

Vietnam—dead issue?

Is the Vietnam War a dead issue in American politics?

It is according to many news commentators and analyzers of national opinion. Pollsters can point to charts which show over 50 per cent of the nation supports President Nixon's Vietnam policy. News commentators can point to several moves by Nixon which have lessened public denouncement of and concern with the Vietnam War.

To some degree, the lottery draft took pressure off Nixon by dulling the argument of many young people who opposed the war and draft merely because they feared going themselves. The policy of troop withdrawals has undoubtedly appeased many Americans who are appalled at escalation but who view scheduled withdrawals as an honorable way out.

Nixon unleashed Spiro Papadopoulos following his hard-line Vietnam speech in November, and the Vice-president so intimidated the mass media that many increasingly outspoken critics of the war were effectively toned down.

The Moratorium can also be said to have failed in its blitzkrieg attack on the war. After massive demonstrations in October and November which brought the war into the living rooms of America via television, the protestors turned to canvassing and more quiet means of anti-war protest. It would seem the war is no longer as unpopular as it once was. But . . .

THE VIETNAM WAR IS NOT A DEAD ISSUE NOR SHOULD IT BE. All of the reasons for the dying unpopularity of the Vietnam War are only partially valid. The lottery combined with the hodge-podge of deferments is only serving to make no one feel safe against the draft regardless of their number. And Laird's talk of abolishing student deferments is not particularly popular with America's large student population regardless of the egalitarianism involved.

Troop withdrawals are a proven farce. When withdrawals are accompanied by inputs of an equal number of troops, the policy becomes little more than rhetoric. Although the Moratorium and news media critics may not have stopped the war altogether, there has been a significant shift in public opinion from an attitude of "let's win" or "we must protect freedom" to one of "we made a mistake; let's get out as soon as possible."

It is only a matter of time before the general mood in America becomes so anti-war that the government must withdraw unilaterally or make enough concessions to North Vietnam to end the fighting. Americans will simply not tolerate much longer a war which has continued for 10 years and shows no sign of ending. It is the duty of conscientious Americans to speed the end of the war using various forms of protest, the mass media and a revitalized Moratorium as vehicles. Regardless of Administrative tactics, the only thing that is dead about the Vietnam War is some 40,000 Americans and untold Vietnamese.

—Jim Pedersen

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Times are changing!

by Don Stenberg

Last semester saw the birth of Biology 3, a change in the science group requirement, and the incorporation of a new major, Integrated Studies, into the college curriculum.

"So . . . ?" you say to yourself, "What difference does it make?"

The chances are that if you ask the question the answer is probably, "None."

BUT THE new semester should bring several new proposals into the focal point of student interest (and I use the term "student interest" loosely). One of the proposals to which I refer is currently before the Faculty Senate grading committee which, were it passed by the Faculty Senate, would effectively put the University of Nebraska back on a 4.0 grading system.

The proposal is to retain the A+ for use on a student's record to indicate that he attained a superb mastery of the material of a course, but to count both the A and the A+ as a 4.0 in computing grade averages.

This proposal is a compromise made in light of a student initiated movement to drop the A+ grade entirely. Why does anyone want the A+ dropped? Is it in the best interest of Nebraska students to do so?

THERE ARE currently many objections by students, particularly the top students, to the 4.5 grading scale. A few of the more important and valid of them are given below:

(1) Some teachers give A+'s liberally and others refuse to give any at all (on philosophical grounds no doubt). Besides that, this tendency seems to run by department so that the top student in one major may have a 4.3, while the top student in another area who is equally as intelligent and hard working may have only a 3.8. Clearly, since scholarships, jobs, etc. are

based on grade average or a student's rank in his college, this becomes an unwarranted handicap to some very good students. (a 3.8, by the way, is not enough to merit an Upperclass Regent's Scholarship if you are a senior).

(2) An average student (2.3-3.0) probably receives few if any A+'s, but if he interviews for a job his grade average is recorded as say 2.8-4.5, that is 2.8 out of a possible 4.5. Whereas at another school a person of equal ability has say a 2.7-4.0 or 2.7 out of a possible 4.0.

(3) The fact that a 4.5 is fairly rare also hurts the very good student who has say a 4.1-4.5. Under a 4.0 system this same student would have had about a 3.9-4.0.

These then are some of the

objections. It should be emphasized that the D+, C+, and B+ would be retained and would count as 1.5, 2.5, and 3.5 respectively.

The last time a change was made in the grading system students were not consulted and given the chance to voice their opinions. This should not, and will not, happen again.

The proposed change was initiated by the ASUN Education Committee and I personally feel that it would benefit the students of the University of Nebraska.

If you have any feelings about the change, pro or con, please call the ASUN office (472-2581) or write a note to me (Don Stenberg, ASUN office, Student Union) or to Emil Heermann (021 Teacher's College) and express your opinion.

Fast catches on—fast; dinner to be protested

While Spiro fans are feeding at Governor Tiemann's testimonial dinner, a group of Moratorium supporters will be fasting to protest warped values.

"The purpose of the fast is to demonstrate the warped sense of values shown by the fact that people will contribute \$50 toward a political campaign at a fund-raising dinner when there are people in America without food, homes, or proper medical aid," said Bill Kohlhaase, a Moratorium Committee member who heads the fast.

"Considering that there hasn't been much publicity, I think the fast is catching on fairly fast," said Kohlhaase, a native of Elkhorn. He added that there are already at least sixty students and professors joining in the fasting.

Ron Kurtenbach, one of the

fasters said, "The fast is a very personal thing. It's not a group activity that a person can identify with. It springs from an inner commitment."

The fasters, by their actions and signed petitions, hope to encourage people attending the dinner to donate their campaign money or additional money to a local charity that works with the needy. Funds to help the needy are also welcome from those not connected with the dinner, Kohlhaase said.

"We will forego solid food on Monday, Feb. 9. This symbolic, non-violent act will serve to remind people of the priorities of conscience. It will also collect money for the needy and help the fasters identify with the suffering that goes on in America right now," said Alma Haertein, a freshman student from Dallas, Texas.