

Men look into draft alternatives

"When I was in high school," reflected one University student, nearing graduation, "there was no reason to 'consider the alternatives.' You just went to your local board and registered for the draft."

But, today, when graduation means draftable, many male students are looking into the legal and extralegal alternatives to the draft and serving in the military.

BASICALLY, there are four alternatives: comply with induction and serve the nation's "interests;" apply for, the deferment and individual may be qualified for, resist the draft altogether and face the law; or leave the country.

No matter which alternative is chosen, there are rules to follow.

The simplest game, of course, is to follow the rules of the military and be inducted. To

some, this can be done with no qualms of conscience; to others, it is snathma.

"Many persons join the Armed Forces because they believe that a strong armed force is necessary to maintain peace until the causes of war are removed. They choose the combatant position."

THAT QUOTE was taken from "The Draft and Your Choices," a leaflet distributed by the Friends Peace Committee, a Quaker group generally associated with the conscientious objectors' movement.

The article continues that "few who choose this position feel that the killing and destruction which are a part of war are good or right, but they do feel that in the present circumstances the military is the only way in which to preserve justice and maintain peace."

Serving one's country and patriotism are

generally regarded as synonymous and are two reasons often given for going into military life.

THE NATIONAL Selective Service System wrote in July of 1965 that patriotism "has been interpreted to mean many different things. Men have always been exhorted to do their duty.

But what that duty is depends upon "a variety of variables, most important being the nature of the threat to national welfare and the capacity and opportunity of the individual."

So, in a time of national crisis, such as during the current war in Vietnam, many national leaders have told young American men that it is their duty to serve in the armed forces of their country. Many heed the call.

THE CALL, although an administrative Gargantua, is a simple process.

According to Selective Service Law, a man may enlist or volunteer for 2 years of active duty

in the armed forces, or enlist in the reserve and active duty programs.

If he does not enlist, he is then liable to be called up for induction by his local draft board. The draft board gives the individual a chance to enlist, and if he doesn't the wheels of induction begin to turn.

TO BE ELIGIBLE for the draft, one must first be classified I-A by his board, which would mean he had passed his pre-induction physical.

Although not quite as simple as it may sound, the draftee then undergoes his basic training and serves out the remainder of his time. The benefits are many: veteran's benefits for loans, educational assistance and other personal aid.

Many prominent national figures feel that the military rounds out a man's life, that it gives him a common experience to relate to his peers, and that it also helps to rid society of juvenile delinquency and other "social diseases."

SSS surveys male subject

The Selective Service System is exactly that — selective.

Through a complicated set of classification criteria, all males in the United States are subject to the scrutiny of a group of local government inspectors.

TO PLAY the deferment game, one must first know what deferments are available, and what steps to take to be classified in the category he believes he best fits in.

The classifications currently enforced by the Selective Service System are as follows:

- CLASS I**
 Class I-A: Registrant available for military service.
 Class I-A-O: Conscientious objector registrant available for non-combatant military service only.
 Class I-C: Member of the Armed Forces of the United States, the Environmental Science Services Administration or the Public Health Service.
 Class I-D: Qualified member of reserve component or student taking military training, including ROTC and accepted aviation cadet applicant.
 Class I-O: Conscientious objector available for civilian work contributing to the maintenance of the national health, safety, or interest.
 Class I-S: Student deferred by law until graduation from high school or attainment of age 20, or until end of his academic year at a college or university.
 Class I-W: Conscientious objector performing civilian work contributing to the maintenance of the national health, safety or interest, of who has completed such work.
 Class I-Y: Registrant qualified for military service only in time of war or national emergency.
- CLASS II**
 Class II-A: Occupational deferment which includes apprentice training.
 Class II-C: Agricultural deferment.
 Class II-S: Student deferment.
- CLASS III**
 Class III-A: Extreme hardship deferment, or registrant with a child or children.
- CLASS IV**
 Class IV-A: Registrant with sufficient prior active service or who is a sole surviving son.
 Class IV-B: Officially deferred by law.
 Class IV-C: Alien not currently liable for military service.
 Class IV-D: Minister of religion or divinity student.
 Class IV-F: Registrant not qualified for any military service.
- CLASS V**
 Class V-A: Registrant over the age of liability for military service.

