

VIETNAM VETERANS FOR ACADEMIC REFORM

The University of Kansas Student Auxiliary

Leonard Magruder - Founder/President

Former professor of psychology - Suffolk College, N.Y.

Member: National Association of Scholars

Mr. Magruder is not a Vietnam veteran. As a college professor (psychology), he was outspoken over many years in support of the troops in Vietnam and the cause, and became deeply involved with them when they returned. Until he moved to Kansas he was an Associate Member of the Suffolk, N.Y. Chapter of VVA (*Vietnam Veterans of America*). With the support of a number of these Vietnam vets who joined his Board of Advisors, including the VVA chapter President, he founded *Vietnam Veterans for Academic Reform*, a national organization with a student auxiliary at the Univ. of Kansas. He is sending out this series to regional and state Vietnam vet leaders, plus other vet leaders, vets in Congress, and the national media, to let people know what was accomplished, but was suppressed by the media.

***Vietnam and the Media, from the archives of Vietnam Veterans for Academic Reform* - Leonard Magruder, President**

PART 1 - Dan Rather Refuses to Debate the Issues

PART 2 - Subject: The suppression of the final report to the American people from the nation's largest symposium on Vietnam at Stony Brook University, N.Y.

PART 3 - Subject: How the national media lied about the Tet Offensive

PART 4 - Subject: How CBS suppressed the Magruder expose of "The Uncounted Enemy"

PART 5 - Subject: The Campaign Against PBS

PART 6 - Subject: Only liberals could play in the 60's

PART 7 - Subject: Issues the media never touched on

PART 8 - Subject: Poll showing today's students disagree with 60's protestors suppressed by "Newsday"

PART 9 - Subject: An interlude on education - the primary mission of V.V.A.R.

PART 10 - Subject: From a new history by a Vietnam vet and historian

PART 10a - Subject: How the advocacy journalism of the 60's is throttling today's campus

GOLD CONFESSES TO CBS BIAS – BUT LEAVES OUT VIETNAM

[As compiled 28 Feb 2002]

PART 1 - Dan Rather Refuses to Debate the Issues

In light of the scandal a few months ago involving Dan Rather and Democratic Party fundraising, we decided to share an incident involving him in 1986. Dr. Theodore Kennedy, Professor of Anthropology at the New York State University at Stony Brook, invited Mr. Magruder, President of V.V.A.R., because of his long involvement with Vietnam veterans, to help him put together the largest symposium on Vietnam ever assembled. "As National Coordinator, Mr. Magruder has responsibilities for helping design the program and contacting and inviting some of the leading figures of the Vietnam period to speak." (*Lawrence Journal World*, Oct. 10, 1986) "The first of its kind in the country and a model for other universities." (*Newsday*, Sept. 6, 1986.) It was the most comprehensive, in-depth examination of both the war in Vietnam and the "war on the home front" ever put together, unique because of the participation of some 800 Vietnam veterans.

There were 60 speakers from all over the country, representing the military, the media, the protestors, the government, and academia. Among those invited and who spoke were Bruce Hare, Prof. of Philosophy, Stony Brook Univ.; Kenneth Steadman, Director, VFW; General William C. Westmoreland; Jan Scruggs, Vietnam Veterans Memorial; Leroi Jones (Baraka), activist and poet; Florynce Kennedy, Co-founder, N.O.W; Allen Ginsburg, poet and activist; Senator Eugene McCarthy; David Horowitz, co-editor, *Ramparts*; Hung Van Ho, Army of South Vietnam; and William Gibbons, National Defense Division.

The media was singularly under-represented. In the beginning, Dr. Kennedy spent hours on the phone with representatives of the New York national media emphasizing the national significance of the Symposium and the need for them to cover it. When this failed, Mr. Magruder wrote the following open letter to Dan Rather, reviewing the performance of CBS during the war and challenging him to a debate at the Symposium. Copies of the letter were hand-delivered by students throughout the New York media community.

Dear Mr. Rather:

As you are probably aware, numerous sociological studies have documented the fact that during the 60's the television networks were strongly biased on the subject of Vietnam in the same left/liberal direction as the universities that educated their reporters. One of the best of these studies is *The News Twisters*, by Edith Efron, a book that CBS desperately tried to suppress. The quantitative data in this and other studies show that the networks consistently misinformed and even lied to the American people. Reporting by CBS, ABC, and NBC over an extended period in 1968 show a steady drumbeat of anti-government voices, unified in an assault on the war. Little or no opinion in support of the war was allowed on any of the three networks even though as late as Oct. 1969 the majority of Americans, according to pollster Lou Harris, still supported a military victory in Vietnam.

The data also shows that the networks never allowed the true neo-fascist views and tactics of the New Left and the S.D.S. to be known, protecting them as part of a larger body of "harmless" or "idealistic" youth and using them to project an image of "youth in revolt against the war" and in general actively helping to promote their Marxist version of the war. The data shows how, through biased editorial selection, the views of the left had a virtual stranglehold on opinion on the war. In fact, reporter and enemy opinion constituted a majority of opinion advocating a unilateral bombing halt. Out of 37 such statements, one third came from enemy sources. Said Senator Margaret Chase Smith, "The press has become more sympathetic to the enemy than to our own national interest." (*Congressional Record*, June 16, 1971). Said Theodore White, the highly respected author of *The Making of the President* series, "There is a new avante garde which dominates the heights of national communication and has come to despise its own countrymen and its traditions."

On occasion, as in the case of the Vietnam War, the university and the media act as an unelected counter-government, certain that they only know what is best for the nation. But if the worldview that they share is in fact closer in its basic philosophical assumptions to those of totalitarianism than to those of the Judeo-Christian majority, the danger is obvious, they can misinform and mislead the country. There is, therefore, great fear abroad in the land that in another time of crisis, the university and the media, unless reformed, may again allow themselves to be manipulated by enemy propaganda or exploit the crisis to further ideological interests hostile to the national interest.

One of the most significant consequences of the Vietnam conflict was its exposure of the breakdown that has occurred in intellectual and journalistic circles with regard to objectivity and truth. The truth is that the left-liberal media, informed in its analysis of world events by the impoverished moral sensibility of secularism and hostile to traditional American values, and wanting to see Hanoi win the war to prove those values wrong withheld information from the American people throughout the war. In particular, it created a "disaster" image of the Tet Offensive (perpetrated 15 years later in *The Uncounted Enemy* - CBS) because it served its ideological purposes, even in the face of incoming victorious reports from the battlefield. Said Ronald Reagan, "CBS under World War II circumstances would have been charged with treason."

The philosophy of life that allows for such blatant disregard for truth is rampant throughout the New York media and Eastern academic circles. Said Theodore White in *Newsweek*, "I regard the growing gap between the cult that dominates New York intellectual thought today, and the reality perceived by thoughtful people elsewhere, as a political fact of enormous importance and danger."

Part of the problem was no doubt touched upon by Carolyn Lewis, former Associate Dean of the Columbia School of Journalism when she wrote in *The Washington Monthly* recently, "So lacking in intellectual substance is the Columbia curriculum in journalism that students can go through the entire program without having to read a book."

Another part of the problem is revealed in two well-known studies done by Columbia University and George Washington University that show that media persons, almost all college educated and liberal, "not only differ sharply on moral issues from attitudes of the general public, but shun religion and actively seek to reform society towards their views." Search Institute, in its landmark study of the importance of religion on Capitol Hill said, "An important factor in our national ignorance of religion on Capitol Hill...is the national press. A predominant characteristic of the media elite is its secular outlook. Perhaps the reporters and commentators are unable to recognize religious influence when they see it."

It follows that they would also not be able to recognize the true danger of an ideology such as atheistic Communism. It is no accident that Howard K. Smith, the noted television newscaster, warned during the 60's that "the media is not giving a true picture of Vietnam," and that the reporters are "especially naïve about Communist intentions and Ho Chi Minh." Bias in the media, he said, was "massive" and "anti-American."

The facts seem to be clear. Television networks are dominated by a world-view contemptuous of majority traditional values and they actively seek to impose their views on the rest of America. In this they serve as the propaganda arms of the academic establishment. In summary, it seems that "liberal" today means uneducated, uninformed, and naïve. For the media, with the power it yields, to have no understanding of the significance of contemporary events makes it a very dangerous force in American society and clearly in need of a thorough airing of the problem.

I hope you will accept my invitation to join me in airing the problem at the Symposium – "Courage."

Leonard Magruder

Mr. Rather did not respond to the letter. And when the Symposium ended, the press release prepared by Mr. Magruder summarizing the findings of the Symposium was uniformly boycotted by the New York media.

PART 2 - Subject: The suppression of the final report to the American people from the nation's largest symposium on Vietnam at Stony Brook University, N.Y.

In part 1 of this series on how the media suppressed stories related to Vietnam, Mr. Magruder recounted how Dan Rather refused an invitation to debate the many issues with regard the performance of the media during the Vietnam War at the Stony Brook University Vietnam Symposium of 1986.

"The media pretty well snubbed the entire event," said Mr. Magruder, who served as National Coordinator, "and when I sent out a final press release summarizing the findings of the Symposium, the largest ever held, it was completely ignored by the New York national media."

Following are extracts from that press release:

"The key to the success of the Symposium was that for the first time hundreds of Vietnam veterans and students had been brought together in a direct learning situation, stimulated by an outstanding panel of speakers, 60 in all, from all over the country representing the military, the media, the government, veterans organizations, academia, and the war protestors. Funding for the project came from private individuals. Over \$35,000 was raised for honorariums and speaker fees.

Each session of the Symposium, most with a number of speakers, covered a different topic related to the Vietnam War. These included:

- 1) The History of Vietnam and American Involvement
- 2) How America's Youth Responded to the Call
- 3) The Views of Veteran Organizations (VVA, VFW, American Legion, etc.)
- 4) The War as Seen by General Westmoreland
- 5) Protests and Counter-Protests at Home
- 6) The Performance of the Media
- 7) The Turning Points of the War
- 8) The Return of the Vietnam Veteran
- 9) The Story of the Wall by its Founders
- 10) The Adjustment and Reassimilation of the Veteran
- 11) The POW/MIA Issue
- 12) The Views of the South Vietnamese
- 13) The Lessons of the War
- 14) The Vietnam Veteran as Emerging Leader

In general, said Mr. Magruder in an interview, representatives of the military and government were not only highly responsive to invitations to participate, but all had given of their time at no cost. Most former war protestors who were invited, he said, either declined the invitations or had asked for fees, which were in many cases prohibitive. The representatives of the national media, who were invited, such as Dan Rather, Mike Wallace, Tom Brokaw, Sam Donaldson, Peter Jennings, and Ted Koppel, did not respond, making the media singularly underrepresented.

