-Editorial Opinions-

Draft registration: right or wrong?

Registration serves as deterrent — not instigator — to war

registration vary across the spectrum and are strongly means of distributing the defense responsibility held. we can not fairly present one argument as our opinion. Instead, we are presenting two editorials reflecting the differences of student opinions, and leave it to the readers to argue the points themselves and choose their positions aware of the alternatives.

The questions surrounding registration for the draft are complex and difficult to answer. Before addressing them, however, it is reasonable to assume that all except the most extreme economic conservatives find war and all the human sufferings it brings, deplorable.

Upon that assumption draft registration may be justified. As a gesture directed toward the world community, registration was intended to demonstrate the United States' ability to unify and mobilize in case of a military threat. Such a display was intended by itself to serve as a deterrent to foreign aggression: as a safeguard against war, not a precursor to it.

cenary volunteer force.

For example, the disenchantment of the American people with the Vietnam war has often been cited as a major reason for the Selective Service's disbandment. Had we not grown tired as a nation of seeing our loved ones come home in body bags, that war ended it.

A volunteer force does not carry such responsiveness with it.

military places the burden of national defense on the mies of citizens. larger than the white, middle-class majority. draft: to prevent — not to cause — the horror of war.

Editor's note: Because students' opinions on draft Registration and a draft are the only available among all social classes.

> Registration for the draft is also necessary in light of the state of our armed forces. Study after study finds our conventional military powers lacking. The lower ranks are incompetent operators of the machines of war; many privates are functionally illiterate. The higher and more expert ranks are too poorly paid to stay in the services long enough for the military to benefit from their expertise.

> The military's problems with retention of expertise and recruitment from the middle class are indicative of a national disenchantment with the armed services. Though some may blame the unpopularity of the military on post-Vietnam disillusionment, it is also true that as a people, Americans have historically enjoyed freedom from a national service obligation — military or other-

It is possible to accept this argument in support of In a highy socialized state like the United States, registration but still maintain that registration is a such selfishness can only be dangerous to the wellprecursor to the draft, and draft is a precursor to being of the nation. As a tool for facilitating national war. Even if this were true, it is still necessary to service (not just military service) registration at the point out that a citzen/soldier army will more age of 18 could be very useful. Such an operation responsibly defend the nation than would a mer- would, of course, require modification of the existing registration machinery. But opponents of registration fail to note this possible virtue of introducing a service ethic and registration machinery into our society.

The wisdom of maintaining a standing army has been questioned by many who oppose registration. It would not have become politically unpopular enough is true that conventional war requires an army. to suffer the defense budget cuts which eventually Absence of an army, however, no longer precludes the possibility of war. The development of weapons technology now makes it possible to carry on limited nuclear and all-out nuclear war without recourse to By extrapolation it can be argued that a volunteer conventional warfare and without recourse to ar-

poor. The poor and ethnic minorities are Most western democracies maintain standing disproportionately represented in the armed forces; armies in peacetime. Their reason for doing so is the therefore, they are wounded and die in numbers same as that behind our own registration for the

Country's priorities do not lie with draft registration

Editor's note: Because students' opinions on draft spelled out by Carter in his Jan. 23 State of the Union registration vary across the spectrum and are strongly Address. held, we can not fairly present one argument as our opinion. Instead, we are presenting two editorials reflecting the differences of student opinions, and leave it to the readers to argue the points themselves and choose their positions aware of the alternatives.

Amidst cries of protest, this summer the Selective Service System-fulfilled the wishes of President Carter and, in theory, registered nearly all of this country's 19- and 20-year-old young men for the military draft.

debates which remain unresolved.

Instead, a far more pressing issue must be examined: the underlying reasons for registration. any challenge to peace, such as Soviet aggression in suited to a colonial than a democratic power, the Middle East.

leaving the services with an inadequate number of each year. experienced leaders.

months

deterrent to Soviet aggression.

heart of registration's revival.

Op-ed Letters/Draft Registration

Vital need

After being on campus for only a short time I am dismayed at the opposition to draft registration that I have encountered and I was appalled to find a table at registration advising young men on how to escape prosecution for failing to register for the draft.

