

daily nebraskan

Vietnam veterans ask students to observe day

By Ward W. Triplett III

Veterans Day celebrations will be limited around the UNL campus today, but at least one veteran hopes students will take the time to think about why there is a Veterans Day, and what it means.

"The importance of the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month has a significance I don't think too many students are aware of," said Jerry Lippencott, a 34-year-old geology student who served in Vietnam between June of 1970 and May of 1971.

"Right now, I think a lot of people think it's a fad to

sneer at the flag," Lippencott said. "I hope that some people will stop and think on Veterans Day, and reflect on the wars we've been in, wars we might be heading into, and what we had to fight for in these."

Lippencott was drafted into the Army after attending college through the most turbulent times of the 1960s.

"Back then we had the Sword of Damocles hanging over our heads," he said. "It was either do well in school, or get drafted and shipped to Vietnam," Lippencott said.

Lippencott was sent to Vietnam, and served in a Navy division that sailed along Vietnamese rivers. Lippencott said that although his division was fired upon a few times,

he was never in face-to-face combat. Nevertheless, since returning to the United States, Lippencott has had mixed emotions about the war and his part in it.

"We were over there with these highfalutin ideas about saving democracy and all that. But I think it was a waste — a terrible waste of lives, and money," Lippencott said.

"Another thing about being in a war is that you never trust your government again, or you begin to look at it in a different way. When you're in the war, you can see how much of a waste they can cause, and all the stupid things the government will have done. I don't mean just our government, but governments like Russia, and other nations are just the same."

Dave Bauer, director of the Student Veterans Organization at UNL, said that while students may be indifferent to Veterans Day, they do have a good excuse.

"A lot of people now don't have a lot of reason to base an opinion on Veterans Day," Bauer said. "I think the attitude is pretty healthy considering Vietnam ended for most of us about 13 years ago."

Bauer was in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, but only spent 11 months inside the country itself in 1968 and 1969.

"It was the standard reason for fighting — for your country, for freedom and democracy," Bauer said. "The reasons for anybody going into a war are usually as honorable," he said.

Bauer said he was beginning to change his mind about Vietnam even before he was actually sent to the country.

"It was mostly because of all the protesting that was going on," he said. "You were to go off to fight for the country, yet the country wasn't fighting for you."

Bauer said there are about 50 students involved in the UNL student veteran organization. He added he heard there were 1,100 veterans last year on campus, but that he doubted that figure.

"I don't believe that figure, but there are more out there," he said. The group is open to all students who have served in the United States military, National Guard, or ROTC, not just to those who participated in a war.

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Street closures wanted by regent

By Mary Louise Knapp

Calling 16th and 17th streets, which run through the UNL campus, a "real hazard," NU Regent Edward Schwartzkopf of Lincoln said he will present a resolution to the NU Board of Regents Friday to request that the Lincoln City Council close those streets.

The idea of closing the streets was originally put forth in NU's Comprehensive Plan in 1968, Schwartzkopf said.

"We want to have it reaffirmed that the regents still want to continue with the plan," he said.

Schwartzkopf said he is bringing up the issue now because the proposed Northeast Radial, which would have diverted traffic on 16th and 17th streets, was voted down by Lincolinites last spring.

"We still need some form of relief from the traffic," he said.

Closing the streets would produce a "loop" similar to the one on East Campus, in which people can drive onto campus via service roads, Schwartzkopf said. Schwartzkopf said that if the streets were closed, students would still be allowed to park there.

Lincoln City Council member Louis Shackelford said he favors the proposed resolution.

"I would definitely be in support of the resolution, and I think the city would be duty-bound to support the Comprehensive Plan since they (the city) worked on the plan with the university," Shackelford said.

Council member Eric Youngberg said he would support the resolution only if a definite plan was made for diversion of the traffic from the closed streets.

Youngberg said 19th Street had been considered as a possible diversion area, but no definite plan for traffic redirection has been discussed since the Northeast Radial plan was defeated.

Politics have big role in nonpartisan Legislature

By D. L. Horton

George W. Norris, former U.S. senator from Nebraska, dreamt of a nonpartisan unicameral. That dream may be vanishing, according to some political experts.

The Nebraska Legislature has come under attack recently for partisan voting blocks and lobbying.

Voting records from last spring and the special session seem to support this criticism.

"Nonpartisanship is a good thing but if it's in partisan clothing, it's bad," said Lincoln Sen. Don Wesely in a recent interview.

The Daily Nebraskan takes a closer look at politics Nebraska-style on Page 8 and 9.

He said partisanship wasn't part of the Legislature when he was elected in 1978. He said partisanship was most noticeable during the last regular session.

Wesely said the trend toward partisanship is reversible. He said political parties have a role to encourage, advise and provide materials to candidates but added he would like to see them prohibited from contributing money to campaigns.

He said that up to 80 percent of some candidates' funds in the last election came from their political party.

Wesely added that partisanship only affects a few senators so far, but there are a few issues where this party bias becomes extremely important, he said.

Sen. Elroy Hefner of Coleridge said he didn't believe the Unicameral was becoming more partisan.

He said he felt the one-house, nonpartisan system is more responsive to constituents because senators don't have to follow a party platform.

Lincoln Sen. Shirley Marsh said the Legislature was becoming more partisan simply because some of the members want it that way.

"I like it the way it was, with an emphasis on non-partisanship," she said.

"(Gov. Charles) Thone approached the Legislature in a partisan manner," Lincoln Sen. Steve Fowler said. "And it is."

Fowler said that although the Legislature is becoming increasingly partisan, the urban/rural split is still the most prevalent.

Lincoln Sen. David Landis said that partnership in the

Legislature is on the upswing and impossible to get rid of.

He said votes are following party lines and when there are 32 Republicans and 16 Democrats there is a definite imbalance.

"Levels of control are developing outside the body," Landis said. "The buttons are not being pushed on the floor any more."

However, most of the senators interviewed said they were proud of the nonpartisan way in which redistricting was handled.

Fowler said redistricting was a big issue during the last session, but the Legislature managed to handle it in a nonpartisan manner, so partisanship may not be a true trend.



Photo by Dave Bentz

UNL student John Spencer takes advantage of Tuesday's afternoon sun by lying in the grass near Selleck Quadrangle.

inside wednesday

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