Broken Promises
VIETNAM VETS HIT AGAIN

VET CENTERS TO CLOSE?

The Reagan Administration--and Reagan in particular--is hesitating to sign the veteran's bill that would, among other things, give birth to 13 new veteran's outreach centers and guarantee the continued operation of 93 others. The centers currently in operation are not receiving necessary funds to pay operational bills. They have been instructed to take no new clients.

Never popular among V.A. bigwigs, the Vets Centers have, in many locations, faced continual problems with V.A. heavies who are at a loss to explain why simple things like electric, water and phone bills aren't paid regularly.

Last spring a wave of protests by "Nam vets across the country made David Stockman back down from the proposed shutdown of the Vets Centers. Now Stockman and the Reagan Administration are chipping away again. It may well be that large-scale demonstrations may again be needed to save this most useful of V.A. programs for the Vietnam vet--one of the few programs which has done any good.

There may be some expert in bureaucratic in-fighting who can understand what's going on in the V.A. For those of us who would never get near the inner sanctum of the V.A., except when we force our way in to take it over, the shuffling at the top of the V.A. is one more indication of the Reagan administration's complete unconcern with the problems faced by vets.

It took until mid-July before Reagan could find someone to take over a V.A. director: Allen Clark, appointed to the number two job in the V.A., stayed for 1 1/2 days before he split the scene. In mid-September, the number three and four men resigned.

Most vets have to deal with the 90% of V.A. workers who are doing all they can to help vets. Some vets are stuck with dealing with the turkeys who couldn't care less--they only want to impress the bosses. None of us have to deal with the top hierarchy of the V.A. (fortunately). But these are the people who set the policies and the one who filter down to the receptionist who tells the vets how long they have to wait to see the person who can help them.

So what we've got is Captain Nemo whose qualifications seem to be that he's an old Reagan crony, rich, a cattleman--and utterly ignorant of the problems faced by vets. Some of his early comments demonstrate that Nimmer is well in the mold of other Reagan appointees.

"The mail I get from veterans all across this country--99% tell me they are pleased with the service they get from V.A. hospitals." This Nimmer comment proves one of four things: a secretary tosses out most of his mail; he only reads letters he wants to read; he can't read; he's lying.

Or there's Nimmer's now notorious comment on Agent Orange: "Thus far, there is simply no bo-
Cutting Thru Red Tape Making Sense of Regs

VETS’ NOTES

In the past the Vets’ Notes column in THE VETERAN has attempted to help vets by-pass some of the V.A.’s red tape to get some of the benefits that are ours, but which we often have to fight to get. With Reagodynamics in full swing, and Davey Stockman—who managed to slit-her out of service in Vietnam—at the economic helm, we no longer can help get benefits; this column deals entirely with the benefits which are now no longer.

Vets benefits which are now officially scrapped are:

*Unemployment compensation after discharge from the military. While it passed pretty much unnoticed at the time (except, of course, for vets applying for unemployment), this was a part of the “Omnibus Budget Act” passed this summer—namely that people leaving the service after July 1st, 1981, are ineligible for unemployment compensation based on their military service. Perhaps the military is now considered an honor, not a job?

*Burial benefits. There is still an allowance of $150 for a burial plot, but the old $300 allowance for a veteran’s burial goes only to vets on a pension. This cut figures, since Reagan and Co. are in a hurry to kill all of us off and would like to do it for free, if possible.

*Education loans. Because the GI Bill was never enough to get by on—and was often late—many vets took out GI Education loans to get by. These are now eliminated. These loans, in the past, went through times when Vets advisors begged vets to take them out and other times when they were almost impossible to get—GI Bill loans were never very stable. But for many vets they were the difference between staying and school and dropping out.

*Flight training. Previously covered by the GI Bill, this option is now eliminated.

*Correspondence courses. The payment schedule has been changed from the V.A. paying 70% to the V.A. paying only 55%.

*Dental benefits. In the past the vet had a year after discharge to get dental benefits from the V.A.; the time has now been changed to three months after discharge.

Many of these benefits are important only to those who are using them; others have been used by hundreds of thousands of vets—and would be used in the future if they were there. What these eliminations mark is only the first step, however; more cuts are in the making, and if the government can get away with cutting a “few” things each year, vets will soon find themselves with nothing—which is just what Reagan, Stockman & Co. want.

At 80, he’s a vet against Reagan
Rivera Beach, Fla., police drag 80-year-old Bill Gaddall out of the Veteran’s Administration Out-Patient Clinic, where he was participating in a protest against Reagan administration budget cuts of veteran’s programs. Police said Gaddall, leader of a group called Veterans Against Reagan, was arrested after he refused to leave the facility. (UPI)

HARI KRISHNA

Vietnam Vet Rip-Off

In Beloit, Wisconsin, on September 25th, two scumbags from the Hari Krishna sect, wearing wigs and street clothes, were arrested for misrepresenting themselves as Vietnam veterans collecting money for Agent Orange victims. Police found $1700 in cash, a van with assorted wigs and OD clothing, and maps and schedules of localities with various state-wide events. A 7x5 inch sticker is offered in return for a donation; it has a white background with a red eagle stenciled on it and the words, “Don’t mess with the US.” The Krishna’s were charged with felony theft and fraud with a maximum fine of $10,000 and a 2 year jail sentence. As for the Madison chapter of VAW, which was informed of the arrest,”we’re looking for a tail of hair for our flag standard.”

NATIONAL VETERAN

Illinois State Pig Roast

The 1st annual Vietnam Veterans Pig Roast, sponsored by the National Association of Concerned Veterans in Springfield, Illinois over the Labor Day weekend was an excellent experience. Due to many court hassles, some negative publicity, and an unusual right-wing backlash, there were not as many people as had been expected. Still, a thousand people showed up for the pig roast and concert featuring Country Joe McDonald—and it sure felt good to hear, once again, “1,2,3,4 what are we fighting for….”

The final two days consisted of a grass roots symposium. There were workshops on Agent Orange, Delayed Stress, Video Tapes, and a big workshop on Dewey Canyon IV. Forty people signed up to go, and there were over $150 worth of buttons, papers and literature sold. The weekend was a total success.

VETS’ “Overpaid” Scholarship Bungle

The Illinois State Legislature, between fist fights and drunken brawls, managed to discover that veterans across the state who were receiving the Illinois veterans scholarship had been “overpaid” for the spring quarter. In reality, the state had screwed up on the budget and allocated no money for the vets.

To offset this injustice the State decided that the vets had to pay back the money, or at least a substantial amount. If they don’t they won’t be allowed to register for the fall (for which money has been appropriated); neither will they be allowed to get their transcripts to transfer to another school.

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2, Winter, THE VETERAN
October 5, 1981, marked a first in the Chicago art scene: the opening of a Vietnam Veterans art exhibition at the N.A.M.E. Gallery at 9 W. Hubbard St in Chicago. Presented by the Vietnam Veterans Arts Group of Chicago, the show is titled "Vietnam Reflexes and Reflections"; it’s the first totally Vietnam vet artist exhibition in the Midwest and has collected art by Vietnam vets from around the U.S.

If crowds are any measure of success on opening night, this art show can be termed an immense success. Approaching the gallery it was necessary to wade through a large crowd, standing, drinking and discussing the show. Inside, the people were wall-to-wall making the job of viewing the art an almost impossible task.

