

Draft Counseling Available

Draft counseling is now available to all those who desire help in understanding how to avoid the draft.

Mr. Allen Strasburger, a part-time English instructor at Monmouth, and a member of the Peace and Equal Rights Committee in Red Bank, said that a trained draft counselor has been active in Monmouth County since June.

According to Mr. Strasburger, draft counseling was needed because "more and more young people are opposing the War in Vietnam and the draft that feeds that War. And as more and more young people oppose the war and the draft they begin to think of ways in which to avoid s e r v i n g i n t h e Army." So in order to help these people who find themselves in this rotten spot and to organize them into the anti-war movement, draft counseling was begun.

Talking about the draft, Mr. Strasburger said, "I see the draft supplying cannon fodder to American Imperialist adventures such as the Vietnam War." He feels that the draft is immoral and unconstitutional because the idea of involuntary servitude is outlawed in the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. It is also immoral and illegal in that the United States Government is engaged in an illegal and immoral war. He added that "it seems ironic all of the people who serve on draft boards, and indeed most of those who support a wider and more encompassing war are too old to be drafted."

Because of these things and the fact that so many young men of draft age are disenchanted with the idea of conscription and the War in Vietnam, the need for adequate draft counseling has become a growing demand. To answer that demand, the Committee on Peace and Equal Rights has made draft counseling available to all those who seek it.

The man who is doing the counseling for the Monmouth

County area is Monmouth College graduate Dabney Venable. He graduated in 1964 with a Bachelor of Art in Political Science, and now lives in Eatontown. He attended a series of seminars at the Fellowship of Reconciliation at Princeton University which helped to teach him the techniques and the law in regards to draft counseling.

As he put it, "The reason that people like me are doing this sort of thing, is that very few young men are aware of the draft laws and the different alternatives open to them." Mr. Venable said that he is willing to counsel anyone on the draft no matter what their personal beliefs are. The reason that he is actively doing this is due to a

personal responsibility that he feels. He said that "the United States Military-Corporate Structure is alienating to the individual," and that it "often causes individuals to serve in a war they don't agree with."

In counseling young men, Mr. Venable tries to show them the different alternatives open to them, such as conscientious objectors, physical and mental deferments, and occupational deferments.

Anyone who is interested in draft counseling should contact either the Peace and Equal Rights Committee, P.O. Box 307, Red Bank, or the Students for an Educated Society, care of the Student Activities Office in the Student Union.