

SDS Protests Marines On Campus

Four Marine recruiters from Wilkes-Barre were the target of two days of quiet demonstrations by about 20 students and 10 faculty members, mostly members of Students for a Democratic Society. The Marines were on campus Dec. 18 and Dec. 19.

Demonstrators held signs condemning military recruitment on campus, carried on debates with the recruiters and students who came to see them, read policy statements, and held a brief sit-in.

SDS members said that they were opposed to military recruitment here because the University "is a place for learning" rather than a place for the Federal Government to perform its functions. "Recruitment can be handled very easily by the government in the U.S. Post Office downtown," they said.

The students' opposition to military recruitment was also based on a letter sent to local draft boards last October by Gen. Louis B. Hershey, director of the Selective Service, which recommended that students "interfering" with draft procedures be reclassified 1-A.

Inside 305 Carnegie Building where the Marines were stationed, students and faculty held a running debate with the recruiters who generally refused to answer questions about U.S. policy.

"We are here to provide information about the Marine Corps if somebody comes in," Capt. A. F. Gibson said repeatedly. He also commented that SDS must have made some progress with the administration because the Marines had been moved out of the Bison. (John C. Hayward, dean of student affairs, has said that the recruitment must now be held in the Placement Office.)

"We are not against military men speaking on campus," John Mahoney, president of SDS, told the recruiters, "but we are against military recruitment and would like you to continue your job in the Federal Post Office."

During Mahoney's statement, Herbert F. Eckberg, dean of the college of engineering, hurriedly entered the room in a state of visible agitation. Charging that the students were "unpatriotic," Dean Eckberg told the recruiters that "if you have any difficulty with these creeps preventing you from giving information, send them to Dana 123. They are not the representatives of the Bucknell body." He then left.

Parts of the ensuing conversation are as follows:

Mahoney: "Why are you doing this on campus?"

Capt. Gibson: "To give information and to enroll students after they see the pamphlets, but I only have the enrollment forms at my office in Wilkes-Barre."

Mahoney: "Is the United States Constitution applicable to a person in military court?"

Capt. Gibson: "He is prosecuted under the Uniform Code of Military Justice."

Dr. Edward Cotter, assistant professor of geology: "Are you allowed to question orders and what do you do if you don't agree?"

Capt. Gibson: "You can discuss it with your C.O. If he says do it, there is no recourse."

Dr. Cotter: "What did the Nuremberg trials do to people like that?"

Capt. Gibson: "I won't discuss it."

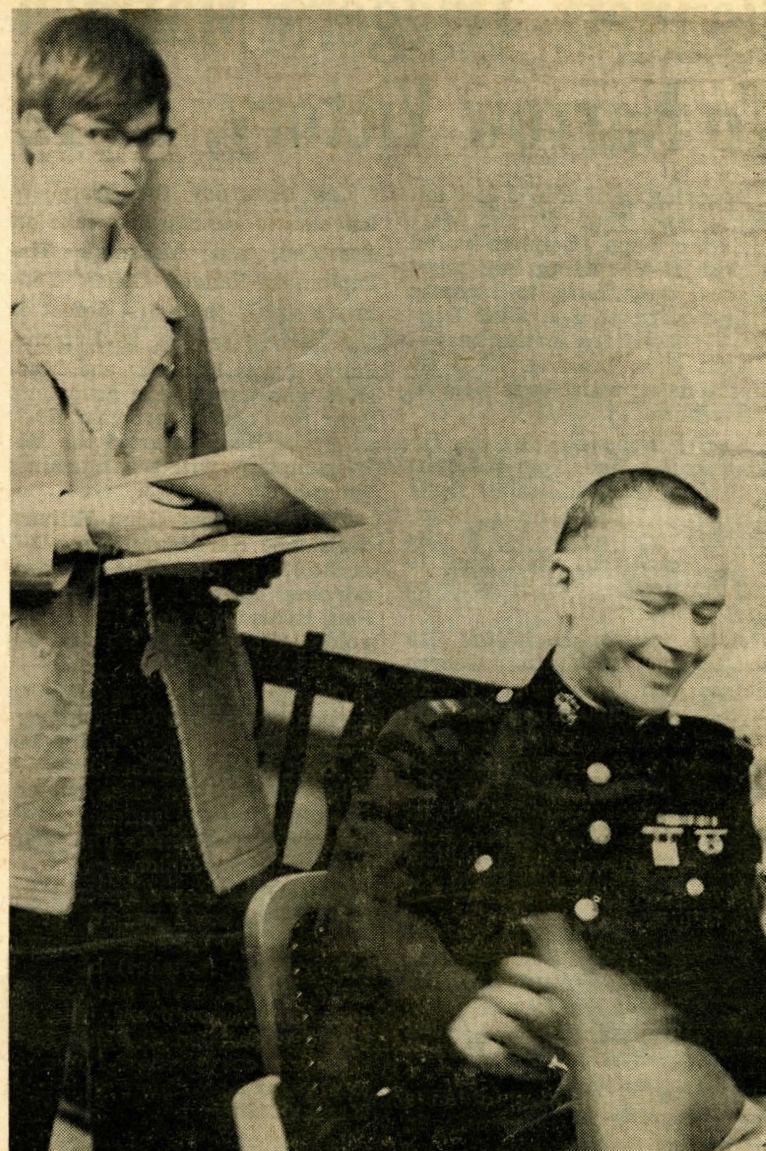
Philip M. Withim, assistant professor of English, asked about what happens if a private in the field is told to execute a person and doesn't have time to talk to the C.O.