The crowd was easily as usual as the event itself. Art critics and artists from the area rubbed shoulders with many young men in jungle fatigues peering seriously at the works, the captions, descriptions, and others in the crowd. No less unusual were the number of media personalities; TV crews, local celebrities and leadership of many local and national veterans organizations. Local art types where surprised by the sheer numbers attending. One Chicago filmmaker remarked that it was virtually unheard of to see such media coverage much less all the local stations filming and broadcasting live from the gallery.

Some insight into the interesting show was provided by an on-site interview with Rich Atzlan, the producer of the show and leader of the Chicago-based Vietnam Veterans Art Group.

Veteran: How many people do you estimate have seen this exhibition today, Rich?
Atzlan: We anticipate over a thousand today.
Veteran: That’s a tremendous turnout. We understand you have a wide variety of artistic work here.
Atzlan: Right. We have art related to oil paintings, sculpture—some of it would be described as "descriptive" while other items are more abstract. We also have photos and slides which are one of the principal things we wanted to show. We felt that the war has been covered for too long by professionals and that’s like learning to make love from a prostitute—they get paid to do it. We are looking at it from a participant’s perspective and we want to show that.
Veteran: We notice that you have a large amount of war memorabilia, particularly PRG and NLF on display.
Atzlan: Most of those were collected by GIs and were captured items.
Veteran: How many pieces do you have here on exhibit?
Atzlan: We have approximately 125 paintings and sculptures, 400 slides and 75 photos.
Veteran: As opposed to the standard fare for art gallery openings where they have wine and cheese, I see you are serving something of a different nature.
Atzlan: Yes, we’re serving C-rotations and warm beer.
Veteran: Is that individual servings or squads size chow hall portions?
Atzlan: We have individual servings and a wide selection of fruit cakes.
Veteran: And the ham and eggs you can still bounce off the wall?
Atzlan: Right!
Veteran: I supposed you are well stocked with the ever popular ham and lima beans?
Atzlan: Well, we have enough. They’re not one of our more popular items.

This is a fine art exhibition. The quality of prints, painting and sculpture is outstanding. Differing from previous vet art shows around the country, this show is very upfront about the quality of life—and death. There are no punches pulled. Often, the Vietnamese people, both civilian and fighters, are shown sympathetically, from their own point of view. The artists show many different styles and approaches to their work. The slide show with music and taped firefights and attacks provides a good counterpoint to the more traditional forms of art.

NLF and PRG models by Ned Brodrick
Rich Man's War, Poor Man's Fight

DRAFT NEAR

about one in five draft-age youth would be needed in the military; even with a 10% increase in military personnel, the figure would still be one in four—a long way from the World War II figure. All the rhetoric about "fair" and "equitable" service melts in the face of the fact that 75% - 80% would not serve. Even under straight lottery, there would always be the question of who gets out of the lottery altogether; there's always religion (remember David Stockman) or health (remember the sports stars or the ability of the rich to hire their own personal physicians). A straight lottery is only "straight" for the people who are a part of it.

Historically the draft has provided the cannon fodder for the military's combat arms—the infantry, artillery, armor and engineers—and there is no reason to believe that a new draft would be any different.

One clear side effect of the draft, however, is to increase the pool of personnel who enlist in the military rather than wait and take their chances in a draft, even though enlistment carries a longer term of service. Recruiters love it since it greatly increases their ability to fill jobs which are more specialized than hopping through the mud with people who are more qualified. What this all adds up to is that people without the background, without the education will still end up doing the military's dirty work; options open to working class and minority youth will be severely curtailed (other than hand grenade throwing). In short, war will remain a poor man's fight.

Barry Romo
VW National Office

NO DRAFT, NO WAR

1000 Miles in Desert VETS' LONG MARCH

Protesting unfair treatment by the Veterans Administration, a group of Vietnam veterans marched a 1000 miles through the desert, from Santa Fe, New Mexico receiving little attention from the public. Wearing fatigues and carrying packs and un-loaded rifles, the vets dramatized 'Nam vet feelings about the way we have been treated.

The leader of the group, former Marine Mike Chavez, had been fired from his job; he flashed back to 'Nam when a helicopter landed at the hospital where he was working with trauma victims. "For a minute, when I heard those choppers, I was back in 'Nam," he said; "I just couldn't handle it." He broke down and was unable to work, so he was fired.

The vets' only real problem on their trek occurred when they walked by George Air Force Base. The Base went on full security alert because of the officers' fear that they "might be terrorists." When the vets approached the Base, guards greeted them with loaded M-16s. Kind of reminds you of the reception the VA gives us when we ask for some of our benefits.

Page 4, Winter, THE VETERAN
Vietnam Vets Bring New Meaning to Old Day

Veterans Day, November 11th is a tradition-bound day of red, white and blind patriotism; perhaps a band kicking out those hits of yesteryear, and on the stage or reviewing stand, a cluster of local politicians and the aging representatives of the traditional veterans organizations. The programs, either long and boring or short and boring, are followed by the wreath-laying and color-guard ceremonies; there are no startling developments, no controversial statements, and no Vietnam veterans.

In the recent past, at "official" Veterans Day activities, the Vietnam War and Vietnam vets were barely mentioned—if at all. The possibility of a Vietnam vets Veterans Day? And 1981, the year of Reagan's big crunch on nearly everything veterans have fought for over the past 10 years will be no exception. The years have been difficult for Vietnam veterans. The conscription system of the Nixon-Ford-clone administrations and the chaos, bone and piece thrown out during the Carter years were hard and bitterly fought campaigns; for the first years they were fought against the draft. But after the war, there were 600,000 of our brothers with "bad paper" discharge, and we had to fight the media image of rampaging "bug-eyed" vets "right here on our streets."

Now the Reagan administration is calling in nearly all the programs, good, bad or of no consequence, like a Detroit auto deportees called together, only we don't get the car back to drive. Beyond this, benefits and services effecting veterans of all eras are quickly being slashed to the bone, or gradually phased out of existence.

Until now, 1981 has had its bright spots. The massive back-scratcher among Vietnam vets to the "Sterling service" afforded the returning Iranian hostages while the needs of Vietnam vets went unnoticed, did focus public attention on vets for awhile, but with no substantive results.

The Reagan administration's announced plan to close the Vietnam Outreach Centers brought large national protests, united virtually all Vietnam vets groups and brought a retreat from Reagan, Stockman & Co., Inc., who promised a couple more years of life for the Centers, a program which was created 10 years too late and which still earns tens of thousands of dollars monthly.

The major battles are still before us. All veterans have been offered the new disability for post-traumatic stress disorders, but the jury is still out on the ease of recognition and the availability of being respected. It's for sure they won't be handing out disability ratings like candy, not given the dismal outlook on disabilities overall which calls for the V.A. to take its belt and chains. Decent V.A. healthcare and benefits must become a major focus of activity by Vietnam veterans and vets of all eras.

Chief among health concerns has been the on-going fight for testing, treatment and compensation for Agent Orange victims. Progress has been made only in the area of uniting more veterans and their families in the fight. More vets have died, more widows have come forward, more vets have been exposed, and more of our children have come into the world with birth defects.

Victories have been won in various state legislatures and Congress has ordered "priority" mental treatment for vets with Agent Orange, "related" problems. But this is from the V.A. which recognizes only chorale (a skin rash) as an Agent Orange-related problem, with the burden of proof of Agent Orange exposure (the when and where) still resting on the veteran.

Both the Environmental Protection Agency and the Government Accounting Office reports say that Agent Orange is dangerous—a potential killer (but we should listen quickly before Rea- gan disbands both offices and puts Dow in charge of evaluating pesticide safety). Secretary Schweiker of Health and Welfare says that more of us were exposed to Agent Orange than previously reported.

