



NAS ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA (December 5, 1974) — Ms. Rose Hills explains her legal rights to an unschooled base security officer. He thought he could take away Ms. Hills' banner because he had a badge. Ms. Hills had held up the banner to cheering crewmen of the USS Coral Sea on the morning of the ship's departure. The man with the badge tried and failed to take the banner from Ms. Hills. For the full scoop, see story on page five.

DOD Directive 1325.6 makes it illegal for anyone to take this paper from you. It is yours, and anyone who takes it from you is violating Article 121 of the UCMJ.

Of the many ways GIs are harassed, one of the favorites of the brass is "Get a haircut!" Sound familiar? This has been a long-standing issue between the brass and enlisted people. Since the case last year of Sgt. Dan Pruitt, a U.S. airman in England, dozens of enlisted men and women have resisted the hair regs in their own ways: refusing to get haircuts, refusing to work, attending each other's court-martials, signing statements of support, petitioning Congress, informing other soldiers through the underground and straight press, even winning the support of soldiers in the Dutch army.

Recently some brothers in Berlin decided it was time to do something about it themselves. Brothers Tom Kiely, Larry Bird, Bob Nuchow, Danny Orosz, and Rick Shadions refused to cut their hair to make their point clear. They believe the hair regs should be changed because they are outdated, discriminatory, and unconstitutional.

The Army's response was to charge the men with disobeying a regulation. This could bring sentences of up to six months hard labor, reduction in rank to the lowest pay grade, and loss of 2/3 pay for up to six months. In spite of the harsh sentences hanging over their heads, all five decided to fight rather than submit to the Army's threats.

The Army showed their willingness to confront the issue when the first judge refused to start the hearing until Danny Orosz got a haircut and a shave. Danny won a small victory when his lawyers got the judge replaced because of his prejudice in the case.

The haircut resisters are not alone, however. Out of 3500 GIs in Berlin, 1200 have signed a petition to Congress supporting the Berlin Five's stand and urging a change in the regs.

As one of the brothers said, "The Army is trying to treat us like criminals. We're simply standing up for our rights.... Usually it's been minorities in America that have had to stand up for their rights. But enlisted people are a majority. Without us the Army wouldn't function. So why shouldn't we at least have the right to decide whether or not long hair interferes with that work?"

Although the Berlin brothers may do time, their struggle will not have been in vain. Almost one-third of all GIs in Berlin signed petitions stating their support, and the resistance movement is growing. The enlisted people *are* a majority, and when enough of them unite in demanding a change, the brass won't find it so easy to put down the rebellion.

# MILITARY madness

Engineers on the Hancock have been real busy lately. Even though the ship's been running ok since the breakdown at sea last January — and you'd think they'd get a little breather for keeping that old can of bolts together — now they have to fill in time chipping and painting! And speaking of old cans of bolts . . . we heard that there's not a single spare generator to be had between the Coral Sea, Boxer, Hancock and Oriskany. All use the same type of generator. Seems the Boxer got the last available one from salvage in 1966. What happens if one of the present four goes out?

During the Hancock's last cruise, the bomb elevator on the right side of the island fell off. Makes you feel real safe, don't it?

Stop and think about this. When was the last time you saw an officer wear a work uniform?

What happens when you join the green machine to learn a trade? You get trained, right? No, wrong! Philip Cameron, Jr, enlisted when he was given a written guarantee that he'd be trained as an entertainment specialist. Two years later, after handing out sandwiches and basket. balls, and vacuuming rugs, he sued the Army for failure to deliver on a written guarantee. He got an honorable discharge. As Major A. T. Brainerd, public information officer at Ft. Devens, Massachusetts, remarked, "We're obliged to make sure the promises of a recruiter are met." But that hasn't stopped Philip from pressing his suit. He wants more than an honorable discharge and an apology. He wants to collect something for the time the Army stole from him. This is our happy ending story. Now for the nightmare . . . Babette Peyton, a Black sister, also joined to get an education. She was supposed to be trained on-the-job as a social worker specialist. After fifteen months of "temporary" secretarying, she started wondering where her training got lost. First she got evasive answers to her direct questions. After filing an official complaint, she started getting harassment. First came an Article 15 for the dastardly crime of wearing her hair in cornrows, then harassment for wearing civilian clothes off duty. Finally she was called a "chronic schizophrenic" (translation: anyone who won't go along with the Army's program), and ordered to undergo a psych evaluation. So she went AWOL in self-defense, because, "I know if you're not crazy when you go in there, you're crazy when you come out." Now she's facing a special court-martial in Germany for going AWOL. That's military (in)justice for you.



The Berlin brothers at the press conference and party where they presented their 1200 signed petitions of

support. From left to right: a supporter, Larry Bird, Danny Orosz, Tom Kiely, Rick Shadions, Bob Nuchow.

#### THE EDITORS' VIEW OF THE HAIRCUT FIGHT

The present resistance to the haircut regs is an important step in gaining civil rights for GIs. But it is also more than that. Remember that first time back at boot camp when you had your locks shaved off. Have you ever wondered why that haircut was so important to the command? You might have been told that it was military tradition to have a bald head. You might have been told that short hair was healthier. But the deeper reason for the haircut was to break down your sense of who you were, confuse you, and train you to listen for the guiding voice of your friendly DI which would lead you through the darkness.

Enlisted people who hold onto their identities are more likely to think for themselves. These enlisted people are not too reliable when it comes to following orders. On the other hand, someone who is alienated and confused can more easily be trained to follow orders. The command hopes this training produces a GI who responds to any order with almost reflex speed, regardless of what that order may be.

Those who say no to the hair regs are taking back their rights as citizens, their right to expression, their right and ability to think and act as people, not as soldiers. PFC Lou Stokes, an enlisted man who was convicted last fall for refusing to obey an order to have his hair cut, summed it up when he took the stand at his court-martial in Mannheim, Germany. "A citizen does not cease to be a citizen once he becomes a soldier, but becomes a soldier because he is a citizen." We agree 100 percent. —The Editors A GI has the right to use 'reasonable force' to resist an illegal arrest by MPs. That's what the Court of Military Review just said in deciding Billy Dean Smith's case. Billy Smith was arrested and tried for supposedly fragging an officer in Vietnam. During his arrest he got the additional charge of assaulting an MP. He was found innocent of the fragging, but busted and given a BCD for the assault. The Court of Military Review said that since he was innocent of the fragging, he had the right to use reasonable force to resist arrest.

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We hear that Fort Ord announced they're going to start using the piss test again. Remember that one? Our legal expert says they don't

(continued on page 6)





Editorial

There's a whole lot of things people are fed up with.

• Meaningless work and lousy working conditions, when we can get jobs. So not only are we depressed when we can't find work, but we're depressed when we've got jobs.

 Lousy living conditions — housing, food, health care — at a high price.

We feel alienated and lonely and like we just don't belong anywhere so we get into things like drugs and alcohol to escape.
We don't feel like we've got any control over our lives. Everything seems hopeless and we just try to survive on a day to day basis. So some of us join the service because we need a job, want a change of scene, or are just plain bored. And once we're in it's the same old shit — lousy jobs, lousy living conditions, less control over our lives than we had as civilians. The FTA starts to mean *f*atigue, *t*dy, and *a*loneness. And we find out that bars and sex bought and shopped for ain't no substitute for friends and family.



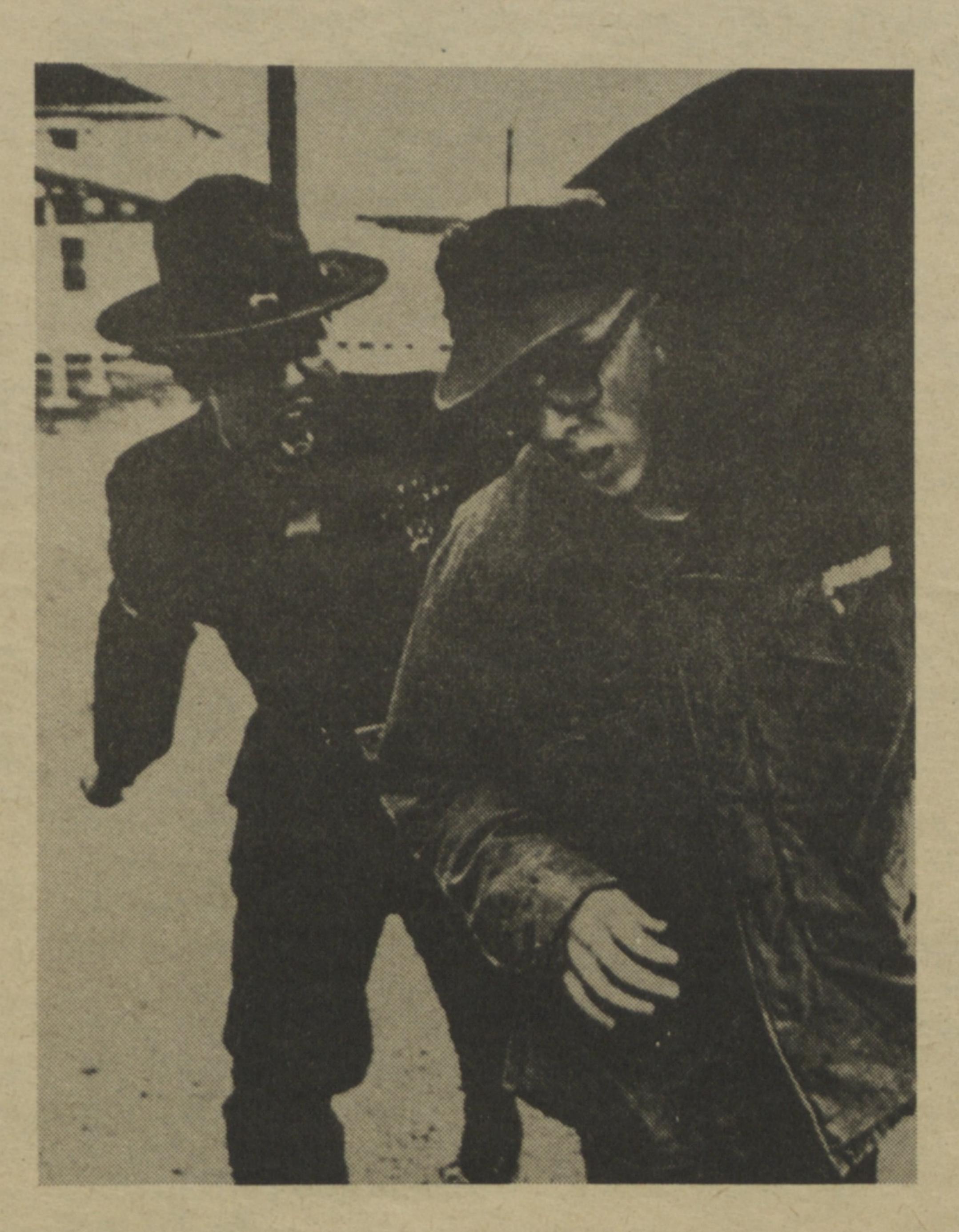
that you've got more in common with the people you're used against than with the people you're fighting for, and the people giving the orders. You begin to figure out that we're the pawns of the bosses, high-up officers and various other figures in authority. And these realizations start to tear you apart.