Capt. Gibson: "A Marine private does what he's told even though it may be distasteful, but wouldn't be given an order like that."

A student: "How do you reconcile the Marines with the U.S. at Nuremberg?"



Capt. A. F. Gibson, Marine recruiter, registers irritation (left picture), then amusement (right picture), while listening to John Kueffner and John Mahoney.



(All photos by Jon Voskuil)



Herbert F. Eckberg, dean of the college of engineering, rushes into recruiting room to protest SDS demonstration.

Capt. Gibson: "I've been asked that on four campuses."

Later Capt. Gibson said "in Vietnam you represent the Marine Corps, not an individual."

A student: "How do you know he (a Marine) believes in it?"

Capt. Gibson: "He can get out anytime he wants."

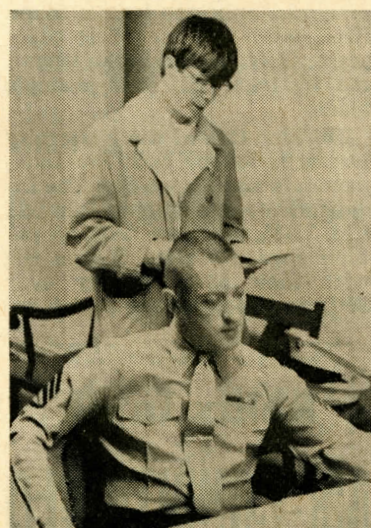
A student: "If a guy is interested and asks you a philosophical question, will you answer?"

Capt. Gibson: "Our purpose here is not to answer philosophy. It has nothing to do with requirements for the Marines. You are trying to bait me into a discussion of government policies, and I won't discuss them except perhaps as a civilian."

At one point during the day, the students staged a brief sit-in by sitting with their backs to the walls and legs stretched across the hallway so that the recruiters and students who came for interviews were forced to walk over them.

The next day, SDS members turned up with signs protesting the recruitment and stood outside side Carnegie Building and in the hall outside the recruiting room. One sign said "Hershey is not a court and the Army is not a prison. Coercion and repression have no place at a University." Mrs. Richard Drinnon, wife of the chairman of the history department, carried a sign saying "Use government buildings for the government's work. Bucknell is no place for recruiting."

Asked for his impression of the demonstrations, Capt. Gibson



Sgt. J. P. May appears unimpressed as John Mahoney reads SDS statement.

son told *The Bucknellian* that the group "lacked leadership" and referred to them as "a herd of cattle."

"There are a lot more cruddy ones here than the ones you usually see," Sgt. J. P. May, one of the recruiters, said. "This was the first time I had to walk over people to get from office to office."

"How much in laundry bills did you run up yesterday?" Capt. Gibson quipped at one point, referring to the sit-in.

During most of the day, the demonstrators tried to engage visitors in debate. Some students ignored them; others stopped to talk. Several went away without seeing the Marines.

The recruiters left at 1:30 Tuesday afternoon, several hours before they were scheduled to leave.



William Coit, lecturer in history, Mortimer Cushman, assistant professor of history, Alan Shulman, and Fred Rieban '67, confront Marine recruiters in 305 Carnegie.



Bruce Milne, John Kueffner, and John Mahoney (left to right) discuss strategy during demonstration.

Pa. Schools Explore Curriculum Goals

Five central Pennsylvania schools including Bucknell, Dickinson, Franklin & Marshall, Gettysburg, and Wilson are exploring the possibilities of working together for curriculum enrichment, faculty development, the recruitment of teachers, and other goals.

Dean Samuel H. Magill of Dickinson, speaking for the five schools, announced that they have received a planning grant of \$4,000 from the Danforth Foundation in St. Louis.

He said a conference of faculty representatives will be held next spring to fix cooperative goals and to suggest ways for implementing them. The faculty representatives would number about seven from each institution.

A part-time coordinator, to be selected from the staff of one of the schools, will work with a faculty committee in setting up the conference.

Dickinson will administer the Danforth Foundation grant, which will be augmented by funds to be provided by the co-operating schools.

Heatley Exhibits Photos

The library is currently displaying a photographic exhibit by Jeffrey Heatley '68.

Heatley, an English major and co-editor of *Tristram*, has previously worked on the photographic staff of the Latin Quarter and Copacabana night clubs, the Morgan Library, and *Newsweek* magazine.