· Draft registration, in conjunction with increased outlays for new weapons systems is vital in America's struggle to maintain her position of leadership in the world.

Many espouse the theory that a strong military posture will increase the possibility of war. Will a well-quipped, fully-staffed fire department increase the chance of a fire?

The rights we enjoy as Americans are the envy of much of the world. We must realize that with these rights come responsibilities; including the responsibility to protect those rights for ourselves, our posterity and those in the world who require our assistance in securing and maintaining their rights.

Registering for the draft will go a long way toward fulfilling that responsibility.

Anthony Christino, III, 1st-foreign service Sept. 5

Press gangs

Over 100 years ago, the British Navy obtained recruits through the use of the press gang: groups of armed sailors who forcibly abducted British citizens and compelled them to fight for the crown.

Much more recently, in the United States, involuntary military servitude has operated in a more refined manner but its essentials are the same: citizens are compelled to kill and be killed for reasons defined, not by themselves, but by the American government

As an ex-Army officer, having served i Central America and Vietnam, I feel both qualified and obliged to comment on registration or the draft. I have seen many young American men, who allowed the government to make for them the decision of who to fight and when, naimed and killed in an effort to keep a corrupt dictatorship in power

There is no guarantee that tomorrow's drafees will not be compelled to do the same. One

president contender has recently referred to our illegal and immoral war in Vietnam as a "noble cause," and explicitly entertained the possibility of similar actions in aiding repressive governments in Central America.

The incumbent aspirant to the office has made it clear that he would support the interests of American oil companies in the Mid-East through military means. Draft registration is an effort by the government to prepare for such actions: the act of registering for the draft, while seemingly innocuous, is an act of acquiescence in the

government's plans. There are three ways for a government to raise an army. First, by convincing its citizens that a threat to

their well-being truly exists and that the government is deserving of defense. Second, by providing salary and benefits which attract enlistees

Third, through press gangs of various forms through the draft. Our government is clearly unable to do the first, unwilling to do the second

andabout to resort to the third. As one who has seen the results of compliance with the draft at first hand, I urge potential draftees, and all Americans, to decide for themselves which wars, if any, are just and worth fighting. Deny the government the right to make decisions for you. Resist the draft.

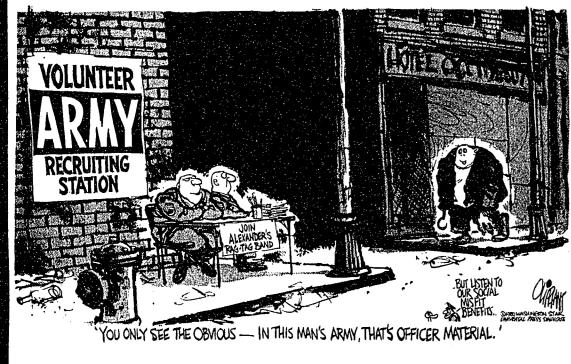
John K. MalloryIII, graduate-anthropology Sept. 8

Fighting for oil

Young men dutifully lined up at their post offices in July to tell Uncle Sam where to find them when he wants them. There are lots of reasons why this Carter re-election tactic is wrong and unnecessary. Here are just a few.

First, the Selective Service System itself has said that peacetime registration is costly and unnecessary. One week before Carter announced his registration proposal, an SSS study that was issued and then suppressed recommended that registration begin only after declaration of a war or national emergency.

In the report, dated Jan. 16, 1980, SSS Director Rostker said that his agency prefers this standby plan, which "should substantially exceed



number of fulltime personnel and costs least Second, the draft that will follow will not improve the current military personnel situation. according to a top Penagon official. Robert Pirie, assistant secretary of defense for manpower, told Congress in April, "We don't think peacetime conscription is the right way to solve our manpower problems.'

Third, registration threatens rather than enhances world security. Obviously, the Red Army is not going to land on the beaches of Florida. Any U.S.-USSR confrontation will be nuclear, and draftees will be destroyed along with the rest of the world.

