

# THE SIGNUP FOR DRAFT: TWO VIEWS

By Herb Gould

For Thomas J. Biamonte Jr., 19, and Edward Hasbrouck, 20, the issues behind the renewal of draft registration Monday are crystal clear.

"If my country needs me, I've got to go," said Biamonte, a South Side college student who is working as a lifeguard this summer.

"I don't want to be a murderer, to be a slave," said Hasbrouck, a college dropout who says he would rather go to jail than register for the draft.

Biamonte and Hasbrouck represent both sides of the quick, sharp debate that has sprung up since President Carter in January called for legislation to compel 19- and 20-year-old men to begin registering for the military draft.

That debate went to the federal courts this weekend. An appeals court panel on Friday ruled the registration unconstitutional because it excludes women. But less than 24 hours later, U.S. Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan Jr. overruled that decision, clearing the way for the registration to proceed.

Many young men who were interviewed were not so sure as Biamonte and Hasbrouck, saying that although they opposed draft registration, they would "sign up and see"—hoping they would never face induction.

Beginning Monday, the roughly 4 million American men born in 1960 and 1961 will be required to fill out Selective Service registration cards at post offices throughout the nation. It is the first draft registration since 1975.

THE SELECTIVE SERVICE System is stressing that this registration program, which Carter signed into law July 2, is only a registration and that congressional action would be required before anyone could be drafted.

Biamonte's reason for proudly signing up is simple. "The U.S.A. is the most beautiful country on Earth," he said as he watched youngsters romping in a Chicago Park District swimming pool. "Anybody who won't fight for it should leave."

But Hasbrouck said registration is merely a smoke screen—and that where there's registration, there will soon be a draft. "They're trying to ease people into this," Hasbrouck said. "For that reason, registration is sufficiently harmful in itself."

Although an array of anti-draft organizations has blossomed to fight the signup, the Selective Service expects things to proceed smoothly. "We are hearing about the protest people," said spokeswoman Joan Lamb, "but not hearing about the vast, vast number of people who are going to obey the law."

Denny Tompkins, 19, a downtown messenger, said, "You've got to [register]. There ain't no way around it, unless you want to go to jail." Tompkins said that although he would comply with the registration requirement, he "would have to think about" what he would do if he actually were drafted.

A 19-year-old claims processor for an insurance company said he planned to register. However, he said he wouldn't report for induction if he ever were drafted. "I won't go," said the youth, who asked not to be identified. "I'm saving up some bucks, and I'll leave the country before I'll go into the Army."

A RECENT GALLUP POLL found that 71 percent of young adults aged 18-24 favored the registration of young men, 22 percent opposed it and 7 percent had no opinion. Among all adults, 82 percent favored registration.

Failure to register is a felony that carries possible penalties of up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000. But Lamb conceded that the service had not yet geared up an enforcement plan.

The draft has been controversial since men first were pressed into military service during the Civil War.

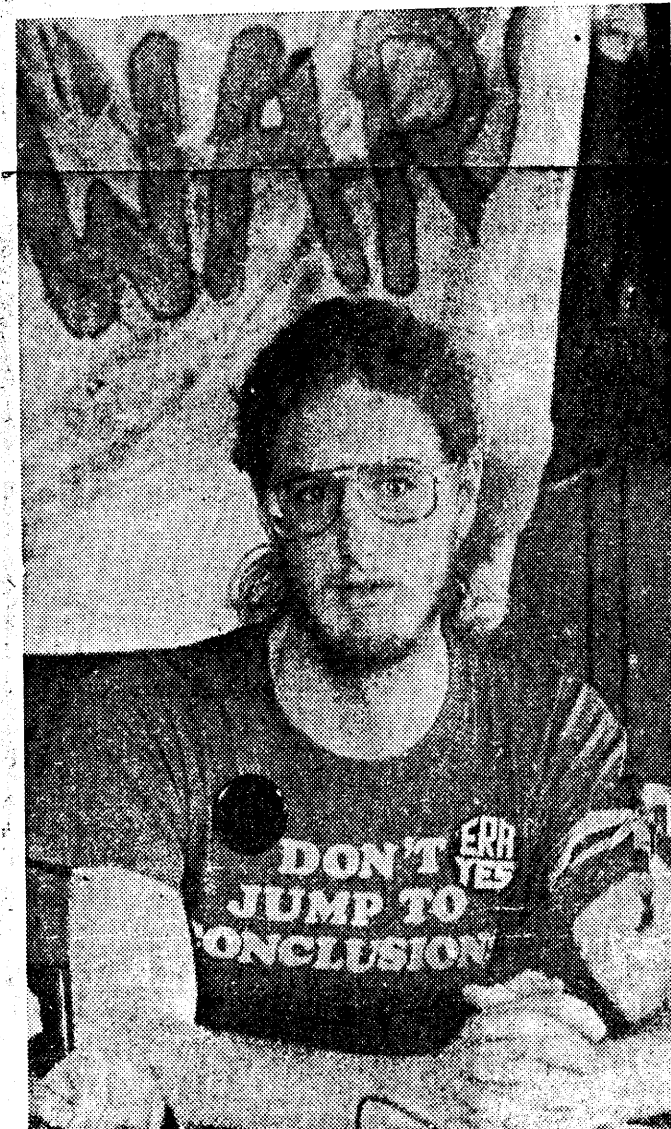
In the Civil War, a three-day anti-draft riot left up to 1,000 dead in New York. And in that draft, a man whose name had been drawn could have avoided military service by paying \$300—roughly a year's wages for the typical working man—or by furnishing someone to go in his place.

World War I marked the first modern U.S. draft and its

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THOMAS J. BIAMONTE JR.—"Yes."



EDWARD HASBROUCK—"No."

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## Who must register for the draft—and when

The draft registration beginning Monday for 19- and 20-year-old men will be conducted in this manner, according to the Selective Service System:

ing the week beginning this Monday. Those born in 1961 are to register during the week beginning July 28.

and men born in October, November and December are to register Thursday. Friday and Saturday will be makeup days for those registering late.