

Coroner's 5¢ inquest

VOL. 2, NO. 4

SCHOOL

It has been brought to our attention that our articles are always critical, never complimentary of the York administration. Some people, including the fearless editor of the York-Hi suggested we be less critical of the administration and write a complimentary article. Our first reaction was that such an article would be impossible, but after racking our brains for a couple of weeks, we came up with a few ideas.

The most noted change of this year over last year was the new Dist. 88 Plan. This new system was an improvement and has worked well. By discontinuing study halls and home rooms, the students' day has been shortened and the monotony is now gone. The additional shifts are very beneficial for bus riders since it gives a variety of times to choose from. If a student wishes to ditch his first period, he still has transportation. The additional freedom, especially during the lunch periods, has gotten rid of the feeling of being in a prison camp. A student can go where he wants when he wants (except in the wrong washroom). As the Dist. 88 Plan came in, the dress code went out, a move favorable to all students.

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Indochina Illusion

It is now 1971, 11 years since U.S. soldiers under one name or another have become involved in Vietnam. Between 1960 and today, there have been three presidents and many different wars.

Under Kennedy, it was a non-war, a war of no official direct U.S. involvement. It was a war of military advisors carrying weapons and dying. It was a war of one corrupt government being replaced by another and the U.S. not blinking an eyelash, switching its allegiance from one to another as if there had been no change. It was the war where the whole mess began.

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Popullution

There are 3.6 or 3.7 billion people in the world today. The implications of this fact were the subject of a speech by Dr. Paul Ehrlich (author of The Population Bomb and How to Be a Survivor) at Elmhurst College May 11.

The population of the world is increasing at a rate of about two percent per year; this means it is doubling every 35 to 37 years. Obviously, this trend cannot continue, and will be stopped either by birth control or death control, probably in the form of starvation and/or plague.

Today there are one to two billion people in the world who are either undernourished or starving. An estimated ten to twenty million people starve to death every year. The amount of hunger is unprecedented in human history, and certainly

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LOUNGE

After being assured by Miss Bingham that there was a student lounge, we at "Coroner's Inquest" set out to find it. Since we couldn't find anybody who knew about it, we went about it by trial and error. Finally after searching every dark, gloomy, beat-up, abandoned hall in the school we found it in 138, the old detention hall (very appropriate).

At first glance it doesn't look all that bad. The lounge has plenty of chairs, couches, end and coffee tables, and even a TV set. However looking at this left me a feeling that something was missing. After several minutes of deep thought it came to me - students! So really not understanding why the students were not attracted to the lounge, I sat down to figure it out. I came up with the following reasons.

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SCHOOL con't

Another improvement has been the new lunch line. Now, if you're tired of being robbed in the ala-carte or polluted in the plate lunch, you can buy a hamburger. That's one line where you're safe because they can't blow it making hamburgers (cough-cough). The vending machines were a wonderful acquisition. However the load made off the machines should be directed elsewhere besides Student Council, such as a fund for other student use items.

Yes, we've come a long way since last year, but there is still a lot to do. York successfully got in the mood for Earth Week (one week late) and made all kinds of noises about solving pollution when the washrooms still constitute a health hazard. Our deans still seem to think the only way to tell a kid something is a no-no is to suspend him for a couple of days. Keep it up guys and York won't have to worry about overcrowding.

The biggest problem plaguing York is still the rotten PE system which still thinks everyone was born a Bob Richards. The only thing short of lining the PE teachers up against a wall and yelling FIRE is to make the course optional or at least pass/fail. The student body has had enough of those classes in gym ruled over by teachers who use literally sadistic tactics on the students. It is these rude teachers which keep our deans employed since they don't have enough courage to deal with a student themselves. Class for gym teachers is a 48 minute insult period against the students.

Student Council

Since the school year is just about over, it's possible to evaluate what Student Council has done this year. After looking at all the things it has done and not done this year, it is possible to say that Student Council has been good about half the time and bad the other half.

Student Council has put much of its efforts into social and charity work. There are many needy people and worthy charities in the world, but Student Council seems to think that they are all outside the United States. In the U.S. there are thousands if not millions of poor and hungry people who receive little or no help at all. These underprivileged people need help, too. There are many non-government programs all over the country working in cities and rural areas that need money badly if they are to continue working. Student Council should consider giving money to these as well as to foreign programs. to p. 5

LOUNGE con't

1. To begin with, there was not enough advertising done for the lounge. Even though students were informed about it in the student bulletin, no posters or serious advertising was done.

