

May 4, 1972

the bullet

Mary Washington College

p.o. box 1115, Fredericksburg, Virginia

Vietnam: under fire at MWC

Veteran—You are wrong. I've been to Vietnam and I know.
Nixon representative—You can say the sky is falling but I don't have to believe it.
Veteran—The sky might fall if we keep up what we're doing. It might fall to take up the place left by the earth which we have destroyed.

Tony Rosso, co-defendant with Daniel Ellsberg in the Pentagon Papers trial; Mark Rasnick of the National Student Association; Tim Bunch of Project Airwar; and Pete Coye from the National Student Lobby; were featured speakers at the "Vietnam Seminar" held in Ball Circle Friday afternoon.



US hostilities, despite the fact that the North Vietnamese have said that until US troops are withdrawn they will not release any prisoners.

He cautioned that the Gravel-Drinan bill was "the only bill which calls for a complete moratorium on bombing and the withdrawal of troops."

Mark Rasnick of the National Student Association spoke of his experiences when he visited Hanoi last year with the Peoples Peace Delegation. He emphasized that the Vietnamese people are not our enemies; that theirs is a very nationalistic movement which is over 4,000 years old. Rasnick said it was for this reason that Ho-Chi-Minh was so revered among his people. "To them, Thieu is not Vietnamese—he is an American puppet."

"We keep hearing that it doesn't matter that 2,500 Vietnamese died yesterday—and that's probably how many did die," he continued, criticizing the US government for its concern only with its own citizens. Rasnick also argued that many of the ideas Americans have about the Vietnamese people are myths. He said that 60 per cent of the Vietnamese are literate, and he had visited schools there that were academically demanding and continued to function in spite of the frequent bombings.

Tony Rosso stated, "The Vietnamese war is a secret war, what's going on now is shrouded in myth. 'The history of the war,' he continued, "is the history of a big lie."

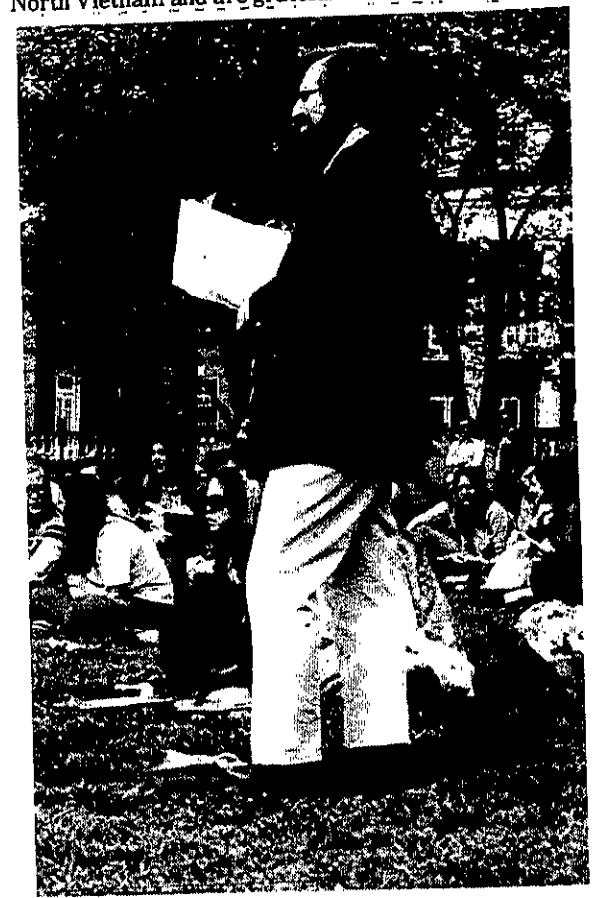
In describing the Vietnamese, he said, "Unity is the fundamental principle among the Vietnamese people. 'They have 4,000 years of history behind them, he stated, 'but they have retained their identity. That identity is the underlying strength of the Vietnamese people."