In the words of The Washington Post's William Greider, registration is a symbolic gesture: America is determined. Registration is the first strategy of the New Cold War; the draft will be the second Together the two strategies will make it easy

for the U.S. to intervene militarily abroad, most likely in a Mid-Eastern conflict to protect our "right" to use a vastly excessive share of the world's oil. Our youth are in danger of dying for Texaco.

Miriam Smith Honsaker, class of 1980 Aug. 15

Suggestions

Lately there has been much debate about the current draft situation. Two opinions seem to be prevalent; those who would rather "fight than switch" and those who would rather "switch than fight.

The United States should work together with the rest of the world, though not by supporting inhumane governments, nor by enlisting soldiers; for "... those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword."

I suggest those who want a greater nation will ive a little of themselves. Maybe be serving in he Peace Corps? The United States should numbly try to help less advanced countries catch Who would win a war with the Soviet Union?

What would it cost? I pray we won't ever have to

Alex Mann, 5th-geology Aug. 1

Opposition

I stand opposed to President Carter's draft registration plan not because it is morally wrong, but because I do not want to help Mr Carter in his feeble attempt to save face. As a relatively ineffective political group, 19and 20-year olds are being used to cover for Jimmy Carter's inept, naive handling of

Had the Soviet Union perceived Carter as a strong, decisive leader, the invasion of Afghanistan never would have been considered. Instead he is viewed by the Kremlin as weak and so bent on ratification of SALT II that any punishment" as a result of the invasion would e inconsequential.

As a result, he was caught by surprise and what followed was a mad scramble to make the Carter Administration appear strong, tough and

As one who faces draft registration next anuary, I am not opposed to defending my country in time of crisis, but I am very opposed



to be used for improving Jimmy Carter's image at the taxpayer's expense. Rather, I feel that our efforts should go toward improving our current armed forces to the point where we are capable of a more intelligent

response to Soviet aggression. Bill MacBlane, 1st-foreign service Sept. 5

Living together

Why is Penn State so far behind other modern universities in giving students the Tuesday, Sept. 9, 1980—Page 2 © 1980 Collegian In option of co-ed living? Could co-ed living improve dorm life Kathy Matheny, Proponents argue that it could increase Betsy Long security and cut down on vandalism. Editor **Business Manager** Opponents cite lack of privacy and sexual promiscuity as some negative aspects. BOARD OF EDITORS: Managing Editor, Doug Bell;

What are the obstacles facing the future o co-edhousing at the University? Is a change of attitude all that is needed? If given the choice, would most students choose co-ed housing? For what reasons?

Even though co-ed housing may not be right for everyone, should Penn State students be given this option? On Tuesday, Sept. 16, The Daily Collegian op-ed page will focus on the pros and cons of co-ed housing and the reasons for its absence at University Park. Students, faculty and other members of the community are en couraged to submit letters to the editorial editor, 126 Carnegie. All letters must be

typed, double spaced and no longer than 30 lines. Deadline Friday, Sept. 12, 5 p.m.

Easy access

The Daily Collegian encourages comments on news coverage, editorial opinions and oncampus or off-campus affairs. Letters should be type-written, double-spaced and no longer than 30 lines Students' letters should include the author's

diplomatic affairs.

defense requirements, employs the fewest

In what became known as the Carter Doctrine, the

president responded to what he called the Soviet Union's attempt "to consolidate a strategic position... that poses a grave threat to the free movement of Middle East oil. "The implications of the Soviet invasion of

Afghanistan could pose the most serious threat to the peace since the Second World War," Carter said. "An attempt by any outside force to gain control of the Persian Gulf region will be regarded as an

Most arguments over draft registration tend to assault on the vital interests of the United States of center upon the issues of compliance and legality — America. . . . and such an assault will be repelled by any means necessary, including military force." The foolhardy notion of protecting limited oil supplies with military force displays the United Proponents often justify registration by claiming States' arrogance and selfishness in the face of the

that the U.S. military is no longer adequate to meet worldwide energy shortage. It is a stance more It is a sign to other nations in an increasingly in-