2. The lounge is only open 4th, 5th, and 6th periods. These three periods are lunch periods and most people are eating, walking, or playing softball. The lounge TV doesn't work so well and during the time the lounge is open no good programs are on anyway.

3. There is no music in the lounge unless someone brings a radio or a tape player.

4. One of the main reasons students wanted a lounge to begin with was to have a place to smoke. Students would much rather go to the johns or outside to smoke a cigarette.

Now I would like to make some suggestions to the administration, student council, and those in charge of the lounge, that I think could improve the lounge.

1. First, put up posters and make a real effort to get the students to at least come and see the lounge. Announce over the lunch hour bulletin about the lounge and put more about it in the student bulletin.

2. Have the lounge open more than the lunch periods. During one's lunch hour, students like to screw around with friends or get a softball game going. When people have free periods they have nowhere to go, so they go around disturbing classes getting into trouble.

3. Have a permanent source of music so the students don't have to watch that awful TV set that hardly works. The way it is now the lounge is very quiet and boring. What the lounge needs is some music to pep it up.

4. Even though the administration says it's a state law that students can't smoke in school, they could make an effort or at least let the students know that they're trying to get the students smoking rights for them.

If all these things were done I think the students might just use the student lounge. Then instead of wasting valuable space the room will be used for something.

Keep your teeth healthy and strong—
chew York's cookies.

WASHINGTON

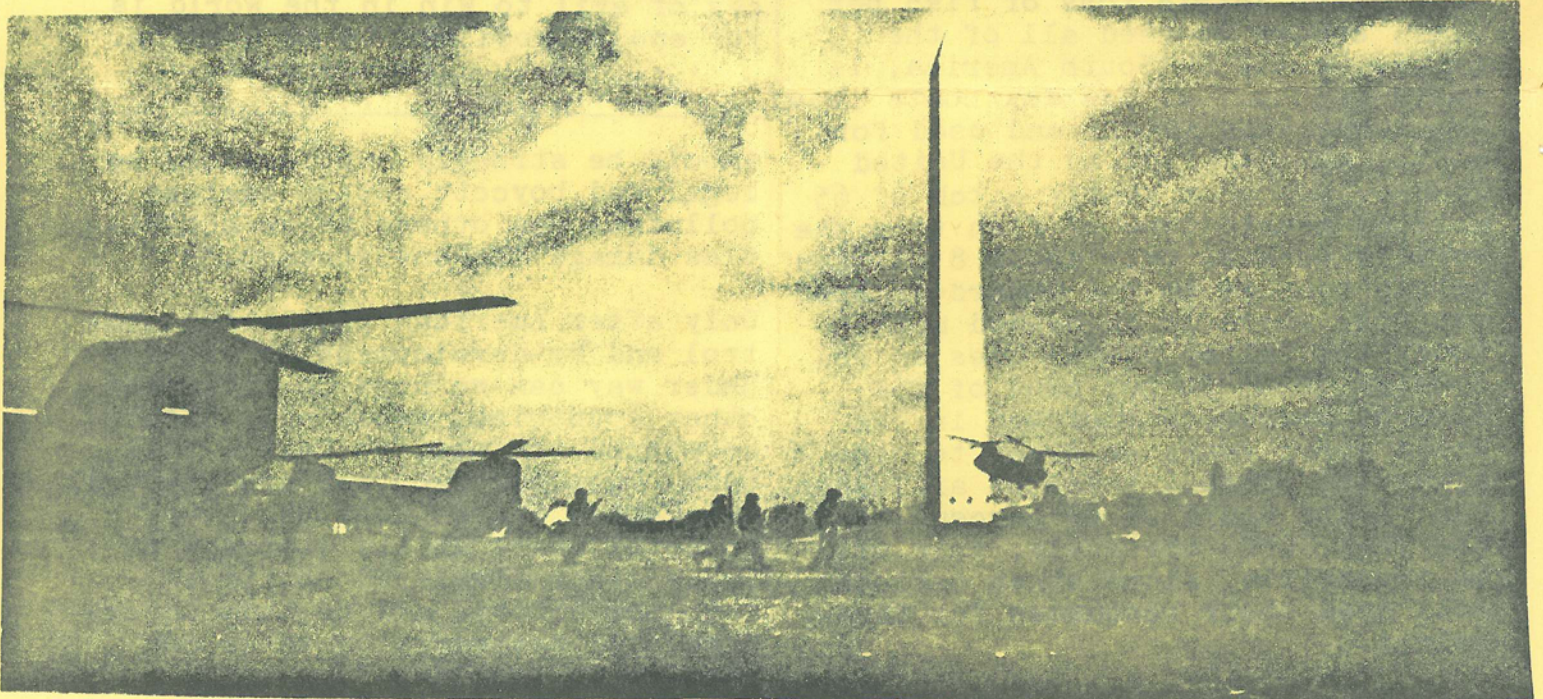
Even though it's done, it is all right and important to talk about the May Day demonstrations. If anybody needs any reminding, a series of anti-war actions took place from April 24 to May 5, climaxing in several days of non-violent civil disobedience and over ten thousand arrests. A few days before the huge demonstration on April 24 that attracted way over a half a million people, Vietnam Veterans had camped and carried on anti-war actions in Washington, marching, performing guerilla street theatre renditions of jungle battles, and threw away medals and citations, not to mention that they made the war seem very real to the people of Washington and the rest of the country. Then came the massive demonstration at the Washington Monument where several congressmen spoke and rock bands played and newspapers reported that Woodstock was alive and well and camping in Washington. Then after a while the masses began to leave Washington and go home to their particular college, university or job thinking how they have up against the war and wondering if anything that was said or done in Washington would have any effect on the war. But some of the people who came did their