The V.A. maintains there is still no proof; the V.A.'s "Agent Orange Registry Program" is a sham. Simultaneously, health concerns, organizations of Vietnam vets, official reports, have circulated internal documents claiming that Agent Orange is a "horrifically toxic" to the American people by the media and Vietnam vets.

The military sits on its collective fat ass and snarls at all of us, still not releasing mounds of important information on spraying missions and chemical agents.

Everyone is doing studies, some announcing that Agent Orange is OK until the initial stages of the investigations are complete, no other studies are telling us to hold our breath; while they await outcomes some 6,8,10,20 years down the pike. Chemical companies plead innocent, as if they weren't still making their bucks off the crop.

As-yet-unconvincing felons, millionaires and right-wing mutants in Congress seek re-introduction of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T for widespread use in the U.S., once again.

THREE-FOOT TESTING, TREATMENT, AND COMPENSATION FOR AGENT ORANGE VICTIMS IS A LONG WAY FROM BEING WON!

Indeed the problems of Vietnam vets are manifold. Unemployment in our ranks has increased. One of the U.S. prison population is us. Our half a million brothers have killed bad discharges. Our lives are shattered by the staggering divorce rate and more brothers have died by suicide than in mud, sand and jungles of Vietnam.

The Reagan administration does not listen to us, doesn't care, and probably is quite content for us to die off and be quiet. The billions of dollars from special programs—including veterans programs—are being poured into a military budget that will create fewer jobs, throw the tattered remains of the economy to dust, and line up our kids and relatives for another war in some place like El Salvador.

Reagan's policy of "mutter obscenely and swigging a tenuous nuclear club" to counter a not-so-gross Soviet international policy leads him to support pipsqueak dictators like President Duarte of El Salvador, who recently kissed ass all over Capital Hill for more money for weapons and advisors to counter the recent guerrilla offensive in El Salvador. Vietnam vets don't need this little tin-horn punk pulling us into the bloodstream he has been staring at for months.

With no more U.S. aid for him, the people of El Salvador will most likely bring Duarte to an abrupt end.

The bottom line for Vietnam vets, our families, and our supporters as we approach Veterans Day, 1981, is that the situation is not improving but, in fact, deteriorating rapidly. Now is the time to lay back and look at whatever we've got, but to build a veterans' movement to keep what we've won and then secure what we need. Join with VAW and other groups on Veterans Day, 1981, to take our fight to the American public.

NEVER FORGIVE—NEVER FORGET!

—Bill Davis, VAW National Office
A Limited Incursion into Congress' Land
OPERATION DEWEY CANYON IV
Wed. thru Sat., 12th thru 15th May

Dear VFW,

It has been gratifying to have the support of your organization in our fight in Wisconsin for more equitable assistance to Vietnam veterans in helping to relieve the personal problems created by their wartime service, and to work with you toward the common goals.

The Vietnam veteran has been very badly used by the state and the nation, and your efforts to aid the American victims of the conflict in Southeast Asia are to be commended.

I support your goals:
1. Test, Treat & Compensate Agent Orange Victims
2. Decent Benefits for all Vets
3. Stop all VA cuts
4. Support Incarcerated Vets

and I commend you for VFW's efforts to increase public awareness of the problems and public demand for redress.

Sincerely,
John R. Moses
Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs
State of Wisconsin

National Planning Meeting
VFW Steering Comm.

The VFW National Office along with members of the VFW National Steering Committee and assorted experts held a meeting in Chicago in early October to discuss permits, schedules, plans and progress for national veterans activities in Washington, DC next May.

Concerting plans, the group talked about permits, signed them and sent them off to the DC police to arrange for campsites, march routes and rally points (the schedule is printed on the back page of this issue of THE VETERAN). Discussions were held around fund-raising, travel, speakers and other items, and beginning security and logistics committees were set up.

The planning group will meet again in Milwaukee in early December and, at that time, make final plans for a larger meeting to include all interested vets and endorsers of Dewey Canyon IV for Chicago in mid-February.

"Not Since the Bonus Marches...."

(Reprinted from the North Country Anvil, P.O. Box 402, Winoon, MN 55987)

"...Vietnam veterans are not sitting idly by waiting for official government recognition of the problem. Like John Lindquist in Milwaukee, the vets are mounting their own offensive. Not since the bonus marchers of fifty years ago has the government been faced with a more committed and angry group of veterans.

"Planes are underway by the Vietnam Veterans Against the War for a protest march and camp in Washington, DC, next spring. Lindquist says it will be a "limited incursion" into the mall in front of the U.S. Capitol.

"There, facing the white oblik of the Washington Monument, a motley army camped amid the bluster and banalities will confront a nation trying hard to forget them.

"Vietnam...our first mad, psychedelic, stereoscopic war...they hope to make it last."

Attention: AGENT ORANGE PARENTS

As part of the first day's activities during Dewey Canyon IV we will introduce children affected by Agent Orange as part of the candlelight march on the White House. We will leave photos of these children taped to the White House fence. Even if you can't come to Dewey Canyon IV—or if you can—please send photos of children affected by Agent Orange.

For Free 2 Color 'DCN' Poster, Write V VAW

A Limited Incursion into Congress' Land
OPERATION DEWEY CANYON IV

-As Vietnam Veterans
-We Have Come to Reach Into Our Country's Soul and Pull Out the Poison
-Restoration of Honor and Dignity
-For Everyone
-Now Is the Time for You to Act for Your Country
-For the American People, This Is A Fight We Must Win
-And For Vietnam Veterans, This Is A War We Will Win

Wed. thru Sat., 12th thru 15th May, 1982
Veterns' Counterattack

Test, Treat & Compensate Agent Orange Victims!
Stop All VA Cuts!
Support Incarcerated Vets!

No Income? Single, 2 Kids: Discharge!
No Aid to El Salvador! No War!

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Partial List
Endorsers

Partial list of individuals and groups endorsing Operation Dewey Canyon IV:
National Association of Black Veterans; "Country" Joe MacDonald; Bill Davis, Chairman, Illinois Veterans Civic Council; United Professionals of Madison, Wisconsin (Nurses); Pete Seeger; O'reare Local, American Postal Workers Union; Jack Gladden, President, Student Body, University of Wisconsin; Tom Lofthus, State Representative, Madison, Wisconsin; David Bridgeman, Professor, Colby College, Colby, Maine.

Remember this?

In early September, Secretary of State Alexander Haig, shooting once again from his well-worn hip, blasted the Soviet Union for its use of chemical agents in Southeast Asia. Banner headlines in papers across the U.S. carried his charges along with his promise to present his evidence at the United Nations.

Few people doubt that the Soviets have—and would use—chemical agents as nastily as anything the U.S. has—and has used. For at least some Vietnam vets there was the suspicion that Haig might have been presented with Agent Orange residue leftover from the U.S. blanketing part of the world.

Not quite so simple, however; it seems instead that Haig's mouth was working before his brain was in gear. The particular chemical on which he was basing his charges exists naturally all over the world.

THE VETERAN , Winter, Page 6
The following letter was written by Vernon E. Brewer II. He passed through Milwaukee in late August, doing skydiving for Sunset Orange. He drove in on a 1200 cc Harley chopper that needed some work, and VAW was proud to be able to help him out. He held a press conference, and when nobody came, wrote this letter to the editor:

Milwaukee Sentinel & Journal

The unique and very real health problems Vietnam veterans face today are well documented and well known. Just as the real cancer rate of atomic bomb guinea pigs from desert tests years ago continues to vastly overshadow the national norm. My own great uncle died with one lung missing from mustard gas in World War I.

