

While many Haverford students find contentment soaking up the smug atmosphere of academe, thousands of Americans and Vietnamese are dying in an immoral and senseless war.

Discouragingly few people on this campus have publicly attacked the United States government for its violations of the most fundamental standards of humanity and international law.

Many people on campus are surprised that some of their fellows fast or risk arrest to show their opposition to a government policy which pretends to be the most spectacular "peace offensive" in history.

However, previous U.S. actions in Vietnam make the "peace offensive" appear more like the most spectacular publicity stunt in history.

The Vietnamese people have been engaged in warfare for the past 25 years. President Roosevelt said in 1944 that "France has had the country ... for nearly one hundred years, and the people are worse off than at the beginning ... France has milked it for one hundred years ... The people of Indochina are entitled to something better than this."

Yet, ten years later the U.S. was paying 78% of the cost of the French Union to suppress the revolt of a people tired of foreign imperialism. Despite American aid to France, the U.S. refused to sign the Geneva accords of 1954 on the basis that it had not been a belligerent in the war. However, it did pledge to "refrain from the threat of or the use of force to disturb" the agreements and "to seek to achieve unity through free elections supervised by the United Nations ..."

Subsequent U.S. actions made a lie of this statement and created a hell for the weary Vietnamese people. The U.S. installed Ngo Dinh Diem as Premier of the southern zone created by the "provisional" demarcation line set at the Geneva Conference. It did not object

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# Planned for Next Semester

by David Millstone

A fast "in sympathy with the suffering of the people of Vietnam" is scheduled to begin at the start of the second semester.

Over 40 students so far have indicated that they will fast. In a statement issued by the students, they stated: "The planned length of the fast for most of the members is eight days, though some will fast for longer or shorter periods."

The fasters plan to maintain their health by drinking fruit juice. They will hold a meeting at dinner time each evening to discuss the issues involved in their fast and in the Vietnam war.

In the statement, the students outlined their objectives in fasting and presented a brief rationale for their proposed action.

This statement was drafted after two meetings discussing the Vietnam war and the various reasons for fasting. Participants in these discussions stressed that the fast should emphasize the war, not the fast itself.

The statement declared, "We cannot expect that the fast will have any immediate effect on the government's actions. Our purpose is to further discussion among ourselves and with others. We wish, for example, to call attention

to the government-confirmed reports of the poisoning of 70,000 acres of rice in South Vietnam 'justified' on the basis that the peasants in the area were 'sympathetic' to the Viet Cong."

The statement generally emphasized the reasons for the fast, rather than concerning itself with the fast itself. In addition to examining specifically the Vietnam war, emphasis was placed on the general feeling in the United States that the government was above being questioned on matters of foreign policy.

"Too many Americans, while espousing international brotherhood and the right of all peoples to determine their own destinies, disregard these principles in their actions or in their passive acceptance of the government's action. ... The people read press reports of massive bombardment of villages and countryside and fail to understand clearly the extent to which we are fighting populations rather than soldiers. They consider the technical expertise of the government a ground for abdication of their own responsibility to examine the premises and objectives which determine the direction of the government's policies."

The statement continued to deplore the present situation caused by the war buildup: "Young men are being drafted and killed, and money and resources are being shifted from antipoverty programs to war production. Civil liberties are being threatened. The growing economic and psychological influences of militarism make a return to constructive peaceful solutions continually more difficult."

The statement denied that the recent "peace offensive" by the United States represents any real change in the U.S. attitude to the war.

"The present 'peace offensive' though a step in the right direction, has been accompanied by no apparent change in policy or reconsideration of the role of the U.S. in Southeast Asia. We are suspicious of a 'peace offensive' which on the one hand ends the bombing of North Vietnam, an aggressive and unjust action in the first place, and on the other hand maintains the high draft rate, increases troop and material strength in South Vietnam, continues indiscriminate saturation bombing, poisoning of crops, and chemical warfare against villages, and shifts its bombings of North Vietnam to neutral Laos."

## Professor Arrested at Boeing Plant

by Dennis Stern

Several Haverford professors were involved in two anti-war demonstrations in the past three weeks. One of these protests led to the arrest of Prof. William Davidson.

On Wednesday, Dec. 29, Davidson and Professors Ariel Loewy, Theodore Hetzel, and Josiah Thompson participated in a vigil line around the Boeing Vertol Helicopter Plant in Morton, Davidson and Thompson also took part in a Veteran's March in Gettysburg to end the Vietnam war.

The Committee for Nonviolent Action coordinated the Vertol demonstration. According to Davidson, several hundred people were in the vigil line from 2 to 5 p.m. He was one of 18 persons arrested by the police of Springfield Township.

Davidson explained that the charge brought against him and three others was for littering as they attempted to pass out leaflets to the spectators. The other 14 were charged with disorderly conduct in a noisy or boisterous manner as they approached the gate of the plant.

Those arrested reported to what Davidson called "a mock hearing" before the Springfield Township justice of the peace on Jan. 4. Davidson described the proceedings as "judicious" for two reasons: there was no evidence of littering, so the magistrate found the four guilty merely because they brought pamphlets to the demonstration; and the magistrate changed the law by saying he would strike out the phrase "noisy or boisterous" so he could also find the others guilty.

The American Civil Liberties Union is defending those charged with littering. Both groups are

appealing the magistrate's decision. If upheld, however, the litterers face a \$50 fine plus costs, or 30 days in prison, and the loiterers a fine of \$300 plus costs; or 30 days.

Davidson emphasized that the purpose of the vigil was, since the Vertol plant is one of the major suppliers of helicopters, to get the workers to stop and think of the consequences of their work and to make the people in the whole area aware of the war production going on in Springfield.

The CNVA has already had some small meetings in the area. Davidson pointed out, and the demonstrations work to "drum up interest" for more discussions. In short, they were interested in protesting the Vietnam war and in stimulating more thought and concern on the part of the citizens in the area.

According to Davidson, some future meetings are already lined up as a result of the focus on

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Harry Jones and David Millstone, who will head the NEWS after issue.

## ews Staff To Be Led by Jones and Millstone

Harry Jones and David Millstone, both sophomores, have been chosen by the outgoing staff to be the new editors-in-chief of the NEWS. They will take over with the publication of the Feb. 11 issue. Selected to serve under them as associate editors were Bill Ris and Dennis Stern. Jack Rakove and Arch Ruberg will serve as sports editors, and Frankel will become photography editor. The new business manager is Dave Wilson. Andy will continue as circulation editor until June.

Jones and Millstone become the sophomores to edit the paper for the next year. They have both served as associate editors under the present regime. Their selection was announced by Don Dodson, editor of the present staff.

The remainder of the staff was chosen by Jones and Millstone. Because there are two editors, the staff will not have a managing

Jones also would like to see more faculty members doing actual writing, instead of merely being interviewed. He pointed out that many "are dynamic and involved in political issues and could cover these themselves."

Finally, Jones cited the disproportionate interest which Haverford students have in Bryn Mawr as reason for the NEWS to give more coverage to BMC.

Millstone agreed with Jones concerning the need for more equal balance in the work load, but stated that the lack of interest among the juniors is a problem that the staff will have to face.

Specifically, he pointed out that the new editorial staff is entirely composed of sophomores and freshmen.

In addition to having the paper serving as a news device, Millstone said the NEWS could, and should, be an effective means of expressing student opinion.



Prof. William Davidson is arrested by police in Morton, Pa., while handing out literature in opposition to American policy in Vietnam. Davidson was tried and found guilty of littering. He has appealed the conviction.

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