thinking and wondering in Washington as they waited for the next series of actions. May 3-4 were designated as days for non-violent civil disobedience in an attempt to shut down Washington. Roads and bridges were to be blocked during rush hour so that government employees could not get to their jobs. The May Day tribe, both official and unofficial leaders of the demonstrations, had made known their intentions well in advance, giving the forces of law and order a chance to group their forces: 10,000 marines were sent to Washington to aid the 7000 strong police force with all equipment except live ammunition. Detention camps were set up around the city in anticipation of large, massive arrests and on May 2, the police routed the demonstrators from their campgrounds to try and break what ever organization might exist. This action was successful in spreading the people out over the city, but it did not prevent the civil disobedience actions from occurring. On the morning of May 3, hit and run actions on almost every major bridge and highway took place. But as swiftly as the barricades could go up, the police (or an irate motorist) would knock them down, then arresting everyone in sight. On the first day, 7000 arrests were made. Many of these simply people who were in the way of

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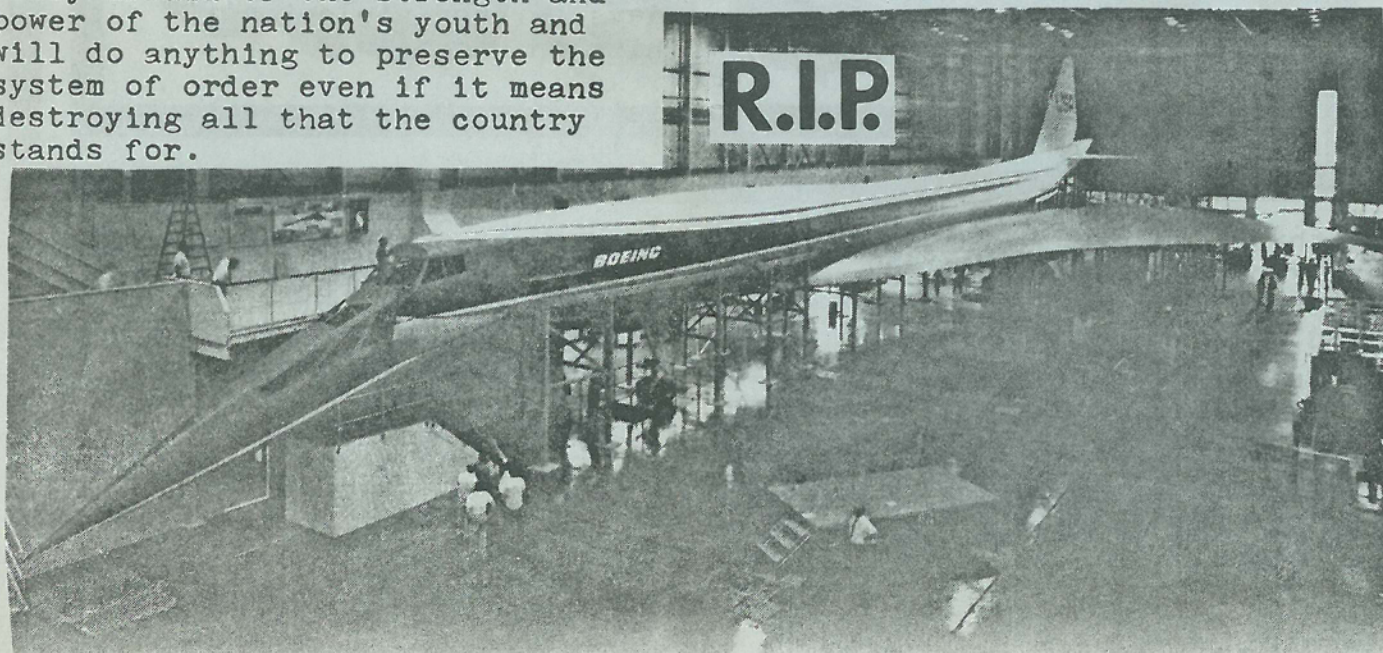
WASHINGTON con't
 police. Arresting procedures were thrown away and no one was notified of his rights or even told what he was charged with. They were herded into the set up detention camps and left there while the arrests processed. In a couple of days, more arrests were made sending the total to well over 13,400. The final large scale arrests occurred on the steps of Congress as the police waded into the crowd, who had just finished listening to members of the House of Representatives, and arresting everyone they could get to. On days following the May Day actions when many people were upset about the whole affair, the Justice Department made statements to the effect that all the arrests, legal or illegal had been justified because they kept the capitol open. The police and soldiers were commended for their restraint and calmness under tense situations. They neglected to mention that the police never really had anything to worry about because at no time did the demonstrators get ugly, even after heavy gassing or beating and most came along peaceably when arrested.