"The military is a copy of society, and suffers from all its diseases, but usually at a higher temperature." How true. According to a recent research report by Doctors Groden and Morgan, 40 percent of all GIs have a drinking problem. The report said "the largest percentage of problem drinkers were under 20, and with ranks below sargeant." Divorce rates are higher for people in the military, and veterans. There's a greater incidence of drug usage and abuse in the military. And so on. But these problems are common to all of us, and we have to work together to change things. We really can't do anything isolated as individuals. Since we have this view of common problems and common interests, we figure we are writing not so much to "military people" but to people trying to stay whole in a society and an institution that is tearing them and everyone else apart. But what are we in it for? Not for the money. We pay our printer from the wages we make at our jobs, and we all work on this paper in our spare time for free. Are we in it to dupe unsuspecting soldiers and sailors into joining a subversive organization? Do we want to "use" your beefs with the military to gain your trust, and then whisper our irresistible communist propaganda in your ears? Not even close. What organization is more subversive to human kind than the U.S. military? Who could use you more coldly than they do?

So here we are, alone, stuck in the middle of lives that we are dissatisfied with, feeling helpless and wondering how we got this way in the first place.

Well, that's a pretty complicated thing to figure out. One of the big problems is that this system keeps us separated and alone and looking for *individual* solutions to things that are problems for all of us. "Keep 'em separated and keep 'em down" is an old saying. That's what race prejudice, sexual prejudice, women's oppression, age differences, and cultural and ethnic bigotry are used for. The military has its own devices, too — among them the uniform and the grooming regs. These reinforce separations between people and set up the false classifications of "civilian" and "military."

And here you are hundreds of miles from home. Don't know anybody, and it's hard to make friends outside of the service, especially when you feel like you don't fit in 'cause your hair is too short and you can't have a full beard and no matter how hard you try to look like everybody else you still stick out like a sore thumb. The military tells you that you're serving your country, and that you're a real patriot. But "civilians" treat you like you're a cop 'cause when it comes right down to it your job ain't really nothing else than being a hit-man for American big business, both here at home and overseas. Where does all of this leave you as a person? Confused and alienated. Your job makes you both the oppressor of people inside and outside the U.S., and at the same time a victim of the system that shapes and builds that oppression. Who wins? Not you, but American big business, the government, the system . . . whatever name you want to put to it. You begin to find out



So what are we in it for? The pure pleasure of raising hell with one of the government's most undemocratic, unjust, and unfree institutions. We don't like what the military does to those in its ranks, to those in the civilian world, or to those in other lands. We believe the only force that can change things at their roots is us - the ones who supply the Pentagon with taxes; the ones who manufacture their weapons; the ones who fuel, service, and maintain the ships, planes and missiles that deliver those weapons; the ones who send their children and husbands off to the military's open arms; the ones who aim the Pentagon's weapons; the ones those weapons are aimed at. Today's society, and especially today's military, are not made to handle people who THINK FOR THEMSELVES. This paper exists to spread the active thoughts and the thoughtful actions of those freedom-seeking people caught in a center of unfreedom - today's action military. -the Editors

PAGE 2 MARCH 9, 1975 BULKHEAD

# Ask A Marine

#### Dear Bulkhead:

I am a Marine cook. Right now I am on float going to Hong Kong. While on board ship, a Navy cook turned me on to the pamphlet "Ask A Marine." The pamphlet deeply moved me and expressed my feelings exactly.

The Marine Corps has corrupted my life and tried to turn me against some of my loved ones. There have been times when I have been deprived of my mail because I got my I.D. card taken away. There have been times when I requested to make a phone call home and it was denied. I have been given office hours for very foolish charges.

# Readers & Spool- A-

# Twelve Reasons Why Private Hates the Army

Dear Bulkhead:

Your letter said you wanted to know what I dislike about the armed forces. Well, here is a list of things . . .

1. Having to treat an officer like "God." You have to salute them, call them sir. You have to respect their rank by calling them "Capt. Soand-So," and they don't respect the peons' rank. They don't call me PFC Ireland. They just say "Ireland."

I am trying very hard to bring people who feel the same way I do into one. There might be a chance of changing things if we would all unite into one. We are being fucked over, and there is very little we can do about it.

I would like to know if you would send me a few more copies of the pamphlet. I would deeply appreciate it. If you feel there is another book or pamphlet that would interest me, please let me know about it.

#### PFC M. D. Stokes

[Editors' note: The pamphlet this man mentions, "Ask a Marine," is available from us for 25 cents.]

# From a Captive of the **USS** Proteus

Dear Bulkhead:



forms. Unbottoned sleeves are enough to get one referred to captain's mast and fined, along with extra duty.

Discharges. Several of my brothers have been discharged with general and undesirables because they were offered "deals" and were ignorant of their rights. The command's main criteria for less than honorable discharges is based on "frequent involvement with military authorities and positive urinalyses," which was adjudged unconstitutional recently. Less than honorable discharges can jeopardize one's future immensely. It's just not right, dammit! I am extremely vindictive and I want revenge!

Here's another example of Proteus crap, one of my own experiences. One day, not too long ago, I was "arrested" by a master at arms who was waiting by my rack. I was exhorted to raise my arms and walk to the master at arms office, which in itself caused me ridicule. With no apparent reason and without my rights being read to me. I was strip-searched. When I asked why I was being hassled, they told me to shut up and speak when spoken to. I was appalled! Then they proceeded to search my locker which included reading all my personal letters and taking a sundry of items such as prescribed medicine, personal photographs and privately owned tools. Oh, ha ha. Listen to this shit. One of the more observant MAA's noticed a blood stain on my t-shirt near the armpit and rushed me to sickbay for an interview with the doctor. The doc checked me out and entered on my medical records that I was suspected of heroin injections in my right arm. Terrific. Every little bit helps, you know. The blood stain was caused by a small pimple.

2. Having to clean up after the "pigs". When I make a mess, who cleans it? Me. But who cleans the officers' rooms and empties their trash cans? Not them. Me.

3. Haircuts. What does the length of a person's hair have to do with a person's ability to do his job? Were the Minutemen of the revolutionary war all having their hair and sideburns trimmed?

4. Piss tests. That is pretty bad, having to piss in a bottle with a pig watching. They stopped the piss test once because a lot of people got their shit together and said it was an invasion of privacy. It was stopped. But those pigs must get their nuts off watching someone piss, because the piss test is starting up again.

5. Having to work outside in bad weather while the pigs are inside around the coffee pot.

6. Having to be stationed in a foreign country for three years away from family and friends.

7. Not being able to buy a car in Germany without your C.O.'s consent.

8. The judicial system: being tried, convicted, and hung by pigs.

9. Shakedowns — a pig is able to go through your personal property anytime he wants without a warrant.

Your magazine is right on, brothers [and sisters — Editor's note]. I am presently a captive of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed on the decadent ship called the USS Proteus. We are perpetually ported in the distant desolate, inaccessible rock they call Guam, never leaving except to dump radioactive bullshit off the coast. Here is a concise depiction of some of the ludicrous conditions we must put up with.

Living conditions. The area where I sleep is infested with cockroaches. We bitch and bitch with no avail! These nocturnal buggers have no compunction. They crawl anywhere, including on us while we're sleeping. Berthing space is extremely limited; twelve people sleep in an area where two people would be barely comfortable. Air conditioning units are frequently out, causing our berthing spaces to become fetid and stagnant. Our head has been out of hot water for the past four weeks, and anyone will tell you that ice cold showers are fucked!