Aspects of the war that had been neglected over the years, but had been brought out by the speakers at the Symposium, included: the humanitarian and idealistic dimensions of American involvement, the subversive aspects of the campus "peace" movement, the true intentions of Communist North Vietnam to conquer all of Indochina, the ruthlessness and barbaric tactics of the Viet Cong, the use of the American media to influence public opinion against the war, the succumbing of American journalists and intellectuals to Hanoi propaganda, the bravery and victorious record of the American soldier, the genuine thrust for freedom of the South Vietnamese, the abandonment by liberals in Congress of South Vietnam, the views of the Vietnam veteran towards the war protestors and the media, and the true status of the POW/MIA issue.

Asked what he thought were the main themes emerging from the Symposium, Mr. Magruder said that while he could not speak for either Dr. Kennedy or the Vietnam veterans, that as a psychologist and sociologist the themes that he saw emerging from the Symposium seemed to include at least the following five points:

- 1) The majority of veterans fully understood their mission in Vietnam to be to stop Communist aggression from the North, do not view their mission in Vietnam as having been "immoral," take a certain amount of pride in their accomplishments on the battlefield, and are proud to have served their country. This is quite at odds with the image perpetrated on campus and in the media of the veteran as a "dupe" of American "imperialism," waiting for the war protestors to save them.
- 2) The majority of veterans do not view the war protestors as having been either "idealistic" or as "moral heroes," and view their interpretation of the war as naïve, false, and damaging to their efforts. Most of them recognize that the war protests were engineered by Marxist and other ideologues on campus who were partisan to Hanoi and manipulated gullible students to further the self-interests of both groups.
- 3) Most veterans expressed concern over the fact that many former draft evaders and war protestors now occupy prominent positions on campus and continue in their writings and lectures to perpetuate a false understanding of the war and its veterans offering themselves to students as a "moral elite," while in general striving to avoid debate on the issues with the veterans.
- 4) A majority of veterans appear to be deeply dissatisfied with the media, particularly national television, for having portrayed a view of the war more sympathetic to that of the war protestors than to the majority of Americans including themselves. They are particularly unhappy that their considerable military achievements such as at Hue, Khe Sahn and other battlefields during the Tet and other large offensives were portrayed by the media to

the American people either negatively, or as defeats, and that these impressions have never been corrected.

- 5) A majority of veterans appear to hold the campus and the media largely responsible for the tragic outcome of the war, and blame those two institutions for having created a false image of them and the war that made their return home very difficult.

Asked what he thought was the most significant contribution of the Symposium, Mr. Magruder said that it was undoubtedly the changing perception by students of the Vietnam veterans from the false stereotypes of the anti-war movement and the media, to one of citizens who had acted responsibly in answering the call to duty, who successfully fought an especially difficult war to a peace treaty, and who had returned home to totally unfair treatment as a result of misinformation spread by the campus and the media.

Equally important, he said, was the change that is coming about in student perception of the war protestors and the draft dodgers as considerably less than the moral heroes they portray themselves to be, as a result of becoming aware, at the Symposium, of the ideological and often self-interested motives behind their behavior.

Asked about the problems the symposium had faced, Mr. Magruder said that the biggest problem was that media coverage had been scanty and biased. What little there had been focused primarily on General Westmoreland's visit, and the three articles on this in the campus newspaper had been unduly critical and harsh, causing some veterans to observe that many on campus, and in the media, seemed to be trying to avoid the issues.

Also, he said, there had been some harassment by the leftists and Marxists on campus. One professor, a well-known leftist, gave a lengthy speech on the "vested economic interests" behind the war (an idea universally hooted down by the veterans), had coached his students into giving him a standing ovation, had encouraged his students to heckle others on stage, and had lodged a complaint with the Dean about the presence on campus of the American flag in a color guard to honor General Westmoreland.

Mr. Magruder is *President of Vietnam Veterans for Academic Reform*, the national organization and the student auxiliary at the University of Kansas. Speaking in Lawrence today, he said, "Looking back, it borders on a national tragedy that an event of this scope, made possible by the contributions, in terms of time, effort, and money, of so many, and designed to help the American people arrive at some correct historical conclusions with regards the war, was so neglected by the media, as well as by many on the University faculty, who largely shunned the event.

Significant new insights on the Vietnam Era by General Westmoreland, David Horowitz, Sen. Eugene McCarthy, Bobby Seale, and Al Santoli and so many others went totally unreported by the media, nor would they send representatives to engage in the dialogue. Nor has much changed. I noted yesterday a recent article by Richard Kolb, Editor-in-Chief of *VFW Magazine* in which he quotes Vietnam vet Milt Copulos as saying "There's a wall 10 miles high and 50 miles thick between those of us who went and those who didn't, and that wall is never going to come down." And vet David Carrad, who wrote in the *Wall Street Journal*, "Until my generation passes from the scene, I doubt there will ever be any reconciliation of views on the war between those who went and those who did not." It is the guilt of those who didn't go that will always cause any effort to heal in a Symposium to be less than successful. For thirty years, the tissue of lies that had to be told by those who would not serve has been rotting the heart out of this society. Look at the experience of David Horowitz at Brown and Arizona State. The spirit of the leftist thugs of the 60's is still with us. For 30 years the university has been unable to tolerate a dissenting opinion, or discuss an issue rationally, continuing to serve as the Depositer of the Lies or as Paul Hollander, noted sociologist at U. Mass. writes, "the major reservoirs of the adversary culture." Why don't our universities finally face the truth about Vietnam, rejoin and help our failing society?"

Part 3 - Subject: How the national media lied about the Tet Offensive.

The Tet Offensive, which was portrayed by the New York liberal media as a defeat for the U.S. was in fact, as Westmoreland and all historians agree, an almost disastrous defeat for the North Vietnamese. Not only did they lose half of the 90,000 troops they had committed to battle, the Viet Cong was virtually destroyed.

Contrary to the expectations of the North, the people of the South took not one step to assist the invaders. Instead, they rose up in revulsion and resistance, with the government and the people galvanized into unity for the first time and volunteers for the South Vietnamese army almost doubling.

In the U.S., the facts made clear by the Tet Offensive, that the war was not just a "civil war," that the South clearly did not wish to live under Communist rule and welcomed American aid, and that it was the North Vietnamese who were engaged in "genocide" and "aggression" with the mass murders at Hue and the rocket attacks on helpless civilian populations, should have ended the arguments of the "peace" movement. It was the moment of truth for those in the universities and the media. They failed the test. The lying continued with renewed fury.

The New York media, recognizing an opportunity to manipulate the news to effectively impose its view of the war on the American people now created, and deliberately sustained, an image of "disaster," even in the face of incoming battlefield reports that contradicted that image. This image was taken seriously by advisors to President Johnson, totally altering the outcome of the war at the very moment when victory might have been possible. The liberal media robbed the United States government and the American people of the ability to make critical judgments about their most vital security interests in a time of war.

The true reason for the tragic change in policy after the Tet offensive is seen in what Johnson now told Westmoreland, that to pursue the war more aggressively was politically unfeasible, that he had "no choice but to try to calm the protestors lest they precipitate an abject American pull-out." (America in Vietnam, Levy, 1978) In one of the most incredible phenomenon in the history of warfare, there was during this period, thanks to the media, no logical connection between what was actually happening in Vietnam and response on the home front. The response to victory was despair. This is what the media calls the "psychological victory," which they themselves created.

And to their everlasting shame, the "peace" movement responded to any hint of success by American forces at Tet with panic, fearing that their own country might win the war. As presidential candidate George McGovern said to Vietnam vet and former Sec. of the Navy James Webb, "What you don't understand is that I didn't want us to win that war." (American Enterprise Mag. May/June 1997)

The April-June 1986 edition of The National Vietnam Veteran's Review had a front-page article (with photo) titled "Professor Calls for Congressional Investigation of Media's Treatment of the Vietnam War." During that period Mr. Magruder had distributed a "Request to Congress" to most members of Congress calling for a Congressional investigation into how it came about that a major American victory had been reported to the American people as a defeat. The request was supported by twelve large Vietnam veteran organizations, and General Westmoreland. As stated in the N.V.V.R. article, "General Westmoreland, who has already made one call to the Steering Committee, stated publicly this week, "Professor Magruder's project is an extremely important issue and I support his efforts 100%."

Copies of the material Mr. Magruder sent to Congress were distributed to news organizations throughout the National Press Building in Washington, but no mention of it ever appeared in print. The media has always tried to dismiss the charge of having lied about the Tet Offensive as a right-wing fantasy, but in his material distributed to Congress Mr. Magruder quoted from 21 standard histories and commentaries on the Vietnam War, as follows:

"The enemy has been hurt badly he committed a total of about 84,000 men. He lost 40,000 killed." (Report of General Earle G. Wheeler, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on the Tet Offensive. Feb. 27, 1968) (Note: the allies lost 927. This is the disaster for the North Vietnamese that CBS called a "stalemate.")

"The Allied counter-offensive following Tet destroyed the Viet Cong based in the South and was a major defeat for the North. Yet despite this victory the press in the United States turned Tet into an American defeat." (Great Battles of the 20th Century - Sir Basil Liddell Hart)

"The Viet Cong was suffering severe casualties... but this situation was not being reflected in news reports or on television in the United States." (The Unmaking of a President - Herbert Schandler)

"Following Tet, the enemy was completely vulnerable (but) the most powerful country in the world did not have the will power to meet the situation. (Strategy for Defeat - Admiral Sharpe)

"The North Vietnamese regulars and the Viet Cong guerrillas were defeated utterly on the battlefield. Granted the American superiority at that time, there is at least the probability that North Vietnam forces could have been destroyed." (Crossroads of Modern Warfare - Drew Middleton)

"The impression created by the press and television coverage of the offensive was of a great defeat for the Americans and the South Vietnamese. (Why We Were in Vietnam - Norman Podhoretz)

"The war still could have been brought to a favorable end following the defeat of the enemy's Tet Offensive. But this was not to be. Press and television had created an aura, not of victory, but defeat. (A Soldier Reports- General William Westmoreland)

"Newsmen countered official claims of a Communist defeat by saying that even if it were true (which they refused to accept as they did the official account of enemy losses) the communists had achieved a psychological victory. (The Vietnam War - an international panel of historians)

"This is the only war lost in the columns of The New York Times. They created an image of South Vietnam that was as distant from the truth as not even to be a good caricature. There were those who invented, distorted, and lied. (Certain Victory - Dennis Warner)

"Visitors to the Lyndon Johnson Library are told, "While the President was reading reports from the war that made it clear that the enemy had suffered a severe military loss (Tet), newspaper and TV gave the impression that the loss was ours and that defeat was imminent." (New York Times News Service) "COSVN, Viet Cong Headquarters, in its internal report #6, March 1968, admitted the Tet Offensive had been a failure. "We failed to seize a number of primary objectives. We also failed to hold the occupied areas. In the political field we failed to motivate the people to stage uprisings." (The Magruder Expose - Leonard Magruder)

