Student Voices from Chicago:

Stories of the Vietnam War Protesters from DePaul University, Elmhurst College, Loyola University Chicago and St. Procopius College

Claire Boyle | URSA | 2019
Reasons for Protests

- Nixon’s arbitrary and unfair draft lottery policy
- Vietnam War was considered by some to be a version of American Imperialism
- The draft was contrary to traditional American values of freedom, peace, and justice for all
- Others also considered Vietnam an unnecessary war for the U.S. to fight in (as in we were not supposed to be there)
Roles of the Students

- Writers, photographers, and actors
- Draft resisters and counselors
- Organizers of numerous anti-war activism events
Women, Jesuits, Grads Form Draft Counsel Board

By Stephanie Jajacki

Uptight with the draft bug? Frustrated with the стягніть від розвідки Servicemen's Service System? Pràctic in your search for a place to go, someone to talk to?

If the answers are yes, just hang in there a while longer, young man...there's help on the way.

The rescue party, in the form of a draft counseling corps will be a reality on Loyola's campus after November 1. The formation of the corps will be the result of a training session being offered to Loyola women, Jesuits and graduate students on Friday, Nov. 1, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., in Damens 147.

The training, being offered through the American Friends' Service Committee (Quakers) under the sponsorship of Loyola's philosophy department, represents an attempt to provide an efficient information center for students facing the problems of the draft.

According to Dr. Robert Barry, Loyola philosophy department, the people who are trained will be obligated to offer their time as counselors in order to help students understand their rights and obligations included in the government draft laws.

SDS Holds Demonstration

By Tom Hayden

Amid the disorderly reactions to ROTC on many college campuses Loyola has once again shown respect for reasonableness, appealing to due process by non-violent demonstration.

The demonstration was a typical "cognitive-dissimilation" protest, counterposing a mock squad instruction of troops with a roll call of the deceased Vietnam G.I.'s from Illinois.

The demonstration which was sponsored by the Students for a Democratic Society, took place at change of classes at 11:30 and 12:30 on Wednesday at Damen Hall.

A drill instructor, Stephen Hollander, formerly an ROTC colonel at Indiana University, called out a number of questions ("What's a gun for, what's a grenade for?") and the squad responded, "To kill."

The instructor asked: "What do we kill for?" The response he received was "Peace."

Ken Catalani, a member of the protesting army stated his opposition to ROTC: "The ultimate objective of ROTC is to train for killing and war. ROTC doesn't belong on a Catholic campus supposedly espousing Christian ideals in its higher learning process."

Joe Camuco supported Catalani: "Our purpose is to show what they are being trained to do, to uncover ROTC's essential goal: to kill. It's been on campus so long, no one thought to question it. We want to awaken the people to what has been going on in this campus. The presence of ROTC reflects the students' attitudes on war and murder."

Bob Hall, former ROTC member who is now in SDS and was an intra candidate for student officer said: "If you carry 'academic freedom' to its logical end, then the university should implement courses in prostitution (with labs) and burglary because they are professions like any other and only a small percentage engage in killing. Likewise, their morality depends on who you're talking to."

Hall openly challenged Fr. James Maguire, S.P., president of the university, to prove that ROTC is not maintained on this campus for economic and/or status-oriented reasons.
Written word, satire, Teach-In, and photos

The Persecution and Assassination of Apathy as Performed By Rebels of the Student Body under the Direction of LSGA and SDS

Photo Credit: Loyola University Chicago Archives

SDS Coffee House Teach-In Atmosphere: Unity of Action

By David McMahon

The SDS chapter at Loyola, the newest club to be recognized on campus and lately one of the most active, sponsored a teach-in Monday at the Coffee House. Outside speakers came to Loyola to lecture and hold discussions about SDS and the present national elections. Pamphlets and literature about SDS were distributed. It was not, as some unknowing persons alleged, pornography or obscene.

