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Columbine High School revisited after one-year

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Healing emerges from Vietnam stories

H. Lee Barnes will read from his book written about his experiences in war

STEVE NIELSEN
Staff Writer

H Lee Barnes, a member of the U.S. Army elite Special Forces during the Vietnam War, will read from his book *Gunning for Ho* this Friday at noon in the Gregory Forum.

Barnes, who spent 1966 in Tra Bong, Vietnam, has said the characters and stories in *Gunning for Ho* are based on his own experiences and are written from a unique viewpoint—one that lets us see the impact of the war on individuals, including the soldiers, their families and the enemy. The stories are about relationships, strength and survival.

"The [one] aspect I saw surface in these stories was the notion of healing, that these were not stories meant to accuse or acclaim, but rather to reconcile in some way that seems irreconcilable," Barnes has written.

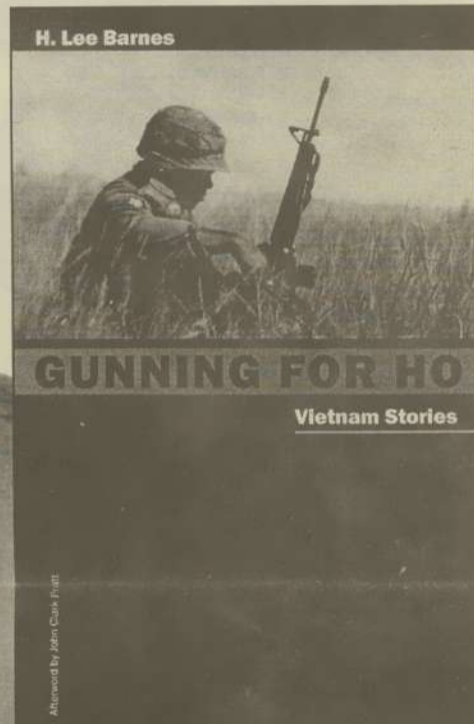
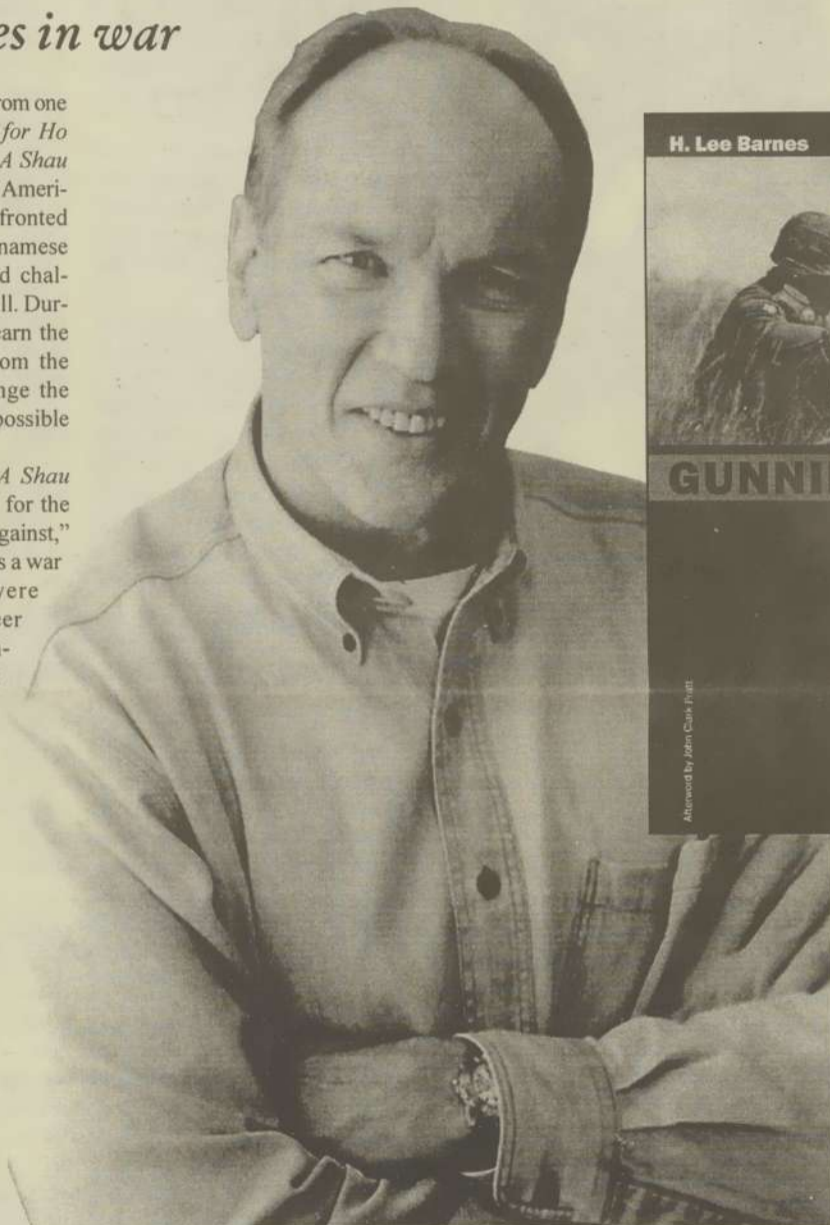
Almost 25 years have passed since the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975. That day marked the official end of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War and the end of an era that would heavily impact the world that came afterward.

