

Think about it!

by Jim Evans
Columnist

Protest the war - before the fact

Isn't it amazing that the Secretary of Education is probably the most powerful man in America today? After all, who was it that told Ginsberg to withdraw his name from consideration for the supreme court? It was Secretary Bennett.

I spent my holiday last week at Washington Park for the dedication of the living memorial to the Oregon veterans of the war in Vietnam. It is a beautiful monument and I had the opportunity to hear the reactions of many people. For example, there was the teacher who had spent seven months in prison and then an additional two years working in a mental hospital as his punishment for being a conscientious objector. He was carrying a sign which said "wrong then, wrong now" and he expressed regret to me for his poor choice of wording. He was against the political implications of Vietnams. He did not intend to belittle or devalue the sacrifice of blood laid down by those whom we came to remember.

The garden is located on eleven acres right behind the World Forestry Center and is built in the shape of an amphitheater which spirals upward. As you walk from the bottom you will pass five granite monuments. Each of these covers a different period of the longest war this country has ever been involved in, the history of what was happening in 'Nam, and the names of those Oregonians who were killed in the war during that time period. This is a living memorial. A place of solace and contemplation, of comfort and peace, of beauty and grace, a place to remember the past and look to the future.

It seemed to me that a majority of Vietnam Vets who attended

the ceremony had a common opinion. That is to say, they felt as if they were finally returned from battle, it has taken a long time to arrive at this point of healing of the spirit and mind. Some of those men will never heal in body because of the wounds they suffered. The man with the artificial arm expressed the feeling best when he said, "I feel better... now."

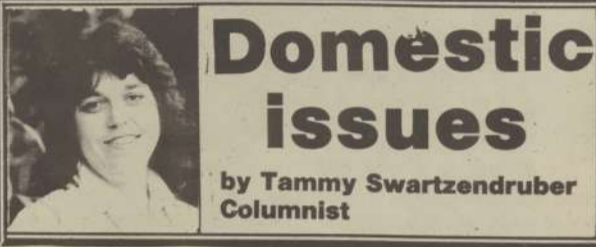
Well, what does this event have to do with Secretary Bennett? Nothing directly, however I do find it ironic that he happens to be the Secretary of Education. Recently I saw a protest poster which asked the question "Won't it be nice when education has all the money it needs and the Air Force has to hold a bake sale to buy a bomber?" Since most of us here are involved with education, either as a student or teacher or in a support service, I would urge you to invest a very small portion of yourself in a particular effort. Write Secretary Bennett a brief letter asking him to move the cabinet away from the existing military economy towards a saner place to spend money. You might suggest that in order for the government to successfully deal with the problem of the budget, they are going to have to end up with a budget free from the overuse of dollars for the Pentagon. We don't seem to have any kind of definitive foreign policy anyway, so why should our government display so much madness and hate in the way it spends OUR money? It will only cost you a piece of paper, an envelope, a postage stamp, and a few minutes of your time.

You may ask yourself, "What's in this for me?" A good question. It appears to me that this country is headed into

war in any one of several places around the world. I know that I won't be drafted, I have been honorably discharged from the military and by the time they ever get around to calling me up to serve, a lot of you will already be dead or married. I am only suggesting that you begin to protect yourself right now by protesting the war before the fact, while the draft has not yet been reactivated.

The vets I spoke with last Wednesday mostly expressed pride in themselves for their service. On the other hand, not a single one of them said he would wish those kinds of experiences on anyone, including you. I hope that you will really think about it, and I hope your thinking will move you to action. Write to Secretary Bennett at the Department of Education: William J. Bennett, Secretary: 400 SW Maryland Ave. Washington, D.C. 20230. And if you have a few extra stamps, send a copy of your letter to your Senators and Representatives listed below.

- Sen. Mark Hatfield
711 Hart,
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
- Sen. Bob Packwood
259 Russell
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
- Representative Ron Wyden,
third Dist.
Rm. 1406
Longworth House Office
Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
- Representative Denny Smith,
fifth Dist.
1213 Longworth,
Washington, D.C. 20513



Domestic issues

by Tammy Swartzendruber
Columnist

Winter alternatives to TV

Now that the weather is turning cooler, we, as parents, are faced with the age old problem of what to do with the kids. When the kids are in the house all the time they become bored and we become irritable. The more irritable we become the naughtier our kids become. It's a vicious cycle, but one that can be easily remedied by careful planning and organizing of our children's time.

You may find that your child is turning more and more to the T.V. for a companion and a source of entertainment. This is one thing that should be guarded against. The T.V. should be regulated and programs should be chosen with care. We must be aware of what our children are doing at all times.

An alternative to the T.V. is your city library. Get your child a library card and introduce him to the wonderful world of reading. If he's too young to read he can check out storybooks with tapes or children's records. Teach your children how to use the library. Let them be responsible for their card and making sure their books are returned. Teach them how to

conduct themselves in a library. Frankly, I feel sorry for the child who has never experienced his city library.

Another alternative to the T.V. and boredom is to get your child a little table or an old school desk and set it up in a corner somewhere. Be sure you have chosen a spot within or by the family's main living area. Children do not like to feel like they're not a part of what's going on. After you've purchased the desk, buy your child some paste, scissors, scotch tape, colored pencils, a tablet, and some water colors. Let him cut from your old magazines. Give him noodles, material scraps, etc. to paste in patterns on a piece of paper. Let him have old lace and rick rack to make borders with. You'd be surprised how long this will entertain a child.

Our children are only as creative as we allow them to be. Steer clear of the mischief caused by idle hands and give something worthwhile to your child to do. [Free your child to learn and to create and be his own person.

GIVE SMOKING A KICK IN THE BUTT.
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