However, registration will not solve what critics terdependent world that the U.S., comprising apcall the military's greatest manpower problem: the proximately 6 percent of the world's population. fact that a significant number of technically trained prefers to continue consuming 33 percent of the officers and enlisted personnel are not re-enlisting, nonrenewable energy and minerals used in the world Registration is no substitute for substantive

Moreover, draft registration will have no ap- programs which encourage conservation and the preciable affect on overall military preparedness. development of alternative energy sources, along According to Newsweek, White House officials said with a fairer distribution of resources worldwide. they expect registration to shave only two or three Nor is it an appropriate response to Soviet

weeks off an induction process that lasts about five aggression, especially when the U.S. could develop more just economic and political relationships with In today's nuclear age, dominated by speed and smaller countries. These kinds of relationships can technology, it is difficult to see how this relatively help developing countries grow strong internally, slow induction process will serve as a meaningful and become less susceptable to Soviet influence. Instead, registration elevates military bantering

However, registration's implementation does to the level of appropriate diplomatic and domestic signify a frightening national attitude: a renewed solutions to international and national problems. willingness to wage war for what are perceived as Ultimately, registration does not demonstrate this U.S. "interests." It is this attitude that lies at the nation's strength and unity of purpose. Instead, it

demonstrates this nation's ambivalence and These U.S. "interests" are not symbolic, but were inability to decide where its best interests really lie.

GRATTON DAILY NEW RIGEO /1 ALENTINE Rosesare red. tiolets are blue, YOU MAY DEA girle

to allowing \$13 million and 4 million young men

name, term standing, major and date when the letter is being submitted. They must be signed by no more than two persons. Bring letters to the Collegian office, 126 Carnegie (across from Willard Building) so proper identification of the writer can be made. Name

may be withheld on request with approval of the editorial editor. The editorial editor reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, space limitations or to reject them if they are libelous or in poor taste.

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Cases wait for Fall review **Options hinge on Court's decision**

By YATES MAST Legal advisor

- During the two weeks starting July 21 most of the four million 18- and 19-year-old males, who were citizens or permanent residents of the United States, registered under the Military Selective Service Act
- (see 50 USC App. Sect 451 et seq). Despite the fact that the statute provided very severe penalties (a maximum of up to a \$10,000 fine and/or a five-year prison sentence) for failure to register; some did not
- Of the many reasons motivating the nonregistration, by far the principal one was the contention that the act violated several of the constitutional rights of potential registrants, including the right to equal protection under the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution
- The main equal protection argument was based on gender discrimination, since the act only required males to register and not females. A court case had been filed in June 1971 (during the
- Vietnam War) in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia arguing that the Selective Service Act was unconstitutional on the basis of gender discrimination. The case has gone through several steps between
- 1971 and 1974, but with the end of the Vietnam War no • further proceedings were taken until June 1979. Since this case was legally still alive it became the test case to decide this momentous constitutional question.

The case, now called Goldberg vs. Rostker, (it had another name earlier) was certified as a class action of potential registrants on July 1 and on July 18 a threejudge court handed down a 43-page opinion written by Judge Roseann that the exclusion of females from the

monstrate that the exclusion was substantially related to an important government interest. Accordingly, it found the provisions did violate the equal protection part of the Fifth Amendment. The court then enjoined the government from enforcing the Selective Services Act. It certainly seemed to be a victory for the non-registrants. The government immediately filed an appeal to the

U. S. Supreme Court, which was in recess and would not ordinarily meet again until October, when the 1980-81 term of Supreme Court begins. The government applied for a stay of the injunction to Justice William Brennan of the Supreme Court, who

is the circuit justice for the circuit which includes Pennsylvania. It requested that he allow the registration to proceed pending action by the entire court when it returned in October. The government argued to Justice Brennan that the

district court had applied too strict a standard of scrutiny into the discrimination in light of the national defense interest at stake, and that even under the standard which the court applied the decision not to include females could be justified. No government further contended that it would

suffer irreparable injury if it is not permitted to go forward with implementation of the president's July 21 through Aug. 2 call for draft registration, while the class of registrants would suffer only minor and remediable harm should the stay be granted until a final decision by the full court. This was not an actual draft but only registration.

