

OPINION

of The Lumberjack

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Tuesday, October 22, 1968

College Draftees Upset Army

In the past eight months, the percentage of college graduates who have been drafted has risen from one in 25 to one in five.

A substantial increase? Obviously so, and there are at least two groups who are not entirely pleased with the new arrangements.

Naturally, the graduate students who are no longer able to continue their education are upset, but so are many of the Army officers.

The current issue of The National Observer quotes a Fort Benning, Ga. drill sergeant as saying "I get trouble from these college boys." The same non-commissioned officer believes that "the best soldiers have a high-school education or less."

Draft deferment status changes have affected all students except those studying medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, the ministry, osteopathy or optometry "or in such other subjects necessary to the maintenance of national health, safety or interest as are identified by the director of Selective Service upon the advice of the National Security Council."

Recommendations from the National Security Council on Feb. 15, 1968 that graduate deferments be limited to those listed in the Military Selective Service Act of 1967 started the new process rolling.

Lt. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, Selective Service director, agreed with this proposal and relayed his approval to all state directors of Selective Service.

Misuse of skills is the primary objection that college graduates have with the present draft-placement arrangements.

Although a draftee may be a qualified engineer, there is little or no assurance that he will be assigned to an engineering corps in the service.

Most graduate draftees are willing to accept their situation as is and want only to finish their two-year enlistment period. But there are exceptions. "They try to get out of doing chores," comments one drill sergeant interviewed by The National Observer. Another adds

"sometimes their personal hygiene isn't too good."

Hoping to explain some of this behavior, the draftees being ridiculed comment, "I don't like the idea of my sergeant giving me orders. He's younger than I am and has a lot less education."

"I thought the army was a bunch of idiots," admits another soldier questioned by the weekly paper, "but there are a lot of smart people around here."

Although they seem miles apart, occasionally the sergeant's and the private's point of view will coincide.

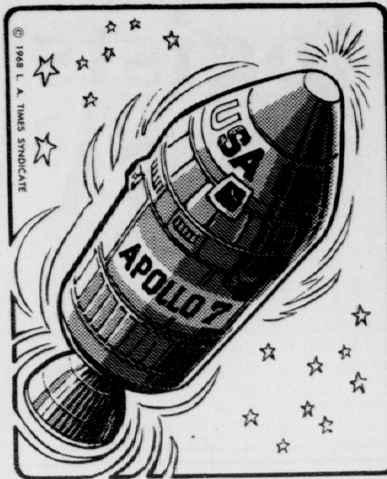
"The needs of the Army come first," says one officer "but if there is a job opening that a draftee has been trained for in college, I'll recommend that he be given the job."

When the new draft status reports were issued last winter, the wails of the colleges and universities of America were heard everywhere. They feared that graduate school enrollments would drop drastically, creating a hole in teaching staffs and limiting research.

Some schools have decreased in number of graduate students, others have admitted students who have lower qualifications but so far, according to National Observer surveys, there have been no substantial effects.

While more students are researching ways of avoiding the draft, at least one thinks all deferments should be abolished. "There's no reason for college students to be put on a pedestal," commented a Yale graduate in an Observer interview. If all deferments were abolished, the parents of the college students "would raise hell and maybe we'd end the war," he says.

The army predicts that the strain from these graduates will increase in the coming months; the graduates work to be placed in suitable positions in the service; college students struggle to make grades high enough to avoid the draft; and the public awaits a new development.



"Ahhhhhhhh ..."



"... Ahhhhhh ..."



"... Ahhhhhh ..."



"... Chooooooooo!"

Editor's Mailbag

I-40 Stimulates Action

Editor, The Lumberjack.

The recent closing of Interstate 40 is a disservice to Flagstaff residents. Interstate 40 was closed because of political pressure applied by Flagstaff business and newspaper interests

who felt that the city was not well-advertised on I-40 signs. Exits to Flagstaff are clearly marked but larger overhead signs are desired (which may take up to six months to install).