Regulations. Besides putting up with adverse living conditions and isolated duty, we must take shit from superiors who are martinet and punctilious to a point of being absurd. Many of us work hard at jobs that soil, stain and tear our uniforms. Yet we are expected to show up at muster each morning with pressed clean uni-

I am tempted to pack my bags and split back to the states which, at this time, seems to be the only solution. But since there are so many brothers in the same situation as myself, I've decided to stay and fight! I've sent for the book Turning the Regs Around, and any advice you could suggest will be sincerely appreciated.

I am also a Vietnam veteran and was involved with the cruel and illegal bombing of Cambodia which I deeply regret. I was aboard the USS Enterprise at the time, and will elaborate in more detail in my next letter.

> Bob X. **USS** Proteus

10. Being forced to do something against your will.

11. Inspections — where everything has to be spotless and you have your things just like the guy next to you.

12. Restriction — when the pigs say you have to stay in the billits because of your attitude.

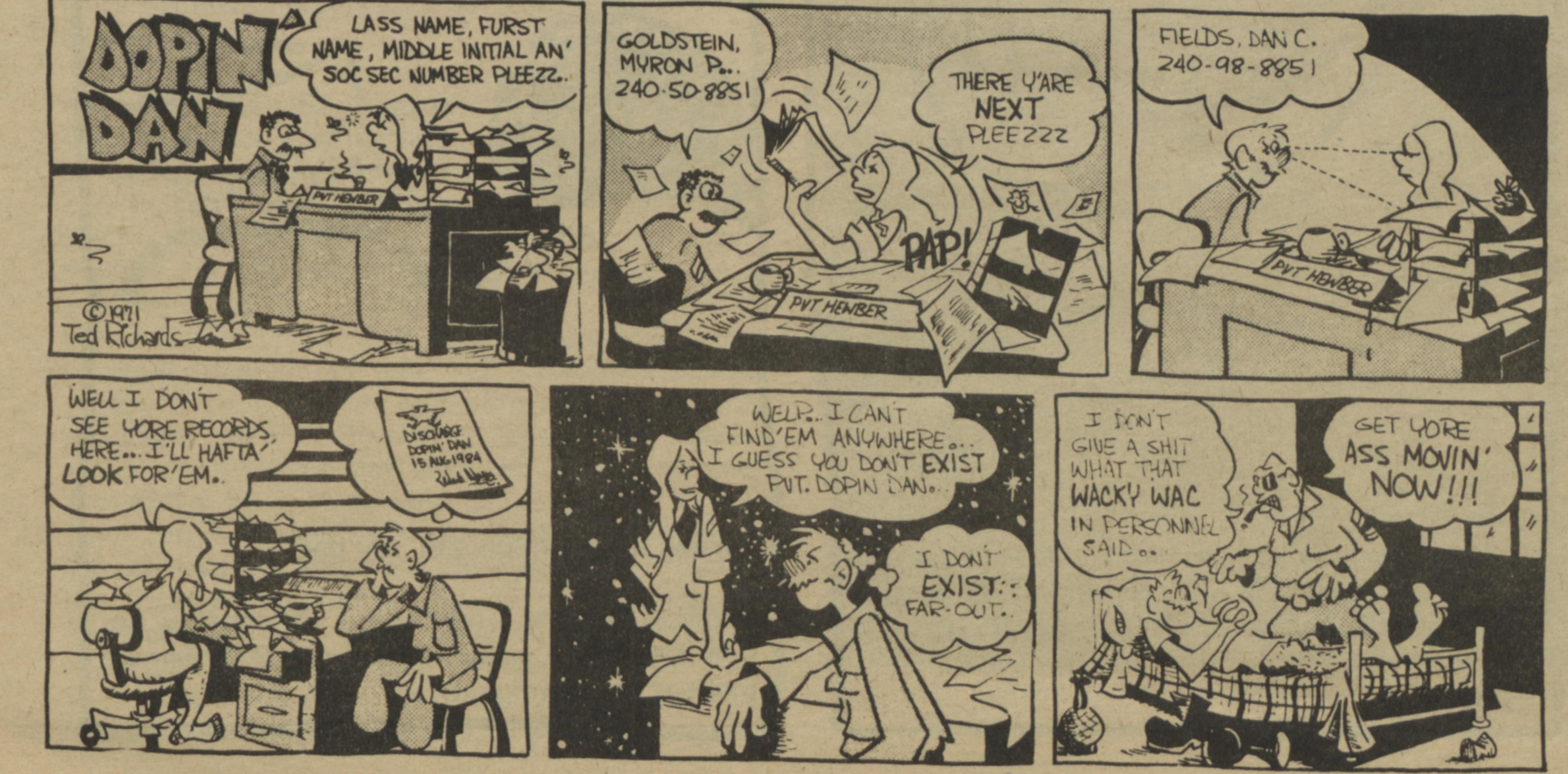
Well, man, I am going to end this now. Just keep on printing that right-on newspaper, and let the people know what is happening. More power to the people.

> Pvt P. I. B Trp, 3/12 Cav APO NY 09076

#### EDITORIAL POLICY ON LETTERS

We welcome all letters whether they are sympathetic or not. We get too much mail to run every letter we receive. We also edit letters for length, but not for content or the views they express. Unless you tell us that you want us to use your full name and unit, we will use only your initials and the area you're writing from.

45 Days for Sleeping



Dear Bulkhead:

Just got off the phone with a good buddy off the USS Nitro (AE-23). And he tells me that the new captain is really an asshole. He put my friend on 45 days restriction and extra duty just because they caught him laying down in a boat.

Now if this is any example of how the U.S. Navy so-called takes care of its own, I sure as hell would like to see them not take care of them. It's just petty ante bullshit on the government's part, trying to harass all the really decent people in the service. These lifer pukes must really get their rocks off over all this.

I'm not going to sign this letter because I don't want to screw my buddy over. So I'll sign it as . . .

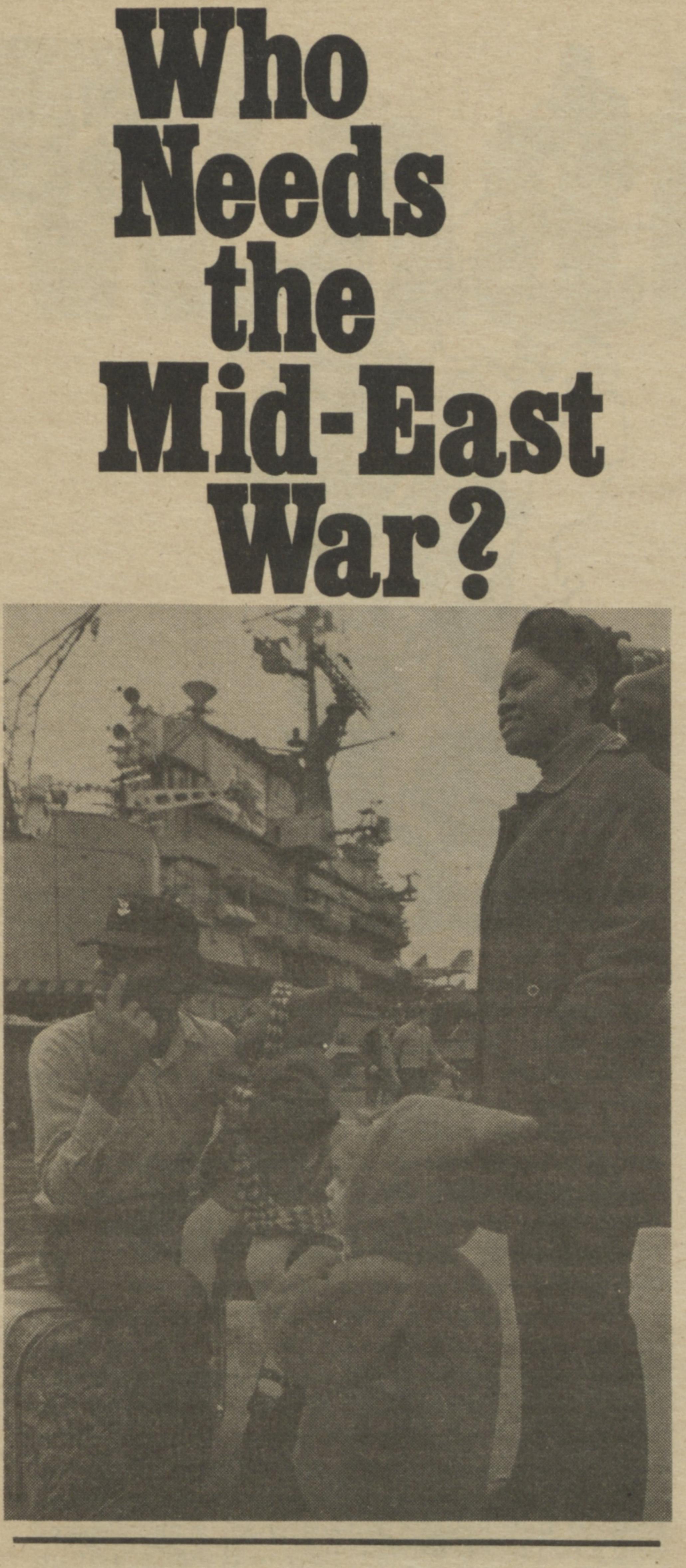
Pissed Off

BULKHEAD MARCH 9, 1975 PAGE 3

#### CORAL SEA CREWMEN AND WIVES NOT HAPPY ABOUT INTERVENTION TALK

Less than three years after the end of U.S. military intervention in Indochina, those in power are speaking of a new military intervention in the Middle East. Soldiers and sailors are being groomed mentally and physically for the event. We have asked dozens of crewmen from the USS Coral Sea, as well as their wives and friends, what they think. This is what we found: • a lack of motivation to carry out the Navy's

- present tasks gunboat diplomacy, war games, and bearing the flag around the world;
- everyone we interviewed was against any



Coral Sea could steam into the war zone in its present condition. In a classified radio transmission to his superiors in mid-November, Capt. Rogers noted that he could not guarantee the ship's safe functioning under the strain of wartime maneuvers. This transmission was sent after the ship failed to complete a series of tests during its last qualifying cruise before deployment. Crewmen in different divisions told this reporter that the Coral Sea never pushed its power plant to more than two-thirds capacity. Crewmen from below decks explained that the boilers would explode if pushed past that point.

