

Deferments lull one into unreal security

By John Weaver

"You can fight City Hall," says SJS draft counselor Tom May.

Sophomore Doug Booth now wishes he had started his particular battle a long while ago.

Booth drew lottery number 46 in the military sweepstakes last January. With a comfortable II-S student deferment tucked in his back pocket and allergies that should have put him into IV-F, he calmly went about his studies and waited.

Last week the waiting stopped. Booth was hit with an induction notice. He had passed his physical and his II-S deferment was due to run out in three months.

"II-S lulls you to sleep," counselor May warns students who are alert enough to check up before hand. "You're only putting off the execution."

The execution looked pretty rough to Booth. "My parents told me I got my papers, and I got scared," he says.

Booth panicked. He says he did the last thing he wanted to do. He joined the Air Force Reserve.

"I was sworn in last Friday," Booth laments.

Why?

Booth admits he doesn't have the answer. It's as if it all happened to someone else.

Now Booth has received some counseling, but it may already be too late.

With the legal and medical assistance of Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors in San Francisco, he is starting a fight to get out of the Air Force. And getting out of the Air Force is

a pretty tough assignment.

May, a SJS student who does draft counseling as part of the College Work-Study Program, sees the draft system as at least partly responsible for many stories similar to Doug Booth's.

"Selective Service attempts to manipulate a person into inaction," he explains. "Any inaction sets the inductant up for the kill".

May and three other students operate a draft counseling service in Building K and, the rest of this semester, in the Student Union strike center. Counseling is provided to draft-age students without charge as a service of the college.

"The thing about Selective Service is that it's really a prostituted government device that tries to seduce you out of running your own life," May asserts.

To get back the control over your life, May says you need accurate information. "The less the registrant knows, the better the system can function."

Properly informed, you can do something about your future. "If you don't take care of business," May warns, "they'll take care of your business."

Trying to wait out the draft is a mistake, May says. "The best time to see a draft counselor is when you are seventeen."

May urges any student with doubts about his future to see a counselor now. Just because you haven't been called to active duty doesn't mean you are safe.

"If you haven't heard from them," May points out, "you're playing into their game."

Note: The *On Strike Spartan Daily* was an alternative version of the *Spartan Daily* student newspaper at San Jose State University (San Jose, California) run by *Spartan Daily* student editors during the anti-Vietnam War protests in Spring Semester 1970.