There is no reason to close I-40 until larger signs are installed (if they are ever necessary). Heavy auto and truck traffic again passes

over city streets causing inconvenience and delay to residents and tourists. Vehicles must continue to use narrow, dangerous "old" Highway 66 even though I-40 would be much safer.

Business men who provide fair and honest services to tourists and local residents (including students) may not be hurt by I-40 because people must still eat, sleep, and buy gas in Flagstaff.

Establishments that "gorge" tourists and do not attempt to attract local business may suffer. There is no reason why Flagstaff residents should be denied the benefits of I-40 to support these selfish business interests.

A group of concerned citizens has formed the "Flagstaff Citizens for I-40" (P.O. Box 973), to work toward the opening of I-40. The support of students, faculty, and residents is needed to make this movement succeed.
CHARLES N. JOHNSON JR.

ON POLITICS HHH Bucks Trend In Futile Campaign By Norris J. Pieman

Hubert Humphrey, as a presidential candidate this year, is in almost every sense of the word, a man in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The Vice-president, with over two decades of experience and service to his country at the highest levels of government, has indeed shown that he is ready and able to lead the country. But all indications are that the country is not ready for Hubert Humphrey. The overwhelming results of national pollsters have verified this and the growing trend among Americans for a more conservative governmental program seems to increase daily as if oblivious to Humphrey's campaign thrusts.

It must be an agonizing role for the Vice-President to play. His having to contend with Richard Nixon this election year appears to be a substantial problem in its own right for the former Minnesota Senator, but the added enigma represented by third party candidate, George Wallace now poses a more serious threat to Humphrey than it does to Nixon. Yet only three months ago, just prior to the nominating conventions, it seemed clear that a Wallace candidacy would pose more potential harm to the Republicans than to the Democrats.

But the former Alabama Governor with his law and order theme has struck a responsive chord with the voting public. More and more people are demonstrating sympathy to the Wallace cause and thus far the earlier prediction that his advocates would come to their senses and not "waste their vote" has failed to hold water. His supporters are a determined lot and the segment of a traditionally Democratic union vote that may go to Wallace has thrown a real scare into the Humphrey-Muskie camp.

Hubert Humphrey, to be certain, does offer a clear-cut alternative to the programs of Nixon and Wallace, who have both aimed their appeal to the basically conservative voting block of Americans. But as November 5 draws closer it is becoming increasingly clear that the Humphrey alternative is not being accepted as an alternative by Americans because it represents no significant break with the Johnson Administration. That Hubert Humphrey would indeed be the "captain of his own team" in the White House is a fact more readily accepted by the professional politicians than by the voting public.

It all seems to boil down to this: The majority of Americans have, in their discontentment with the Great Society, cried out for change and Nixon and Wallace are catering to this demand. They are offering the public what it is anxious to buy at a price it is willing to pay. The Humphrey product has thus far failed to influence the market.

From his first days in politics as Mayor of Minneapolis, he has been a dynamic and articulate crusader of the liberal philosophy in government. In his campaigning this year, Humphrey has sought to maintain this image while still appealing to the more conservative instincts of a society that seeks to slow down and regain its identity. But the line is too narrow for Humphrey to walk.

The situation must be both frustrating and disheartening to a man of Hubert Humphrey's magnitude. He has served in the second-highest office of the land with a dignity, fervor and dedication which has given the office new meaning.

Over the years this highly perceptive man has achieved a reputation as the "most creative political mind in Washington" and for twenty years has been one of its most influential liberal voices.

Hubert Humphrey is a political realist and undoubtedly realizes the helpless position he is in this year. As a man well aware of the trends and cycles that affect the political spectrum, he can be expected to exert a powerful influence on the American system of government for many years to come whether he is elected president or not.

World Holds Hostility For Mexican-American

First of Two-Part Series

"The man who speaks two languages lives in two worlds," but for the Mexican-American the two worlds often hold confusion, hostility, and a lack of understanding of either world.