After all three sets of these hives have been common is the cold fact of an unexaggerated neglect so derelict in its manifestation that one need not be surprised to learn that it has been perpetuated by a government organization. I am speaking, of course, of the Veterans' Administration.

What Veterans? Not mine. I received three purple hearts in Vietnam. I spent nine months in Ft. Devena Army Hospital. I volunteered for 'Nam. I have never received anything but lip service and cold indifference from the V.A.

My son had to sleep in barracks for the first 3 years of his life to correct a birth defect. My skin is covered by a strange and uncomfortable rash. I suffer from constant migraines and anything I eat, including tums, turns to gastritis. I am not unique.

I have found veterans in every state my travels have taken me into with mirror-image complaints—finger nails rotting off I found in Milwaukee; the man is ill, the V.A., she don't know nothin'.

I got frustrated, angry, depressed, imprisoned, divorced. Now I want to get even. The way for all Vietnam veterans suffering Dapson or dioxin-related disabilities to beat the system is to use the system itself in the way it was designed to bring the necessary changes in V.A. policy.

Together with Save-a-vet, Brockport State University Dean of Veterans Jim Wood, the help, direct aid and blessing of the U.S. Parachute Association, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, and the very active Vietnam Veterans Against the War, I embarked on a cross-country skydiving tour. The purpose of my trip is obvious: as a parachute in Vietnam, I represented the people of America. At 18 I did not have to be quick, dumb enough to want to fight for this country in a war halfway around the world. I gave America my best and then some. All I got in return was guilt projections, ruined health, and the angry memory of infant brains.

Now I'm skydiving once in each state around the continental U.S.; Milwaukee was my 19th. I travel via Harley Davidson motorcycle, no thanks to Harley Davidson of Milwaukee. Originally Harley Davidson led myself and Save-a-vet to believe they would donate a motorcycle for the trip, Sunset Orange. They ultimately, after two weeks of "looking for the money in other departments," turned us down cold. So I went $4000 in debt to purchase, yes, a Harley Davidson—an American bike for an American trip. After approximately 6000 miles of constant use (from England to the Midwest) I asked for a pit stop, help in restoring everything that had burned out, vibrated off, was slipping, leaking and non-functional. They declined, afraid of setting a precedent, you know. Though I support this trip solely by packing parachutes at U.S.P.A. centers in each state after I jump, and make only enough funds for gas, oil, and an occasional McDonald's repast, Harley said "No."

Milwaukee came through, though; the Vet's Center contacted VAW who closed ranks and literally swarmed in to help by putting me up, feeding me, arranging a snubbed press conference at the dive, and putting me in contact with Tim Southworth, the owner of "The Cycle Empire." Tim did what Harley wouldn't—take the majority of the parts I needed. VAW members and I got my pit stop, enabling me to continue on to Minnesota. I hope the spirit of vets helping vets is catching, even to you who never experienced the horror of war. Organize. Stand up, be counted, get involved, stay committed. Only then will the V.A. seek out, do realistic biological test for Dapson and/or dioxin poisoning, treat the veterans (including deformed children and the wives of veterans experiencing spontaneous abortions), then compensate fairly anyone damaged in the service of his or her country. Goodbye, Milwaukee, and thanks.

Vernon Brewer II
Seneca Falls, NY
VETERANS' HISTORY
1932-1941 Vets Protest in Washington
BONUS MARCH

Vets camped out around Washington DC demanding decent treatment from the government--and especially that the government live up to the promises it had made to veterans. Vets coming to the Capital from all over the country, bringing their wives and children, and the movement growing until one authority said that he believed, "the institutions of our government have been severely threatened."

This is no description of Dewey Canyon IV nor even of Operation Dewey Canyon III where vets threw away their medals in disgust at the way the U.S. government was continuing to kill off our brothers in Vietnam. The quote in fact comes from General Douglas MacArthur, Army Chief of Staff under President Herbert Hoover. The General was talking about the Bonus March of 1932.

In May, June and July of 1932 over 25,000 World War I veterans and their families descended on Washington to demand that the Hoover Administration pay them the bonus they had been promised as compensation for their service in World War I. While the government could come up with all kinds of tax breaks and outright gifts for big business, it could only put off giving vets their promised bonus. The vets had begun to refer to it as the "tombstone bonus." To vets trying to keep together families in the midst of the great Depression, even a small bonus was sorely needed.

Vets came from every corner of the country and, as the early contingents arrived in Washington or made news along the way, more and more decided they would join their brothers to demand their rights. With unemployment at record levels, many vets had nothing to keep them at home.

Stories of the various contingents and their travels to Washington deserve whole books; there were pitched battles with police in the railroad yards of Youngstown and Cleveland. Rail traffic in St Louis was closed down for days until the trains carried the vets closer to Washington (soap on the tracks was a favorite vet device). Along the rail lines, local farmers--who didn't have all that much themselves--left care packages of food for the vets to eat. A group of California vets reportedly had most of its donations stolen by its supposed leader, but almost 2/3s of the vets were lost during the month-long trip (some were later found in the Tennessee mountains). The governor of West Virginia brought a fleet of trucks to the state border to carry the vets across his state as quickly and quietly as possible.

At the focus of the march in Washington, the Hoover Administration was trying--without any success--to solve the Depression by pouring money into big business in hopes that somehow the money would "trickle down" in terms of jobs (an economic theory which has a large popularity in Washington today). Faced with growing thousands of the victims of their policies, however, the Administration became much less theoretical and much more practical. Right off they decided to do nothing to help the vets--except what could divert the vets from their plans to demand an immediate payment of their bonus. The Administration provided compacts--but so far away that they were useless. So the vets found their own, occupying abandoned buildings along Pennsylvania Avenue and erecting campfires on vacant lots.

The government tried hard to provide the vets with leaders--of their own leaders, of course. W.W. Waters was named "Commander in Chief of the Bonus Expeditionary Force"; in fact he was nothing but a front man for the chief of the DC police, an ex-general who was Hoover's man on the scene. Time after time these leaders bought a few more days before the vets angered would boil over.

Perhaps the greatest deception of the vets' stay came when the Senate finally voted against the Bonus. This was prearranged; the House would vote for the Bonus, then the Senate would vote against, saving President Hoover from having to veto the Bonus when he would be running soon for re-election. A day and night march through the Capitol went on for five days before the vote. It was planned as a camp-in, but the Administration refused
the vets permission to sleep on
the Capitol grounds, and it was
clear that something would have
to be done to divert the vets' anger.

Before the Senate vote was
announced the solution: the
the leaders of the march, Waters
among them, convinced to go
arrested. Vets were angry, of
course; when the police chief
who had arranged the whole
thing in the first place -- releas-
eds the vets' leaders, who then
announced the Senate vote aga
against the bonus, anger against
the government was diverted in
to the apparent victory of getting
their leaders released. And
when a military band mysteri-ou
ly appeared to play "America, "
vets cheered for their leaders,
cheered for the police chief,
and even allowed three "boc's" for
Herbert Hoover to be turned of
as disrespectful.

The vets' anger, fueled by
simple desperation, would not
be silenced or misguided for
ever. The five-day "Death Mar
ch," with an endless stream of
vets walking in and out of the
Capitol (one vet passed out
twice during the march, only
to get up and keep on marching)
sparked a growing public sympa
thry and support for the vets not
only in Washington but ac
cross the country.

