

Vietnam War veterans

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"The biggest thing now is getting the employers involved," says D'Avi. "It's hard to get them to really believe that there is not that much paperwork involved. Anybody who has ever dealt with the VA knows how much paperwork there is, but with this program, a lot of it is eliminated."

Not only must the potential employees be convinced of the limited paperwork, D'Avi says, many have to be convinced that a Vietnam veteran can be a good employee, and not a "maniac."

"I see the employers' view," she says. "That's what we are trying to push aside."

As for the veterans, D'Avi says they couldn't be happier.

"I think they figure it's about time," she says. "A lot of these people are in their late 30s and mid-40s and they figure, 'If I don't get turned around now, I'm not going to.'"

Both Johns and Bennett believe that they, and many other Vietnam veterans, were shafted but that they were still able to make it. But what about those who still don't have jobs and are not a part of any of the local support groups?

Bennett, who is an adult probation and parole officer, estimates that some 30,000 Vietnam veterans live in Winston-Salem, Greensboro, High Point and Lexington.

with a third of those in the immediate area.

"If they come to us, we can assist them," Bennett says.

Assisting not only means helping the veterans find a job, but it can also mean just being there. One of the Triad Vietnam Veteran's most popular programs is a rap session held on Thursday nights.

"They can come and talk about what's bothering or affecting them," Bennett says. "Sometimes the guys get all choked up and many times I get choked up myself."

But sympathy doesn't stop at the support groups. During the interview with Johns, his telephone rang five or six times, and each time it was a fellow veteran inquiring if Johns would be at the meeting and if things were going okay with him.

"That's how close we are," Johns says.

Unlike Bennett, Johns seems filled with rage and anguish.

"Yeah, I'm bitter," he says. "I'm bitter at the system. I kept up my end of the contract. But the bitterness doesn't grow."

"If I had to do it all over again, I would because I believe in freedom. I know what freedom is and I have been in countries where freedom was denied. Wars have been going on since time. Somebody has to be the aggressor in order to save freedom."

Music is a hobby; law is her goal

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looking over at the quiet organ in the living room. "I may participate in afterschool programs, but I really have to start thinking about my career now."

Typical Saturday afternoon outings for the teen-ager means a trip to the mall, catching the latest in movies or skating at one of the local rinks.

"Now if Michael Jackson came to town, I wouldn't be at any of those places," says Karen.

Charming and poised, Karen finds it difficult to converse with strangers, but says she's working to overcome her slight handicap so that she may someday accomplish her goal.

"One day," she says, "I'd like to put an end to all the fighting and killing. I don't know how I'm going to do it, but if I become a lawyer, I'm going to do something about it."

Delayed start is not bad for your garden

Late springs and persistently wet soils make for a frustrating time for anxious gardeners, but there may be a silver lining -- planting too early is prevented.

Gardeners, enticed by the first warmth of spring, plant some vegetable crops too early, according to North Carolina State University agricultural extension specialists. Poor production often is a result.

Some garden crops aren't meant to be planted early. Among these are lima

beans, pepper plants, okra, sweet potatoes and eggplant.

If you planted these in early April anywhere in North Carolina you planted too early, according to the experts. Using the Raleigh area as a reference point, May 1 is plenty early to plant all of the above-mentioned crops except sweet potatoes. They shouldn't be planned until mid-May.

If you live southeast or east Raleigh, you should get the best results by planting

these crops about two weeks earlier. If you live in the Mountain section of the state, about two weeks later is the best time.

If you have questions

about the recommended planting dates of any crops in your area or about variety selections, check with your county office of the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service.

Put Some Class in Your Life!

Fall Quarter will be here before you know it. **Right now** is the time to pre-register at FORSYTH TECH while space is still available.

