

War: A Nurse's View

Bien Hoa—The scene of recent battles in Viet Nam is also the location of a make-shift hospital where a group of nurses attempt to keep pace bandaging the injured men, and boosting the morale of the soldiers and themselves.

A registered nurse from Nebraska arrived in Bien Hoa Oct. 31. Her sister, a junior at the University, provided copies of her letters home—letters which give snapshots of her personal experiences in the middle of the battle area.

The first letter describes the boat trip to Viet Nam. The Editor— Nov. 2

Dear Mom, Dad and Bets: Well Folks, we have arrived... We have met loads of interesting people...

We have "muster" about 8 a.m., breakfast at 8:15 a.m., play bridge and then lunch at 12:30... play more bridge, supper at 5:30 p.m. then play bridge, see a movie or play bingo.

The poor, poor EM's (enlisted men)—they live in conditions something comparable to the slaves in the fallows. There are about 1,500 of them—we hit a storm the second day out and I mean to tell you it was bad.

We arrived at 2300 hours on Oct. 31. No one was expecting us—they didn't even realize we were here until they woke up and saw this strange ship...

Then there are little "junks" all around—the Viet Cong have a habit of getting next to the ship and throwing grenades in the portholes so every now and then we hear the rat-at-tat of a machine gun pointed at these "junks" to make them keep their distance.

The word is now that we disembark on Thursday... fly to Bien Hoa and set up our hospital there—it is about 15 miles from Saigon.

My spirits are still up and I am not scared—but I am miserable due to extreme heat—it's like our hottest summer day plus twice the humidity...

Dear family: Have been going to write for two days but for once in my life I am at a real loss for words.

Keep one thing in mind—I have a very good attitude and don't really mind. The other kids are all so depressed and are really worse off because they are married and I must keep cheery to help them along.

We got off the Buckner into PT boats and went in to shore. All had helmets on and machine guns all around to protect us. You would think we were going to war or something.

So we went where the first division was... when the men realized we were American women, they almost flipped their wigs... finally we went to our future home.

Dear Family: Let me restate. No matter how much I gripe I'm fine—and coping better than most—just like to let off steam.

We arrived Thursday the 4th—Friday we got to take showers—down the road at some other unit—so off we went in a truck—you see this square thing surrounded by canvas.

We have eaten twice in four days... All the units around are so nice and willing to give us anything they have...

Last night was the best—we came back at 2000 hours because we heard mail was here and everyone was devouring the letters and all of a sudden the rain was here.

We woke up this AM and almost threw in the towel but you can't—so you just try to dry things out, slop around in the mud and continue coping.

Dear Family: I imagine that by this time you have heard about the activity right out of Bien Hoa—Imagine you are out of your mind with worry—well, don't worry yet—we are still alive and OK.

Many came back crying—19 year-old boys without arms and legs. They couldn't pick lots of them up that were injured yesterday until this morning and one had a bad stomach wound with maggots crawling around.

It is real dangerous... Hyde Park To Continue

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'Like Miss America'

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It is real dangerous... Safe—For Now

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It is real dangerous... Directory Colorful

Dear Editor: The new student directory has a colorful, reasonably-accurate cover. That is the only part.

Base-r Contrary to popular belief, excuse us, knowledge, it was not especially easy for the Nebraskan to get the exact text to the petition filed by Tassels.

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Bright Spots

With winter settling in bones and bark and plastic coated car seats, a walk or ride to class can seem very bleak—especially if one is concentrating on all the tests and papers due before vacation.

A bright spot in the cold weather season is already visible on campus. Sploches of scotch plaid, and tattered check are now a part of some men's wardrobe.

We're delighted to see the bright colors in an otherwise gray, leafless, cold-brick-building-look of our University campus.

And the cold, brisk, winter air is invigorating. It takes fewer minutes to walk—even to the 501 Building or Nebraska Hall.

For Full Stadium

The athletic department's decision that no identification cards will be needed for the Oklahoma game is a welcome announcement.

THOSE STUDENTS who might have hesitated in turning over their ID card with their ticket for the entire Thanksgiving vacation will not have to worry. The ticket can be sold or given away without worry about the possibility of losing an ID card.