None of this was lost on the
Hoover Administration. From
the beginning of the March, the government's
hope was for the vets to go home and leave the
government alone. Hoover and his
advisers tried all kinds of tricks
from offering a small bonus plus
free transportation and food to
get home, to attempts to starve
the vets out of DC. One vet
leader, firmly in the pocket of
the government, tried to get the
vets to leave immediately after
the "no" vote on the Bonus to
defeat local candidates. A few
vets left; most stayed, under-
standing that Washington was
where the Bonus payment would
be decided.

Finally Hoover found him-
self with no more options and
brought in the military. His
first try failed when Marines
refused to lift their rifles against
veterans. But, on the 28th of
July, 1932, a specially gathered
military force they had been kept
on hold for from Washington where
they could hear as little as pos-
sible about the Bonus marchers
under the command of Douglas
MacArthur moved into the city.
First the DC police tried to evict
vets living in makeshift homes
and camps; gunfire broke out;
one vet was killed. Vets fought
back with bricks and stones.
Then came the military tanks
(under the command of Major
George Patton) moved down Penn-
sylvania Avenue, following lines
of soldiers with bayonets at the
ready. Slowly, fighting for each
inches, the soldiers forced the
vets up tear gas canisters and
flinging them back at the troops.
The vets' camps were burned,
their few belongings destroyed.
And the vets were pushed out of
Washington, finally disbanding
and returning home. They had
little choice.

But the Bonus March did not
end just because the marchers
were dispersed by a desperate
government. The militance of
the vets, and their learning of
their need for organization won
the Bonus payment several
years later. Their march gave impetus
to the drive which won the fight
for unemployment compensation,
one of the vets' demands. And
it taught the vets a lot.

The great majority of the
Bonus Marchers went to Wash-
ington with the faith that the
government would give them what
they deserved, needed, and had earn-
ed. They were more than willing
to follow leaders who offered a
way of patriotically winning what
they needed. The government
not only refused to meet their
needs but drove them away at
gunpoint. Despite all kinds of
misdirection and a media bar-
rage, it was clear to most vets
who was throwing them out of
their Capitol. Perhaps the ex-
perience and lessons was best
summed up by one Bonus March-
er, Benjamin B. Shepard from
Philadelphia, who said: "When
I marched off to war in 1917, I
remember a Civil War veteran,
over 70 years old, telling me,"Son, you are all heroes now.
But some day they'll treat you
like dogs."

Vets of the most recent U.S.
military venture -- those of us
who have, like the Bonus March-
ers of 1932 been used once
and then thrown away -- are faced by
an equally hostile government,
equally interested in supporting
his business at the expense of
those who can least afford it.
The determination and eventual
victory of those vets and their
families who marched in the
1932 Bonus Army are a lesson
for the Vietnam vets of Dewey
Canyon IV. We will not forget.

V.A. Rule Change

One of the supposed bene-
fits of being in the service was
we were told --was the ability
to get medical care at a V.A.
facility once we were out of
the service. But not anymore;
now it requires a certificate of
povery before we can get treatment.

New V.A. eligibility rules for
medical treatment require that
a veteran "reveal" his financial
status, and that those whose
income exceeds $15,000 per
year will be told to get treatment
somewhere else.

According to Congress, this
rule change will save the V.A.
$100 million a year. A V.A.
spokesman says it will save
only $9.3 million with the added
cost of sending investigators
around to check financial status
before a vet will be treated.

Let's face it; very few vets
go to the V.A. willingly. A vet
has to be pretty sick to toleratethe
lines, the bureaus, the poor
care, the need for interpre-
ters to talk to the doctor -- the
list goes on and on.

RADIATION &
VETERANS

It took a reversal of the 4th
appeal to the V.A. Board of Ap-
peals before Ken Marshall of
South Dakota finally forced the
V.A. to admit that removal of
a non-malignant tumor from his
thyroid was a service-connect-
ed disability stemming from his
exposure to radiation while in
the Navy in 1946. It took Mar-
shall 7 years and his battle is
still going on. Civilians living
on the Marshall Islands near
where Marshall was exposed
have been awarded lifetime med-
cal care and $25,000 when they
have been treated for thyroid
problems. Marshall has been told by the
V.A. he is entitled to nothing,
and his disability rating has
been determined to be 0.

For the National Association
of Atomic Veterans Marshall's
victory was a step forward; win-
negative compensation is still being

fought. NAAV is actively seek-
ing other victims of atomic rad-
ation exposure and has been
instrumental in getting Atomic
Veterans included in one of the
Bills now in the U.S. Senate
which would provide treatment
for Agent Orange victims.

The parallels between the fight
for Agent Orange victims and that
of Atomic Veterans are many and
close; neither group has gotten
any relevant cooperation from
the government which was per-
fecctly happy to use us once;
both are fighting a growing strug-
gle as more and more vets find
they have been exposed. And
each small victory for one group
is a victory for both.

For more information on
the National Association of Atomic
Vets, write NAAV; 1109 Franklin
St, Burlington, IOA 52601, or
call (319) 753-6112.
Vietnam Veterans Against the War began in 1967 to join the ranks of those who wanted an end of U.S. involvement in Indochina. Basic principles of the organization have continued ever since: we have fought against unjust wars, whether the U.S. invasion of Indochina or the U.S.S.R.’s invasion of Afghanistan. We have supported, by whatever means were possible, those who are fighting for their own liberation.

From its early days VVAW has operated on the knowledge that the government will give vets the things we need only when forced to do so—that vets get nothing for nothing. We’ve learned that when one vet fights alone, there is a limited amount he or she can do, but when veterans unite to fight together, there is no limit on what can be accomplished. VVAW has seen some real successes: helping to put an end to U.S. troops in Southeast Asia, helping to get Nixon tossed out of office on his ear, winning (to a great extent) amnesty for many who resisted the Vietnam War, getting the Veterans Administration to begin the process of looking for answers to Agent Orange poisoning and to recognize Post-Vietnam Syndrome (now called “delayed-stress syndrome”) as a service-connected disorder.

VVAW has consistently stood with the interests of vets of all eras, especially Vietnam and Vietnam-era vets, and this has often brought us into conflict with more traditional veterans’ organizations. While the Legion or VFW have hawked more wars, VVAW has fought against future U.S. wars of aggression as in Vietnam; while traditional organizations have waved the flag at every opportunity, VVAW has always asked “Why?” We oppose war, war toward war, fighting against drafting and the draft which will fallow, welcomed vets with bed discharge into the organization and fought to get the discharge system dropped entirely from the military.

We know what it means to have been used once by the government and its corporate bankers, and then thrown away with a bed G.I. Bill, wretched healthcare, Agent Orange poisoning our bodies, no jobs and all the other problems that Vietnam vets face. We do not intend to see our children go through the same thing in the next war for somebody else’s profit!

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**P.O. Box 25592, Chicago, IL 60625**

**DATE**

**NAME**

**TELEPHONE**

**ADDRESS**

**STATE**

**ZIP**

**CITY**

**DATES OF SERVICE**

**BRANCH**

**UNIT**

**OVERSEAS DUTY**

**DAYS**

**MILITARY OCCUPATION**

**RANK**

**DATE**

**VVAW** welcomes all people who want to join together to build a fighting veterans’ organization. Although the majority of our members are vets of the Vietnam era, we want all veterans of all ages— as well as interested non-vets—to join and build the vets’ struggle. Membership requirements are participated in the life of the organization, and payment of $1 per month to the national organization with a $5 initiation fee.