IN ORDER to classify a registrant, his local board (determined by the locale of his initial registration at the age of 18) will send a questionnaire which aids in determining his classification status.

After a registrant has received a notice of classification he can appeal that status within 30 days. His right of appeal extends to the Presidency, as long as there has been a dissenting vote at any appellate level.

No classification is permanent. All may be reviewed and changed upwards or downwards on the classification table. But there are certain procedures which should be followed to insure the most equitable handling of an appeal.

THE SELECTIVE Service itself proclaims that "the right of appeal was intentionally made so broad and simple that no one could sincerely claim prejudice or unfairness on the part of any local board."

The appeals procedure is set up so that any person can appeal his classification by simply writing his board that "I want to appeal." No reasons have to be given.

The person will be advised when his appearance before the board will be. He then states his case and the board makes its decision. This can be carried on until all legal machinery has been consumed.

THE CLASSIFICATIONS which most often concern the university student include: I-O, conscientious objector status; II-S, deferred for full-time study; I-Y and IV-F, both concerning the health or qualifications which would make him unavailable for military service.

Medical problems constitute the bulk of deferments issued by the SSS, according to government handouts and those distributed by the local draft resistance group.

If one thinks he has a physical disability which would make him ineligible for the draft, both sources suggest that he contact his local board immediately.

HE SHOULD request I-Y or IV-F status and ask for a medical interview. Some boards do not grant such interviews but request information from his doctor explaining the ailment.

Statements, x-rays, clinical reports — anything that can substantiate a physical disability — should be sent to the local board.

Most boards send this material to the pre-induction physical center when the registrant is ordered for a physical. There the person is tested for disabilities, among other things.

STUDENT deferments are issued to persons "actively and satisfactorily pursuing a full-time course of instruction, and making proportionate progress each academic year, until he receives his baccalaureate degree, ceases to perform satisfactorily or attains the age of 24."

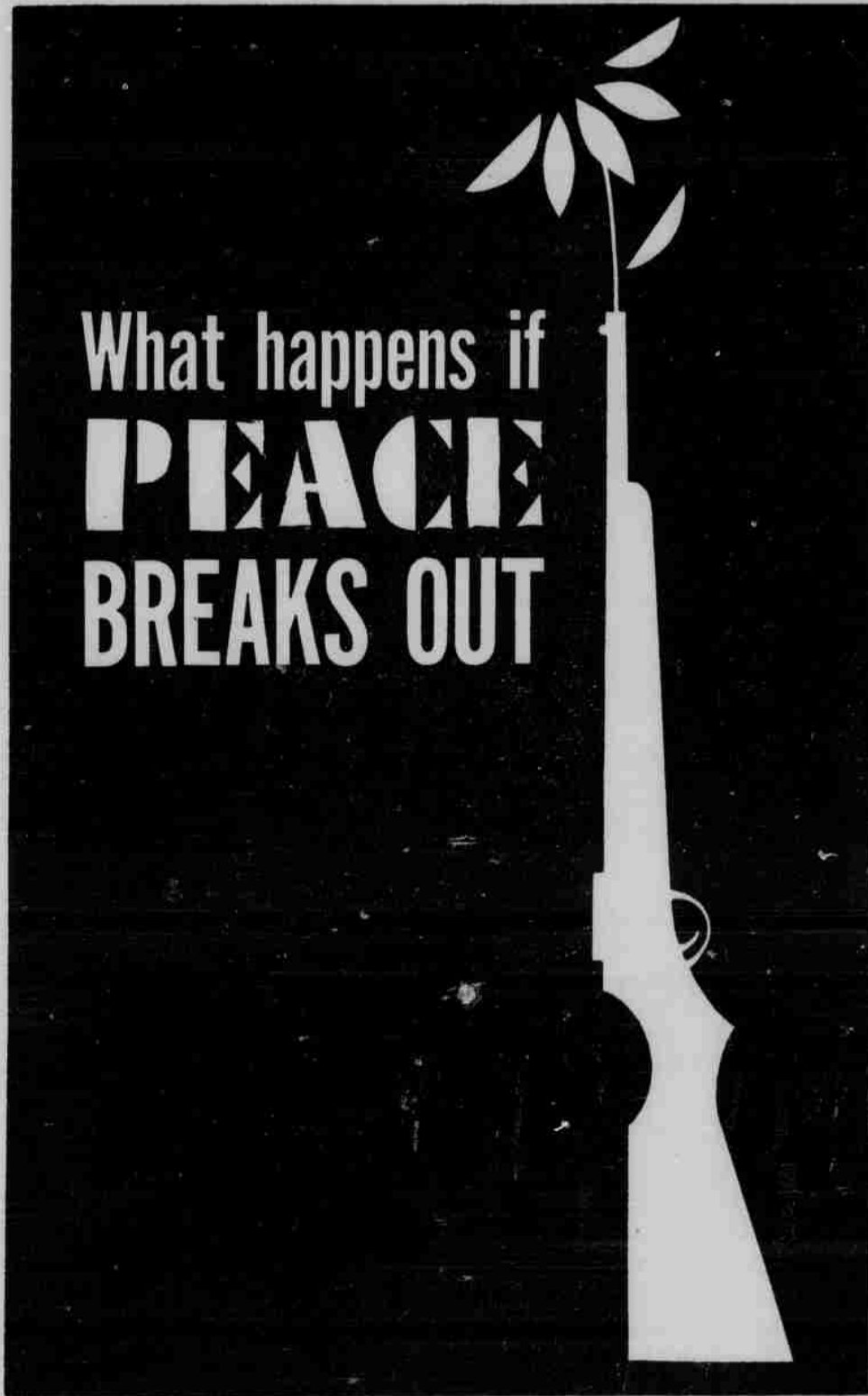
After Oct. 1, 1967, no person who accepted a II-S deferment can qualify for III-A deferments because of fatherhood. Graduate student deferments have been in question since the new laws went into effect a year ago.

