Nonregistrants are not alone

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Conscription, on the other hand, is a step toward totalitarianism. Those who have led the struggle for freedom from oppression, such as Thomas Jel- lerson and Martin Luther King, Jr., have consistently opposed conscription. As it stands now, the two wars we have fought — Vietnam and Korea — were never even approved by Congress, as required by your Constitution.

Historically, the United States has fought in the interest of a small sector of the population — for those people who benefit from war. Corporate management, government executives and military personnel benefit from these wars. The interests of the pluralistic majority, the poor, the women, the children, the non-white, the young, the extremely elderly, the lesbian, the gay, and the uneducated are ignored. More do not benefit from war. Instead, they are the casualties.

I also object to President Reagan's blatant dishonesty to the people of this country in his decisions to continue the draft registration program. During his campaign, he mentioned repeatedly that "the proposal to register young men for the draft is an ill-considered one and should be rejected." He also commented that his main objection to the registration program was a "morally" one.

Nonregistration is, in my opinion, a logical conclusion from the ideas presented above. Others have additional reasons which I have neither the space nor the eloquence to derive.

Remember that if you decide not to register you will not be alone. Over one million young men have not registered for the draft. About one of every four who are supposed to sign up have "neglected" to do so.

Even if the Justice Department dropped all non-draft-related cases pending in the overcrowded Federal court system and freed all non-draft-related prisoners from the disgraceful Federal penitentiaries, only about 2.5 percent of all nonregistrants could ever serve time. The establishment of full-scale concentration camps and martial law would be the consequence of an attempt to force all those eligible for registration to register.

Registering was the right thing to do

(Continued from page 4)

Next to a group of protesters, claiming that registration leads to the draft, however, is a group claiming that registration will prove useless should a draft ever become necessary. While this is admittedly a clouded issue — the military can't seem to make up its mind over the value of registration — such conflicts do little to encourage me not to register.

The major value of registration, to me, was a symbolic one. President Carter initiated the draft to show the Soviets that we would not tolerate their actions in Afghanistan. Like most international expressions of disgust — the longshoremen's embargo against Polish ships being a recent example — it was largely a hollow gesture.

I do have some problems with registration. The sign-up should not have been restricted to men and they should not have included a request for social security numbers. In my case, however, the first was no barrier and I didn't give my number. In addition, the Pentagon had estimated that registration would speed up mobilization by about six weeks. Since this is quite a long time given current war technology, the efficacy of the entire program is highly doubtful.

Still and all, it was something the President asked us to do. So, in the absence of any strong arguments as to why I shouldn't register, I put my name on the dotted line at the time, it was the right thing to do.

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On Campus Interviews

Wednesday, February 3

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