Rosso commented that one prisoner he met stated to him his belief in the struggle for a just cause. "We'll fight to the last drop of blood," the prisoner concluded, "because we are fighting for everything we have."

Rosso explained that the Vietnamese people are presently living under a totalitarian government foisted on them by the US government. He added the

Rosso stated that the only difference between the US and Nazi Germany is the fact that we are on the streets demonstrating and letting the world know that we don't agree. "If you don't stand for something," Rosso concluded, "then you will fall for anything."

Wyatt Durette, state senator from Northern Virginia, stated that all war is horrible, there is no distinction between the degree of immorality." He too however, defended Nixon's stand commenting, "I believe that Nixon has a justifiable and honorable position . . . He has not reneged on any campaign promises." Durette claimed that "the bulk of the South Vietnamese do not want to be taken over by North Vietnam and are grateful for US intervention."



A representative from Hubert Humphrey spoke in praise of Humphrey's actions in calling a halt to the bombing and in supporting and helping to implement medicare and civil rights legislation.

Sandy Gottlieb spoke on George McGovern's tax-reform program, designed to close loopholes for large companies and wealthy private individuals. He also praised McGovern's proposed re-distribution of wealthy to abolish the current welfare system.



"American technology has found a way to withdraw troops but retain the US presence in Vietnam," commented Tim Bunch of Project Airwar.

Bunch criticized the de-humanizing effects the new technology has had on war, comparing these tactics with earlier ones. "The ground wars with France in 1964 to 1968 were fought by foot soldiers augmented by air power," he stated. Then, there was eyeball to eyeball contact between these people. Orders were given by commanders who relied on high body counts for promotions."

Bunch explained that today, information is gathered by sensors disguised as plants, "which cannot tell water buffalo from a farmer from a soldier." According to Bunch, this information is then relayed to a computer center in Thailand, whose read-outs dispatch aircraft to a locked in set of coordinates. "The pilots exposure to danger and combat experience," Bunch commented, "is only two seconds and then he is safe in the clouds, flying home where a cold beer and an air-conditioned billet awaits him."

Bunch also stated that Fieffer and Westings have estimated that 50 per cent of the ordinates bombed represent unprotected human flesh.

Pete Coye, of the National Student Lobby emphasized that "the only way we are going to end this war is to legislate an end." He advocated student mobilization to pressure Congress into passing the Gravel-Drinan bill which calls for an end to bombing and withdrawal of troops from Vietnam. Introduced by Senator Gravel of Alaska and Representative Drinan of Massachusetts, the bill has nine co-sponsors. Coye advised that the Church-Case bill was ineffective legislation because it only called for a halt to

them, he stated, "but they have retained their identity. That identity is the underlying strength of the Vietnamese people."

Rosso commented that one prisoner he met stated to him his belief in the struggle for a just cause. "We'll fight to the last drop of blood," the prisoner concluded, "because we are fighting for everying we have."

Rosso explained that the Vietnamese people are presently living under a totalatariian government" foisted on them by the US government." He added the belief that there is "a real reason for the US to be in Vietnam." "The US government is in Vietnam," he explained, "in order to make the world sage for IT&T."

Regarding his trial, Rosso said that "Dan Ellsberg and I are not conspirators, not spies, and not thieves. There are no secrets in the Pentagon Papers, there is only history." Is history government property?" he challenged. "If it is then there is no democracy."



A representative from Hubert Humphrey spoke in praise of Humphrey's actions in calling a halt to the bombing and in supporting and helping to implement medicare and civil rights legislation.

Sandy Gottlieb spoke on George McGovern's tax-reform program, designed to close loopholes for large companies and wealthy private individuals. He also praised McGovern's proposed re-distribution of wealthy to abolish the current welfare system.

Endorsing Shirley Chisholm, Joe Hatten commented "If you have any humanitarian feelings left in you, then there is no reason you should support war." Chisholm, he said, has voted against every military appropriations bill that has come before her.

"This is a serious candidacy," he emphasized, "Shirley Chisolm stands for the liberation of all oppressed people in this country."