Editorial

Canvassing helps bridge gap

Of all the activities of the past week, one stands out as a definite contribution to ending the Indo-China war—the canvassing of the city and state by students seeking signatures on petitions in favor of the Hatfield amendment to the Military Authorization Act. This activity has the double advantage of increasing the chances of the amendment's passage, and of decreasing the animosity and suspicion of students felt by Oregonians.

The amendment itself is simple, direct, and worthy of passage. It calls for the following: "(1) cut off money for any military operation in South Vietnam by December 31, 1970, and require the withdrawal of all American troops by June 30, 1971; and (2) cut off money for any military operation in Laos after December 1, 1970; and (3) cut off money for any military operation in Cambodia thirty days after passage of the act."

The passage of this amendment would be a reassertion of the Congress' role in the making of war and peace, a role granted to it by the Constitution, but one which it has abdicated to the Executive in recent years.

By taking the petitions to the residents of Eugene, Springfield, and their hometowns throughout Oregon, the students of this University have accepted a difficult and sometimes discouraging task—too many of the state's citizens believe that all students who seek peace are weirdos, and this opinion is very often reinforced by a hostile press.

But, as difficult as the task may be—and it is obviously harder than marching, demonstrating, or "rapping" among the faithful on campus—it appears to be about the only constructive option open to students at this time. Marching and demonstrating may be good for the ego and increase the feeling of solidarity among students, but they offer little hope of progress, and can be counterproductive.

If on the other hand talking to citizens and requesting their help in ending the war through petitions can open reasoned communication between the generations, this University and state would be doubly blessed—we would be one step closer to ending the Indo-China war, and one large step closer to closing the divisions between parent and offspring.

We encourage every student on this campus to consider taking part in this petition drive—the investment of a little time can bring dividends that are beyond calculation—peace at home and abroad.

A great loss

Oregon sports fans mourn, this week, the loss of veteran baseball coach Don Kirsch.

Kirsch died Thursday, of head injuries suffered from a fall at the Stanford Medical Center where he was undergoing treatment for Parkinson's disease.

As coach of Oregon's hardballers for 22 years Kirsch never had a losing season . . . and his teams compiled impressive victories in championship play as well.

Yet it was the coach's courage in the face of a crippling and ultimately fatal disease, that earned the admiration and respect of all who knew him.

His loss is profound . . . not only for sports fans who followed his exciting Duck teams, but for the community in general . . . a community that needs more men of Don Kirsch's stature.

Astounding hypocrisy

On Saturday, Vice President Agnew dedicated a memorial on Stone Mountain, Ga., that honors the memory of the great leaders of the Confederacy, Lee, Jackson and Davis, and in his remarks he urged Americans "to overcome the new slavery—the willingness of some people to become slaves to their passions, devoid of reason. . . ."

The hypocrisy of a hate-monger such as Agnew mouthing drivel such as this in a place such as that is astounding. We agree with the Atlanta Constitution which said that the choice of Agnew to dedicate the memorial was "A shame and disgrace."

Letters

Non-violent action

Because of the events of the past few days, "business as usual" has come to a halt on the University campus as well as on numerous other campuses across the nation—as well it should. While the job of the University is to educate, the present crisis in our nation poses a direct threat to the very nature of the University community. The usual class routine was properly ordered suspended so that we as students may have time to reflect and take action upon the grave issues which confront us.

While the time for mere rhetoric has certainly passed, the time for concerned and rational action is certainly at hand. Many amongst us are all too eager to listen to, and be persuaded by, the dialectics and polemics of the radical fringe in its call for violence and destruction. That appeal is strictly one of demagoguery-one that appeals to the base emotions and fears of our human nature. That kind of talk has no place in the minds of those of us who consider ourselves to be educated individuals. It is, after all, reason and logic which set us apart from the lower creatures for emotion is common to both animals and man alike. Where, therefore, is the logic in a call for violence by us against those who would employ violence against others? Do two wrongs make a right?

Violence is not only irrational, it is counterproductive as well. Force on our part will be met only by greater force on the part of those already in powerwitness the Kent State shootings! Force on our part will not convince the community-at-large that our cause is just; rather, it will further alienate others from us. God only knows, that what we least need now is further polarization within our society, fur ther irresponsible confrontation, further bloodshed. That which we do need is an end to divisive and demagogic polemies. That which we do need is rational and non-emotional dialogue combined with concerted and non-violent action. Let us, as rational men, put hate out of our minds and replace it with reason; and if emotion must have a place as well, let it be love.

Bob Kott Editor, International News at Noon

Provides the ideology

The efficiency of the attacks on the University's complicity in the Military Industrial Complex should be seriously questioned.

If 75 per cent of the ROTC graduates are first and second lieutenants in the Vietnam war

we should realize that a large part of the male graduating class becomes cannon fodder, too. The University informs the draft boards who is enrolled and who is not.

The University provides more support for the military industrial complex when we look at the support for its industrial branch. This campus houses a large business school, providing training for all the positions in the MIC.

ROTC cadets can choose their majors allowing for a liberal education, although one could challenge if this occurs in practice, given their commitments. However, within the choice of a business major is opting for a career in the MIC. There are some 1,200 business majors on this campus, and a lot more enter business from other disciplines. Their complicity is much less visible than running around in a uniform or playing with a rifle.

In addition, has not the University provided much of the ideology which has brought the Military Industrial Complex about?

Honestly, folks, many of the ROTC cadets are glorious draft dodgers taking the easy route in fulfilling their military obligation. Some 56 per cent disagree with President Nixon's Vietnam policy and 22 per cent favor immediate withdrawal from Vietnam. Put the swastikas on Commonwealth Hall instead.

Acco Hengst, Grad., Sociology

Your school

I did not attend the University. But those of you who love your school and respect your teachers—why don't you join together and tell this minority group that is causing all of these disturbanches that if they don't like the way the school is run, go to another school they do like. (I doubt there is one).

Or better yet, let them organize their own type of educational program. Our country and schools do not need people calling themselves "protesters" but acting like "vandals," in reality they don't want to be educated, or even to be a part of our society.

The rest of you students STAND UP AND SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL: There should be patriotism in everything we participate and believe in.

I won't go into how fortunate we in this country are to have the schools and teachers; I am sure you already realize this. So be proud of your school. Don't let a handful of troublemakers interfere with what you know is your school.

Mrs. E. B. Gaffney Beaverton, Ore.

Jules Feiffer

