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The man who found himself...

Once upon a time there was a young man named Kafka Quince. Like most young people these days, Quince devoted his waking hours to finding himself.

"After all," he said, "the most important thing in my life is me. But how can I relate to the world unless I know who I am?"

So he went to college to find himself. But he wasn't there.

"College simply isn't relevant," he told his father on dropping out after receiving three C's and seven incompletes. "Tell me, dad, maybe I can get you a job at the life insurance company?"

So young Quince took a job to find himself. But he wasn't there either.

"How can I relate to life, or the insurance thereof," he told his father, "when I don't know who I am?"

(continuation on top of page)
"Let those who continue to advocate a coalition government of three parts stand up and be counted. I am certain that the people and the army will not let them live for more than five minutes."

- Nguyen Van Thieu,
  Dictator of South Vietnam
  October 12, 1972

WHO ARE THE PRISONERS?

There are over 200,000 political prisoners in South Vietnamese jails according to Amnesty International and the Overseas Vietnamese Buddhists. Many of them were imprisoned for the "crime" of advocating peace or a coalition government. Hoang Duc Iha, Thieu's closest advisor, has said that 40,000 more "Communist agents" were arrested in the few recent weeks alone, (Washington Post, November 10). Some were subsequently released, but many were not by South Vietnamese law, suspects can be held for two years without trial. When the draconian laws are not severe enough, they are violated by the government: Tran Ngoc Chau, a prominent Saigon legislator is still in prison two years after the Supreme Court ruled that his trial had been unconstitutional and annulled his sentence.

The International Control Commission set up after the 1954 Geneva Accords was prohibited by the American-supported Diem dictatorship from entering areas where political opponents were being repressed. The reports which the I.C.C. did receive led R.S.N. Hurty, an Indian working with the Commission, to conclude that Diem's "Anti-Communist Demobilization Campaign" included the murder and arrest of "large numbers" of the Communist and non-Communist opponents. According to the Pentagon Papers, 50-100,000 people were put in Diem's "detention camps" in 1955 alone. This reign of terror is a very real memory to nationalist and HF supporters now.

THE USE OF TORTURE

The current treatment of prisoners by the Thieu dictatorship provides no reassurance of respect for civil liberties. American Quakers who provided medical and other aid in South Vietnamese prisons have been denied access since they reported the use of torture and the almost universally inhuman conditions. The International Red Cross has also been denied regular visiting privileges. Vietnamese sources say that there are over 500 prisons, ranging from the massive Con Son complex to small local detention centers. It is likely that that the dozen or so secret prisons in the small jails, where there is no possibility of public scrutiny and exposure of maltreatment. The New York Times (Dec. 8) noted that, "prisoners often relate stories of torture and mistreatment during interrogation. The truth of such allegations does not seem to be in doubt."

Here is an excerpt from a letter concerning Le Cong Giau, former leader of the Vietnamese sources say that there are over 500 prisons, ranging from the massive Con Son complex to small local detention centers. It is likely that that the dozen or so secret prisons in the small jails, where there is no possibility of public scrutiny and exposure of maltreatment. The New York Times (Dec. 8) noted that, "prisoners often relate stories of torture and mistreatment during interrogation. The truth of such allegations does not seem to be in doubt."

"According to the testimony of our fellow students who have been transferred here from the municipal police department, all Giau's fingernails and toenails have been torn out his fingers and toes burned by a high voltage electric current. His body and even the end of his penis are marked with cigarette burns. Giau, whose body is extremely swollen as result of the beating, suffers terribly from the slightest touch."

The American Friends Service Committee workers have personally viewed the results of torture by the Thieu police on many occasions.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

In 1963 there were 16,000 men in the Saigon government's police force. According to the New York Times (Dec. 8), there are now 119,000, of whom 15-20,000 are in the "special" secret branch responsible for arresting and interrogating suspected political opponents. The respected French newspaper Le Monde has estimated the total at 300,000 (Sept. 8), paid for with increased U.S. aid. The U.S. public Safety Office in Saigon admitted raising its aid for police and prisons from $20.9 million in 1970 to $30 million in 1971. The total for 1972 is currently considerably higher. We know where some of the prison funds went: 30% more of the infamous tiger cages on Con Son island were built by the American firm AMCON-Wight. Here is a description of conditions in the tiger cages given by Frank E. Walton, Chief of the Public Safety Division in Saigon in 1965: "may include immobilization-the prisoner is bolted to the floor, handcuffed to a bar or rod, or legtorn with the chain through an eyebolt, or around a bar or rod."

Most of the interrogation centers, where torture is frequently employed, were built with U.S. funds.

The American Friends Service Committee has documentation that, "Thieu's police his brutal interrogators and his prison system received not only U.S. financial support, but advice and consultation from U.S. advisors."

If we are going to stop these practices, the time to do so is now.
In the April 12 elections only 155 (12%) freshmen decided to stir themselves enough to vote in the SGA freshman representative elections. Cut of 1200 freshmen the "spirit of 76" really showed up. At a time when the SGA needs broad student support it was pathetic to see only 12% turn out in the freshmen class. What did turn out is a vote of confidence for more administrative totalitarianism.

E. & K.

Ode to Honey Pot

Old Honey Pot, she done gone out,
Seen some friends and smoked the loco weed,
Her hair hanging down to her waist,
She'll never succeed.

Years pass and she turned yellow,
My mind and her's done collide,
We ain't got the same ideas, and
One day she up and died.

In the room, by her side, dirty needles
And her lying with slashed wrists
Lead me to cry for poor old Honey Pot,
A Bible clenched in her fists.

J.G.
A slave owner

The men who opened the West were giants

We won every war because God was on our side

But where my kid goes to school

They're teaching him some other country's history

At the age of 99, alone and shunned, Quince was hit by a truck. He recovered consciousness with a blazing flash of insight.

"I am what I am," he cried triumphantly, "Better than some, worse than others. The purpose of life is to live it to the fullest. I can hardly wait!"

Unfortunately, the shock of revealed truth proved too much for old Quince's heart. But at least he was able to think up an inscription for his tombstone before he went. It reads: 'Look here. I Found Myself.'

Arthur Hoopy

Why can't student organizations hold outdoor activities on campus after midnight? Why does BoBo need a new house? Why are Mr. Priest, Dr. Reinhartz and Dr. Heller leaving? Why were all the bushes planted in mud instead of topsoil?

Why do we have to keep growing? Why will all students have to sign their guests in and out of open dorms next year? Why Honor Council? Why indoctrination instead of education? Why can't girls have boyfriends?

Why can't girls get a single bedroom at Showalter? Why don't incoming freshmen have the option to get into a seven day a week open dorm or co-ed dorm next year? Why Student Services? Why Madison?

Why?? Why so much bullshit?

IT WAS GOOD KNOWING YOU ALL. MAY YOU MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR EDUCATION TO MAKE A BETTER WORLD, MAKE A WORLD WHICH YOUR CHILDREN WILL NOT HAVE TO DIE OR KILL FOR YOUR MISTAKES. PEACE

thomas r. earl

THE SPIRIT of '76

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