College humor: sexism and inside jokes

By Greg Saltzman
This is the first of two articles on the current atmosphere of the Indochina war. An article on Laos will appear in Friday's issue.

After a year of the "cease-fire war," Senator Kennedy's subcommittee investigating the bombing released a report on current conditions in Indochina. The subcommittee's report is based in part on the findings of a study made by the Princeton University research project on bombing in November and December 1972. Scrimshaw and other members of the study group visited North Vietnam and Laos last spring, three months after the cease-fire went into effect. Although the bombing of North Vietnam's provincial and district capitals, in addition to Hanoi, was the country's main research and teaching hospital. The study mission found that the destruction of the hospitals has had a serious effect on medical education and specialized care. Most of the bomb destruction to facilities, such as hospitals and schools, the study mission reported, came during the Christmas bombing just before the cease-fire.

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The study mission found that the North Vietnamese had "ample" food stocks and no significant refugee problem was created. The reason, Scrimshaw said, was that "bureaucratic inefficiency" of the Vietnamese had "relatively little" effect on the food supply. After the damage to the dikes and drainage canals may have synchronized the flood mission, "it was repaired promptly, and bombing stopped in time for normal seasonal preparation and planting of the land."

According to Scrimshaw, North Vietnam's needs for strictly humanitarian assistance are rather limited compared to the needs of the rest of Indochina. However, even such limited assistance appears to be forthcoming.

Scrimshaw, "Not on a political basis, but on a humanitarian basis, I feel very strongly that we should be helping them to rehabilitate hospitals and medical schools. If the government doesn't do it, then private efforts, such as Medical Aid for Indochina should receive support."