Justice Brennan, one of the greatest scholars to ever sit on the Supreme Court, made his ruling on this extraordinary difficult matter, that same day, July 19. For a single justice to grant in chambers stay apregistration provisions constituted gender-based plications, four complex tests must be satisfied, one of discrimination and that the goverment had failed to which is that there is a fair prospect that a majority of registration. Justice Brennan found that in light of the many

standards to be used, the prospects of reversal could be characterized as "fair." He ruled that since the full court might decide that the present Military Selective Service Act was constitutional even if females were not required to register, he would stay the restraining order since the government might suffer. The government then proceeded with the registration as originally planned. On Thursday, July

31, Bernard D. Rostker, the director of Selective Service, announced that his agency was serious about enforcing the law against young men who failed to The National Resistence Committee, a group opposed to registration, in its handbook stated that once alleged violators have been identified the Selective Service Agency would probably recommend to the Justice Department that some of them be prosecuted. The end question of course is what is going to happen. There are several possibilities:

1. The Supreme Court will make its decision one way or the other 2. Different constitutional attacks may be made

3. Congress may amend the statute to include

few more states are needed for ratification.

Reasons to reinstitute registration process include poor volunteers, Soviet movements

is a release from the office of 23rd- During the House consideration of the all-volunteer concept. district United States Congressman registration bill, I joined with a After a careful evaluation of evidence action on the issue. William Clinger, whose constituency colleague in polling other members of stating that it would take the Selective includes Centre County and the Congress about the possible link between Service System 65 days to deliver been edited for length and clarity.

By WILLIAM CLINGER • Congressman, 23rd district

register for the draft this year, and 18- 39 ayes and 22 undecided. year-olds to register in the future, was Another major reason adding to the when Paul Revere gathered the Minute long-term career soldier who can calmly accepted. In fact, so mild was the lack of public fervor is the big question Men in little more time than the name operate sophisticated equipment in what eaction to the registration that it apscale caricature of 1960s anti-draft force do little to inspire confidence.

There are several reasons for this possible draft and actually requiring young men to report for military service. The latest lineup at the local post need in a conventional war in Europe. office, unlike the Vietnam War era, is The widespread concern about the not the first step leading irrevocably quality and shrinking numbers of the alldown the path to military service If it were, one would expect all the

numbers. But the trappings are con-problem spicuously absent, as is the 60s lore

about conscientious objectors and creative attempts to flunk the physical exam prior to induction (has anyone Congress. Most proposals to ensure a heard of cellophane ulcers lately?).

. with the sudden invasion of Soviet troops into Afghanistan, the intensity of concern

reached a feverish pitch in Congress.

Underscoring the outward contrast • present registration is the distinction

University community. The release has registration and an actual draft. Out of draftees after mobilization, I was the 219 members of Congress favoring convinced that we needed a more ef- domain of the courts. registration, 136 responded to the ficient handle on our manpower reserve. following question: "If the House of A registration program will cut off a Representatives were to vote today on minimum of two months if we would attract and retain quality personnel. The By 1960s standards, the new law that renewing a peacetime draft, would you ever have to mobilize in a national military is becoming more and more required all 19- and 20-year old males to vote in favor of it?" The results: 75 nays, emergency. Mobilizing troops is vastly technologically oriented. This means a

mark of military readiness hanging over eared to those uninvolved as a small- our heads. Statistics on the all-volunteer

Behind the thinning ranks of the regular force, the Individual Ready First and foremost, there is a clear Reserve stands as the next line listinction between registering for a defense, which at 140,000 strong falls.

volunteer force and the Individual Ready Reserve has led to frequent trappings, replete with medical debates in recent years on practical examinations and draft classification solutions to what had become a chronic