"For the first time in modern history the outcome of a war was determined not on the battlefield but on the printed page and television screens - never before Vietnam had the collective policy of the media sought, by graphic and unremitting distortion, the victory of the enemies of the correspondents own side." (Encounter-British journalist Robert Elegant)

"It was the massive military defeat of the Viet Cong and NVA that proved the main turning point in the United States resolve. In military terms it was a massive defeat for Giap. However, on the television screens of the United States Tet turned into a victory for the Communists." (Vietnam - Ian Beckett) "Jack Fern of NBC suggested to producer Robert Northfield that NBC do a documentary showing that Tet was indeed a decisive military victory for the United States. "We can't," said Northfield, "Tet is already established in the public mind as a defeat." (Between Fact and Fiction - Edward J. Epstein) "When General Westmoreland publicly announced that the Tet Offensive had been a major defeat for the Communists and a major victory for the Allied forces, a fact obvious to anyone who viewed the events dispassionately, he was treated like a self-deluding fool by the news media." (Battles and Campaigns - Tom Carhart)

"The Tet Offensive proved catastrophic to our plans. It is a major irony of the Vietnam War that our propaganda transformed this debacle into a brilliant victory. The truth was that Tet cost us half our forces. Our losses were so immense that we were unable to replace them with new recruits." (Truong Nhu Tang - Mnister of Justice - Viet Cong Provisional Revolutionary Government - The New York Review, Oct. 21, 1982)

"The military's conflict with the Saigon press corp was the crucible of the debate over the Order of Battle. But CBS chose not to explore that conflict - to have done so the network would have had to bare its own archives of the period, including Walter Cronkites's milestone commentary, which declared, following Tet, that an American victory was unlikely and that a truce must be negotiated. " (A Matter Of Honor - Don Kowitz)

"Though it was an overwhelming victory for South Vietnam and the United States, the almost universal theme of media coverage was that we had suffered a disastrous defeat. The steady drumbeat of inaccurate stories convinced millions of Americans that we had lost a major battle." (No More Vietnams -Richard Nixon)

"The myth was created (by the media) that the war was unwinnable, and that had a decisive effect on American resolution. (War in Peace- Sir Robert Thompson)

"Rarely has contemporary crisis journalism turned out, in retrospect, to have veered so widely from reality. Essentially the dominant themes of the words and film from Vietnam added up to a portrait of defeat for the Allies,. Historians, on the contrary, have concluded that the Tet Offensive resulted in a severe military-political setback for Hanoi in the South. To have portrayed such a setback for one side as a defeat for the other - in major crisis abroad - cannot be counted upon as a triumph for American journalism... and it could happen again." (Big Story - 2 vols. - Peter Braestrup)

"If there is to be an inquiry related to the Vietnam War, it should be into the reasons why enemy propaganda was so widespread in this country, and why the enemy was able to condition the public to such an extent that the best educated segments of our population have given credence to the most incredible allegations." (Final Report - Chief of Military History - U.S. Government)

When does this inquiry begin? The last four years of the war, the lives lost, and the final abandonment by the U.S. of the peoples of South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, were prices paid to indulge the tantrums of the campus 'peace' movement and the New York liberal media. America, through the lack of moral and intellectual sophistication of its liberal academics and journalists had succumbed to the most successful propaganda effort the world has ever seen. How the campus and the media lied about Vietnam is the one great trauma in the tissue of American history that has never been dealt with.

Part 4 - Subject: How CBS suppressed the Magruder expose of "The Uncounted Enemy."

"You have done an exhaustive bit of research and I congratulate you" –General William C. Westmoreland

On Jan. 23, 1982, eight months after Professor Magruder resigned his position at Suffolk College, N.Y. to protest that media and campus had lied about Vietnam, CBS ran a 90-minute documentary on prime time television titled, *The Uncounted Enemy: A Vietnam Deception*, produced by George Crile and narrated by Mike Wallace. The program charged that U.S. military intelligence in Vietnam under orders from General Westmoreland had conspired to deceive President Johnson, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Congress and the American people by systematically underreporting enemy strength to make it appear that Westmoreland was winning the war. This was done, CBS claimed, through the reduction of estimates of infiltration in the five months prior to the Tet Offensive, and by deleting from the Order-of-Battle village civilians who supported the Viet Cong, the SS and the SSD. The purpose of the deception, according to CBS was to lead people into believing that the U.S. was winning a war, which in fact, according to CBS, it was losing. This "conspiracy," said Mike Wallace, led to complete unpreparedness for the Tet Offensive, unnecessary loss of American soldiers, and in the final analysis, to the loss of the war.

The program was believed without reservation by almost the entire American press. "From *The Nation* to *The Wall Street Journal*," said Renata Adler in *Reckless Disregard*. "No serious journalist or publication called any element of the ninety-minute program into question. Editorials simply treated the broadcast as true." This was massive testimony to the nation's depth of ignorance on the Vietnam War, as a result of years of distortion by the media. They had lied so often on the subject they were in a fog.

Professor Magruder immediately recognized the large number of serious discrepancies and outright lies in the film. Stunned, he realized that CBS had just given him a classic example of the kind of lying he had just given his job to protest and immediately began research to expose the film.

On March 28, 1982, 150 copies of a 21- page single-spaced article documenting that the CBS film had been one long series of lies from beginning to end, were hand delivered by Mr. Magruder and his students throughout the upper echelons of the New York media, as well as sent through the mail. Among those receiving copies at CBS, in addition to CBS executives, were Mike Wallace, Dan Rather and George Crile. Executives and newscasters such as Frank Reynolds, Sam Donaldson, Roger Mudd, Peter Jennings, Tom Brokaw, and John Chancellor of ABC and NBC also received copies, along with executives, editors, and columnists of *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *Newsday* and *The Washington Post*. Approximately thirty copies were delivered to leading columnists such as Tom Wicker, Harriet Van Horne, and Anthony Lewis.

The entire New York liberal media establishment immediately covered up the fully documented article proving that CBS had lied to the American people on a massive scale, just as they had often done during the Vietnam War, and particularly during the Tet Offensive.

On May 29, 1982, two months after the cover-up of the Magruder exposé, the story broke with a cover article in *TV Guide*, "Anatomy of A Smear: How CBS Broke the Rules and 'Got' General Westmoreland," by Don Kowitz and Salley Bedell, based on copies of CBS interviews for the film. The article, while not as lengthy or detailed as the Magruder exposé, was nevertheless more than enough to show that the CBS documentary was in serious trouble.

The article showed that CBS had paid and then coached persons in what to say, had deliberately angered Westmoreland to make him appear guilty on film, had refused to include in the film corrections that he has requested, refused to include evidence by Walt Rostow that Johnson had been fully informed as to the increased infiltration, the upcoming Tet Offensive, and the Order-of-Battle controversy, had lied about its efforts to contact General Phillips Davidson, head of intelligence in Vietnam, and had rejected testimony by George Carver, head of CIA intelligence that would have totally invalidated the thesis of the CBS film. It also proved that the statement in the film by Col. Gaines Hawkins that he had been given an enemy troop estimate ceiling by Westmoreland was contradicted four times by statements from Hawkins to George Crile as found in the interview transcripts and that CBS had deliberately inserted a response by Westmoreland where it did not belong in an effort to discredit him.

When General Westmoreland received his copy of the Magruder exposé, he wrote Professor Magruder a personal letter in which he stated, "You have done an exhaustive bit of research and I congratulate you. I am sending your letter and its enclosures to my lawyer." (Letter, Sept. 13, 1982)

In his exposé, Magruder wrote that in the film Mike Wallace failed to tell his viewers that the entire thesis of the CBS film, based on a charge made by Sam Adams, a CIA analyst, had been thoroughly investigated and dismissed by the House Select Committee on Intelligence in 1975 and fully aired at the time in the press. Adams, a Harvard graduate sympathetic to the leftist views of antiwar leaders, and who testified on behalf of Daniel Ellsberg at his trial, had hoped by his estimate of 600,000 Viet Cong to force Johnson to pull out of the war. He strongly believed in the Marxist concept of the "people's revolution," and consistently tried to prove through his figures that it was the "people" who were fighting, unaided by the North, the same naive myth propagated by the campus "peace" movement and the New York media cult.

Wallace also failed to inform his viewers that Adams, in an article in *Harper's Magazine* in May 1975 and again at the House investigation, was primarily concerned that the CIA, not General Westmoreland, had suppressed his estimate of Viet Cong strength. The subtitle of his article was "A CIA Conspiracy Against its Own Intelligence." Said Rufus Taylor, Deputy Director of the CIA from 1966 to 1969, in a letter of response to the Adams article in the July 1975 issue of *Harper's*, "We could perceive no merit in presenting Sam or his conclusions to the President." Wrote James Graham, of the *Board of National Intelligence* in the same issue of *Harper's*, "His assumption that these findings were generally accepted within the CIA is a

distortion of the facts." He charged Adams with conveying a "misleading impression of a single-handed and lonely struggle to get the truth out about the war to the White House against the massive opposition of countless knaves and cowards." The truth, said Graham, was that, "In my twenty-five years in the CIA, I never saw an analyst given more individual attention, more opportunity to present his evidence and state his case." But his case was so bizarre that no one would buy it, except for Mike Wallace, and CBS.

Wallace failed to tell his viewers that at no time had the CIA ever taken Adam's estimate of 600,000 Viet Cong seriously. This estimate upon which the CBS film rested was dismissed by President Johnson's own Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, and both branches of the CIA: the Directorate of Intelligence and the Office of National Estimates. The key statement in the film by Wallace that the CIA was "at war with Washington to accept Adams estimate," was not true. George Crile, the producer of the CBS film, had to have known these facts. He had been editor for the Adams article in *Harper's* in 1975, from which all of the above statements were taken. Furthermore, all of this had to have been known by most of the liberal columnists, such as Anthony Lewis of *The New York Times*, who had received copies of the Magruder exposé, as much of that exposé was based on their own articles published at the time of the House investigation of the Adams charge. They knew that the CBS film was a smear against Westmoreland based on lies, yet they said nothing as it served their ideological purposes.

Quoting from President Johnson's memoirs, *The Vantage Point*, Magruder showed not only that Westmoreland had kept Johnson and the American people informed as to the conditions in Vietnam at all times, but that Johnson was fully informed of the Order-of-Battle controversy, the increased infiltration of Northern regulars, and the general timing and purpose of the approaching Tet offensive [for information on the intelligence operations conducted by American reconnaissance forces in the Saigon area prior to and during the 1968 Tet Offensive, see the documentary, *Silent Victory*]. Both Johnson and Westmoreland in their books had criticized the U.S. media for not passing on to the American people their warnings about the coming Tet Offensive. The press would later use the public dismay over Tet (which they themselves created) as an excuse to try to discredit earlier optimistic statements by Johnson and Westmoreland. The press deliberately neglected their warnings about Tet in order to set them up for criticism.

