



The plant pot painter

staff photo by Bill Schulz

Graduate student John Ambler paints jars for a hydroponics project. In hydroponics, plants are grown in a nutrient solution culture instead of dirt. The jars are painted dark to stop the solution from "growing."

Reporter says news coverage of Vietnam war was a failure

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — A reporter who won a Pulitzer Prize for his coverage of the Vietnam War says American journalists were not critical enough of early U.S. involvement and failed to report accurately the history of the area.

Journalist David Halberstam, who won the prize for his coverage in *The New York Times*, made his comments Sunday during the opening of a week-long conference that has drawn together the largest group of Vietnam War experts ever publicly assembled.

About 300 Vietnamese refugees peacefully picketed Sunday's opening sessions on the campus of the University of Southern California. The protesters carried signs calling for support of human rights in Vietnam.

Air Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky, former vice president of South Vietnam, accepted an invitation late last week to participate in a Wednesday panel discussing the war and the Vietnamese.

Ky joins more than 85 U.S. and South Vietnamese policy makers, veterans, former spies, Army generals, journalists, filmmakers and anti-war protesters at the conference titled, "Lessons from a War: Vietnam Reconsidered."

Halberstam called the meetings "an act of self-examination" and said many reporters who covered Vietnam have been assailed for being "too critical" of U.S. actions.

He dismissed suggestions that the media lost the war. "Ironically, we were not critical enough,"

he said.

Another delegate said a Vietnam post-mortem is important because the war has been too long "buried in the national consciousness" since the American defeat in 1975.

"I think there remains great divisions about the war and

great confusion," said Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Frances FitzGerald, author of "Fire in the Lake," a history of U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

"There is an entirely new generation that has grown up without really knowing much about it at all," he said.

Archie's caught Midnight Mania

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Nixon anchors TV show

United Press International
NEW YORK — Richard Nixon is coming back as a television historian.

In the issue appearing on newsstands Monday, *New York Magazine* reported the former president will anchor an educational series on international events and statesmen similar to his recent book "Leaders."

Production is scheduled to begin this week, the magazine reported.

"We're experimenting with the idea of getting part of the biographies of world leaders on tape, instead of the printed page, and who better to do this than Richard Nixon, the man in the center of events," said Jonathan Aitken, head of a London group backing the venture.

In the article, Aitken, a Conservative member of Parliament, said the series will be marketed to cable television, schools and video libraries in America and Europe.

Aitken said Nixon will not receive a salary but will get a contribution toward his expenses. The former president could not be reached for comment.

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