

The war is over--isn't it?

Today is Moratorium Day—again.

Not many people know that and even fewer care. It is safe to assume that the vast majority of people who read this will merely shrug their shoulders and glance up to see if the professor is saying anything important.

There will be little reaction to the Moratorium. After all, isn't President Nixon "winding down" the war? Sec. Laird is reducing draft calls isn't he? John Chancellor, Harry Reasoner and Walter Cronkite hardly even mention the war any more and the parade of death across our color TV sets seems far away, when it appears at all.

Our own internal problems plague us. Students and their parents are more worried about where their next meal is coming from than about a war that no one understood in the first place. Dock strikes and price freezes fill our minds.

But today, couldn't we pause for just a moment, even if it is only between badminton and English Lit., to remember that the war in Indochina is still going on and the pain and tragedy it creates is still with us?

Fewer than 30 Americans were killed in Indochina last week. Are their lives less precious to us just because they did not number 100? And what of the Indochinese people that die each week because the war continues? President Nixon isn't winding down their death rate. Enough Indochinese people are killed each week to populate the town of Oakridge, Oregon. Too many.

George Bernard Shaw once wrote: "The worst sin towards our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them: that's the essence of inhumanity."

Just because search and destroy is no longer the order of the day, doesn't mean that all is over and done with and suffering is at an end. Each time an American bomb is dropped over Laos or Thailand or Vietnam we kill people in the most inhuman of ways: by proxy. Technology has just removed us one step from the killing but everyone still has their hand on the trigger.

Of course everyone is tired of the war

and the protesting that it spawned. It would be so nice to push the reality of the slaughter to the back of the American conscience and simply remember it as a bad dream. This is impossible to do as long as even one human being dies because he or she was considered less important than a football game or a chemistry experiment.

There is a march tonight to protest the

war. Some will look on it as a nuisance, most will look on it as unimportant. What it really is, though, is a chance for those who can still feel for others to tell everyone that they still consider the war in Vietnam as horrible and inhuman as it always was and will be until it is truly over.

Let us all hope, for our own sakes, that there are still some people like that left.

A humanitarian vote

University President Robert Clark was one of three university leaders within the Pacific-8 Athletic Conference who voted last week to count games played by the University of California in conference standings.

The vote came as an aftermath to the suspension of Cal by the NCAA for playing Isaac Curtis and Larry Brumsey—two football players who had not been given the proper examination upon entering college.

The test they failed to take is supposed to indicate whether an athlete is capable of maintaining at least a 1.6 GPA in college. Both players have maintained more than an adequate GPA, but because of the foul-up in red tape at Berkeley, they became ineligible.

When Clark voted to count Cal's games in a telephone poll taken last week, he was in

the minority of a 5-3 vote to not count Cal's games.

Only Clark and the chancellors of Stanford and the University of California voted to count the games. The leaders of Oregon State University, UCLA, Washington, Washington State and USC voted to not count the games.

Clark said he voted in favor of counting Cal's games because "Isaac Curtis was a victim of bureaucracy and ought not to be."

In these days of college sports as big business, it is refreshing that at least one of the eight leaders within the conference was able to take the humanitarian view-point of putting the rights of the individual before the glories of the gridiron.

It is unfortunate that more presidents and chancellors did not vote with Clark.

Statistics, statistics

A study conducted by the American Psychological Association at Wayne State University stated that "At any given instant in the college lecture hall, 20 per cent of both men and women are thinking about sex and only about 20 per cent are paying attention to the professor."

Keeping this fact in mind, answer the following questions: 1) Now do you think the Emerald was right about the number of A's being given out at the University? 2) What are the other 60 per cent thinking about? 3)

Why is such a great percentage of students listening to the professor? 4) Wouldn't you like to know just how that study was conducted?

Footnote

War is a racket.

—Smedley Butler
Commanding General, U.S. Marine Corps
1934

