

Military Draft Enslaves Men

by Roger Bell



Bell

A great injustice exists in the draft laws of this nation. The introduction of the lottery system of selection has helped some, but many gaps remain unplugged. First of all a gap exists as to exemptions; women are not drafted; most students are exempt; admitted homosexuals are usually not selected; religious exemptions are allowed; and CO's are sometimes draft exempt (or combat exempt). All of these exemptions make for a very inequitable system.

Now if you fit the following description, you may be drafted: 19-26 years old, male, non-student, sworn heterosexual, in good health, have no religious objections (sometimes allowed), have no moral objections (sometimes allowed), literate, have no significant police record, not found to be treasonous, not mentally ill, etc.

If you fit the description above and if your lottery number was low, you may soon be drafted. While others sit back and can live a relatively free existence, you may have to sacrifice your freedom and be drafted into military service to face a bleak future of obeying orders, killing, possible death and/or injury, a loss of the basic freedom of speech, and other undesirable consequences.

Facing this kind of future is bad enough, but why must you be drafted if many others won't be drafted because of their exemptions? Many draft exemptions are highly unconstitutional under one amendment or another, e.g., 1st Amendment and 14th Amendment.

Yet whatever the inequity there is within the draft laws themselves, there exists a greater injustice with the draft laws just being on the books.

I challenge anyone to prove to me that our system of military draft is not unconstitutional under the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The draft is as much a system of involuntary servitude as the black slavery which the amendment was ratified to abolish!

It is painful to see the government of this nation (which is supposedly of, by, and for the people) to reject the unconstitutionality of the military draft. To do so only brings on anarchy, revolution, hatred, violence, and fleeing citizens.

Citizens have been demanding an end to the military draft ever since it first began in the U.S. over a century ago. Are we to wait forever? An end must come soon. Slavery must be dealt a powerful death blow.

Since legal means have not worked in this regard since the Civil War, the best way at present to aid in ending the draft system is to vigorously resist it: go to jail; leave the country; go underground; destroy all draft records possible; refuse registration; desert from military service, etc.

A strong militant force must be established to topple the military draft and the government, if necessary, along with it. Only then will we be fairly secure from slavery from within this country. All must unite for freedom; slavery must be put to an end.

Who Are The Bad Guys, Who Are The Good Guys?

by Tommy Maddox

While growing up we didn't find it hard to tell who the bad guys were. They were very evil fellows whose death meant very little. But now we find ourselves in a world where our identity is often determined by those things which we are against and pointing out the bad guy gets a little ambiguous.

Sure we all sit around our particular section of the cafeteria pretty firm in the conviction that the rest of the room is full of bad guys. But who are they?

How many of us don't many times turn our backs on our people, our neighbors back home, our parents, and old friends. We find ourselves at college becoming enlightened shunning our people as low class, pious hypocrites, country club puppets, Uncle Toms, or uneducated rednecks.

How many of us haven't indicted the blacks for being ungrateful or Greeks for being racist or white folks for being hypocrites. Which ones of us haven't scoffed at those "goody-goody" liberals.

Who among us hasn't broken in line, stolen an extra piece of pie or dropped a leaflet in the post office floor.

Do we really know what we're doing? We often talk of Greek unity, but in rush we cut each other's throats and all the time we literally say we hate this group or that and are finally capable of shaving somebody's head. We talk about getting our people together, but we argue at every turn, and fear each other throwing "Uncle Tom" back and forth because of its ability to cut.

Just who are the bad guys? The long-haired weirdos maybe or the ROTC puppet killing machine. Who do we condemn, the girl who does it for everybody or the one who doesn't at all. We talk about hating those who write those ignorant articles we disagree with. Some of us condemn the faculty who have never been Greek and the rest of us condemn the others as racist.

Who of us doesn't hate out of pure conceit, knowing we are right and that God is on our side.

Who are we gonna' point to?

Which of us are willing to take the responsibility for the twenty or thirty lives our groups control, influence, and sometimes mar. As new students come each year who bears the responsibility for teaching a faith in God

that lacks security and wins no approval with family and friends. Who are we that teach hate and fear as a part of education at Mercer.

Have we thought of the consequences in terms of misunderstanding, pain, and ruined lives when we act out of our own frustration and demonstrate, gambling with weeks of dedicated effort. Or when we yell across an athletic field, just pushing for a fight as if the

sickening crunch of loose teeth and sting of swollen eyes, the sight of a paralyzed friend and the agony of a weeping parent were not part of this game of self-assertion we play.

How many of us do anything other than hate and reaffirm our neighbors' convictions that we are to be feared and mistrusted.

Who among us is right enough to be at peace with himself when the Cluster headlines read: 1 Dead 9 Injured.

Greeks will not be stronger, blacks will not be freer, more people will not believe in God, the flag will not fly more proudly.

1 Dead 9 Injured and who were the bad guys? Or isn't there a better way?

School Has Third Responsibility

At the time of this writing, it seems that three ping pong tables will be in the room next door to the Post Office in the Connell Student Center. Equipment should be available, complements of a campus service fraternity, by the time this paper is distributed.

A representative of the Housing Office has informed the CLUSTER that if changes in the University's regulations concerning women in public areas of Men's dormitories (such as TV and recreation rooms) are to be made, students must demonstrate their Finkelstein desire to see such a change by either contacting the Men's Housing Office or signing a petition being circulated by Larry Finkelstein and Jimmie Samuel. The ADMINISTRATION appears to be receptive towards the idea, and is to be complimented on the basis of their cautious cooperation.