A preview of what might happen if the Coral Sea were sent to war was provided by Ms. Rose Hills. She is from Cleveland, Ohio, and is married to a signalman on the Coral Sea. When the news media falsely reported that the Coral Sea was steaming toward the coast of Vietnam to bolster the sagging militaries of South Vietnam's Thieu and Cambodia's Lon Nol, she called the Navy to see if it was true. No one would tell her if her husband was going to war. When she called the Naval Radio Facility at Stockton, and they told her she had no right to know, she exploded. She later discovered that her friends had also suffered the same treatment, and had grown just as angry. All wanted their husbands home, and didn't want the Coral Sea mixed up in a new war. Vicki Kelly added, "I'm tired of them spending more money on killing people than on saving them. What's that ship going to do? Go over to Vietnam and run bombs all over the place." Of the three dozen people interviewed, even most pro-Navy crewmen were against U.S. armed intervention in the Middle East. An engineer who worked down in the power plant compared the threatened Middle East conflict to the Vietnam war. Another crewman summed it up when we asked him what would happen if the Coral Sea were sent to war. "There's no one that wants to die for a lost cause. It used to be people were willing to take that risk of dying, but now is not that time." Not everyone we interviewed was against fighting in the Middle East. One crewman said he didn't care one way or another, but was just doing a job. Another told us of friends who wanted to get into combat because they'd get more pay. But he also said those friends were NCOs. When you get down to the nitty-gritty, the point is that if those in power want the U.S. military to intervene in the Middle East, they can't just snap their fingers and be done with it. They have to have the cooperation of citizens and soldiers alike. Most of these Coral Sea crewmen and their wives are saying their cooperation can no longer be taken for granted.

heating up of that mission, especially war in the Middle East;

Vicki Kelly, whose husband and brother were both on the Coral Sea, expressed her ideas on the Coral Sea's mission during a campaign she led to improve working and living conditions on the ship. In a letter to the Alameda Times-Star, she wrote, "Why is it so vital for that ship to go out again (on a Pacific cruise) when she is so in need of dry docking . . ." The petition her group circulated in the military community near the base called on Congress to keep the ship from sailing until it was thoroughly overhauled. They gathered 1500 signatures in two weeks.

It takes about 4500 men to operate the 27-year-old carrier and service the air squadrons. Many of those men registered their indifference to the purpose of the cruise, and their dissatisfaction with living and working conditions, by going UA. Jim Kelly, Vicki's husband and stationed aboard the Coral Sea until recently, remarked, "I work in communications, and we get these lists up from personnel of people who're UA. There'll be just pages and pages of names, hundreds of guys that go UA." Others avoid work when possible, or refuse to work when necessary. Some wreck equipment. A crewman from V-2 who works the catapults told this reporter, "Just to keep us from going out, people have been putting grinding compound in the spring bearings." Another man in V-2 said that someone had sabotaged \$2,000,000 worth of bombs by flooding the spaces in which they were stored. Capt. Thomas Rogers, the ship's commanding officer, has even admitted that a few fires had been set in vital compartments. But the Navy has so far neither confirmed nor denied other incidents of sabotage, in spite of repeated inquiries.

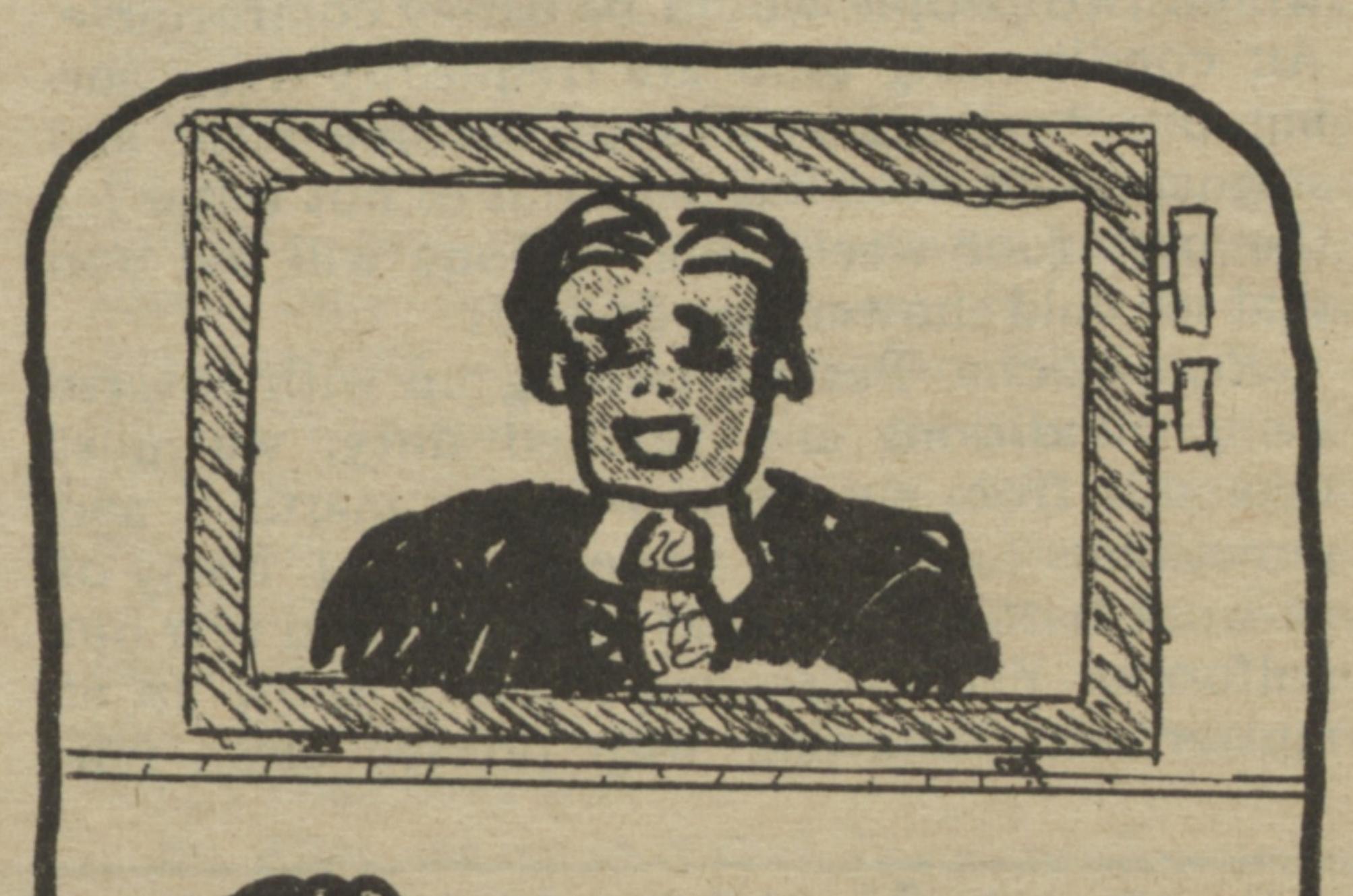
#### AND IF WAR WERE DECLARED . . .

Even if Capt. Rogers commanded a unified crew, it's a toss-up as to whether or not the

'There's no one that wants to die for a lost cause. It used to be people were willing to take that risk of dying, but now is not that time." - Coral Sea crewman, V-2 division.