Magruder cited a number of sources where CBS could easily have found official military record of the increased infiltration, which Mike Wallace charged Westmoreland with suppressing. He also showed that Maj. Gen. McChristian, who was portrayed in the film as having his intelligence warnings suppressed by Westmoreland, leaving the military unprepared for the Tet Offensive, was quoted by Jack Anderson in a column on Oct 31, 1975 as saying, "There was sufficient data to predict the offensive in the spring of 1968," and that Westmoreland took his information," very seriously."

The CBS film was a final desperate attempt by the media to nail down the "peace" movement's view of the war. It backfired miserably, resulting in complete exposure of exactly how the media (and the university), as Mr. Magruder stated at the time of his resignation in protest, had lied about Vietnam. The falsification in the film of the Tet Offensive as a defeat was a repeat of how CBS had portrayed the offensive at the time [again, see the documentary, *Silent Victory*].

So incompetent was Adams that in his article he estimated American lives lost in the Tet Offensive at 10,000. The accepted figure is 927. Magruder pointed out that a final CIA evaluation of Adams as an analyst, shortly before his resignation under pressure, described him as "marginal" at conducting research, and as having lost "balance and objectivity."

The entire thesis of the CBS-Wallace film, that it was a conspiracy by the military to conceal enemy strength to support Johnson's claim of progress that led to a devastating surprise victory by the Communists at Tet, and that the Adams estimate was then accepted, leading to Johnson's resignation and ending the war, is one long, sustained lie, as Westmoreland said, "a cruel hoax reprehensible and irresponsible." The film was an insult to the intelligence of the American people and a slander against those who served in South Vietnam, by the very ones who did the most to betray both national interests and the American people."

On Sept. 13, 1982, General Westmoreland sued CBS for 120 million dollars for libel, labeling the film "vicious, false, and contemptible." Mr. Magruder now knew that his resignation to protest that the media had lied about Vietnam was about to be vindicated in one of the largest suits ever filed against the media. Westmoreland had stated in his letter that he had sent the exposé Magruder had sent him to his lawyer, Dan Burt. On Feb. 4, 1984, Mr. Burt wrote to Mr. Magruder thanking him for his analysis. It is possible that Burt may have used the exposé as a guide in planning his attack on CBS, as up until the time of the trial the Magruder exposé remained perhaps the best detailed account of the lies in the film. Therefore, it is understandable that it was with great satisfaction that Mr. Magruder sat back on Oct. 10, 1984 and watched (on ABC) the first of a parade of generals and colonels who would testify that CBS had lied.

The trial, which ended with an apology to Westmoreland by CBS, destroyed the credibility of CBS-News for decades to come.

Part 5 - Subject: The Campaign Against PBS

This is an account of a national campaign that was waged by Mr. Magruder that forced PBS stations to show a documentary on Vietnam, narrated by Charlton Heston, that it had tried to suppress. The film detailed how CBS had misled the nation about the Tet Offensive. Martha Bayle, in *The Wall Street Journal* said, "*Television's Vietnam: The Impact of Media* attacks the liberal bias of contemporary news coverage of the 1968 Tet Offensive. It suggests that reporters (especially TV reporters) turned a U.S. military victory into a political and psychological defeat. PBS has refused to give air time to the film."

By spending \$6000 of his own money to show the film on various television stations around the country, Mr. Magruder exposed the issue, creating a landslide defection on the part of station managers who had been told by PBS executives not to show the film. In addition, he wrote a letter to all 314 PBS station managers appealing to them to defy PBS Headquarters and show the film.

That summer, Mr. Magruder, along with Col. Chuck Allen, publisher/editor of the *National Vietnam Veterans Review*, discussed the issue in an hour-long interview on CBS affiliate WFNC, Fayetteville, N.C.

At the Vietnam Veterans parade in Chicago, Magruder paid for a continuous showing of the film on in-house television throughout his four-day stay at the Americana Congress Hotel, reaching the thousands of Vietnam veterans who were staying there. The afternoon of the parade about 50 vets showed up with posters that read "Media and Campus Lied About Vietnam" on one side and "PBS Show the Film" on the other, and a protest was held in Grant Park. In addition, with every showing in Chicago and elsewhere, viewers were urged to use a number that Mr. Magruder had arranged for with Mr. Joseph Redota of the White House to call President Reagan and tell him what they thought about the film.

280 out of 314 stations finally showed the film. William Criswell, Station Manger of WUSI/TV, Olney, Illinois, wrote on Aug 26, 1986, "You should be pleased to know that this station has been at sword's point with PBS powers-that-be for more than a year on the issue of bias. I have written to PBS President Bruce Christiansen and others protesting the one-sided presentation of America's role in world politics. We aired *Television's Vietnam: The Impact of Media* on Monday, August 18. It will be repeated Sat., Sept. 14." A number of station managers wrote Mr. Magruder saying they were defying the ban and would show the film. Wrote Ruth Ann Barnes, Director of WNET/13 in New York, "This is to let you know we have decided to air the AIM program."

Pat Buchanan, in a handwritten note from the White House said, "All the best with your new endeavor." Anne Higgins, writing for President Reagan, said, "The President's views on this subject are well known, and he will continue to express his concern that a flawed sense of our own history can lead to mistaken judgments about present policies as well as our future course." Reagan had written to Charlton Heston about the film, "Great, something every American should see - but then we know TV will never help them to see it." (AIM Report, March 1986). Mr. Magruder was happy to be able to write Reagan and tell him that the American people had now seen the film, that the cover-up had been defeated. General Westmoreland wrote, "I congratulate you on your success in the showing of the AIM film on PBS stations around the country." (Letter, Sept. 24, 1986)

The *Washington Inquirer* of Sept. 25, 1986, said, "... the most dedicated in this endeavor (fighting the boycott) was Leonard Magruder, who had been campaigning on behalf of Vietnam veterans causes for the last six years. He quit his professional post to protest against the treatment of Vietnam vet. Magruder recently held a Washington press conference in which he accused the media of basing its analysis of events in Vietnam on a liberalism hostile to the American values of freedom and democracy and which created and sustained a disaster image of the Tet Offensive." The *United Press*, *The Washington Post*, and *The New York Times* all sent reporters and photographers to this conference but did not report on the story when they heard that it was critical of the media performance in Vietnam.

Mr. Magruder said that while his successful national campaign to break the PBS boycott had been treated fairly in over two-dozen local newspaper articles, radio, television newscasts and talk shows, the story had been suppressed at the national level. Word had gone out from PBS to contain the story. Local editors were appalled by this development. Obviously, a story about a private citizen spending thousands of dollars to successfully reverse a decision by PBS not to show a film about Vietnam was a national story. Some editors, such as Mr. Donald Gillem of *The York Times-News*, York, Nebraska, considered this highly unethical and made special appeals to representatives of the wire services to see that the story was carried nationally, but they were rejected. In Topeka and Kansas City the *Associated Press* refused to place mention of press conferences by Mr. Magruder on the day calendar, which simply informs reporters of upcoming events. In other places, such as Lincoln, Nebraska, the wire services boycotted the news conferences that were held by Mr. Magruder. "The national media," said Mr. Magruder, "went on an orgy of suppression over this issue."

"The PBS campaign," he said, "was our response to the betrayal by CBS of the Suffolk College Rally for returned Vietnam veterans. Millions of people now know how CBS lied about Vietnam. For millions of Vietnam vets Dan Rather now became the symbol of a liberal media that had lied about their efforts in Vietnam, and *The CBS Evening News* program slipped into third place apparently as vets turned it off." Wrote Victor Goodpasture, a columnist for *The Daily Kansan*, the daily newspaper of the University of Kansas, "Mr. Magruder showed the documentary on campus last semester and also on Lawrence Cable Television. It ought to be shown to all journalism students and then discussed. It was this type of reporting that changed attitudes towards the war and eventually led to a Communist victory in South Vietnam. The media did a disservice to the American soldiers and the American people."

In a lecture at the University of Kansas following the PBS campaign Mr. Magruder said, "Thuong Nhu Tang, Minister of Justice of the Viet Cong Provisional Revolutionary Government, said in an article in *The New York Times* of Oct. 21, 1982, that the Communist losses in the Tet Offensive were 'so immense that they were unable to replace them with new recruits.' They lost half their troops, some 40,000 dead (the U.S. lost 926). But the media portrayed this as a U.S. defeat and CBS said that the United States couldn't hope to win the war." *The Daily Kansan*, April 2, 1986.

Part 6 - Subject: Only liberals could play in the 60's

The following is from material handed out by Mr. Magruder in a one-man protest in the late 60's at the University of Colorado the day after a massive and violent anti-war protest. During the 60's he did this at a number of universities.

Covered by all Denver and Boulder newspapers and television stations, the national media refused to report the protest, refusing to let Mr. Magruder join the debate on the issues of the hour. Only liberals could play. At the time Mr. Magruder, a psychologist, was Special Consultant to the State of Colorado in the field of mental retardation. But the material that he handed out that day to the students was incompatible with the media's "advocacy journalism," at a time when the most inane statements on Vietnam of obscure liberals were being given national attention.

It was this suppression of opinion contrary to views on the war by left/liberals in the university and the media, and the use of these institutions as instruments of indoctrination and propaganda, that created the polarization and breakdown in national debate in the 60's, leading to the tragedies in South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. The campus "peace" movement ended up on the side of tyranny and genocide. He wrote:

"Nothing more enrages the academic proponents of a naturalistic, and therefore "value-free," worldview than the incurable moralism of the American people. To combat the fact that the average citizen sees the present conflict in terms of morality, tyranny versus freedom, the university has conceived the ultimate hypocrisy; it has projected an absolute moral judgment, "the Vietnam War is immoral," from nihilistic philosophical foundations. The vehemence of both faculty and students, and their need to avoid dialogue at all costs, flow from the need to mask that hypocrisy, hoping the public will confuse the vehemence for certainty and go along

But adult America, all of whom are for genuine peace in the world, has not fallen for it. It has conspicuously not joined the marches because it correctly senses the true underlying message, which is, we do not believe in truth or morals, we will not sacrifice for democracy, we do not care if millions are slaughtered or enslaved, we want only to be left in peace, to pursue our sloth, our sex games, and our drugs. Certainly if South Vietnam, and with it all of Southeast Asia, falls to Communist aggression and slavery, the guilt will lie forever with the cowardly conspiracy between faculty and student hypocrisy that blunted U.S. efforts to stop that aggression."