Employers can request local boards to defer employees for "essential occupations," but the criteria for this deferment is also in considerable dispute.

WHAT IS important, though, is to realize that page after page of information is available from various sources on the deferment game.

The Selective Service System prints all of the legalities of the system. Religious groups, such as the Quakers, offer a large selection to choose from, for instance. The Rochester, N.Y., Resistance group has reprinted the medical fitness standards for induction in a peacetime army, which are applied during the Vietnam war.

by Larry Eckholt
 Nebraskan Staff Writer



Or, what if they threw a war and nobody came?

C. O. rulings strict

*i sing of Olaf glad and big
 whose warmest heart recoiled
 at war,
 a conscientious object-or*

e. e. cummings

Conscientious objection may be the most difficult game to play if one is opposed to the Vietnam war because the rules are the strictest.

Opposition to a particular war does not constitute a reason to request C.O. status. The Military Selective Service Act of 1967 states that the government has no intention of letting a person go to war "who, by reason of religious training and belief, is conscientiously opposed to participation in war in any form."

THIS EXCLUDES objection to war for "political, sociological, or philosophical views, or a merely personal code.

There are essentially two forms of conscientious objection: noncombatants and alternative service men.

Noncombatants, classified I-A-O, accept the necessity of military force, but have a sincere repulsion against taking another man's life. They are willing to relieve the suffering of wounded men, and many serve as medics in the armed forces.

Many noncombatants have been decorated for bravery because of their service in the

Vietnam war, and other wars. Others are assigned to duty which does not involve the use of weapons.

ALTERNATIVE service men, I-O's, acknowledge an obligation to perform a period of socially useful service under civilian direction. They are opposed to both combatant and noncombatant duty.

Many of these C.O.'s serve as attendants in hospitals. Some are employed by governmental or social welfare agencies in this country while some serve overseas. The draft law is set up so that this C.O. spends as much time in alternative service as a regular draftee in the armed forces.

His work is closely watched by his local draft board, assuring his just contribution to society.

C.O. STATUS is not limited to those persons of the Brethren, Quaker, or Mennonite faiths, often a common error. Statements made by Catholic, Jewish and Protestant groups have recognized the need for conscientious objection to war.

Recently, the United States Bishop's Conference of

Catholic prelates expanded their thoughts on this subject, making that religion's position more clear.

The belief in a God or Supreme Being weighs heavily in the quest for C.O. status.

A 1965 U.S. Supreme Court decision broadened the concept of Supreme Being to include a supreme concept or central belief. To say that one does not believe in a God poses difficulty in obtaining a C.O. status.