Emphasis in the official statement was given to the fact that the "no ID card waiver" is a one-game affair—because of the unusual circumstances involved with this game, many students will go home for the Thanksgiving vacation and will not be in Memorial Stadium.

THE THREAT of a spotted stadium of people on national television was enough to prompt the action. The announcement endorses officially what probably would have happened in most cases—students will pass their tickets on to another person.

CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN to collecting all the students' tickets by the ticket office who were not planning to attend and reselling them to other would-be ticket purchasers. This procedure would have involved too much bookwork and confusion.

Re-scheduling of vacation because of the Thanksgiving Day game has brought some discussion—especially from out-state and out-of-state students, who must travel hundreds or even thousands of miles to get to their homes for the four day vacation.

WE CAN UNDERSTAND these students' complaint. They would prefer to have vacation begin on Wednesday so that they can arrive home in time for turkey and all the trimmings.

But, the majority of the students, we believe, will be in Memorial Stadium Nov. 25. Or if they are not, some fan will be. The "no identification requirement" guarantees that the stadium will be filled—and that's the way it should be.

MARILYN HOEGEMEYER

CAMPUS OPINION

Democracy Stood Poor Test

Dear Editor: Some of my good American friends have been asking my view on the recent political development in Rhodesia, and I think this is the proper medium to convey the called-for-point of view to many who want it.

To many of us the word democracy is an ideal word; it stands for a system of government with people elected by the people to rule the country. It is a system introduced into Africa by the Europeans who went there for "destructive exploitation."

Democratically, the British succeeded in Nigeria, Ghana and in other West African countries. The French failed in Guinea and Algeria. The Belgians left the Congo undemocratic and in chaos, the Portuguese have done nothing to democratize their territories in Africa, and the Spanish too who were the first Indians to attain their goal are now on equal economic footing with the people of the territories they are ruling.

The British did a poor job in South Africa and the present political crisis in Rhodesia foreshadows another great failure when the British principles of democracy and practices are put to test.

Various sources are blamed for the present crisis. Many people blame the physical geography of Rhodesia, the open nature of the country and its mineralization, which attracted the Europeans, some blame the Rhodesians for giving the early Englishmen in Rhodesia land to settle on. Some blame the Rhodesians themselves for not demonstrating to the world that the democratic government is no longer working.

Some blame England who allowed "her Sons" to leave her warm temperate west coast marine climate to settle and exploit Rhodesia. And some even blame the UN for the way the Rhodesian issue is handled since the political interests of some nations in the United Nations are going to conflict with their economic interests in Rhodesia.

South Africa and Portugal voted against a resolution approved in the General Assembly last week condemning the declaration of independence and demanding that Britain stamp out the rebellion.

The Rhodesian issue is quite clear; where do you stand? On whom do you cast your blame? The French said it is not an international issue but primarily British. What do you say as a great believer in the operation of democratic government? My view is that democracy has stood a poor test in Rhodesia.

Andy Akpan, Nigeria

Dirty Old Man

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CAMPUS OPINION

Nebraskan Improved

Dear Editor: I would like to reply to recent criticism of the Daily Nebraskan by saying that, overall, the Nebraskan is better this semester than it has been for at least two years.

In terms of newsworthiness, the Nebraskan has done a much better job this semester than in the past in covering straight news and in digging up interesting features. This would indicate that the news editor is doing a good job.

Contrary to the opinions of some, I believe that the writing in the Nebraskan this semester has, as a whole, been better than that of the past. There have been isolated instances of writing which has not been up to par, but this will happen on any newspaper.

The photography has been much better than in the past; the make-up has been comparable to that of the Nebraskan of the past two years.

Despite the progress of the Nebraskan this semester, however, there is room for improvement and I am sure the staff members recognize that fact.

But I think that most NU students don't recognize the good job that the Nebraskan staff is doing. Therefore, I would like to congratulate you and your staff and say that I do appreciate what you are doing.

My qualifications for judging your performance: I have been a reporter for the past three years for the Omaha World-Herald, member of the Omaha Press Club, the National Press Photographers Association and Sigma Delta Chi, journalism honorary.

Hal Foster Journalism Major

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