The main issues, he said, were "The failure of the social sciences with regard to contemporary social ills, the ignorance of students on Communism and basic philosophical and theological alternatives, the indoctrination of students and their manipulation by left/liberal faculty to influence national policy, the moral and intellectual bankruptcy of the student anti-war movement, and the regressive movement on campus back to witchcraft, astrology, and drugs as sources of truth and self-fulfillment." –*The Boulder Daily Camera*

Two months later, Mr. Magruder led a protest at the American Psychological Association Convention in Washington, D.C. A major issue had to do with the misuse of psychology in the service of the anti-war movement:

“With regard to the role of psychologists in relation to the Vietnam War, the lies about the war spread by the campus ‘peace’ movement and the media have had a devastating impact on the returned veteran, leaving many shocked and creating unnecessary feelings of guilt. For many, the resulting suffering was worse than the war, and was borne in silence for years. What little help was available was found in the “rap group,” where again the veteran was betrayed. Anti-war oriented psychologists encouraged veterans into becoming active in the anti-war movement and encouraged them to convert their acts of killing in the line of duty into atrocities, so as to resonate better with the lies that by now permeated American society.

Other psychologists charged the war with having created a “killer instinct,” for which there was not the slightest shred of evidence. Said the noted sociologist Charles Moskos, “Psychologists tried to portray the soldiers as variously, wanton perpetrators of atrocities, or proto-fascist automatons.” There was nothing in contemporary psychological or psychiatric theory, with its moral relativism, that could come to grips with the code of the soldier, “Honor, Duty, Country”. The mental health community prostituted itself to forward its politics, using the suffering of the veterans to do so. The social scientists, which through their naïve secular and humanistic theories of man had played a major role on campus in betraying the war effort, now had to lie about the veterans of the war. The lying was compounding itself.”

The protest, which created considerable stir at the Convention, was totally ignored by the Washington media.

UPDATE

From the recent history, *A Better War*, by Lewis Sorley:

“Dr. Ernest Lefever, longtime senior fellow on foreign policy at the Brookings Institution and founder of Ethic and Public Policy Center in Washington, determined—based on content analysis—that during 1972 and 1973, CBS-TV News presented an ‘overwhelmingly unfavorable portrayal of the U.S. Armed Forces, the Defense Department, and their activities.’ This ‘striking effect was achieved by omitting many readily available stories on positive military accomplishments.’ In addition, ‘*CBS Evening News* was far more critical of America’s ally, South Vietnam, than America’s enemy, North Vietnam.’ In the course of this coverage, CBS gave 48 times more coverage to critics who wanted the U.S. to end military support to South Vietnam than to critics who wanted the U.S. to step up military action against the North.”

Whose side was CBS on?

Part 7 - Subject: Issues the media never touched on

From one of two 15-minute special news broadcasts with Mr. Magruder on KYFC-TV in Kansas City, Missouri.

"One myth propagated by the 'peace' movement is that the American soldier, because of his involvement in an "immoral" war, would, and later did, lose the war. The truth about the progress made following the Tet Offensive, from 1968 on, was never told to the American people.

The world's foremost authority on People's Revolutionary War, the Communist-developed strategy that was used in South Vietnam, is Sir Robert Thompson, who as Secretary of Defense of the Malaysian Federation defeated the Communist insurgency in that country. As observer of the Vietnam situation throughout its history, and himself critical of earlier American strategy, he nevertheless was able to report as follows to President Nixon in 1969.

"I was very impressed by the improvement in the military and political situation in Vietnam as compared to all previous visits, and especially in the security situation, both in Saigon and the rural areas. A winning position in the sense of obtaining a just peace, whether negotiated or not, and of maintaining an independent non-Communist South Vietnam has been achieved. We were most impressed by the remarkable success of the pacification program; we were able to visit areas and to walk through villages that had been under Viet Cong control for years. With increased security and improved communication, the economy is expanding rapidly. The seeds of democracy are also being planted at the village level. At the higher political level there is no question but that the government of President Thieu is not only more stable than any other government of the past few years, but that its performance is steadily improving. On the military side there has been a steady improvement in both performance and morale."

Where had all this progress come from, if not from the efforts and sacrifices of the American soldier?

(For the full scope of the true tragedy of Vietnam, that it was a war that had been won and then thrown away to placate those at home who would not serve, we now have new histories that fill in what happened after 1968. None of this progress was made known to the American people by the media. Two of the most important of these books are *Unheralded Victory: The Defeat of the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese Army*, by Mark Woodruff, and *A Better War: The Unexamined Victories and Final Tragedy of America's Last Years in Vietnam*, by Lewis Sorley.

Below is an excerpt from a speech Mr. Magruder gave on the occasion, with 50 Vietnam veterans, of the symbolic retaking of Grant Park during the Chicago Parade weekend, from those who protested at the Chicago Democratic Convention in 1968 and did not serve. Mr. Magruder later presented the flag used in the event to General Westmoreland in a ceremony during the Houston Parade weekend. Although reporters from Chicago papers were present at the event, they refused to report on it, arguing that there were still too many in Chicago who were against the war. That is absurd. Former war protestors wept openly in regret in the streets, and had to be comforted by the veterans as the huge parade, with its countless wounded, passed by. The media never mentioned this.

"We need to remember just how treasonous the campus 'peace' movement actually was. Commentary of Feb. 1980, reported that 28% of all college students at the time supported the Viet Cong while 51% of those in the campus 'peace' movement favored a Viet Cong victory. Said Jane Fonda to students at Michigan State on Nov. 22, 1969, "If you understood Communism...you would pray on your knees that we would some day be Communists." (She obviously knew nothing about atheistic Communism.) "The anti-war movement," said the S.D.S. in literature out of Antioch College, "rests on three main elements, the Trotskyites, the Communist Party, and the radical pacifists. A number of its leaders, such as Dave Dellinger, were self-confessed Communists and Marxists. 'Peace' movement leadership let North Vietnam provide tactical advice and help coordinate demonstrations.

Said Guenter Lewy in "America in Vietnam," the most comprehensive and best balanced study to date of the war, "...it was obvious that many of these men and the organizations and committees they spawned were not so much for peace and against the war as they were partisans of Hanoi, whose victory they sought to hasten through achieving American withdrawal from Vietnam." For this reason, the general public had nothing but contempt for the campus 'peace' movement. A poll by the University of Michigan showed that reactions to "Vietnam war protestors" were "by a wide margin the most negative shown to any group." The Harris Poll showed, at the height of the war, that 69% of the public believed anti-war demonstrations were "acts of disloyalty against the boys fighting in Vietnam." 65% agreed that "protestors were giving aid and comfort to the Communists," and 64% felt that they were "not serious, thoughtful critics of the war, just peaceniks and hippies having a ball." (Reported in *America in Our Time*, by Godfrey Hodgson.)

Later, in a letter published in *The Lawrence Journal World*, Mr. Magruder wrote, "Robert McNamara, in his recent memoirs, said that U.S. policy in Vietnam was "gravely flawed" and the war was unwinnable. According to the enemy, it was McNamara's policies that were "flawed," and the U.S. could have won the war.

Bui Tin, a colonel on the general staff of North Vietnam, and the man who accepted the surrender of South Vietnam on April 10, 1975, was recently interviewed in *The Wall Street Journal*. "If Johnson had granted Westmoreland's request to enter Laos and block the Ho Chi Minh trail, Hanoi could not have won the war." It was McNamara who advised Johnson on this. On McNamara's bizarre policy of "graduated response" bombing, Bui Tin said, "It didn't worry us; we had plenty of time to prepare alternative routes and facilities."

On the effectiveness of Westmoreland's strategy he said, "We were losing base areas, control of the rural population. And our main forces were being pushed out to the borders of South Vietnam." Of the crucial Tet Offensive he said, "Our losses were staggering. If American forces had not begun to withdraw under Nixon, they would have punished us severely... we suffered badly in 1969 and 1970 as it was."

The American people never had any idea of just how seriously the enemy was mauled. Here are the figures for just the five main offensives, from *Vietnam in Military Statistics*, a major history of the Vietnam War by Micheal Clodfelter.

1968 - The Tet Offensive

U.S. - 1,829 KIA (Killed In Action)

South Vietnam - 2,788 KIA

Communist forces - 45,000 KIA

1969 –

U.S. - 9,414 KIA

South Vietnam - 21,833 KIA

Communist forces - 156,954 KIA

1970 (includes Cambodian Incursion)

U.S.- 4,221 KIA

South Vietnam - 23,346 KIA

Communist forces - 103,638 KIA

Laos Invasion (Lam Son 719) (with U.S. air support)

South Vietnam - 3,800 KIA

Communist forces -13,668 KIA

1972 -Easter Offensive (with U.S. air support)

South Vietnam - 15,000

Communist forces - 83,000

From *Unheralded Victory*, by Mark Woodruff: "During 1966, the North Vietnamese Army suffered approximately 93,000 killed. In 1967, the casualty figure climbed to over 145,000. By the early 1970's, General Giap was publicly admitting that his forces had suffered at least 500,000 killed during the war. The actual number of Communist soldiers killed during the war: 1,100,000." Compare this to approximately 58,000 American forces killed. That is a 19 to 1 ratio. How was this war lost? Certainly not on the battlefield while America was engaged. It was lost when anti-war forces in Congress, led by Ted Kennedy, for no reason, cut off all ammunition to South Vietnam. This was two years after we left, during which time South Vietnam more than held its own against the North. We simply abandoned an ally. The media never made any of this clear to the American people. Nor did they ever make clear the enormous sacrifices of the South Vietnamese, who lost approximately 250,000 in the war.

It was McNamara's flawed policies, the impact of the campus "peace" movement, and the media that cost America the war. Of the 'peace' movement Bui Tin said, "It gave us confidence that we should hold on in the face of battlefield losses...through dissent and protest, America lost the ability to mobilize a will to win." As to the argument of the "peace" movement that the Viet Cong was an independent South

Vietnamese political movement, Bui Tin said, "It was set up by our Communist Party to implement a decision of the Third Party Congress of September 1960."

The 'peace' movement lied to America. Carrying the flag of the enemy it succumbed to Hanoi propaganda and ended up on the side of genocide and tyranny. As for McNamara's views, they are nothing but a cover-up for his own incompetence.

It is absolutely time to demand that the media, and the university, stop hiding out on the subject of Vietnam and re-enter into dialogue with the rest of America, especially its Vietnam veterans, as to what really happened. We cannot go into a worldwide war on terrorism with this huge a hole in our history. Holding on to, and perpetuating myths, has too great a potential for creating a lethal, paralyzing polarization. The media, and the campus, must find the courage to consider "second thoughts," as have David Horowitz and so many others, some describing what they did in the 60's as "treason." The campus and the media fell for enemy propaganda and it is time they admitted it.

As the Chief of Military History—U.S Government wrote in his Final Report," If there is to be an inquiry related to the Vietnam War, it should be into the reasons why enemy propaganda was so widespread in this country, and why the enemy was able to condition the public to such an extent that the best educated segments of our population gave credence to the most incredible allegations."