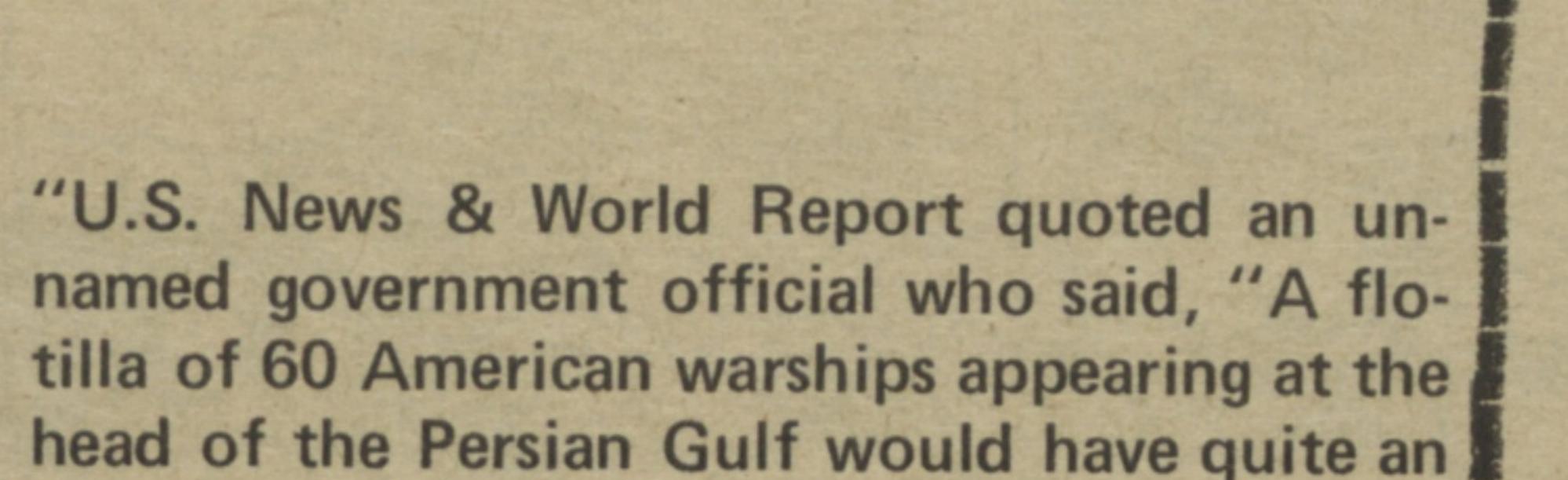






"Coral Sea TV brings you the evening news. Columnist Jack Anderson reported on November 8 that 'A grim new mood is developing in Washington that military intervention may be necessary to bring down the price of oil and save the West from economic ruin.' Henry Kissinger responded to Mr. Anderson on January 2 when he commented, "I am not saying that there's no circumstance where we would not use force. But it is one thing to use it in the case of a dispute over price; it's another where there is some actual strangulation of the industrialized world."

PAGE 4 MARCH 9, 1975 BULKHEAD



impact."



"Wow, man, I'm packin' my bags."

"Wait a minute. How about 60 snuffies appearing at the Captain's wardroom? I'll bet we make quite an impact."

# A CARGES

Coral Sea Crewmen and Wives Battle Maggots, Lice and Leaks "Save American Vessels" Petitions to Keep Coral Sea Home - 1500 Sign Petitions

ground newspapers, and speaking out to the public.

The current condition of the Coral Sea was made public in October 1974 by a group of women, wives and friends of Coral Sea crewmen, who formed an organization called "Save American Vessels." Support for the organization mushroomed when 10,000 friends and family members of Coral Sea crewmen went to sea on November 4 for what the Navy calls its "Dependents Day Cruise." Originally designed to assure family members of the safety of their loved ones, and demonstrate the competence of the ship and air squadrons as a fighting unit, this cruise did the opposite. The ship left the pier an hour and a half late, and no sooner was it past the Golden Gate Bridge than a fire broke out in the number two engine room. Hungry visitors had to wait in line for at least two hours to get food. The lucky ones who got anything at all were rewarded with canned sardines, canned meat, and peanut butter and cheese crackers. Mrs. Irma Jean Duncil described the cruise in a letter to the editor of the Alameda Times-Star. "I heard many accusations ranging from third class on up to chiefs threatening to go UA (unauthorized absence) if the ship wasn't made seaworthy. One chief said he was ready to hang twenty years on the wall and tell the Navy to shove their promises and programs... Roach bugs were seen several places, and one sailor made the remark, 'That's what we do for a past-time while standing in the chow line is kill roaches or see who can kill the most, and see that they don't drop overhead in the food as you carry it along."

of the below-decks compartments to 140 degrees; (4) out-dated electrical equipment is frequently used with the full consent of supervising officers; (5) men are ordered to work on unsafe catwalks; (6) vital gauges and dials in the engineering rooms are broken; (7) the boilers which power the ship are weakened by overuse and abuse, and will blow up if pushed beyond only two-thirds capacity; (8) some compartments are flooded with sea water because the hull is rusting from the inside out; (9) men were ordered to do welding immediately adjacent to highly combustible petrochemicals; (10) fire extinguishers which had not been weighed to check their  $CO_2$  content had been fraudulently marked as inspected and approved; (11) many escape hatches and chutes cannot be used because they lack seals and are corroded by rust. One "Save American Vessels" (SAV) spokeswoman, Vicki Kelly, whose husband and brother were both on the ship, also cited deteriorating living conditions. Drinking water is rationed, but no one would drink it anyway. Jet fuel has leaked into the drinking water storage tanks. Many enlisted men's toilets are hopelessly clogged. When an enlisted man finds a shower that works, he has to clean up under a trickle of cold water. Enlisted men who want hot showers have to sneak into officers' heads. Food lockers smell of rancid meat and poultry, and cockroaches roam through food preparation and dining areas. Mattresses are infested with lice and crabs. Sixty men are sometimes crowded into berthing compartments designed to house thirty. Flu and hepatitis epidemics are common, and the ship's ill-equipped and understaffed medical division is not prepared to do much about it.



When the ship completed the air show and started its return to Alameda, something went wrong below decks causing the ship to lose all power. After floating dead in the water for hours, and according to crewmen, running aground in the channel, the Coral Sea finally lumbered home five hours late with two of its four screws out of commission. As Mrs. Duncil put it, "if a ship can't make a successful one-day dependents cruise, how in hell can it make a WESPAC cruise?"

#### THE NAVY RESPONDS

Ms. Vicki Kelly of SAV explains her group's opposition to the sailing of the USS Coral Sea. The USS Hancock (CVA-19) can be seen in the background. "

[This is part one of a two-part article. The concluding section will follow in three weeks in our next issue. — Editor's note]

When the last draftee finished his term with the Army, the military seized on this opportunity to trumpet the recent successes of the volunteer army. Quotas for new recruits are now so easily filled, they claimed, that they can afford to be more selective. A soldier's starting salary is now \$341, almost four times what it was in 1968. More servicemen are re-enlisting for another term than were doing so during the Vietnam war. With all combat troops out of Vietnam, and with fewer troops stationed overseas, military duty appears no more hazardous or objectionable than any other job. And a job is exactly what they promise you. If the Pentagon's press releases are to be believed, a truly professional, all-volunteer military may be close at hand. But many of the crewmen of the attack aircraft carrier USS Coral Sea see it another way. With maggots in the food, cockroaches in the berthing compartments, lice in the mattresses, and leaks in the hull, many enlisted men and their wives believe the ship is just not seaworthy. When the ship limped out of NAS Alameda for its western Pacific (WESPAC) cruise on December 5, it was over the objections of 1500 enlisted men and their wives who signed petitions to Congress opposing deployment of the Coral Sea until necessary repairs were made. This was not the first time Coral Sea crewmen moved to keep their ship from sailing. Three years ago, over 1000 anti-war sailors and marines signed petitions opposing their mission - carrying fighter bombers within striking range of Vietnam. At that time, hundreds of men who identified with the "Stop Our Ship" movement took direct action — refusing to sail with the ship, sabotaging equipment, printing under-

