

# POLITICAL AWARENESS & THE VIETNAM WAR



# REFLECTIONS ON GENERAL POLITICAL AWARENESS

## JACK RUED

While never a fan of ROTC at Grinnell, I haven't been an advocate of aggressive demonstrations. I personally didn't think that action was useful in the anti-war movement.

## JENNIFER RILEY

I was there, though not overnight. It did feel a bit like we were searching for a valid target (which ROTC was, but it was already being phased out). It was frustrating being in the cornfields when the country was being torn apart, so we did what we could.

## DAN FROHARDT-LANE

I have no memories of that. I do remember being annoyed at being accosted by a couple of friends, whom I considered more conservative than myself, who didn't want me to use the library... I told them that I didn't see how my personal habits would have any effect on ending the war. They replied that out of frustration we had to do something.

## PHYLLIS SHANNON SALYARDS

Yes, but they had no particular impact on me. As the daughter of a college political science professor, I had been watching political conventions from age 4!

## JON ANDELSON

Not sure if this counts, but I helped found the Free Store in Loose cloak room. I was not much of a participator. I'd really learned to love the academic path to learning.

## RICKI RAVITTS

No. I didn't participate in any political events on campus that I recall. ... but on behalf of the Sierra Club, I was charged with placement of the porta-potties on the northern half of the NYC Peoples' Climate March route. You're welcome.

## JOE BERRY

The creation of the coffee house Ex Loco Parentis in downtown Grinnell after the college banned a Pinter play starring Bonnie Tinker since she was too good and erotic in one scene. That institution was valuable to many of us and Ptero was literally born "underground" in the basement there, running off initially on a hand-cranked mimeograph machine.

## RICHARD SCHNEIROV

Together with Joe Berry and Eric Thor, I founded SDS on campus in 1967.

The next year I started the process that led to Pterodactyl.

SDS supports campus workers strike and creates extra work for SAGA scabs (see Pterodactyl). I was there and participated.

I was part of our flag football game with ROTC as a way to protest the war. Half the campus showed up to watch the game in the snow.

## PHYLLIS MURRAY

I was part of Pterodactyl. I attended teach-ins and other events. I have remained opposed to various of our nation's military pursuits as well as opposed to threats to civil rights, assaults on safety nets and health care, unbridled capitalism, degradation of the environment, demonization of immigrants, and so on.

## BRUCE NISSEN

There were so many questions in this week's "prompt," and a lot of them resonated strongly with me. I worked on the Pterodactyl (and its successor, High & Mighty), and wrote for it. Looking back at those issues of our underground newspapers from the vantage point of 50-plus years, I think some of my articles were a bit sophomoric and immature, but I must say that the overall product still strikes me as "right on target." I appreciate the blend of radical political analysis and youth culture that we blended on those newspapers — I think they spoke to an ever-growing audience that was changing its perspective on the inherent goodness of the U.S. government, its corporate masters, and its policies at home and abroad.