VVAW is a democratic organization. Chapters decide on local projects and programs under the general guidelines of the national program. Chapters elect local leadership and representatives to the National Steering Committee meetings where major organizational decisions are made and national coordinators elected. These coordinators are responsible for day-to-day leadership and publish the national newspaper, THE VETERAN.

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO VVAW ARE RECOGNIZED BY THE IRS AS TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

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**CHAPTER SHORTS**

**SAN ANTONIO, TX**

Along with plans for their own Vets Day ceremony, San Antonio VVAW has applied to join the official ceremonies. The chapter is also preparing a pamphlet explaining state veteran’s laws.

The most unusual activity involves Spanish-speaking members of the Chapter who have been going to a nearby refugee camp for people who have fled El Salvador. There they have been providing humanitarian aid in helping refugees fill out the necessary forms for political status so that the Reagan administration will not be able to classify them as economic refugees and send them back to their death in El Salvador.

For more information contact San Antonio VVAW, 519 Everest, San Antonio, TX 78209 (512) 826-2441.

**NEW YORK CITY**

Members of VVAW in New York City joined a Coalition of New York Vietnam Veteran Organizations in planning two days of testimony and rallies at hearings of the New York State Dionis Study Commission at the end of September.

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Members of the DC Chapter are still organizing their chapter, working with other vets.

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**1982 Budget Cuts**

- Food Stamps: $1.8 billion
- Child Nutrition: $1.6 billion
- Student Aid: $800 million
- Aid for Dependent Children: $520 million
- Subsidies: $320 million
- Administration: $128 million
- VA Benefits: $116 million
- Neighborhood Aid: $9 million

Total: $5.2 billion

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**1982 Tax Subsidies for Oil Companies**

- $1.8 billion
- $1.6 billion
- $800 million
- $520 million
- $320 million
- $128 million
- $116 million
- $9 million

Total: $5.2 billion

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**Adapted from Progs & Tows**
Did you see where Reagan gave a $10,000 bonus to four secret service agents who were with him when he was shot. Three other agents got bonuses of $1000 or more—and that's pretty good combat pay. Hell, if I remember right, I got somewhere around $65 a month while I was in Vietnam. Now I don't want to say that these agents weren't brave, or that they weren't risking their lives. They were. But a grant in Vietnam didn't see but about $800 a year and he put his ass on the line many times; he didn't have 8-hour shifts, and his duties didn't include many state banquets or balls—and he got at least as many purple hearts as these guys.

Maybe the difference in combat pay comes because troops in the military are so crude. That's what the Army would have you believe if you read the guidebook given to the members of the 4th Infantry Division at Ft. Carson before they headed for Germany for Reformer Exercises (that's the yearly picnic where U.S. troops are flown to Germany to tear up the German countryside, kill four or five civilians, two or three GI's and a bunch of livestock as we pretend to turn back a Russian invasion).

The guidebook is supposed to tell the troops how to behave during Reformer. Among its illustrations is a picture of an infantryman wearing a horned helmet with a ball and chain saying, "Wacopie, now's my chance to rape, burn and pillage and jaywalk all over Germany."

Of course that's why GI's go to Germany since they're nothing but a bunch of animals to start with. Jaywalking all over Germany. But then the book goes on to say, "Wrong. You ain't on your own block. It's too bad, fellows; you can't go rape and pillage just like you used to do back home."

No doubt, somewhere in the 4th Division are some criminal souls, but the guidebook's a bit late. It was printed too late for Vietnam and a little too early for El Salvador or Nicaragua or Libya or whatever's next. "Don't get grabby with the frauleins," it says: "You ain't part of no conquering Army."

It must be part of official Army policy that when we are a conquering Army (as we were supposed to be in Vietnam) then it's fine to rape, pillage, burn and grab frauleins.

Well, by now the troops are back home. Let's hope that none of them got caught jaywalking. It might ruin the Army's image!

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**SAVING MONEY**

The Army has come up with a new way to save money. Since ammunition for some artillery pieces costs so much money, they've got an experimental program going on down at Ft. Stewart. Instead of live ammo, they're using computer games—like the kind you find at arcades or hook up to your TV.

The idea is that hitting a moving target on the screen develops hand-eye coordination. The Army says that "there appears on the screen a potential real life-threat vehicle." Of course these "life-threat" veicles are supposed to look like non-NATO vehicles, just like the "aggressors" when we were in training always wore black PJs.

This is a great innovation. Now GI's can prepare for battle in the bowling room. No more nights under the stars and in the rain. A beer between games. No one shooting back. All you have to do is shoot at asteroid invaders or dive bombers with a push of your button. At least that's sort of like practicing against MIGs and Backfire bombers.

And it's not a laughing matter, either. Think of the potential. This may be a giant step toward world peace. Just think: someday we might be fighting the Russians over some chunk of sand in the Middle East. Instead of sending troops there, we could get on the hotline and make a deal; "Hello, Leonid. I'll send my best players to meet your best at this arcade in Paris on the left bank. Winner takes Kuwait—deal?"

This way we will have cleaner wars. With them cutting back on V.A. hospital care, we can't afford too many casualties—maybe those in Washington can, but we can't.

If nothing else, using games will save a few bucks. The Army will need the extra money to buy Worcestershire sauce. After all, they just spent $6,000 to do a 17-page study on how to buy a 15-ounce bottle of Worcestershire sauce (which costs $1.50). I don't know why they made the study. You're supposed to use Worcestershire sauce on steak and I don't remember getting much steak in the Army. Maybe they use it at the Pentagon in one of their many subsidized dining-rooms. They probably do, but they felt that $1.50 a bottle wasn't up to the standards of a colonel—so they inflated the price.

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**GRENADE OF THE MONTH**

The award for this paper is another difficult choice: there's the general fired from National Security Counsel because he said that the Russians were just over the next hill waiting to swoop down on us, and there's the Congressional candidate in California who said we should have a military coup in the U.S. But despite the strong competition, the award goes to Robert Nimmo, new chief of the V.A.

This turkey displayed his ignorance almost the moment he got in. He passed over Agent Orange as causing nothing more than a skin affliction and promised a medical coverage study.

And he didn't stop there. He went on to point out that Vietnam vets had not been short-changed. Ninety-five percent of Vietnam vets are doing well according to Nimmo. That's some really good news. If you subtract the 50,000 thousand who have committed suicide, the hundreds of thousands who make up a third of the prison population around the country, the uncounted thousands in asylums—that must mean that all of us not in one of those situations must just be sitting back with the bucks rolling in. It's sure good to know! Thanks, Director Nimmo.

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**IRISH VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR?**

Reports from England, where British youth frustrated by Prime Minster Thatcher's wonderful economic programs took to the streets for a couple of weeks of riot, say that the first youth arrested during the rioting was a young soldier home on leave from the British occupation of Northern Ireland. Right on, Brother!

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**PATCHES T-SHIRTS BUTTONS**

All with the VVAW insignia in three styles:

- T-shirts: $7.50 per order (specify size: small, medium, large, or x-large)
- Patches: $4.00 per pack
- Buttons: $1.00 per pack

Any of the above can be ordered from the VVAW National Office, P.O. Box 25592, Chicago, IL 60625; make checks payable to VVAW.
AGENT ORANGE & AUSTRALIAN VETS

In an interview with the student paper of Griffith University in Australia, Graham Bell, President of the Queensland branch of VWA, spoke for Australian vets and for U.S. vets and their families when he stated, "And what of the future? The government is mishandling the whole issue of Vietnam veterans--particularly in the 'Agent Orange' controversy--has shown that Australian soldiers can no longer trust the government. Up until the Vietnam War, every soldier knew that he was injured on active service, he and his family would be looked after. That vital trust, a morale factor worth far more than any high-technology weapons system, has now been destroyed by a few misguided politicians and their bureaucratic hangovers. Let's hope we are not involved in another war."