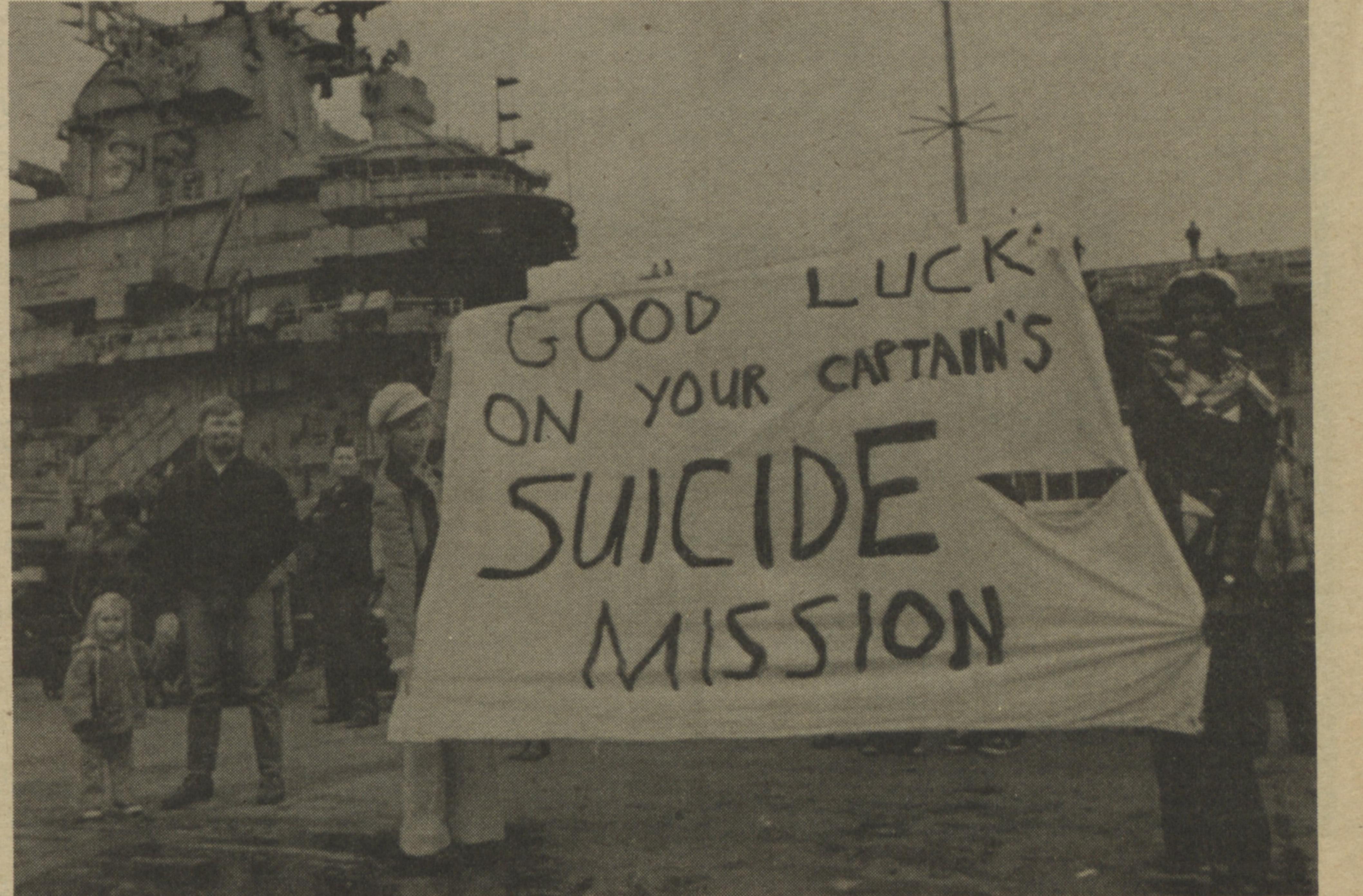
#### SAV'S CHARGES

Within a week, the women's organization challenged the Navy over local network news to admit to unsafe working areas. Specifically they charged that: (1) steam under extremely high pressure runs through pipes which are old and rotten and patched with rags; (2) many division chiefs work their men 16 to 20 hours a day with time off for meals only; (3) the ventilation system is broken, driving temperatures in some

When Capt. Rogers was reached for comment, the San Francisco Chronicle quoted him as saying, "The Coral Sea is an old ship. It does present certain problems in upkeep and we are working hard to bring it up to tip-top condition, both in appearance and mechanically."

In Navy circles, the Coral Sea is known as the admiral maker. Under the watchful eye of the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington, D.C., Capt. Rogers had to head off this criticism from the ranks, and fulfill his assigned mission if he was to win his promotion. But now he is also under the scrutiny of his crewmen, their wives, and the public at large. He lacked the time to put the ship in drydock to make the necessary

(continued on page 6)



Vicki Kelly (left) and Rose Hills (right) hold up their banner to cheering crewmen on the flight deck of the USS Coral Sea. The slogan is about the poor living and working conditions enlisted men face on the ship.

BULKHEAD MARCH 9, 1975 PAGE 5



(continued from page 5) repairs, and a yard period would take months. He had to sail in a matter of weeks. Rather than confront his superiors and jeopardize his possible promotion, Capt. Rogers chose to request a one week delay, just long enough to make superficial repairs.

Vicki Kelly responded in a letter to the editor of the local *Alameda Times-Star*. "Why is she [the Coral Sea] in this condition? She has been known as an 'admiral maker.' Captains in the past and the one aboard now have pushed her, her men, and her engine far beyond her limits of endurance. Can it be that whoever rules over these ships care more about their promotions than they do about the welfare of their own men? Why is it so vital for that ship to go out again on a Pacific cruise when she is in need of dry docking, and when this very cruise could be fatal to the fighting men aboard her? I'll have the cheeseburger, but hold the cockroaches. Hey, Maurice! Hey, man, I thought you had the flu? What are you doin' here? CORAL SEA

Is that boiled rice or steamed maggots?

[Part two to follow next issue]





(continued from page 1) have the right to force you, and you can refuse



And down in San Diego, California ... on January 22, Navy wives gathered at the Anti-Submarine Warfare School to picket. The women represented San Diego VRB/OUT, an organization fighting against the loss of the variable re-enlistment bonus (VRB). A week before, twenty women members of VRB/OUT picketed at the 32nd Street Naval Station to make their objections to the cut known.

The VRB/OUT organization is made up of advanced electronics and nuclear power personnel and their families. These people enlisted under a six year program, rather than four years, because they were promised extra schooling and a variable re-enlistment bonus of approximately \$4,000.

... but you better be prepared with legal counsel.

\* \*

Greeks aren't too happy about U.S. military presence in their country. Two officers from the Sixth Fleet destroyer Richard B. Byrd were nearly lynched after their car was set on fire by 4,000 Greek demonstrators. One of the Greeks who was interviewed explained they were demonstrating against the "military policy of the U.S. government ... and *not* against the American people." Many Greeks still blame the U.S. government for the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, and for U.S. support of the now defunct military dictatorship of Greece. Anybody got a rope?

Babette Peyton, cornrows and all, is fighting the command in U.S. Army Europe, insisting on her right to the training she was promised, and refusing to cut her hair.

Congress passed Public Law 93-277, which went into effect on June 1, 1974, eliminating this bonus program. Despite this loss, these people were held to their two year extension.

The wives were picketing to make public what they feel is a breach of contract on the part of the government. They want the Navy to drop the extension or re-instate the bonus. The organization plans to file a suit in federal district court soon to force the government to remedy this situation.



General, your tank is a mighty vehicle. It smashes down forests. And it crushes a hundred men. But it has one defect: It needs a driver.

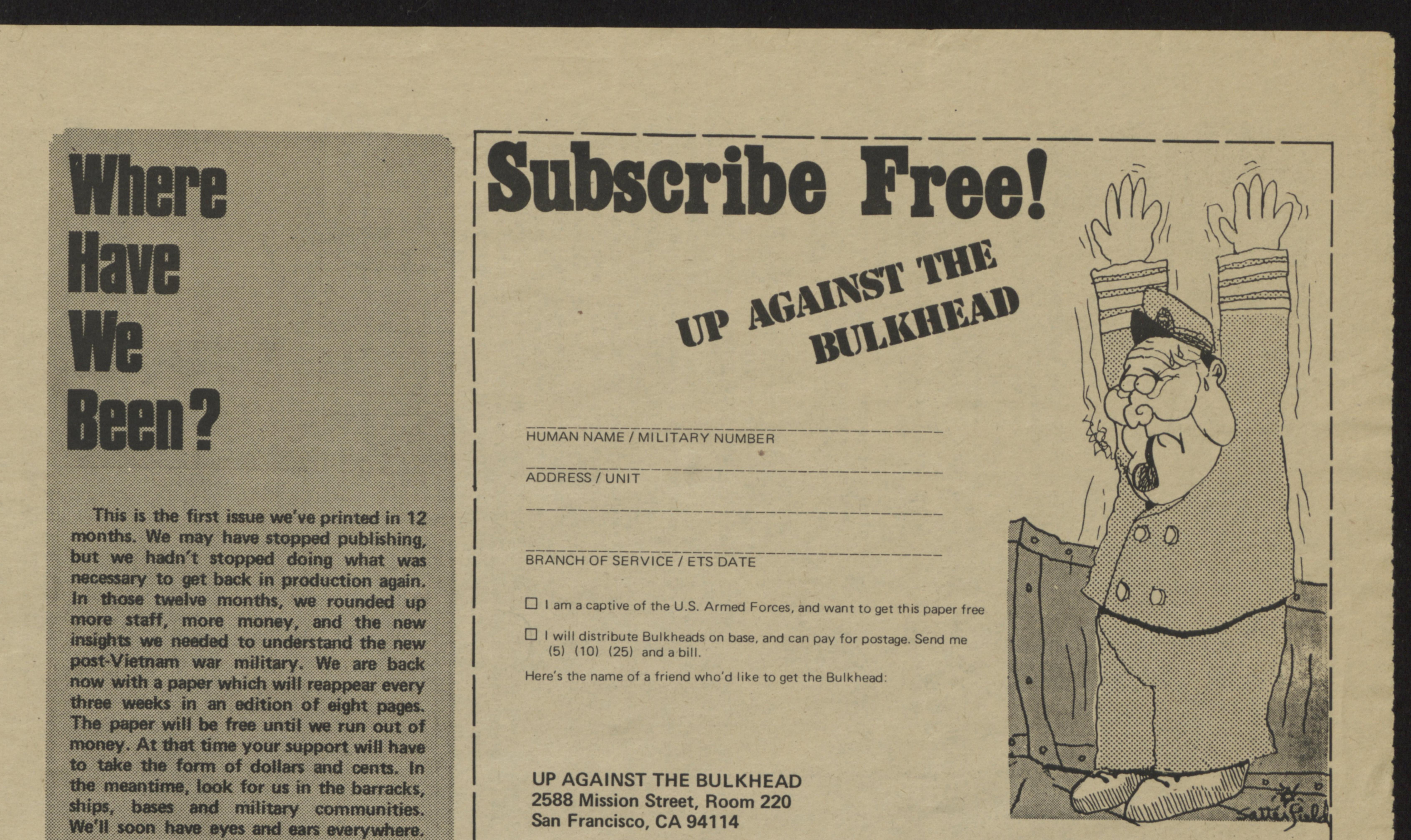
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF., November 1971 – Crewmen of the Coral Sea march in an anti-war demonstration numbering in the tens of thousands. They campaigned to keep the Coral Sea from sailing out of NAS Alameda. The SOS on the banner stands for "Stop Our Ships."

