

## Colonel's death just routine story in Cambodia



arthur  
hoppe  
**innocent  
bystander**

It was just another routine story from far away Cambodia — the kind we read a few lines of and turn the page. "A key city," Oudong, had fallen to the insurgents "despite orders to hold it at all costs."

But the brief third paragraph caught my eye: "Colonel Hang Yiv, governor of Oudong province," it said, "died at his command post in the battered city."

That was all it said about Colonel Hang Yiv. I don't know how old he was. I don't know where or how he grew up. I don't know whether he had a wife or children. I don't know what kind of weapon killed him. I don't know how much it hurt.

But what angers me most is I don't know why the hell he died.

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He died at his post. Maybe he was a hero. I try to picture him standing in the rubble like John Wayne, firing his pistol at the

hordes of villainous attackers until the last bullet is spent.

Does he have a moustache? Is he thin or fat? Is it day or night? Does he love music or books or... It's no good. The picture fades anyway if they captured him. (I don't know how the insurgents treat prisoners. I don't even know who they are.) Maybe, then, he died like a rat in a trap. I don't know.

But the Colonel was governor of a province. Maybe he was part of that regime. Maybe he thought the insurgents would kill him anyway if they captured him. (I don't know how the insurgents treat prisoners. I don't even know who they are.) Maybe, then, he died like a rat in a trap. I don't know.

Yet what of the others who died with him? What of the soldiers? (Many are barefoot now, the story said, and out of ammunition.) What of the civilians? (The city had been bombarded for six days.)

I don't know who they were. I don't know their names. I don't know whether they hurt much. I don't even know how many were killed. Who knows how many have been killed in far away Cambodia?

Did they, too, die for General Lon Nol? It is hard to believe. I don't know why the hell they died.

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In Washington, President Ford has asked Congress for more money to send more ammunition to General Lon Nol and his soldiers. "Are we to deliberately abandon a small country in the midst of its life-and-death struggle?" he asks.

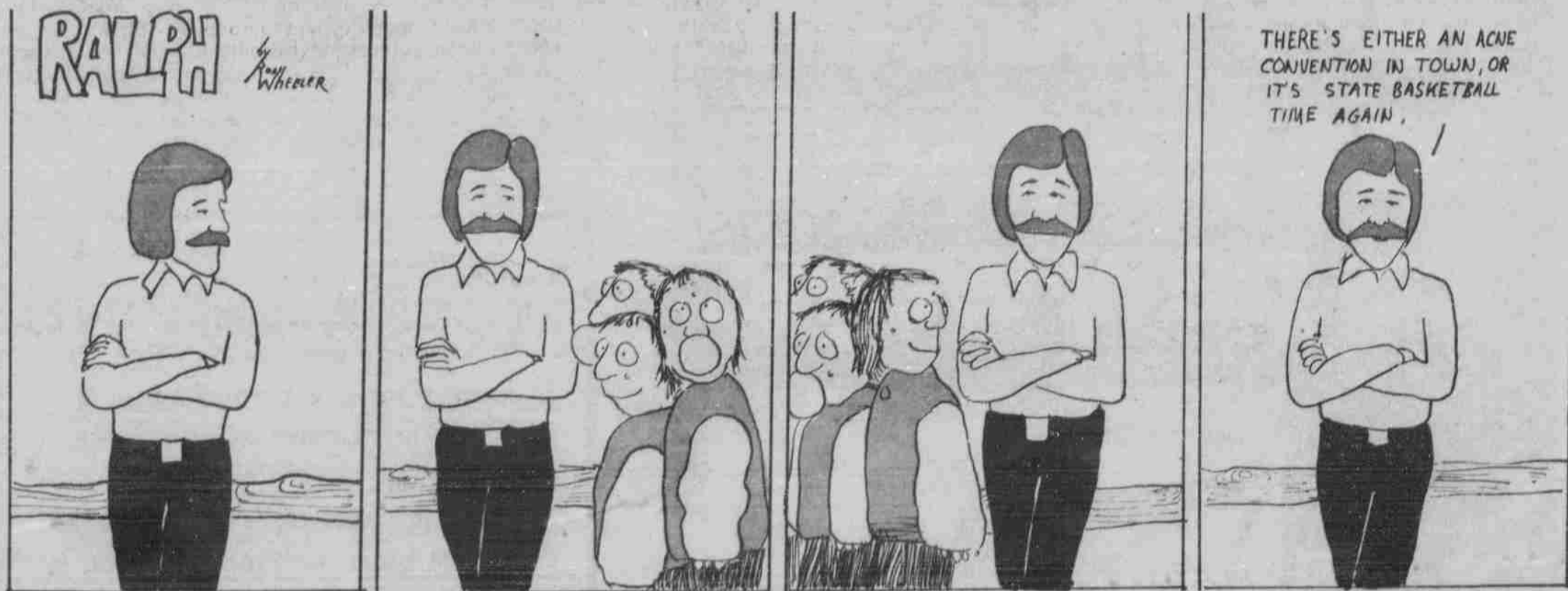
It is a good question. But the President did not say that if we send General Lon Nol more ammunition he will win and thus end the war. We are to send him more ammunition solely to keep the war going.