And to tell the truth about Vietnam is by definition to bring about the long hoped for reformation of American education. The lies told in the 60 have metastasized through the years to create intellectual trends on campus that are betraying the American student. These must be challenged. We can't fight a war with dummies either.

Part 8 - Subject: Poll showing today's students disagree with 60's protestors
suppressed by "Newsday"

From "To the Vietnam Veteran," a speech delivered by Professor Magruder at the first rally on any American campus to honor the Vietnam veteran with over 400 persons attending. (It was at this rally that Magruder resigned his position to "protest the damage done to the veterans by the erroneous views of the left/liberals in the media and the university in the 60's and their perpetuation of these views. Although a reporter from *Newsday* was present, the newspaper did not publish the event." (*The Compass*, college newspaper, May 11, 1981) "Clearly newsworthy, but because of their bias, no news organization in New York would touch such a story." (Noted newscaster Bill Jorgenson - NBC-TV)

From the speech:

"As Arthur Egendorf, a Vietnam veteran and principle author of the study by the Center of Policy Research on the problems of the Vietnam veteran said, "For the first time in our history, homecoming was as difficult as, if not more difficult than, the battle itself." A whole new psychiatric category, "delayed stress syndrome," has become necessary to describe what was largely the impact on the returned American soldier of attitudes at home based on lies that had been told about the war by the media and academia. The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program of Houston, in a booklet it produced to challenge these lies, said, "The misinformation currently disseminated about Vietnam ultimately reflects upon the motives, convictions, values, and integrity of those who participated in the war ... it is imperative that the record be set straight."

"Following a semester of study of the Vietnam War last year, 240 of my students, after they had received their grades so the voting would be objective, voted overwhelmingly (85%) that in their opinion the war had been justified, that there was nothing wrong in trying to save South Vietnam from Communist tyranny. It was not, they agreed, the U.S. government that had misled the nation. The campus 'peace' movement, which said that the war was "immoral," that the motive was "imperialism," that the domino theory was "absurd," that the war was only a "civil war," that Ho Chi Minh was only a "nationalist," and that America was engaging in "aggression" and "genocide," misled the nation.

Puzzled as to why the students of this generation could see the truth so clearly, while those of the 60's could not, the students concluded that faculties, to serve their own largely leftist and Marxist ideologies, had misinformed their students, who, in turn, used the misinformation to serve their own purposes, primarily to avoid the draft.

The 'peace' movement, the students decided, was never really concerned for peace. Although it cloaked itself in an aura of great moral purpose, it in fact gave aid and comfort to the enemy, marched under the flag of the Viet Cong, allowed Hanoi to dictate its agenda, and turned its back on the American soldier. When the soldiers returned, it tried to stereotype them, with the help of the media, as dupes or drug-crazed "baby killers." That those who did all the suffering in Vietnam should on their return be asked to bear additional suffering at the hands of the very ones who had betrayed them, was, the students concluded, absolutely unconscionable."

Said Mr. Magruder, who is now President of *Vietnam Veterans for Academic Reform* at the Univ. of Kansas in Lawrence today, "I am certain that if this experiment was done again, with students free from the pressures that existed in the 60's, the results would be the same." On the failure of the media to report on the rally and this experiment he said, "The suppression of this event and experiment by the media was predictable in view of the stand taken by the students. The media (reporters from *Newsday* and *The New York Times* who were present) refused to report on the events of that day, largely because of the posters the students carried which read "Abbie Hoffman Was Wrong," "War Protestors Were Wrong," "The New Left and the S.D.S. Were Wrong." Other posters said that Dave Dellinger, Tom Hayden, Jerry Rubin, Jane Fonda, Daniel Ellsberg, William Sloan Coffin and others were "Wrong."

As I said in my speech that day, even though there is now nothing that opponents of the war can point to today that vindicates their position, it is imperative for them that they continue to urge the nation to ignore the correct historical conclusions. To admit to having been wrong would be to face, not only guilt, but disproof of their ideological assumptions and loss of prestige and power. They must of psychological necessity take the position that they were right, the matter is over, and there is nothing to discuss, thereby leaving the Vietnam veteran to suffer for the perpetuation of their lies.

The fact that the matter is not over, and there is still plenty to discuss is seen in recent commentary on the Kerrey incident. Writes Ellen Goodman, "As time goes on, 'our war' recycles with less frequency, but with equal ferocity. Every time we think we have achieved that mystical/medical word 'healing,' something happens to remind us that the scar is a zipper, ready to reveal wounds that still lie close to the surface." Writes columnist Mark Shields, "How conflicted about their own actions are all the middle-aged males on the press bus or in positions of public and private leadership who, through the testimony of friendly physician or graduate school deferment, artfully evaded the nation's military call?" The problem is, academics and media persons won't let the issues be raised. For example, my current 10-part series on Vietnam goes out by e-mail to 40 professors at the University of Kansas. Already 14 of these professors have e-mailed me back to remove them from my list. They say things like "I don't want to hear what you have to say." There is the problem. Those who opposed the war have never had the courage to try to defend their position with the veterans. Until they find that courage, what Vietnam vet Milt Copulos said recently in *VFW Magazine* will no doubt continue to be true, "There's a wall 10 miles high and 50 miles thick between those of us who went and those who didn't, and that wall is never going to come down." There is then, a fault line, between those who served and those who didn't, many of the latter now entrenched in our universities, which could lead to another, even more dangerous, polarization as the current war on terrorism continues. As was stated in the Manifesto of V.V.A.R, placed on record with the White House in the late 80's, "A major lesson of Vietnam is that American foreign policy should henceforth take into consideration that the liberal university and media, largely apologists for secularism and therefore hostile to the traditional values of the American majority, have created within our society a large and dangerous bloc lacking in the intellectual and moral foundations necessary to defend freedom. The lesson of Vietnam is epitomized in the title of a book written by former Congressman John LeBoutiellier, *Harvard Hates America*. Or as the noted sociologist Paul Hollander of U. Mass recently wrote, "The University is the reservoir of an adversary culture."

The entire psychology by which persons in the media and academia must continue to lie about Vietnam rests obviously on their guilt over having turned their backs on a struggle for freedom. The only solution is a massive acknowledgement of bankruptcy, betrayal and guilt by our intellectuals, especially in the humanities and the social sciences, and immediate exposure of their basic assumptions about life and human nature to re-examination in debate with philosophers and especially theologians, because in the final analysis the conflict in the U.S. over Vietnam was ideological.

To tell the truth about Vietnam at this time is, by definition, to demand a reformation of our universities, as the metastasizing of the lies they told in the 60's is corrupting our entire culture.

Part 9 - Subject: An interlude on education - the primary mission of V.V.A.R.

We are almost at the end of this series on Vietnam and the media. The final part will be a selection on the media from a just-finished book on the Vietnam War by one of its veterans. And there will be one part after that on the issues that cannot be discussed in today's campus newspapers, as the result of the "advocacy journalism" of the 60's continuing into our times. Or, as David Horowitz recently said, "Campus newspapers demonstrate that campuses are terrorized by left-wing totalitarians."

But before we share that, we would like to say a word about the primary mission of *Vietnam Veterans for Academic Reform*, and that is education reform.

The first part of this report is from a one-hour talk Mr. Magruder gave on radio station KAW recently in Lawrence, Kansas. This is followed, however, by material that was not reported by the media. *Vietnam Veterans for Academic Reform* has held four protests on the Univ. of Kansas campus in recent years. The university newspaper, *The Daily Kansan*, would not report on the substance of any of them, showing that not much has changed.

From the radio talk:

"Those who fought for freedom for South Vietnam will continue to speak out against the growing totalitarianism on the American campus, as seen in multiculturalism, dormitory re-education, gender feminism, sensitivity training, speech codes, political correctness, historical revisionism (particularly on the Vietnam War), leftist attacks on America and democracy, postmodernism, and deconstructionism. We are also concerned about why American students rank so poorly in international competition (19th), as well as the seriously flawed approaches to education being fostered by the social sciences, such as "approximate" spelling and math, massive grade inflation to assure "self-esteem," "look-say" over the proven superiority of phonics in reading, dropping of the multiplication table, serious historical revisionism by gender feminists, literature chosen on the accidental basis of gender, class, and race, and the attack on excellence, standards, and honors. The perpetuation of these demonstrably failed approaches by the education establishment strikes us as perversity and utter folly, a total betrayal of its charge and something this nation should not put up with any longer.

Our social scientists and educators now stand speechless before the specter of a collapse they themselves engineered. The nation is under no further obligation to indulge them with the whole future of the nation now at stake.

We are also concerned about the psycho noxious impact of humanistic psychology on students. There is significant research showing that the "psychological conditioning" courses in high schools, (sex education, values clarification, affective education, death education, drug and alcohol courses, etc.) are resulting in significant rises in violence, abortion, teen-age pregnancy, AIDS, racism, drug and alcohol abuse, the exact opposite of what was intended.

The impact of the social sciences on secondary education is a growing national disaster, as the flawed theories of humanistic psychologists (Rogers, Maslow, Kohlberg, etc.) produce students who are intellectually incompetent, morally confused, sexually absorbed, and socially maladjusted. The emphasis in these theories on feelings ("trust the organism" -Rogers) to the neglect of reason is the most profound failing of 20th century psychology. This, combined with the teaching that "there is no right or wrong," is the direct cause of the rise of the sociopathic personality in our time.

The first warning that these "psychological conditioning" courses in high schools would produce sociopaths, or "killer kids," antedated the first student killing at Pearl, Mississippi, by four months, and appeared in material V.V.A.R. distributed at the Univ. of Kansas in its second protest, ignored by the university newspaper. The protest also dealt with certain developments in higher educations, as follows:

"Multiculturalism" - enforced cultural relativism, rooted in a seething hostility towards the predominance of democratic and Judeo-Christian values in Western civilization, and riddled with the simplistic buzzwords of humanistic psychology. "The result can only be the fragmentation, re-segregation, and tribalization of America." –the noted liberal historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr.

"Self-esteem" - quintessential humanistic psychobabble, source of dumbed-down textbooks, the deception of parents in grade inflation, and the "new racism" on campus. Creates make-believe uniqueness, an absolute barrier to personal growth.

"Sensitivity training" - the dormitory as re-education camp, teaching students "proper" beliefs about race, gender, and sexual preferences, sources of rising rates on campus of pregnancy, abortion, AIDS, and date rape. Social scientists teach students to view sex as a non-moral, non-romantic recreational activity, something like football.

"Speech Codes" - hunting licenses to track down and punish those who are not in step ideologically with the social sciences, denying students the right to disapprove of something, such as homosexuality.

"Political correctness" - forcing conformity to the moral relativism of the social scientists through administrative harassment, with immunity for left/liberal academic thugs who beat up dissident guest speakers.