PAGE 6 MARCH 9, 1975 BULKHEAD

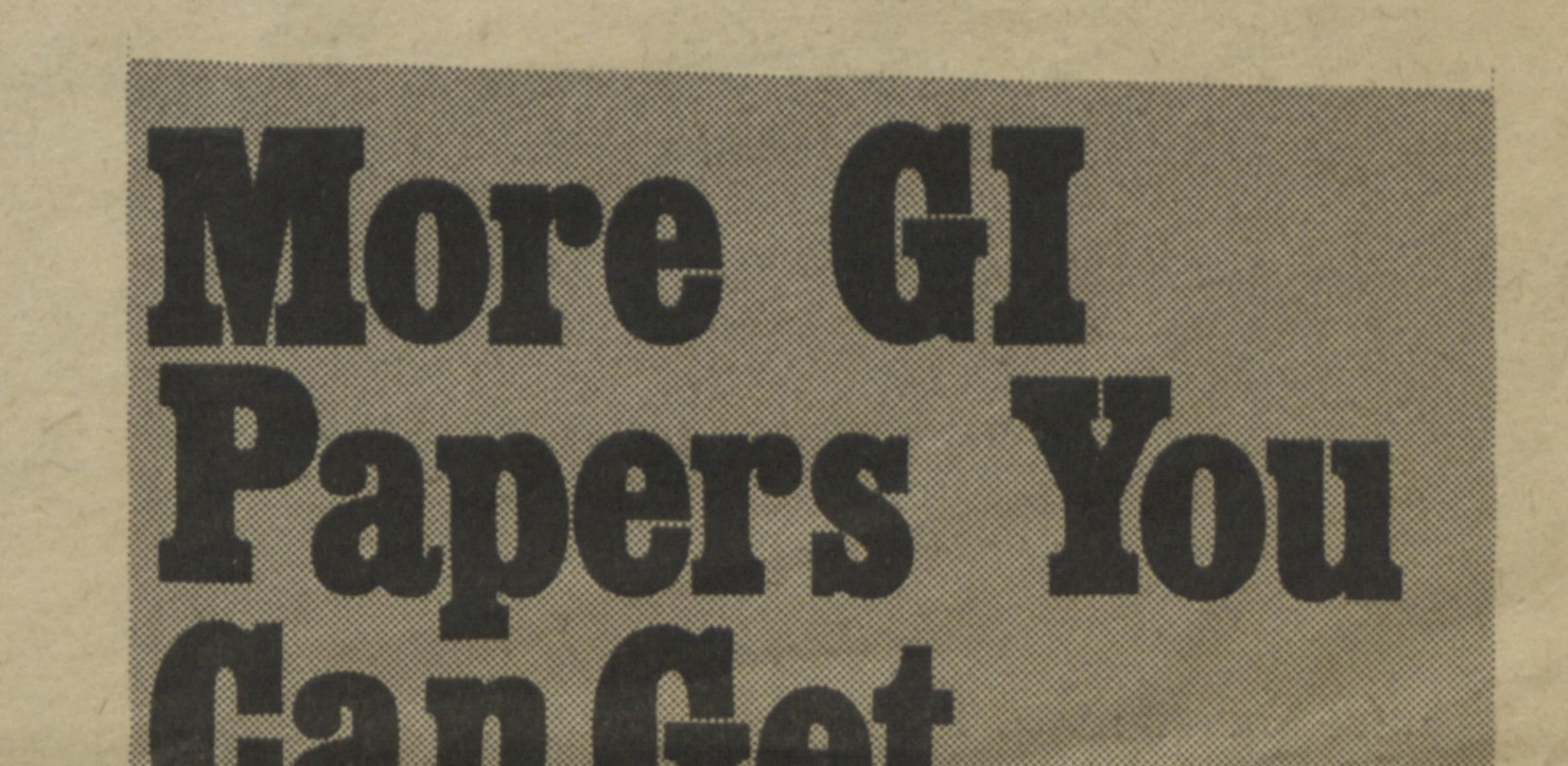
General, your bomber's powerful – It flies faster than a storm And it carries more than an elephant. But it has one defect: It needs a mechanic.

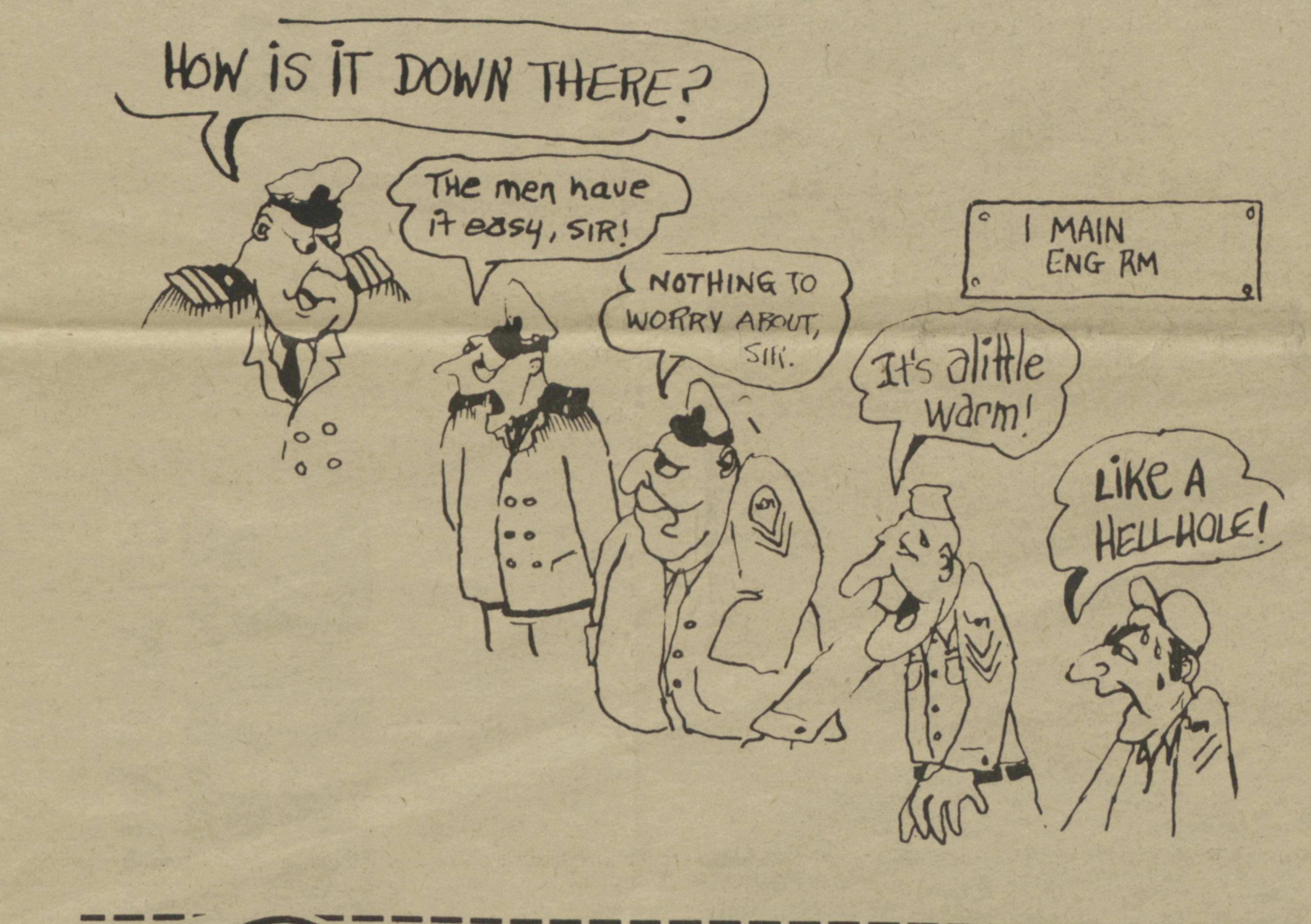
General, a man is very useful. He can fly and he can kill. But it has one defect. He can think!

-Bertolt Brecht



-The Editors





# TURNING THE REGS AROUND

TURNING THE REGS AROUND is a 120 page book which covers many of the problems people face while they are trapped in the military. It is written by GIs and civilians who've had a lot of practical experience with military injustice. It is written for enlisted people to help them fight back.