We are to send more ammunition so that the colonels, the soldiers and the civilians can go on dying. If we don't, the insurgents will quickly win and thus end the war.

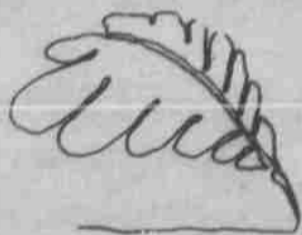
Maybe the insurgents will kill General Lon Nol and his followers if they don't escape in time. I don't know. But I do know that the more ammunition we send, the more colonels and soldiers and civilians will die.

And the angry question I keep asking myself is why the hell they should.

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## to the editor



Dear editor:

Rick Johnson's article on the Sierra Club was one of the most thought out discussions I have seen of this very emotional issue. However, he did leave out a very important point. The Sierra Club is footing the bill for the enforcement of the Clean Air Act of 1970 in the case of the Gerald Gentleman Power Plant at Sutherland. State and federal law enforcement agencies are neglecting their constitutional duties and have opted to ignore the law.

Those in the electric power business, our public officials, seem to believe that if they go out in the "boondocks," where people also live, they can get away with breaking the law. Sulfur oxides are not only detrimental to human health, on which the standards are based, but also are detrimental to plant life.

Natalie McClendon

### Athletes and paddleball

Dear editor:

In response to R.C. Jensen's letter (Daily Nebraskan, March 10), I offer these observations:

(1) I cannot act as a spokesman for the Athletic Department, but it is my understanding that the Fieldhouse is maintained and operated by the Athletic Department year-round for the use of university intercollegiate teams. Use of some of the facilities by non-athletes is offered by the department when not in use by any of the intercollegiate teams.

(2) Jensen will be happy to know that none of his hard-earned tuition money is used in the operation and maintenance of the Fieldhouse as this facility is funded through the Athletic Department which is supported by gate receipts from intercollegiate athletic contests and private donations.

(3) The "invisible hours that they (athletes) recite at random" are posted at the entrance to the paddleball court area. This Fieldhouse is open 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and until noon on Saturday. The Athletic Department asks that the courts be reserved for athletes from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, or a total of three and one-half hours of the 13 hours they are open each day. Paddleball is a necessary part of the off-season football training program at UNL, and it is only during this reserved time that many athletes are able to work it into their schedules.

(4) Most of the athletes I know do not use their "extra tonnage to inhibit and discourage" non-athletes from using the paddleball courts. They simply inform the "guilty individuals" (to steal a

label from Jensen) that the courts are reserved and to please vacate them. Many athletes will simply wait until non-athletes are finished playing because they don't like to be—and shouldn't have to be—enforcers of the policy.

May I suggest, Mr. Jensen, that you channel your complaints to the NU Board of Regents and request that a facility for use by all students be built, funded by tuition money (or taxes) instead of crying because the Athletic Department's schedule conflicts with yours.

Dean Gissler

### Rape bill supported

Dear editor:

There has been much discussion about the crime of rape in the past year. Now is the chance for Nebraska women to do something about the future treatment of rape victims—LB23, the sexual assault bill sponsored by Sen. Wally Barnett.

This bill would disallow use of the victim's sexual history in court unless directly relevant to that case. It describes sexual assault by degree of harm done by the offender. Any person, male or female, can be a victim. This is an important step in changing the status of rape victims so that they will be protected by the law. I strongly urge support for this bill.

Janice Harrington