Letter to the Editors

To The Weather Vane and President Joe Lapp:

I am absolutely unable to understand how a Mennonite college could allow military recruiters on its premises, for any reason, under any circumstance. Your repeated description of their presence as "incidental" is troubling.

Our forefathers came to this country because they were promised freedom of religion, including the privilege of exercising their beliefs about the sinfulness and futility of war. Our grandparents went to prison during World War I because they believed that serving in the military was wrong. Our own contemporaries went to prison during World War II because they were conscientious objectors during the Vietnam War because they believed that even the minimal presence of military recruiters on a Mennonite campus is now "incidental." I agree that "not many circumstances and issues allow for a pure and consistent decision." However, Mennonite involvement or even association with the military is an issue which is intricately intertwined in the basis of our beliefs as Mennonite Christians; it is an issue for which Mennonites have suffered and died; it is an issue which sets us apart from most other Christians; it is an issue which involves our very identity as followers of Christ. The decision to allow the military presence on campus should have been a no-brainer.

I must take issue with your statement that abhorrence of the military presence and acceptance of homosexuals are inconsistent positions. A simple little song, Let There Be Peace On Earth, goes on to say, "With God as our father, brothers all are we." If we truly are all "brothers," then the on-campus presence of an organization whose sole purpose is to kill and maim some of my brothers is just as offensive as an attitude that says some of my brothers are not welcome on campus because of a trait which may well be genetic. And, yes, I saw your "practicing" qualification. I'll lose sleep over that when every heterosexually single Mennonite is celibate; when every married Mennonite is faithful; when all Mennonite children are safe from abuse; and when Mennonite pastors no longer use the power of their positions to seduce. When I described this situation to two of my friends (one an avowed agnostic and the other an earth mother atheist, who also goes on to say, "With God as our mother, brothers all are we." If we truly are all "brothers," then the on-campus presence of an organization whose sole purpose is to kill and maim some of my brothers is just as offensive as an attitude that says some of my brothers are not welcome on campus because of a trait which may well be genetic, I saw your "practicing" qualification. I'll lose sleep over that when every heterosexually single Mennonite is celibate; when every married Mennonite is faithful; when all Mennonite children are safe from abuse; and when Mennonite pastors no longer use the power of their positions to seduce. When I described this situation to two of my friends (one an avowed agnostic and the other an earth mother atheist, who also goes on to say, "With God as our mother, brothers all are we." If we truly are all "brothers," then the on-campus presence of an organization whose sole purpose is to kill and maim some of my brothers is just as offensive as an attitude that says some of my brothers are not welcome on campus because of a trait which may well be genetic, I saw your "practicing" qualification. I'll lose sleep over that when every heterosexually single Mennonite is celibate; when every married Mennonite is faithful; when all Mennonite children are safe from abuse; and when Mennonite pastors no longer use the power of their positions to seduce. When I described this situation to two of my friends (one an avowed agnostic and the other an earth mother atheist, who also goes on to say, "With God as our mother, brothers all are we." If we truly are all "brothers," then the on-campus presence of an organization whose sole purpose is to kill and maim some of my brothers is just as offensive as an attitude that says some of my brothers are not welcome on campus because of a trait which may well be genetic, I saw your "practicing" qualification. I'll lose sleep over that when every heterosexually single Mennonite is celibate; when every married Mennonite is faithful; when all Mennonite children are safe from abuse; and when Mennonite pastors no longer use the power of their positions to seduce.

Debra Bender
Weather Vane reader

Papa John’s Value Menu

- Chicken Strips $4.99
- One Large Topping $9.36
- 5 FOR $31.25

Papa John’s Value Menu

- Pizzas
  - Cheese Pizza $7.15
  - One Topping $8.18
  - One Topping $9.18
- Extras
  - Breadsticks $0.99
  - Cheese Breadsticks $0.99
  - Side Salad $1.50
- Toppings
  - Pepperoni $0.50
  - Canadian Bacon $0.50

Serving Harrisonburg & Eastern Mennonite University
500 E. Market Street
(433) 7272

Saturday, Oct. 26
- Cross Country EMU Invitational 10:30 a.m. Home
- Peace Walk in D.C. 11 a.m. Constitution Gardens
- Stop the War in Iraq National March on Washington D.C. 11 a.m.
- (W) Volleyball vs. York 12 p.m. Home
- (W) Volleyball vs. Virginia 4 p.m. Home
- (M) Soccer vs. Guilford 2 p.m. Home
- Sol de Carnival 1 p.m. Thomas Plaza
- Fall Fest Hayrides 8-11 p.m. every half hour from the turf field parking lot
- S’mores and Hot Chocolate, fire circle behind Park Cabin 8-11 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 27
- Senior Preparatory Recital, 7 p.m. Lehman
- Celebration 9 p.m. Martin Chapel

Monday, Oct. 28
- Chapel “Take Back the Night” 10 a.m. Lehman
- (W) Soccer vs. Guilford 3 p.m. Home
- Take Back the Night Film Night, 7 p.m. CC

Tuesday, Oct. 29
- (W) Volleyball vs. Roanoke 6:30 p.m. Home
- Take Back the Night Coffeehouse 8 p.m. CC
- (W) Soccer vs. Lynchburg 4 p.m. Home
- Field Hockey v. DePauw 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 30
- Chapel-Semina Series with Jeff Berryman, 10 a.m. Lehman
- Judo Chop! Self Defense for Women, 7 p.m. UC
- One in Four (Especially for Men) 7 p.m.
- Jeff Berryman “Leaving Bedtime” 7:30 p.m. Lehman

It’s not too late to get involved. Come to the next Weather Vane meeting on Monday October 28 at 9 p.m. in The Weather Vane office. Come help make the student voice be heard.