"We left. We lost," said Barnes, "not because we lost battles, but because we fought a war that was never winnable. From that day (4-30-75) forward, American foreign policy has been affected by that fact."

Friday, Barnes will read from one of the stories in *Gunning for Ho* titled *A Lovely Day in the A Shau Valley*. It's about a group of American soldiers who are confronted by a group of North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers and challenged to a game of baseball. During the game, the NVA learn the strategies of the game from the Americans and then change the rules to make the game impossible for the Americans to win.

"*A Lovely Day in the A Shau Valley* acts as an allegory for the war and what we were up against," Barnes has written. "It was a war where all the rules were changed, where the sheer weight of might was rendered hapless and what was supposed to be a confrontation, a battle of skills, became a game of endurance—their body count versus ours."

Barnes was born in Texas but has lived in Las Vegas for more than thirty years. He worked as a deputy sheriff, as a blackjack and roulette dealer and as a private investigator before earning his master's degree. He now teaches English and creative writing at the Community College of Southern Nevada.



H. Lee Barnes will read from his book *Gunning for Ho* on campus this Friday. Barnes was a member of the U.S. Army elite Special Forces during the Vietnam War.

Social Science instructor injured in auto accident



Sandra Grossman, instructor, was recently injured in a car-accident.

MAGGIE JIRASEK
Staff Writer

Fifteen days ago, Sandra Grossman, a Clackamas social science instructor, experienced a life-changing, head-on automobile collision that has left her in a leg cast, a wheelchair, and an attitude of gratitude.

"It's an opportunity to really hold close to the ones you love and to recognize the beauty of being here," Grossman explained.

The morning of April 4, Grossman was driving westbound on the Morrison St. Bridge when an eastbound pickup truck made an illegal lane change, lost control and crashed into her car. Although Grossman suffered whiplash, a chest wall contusion and a broken ankle, she is thankful she's alive.

"There was nothing I could do

at all," explained Grossman. "I didn't have any time to avoid it. I got my foot on the brake pedal and I'm sure I slowed it down a little bit, there was just no time."

"I was just sitting there and watching it happen; I then saw blue in front of me, and suddenly I was pointed towards going off the bridge. I started wondering, how am I going to not go over the bridge and then I thought, how would I get out of the water?"

After both cars had stopped, Grossman got her seatbelt off but the car door wouldn't open.

"I got trapped in the car, somebody came over and asked me if I was O.K. and I told them I wasn't," Grossman explained. "Someone else said, I don't think that's smoke, I think that's steam, I don't think it's on fire yet. I was really scared."

After approximately 15 minutes,

a police car and the fire department arrived. Grossman was taken to the hospital where she was kept for hours.

"They x-rayed everything that was potentially broken; after that I could go home," Grossman stated. "We had a terrible time getting me in the house. We have a sofa downstairs that's not very comfortable, but since I wasn't able to climb up the stairs, that was home for a week."

Last Friday Grossman returned to Clackamas, but her life is different.

"I am not able to do all the things I normally would be doing and I won't be doing them for quite a while," she said.

Her accident not only affects Grossman's personal life but also her work as a teacher.

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