

Hot times in the furnace room

Draft counselors answer questions

by STEVE STRASSER
Nebraska Staff Writer

At 7 p.m. on Sundays, members of the Lincoln Draft Information Service (LDIS) gather around the furnace in the basement of the United Ministries in Higher Education. Paul Newhouse more-or-less chairs what he calls the group's "weekly disorganization meeting."

About fifteen people can fit into the well-heated little office, most of them sitting on the floor. There is no agenda. If no one can think of any LDIS business, then they talk about something else.

The meeting's pace soon relaxes anyone who shows up to talk about his draft problem. But if a man is considering conscientious objection, the meeting can turn into a draft board preparation session. Questions are hurled at him from all LDIS members.

"Would you protect your friend from a perverse assassin?"

"Would you hit the assassin?"

"Would you kill him?"

When a man is through with LDIS he knows what he wants, why and how to get it, according to Kathy Cook, an active LDIS member. She said the draft counselors' basic tool

is the Selective Service Law, supplemented by the Selective Service Law Reporter, a manual which discusses the latest cases and precedents in draft law application.

The service has handled 25 "official" cases, in which counseling forms were filled out, since the semester began. Ms. Cook noted that counselors "try to be objective in presenting alternatives to prospective draftees, even though most counselors are personally anti-draft."

Area high schools usually have representatives at the meetings. Tom Paulson, an East High senior, is satisfied with the counselors' objectivity. "We like to have them at our student assemblies to talk about alternatives," he said. "They cover everything from enlistment to prison."

Paulson said LDIS counselors give a one-sided presentation when on the same program as Col. Lee Liggett, State Selective Service Director. "They stress things like conscientious objection and Canada."

LDIS is sponsoring a Free University course this semester called "The Draft and You."

Ron Kurtenbach, an organizer of the course, plans to provide leadership similar to that which characterizes the rest of LDIS. "Nobody is really in charge. It's completely open as far as direction and objectives," he said.

My draft board "was very good to me," he related. "I just talked with them for 15 minutes or so and they agreed I was a conscientious objector."

Kurtenbach did alternate service as a Vista supervisor in New Jersey. "I was very naive then," he admitted. "Two policemen were giving me a difficult time on a dark street in Newark one night. I actually asked them how I could go about charging them with assault."

He spent a night in jail but that incident was not his last experience behind bars. "I was arrested for handing out statements of draft options at the State Fair this year," Kurtenbach said. "I thought I was protected by the first amendment, but the Fair Board didn't."

"I didn't think that was a

very fair board," Kurtenbach added.

But plays on words aren't always amusing to Kurtenbach. "Who could think of a more suitable location for the draft board than a place called the Terminal Building?" he wondered.

"Draft boards have their procedures backwards," he said. "There should be a conscientious objector status for people who sincerely can't kill. There should be an army only of people who have stated that they sincerely can kill."

Fear not NROTC men you can marry her now

In past years a Navy ROTC scholarship student who wanted to be married had two choices — he could either wait until he graduated or marry anyway and lose his scholarship.

Now NROTC students who wed their girlfriends need not fear losing their scholarships, according to Capt. Herschel A. Pahl, chairman and professor of the Naval Science Department.

The policy of not allowing scholarship midshipmen to marry was a carry over from the Naval Academy and has proved to be inappropriate in a civilian university setting, Pahl said.

He added that one student who married last year and lost his scholarship has now been reinstated in the program.

Other NROTC changes such as cross listing and more interdepartmental teaching of certain Naval Science courses are planned for next year, Pahl said. The lecture sessions of Naval Science 21 and Management 31 will be combined in the College of Business

Administration. Some history and political science courses have been taught jointly for several years, he added.

In another department change students can now take NROTC courses, but not commit themselves to a Navy contract commission until the end of their senior year, Pahl added.

"This gives the student the chance to complete almost all of his ROTC requirements before committing himself to service," he added.

The Department of the Navy is also revising a list of subject areas that midshipmen have not been allowed to major in. This list restricted students, according to Pahl, since many agricultural and professional majors were prohibited.

"These revisions were the result of several years of study and recommendations," the Navy captain commented. "We hope to continue to make changes to benefit both the student and the program."

Leaders needed for NFU courses

The Free University committee is seeking leaders for the following courses. Anyone interested in running one of these courses may contact the ASUN office, 472-2593.

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