

Vietnam veterans reflect on war

Vets talk on era's anti-war groups in class presentation

By Lori Steinhauer
Of the Emerald

"Vietnam is what we had instead of happy childhoods," said Julian Camp, a Vietnam veteran and 35-year-old University journalism student. Camp said he learned how to bomb before he learned how to love.

He went to Vietnam when he was 19.

Friday, Camp recollected his memories from the war years with Bill Homans, another 35-year-old Vietnam veteran majoring in journalism at the University. The conversation followed Homans' presentation, which at times took on tones of a proclamation, in Professor Daniel Pope's American Radicalism class.

Homans spoke in Pope's class about two anti-war collectives of the early 1970s. The group he focused on, Vietnam Veterans Against War, had about 30 chapters and about 2,500 members throughout the United States. The other group, seven members of a Berkeley household, marched to the center of many of the San Francisco area protests against the Vietnam War.

Another student in the American Radicalism class had belonged to the Berkeley group Homans referred to. Dan Suire, a 35-year-old history major, became involved in the protests in response to hearing his brother's horror stories from the Vietnam War. Suire was never drafted because he had severe allergies.

After the class, Suire recalled how the streets of Berkeley would quiver as thousands of protesters would come together and rally against major escalations of the war. "During that time, Berkeley stunk of tear gas quite frequently," Suire said.

Homans and Camp also were



Photo by Steven Wall

Vietnam veteran Bill Homans, now studying journalism at the University, spoke of his war experiences in an American Radicalism class Friday.

remonstrating the war when they met in the Cambridge, Mass., chapter of VVAW. Both felt disillusioned by the war and used by the American government, they said. "We had done what we were told to do, but what we were told to do stunk — was a lie," Homans said after his presentation.

The veterans' group "saw itself as an ad hoc organization to stop the war," Homans told his classmates Friday. By stirring up currents that reached the media, VVAW reached the public, he said.

VVAW currents swept the world in 1972 when Homans and other members discovered at a New England meeting that large numbers of war planes had recently flown over New England toward Vietnam, Homans said.

By contacting anti-war organizations throughout the world, VVAW members learned about a secret escalation leading to the bombing of Vietnam's Bach Mai hospital in April 1972, he said. In a unified effort, these anti-war groups uncovered the facts and figures of the incident for Associated Press and other mainstream media, the exposure of

which may have saved many lives, Homans added.

VVAW led protests to cast its shadow upon America's outstanding symbols but never destroyed them, Homans said. In one operation the organization spent several days camped out at the Statue of Liberty, and in another VVAW protesters threw their medals over the White House fence, he said.

They refuted their involvement in a war they entered as naive youths, a war they grew to detest and disagree with, Homans said.

"We went to Vietnam to stop a blood bath by bombing it as closely as we could into a parking lot," he said.

Homans ended his presentation singing and playing slide guitar on a song he wrote during the Iranian hostage crisis, called "The Foreign Policy Blues."

The bell rang with Homans still playing, but Pope's students eventually began to pour out of the room, and the next class rolled in. However, Homans kept on waiting for his cause until he had several reminders that his time was up.

As Homans told the class, he remains a Vietnam veteran working against war.

Davis backs raises in education funds

By Kathy Zook
Of the Emerald

SALEM — Higher education in Oregon is at a "critical point," said State System Chancellor Bud Davis Friday at a Joint Ways and Means education subcommittee meeting.

Davis said Oregon's colleges and universities are currently funded 10 to 20 percent below the national average for student appropriations and faculty salaries.

Davis renewed his \$54 million 1985-87 budget request that would raise funding of Oregon's colleges and universities to the national average. Gov. Vic Atiyeh has recommended \$40 million.

"I'm disappointed because faculty has had only one salary increase in four years," Davis told committee members.

To bring faculty salaries up to the national average, Davis asked for a 6 percent salaries increase, or \$30 million. The national average is a 7 percent increase, he said.

Oregon's "out of kilter" salary scales allow teachers at Corvallis High School to make more money than many professors at Oregon State University, Davis said.

Faculty members are leaving Oregon for better paying jobs at other institutions, Davis said. Low salaries are affecting all faculty members, he said, and "it's not only the all-stars."

Davis said that without the \$30 million increase: •About 570 faculty members throughout Oregon will be laid off.

•The state system may have to eliminate space for 8,000 students.

•Faculty load and class sizes may be increased. "We are being especially hard hit attracting entry-level recruits," Davis said, because "they can make more money working at Fred Meyers."

Sen. Frank Roberts, D-Portland, said higher education won't see any "new money" in the next biennium to fund the \$30 million faculty salary increase. "The ship will not come in next year," Roberts said. But he suggested any future additional general fund dollars be dedicated to higher education.

Davis also said he and a delegation of state officials recently met with officials from General Motors Corp. to persuade them to locate their planned \$3.5 million state-of-the-art "Saturn" automobile production plant in Eugene.

"We spent a lot of time discussing educational levels in Oregon," Davis said.

"They were concerned with how many engineers we were producing each year and what we are doing in computer science," Davis said.

"To me, the meeting underscored what we already believe strongly," Davis said. "Strong quality education is an attractive feature in the state and will draw industry."

In the end it all comes down to waiting for telephone call

They stand at attention, all 15 of them: smiles frozen on their faces, occasionally breaking the grin to lick their dry, nervous lips.

When the music starts, all 15 start to move. They kick, they wave, they do cheerleader-type things.

After all, that's what they're here for. Each one of the women, dressed in shorts or dancing attire, wants to make it her job to get in front of thousands of people and lead the crowd's cheers.