"Gender feminism" - "The most destructive and fanatical movement to come down to us from the 60's. It certainly deserves its place in the halls of intellectual barbarism. Women's studies are abysmal swamps of irrational dogma and hatred." –Robert Bork

"Deconstructionism" - tendentious mumbo-jumbo, using the classroom to propagandize for self-congratulatory nihilism. A massive attack on conscience and the values of Western civilization.

"Postmodernism"- the New Left of the 60's come to power, with all the distinguishing characteristics of fascism: social constructionism, cultural relativism, rejection of individual identity, rejection of transcendence, science and reason. Fueled by the anti-humanism of Heidegger, who along with Paul de Man (deconstructionism) were both Nazi apologists.

We call on all the universities of America to begin reform by adopting something like the following Charter of Purpose of Bellarmine College in Louisville, Kentucky:

"This college calls upon all member of the academic community to address themselves to ultimate questions about reality and human life: the meaning of God, freedom, society, suffering and death, care and hope. It is when men and women have come to grips with questions such as these, and have achieved some measure of careful considered response, that they begin to advance towards educational maturity."

It is the position of *Vietnam Veterans for Academic Reform* that by neglecting these questions the university is in the vanguard of moving society in an increasingly sociopathic direction. There is now no alternative but to acknowledge a massive moral, intellectual, and scientific bankruptcy on the part of the social sciences and the humanities and to call for immediate exposure of their basic assumptions to re-examination in debate with philosophers and especially theologians. We also call for an immediate moratorium on all psychological conditioning courses in our high schools and universities and a march by 1,000,000 Vietnam veterans and 3,000,000 parents on the National Education Association in Washington in demand of reform. The critics scoffed when the majority argued that the loss of South Vietnam to Communism would threaten America. That it has, but in a manner unforeseen. It isn't that foreign armies threaten us; it is that when Southeast Asia fell, the New Left, the S.D.S. and other radicals on campus were encouraged, strengthening the leftist attack on American values. They cowered so long in the classroom to avoid the battlefield they became tenured professors, now dominating our universities and brainwashing students with their alien and totalitarian philosophy. We call on all veterans to join us in this struggle for freedom from tyranny on a new battlefield—the university. We urge all veterans groups to be ready to march in protest when blatant oppression of student rights appear on any nearby campus, and to call in the local newspapers and complain. It is time to reclaim our educational systems from those who want only to impose on them their own alien agendas, hostile to democracy and traditional American values.

Part 10 - Subject: From a new history by a Vietnam vet and historian

A Vietnam veteran who has just finished a new history on the Vietnam War has just given me permission to quote from his chapter on the media, but wishes however, to remain anonymous. I can think of no better way to end this series, *Vietnam and the Media*, than to look at the conclusions of someone who was there, and is an accomplished historian.

Conclusions:

"There were some worthy, honest, and intelligent reporters in Vietnam and Southeast Asia. Dickey Chapelle, Robert Shaplen, Liz Trotta, Peter Braestrup, Hugh Mulligan, Keyes Beech, Neil Davis, Denis Warner, were among those who objectively, and without resort to sensationalism, conveyed elements of truth, parts of the puzzle, to the American public. Their efforts notwithstanding, the fog of nonsense spewed out by others obscured and effectively censored honest, logical, comprehensive reporting, denying the American public information needed to develop accurately informed opinions. News media malfeasance was complemented by brilliant manipulative Hanoi propaganda, and a corresponding U.S. government inability or unwillingness to make a case for its own efforts. The American public could not hope to understand what was taking place, and does not today.

No one, least of all South Vietnamese, American, or other allied forces, was oblivious of or happy with the endemic corruption and incompetence, yet, because of flawed and narrowly focused "reporting," the story of South Vietnam's progress and improvement remains untold. American reporters never wrote or televised stories about CDR, Phan Quang Dan, Gen. Ngo Quang Truong, Gen. Nguyen Khoa Nam, the 81st Biet Kich, the Hau Nghia RF, Col. Mach Van Truong, Gen. Le Minh Dao, Tran Ngoc Chau, Col. Ha Mai Viet, writer Nguyen Manh Con, or RVN Marine Sergeant Van Luom, who stood alone on the Dong Ha Bridge and knocked out the lead tank in an NVA armor column with a shoulder-fired antitank missile, an act, in the words of an American witness, of inspiring "defiance and bravery."

Knowing little of this, the American public was understandably disenchanted. The news media seldom, if ever, accompanied American or Australian troops on MEDCAPS or DENTCAPs (Dental Civic Action Projects, extremely welcome to rural people with painful tooth conditions). In the first six months of 1969, more than 200,000 villagers received medical care and 15,000 received dental care from the 3rd U.S. Marine division alone. Instead, the American public was subjected to repeated coverage of the My Lai atrocity, which, like the photo of Gen. Loan, was considered symbolic and representative of the entire war.

Wolfgang Leonhard, a Soviet communist agent before defecting to the West, was tasked with analyzing Western news media stories. He and his colleagues were puzzled over superficial news coverage predominating in the newspapers they read. "Generally, we could only shake our heads over them, and often we were exceedingly disappointed. There was usually not even mention of the really significant events that were causing endless discussions amongst ourselves and on which we were passionately eager to read a serious Western commentary. 'They don't seem to know what is going on' was the main theme of our conversations when we talked to each other on the subject."

One of the more tragic ironies of Vietnam and the news media failure is that there were many fascinating and positive stories to be told. The American people would have appreciated seeing hour-long specials on, for example, U.S. Marine Corps CAP units, a squad of 14 Marines living in one hamlet for their entire tour, working with and defending "their " hamlet alongside local PF. USMC CAPs had a higher voluntary extension rate than among their line unit counterparts. Why? It would have made for a good story. It would have been equally enlightening to see programs showing U.S. troops helping an orphanage, or volunteering to teach English. The American public deserved to know about a VNAF Skyraider pilot who had been shot down five times, and continued flying, despite his several fused vertebrae. They deserved to know that American forces could take on the NVA, in their own backyard, and prevail. Something might have been learned from Americans who volunteered for three, four, five, six, or even seven tours as advisors, choosing to serve in Vietnam again and again, not as bloodthirsty and uncaring killers, but as very normal, decent human beings who could eloquently and convincingly explain their motivations, which was ultimately to see Vietnamese people have a life of peace and decent government. Geopolitics and the Cold War, all relatively abstract concepts, were not a primary concern, taking a back seat to basic human concerns for that which is fair.

Americans would have benefited by hearing of Captain Nguyen Quy An, Lt. Vu Tung, and Warrant Officer Nguyen Quang Hien of the famed 219 Kingbees. Were it not for the action of these men, John Litter, Bob Stratliff and Wiley L. Craney, by their own testimony, would have been killed or captured after their helicopter had been shot down in Laos. They were rescued by Captain An and his crew while under fire and surrounded by NVA. Captain An would later lose both his hands by keeping control of a burning helicopter, saving the lives of others on board who would have died had the flame-engulfed chopper fallen from the sky.

Americans were mesmerized by the NVA's (North Vietnamese Army) 25-day hold on Hue City in 1968, and presumably would be similarly impressed by the 92nd Ranger Battalion 400-day stand at the remote base of Tong Le Chan. Completely cut off, resupplied only by air, the 92nd held, with ambulatory wounded refusing evacuation. Had an NVA unit held out for over 400 days, surrounded and cut off, it would have made headline news. The 92nd Rangers did it and nothing was said. Had a handful of VC (Viet Cong) high school boys held off an allied attack, it would also have made headlines. A handful of high school boys did resist VC/NVA forces at the "Truong Thieu Sinh Quan," a junior high school military academy for sons of RVNAF (South Vietnamese) military fatalities. They resisted to the end in 1975, with twelve- and thirteen-year-old boys sending younger kids home, staying in their barricaded school and fighting on. Many of them were killed and when the Communists came in, they fought them. The Communists could not get into that academy. NVA forces

eventually surrounded the school, threatened to level it with rockets, kill everyone inside, and negotiated surrender. This last stand would presumably have had all the drama and "human interest" for a "big story," and had VC adolescents been involved opposing RVNAF, the story would undoubtedly have been trumpeted to the American public. To this day, next to nothing has been said or printed, and the cadets at Truong Thieu Sinh Quan are not even a footnote to history.

Coverage of these stories could have gone on and should have gone side-by-side with negative reporting on corruption, civilian casualties, drug use, and other presumed universal evils of American involvement in Southeast Asia. It is neither suggested nor desired that blemishes or morally repugnant aspects be ignored or covered up. It is asserted, however, that it would have been far more honest to have contrasted examples of deplorable behavior with other aspects, not in the least rare, of which many Vietnam veterans are familiar with and participated in. Fairness and objectivity also demand that equal coverage be applied to the VC/NVA shortcomings and ruthless excesses shown in proportion to their existence and occurrence. Had all this been done, the American public would have been able to understand something, and certainly much more than the pseudo-understanding derived from the "shoot-em-up-bang-bang" reporting they were continually exposed to. For any number of reasons, "positive" news did little for a reporter's career or ego, a career based on finding or inventing "stories" accentuating the negative while heightening public discontent.

Ignorance of military and Southeast Asia matters, of communist revolutionary warfare, fueled by potential for lucrative career advancement, unwilling or unable to report on South Vietnamese or Laotian troops except in cases of failure, apparently enthused by the visual impact of war and the destruction it causes, sometimes disdainful of South Vietnamese if not American troops while ignoring Australian, Korean, Thai, and New Zealand forces, the news media proved incapable of depicting Vietnam, and Hanoi's War, in its entirety. The American public saw the same "bang-bang" every year, and was misled into assuming nothing had changed, nothing was accomplished. Allied temporary defeats were portrayed as permanent setbacks, while victories and accomplishments went unreported, or were, with smug theatrics, cast aside as government propaganda.

News media misrepresentation not only misled and uninformed the American public, but also prohibited its ability to think and make logical inferences on its own. In the final analysis, Vietnam, Southeast Asia, Hanoi's war, and American involvement could not be, and cannot be, understood, in good part because of media failings, moral, intellectual, and otherwise. Without recognizing this, and knowing that what was reported was not the all-comprehensive truth of the matter, the subject itself cannot be understood. Overall, and efforts of responsible reporters notwithstanding, the nature and extent of news media failure in Vietnam exceeds that of allied military forces who were attempting to and succeeding, despite documented lies and bumbling, to stop Hanoi's War. Many people died and millions more have greatly suffered simply because the whole story was never told. And because what was portrayed in media reporting was demonstrably not, to use the famous Cronkite phrase, "the way it is."