This school is the home of more than a thousand young men and women. As such, it has the responsibility of providing food, shelter, and recreation to every paying member of this academic community. The success of the University in shouldering its first two responsibilities to its resident students has been open to question for some time. In every sector of the community their are those of us who are willing to defend or detract from the effectiveness of University policy of room and board. Only in the area of recreation is their general and complete agreement on the utter failure of the ADMINISTRATION to provide facilities comparable to those of any modern campus across the country.

Here the University must be brought to task: our home — the home provided to campus residents by the University — must be provided with a furnished recreation room. At present, we have neither a room, nor its proper furnishings. Colleges and Universities half our size can boast of buildings brimming with pool and ping pong tables, co-ed TV rooms, and fanciful devices that not only contribute to such schools ability to attract students, but needed and useful devices that ultimately contribute any schools' ability to retain pupils that must live on the campuses they have chosen for themselves.

It is time for the University to come awake to the idea of its third responsibility... the one that has been ignored to date. The people who live here now are beginning to insist upon it. Those who will come will demand it. Those who leave before graduation will simply forget about it. Something must be done while most of us remain to complain, lest we should leave and forget.

Carswell Should Be Nominated Trustee

by Rocky Wade

"G. Harold Carswell, Federal Court Judge, Tallahassee, Fla., Grad, Class of '48, Walter F. George School of Law. Rejected for confirmation as a Supreme Court Justice. Leader in the opposition movement was the Senator from Massachusetts Edward "Ted" Kennedy, bolstered by the support of the AFL-CIO and several civil rights organizations."

The above listing from Who's Who can well be envisioned by those who have followed the criticism of those in opposition to Mr. Carswell's character. Let us look at the loyal opposition. The primary block to his conformation is one Edward Moore Kennedy who has stated that "there is a question of guilt around Mr. Carswell." And this from the same Ted Kennedy who lingers under the shadow of a bridge which can not span the credibility gap between his words and his actions.

But still there is a mention of guilt. Why? It all has come about from a statement made in a 1948 election in which Mr. Carswell voiced his adherence to the then popular doctrine of white supremacy. And even if Mr. Carswell made the statement, it has not been proven that he ever wore the robes of the Ku Klux Klan which one Justice Hugo Black has been known to wear. In fact, I would state unequivocally that Mr. Carswell made that statement in toto and frankly I cannot blame him for making the statement in the heat of campaign. He was young, in his initial campaign, and quite frankly, he wanted to win. This was Georgia he inhabited in 1948.

Somewhere in our perspective on Carswell, the time span was lost and people of today seem to forget that "nigras" used to be lynched in Cordele and shoved to the back of buses in Atlanta. But, of course, times have changed with time, some people have taken a change for the better. A prime case of this evolution may be seen in the embryo of a rednecked segregationist named Herman Talmadge who matured into a Senator who today votes regularly with the Americans for Democratic Action. Mr. Carswell has repudiated that statement of 1948 and I can find nothing in his record from that time to render cause to question his integrity.

And yet, there is a second latent factor prevalent in this case. It can be seen that the character of Mr. Carswell is in doubt because his life has revolved around Florida and Georgia. Yes, though man has changed in these years, there are still those who would object to his nomination for such a trivial assumption that your native state can determine your personal characteristics. Consistently an attempt is made to eradicate the

hate of a foment one hundred years ago and yet, there are those who will discriminate against a man because he is from a certain state. Yes, there are those who would discriminate at Georgia through stereotype (especially at its Governor) while nullifying in their mind the fact that it was always the home of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It makes one feel sorry for those who hold with such biased prejudice.

Personally, I feel that it will be an honor to Mercer and the integrity of the Law School to have Mr. Carswell sworn into the Supreme Court. I think his integrity will serve to alleviate the stigma which is somehow attached to our state and the region to which it belongs.

At this time of year when the selection of Trustees is fast upon the school, I for one would like to see the name of Mr. G. Harold Carswell added to those already being considered. No finer nominee could I think be worthy of the honor.

Student Participation Supported By Alumni

by Ron Childs

On January 30 the Mercer Alumni Association Executive Committee Meeting was held in the President's Dining Room in the Connell Student Center. There were three students present at the meeting, who actually did participate; being Bobby Potter, Gary Johnson, and myself. On the business agenda various committees reported, but the business that concerned the students at Mercer University came in the approval of a motion to recommend to the trustees that a student be given status as a trustee of said University. This student would be elected from the student body and have full voting rights as a trustee. What does this mean for the students at Mercer University?

This move has two significant meanings for the Mercer students as I see it, the first being that the Mercer students are finally being suggested as a factor in the decision making of the University. Mercer students have for too long been on the receiving end of financial, academic, and religious matters at Mercer but never allowed to participate in the actual decision making. The University is for the student, as the library and all of the University's facilities, therefore what better source for policy making and priority decisions could there be

than the students. I feel that the students at Mercer do not express a desire to be a dictator, only a part of the decisions that are made that directly affect the students, not the trustees or alumni.

The second significant meaning in this decision by the Alumni Executive Committee is that the time has come for Mercer students to reappraise themselves. Mercer students for too long have rejected the opportunity and privilege of self-government, classifying themselves as too immature for the position or not wanting to get involved in the administration's affairs. It took the Alumni Executive Committee, men from ages of 30 to 70 to push the student into involvement as a trustee, not the students themselves who should have been at the door knocking for entrance long ago. The students at Mercer University are forever indebted to this body of Alumni who are willing to give Mercer students a voice in their own affairs, a chance to be in on the decisions of the University which affect the students. The students at Mercer have been quiet and still on this issue of involvement, but thanks to groups such as the Alumni I hope and feel that the students at Mercer University will begin to get involved in the affairs of the University. To the Alumni Executive Committee, I for one express extreme gratitude for waking the students from a long, unproductive sleep.



Childs