

Listen to the vets—they know

If any group knows the realities of war, it is the men who are sent to fight them. They kill people, are killed, and the survivors must live with the chilling memories. From every war the haunted men return, seeking justification for what has been done.

In this war the justification, either for the individual or for the state, has not withstood the tests of reason or conscience. The nagging questions go unanswered—why 2,000,000 casualties, why massacres, why total destruction of a once beautiful land?

Tomorrow, Vietnam veterans from many cities and towns in Oregon will march on the capitol in Salem, to make known their disgust and disillusionment over the nature of the tasks the nation demanded of them. They will conduct a mock "pacification operation" on the capitol grounds beginning at noon, to show the people of Oregon exactly what is being done to the people of Indochina.

When the operation is over at 1 p.m., the veterans will talk to individual legislators, and express their serious concern about a nation that has used them so cruelly in an unjustifiable war. At the same time, the veterans will invite the legislators to attend the official presentation of the People's Peace Treaty to Governor Tom McCall, which will be delivered along with their collected medals and ribbons.

The visit will be an important event in the lives of the people of Oregon. The men we have sent to kill in Indochina will be returning to the seat of government to tell those who hold power that the killing has been in vain, that the people of this state and nation are going to put an end to the war.

For those people in the University community who recognize the obligation to stand with the men who have come back from the carnage and the horror, a march for

peace will begin at Willamette University at 2 p.m., and will arrive at the capitol at the time of the presentation of the peace treaty. This community, along with the many others in Oregon, should be well represented in the march through the participation of a large number of people. We did, after all, send these men to fight and kill in the jungle. We must stand with them now as they tell the people of Oregon what a tragic mistake that was, and that we can send men to kill there no longer.

Footnotes

Peace is great. Peace is necessary. Peace is the object of much search and devotion. It is very difficult; extremely difficult—but it is not impossible.

Pope John XXIII

Letters

SACCE

The Spring Action Coordination Committee for Eugene (SACCE) promises the university and community a program for Early May involving "mass, non-violent civil disobedience" (sic).

To persons acquainted with former springtime activities of this newly-named gang of merry pranksters this promises a wide range of fascinating possibilities. Non-violent occupation of university buildings? Peaceful disruption of faculty meetings? Non-violent (and peaceful) shouting down of speakers? Peaceful (and non-violent) interruption of classes? Non-violent blocking of streets? We have had them all, and more too.

Shoplifting, burglary, and bank robbery are also examples of "non-violent civil disobedience"—unless and until the victim resists or the police are called in.

Kenneth W. Porter
Professor of History

Incredible statements

Major James McDaniel's remarks, delivered this past week to the Eugene Ministerial Association, were, as the Emerald editorial rightly put it on April 16, "incredible statements." It is not so much the major's logic that disturbs me for he is apparently reporting what he hears other people saying is the basis for the unpopularity of the war in Vietnam. It is rather the major's perception, or perhaps lack of it, that concerns me when he makes a statement like "the basis of the unpopularity of the war stems from racism; a lot of Americans can't see a yellow man's skin as worth fighting and dying for." Who and where is this "lot of Americans"? The R.O.T.C. Dept. on the U. of O. campus? The larger student body at the university? The City of Eugene, State of Oregon, the nation? Where has the major been spending most of his time to arrive at such a conclusion? Have his receivers or antennas been wide open as he endeavors to gauge the attitudes of people about the war in S.E. Asia? Is the major's statement typical of—and therefore what is meant by—a "military mentality"?

My suspicion is that if the major—or someone else, for that matter—were to poll the U. of O. student body, faculty and staff or a substantial number of any other group of people who are opposed to the war in Vietnam, he would discover that the primary reason for the unpopularity of this war is a humanistic and double-edged reason—one that is precisely opposite that of his theory of racism. Namely, (1) the Vietnamese (both Northern and Southern) are people—real PEOPLE with their own, unique problems and possibilities—who do not deserve death and destruction at the

hands of any power, and (2) the war is also an enormous drain on U.S. manpower (not to account for our losses in money and material) which might be utilized more constructively in other channels.

Perhaps the major should not only be permitted (by the military hierarchy?) but even encouraged to "show and tell" the "other side of the picture" which he claims is not being done. If so, it is my hope that his presentation will demonstrate clearer perception and more careful documentation than his recent statement on racism has shown.

Alan Stephenson
Ass't. Prof. Religious Studies

Co-op

Once upon a time there was bookstore. It was called a "co-op," and all the students that went to school next door were permitted to own a share in it. In their bookstore they would be able to buy books and other things they wanted for reasonable prices.

And so for many years the students purchased shares in the store, and also bought their books and trivia there. But as time passed things changed. Somehow most of the students forgot that the store was theirs. And after they forgot that it was theirs prices began to rise and the

refund rate went down. It began to seem more and more like a rip-off joint that was more interested in making a buck and keeping a slick image than in helping the students keep their costs down.

Then some of the students got together and talked about the bookstore. They discovered to their surprise that it had a charter saying that it was a student place. So they decided to run for its Board of Directors. This Board had in past years become little more than a rubber-stamp crew for the whims of the manager, who actually was supposed to be running the store under its direction. The new candidates resolved to strive hard to be elected, so that this humiliating situation might perhaps change.

This is their first joint note on the Co-op. If you feel as they do after you read their letters, vote for them before April 30. Their names are:

Michael Doran
Grad, Geography
Ron Saylor
Grad, Political Science
James Harris
Soph, Geography

Student customers

Although many of the people who shop at Bob's Superette and Little's Market, on 13th near Patterson, are students, the

proprietors of these stores frequently treat students like sub-human beings. They act as though everyone below the age of thirty is a known shoplifter; if a student shops in one of their stores, they blatantly follow him around, watching his every move in a humiliating manner. They often refuse to accept checks for more than the amount of purchase even from students who have been paying them by check for several months without having one bounce. In addition, they take advantage of their position near campus to charge prices much higher than those of other Eugene stores, knowing that many students living in the campus area have neither the time nor the transportation to shop elsewhere. (Many other businessmen near campus, such as the owners of Yankee Clipper and the Id Bookstore, and many landlords, also exploit students in this manner.)

Although the owners of Bob's and Little's often claim that their high shoplifting and bad-check losses necessitate their attitudes toward students, the survival of such businesses as the Hilyard Street Market and Wayne's Meats (which is housed in a corner of Little's Market), where students are treated as human beings, shows that this is not the case. Merchants who do business near campus do not have to discriminate against students to make money.

David J. Justman
Ruth Williams



BOBB