This bitter judgment is itself based on beliefs articulated by Robert Elegant, himself a journalist:

“Illusionary events reported by the press as well as real events within the press corps were more decisive than the clash of arms or the contention of ideologies. For the first time in modern history, the outcome of a war was determined not on the battlefield but on the printed page, and above all, on the television screen. ”

Looking back coolly, I believe it can be said that South Vietnam and American forces actually won the limited military struggle. They virtually crushed the Viet Cong in the South, the “native” guerillas who were directed, reinforced, and equipped from Hanoi, and thereafter they threw back the invasion by regular North Vietnamese divisions. Nonetheless, the war was finally lost to the invaders after the U.S. disengagement because the political pressures built up by the media had made it quite impossible for Washington to maintain even the minimal material and moral support that would have enabled the Saigon regime to continue effective resistance.” Elegant, a highly acclaimed British reporter on Vietnam, later added these terrible words:

“Never before Vietnam had the collective policy of the media sought by graphic and unremitting distortion, the victory of the enemies of the correspondents own side.”

Could this possibly be the truth about the performance of the U.S. media in Vietnam? In ending this series, from my extended observation and study of the media while on the home front during the war, this is certainly the way it looked to many others and me. Said Senator Margaret Chase Smith, “The press has become more sympathetic to the enemy than to our own national interest.” (Congressional Record, June 16, 1971).

Part 10a - Subject: How the advocacy journalism of the 60's is throttling today's campus

"The American university is a culture of forbidden questions."—Leon Botstein, President of Bard College

Our experience with the Univ. of Kansas paper reinforces the truth of what David Horowitz recently said, "... campus newspapers across the nation demonstrate that campuses are being terrorized by leftist totalitarianism." Or, as the noted columnist Michael Barone said recently on USNews.com, "Berkeley and hundreds of other colleges and universities today are some of the few places in America where free exchanges of ideas CANNOT take place because some ideas—most of them ideas shared by the great majority of the American people—are systematically suppressed. Colleges and universities are the least free places in America."

University gender feminists are doing the same by rewriting American history books for schoolchildren. Says Dr. Paul Vitz, professor of psychology at New York University in his study of textbooks studied by 90% of America's school children, "It is abundantly clear that public school textbooks commonly exclude the history, heritage, beliefs, and values of tens of millions of Americans." Kors and Silvergate say the same in their new book, *The Shadow University*, "Universities have become the enemies of a free society. The result has been an emerging tyranny over all aspects of a student's life." (Including what a student can read in his school newspaper.) In the atmosphere of bread and circus that the university has become, instead of serious dialogue what students are getting is often just pornography, for example, the series in the *Daily Kansan* by Megan Bainum, whose recent articles were titled, "Genitals are Treasured Jewels," and "Desire, not Penis, Shrinks with Usage." It is not, however, the fault of the students. They have no knowledge of how they have been betrayed, hopelessly miseducated and brainwashed since grade school by feminist "transformism" and "hate America" multiculturalism.

University newspapers today will not publish any serious criticism of any of the issues that follow. If they publish any opposing ideas, it is almost always from some unsophisticated religious fundamentalist and they only publish it to make fun of them. But nothing written by anyone informed by modern theology, or idealistic philosophy, or philosophical theology, the sources of the most powerful criticism, will be published. Nor will you find any book in the university bookstore of this type of criticism. The American university, which is now basically bread and circus until students leave by the grace of massively inflated grades, in the social sciences and the humanities primarily, is a closed system totally impervious to criticism or dialogue. People who try that are considered not just mistaken, but evil, and therefore any kind of treatment, such as the way academic thugs beat up dissenting speakers, is justified.

Listen to what Ben Shapiro, a second-year political science student wrote in an alternative newspaper at UCLA. "Universities have a serious problem. The type of liberalism so heavily favored by the intellectual elite has crossed the line. Professors throughout the educational world are supporting murders and terrorists. It's fine as long as the murder is anti-capitalist, anti-establishment, or anti-conservative. This frightening ideology has not only blurred the line between liberalism and radicalism—it has destroyed it.

(Remember Magruder's High Noon Shootout at Wescoe -K.U. last semester!! Within a few e-mails, feminist graduate students in philosophy were reduced to dribbling, foulmouthed idiots, and a Chairman pandering to them unsuccessfully tried to exclude Mr. Magruder, a student, from the building for challenging the feminists, an incident that also included slander, terroristic threats, appeals to the Dean, and discussions with the police. A classic example of how the universities today react to criticism.)

You cannot question the lies being told by gender feminists about "patriarchal oppression" even when the questioning is documented with massive research. You cannot mention how they are lying to America's schoolchildren by rewriting their history books. Robert Bork said it all, "The most destructive and fanatical movement to come down to us from the 60's." The modern equivalent of the radicals of that era and spouting the same nonsense. And you absolutely cannot question homosexuality or abortion. These are the biggest sacred cows of all.

You cannot bring up the clear failure of, generally, Enlightenment philosophies in the social sciences that have turned dormitories into booze and sex circuses, causing abortion rates twice as high as the national average and AIDs rates four times as high at Stanford. You cannot mention the massive research showing that programs devoid of any mention of values or morality, designed by university professors for the high schools, are resulting in increases in social pathology, including "killer kids," or the data showing the failure of psychotherapy or the fact that recent research shows that major assessment tools, such as the Rorschach and the MMPI, don't work.

You cannot mention that multiculturalism has brought about the very opposite of higher learning, through speech restrictions, an intolerance known as "political correctness," a hysterically anti-Western curriculum, and significantly increased rates of racism on campus. A minority student today can spend all four years without ever eating, living, speaking, or graduating with someone from a different race. And in "dormitory re-education," students are mandated to accept "proper" beliefs as to how they should think about sex, gender, and sexual preference, supposedly based on a new "scientific morality" (Maslow), which in fact, does not exist.

You cannot criticize the environmentalists. The head of one such group says he has more sympathy for threatened insect species than he does for children dying of hunger in Africa. The former president of the Sierra Club says the destruction of human life is no more tragic than the destruction of trees. (These are the kind of people who will get other people sent to gas chambers to protect insects.)

You cannot criticize the absurdity of the moral equivalence preached by the postmodernists and deconstructionists, even after showing the clear parallel to Nazi thought. Nor can you criticize the analytic approach to introductory philosophy even

though 100% of students protest that it is a waste of time and money, they understood nothing and learned nothing, the only thing saving the situation being massive grade inflation to cover the failure.

You cannot question what goes on in the school of education, which is responsible for creating and implementing a bizarre leftist approach to education that has placed America in 19th place in international scholastic competition and whose "value-free" approach teaches kids they are entitled to sex at any age and is moving society in an increasingly sociopathic direction.

You cannot question evolution theory, even though there is a massive and growing number of dissenters within the discipline itself (not 'creation scientists') who are pointing out devastating problems with the theory. One of the largest symposiums ever held on an American campus took place recently at Baylor Univ., a church-related school, with major scientists, biologists and philosophers from all over the world gathering to discuss the new field of Intelligent Design, something that cannot even be mentioned at secular universities.

Said Sacks and Thiel, two graduate students at Stanford, in ending their recent exposé on the failure of the university, *The Diversity Myth*:

"Western civilization and classical liberal arts education truly are dead, killed off in the same multicultural epidemic that expunged "dead white males" from the reading list. But the multicultural cult of the dead—a defiant nothingness, involving the destruction and deconstruction of all possible meaning—has gradually dissolved into nothing at all. To be certain, the buildings are well maintained, the lawns are well watered, the football team plays for cheering throngs of fans, the faculty and staff are well paid, and the students attend classes and receive diplomas. The institution can keep going for a while on autopilot. But the heart of the university's humanities program— involving the quest for universal truth—has decayed into dust."

What, in the final analysis, is the real problem with our education system? Perhaps we have a clue in these words by Kenneth Miller, a world-class biologist at Brown University, who was the keynote speaker at a conference on evolution at K.U. two years ago:

"Western intellectual life is tolerant. On the surface this tolerance extends to religion. The problem comes when one attempts to take religion seriously— academia just isn't prepared for that. The assumption is that religious belief is something that people grow out of as they become educated. There is, in essence, a fabric of disbelief enclosing the academic establishment."

But whatever has taken the place of that belief has obviously failed. Which means that the university will have to reintroduce the debate with regard to the meaning of life, and you can't have that without religion taking part in the debate. In other words, the current emphasis on separation of church and state has allowed philosophies to take over in education that are far worse than what we had. Now what?

Things fall apart; the center cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and
Everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned.

Did we think it only rhetoric when Yeats asked us: "And what rough beast, its hour come round at last, slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?" In the contemporary American university we approach the logical outcome of modern liberalism— fascism. "Before long, there will be heard throughout the planet a formidable cry, rising like a howling of innumerable dogs to the stars, asking someone or something to take command." –Ortega Gasset

In the 60's, it was the university that led the criticism over Vietnam, most of it lies. Now it is the veteran's turn to question what the universities are doing. (And we do that in our new series, *Vietnam Vets Take on the Campus*.) The evidence is clear, that in various forms they are sacrificing the children of America to their left/liberal ideology just as they sacrificed the children of South Vietnam to that ideology in the 60's. The growing "peace" movement in the universities over the war on terrorism is also a serious threat to the nation. Those who opposed the Vietnam War covered so long in the classroom to avoid the battlefield that they became tenured professors turning our universities into propaganda machines for philosophies clearly hostile to democracy and traditional American values. The university is the most dangerous internal enemy in the current crisis over terrorism because, through postmodernism and deconstructionism, for example, it has lost the ability to discriminate, to tell right from wrong, and can only offer a sloppy moral equivalence that cannot deal with the crisis. This is also the reason the university was so naïve about Vietnam, it couldn't tell the difference between Democracy and Communism.

To illustrate how out of contact with reality academics once again are, a poll at Chico State Univ., California, found 89% of the student body in support of President Bush's policy on terrorism, as are the vast majority of Americans, while 79% of the faculty were on the side of appeasement as they were in the 60's, what David Horowitz now admits in a national ad was "treason."

The truth is, the university is now at war with the rest of America. Following the tragedy of Sept. 11, universities are spreading the same lies the 60's protestors did in their betrayal of Vietnam, charging that America is immoral, racist, sexist, authoritarian, and imperialistic, and that we deserved what happened. All these are lies, collectively a moral monstrosity.

The recent High Noon Shootout at Wescoe -K.U. should be understood as the firing of the opening shot in a battle to save our universities, and the nation, from our universities, the beginning of total war against all campus movements that are oppressing and lying to students.

Said Mr. Magruder, President of *Vietnam Veterans for Academic Reform*; "I am calling upon all American veteran groups, those who have fought for freedom, to lead the way in a struggle to free American students from brainwashing by universities. I urge all veteran groups to be ready to march in protest if blatant attacks on America, as well as attacks on student rights, appear on any nearby campus, and to e-mail any comments on the campus "peace" protestors to V.V.A.R. and we will forward them throughout our university network. Let the academics know they don't have the field to themselves this time, can't stab America in the back again while its soldiers are far away fighting for freedom."

March 2002