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17 Protesters Convicted: Vietnam War Protest

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By: Jordan Perlinger

This article being featured here was written on November 7th, 1967. It was written by Jerry Levine and it is being assumed that the article was written to be featured in The Daily Iowan Newspaper. The title of the article is “17 Protesters Convicted” and the focus of the article is on how the protesters were arrested, their pleas being refused, their jail term, and fines that were due do to protests against the war. The author, Jerry Levine, was a very informational journalist and leaves a lot up to his readers to decide. He shares all of the important information with the reader throughout the article and allows for the reader to choose whether he is pro-war or anti-war.

Jerry Levine wrote this article using a very monotone voice. He worked for a popular newspaper company and his job wasn’t to form an opinion about a topic. His job was to report the truth about events so the public could have a better understanding of events going on around their homes. One example from the newspaper article is the first sentence of the last paragraph. He presents facts straight forward like saying, “The 17 persons who were found guilty were part of a group of demonstrators who attempted to block the entrance of the Union to stop persons from seeing Marine recruiters last Wednesday as a protest of the Vietnamese war”. This portrays the protesters in a negative way saying they were attempting to block an entrance of the Union. The article says many similar things showing the protesters in a negative light.

This document was created to inform the local people of Iowa City, Iowa. The author is local because he is a journalist writing for The
Daily Iowan Newspaper. More people were probably at the protests or riots and could attest to his article. It is hard to know whether Jerry Levine was actually there at the riots or if he was getting his information about the protests from a colleague or another outside source. Some people may agree with him saying the protests were negative, or some people could appose his views and fully support the antiwar protests about the Vietnam War. Using secondary sources it is obvious that people who were antiwar were extremely hated against. Their patriotism was questioned instantly and they protesters answered back with chants filled with foul language which angered many bystanders (Appy, p. 185).

Protesters during this time were often extremely vocal and used signs to get their messages across. The protesters were very smart people. They used different signed and wrote sayings or phrases on banners because they knew newspaper photographers would be at these riots and war events. The newspaper photographer would obviously take pictures at the events and the signs would more likely than not be in the backgrounds of photos as well. In addition to photos being taken newspaper journalist would also have a video crew getting footage for the evening news later that day. All of the riots were being filmed and then every TV set in America would be watching the riots that following night. “The whole world is watching!” was how the Vietnam War protests were received (Appy, p. 185).

This newspaper article by Jerry Levine gives subtle insight to all of the details that were happening during this war time. He gives factual information about one specific anti-war protest going on in the heart of Iowa City on the University of Iowa’s college campus. However, the reality is that riots similar to this one were happening nationwide because when a country is at war all of the people who live there are affected as well.