But with the sudden invasion of Soviet troops into Afghanistan, the intensity of concern reached a feverish pitch in strong U.S. response to a possible Soviet threat included a resumption of draft registration. One plan required women (as well as men) in selected age groups to register, even in the absence of the Equal Rights Amendment. Another plan, unusual for its broad dimensions in peacetime, would have required registration of all males, ages 18-26. As a realistic security precaution, I supported the proposal that is now law. To be concerned about the implications

of an expanding Soviet presence in Afghanistan, one does not have to be an old guard supporter of the domino theory, a popular explanation for our

And whether or not the ill-fated rescue College, the issue of whether or not it is sense to me to upgrade the conditions for

certainly did not win supporters for the

more complicated now than in the days shift from the short-term draftee to the suggests

'Mobilizing troops is vastly more complicated now than in the days when

Paul Revere gathered the Minute Men in little more time than the name sugaests.

In today's world, however, our military still must be able to meet an emergency on a moment's notice. While I have a son who falls under the new registration law, I support registration of 18-year-olds (for years a traditional rite of passage in the U.S. and many other countries) as a back-up to the regular military.

Eighteen-year-olds rarely have the family obligations and career in volvements of someone several years older, but are mature enough to be a service to their country before returning to a more settled existence in civilian

I was somewhat dismayed, however, by the last-minute constitutional challenges to draft registration. As I a short tour of duty. If the all-volunteer mentioned in an interview at State

nearly four million young men across the country were forced to come to grips with their consciences, their moral obligations and their social respon-

On a direct order from the President of the United States, those men born in 1960 and 1961 were beckoned to take part in the nation's fourth massive draft registration leading to a draft. registration campaign. According to the White House statistics, 93 percent of those eligible complied with registration. For many,

registering came as easy as filling out a check. But for the 7 percent who shunned the post offices, many possibly recognized the lethal potential of the relatively harmless Selective Service forms

The issue has worried and frustrated me since President Carter revived the idea of registration last January. In a sense. I am torn between realism and idealism.

Realistically, there is no arguing the fact that this country needs a strong defense to maintain its respect and authority around the world. But at the moment, draft registration is nothing more than a windy symbol aimed at building that strength.

Quite simply, registration does not stead of offering salaries comfortably in reminder that kept thousands of young address the real manpower needs of the line with today's unruly cost of living, men away from their post offices in late







the entire Supreme Court will conclude that the decision by the district court was erroneous. Another of the tests was whether or not the government would suffer irreparable harm by a denial of the stay of

Supreme Court decisions on sex discrimination cases where there has been considerable debate on the

4. The Equal Rights Amendment may pass – only a

have been dealt with thoroughly by the judicial branch before Congress took As it turned out. Congress was in the

undesirable position of setting legal precedent - a matter rightfully the

In the meantime, improvements must be made in our military so that it can amounts to a new era of defense. with

different requirements than the ground troop-style of warfare of World War II. A few statistics on the current state of the military indicate that the effort has not been made to deal with critical military shortages:

 The Air Force figures that it mu retain 59 of every 100 pilots and 54 of every 100 navigators after 12 years of service. Today only 27 pilots and 40 navigators per 100 trained are still in uniform at the end of this period.

 Army guidelines call for retaining about 38 of every 100 soldiers with four years service for at least six more vears: only 30 of the 100 now stay i uniform that long. The Navy is short 21,000 experience

petty officers. To facilitate a shift in the military's personnel philosophy and overcome the penny-wise but pound-foolish approach o manpower shortages, I am supporting legislation that would increase pay for several categories of personnel. Th situation in which some enlistees have a base salary well below the minimum wage must change, as must the situation in which technicians - trained at the taxpayer's expense -- can nearly double their military salaries in civilian life. It simply does not make sense

economically or militarily to train personnel for a technical job, only to lose them to an employer in civilian life after concept is to be given a chance, it makes



The Daily Collegian Tuesday, Sept. 9, 1980-3

WANT YOU TO THINK **BEFORE YOU REGISTER** FOR THE DRAFT

Religion and Court: different decisions

YNEDE. WELLER United Ministry at Penn State

he teachings of the Christian faith, especially the Beatitudes in which trampled. Jesus said, "Blessed are the In a day with stupendous overkill Kingdom as well as the attributes of Annihilation is not "the peacetime the heavenly Father.