While Negro minority problems receive prime coverage throughout the United States an equally important situation in the southwestern portion of the nation receives little attention. . . the Mexican-American minority.

What is the root of the Mexican minority problem? How do Mexican-Americans feel about their culture and influence of Anglo-American cultures on it? What are the solutions to the problems?

A discussion with several Mexican-American students and Mrs. Guy Bensusan, instructor of English for Bi-Linguals, brought these questions into the open and attempted to find solutions.

What is the root of prejudice against Mexican-Americans in the Southwest? The problem of Mexican "inferiority" began with the first Mexican laborers to move across the border, commented Mrs. Bensusan. "These laborers were looked down upon because they couldn't speak the language and were 'different' from the other people living here." The connotation "wet-back" lasted and made it even more difficult for Mexicans to be accepted into the Anglo American society, she said. Using braceros for farm labor tended to lower the pay wage for United States laborers, noted Mrs. Bensusan. "Mexican workers, especially those straight from Mexico, tend to work harder for less money."

Marcella Luna, freshman and Margaret Valdez, junior, both born in Mexico, placed some of the minority problem on Mexican-Americans themselves.

"You'll find second generation Mexicans do not have the traditional background their parents and grandparents have," commented Miss Valdez. "They

do not have the pride which their

grandparents had for their heritage." The bracer stigma and the knowledge that most of their parents came to the United States as farm laborers tend to create a Mexican-American inferiority complex she said. "Most of the people who went 'North' from Mexico were farm labor-

ers. Very few doctors, lawyers or businessmen will give up jobs in Mexico to come to the United States," she noted. Miss Luna agreed that part of the prejudice comes from Mexican-Americans who have developed jealousy over what other people have.

Speaking the Spanish language plays a vital role in Mexican-American prejudice according to Mrs. Bensusan.

"This is something which begins in early schooling," she stated, "Spanish speaking children are made to feel inferior because they cannot understand the English language." Destruction of self confidence is often done in subconscious or subtle means by both teachers and textbooks, she remarked.

"A major problem lies with teachers who consider a Mexican-American child 'stupid' because he does not understand English." A class for bi-linguals with stress on Mexican culture is an important factor in building up Mexican-American pride, noted Mrs. Bensusan. "You must have pride in who and what you are before you can learn about other cultures," she stressed.

Miss Valdez agreed that education plays a serious part in the minority problem. "Mexican parents want to teach their children both cultures but in school speaking Spanish is a 'no-no.'"

Children who do are made to feel different and inferior. Even in rural areas where Mexican-American students are in the majority the Mexican culture and language is largely ignored and frowned upon, she commented.

"You would think that in the Southwest where so much of the culture is taken out of Mexico there would be more classes on Mexican culture."

THE LUMBERJACK

Official newspaper of the Associated Students of Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, 86001. 1968. Published semi-weekly on Tuesdays and Fridays except during holiday, vacation and examination periods. Mailing address: Faculty Box 4122. Office phone: 523-2861, business phone 523-2091.

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Subscription rates \$5 per year, \$2.50 per semester.
Member: Columbia Press Association, Arizona Newspapers Association, Intercollegiate Press, Associated Collegiate Press, Rocky Mountain Collegiate Press Association.

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YD Challenge Goes Out

Editor, The Lumberjack.

In realizing the need for informative discussion on candidates, policies, administrative functions, the Young Democrats of Northern Arizona University wish to challenge the Young Republicans to a debate concerning candidates and views on the State and National level.

The public and the Associated Students of Northern Arizona University are welcome to attend, discuss, and offer rebuttals to views expressed by representative groups.

The time and place will be announced at a later date.

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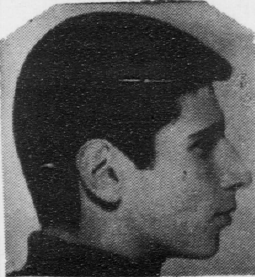
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