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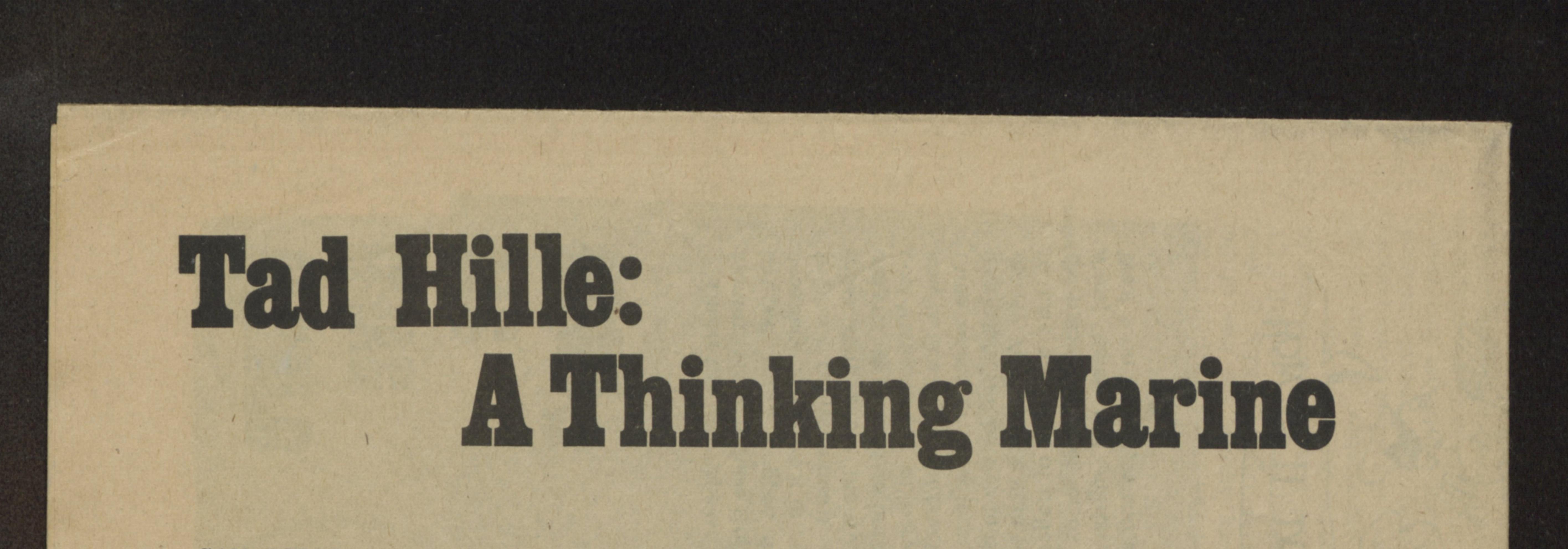
The book also has the experiences of GIs who've fought back on ships and bases, what they learned and what they won or lost. It includes the entire Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and the Table of Maximum Punishments from the Manual For Court Martial. It lists where to go for support, and where you might find a sympathetic civilian lawyer. All discharge procedures are also included.

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BULKHEAD MARCH 9, 1975 PAGE 7



SAN DIEGO, CALIF — Tad Hille, a Marine Lance-Corporal, has committed perhaps the worst of military crimes. He demanded that the Marine Corps follow its own rules. On January 8, Tad filed 34 court-martial charges against the 12 officers responsible for illegally arresting him and transferring him from Yokosuka, Japan, to Camp Pendleton, California, last September. The officers he charged include lieutenants right up to the Marine Corps Commandant, Gen. Robert Cushman.

The Corps seems to be a little upset by Tad's efforts to make them take a little of their own medicine. They have put together a list of 13 charges against Tad, ranging from disobeying an order to conspiracy to riot.

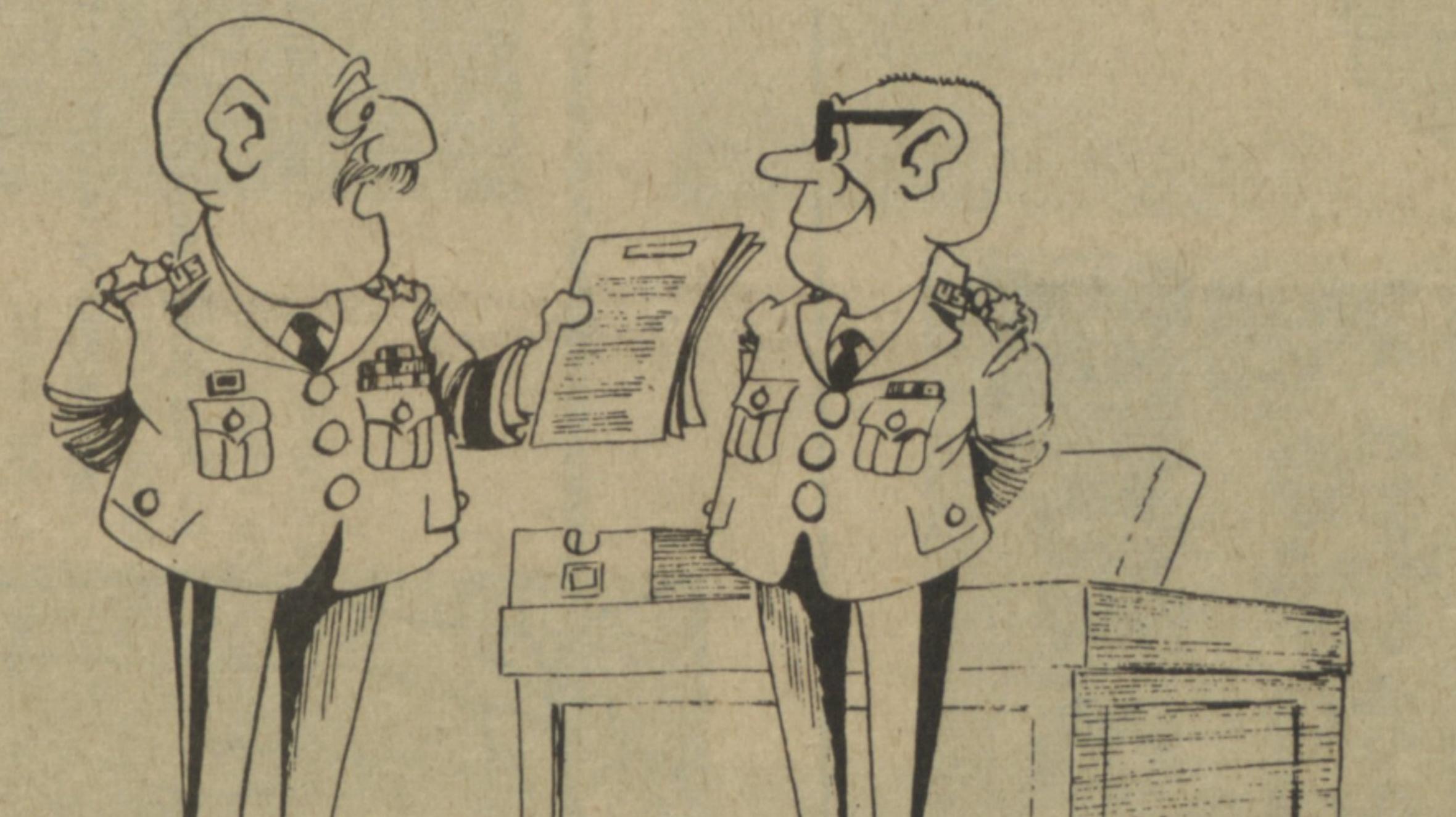
Tad spent sixteen of his twenty-four months in the Corps in Japan. During that time he made many Japanese friends, and came to understand their dislike of the U.S. military. Tad spoke openly in favor of the Japanese people's stand against nuclear weapons. And Tad talked to people on base about the Corps' mission in Asia. He also joined the Yokosuka chapter of Vietnam Vets Against the War when he found they could help him spread the word. The brass tried for months to intimidate him into keeping quiet, but nothing worked. Last September 26, Tad was arrested while on leave, put in the brig overnight, and put on a plane the next day with orders to report to Camp Pendleton, California. Over the next three months, Tad was subjected to continuous harassment by the officers and higher NCOs in his command. In December, he was charged with disrespect to an officer and disobeying an order. Tad fought those two charges by filing counter-charges against the officer who made them. The disrespect and disobedience charges against Tad were dropped in January, and Tad's CO and XO were given official reprimands for trying to set him up on bullshit charges.

Yokosuka, and told Tad he would have to defend himself before a general court-martial. Only recently has the brass charged Tad with crimes stemming from the Pendleton rebellion. At the same time, the Corps is trying to ignore the charges Tad brought against the 12 officers.

What's important to the brass is not Tad as an individual. It's that Tad is an ordinary guy who has had enough of what he's seen in the military, and was talking about it. This time the brass is going to learn that they picked the wrong target. A defense committee has been formed by people who think Tad is right and are willing to put up a fight to show it.

His court-martial begins March 19. You can help the defense committee pack the courtroom to show the command that Tad is not the only enlisted man who thinks for himself. Congressional inquiries have already been started. But that's not enough. The brass needs to feel some heat from below. For more information, contact the Center for Servicemen's Rights, 820 Fifth Ave., San Diego, CA [phone 239-2119].

Two days later, on January 8, Tad filed 34



charges against Gen. Cushman and his friends. The poor old Marine Corps was being attacked with the very weapons it used to keep people in line. Tad's command was getting scared.

A few days later, some people in Tad's barracks, angered over threats to withhold their pay, raised hell and broke sixteen windows. Tad did not participate and the brass knew it, but this was their chance to get him. The next day they put him in the brig without charges. Two weeks later, they charged him with petty violations left over from



18

"Hmm. It says here that L/Cpl Hille will drop his charges against us if we drop ours against him."