National News April 29, 1999 Draft looms as possibility if Kosovar War continues

Scott McCrary **Contributing Reporter**

If the conflict in Kosovo escalates far beyond its current level, the college-age generation may be headed for something that was once the stuff of their parents stories.

The nation's selective service system — the draft stands ready to send America's young men to the front lines if the President or Congress thinks they're needed.

Only men are required to sign for the draft on their eighteenth birthday. If the president or Congress initiate a draft, Elon College could lose more than 250 men in the first round.

"If there's a draft, I'm not

going in the war. I'll see you in change the law. Canada," junior Tom Mullen said. "I'll be one of the hundreds of Elon guys gone, but I won't be fighting.'

Junior Mike Dugan agreed:"I heard Sydney, Australia, is nice that time of year. Draft time, that is."

Federal law says only men must register for the draft. In 1994, President Clinton asked the Department of Defense to consider requiring women to register as well. The overwhelming decision was to continue excluding women from the draft

All drafted men could serve in combat. Since federal law stops women from serving on the front lines of the battle, the department saw no reason to

"I'm all for equal rights, but women don't belong on the front line," sophomore Kelly Wingate said.

"My concern is for the emotional scars that women would face."

Should the draft be officially started, two capsules will be drawn.

One will be a date; the other, an ordinal number. For example, if March 2 is drawn as the date and 15 as the ordinal number, all men born on March 2 will be the fifteenth group drafted.

From there, each birth date will be ordered sequentially.

The first to report for duty will be men in the first ordinal group who will turn 20 in the year of the draft. Once the government has progressed through every birth date, it will return to the first birth date and begin calling men turning 21 in the year of the draft.

Next to be called are men age 22, 23, 24 and 25. If more soldiers are needed, the government will draft 18- and 19-yearold men.

An alternative exists for those who don't want to serve in battle. When they report for training, they may register as conscientious objectors.

Any draftee who registers as a conscientious objector must do so based on religious or moral grounds. The man's life must reflect his non-violent beliefs.

Those who are exempted from battle will be required to perform an equal amount of time in community service hours, usually in care of the elderly, education or health care.

"Sure, I'm not a Rhodes scholar, but I still think there's little or no chance of my being drafted," freshman Tim Archibald said. "I'm still in school."

An exception is made for full time college students, but it has been modified since the Vietnam era.

All students, with the exception of college seniors, will be allowed to finish their current academic semester before reporting for duty.

Seniors at the college level will be permitted to finish the current year before entering the service.

Refugees stretch out aid resources

Ann Batchelor Contributing reporter

The million and a half ethnic Albanians seeking refuge from the Yugoslavian province, Kosovo, has overwhelmed neighboring countries and stretched the resources of other nations providing aid.

The United Nations High Commission has called for more help from NATO and other states. President Clinton has asked for \$6 billion in emergency spending and established a national help line to aid refugees

Other countries are escalating their first estimates for taking refugees

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton plans to visit Albania and Macedonia to speak to refugees and document the need for further assistance

The veritable avalanche of humanity began on March 24 when

Bryan Skeen

Contributing Reporter

in Kosovo, what started as just a

peacekeeping engagement by

NATO has developed into the larg-

est bombing campaign in Europe

since WWII. Many Americans are

asking the same question: Could

Kosovo be the beginning of the

slavian President Slobodan

Milosevic began with his ethnic

cleansing of Muslim Kosovars.

Kosovo, a state in the southern tip

of Yugoslavia, is 90 percent Mus-

NATO's objections to Yugo-

next world war?

Three months into the crisis

ill Kosovo escala

NATO began bombing.

The United Nations estimates more than half of Kosovo's ethnic Albanian population of two million has moved from their homes since

Refugees have arrived at the border in packs of 3,000 or more people or as entire villages.

"We want to get people out of here. All the border areas will become more and more intense," Jacques Franquin of the UN High Commission for Refugees was quoted as saying in the Boston Globe.

Some 365,000 refugees went to Albania. Macedonia was bombarded by 130,000 refugees instead of the 20,000 it expected. Montenegro now has more than 100,000 refugees and Bosnia has more than 30,000.

Other countries are helping by moving refugees out of these neighboring countries and transporting them to other parts of the world.

Germany is close to its maxi-

In response, NATO ordered

Further complicating the is-

Russian President Boris

Milosevic to stop his ethnic cleans-

ing. When he didn't, NATO un-

leashed its massive air firepower.

sue, Russia has severed all ties with

NATO and openly opposes the

Yeltsin said initially Russia would

play only a diplomatic role in

Kosovo, but as the crisis continues

many begin to wonder if military

forces may be used later.

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civil war, the Koso

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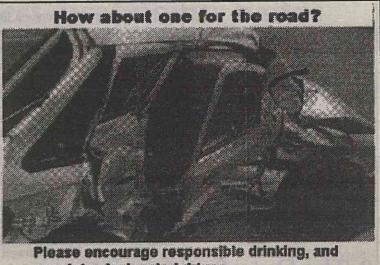
bombings.

mum intake of 10,000 refugees, but did not rule out the possibility of taking more if necessary.

France admitted its first 317 refugees, and Austria, Belgium, the United States, Croatia, Iceland, Israel and Norway are also opening their doors. At first, America said it would only take refugees to its Cuban base, but has now said some refugees may be flown to the continental United States.

The world was not prepared for the influx of so many refugees, and crisis problems escalated rapidly. At the Blace border crossing, 80,000 refugees waited 10 days crammed in a muddy field without drinking water or food.

"We will continue to lead this operation, but we urgently need more contributions of the kind that only military and civil protection units can provide," Sadako Ogata, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, was quoted as saying by Reuters.



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aggressors in the	Elon College history profes-	Visa and Maste
ovars have now	sor James Bissett doubts the con-	Offe
Milosevic's mili-	flict will evolve into World War III despite the escalating tensions.	One coupon per visi

"We're trying to do the same thing we did in the Persian Gulf to win this one," he said.

Bissett sees traits of past wars both world wars, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf.

The Greensboro News and Record, however, said that Kosovo couldn't be compared to the Persian Gulf.

"Iraq was poorly prepared and poorly equipped militarily, and the climate and terrain did not pose major obstacles."

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