



Another view

Vietnam back to haunt us

In the '50s, Vietnam was one of those countries you just couldn't seem to find on a map. By the '60s, every American knew where it was. Some went there. Some never came back.

Now, in the '70s, we're trying to forget that little piece of land, which soaked up so much of the blood and spirit of this country. But it keeps coming back to haunt us.

Perhaps it is the memory of the strong, proud, self-righteous country we were before the war that bothers us so much. We went into Vietnam as the world's policeman. We came out looking like Keystone Kops.

Or maybe we are ashamed to remember that we poured millions of dollars and thousands of lives into Vietnam for the sake of democracy. Our investment has gone sour. That country has trouble holding something as basic as free elections.

According to a 1972 Department of Commerce and Census Bureau report, this country's Vietnam expense account will total \$365 billion by the time disability costs and retirement benefits for Vietnam vets are tallied. The Vietnamese called the party. We picked up the tab.

Perhaps we are trying to forget the old nightmares of naked, bullet-riddled bodies lying tangled in a Vietnamese ditch and of other bodies lying on the campus green at Kent State. It's a wonder we can sleep.

One other vision haunts us more each day the vision of Henry Kissinger signing a ceasefire agreement and promising peace with honor. Our parents remember another such scene: a triumphant Neville Chamberlain holding up an agreement with Hitler and promising "peace in our time."

Neither promise was kept.

Two years ago U.S. military forces left South Vietnam. The war, we said, was over. And if we didn't have victory at least we had honor. Or so we thought.

Two weeks ago the Viet Cong captured the capital of Phuoc Long province, only 75 miles from Saigon. It was the first provincial capital to be attacked by them since the cease... It was the latest in a long series of skirmishes provoked by both sides. There have been more since.

President Ford's response was to tack an additional \$300 million onto his request for military aid to South Vietnam this year. Congress cut his total \$14 billion request in half. Perhaps we are learning. For some, it is too late.

What has yet to be learned is that peace with honor comes only to those who honor peace. Neither we nor the Vietnamese seem to have grasped that.

What will never be forgotten is that while the wounds of Vietnam will heal, scars will remain.

Wes Albers

UNL indifference to student rights criticized

The recent approval by the NU Board of Regents of an increase in residence hall room and board rates brings to mind the somewhat nebulous field of student rights and powers.

In the Student Handbook there is a division called "The Student in the Academic Community." Section Three, Point B of that division does not have a title and is only four or five lines long, yet it deals with the rather large and important concern of student government, or more precisely, with student participation in the formulation of university policy on student life.

Point B says, "The students should have clearly defined means to participate equitably in the formulation of institutional policies or procedures which affect student life. Student government is the principal agency for student participation in the decision-making process of the University."

Nice sounding rhetoric but unfortunately, that's about all it is. Reading Point B and keeping in mind the past and present attempts of students to assert themselves in regard to University policy, one finds that Point B and similar policy statements do not reflect reality.

The fact is, student power and participation in the

"formulation of institutional policies" at this University is, at best, a farce. There is an old adage about power which accurately describes this: "He has no power that has no power to use."

In other words, passages like Point B and such things are the ASUN Constitution and Constitutional Amendment No. 1 (the student regent amendment) are merely empty phrases and statements designed to lend credence to the belief that students actually do wield power and have a voice in the affairs of the University.

Witness the room and board increase mentioned in the opening paragraph. If it were not for the intervention of a snowstorm, the regents would have probably voted for the rate increase without soliciting any opinions from students, even though it is student money and only student money which supplies the revenue for campus housing.

Witness also the annual attempts to introduce alcohol on campus, which are invariably vetoed by the regents. The students could give the regents a petition with 99.9 per cent of the residence hall occupants' signatures on it, asking for alcohol in the dorms, and undoubtedly it would be ignored.

The 20 thousand students who attend this

University, who are most affected by matters concerning this University, do not determine policy, but rather, policy rests on the whims and fancies of the eleven people comprising the Board of Regents. Eleven people, eight of whom probably attended their last class 30 or 40 years ago. Eight men who seem to think University students are mere children, dangerous and unpredictable if not watched closely.

Of course, now that we have student regents on the board, the other regents undoubtedly will become more responsive. They might even ask for a few student opinions on certain matters, provided these "certain matters" have already been voted on.

As a solution to this touchy problem, which I call the "Usurpation of Student Rights by the Regents", I offer two suggestions. First of all, everyone should move out of the dorms and let the regents move in—the dorms are designed to accommodate their lifestyle, not ours.

And second, the student regent amendment should be altered to give non-voting status to the eight "older" regents and voting status to the student regents.

These are not unreasonable demands and they should be the next order of business the regents discuss.

No baths, economy sinks

The happy Arabs are raking in umpteen billion dollars a month. And our gloomy economists are currently predicting the doom of America. Quite rightly, too.

The first problem is inflation. Mr. Ford says this is caused by Government spending. Government spending puts too much money in circulation. We have inflation, then because we have too much money. No one I know has any.

Of course, the Arabs, by taking \$20 billion a year out of our economy, will cause us to have less money in circulation. This will cure inflation. It will also cause a recession. Recessions are caused by having too little money in circulation.

The Arabs will then tile their bathrooms, which is the first thing everyone does who gets a few bucks ahead.

Unfortunately, the Arabs don't have enough bathrooms to tile. So by 1984, the experts figure, the Arabs will be stuck with one trillion dollars worth of too much money. So they are faced with the grim threat of inflation. Many Americans feel this would serve them right.

But the Arabs are clever. To avoid this threat, they are investing their surplus petrodollars in Western nations, primarily America. (Let us hope they send them to a Mexican laundry first.)

And they will be richly awarded. For example, my neighborhood savings and loan is offering a free combination sandwich griller and waffle iron for every \$5,000 deposit. So if King Faisal drops by with \$100 billion, he'll walk off with 20 million free combination sandwich

grillers and waffle irons.

This will create full employment in America and a lot of indigestion in Arabia.

Now all this is great for America. Unfortunately, the experts say the Arabs are also planning to invest in Lockheed, Pan-American, assorted Florida resorts and common stocks.

arthur hoppe

innocent bystander

As any American who has ever invested in Lockheed, Pan-American, assorted Florida resorts or common stocks could tell them, the Arabs are bound to lose—if they wore shirts—their shirts.

Many ill-informed Americans will say this serves them right. But if the Arabs lose their shirts by investing in America, we will get back all those billions of inflation-causing dollars that we happily got rid of. And we'll all be broke again.

So now that we clearly understand the reasoning of our economic experts, there is but one obvious course of action to forestall our impending doom: We must send billions of dollars and thousands of technicians to the Arab nations to build them more bathrooms.

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"What have you done for me lately?"