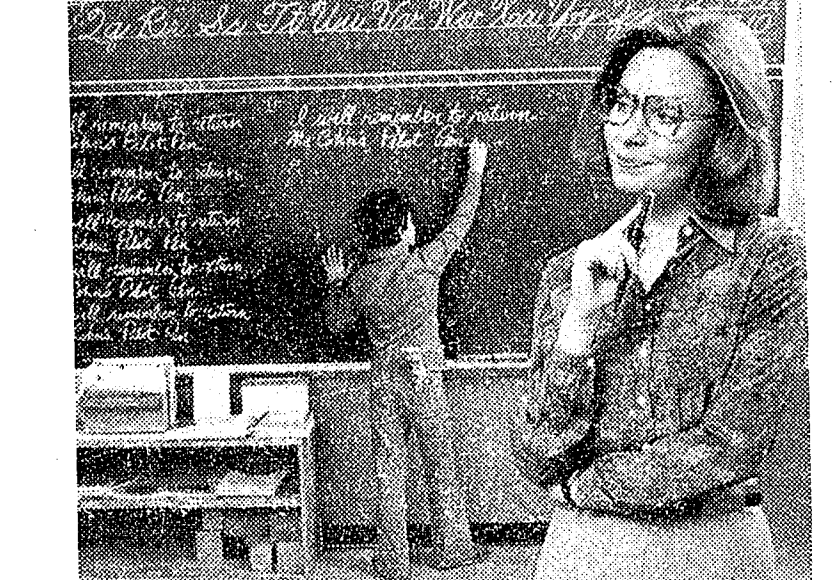
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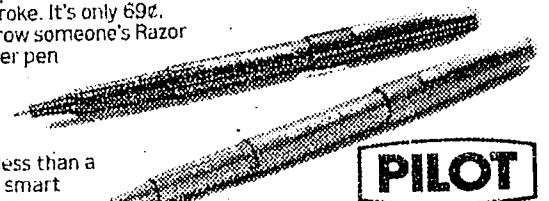
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