Now that everything is finished and it is a safe distance away from May Day, it is possible to make some kind of judgement on the effectiveness of the spring anti-war activities, especially the May Day ones. True, Washington was not shut down or even slowed down, thousands of people were arrested, and some Congressmen suddenly joined forces with Nixon, but inspite of all this the May Day actions were a success. That Washington was disrupted and shook up is not the important thing though. The fact that the government had to arrest thousands of people and throw away the Constitution for a few days is the important thing. Washington was forced to show its true face, a face of repression and show that it is terribly afraid of the strength and power of the nation's youth and will do anything to preserve the system of order even if it means destroying all that the country stands for.

STUDENT COUNCIL con't
 The worst problem with Student Council this year was what it did not do. It came up with a few activities: a movie here, a couple of contests, but these were very few and far between and didn't involve a large number of students. What Student Council needs to do is sponsor a large variety of different activities that will attract and interest a larger number of students. Many people just aren't moved by wishing wells or Hairy Legs and are interested in other things.

Towards the end of this year, Student Council came up with probably its best idea all year. They proposed that during Education Week, discussions be held in classes to find exactly what students thought about different aspects of York. For the first time, Student Council seemed truly interested in finding out what the people they represent really believe. Whether or not Student Council will respond to any of the opinions or suggestions is another question, but at least they are trying to establish some line of communication with the student body.

This past year Student Council has been about half all right and half just to ridiculous to talk about, but next year, it's possible that Student Council will take a radical change for the worse. This is on account of the new Student Council election procedures. Ten representatives were elected from each class in one massive vote. The result of this was that most of the people who really cared about working for the good of the students didn't get elected because nobody knew their names. Student Council has essentially now become another club for all the social conscious status seekers of York and at this moment the prospects for a good Student Council seem very dim.



Indochina Illusion con't
Under Johnson, it was a war of escalation and heavy fighting. It also was a war of heavy casualties for all sides both civilian and military. It was a war of "free" elections and U.S. soldiers at polling places watching the whole procedure. It was a war of truces and ceasefires and bombing halts while the fighting and the bombing continued.

Under Nixon, it is a war of fool-proof plans to end the war. It is a war of secret campaign peace plans and negotiations and Vietnamization. It is a war of Cambodian and Laotian invasions and increased bombings. It is a war of troop withdrawals and prisoners of war and My Lai and Lt. Calley.

The one aspect that all these wars have in common is that they all are wars of lies. From the beginning, the government has not told the truth about what was going on in Vietnam. Kennedy maintained that the Americans in Vietnam were non-combat advisors, not soldiers, while the fact of the matter was these non-combat troops were fighting and dying in battles with the National Liberation Front. Johnson constantly denied that bombing raids took place over Hanoi even though there was photographic evidence of it. Nixon claimed all along that there were no Americans in Cambodia before the official invasion, denying the reports of many returning soldiers that they had been in Cambodia long before the official invasion.



All three administrations have been dishonest in their running of the war. From the very beginning, the American public has not been told exactly what was happening. It is a war based on lies and deceit that can serve no useful purpose. There should be no talk of an honorable or just peace because it is not an honorable or just war. It is time for the U.S. to admit it is totally wrong to be involved and bring all the troops home now!

CORONER'S INQUEST

OUR 8th ISSUE

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