

# Class of '77 Spent Its Life in War Environment

What's the outlook for peace studies and anti-war activism on college and university campuses, now that American involvement has ended and an uneasy peace reigns in Southeast Asia?

Their need would continue to appear urgent for years to come, though the Class of '77 will be the first group of 18-year olds entering college for almost two generations without a shooting war going on.

Assuming that this year's crop of freshman was born mainly in 1955, its members have spent their entire lives in an active war environment.

Some disturbing insights into their and successive college classes' social attitudes and influences may be glimpsed in a recently published study on children's attitudes about war ("Children and War," Teachers College Press) by Howard Tolley, Jr., assistant professor of political science at Wilberforce University.

Analysis of his statistical findings indicates a marked ambivalence in children's attitude to war, a skepticism about government and the president, and greater influence in their opinion-forming by parental beliefs than by the educational system, churches, media and other forces for ethical and social responsibility.

Dr. Tolley says that childhood socialization influences later adult political beliefs. He also cites research studies with high school students which revealed little dif-

ference in attitude between freshmen and seniors.

By the 1980's, the generation of school children whom Dr. Tolley studies will have grown up and assumed the responsibilities of adult citizenship. It can be inferred from his sampled group that a large part of the college and university population of this decade requires a sustained peace education to crystallize their social awareness against war.

The sample group comprised 2,677 children in grades three to eight in New York, New Jersey and Maryland, whom Dr. Tolley interviewed early in 1971. At the time, Vietnam was still an abrasive public issue. These children had lived their entire lives in a war environment. They were the first generation to have observed televised combat. And they had been exposed to the anti-war movement in the schools during the 1960s.

Acceptance of the inevitability of war by these children, though almost all thought it bad, may hold a grim portent for the fu-

ture unless the colleges and universities can develop peace studies to shape their attitudes more successfully than their childhood influences.

Some 54 percent of the children agreed that "war is sometimes necessary." Most of the children opined that war is justified if it defends our country's freedom. Third of the children interviewed believed that war is good if it results in the defeat of communism.

An implied warning on the cyclical toward war among the youth of 1971 was voiced by Dr. Tolley. "If the radical movement of the 1960s derived in part from the disappointed expectation of idealistic youth," he said, "the more critical children of 1971 should face no such disillusionment in the decade ahead. Rather than manifest righteous indignation at departures from the democratic creed, more cynical youth might simply accept the system with resignation.

Some of Tolley's other thought-provoking findings are:

## Predator Control Topic of Research

Predator control in game management is an acceptable practice in South Texas if there is enough hunting pressure to remove the resulting surplus of game animals.

There are other "ifs" involved, but this in general sums up the findings of Dr. Sam L. Beasom of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and the A&M University Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences.

Beasom, who says predator control is one of the hottest ecology issues of the day, described his research during a recent meeting of the Wildlife Subcommittee of the Texas Legislative Committee on Environmental Affairs.

He told the subcommittee that the phenomenon of predation is a tough ecological problem that is difficult to interpret biologically because there are so many inter-acting variables to consider.

The scientist outlined his studies on experimental predator (mostly coyotes and bobcats) removal in South Texas' Kleberg County in 1971 and 1972. His project was part of the Caesar Kleberg Research Program in Wildlife Ecology at Texas A&M.

He investigated the impact of predators on white-tailed deer, wild turkeys and bobwhite quail. He also monitored rodent and predator numbers. Steel traps, hunting, cyanide guns, and a strychnine egg and meat baits were the control methods used.

A hypothetical cost-benefit analysis indicated it would be economically practical, he said, to operate an intensive predator removal program to bolster deer and turkey populations—if a substantial portion of the surplus animals produced are harvested. The surplus in the study was 87 male turkeys, 85 male deer and 85 female deer.

Assuming that these game animals were each worth \$50, \$150 and \$50, respectively, to the landowner, a gross return of \$21,300 was possible from the experimental area. Accumulated costs were \$7,315, leaving a net return of \$2,985 per acre.

"These figures are of no small consequence, since today most landowners must strive for top

use of their resources," Beasom pointed out. "The returns presented are minimum estimates, also, since on prime South Texas deer ranges, season leases for hunting often are around \$500 to \$600 per man."

But while the project showed to be economically sound, it does not necessarily follow that it would be biologically justifiable, he emphasized. In some areas inhabited by the large, rare predators, such as wolves, or rare, non-target animals affected by control techniques, such a project would likely be biologically unsound, he added.

"In South Texas, however, I could detect no detrimental effects of the short term, intensive removal program. Predator populations were apparently affected very little, as they rapidly repopulated the experimental area each year when removal operations ceased," Beasom explained.

Rodents did not increase, and quail numbers rose only a little. He concluded that the quail were better able to hold their own, compared to the turkey, because of their re-nesting and late summer breeding.

Reproduction of the slower breeding turkey and deer, however, probably could be greatly boosted by intensive predator removal. But Beasom cautioned that it would likely be unwise to try intensive removal under a light hunter harvest without long term research to see how high deer and turkey density would go before being stabilized by some other factor.

Summing up, Beasom told the subcommittee that it is the position of the A&M Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences Department to support a sound predator management program if:

—It can be shown that such management will enhance game animal numbers.

—The enhancement is warranted because of an increase in hunter pressure.

—There is a real depredation problem with domestic livestock.

—The predator management does not cause eradication or overpopulation of any species.

## Coeds Apply For Pageant

Applications for the coed representative to the Cotton Bowl Pageant are now available. They may be picked up starting Friday in the Dean of Women's Office, Room 108 of the YMCA Building. All applications should be returned by Nov. 13.

The decision to send an A&M representative to the Cotton Bowl Pageant was made by an ad hoc committee of student leaders. This committee decided that the representative to the Cotton Bowl would have no title and that she would represent A&M at this function only.

The coed who will be selected should not be confused with the Aggie Sweetheart. The Aggie Sweetheart position was abolished last year.

Qualifications for selection were set by the ad hoc committee. Each applicant must be an A&M coed who has been enrolled full time for two semesters. She must have a 3.0 gpa and be nominated by a recognized student organization. An organization representative must sign the application. A recent picture should be attached to the application. It will be returned.

A selection committee of seven people will screen the applicants and choose the delegate. The committee consists of: Dr. Charles McCandless, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts; Dr. Betty Unterberger, professor in the Department of History; Dr. Bonnie Beaver, assistant professor in the Department of Veterinary Anatomy; Mrs. Grace Kieffer, an active member of the community; Clifford H. Handsell, assistant dean of the College of Engineering; and Nancy Ondrovik and Randy Ross, student representatives.

Applicants will be screened on November 14 and the representative announced shortly thereafter.

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