

Symbolizes U.S. imperialism

NLF pro knocks football

LONDON (UUP) — Professional football's values of militarism, authoritarianism, aggression and violence are a reflection of the values of the ruling elite of America, Dave Meggysey says.

Speaking at the University of Western Ontario, the former linebacker with the St. Louis Cardinals of the National Football League, said football is "a territorial conflict" which could be

compared with the imperialist policies of the U.S.

A former scholarship player for Syracuse University, Meggysey said the tremendous rise in popularity of pro and college football in America since the Second World War is a result of people not having anything on which to act out their aggressions during the Cold War.

Meggysey said that if football is

a safety valve for people's aggressive tendencies, "then maybe things should blow up, because things aren't right in this country (the U.S.)."

On his first visit to Canada, Meggysey said he was surprised at Canada's position with regard to U.S. imperialism — the fact that most of Canadian industry is owned by Americans.

The U.S. is trying to export its values, because it is important for a colony to have the same values as the mother country, he said. However, "that's your struggle," he told the UWO students.

In the U.S., it is different, he said. "We're inside the belly of the whale. We've either got to turn this thing around or it's going to turn us around."

Football as a part of the American way of life is closely connected to the political structure in the U.S. he said. President Nixon hands out trophies to winning teams and is the "typical middle-American spectator", while defense secretary Melvin Laird and Billy Graham, Nixon's "spiritual confidante," are parade marshalls for Bowl games and Lockheed Aircraft sponsors the half-time show.

Frank Consentino, now coach of the OWU Mustang football team and former quarterback with Hamilton and Edmonton in the Canadian Football League, told Meggysey that football could be regarded as an art form with the spectators empathizing with the players just as they would with an artist on the stage.

"Maybe we could extend the art form to the soldiers in Vietnam," Meggysey replied.

He said he attacked football because he saw it as a microcosm of society and as such as a useful tool to analyse society through.

Meggysey, who now lives in Berkeley, has a history degree from Syracuse and a masters in sociology from Washington University in St. Louis.

"Sports should be human, human and spontaneous, just the way work should be, just the way university should be," he said. "That's the revolution, man."

"People should be participating, not watching a lot of guys beating hell out of each other..."

U.S. Vietnam veterans talk about war crimes

WINDSOR (CUP) — A U.S. veteran: "You are trained to be a racist. All you hear is 'gook, gook'. The term 'Vietnamese' is not used. They are not people, there is no distinction between North or South Vietnamese, Viet Cong or civilians. All are 'gooks'."

The Winter Soldier Investigation hearings held in Detroit January 31 to February 2 were perhaps unprecedented in the history of the United States. Two thousand veterans of Vietnam, the men forced to carry out America's genocide procedures in Southeast Asia, came back home with medals, wounds and stumps to tell the people what really goes on in Vietnam.

They told about "mad minutes" where every single person in a unit would fire his gun indiscriminately into a village for a full minute in order to halt the spread of communism in Asia. (They also did it for kicks.)

They told about throwing 30 pound cases of C-rations at children out of the backs of trucks so these children might enjoy the benefits of freedom and democracy that America was preserving for them.

A veteran: "As G.I.'s become hardened toward the war they would roll a can of C-rations off the back of a truck and far enough into the road so that the ever-present child beggars would in retrieving it be run over by the next truck. Or they would throw candy in barbed wire to see kids being torn as they groped for it."

They told of completely destroying villages and all the villagers therein. (But of course, as we all know, villages harbour VC's.)

The ex-G.I.'s were of mixed character and expression. Sometimes sullen, especially when testifying or listening to others testify — never surprised at what they heard — sometimes smiling cautiously, as they chatted with each other. There was a kind of despair about them.

An infantryman: "After we had shot some NVA (North Vietnamese Army) regulars we, and I mean myself included, we cut off their heads and rammed them onto stakes which were stuck at intervals along the trail. We would then hammer 'Cav badges' on to the top of these staked heads." (Cav badges are the cloth shoulder insignia worn to indicate the division a soldier belongs to.)

The Winter Soldier Investigation told people the things newspapers haven't been telling.

A New York Times reporter visited University of Windsor campus recently and upon being asked if his paper had covered the Winter Soldier hearings, he replied, "Winter who? Oh, I don't know. I must check when I get back."

At the motor hotel where the testimony was being given, there was no NBC, no CBC, no major news outlets. An organizer said "We are issuing two press releases a day across the country, and there is still no major coverage."

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