Bill Davis
VWA National Office

(VWA gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Bob Gibson of Sydney VWA and Graham Bell of Queensland VWA.)

These are other well publicized cases of workers having problems after proven exposure will no doubt bolster public opinion and bring together a strong coalition of Australian environmentalists and Vietnam vets.

In what was probably the most underhanded and slimy move to day, Messner--Veterans Affairs Minister--visited the U.S. with almost no press publicity. He slithered around DC, met with leaders of traditional vets groups, V.A. assholes and VA leader Bobby Mueller. Messner wisely avoided almost all other Vietnam vets groups including Vietnam vets in Congress, and most certainly any Agent Orange activists.

When he returned to Australia Messner stated that, "...there is no credible evidence at this stage of the game that indicates that there is any connection between Agent Orange and any disabilities."

He had been reassuring by groups and individuals he met with; he said that Agent Orange was no problem among vets in the U.S. Messner held a series of press conferences and radio and TV shows to publicize his "new" theory that Vietnam vets' problems were due to re-adjustment and stress disorders solely, not to any Agent Orange related exposure. His main staple on every appearance was that, "I spoke to Mr Bob Mueller, the Vietnam Veterans of America and he assured me that Agent Orange was not a problem among Vietnam veterans in America but rather a problem of re-adjustment into society." We certainly hope that Mueller was being misquoted.
Schweiker, Sec. of Health & Human Ser. Discovers A.O.

To the total lack of surprise for Vietnam vets, the U.S. government has suddenly discovered that Agent Orange dumping, Secretary Schweiker of the Department of Health and Human Services announced that, "As part of a continuing search of Vietnam War files, there was a larger exposure area—both personnel and physical—than was originally admitted."

Surprise, surprise! Back in 1970, veterans talked about Agent Orange to U.S. troops in Cambodia (where we weren't supposed to be) and the Nixon government vehemently denied that any such thing could possibly be going on. A couple of years later it all came out that vets had been telling the truth all along. And here we go again; VVAW and other vets groups have been saying, since the Agent Orange story broke in March of 1979, that the defoliant was used all over the country and that almost anyone who served in Vietnam was potentially exposed to Agent Orange. In 1970 we didn't talk about troops in Cambodia because we'stread it somewhere—we talked about it because we were there! In 1979 we didn't talk about Agent Orange because we researched files—but because we felt it, saw it, breathed it, drank it, sprayed it, and have seen the results in our bodies and the bodies of our families.

In his press conference, Secretary Schweiker went on to say, "There are still parts of the iceberg that haven't been seen yet. We do know that there are reports of perimeter clearings where chemicals were dumped to clear clearings in jungles, and obviously a lot of concentrated chemicals had to be dumped there."

Vets see these chemicals used not only to clear perimeters around bases; we saw it used along roads (to make it more difficult for potential ambushes from covered areas); we saw it used in the open to kill off potential "hostile" food supplies; we saw it used within hours of the time when U.S. troops would go through an area. Secretary Schweiker's 'iceberg' is one hell of a lot larger than he knows, or at least will tell at this point.

The government has—and will continue—to let out this kind of information when they feel they have no choice whatever. Vietnam vets are constantly faced by the full weight of the U.S. government apparatus (to say nothing of the power of the chemical companies) which will refuse to pay any claim until they have no choice.

Secretary Schweiker says that the study continues. Independent sources say there are 10 and a half miles (that's right--miles!) of files about spraying and who was where and at what time which are in something close to complete disorder, so don't hold your breath waiting for the final solution. And don't wait, either, for the government to act on their new findings. They will act when vets for them to act.

News for Civilian Victims of Agent Orange

With recent revelations by the government and the on-going discussion about Agent Orange poisoning, civilians who were stationed in Vietnam during the war as Defense Department employees, Red Cross workers, USAF workers, members of the press or other occupations are beginning to suffer some of the same anxieties and problems as veterans. However, while vets have an agency—the V.A.—which is supposed to help (even though it has slammed the door in vets' faces up to this point) civilians have no such agency to which to turn. Joan Maiman, chairperson of the Veterans Leadership Conference, stated recently on a Chicago TV show, that "a vehicle and methodology must be established whereby civilians who are experiencing the same problems must be dealt with. At this time the Veterans Leadership Conference is receiving numerous inquiries from around the U.S. about Agent Orange. Maiman, herself a civilian nurse who spent a long period of time in Vietnam, stated further that, "The Veterans Leadership Conference is establishing an outreach program and will respond to questions that civilians who spent time in Vietnam may have about Agent Orange exposure."

The VLC may be contacted by writing Veterans Leadership Conference, 300 N. State St #4049, Chicago, IL 60610, or calling (312) 828-9563.

"ILLINOIS LEGISLATURE BUNGLES AGENT ORANGE LEGISLATION"

In the most empty of bows to Vietnam vets, the Illinois State Legislature passed an Agent Orange Bill, Senate Bill 16. With a budget of between $30 and $100 thousand, the bill sets up a committee of 13 legislators and private citizens to investigate the problem of Agent Orange among Illinois citizens of the State and report back to the Legislature in two years.

And that's it. Along with passage of the bill came the decision to ax any outreach, treatment or activity program which they were "inappropriate" and beyond the scope of any State legislature; apparently they had not heard of bills in Texas, Wis-

"CONCERNED CITIZENS"--We are concerned citizens including maps of areas sprayed and information on how an individual vet can work on his own case. $2 each;

Make checks payable to
VVAW
P.O. Box 25592
Chicago IL 60625

16 pages of testimony by victims of Agent Orange and experts on the effects of the chemical on Vietnam Vets and their families. 50¢ post paid.

"AGENT ORANGE DOSSIER"--43 pages of information about Agent Orange including maps of areas sprayed and information on how an individual vet can work on his own case. $2 each;

Make checks payable to
VVAW
P.O. Box 25592
Chicago IL 60625
THE GRUNTS

The Grunts, by Charles Anderson; Fostidio Press, $10 (hardbacks).

There are lots of books about Vietnam coming out, and THE VETERAN tries to cover as many as we can. But this book deserves special interest because Anderson, a "grunt" marine, describes both his experiences in Vietnam and the experience of Vietnam vets back in the world.

The first part of the book, "The Tour," covers the operation of one Marine company on a 58-day operation. Like most of the biography-type stories it does not portray war like John Wayne in the "Sands of Iwo Jima" or The Green Berets, but Anderson was walking through jungles, not the back lot of some movi studio. While it is one Marine's story, it also captures glimpses that we can all remember:

"The call from Battalion came at about eleven in the morning; the hatted frenzy of preparation was taken up again. The company was caught at a time more awkward than usual: there was too much water and too many C-ration to carry."

In Your Face!
Sports for Love and Money

Sports books generally fall into the categories of amusing anecdotes, exposes of one particular team of a particular sport, or shocking tales of the ravages of drugs upon pro athletes. Good, comprehensive books on which to make the money in pro sports, and corruption in sports from high school to the pros are practically non-existent, until now.

"Attention sports fans! If you haven't read In Your Face by Lee Ballinger, well worth the small price of admission... Readers will learn that players are greed rather than players' salaries determine ticket prices that athletes often call for because they're tired from traveling all night, that increased length of season is nothing more than a sports version of speed-up and overtime..."