The minor violation of university policy occurred when one speaker did not arrive and Clark Kissinger, a former national officer of SDS volunteered to speak which he was allowed to do, although he had not been cleared by the Dean’s office.

The speakers at the teach-in included: Les Coleman, a member of the regional staff of SDS, who answered questions about the organization; Ben Edgins who discussed SDS at Loyola.

However, the main reason for the teach-in was the elections. Representatives of Humphrey, Wallace, and Nixon were canvassing the campus.

Kissinger said in the next to last speech of the teach-in “It is better to vote for what you want and not get it, than to not vote and not get it.”

Photo credit: Loyola University Chicago Archives
Protest examples

Photo Credit: Elmhurst College Archives

Photo Credit: Loyola University Chicago Digital Collections

Photo Credit: DePaul University Archives
St. Procopius College

(Benedictine University in the 1960s)
MORATORIUM: A politically inactive campus awakened to the outside world on October 15 as Procopians held a demonstration in conjunction with the nation-wide moratorium. Names of war dead were read in the chapel and 160 students participated in a 24-hour vigil requested during meals. Afternoon activities opened with a procession from Neumark lounge to Jaeger front lawn. Forty-four students carried crosses, each one representing 1,000 American deaths in the Vietnam con-

ict, and planted them in the ground by the girls' dorms.

November 13 marked the second national moratorium. Seniors Russ Palmer and Don Kirchman organized a series of talks in the SLC auditorium throughout the afternoon and evening. College chaplain Father Michael Korteme-

yer, O.S.A., addressed all as the students marched in a procession calling for immediate peace in southeast Asia. Carrying a large cross to plant in front of the ad building, the march-

ers sang "We Shall Live in Peace."

When the procession reached the ad building, they confronted a counter demonstration originating from the third floor music room. An American flag was unfurled from the win-
dow ledge while a photograph played "Stars and Stripes Forever."
The surprise and shock was mutual.

Distinguished speakers included former attorney general William Clark and Illinois National Guard post commander Francis Kane. Clark criticized Nixon's Vietnam pol-

icy while Kane suggested that Moratorium supporters address themselves to the com-
munists.
Draft Eulogy

We gathered together on Thursday, October 2, in the memory of one of our dearest and closest compatriots, the DRAFT. No single force has been so successful in promoting the continuation of war. No single force has been responsible for the killing of 39,000 and the maiming of a quarter of a million young men. Never again will we command a tool so useful for our wars, an instrument with the sole purpose of educating Americans to kill. We nurtured its growth from its days of the Civil War. It was with great sadness that we watched it take ill, in the days when Americans counted their fatherless children, their widows, their maimed. It is in these days that patriotism has come to mean more than songs, cloth, and colors. To be a patriot one must do more than organize and execute a war. And so, it was with deep regret we paid our last respects to the DRAFT. For its burial comes with the grave realization that perhaps all war will end.

Credit: Writers of The New Edition (St. Procopius College student newspaper)
St. Procopius Students with their draft birthday list numbers and a sign that says: “See Beautiful Canada” with the American Flag behind them.

Photo Credit: Benedictine University Archives
St. Procopius Protests

Yearbook photos of the funeral to the draft and the Teach-In the students held and Moratorium Day (M-Day)

Draft counseling areas in The New Edition

Photo Credits: Benedictine University Archives
More protest examples

Reading of the names and other protest photos

Photo credits: Elmhurst College Archives
Final Thoughts
Standing up to the Establishment and going against the status quo

Photo Credit: Elmhurst College Archives
Bibliography

- Benedictine University Archives
  
  Includes the student newspapers, photos, writings, and yearbooks.


- DePaul University Archives
  
  Includes newspaper clippings and photos.

- Elmhurst College Archives
  
  Includes the student newspapers and photos.

- Loyola University Chicago Archives
  
  Includes the student newspapers and photos.

- Loyola University Chicago Digital Collections
  
  Includes the schedule of the Vietnam War Moratorium Day (M-Day) event at LUC.