We were not left to wonder what it meant to be a child of God: "If anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also; and if anyone would sue you and take your coat. let him have your cloak as well: and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to him who begs from you. Love your enemy and pray for those who peryour Father who is in heaven. . . '

We know that these are not natural esponses: but we hear the Apostle Paul's statement, "To this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving an example, that you should follow in his steps." He patiently endured evil aggression, all the while maintaining his love for those who persecuted him

in horses, some trust in chariots, but controlling influence in their lifestyle we will remember the name of the as religion may be for others.

Lord our God." In that confidence we step boldly into the battle for peace There are some who take seriously among ourselves and with our enemies, no longer fearful of being

peacemakers, for they shall be called available to mankind, it is difficult to sons of God" — the inheritors of a convince people that war is nonsense. kingdom." While pursued by millions of dollars of advertising intended to entice young people into the military (or a more flagrant violation of civi and human rights — the registration and a possible draft), young consciences are repulsed with the notion of killing fellow human beings.

Or to destroy a people in order that their possessions may be considered ours. Or to believe lies that talk of secute you, so that you may be sons of preservation of democracy while millions are tortured, imprisoned or their property confiscated because they will not be subjected to American domination (under political puppets)

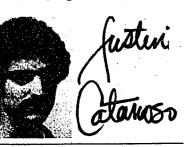
There may not be many, but those who do have these feelings are supported locally be a coalition of persons in higher education, ethical groups and churches. We recognize the Supreme Court's observation that The Psalmist writes, "Some trust morals and ethics are for some the

Sign-up: step in wrong direction

Tipping the scales with registration

handling and maintaining the complex military mechanism.

In March, while covering a foreign policy press conference in Washington, I questioned Robert Komer, a Defense Department official, on the liklihood of



Komer said: "We have a lot of people problems that worry us a great deal all of our middle manpower

During the last two weeks of July, armed forces. These forces do not need the military chooses to spend money on July.

with the Soviet Union. In the meantime, highly trained personel, capable of operating the new complying? weapons, are leaving the military for better paying civilian jobs. Pay is also

nilitary right now. sending young men off to battle.

The debacle of Vietnam is not that far It seems altogether possible that "Mothers still are weeping for their boys over a half a million dollars in education asking what the whole damn thing was

And why are the armed forces losing It's no secret that the United States their most qualified men? Because the has never had a registration without a billions of dollars spent annually on draft, and consequently, never a draft defense are woefully misdirected. In without a major war. It's that ominous

millions of names logged in a computer, ridiculously expensive and sophisticated Should those young men, those conthey need trained personel capable of weapontry in an attempt to keep pace scientious objectors be labeled un-American and have to face a \$10,000 fine or a five-year jail sentence for not

> By all means, no What is needed to rectify the problem barely adequate upon entering the is an optional national service, an service. It's no wonder the armed forces alternative to possible military concan't attract enough college graduates. scription. For those who feel they should Somehow, it doesn't seem registration serve their country through militaristic will do anything to ease this tremendous means, fine. But for those who sincerely problem facing all branches of the oppose such involvement, alternatives should be available

> My idealism comes into play when I Such options could be the Peace Corps. think of past wars. Certainly we have Vista or environmental programs. Since advanced far enough to realize that there will be no college deferrments, there must be more effective ways of students could join specific national dealing with international crises than by service programs designed to utilize their educational training.

removed from the nation's memory. To national service on a large, imaginable more (than drafting youth.) We're losing quote musician/activist Arlo Guthrie, scale could do more to establish national security and promote a new spirit of management - people we've invested who went to war. And fathers still are youthful commitment than the possibility of a mandatory military obligation.

> Yet a balance between the two must be found. Unfortunately, July's draft registration tinned the scales in the wrong direction

> Justin Catanoso is a seventh-term journalism major and the assistant arts editor of The Daily Collegian.