The freshest, toughest, most exciting new voice in sports.

But an heroic effort was made to consume it all.

"A night in the 'Nam always comes alive... degrees of things are always seen or heard. If something is both seen and heard, it usually turns out to be a tiger, rock ape, or North Vietnamese."

With a half-moon out tonight Sorensen expected to see Bushes move and work on the imagination.

"Hill 174 shook as in a death rattle and then for Bravo Company the world turned into a dark chaos of noise, dirt, hot metal and broken glass.

Part Two, "The World" doesn't mince words when it takes on the questions of atrocities, alienation or alliances and tries to give answers to them: The Vietnam War in particular provoked a lot of activity between the minority of the young generation who went and the majority who did not. Those who were bloodied in the hundreds of demonstrations against the war were also lied to and deceived and the result. They and the veterans have resolved to tolerate less abuse of authority and deception in life than previous generations."

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"The freshest, toughest, most exciting new voice in sports.

But an heroic effort was made to consume it all.

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Dear VVAW,

Could you enroll me—or whatever? If you need $, let me know and send what info you can. I need to get something going for myself and a few others who thought you all died out a decade ago. Thank goodness you’re alive and going well in Chicago and elsewhere. Thanks. Looking forward to corresponding with you. Need your help.

Peace,
Eureka Springs
Arkansas

Dear VVAW,

I’m currently taking a course through Indiana U-Purdue U at Ft. Wayne at the Vet Center on Vietnam. Our texts have included Litton, Santelli, Emerson, Lang, Baron and various handouts and films. We’re also doing in-depth interviews with vets as a form of outreach and knowledge.

It would like to know if I could receive your very worthwhile paper, THE VETERAN? My husband is a vet along with my brother and lots of friends. I hope to continue my education in this cause and do as much as possible. Our Ft. Wayne Vet Center has done so much good. I feel an especially heart-felt thanks to Rick Ritter, counselor at the Vet Center and one of the two instructors in this course. His dedication and putting his ass on the line has made the Center a place a lot of vets feel they can go.

Thanks for being there.

Sandy Thieme
Ft. Wayne, IN

Severe than my husband’s. It’s a crying shame. All I can do is pray for these men, and thank God my husband isn’t that badly effected.

Your chemical 2,4,5-T may be very effective in destroying marijuana but so is manual labor. Your chemical 2,4,5-T has also been very effective in destroying the lives of thousands of veterans and their families. Of course it’s very important to you to keep your stockholders happy. It wouldn’t do anyone any good to talk to your scientists. After all, Dow Chemical signs their paychecks, and the only thing a person would hear from them is what you want them to hear.

We no longer buy Dow Chemical products, and we have encouraged our friends and relatives, here in Wisconsin and Michigan, to do the same.

It’s not us common folk who will stop at nothing. It’s you people and Dow, and the U.S. government. You have committed a sin against mankind. A very deadly sin. It is called Agent Orange.

Kathy Gauthier

The day will come
When Dow will fall to its knee,
Crying Mercy, Mercy,
Have Mercy on Me."

But I’ll show no Mercy,
For they’ve shown none to me.
Is this government so blind,
They cannot see,
What their fucking war
Has done to me?
They don’t realize
It’s still not too late,
All the vet asks,
Is to Test, Treat & Compensate.

Kathy Gauthier

The Milwaukee Chapter of VVAW is continuing its work with a great sadness. On Oct 11, 1981, the youngest member of our chapter was killed in a tragic motorcycle accident.

Tom Ramm joined VVAW eight years ago at the age of 13! He joined because he was strongly against the Vietnam War, and supported our politics and approach. It is people like Tom who help us be more than just another vets organization. He helped to make us what we are—a strong community-based organization focusing on vets issues but with a strong link to the non-veteran community. For eight years Tom worked to strengthen that link—demonstrations, fund-raisers, social events, and all the glorious shitwork that goes into making a strong chapter—posting, licking stamps and addressing newsletters. He took a personal position on the war machine by refusing to register for the draft. Tom has a family which has supported VVAW too. Without the beautiful example of these wonderful people Tom would not have grown into the excellent man that he was.

The whole family has taken a leadership role in the community and among their peers. We love and support them all, and we will miss Tom.

Michigan City, IN
(The following recollection is from a collection of writings given to VFW several years ago, all signed "The Last Grunt"; we have no other name, but if the writer reads his story we'll be glad to print his name the next time around.)

**Ambush--Armed Column**

The armored column rolls by through the highland paddies, across old battlefields, through the dismal rain of I Corps. On it rolls, unstoppable, toward an utter hell. The '50's and '60's are loaded to the hill, and the tanks' cannon are bent on raising hell.

Then the lead track passes over a command detonated 250-lb bomb, and then the next, and then an explosion like the wrath of God must be; white hot steel expands skyward carrying pieces of men with it.

The track driver arcs puard 50, 100, 150 feet into the air and his body shatters into a million pieces like some kind of small china doll. The company RTO is hit with a 3-inch piece of steel, and the '50's begin. My God, the noise—my God, an orchestra from the pit of hell. 102mm guns fire, '50's fire, '60's fire, claymores detonate, frags explode—the world must be ending.

The noise, and the grunt struggles in the mud as the shells explode and the world becomes a white hot flame and a belly-level view is all he can see crawling in the mud firing his puny '16 and on and on and the fire goes burst after burst, explosion after explosion and then silence and count the dead.

—The last grunt

**Survivors: Manual**

If your arms and legs are still intact you are a survivor
If your nightmares will wait for the night

you are a survivor
If the faces of the living remain the faces of passing children, you are a survivor
If tall meadow grasses delight you with sudden pheasants you are a survivor
If you can find your way back into someone's love you are a survivor.

**Flashback**

"...stare upon the ash of all I burned."

---Willfred Owen---

Suddenly the ash catches, bursting into betelmouth masasans, licking at that open sore in my head nibbling at the scars of what I was: their rearing tongues searching for the wound that would ignite what I still might be.

**Agent Orange**

I harvested the bitter fruit From the Quang Ngai valley, And I shall carry it Until the day of my death. I felt the feathery mist, But I had no fear. My trust, and my ignorance, Shielded me from it. Now I walk the safe streets, Seemingly normal. I should find a place to hide, But is there such a place? Am I a bug, an insect, Wiped out by 20th century technology?

I cannot act, So I think the unthinkable.

Dale Reich Whitewater, Wis

**The Dow Legacy**

If they got you thinking about signing up just to kill you some time (since nothing else is going down) you better be getting ready to kill you some women and children too preparing to spend you some time doing some long time locked up in their screams.

---The last grunt

**Tin Cloth Medals, 1981**

Don't mean Quality V.A. healthcare
Tin cloth medals r good 2 throw at those who told us all the lies those who stabbed us in the back tin cloth medals r bureauquacks mentalities
"Dewey Canyon IV here I come"

---The last grunt

**Flash Back**

Kay Richardson Pecoria, Illinois

Flash Back Brain bolt Striking Shock moment lightening Flash Back A long ago where I spent In black memory moment Flash Back Time--machine inside me Ancient images I see Flash Back Prisoned time In yesterday I find

Flash Back Crying pain Memorial rain Flash Back

**Prometheus Again**

he once brought fire down on some village children In that latest crazy forgotten war of ours now he's come home to spend his days asleep beneath newspapers of inconsequence and his nights chained to our garbage cans drunk on ripple muscatoel thunderbird retching our guts up in to the relentless dawn.

---The last grunt

---The last grunt

---The last grunt