

# MIA investigations should be reopened

The president's national security adviser, Brent Scowcroft, said Friday there is no "credible evidence" that any U.S. servicemen are being held in Vietnam.

It is a bit ironic that Scowcroft should talk about credibility in relation to MIAs, because when it comes to that issue, the Pentagon and the administration have absolutely none.

Scowcroft and other defense department officials have been saying for years that there are no U.S. prisoners of war still being held in Southeast Asia, yet the families of MIAs still refuse to believe them.

And now a grainy photograph allegedly depicting three U.S. servicemen in Southeast Asia has renewed speculation that U.S. veterans may still be alive there.

There are many reasons to be skeptical of the authenticity of the photo. The most obvious being that the photo could be a ploy on the part of swindlers who seek to defraud desperate family members out of money in exchange for information about the missing soldiers.

Although Scowcroft says there is no incentive for the defense department to hide the possibility of POWs in Southeast Asia, there are some. It would be incredibly embarrassing to have some of these men surface after the Pentagon has been denying their existence for years.

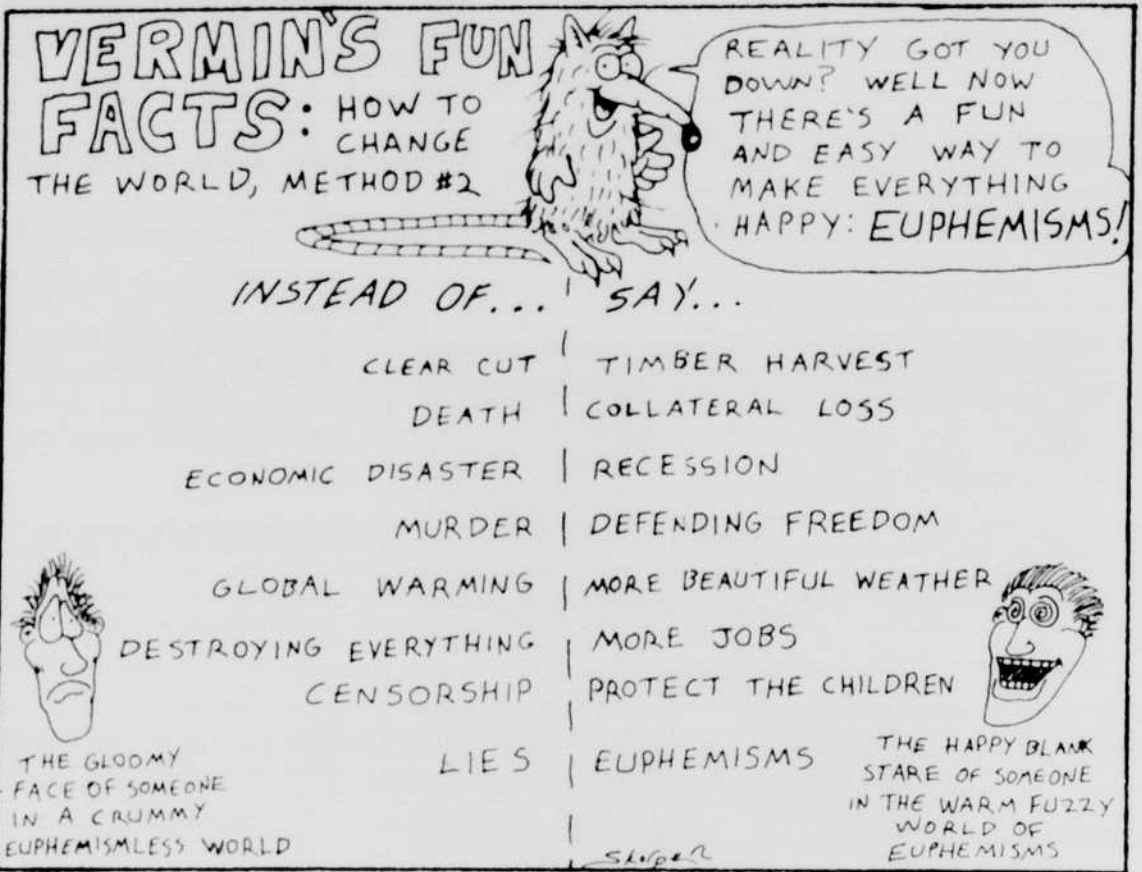
There is no evidence that a cover-up has been happening, but the possibility exists. Combining that with the amount of complaints put forth by MIA families, it is obvious that an impartial body, outside of the current administration and the military needs, to reopen the issue for investigation.

By letting a "non-official" body see all the government documents on MIAs, the government could once and for all close the door on the skepticism about a possible government cover-up. The current refusal to do this only fuels the belief that the government is holding back information.



*'There is still no credible evidence that would lead one to the kinds of conclusions that a number of people have come to.'*

— Brent Scowcroft, U.S. national security adviser



**COMMENTARY**

## Should rape victims be named?

Victims should receive counseling before deciding

By Mark Miller

The names of rape victims should be published only at the request of that victim, and only after the victim has had significant counseling as to the effects that the publishing of the name will have on that victim personal life.

The debate over whether to publish victim's names was brought to Eugene when Geneva Overholser, the editor of the *Des Moines Register*, delivered the University School of Journalism's 16th annual Ruhl Lecture.

The *Des Moines Register* won the Pulitzer Prize for its series about one woman's rape. The articles included the woman's name and explicit details of the crime.

The woman asked that the paper tell her story after Overholser ran an editorial urging rape victims to speak out.

Proponents of naming rape victims argue that this will help remove the stigma that our society puts on rape victims and help people take the issue more seriously.

"(Journalists) play a huge role in what is taken seriously, and violence against women is not taken seriously," Overholser said. "We should be worried about what is not getting into the papers."

Yet, I feel that the name of the victim would not be of any use in removing the stigma of rape.

"It is our current feeling that naming the victims of these crimes neither furthers a particular news story nor aides in the de-stigmatization of the crime," said *Register-Guard* Managing Editor Patrick Yack. However, the newspaper is aware of the current debate and it is interested in the opinions of those who feel differently."

Proponents also argue that rape is a crime and

should be treated as such. Newspapers that withhold the names of rape victims are being too righteous and hypocritical, because they have no qualms about naming the victims of other crimes.

"I never said I thought we should name all rape victims," Overholser said. "But I did decide that I would move toward treatment of rape victims more the way we treat other victims."

"But rape is not a normal crime," said Jennifer Miller, a former rape victim advocate who worked with the Portland District Attorney's office for 11 years. "It is an extremely personal and painful issue."

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"I have seen cases where rape victims (who have been named) get prank phone calls, and even get calls from the rapist's friends in the state penitentiary," Miller said. "Victims must be well-informed of the consequences before they agree to be named."

I agree. I believe that it is the journalists' duty to make sure the rape victim completely understands the consequences of being named. Otherwise the name should not be used.

Simply having the crime reporters ask the victim if she wants to be named, as Overholser suggests, is not enough.

Reporters should wait for the victim to come to them, and then have some way to determine whether the victim has had sufficient counseling before agreeing to print her name.

Mark Miller is a student at the University.

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