THERE ARE a number of organizations which offer a large selection of material concerning conscientious objection. Included are: the Central Committee for Conscientious Objection, the National Service Board for Religious Objectors and the American Friends Service Committee.

These organizations have counseling services set up across the country to answer questions concerning the draft.

The most basic advice they offer is, "Don't Dodge the Draft—Oppose It."

Canada—Eden of resistance

A simple direct-distance phone call to Canada might seem like a person-to-person call to Paradise, especially to someone tired of worrying about the draft, the war and domestic ills.

"I'm not uptight about the war or the race problems anymore," said the person on the Canadian end of the line. He was a graduate student at the University before accepting a position at a Canadian university to teach and work on his doctorate.

BECAUSE OF relatives near the University and because of legal complications concerning draft evasion, the person will remain anonymous at his request.

"I would never change my decision about leaving the States," he continued, "even though it means not seeing our relatives."

To him and to his wife Canada is not much different from their former country. Canadians have been friendly, even sympathetic to his cause.

"Even a policeman who stopped me for speeding once asked me if I was here to evade the draft," he said. "He just winked when I said yes."

THE FORMER Nebraskan has been approved for landed immigrant status but has not renounced his American citizenship. After five years he hopes to become a citizen of Canada. Until then he can obtain a passport from the U.S. Embassy to travel throughout the rest of the world, but he said he will not risk re-entering the United States.

"All-in-all, we are happy. Once we passed the border we felt so free," said his wife. "That's a strange feeling — escaping from the 'land of the free.'"

THE FORMER Nebraskan said that the universities where he and his wife are attending "are packed with American students, especially grad students."

"The only resentment I can find from Canadians is that the influx of Americans has made job hunting harder," he said.

SOME RESISTERS simply drop out of society stateside. Many blacks can slip into the obscurity of the ghetto and never be found. Others refuse induction only to face harsh prison terms and fines.

There are many types of resisters: frightened, disillusioned, idealistic, horrified. All share one common bond — hatred of the draft.

IF FOUND guilty by the law of the land for resistance to the draft — ranging from burning one's draft card to failure to step forward at induction — a person is subject to a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment or a \$10,000 fine, or both. He is, upon conviction, a felon and subject to lifelong repercussions.

Some professions which require state licensing, such as architecture, dentistry and medicine, are closely scrutinized by the licensing agencies.

They often contend that having a felony conviction is evidence that the applicant is not qualified to receive a license.

BUT RESISTERS either have their heads in the clouds or are completely sincere. They point to Henry Thoreau's teachings concerning civil disobedience. They also point to Christ, Ghandi, the leaders of the Reformation, the American revolutionaries, all being examples of persons who have bolted authority.

The University has its share of resisters, in addition to those who have left for Canada.

JOHN DIETZ, who took over the Nebraska Draft Resistance Union when its founder left for Canada, turned in his draft card on Sept. 27, 1968, and was subsequently classified I-A delinquent. He has since had a personal appearance before his local board earlier this month.

His position then was that he should not be reclassified by the board but should be prosecuted by federal authorities for turning in his cards in violation of the Selective Service Act of 1967, he said.

Dietz's case is still in the appealing stages. Another draft card returner is Steve Burkland, an English major from Clay Center but who dropped out of school in October, "for personal reasons."

"WE ARE being denied the right to stand back and say, 'this war is wrong,'" Burkland said. "This is not much different from a dictatorship which says what is right or wrong."

In answer to his turning in his cards, Burkland's local board asked him to apply for conscientious objector status.

"I couldn't truthfully answer that I object to all forms of war because I don't he explained.

Burkland does not have the support of his family in his endeavors, and has lost some friends because of his actions. But he has not felt ostracized by society.

"MANY PEOPLE still have a Manifest Destiny outlook about this country," he continued. "They believe that the U.S.A. has been given special privileges by God to watch over the world. I reject this philosophy."

Recently active in the anti-ROTC movement on campus, Burkland does not think of himself as a martyr to a cause and has not considered immigration to Canada as a means to escape.

"This country has great potential," he said. "I want to work here, to try to help change the untemperate climate which now exists here."

In short, the resistance alternative to the draft must be considered the most personal one. It involves soul-searching leading up to the ultimate decision. No one else can make the final decision.