But to do that, they have the ultimate test — facing eight judges who want to make sure each contestant has just the right appearance, the right personality, the right stuff.

The ordeal begins with 47 women competing for the coveted eight spots on the University's 1985-86 rally squad. Forty-seven women who want to be a Duck cheerleader

badly enough to face the long, stress-provoking tryout process.

The process begins, innocently enough, with an interview. The judges ask simple questions, according to Vanessa Sykes, who hopes to retain her position on the team. Questions like "where are you from, or what's your major," she said.

Then the tricky ones. "Who," the panel asks, "are the Duck coaches? When is the last time the football team had a winning season?"

After interviews and the initial dance tryout, there are only 15 women left to strut their stuff Thursday night. This is it — the final cut.

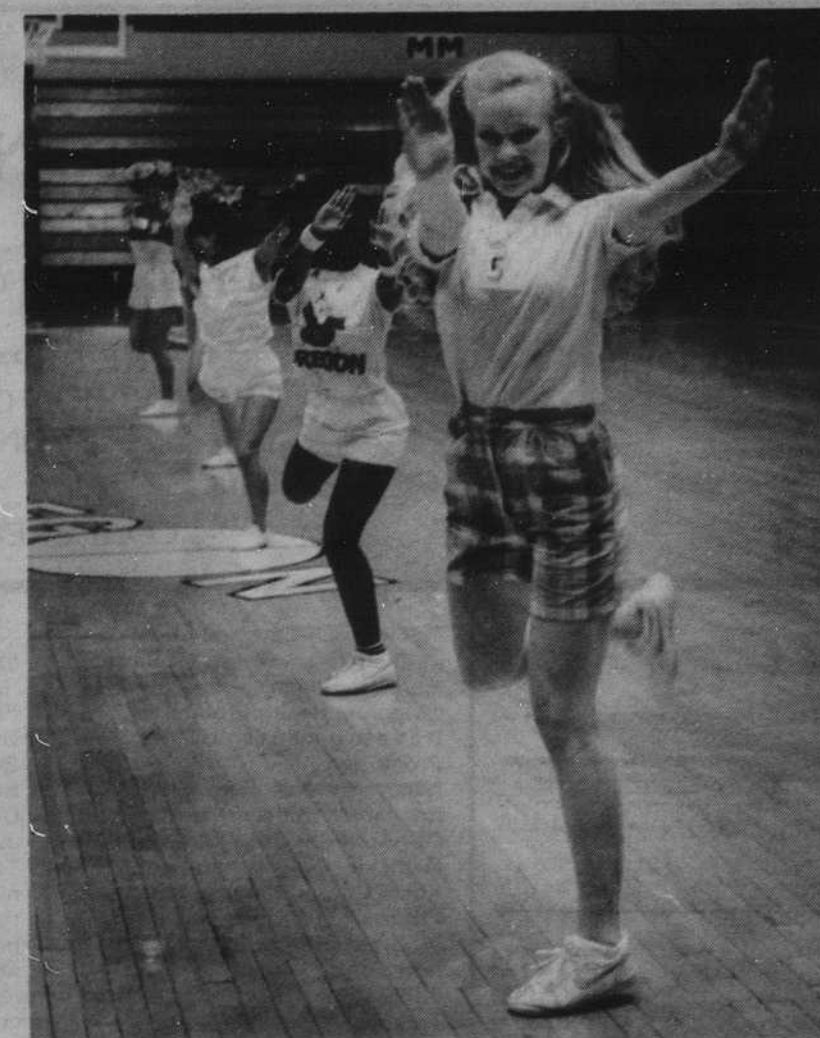
This means, after that first tryout in a group of 15, they will dance again and again, this time in groups of five, until the judges have made their decision. The routine is done to the same song — "The Glamorous Life" — which might seem ap-

propriate, but after hearing it all evening, it starts to grate on everyone's nerves.

They hear it during the five or six times they perform before the judges in McArthur Court. They hear it in the hall where they wait to perform before the judges. They'll hear it in their sleep.

In the hall, some practice the routine — they learned it just the night before. Created by former cheerleaders Anne Drips and Heidi Hedberg, the routine is designed to test the versatility of the women. Hedberg said it's a combination of Anne's ballet and her "shake." Grace is one thing for a cheerleader, she said, but they also have to "make their body a wet noodle."

If the women aren't practicing, the wait in the hall is relatively quiet. There is some conversation, ("Do you have a safety pin I can borrow? Do you



think it went better that time?") but mostly they just wait — and listen to the song again.

There's some recounting of strategy. Eye contact is most important, said Kelly Clarke, who was trying out for the first time.

And tryout veteran Sykes stressed technique. "Everyone knows the dance," she said, making technique "more important than forgetting it out there."

But being the veteran hasn't made these tryouts any easier for Sykes, who readily admits to being nervous. This week, she said, has been the definition of stress.

How could this trauma be worth it?

Most said that they wanted to be on rally because they like working with people. But that's

the kind of answer they give the judges: there are more personal reasons, too.

Sykes admits that it is nice to be shopping and have someone recognize you because you're a cheerleader. "There is," she said, "a lot of glory."

After performing the dance again and again, the women are sent home and told to wait by the phone, the "don't call us, we'll call you" routine.

The ones that got the call: Kasey Brooks, Kelly Clarke, Chrisanthi Hatzatonis, Rhoda Hopkins, Nancy Loo, Colleen Sahlin, Vanessa Sykes and Lisa Wilson.

Story by Stasia Scarborough
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