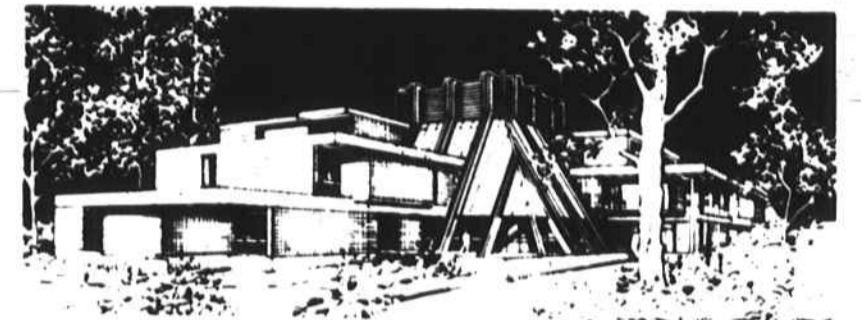
REMEMBER, tuition for curriculum programs is only \$4.25 per quarter hour or \$51.00 for 12 or more hours per quarter. All programs begin August 21. All applications must be completed by August 17, 1984.

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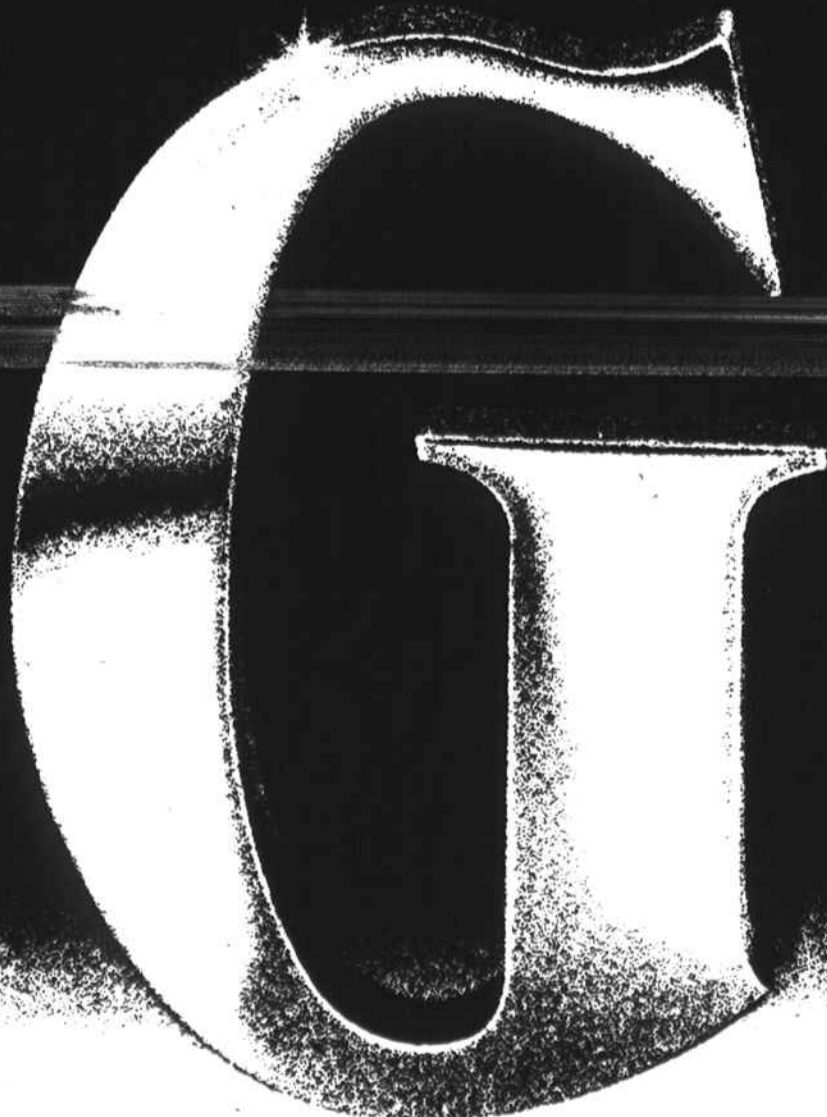
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