

American POW's still held in Vietnam

by douglas wulf

student writer

I'm sure many of you are too young to remember Vietnam, even though there are Vietnam vets among the student body and faculty. These are not the kill crazy, drugged out alcoholics that the media has reported. These are the honest, hard working veterans who have overcome their difficulties and are attempting to put their past behind them. Maybe you know these people, or maybe you had friends or relatives who served in Vietnam. Perhaps you know someone who didn't

make it back.

I am a disabled combat vet who spent 25 months in Vietnam and Laos. I made it back, but over 2,000 of my brothers didn't. They are Prisoners of War or Missing in Action- POW/MIA.

As a member of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 17 - Las Vegas, I want to tell you some facts about the POW/MIA issue.

1. Former Green Beret Lieutenant Colonel "Bo" Gritz of Sandy Valley, was sent into Laos several times in the past few years by our government. His mission was to find evidence of POW's. He

found that evidence and proof that the CIA had been conducting drug smuggling operations in the Golden Triangle since the Vietnam conflict. He now faces federal charges of using another man's passport in his travels, and is scheduled to go on trial May 16, 1988.

2. Lt. Larry J. Renselaar, U.S. Navy, and his co-pilot, Lt. Domenick A. Spinelli, were shot down over North Vietnam Sept. 30, 1968. The Navy told the families they were missing in action. When the Defense Intelligence Agency learned Larry and Domenick survived and

had been captured in 1968, they withheld the evidence. In February 1987, their families learned the truth.

The Pentagon won't admit they have proof of live Americans in SE Asia. We refused to support the new regime of Vietnam, so we have sacrificed our unwanted POW/MIA's.

In 1981-84, former Green Berets Major Mark Smith and Master Sergeant Melvin McIntyre were attached to a Special Forces Detachment-Korea. A large part of their job was to study the POW situation in SE Asia. Infor-

mation from their sources convinced them that Americans were being held prisoner of war. They also think there are officials of the US government who do not want live POW's discovered and are supporting a policy of cover-up on all the information that would prove otherwise.

We of Chapter 17, Vietnam Veterans of America want to make this the year of the POW/MIA. It's time we did something to bring them home - after all, most of them are now in their late 30's or early 40's. We urge you to write your

House of Representatives and tell them you support H.R. 2260.

I would also like to take this time to ask all Vietnam veterans and supporters to join Chapter 17. The time for standing in the background and letting the world go by is over. I know...I refused to get involved for 18 years. Chapter 17 needs your help with the POW/MIA issue and other community relations programs we are involved in. Call 452-6116 for information on how you too can get involved.

Thank you.

Art Buchwald

Things are getting tense, not only in Israel, but in the United States, over the riots on the West Bank.

No matter where you stand you're in the wrong place.

"What would you do if someone threw rocks at you?" Jeffrey asked me.

"I don't want to talk about it," I said. "All I know about killing is what I see on TV."

TV only tells you half of what is going on. They don't show what the other side is doing," Jeffrey said.

That's why I don't watch

television. They never tell you the whole story."

Nobody likes to see people's hands broken, but it's better than shooting them."

"Look, could we go on to something more cheery like General Noriega's connections with dope smugglers in Panama?"

Jeffrey was hanging tough. "The Palestinians should go back to their camps and behave like civilized refugees until someone works out a solution to the problem."

"I'm with you 100 percent."

Do you see anything

wrong with rubber bullets?" Jeffrey wanted to know.

Nothing, if used in moderation. Rubber bullets save lives."

If you asked me about tear gas I would say it is accepted as a defensive weapon against an unfriendly populace and is especially welcome during an insurrection," Jeffrey said.

Who told you that?" No one told me. I saw it on television."

Tear gas isn't my speciality," I admitted.

Then what do you think about water cannons?"

They're more my style. I never used one or had one used against me, but it seems to me it's an answer to everything. Once you fire water cannons, where else can the other side go but down?" I said.

Water cannons don't always work, so sometimes you have to grab the perpetrators and smack them around."

That's understood from the start. When you're an occupying power you have to get physical or they'll walk all over you."

Did you know the stone throwers were trained by

the Russians?" Jeffrey said.

"I didn't know that, but it makes sense. Kids don't know how to throw rocks unless someone teaches them."

"All we're trying to do is get them to laydown their rocks. The Israeli army is not using any more force than is absolutely permitted by the government, which doesn't know how much force is really necessary. Are you for what we're doing in Gaza?"

"I'm for it 100 percent."

"Because if you're not for us, then you're against us."

I agree with everything that's going on," I said, "otherwise why would Israel be getting such good press?"

"You don't sound like you're sold on the policy." I say an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, and if you can't get peace with rubber bullets use real ones until people come to their senses."

Jeffrey said, "I don't know if you're serious or not."

"Funny, I was thinking the same thing about you."

Small Picture

by kurt hildebrand

editor

Well, what are you gonna do. Your favorite candidate is teetering on the edge, and you have to make a decision. "Do I follow this guy into oblivion, or do I change with the times?"

However, some people decide to switch candidates, the way you would change a shirt that has become soiled.

This is in fact one of the alleged trademarks of the generation I am accused of being a member of.

You know who I am talking about, the Y****ES. I didn't write it out because I have excising the term from the pages of this newspaper (I haven't found a way of excising the concept, yet).

You remember, all those people who were interviewed by the press at Woodstock. The ones who said they

just wanted peace and love and an end to The War. These are the people who started jogging around 1975 and engaging in wierd sex with people they didn't know.

These are the people who managed to scrape together a couple of investments which put them financially ahead of the rest of us around 1985.

People look back and ask how this could have come about. How did all these kids who were busy dropping out and tuning in managed to get rich, managed to sleep at night after voting for Ronald Reagan, twice, managed to get married and have exceedingly spoiled kids who express their rage by killing their friends and bringing by the neighbors' kids by to have a look ("I don't want you hanging around with that Smith kid, I heard he shot little Johnny Brown and his having his friends around to examine the body.").

I will tell you the answer to this quandry of the decade. All those long-haired freaks in the sixties were actually rich kids who didn't have anything else to do. They didn't want to go to war, so they protested against it. They didn't want to go to work, so they protested

against it. They didn't want to face life sober, so they really protested against it.

And when the war was over, and they were tired of nothing to do all day, and they couldn't remember where they parked the car the night before, they had a sudden twinge of conscience, a sudden turn of stomach, a sudden urge to do something with themselves, and they took up financial masturbation as a way to ease the pain.

This is where someone, anyone should be asking what the above has to do with whether to stick with a candidate or switch.

It has to do with this, the above people make up a large part of the population, and it is they who will determine who the next president of the United States will be.

I just thought you ought to know so there will be time to apply for a passport or asylum or something before the writ hits the plan.