

## ELEMENTS FOR A RATIONAL COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF VIOLENCE

Hundreds of windows have been broken on the Stanford campus as a result of violent protest against the genocide perpetrated by the United States in Indochina. Many people remark bitterly that the money it will take to replace these windows could have been used to help minority students (would it?), or that tuition will have to be raised to pay for the damage. I urge everyone not to lose sight of the relative magnitude of violence.

The total book value of Stanford (all land, buildings, and portfolio) is 250 million dollars (Yale is 450 million, Harvard is 600 million). The cost of the Indochina war is currently running at 31 BILLION dollars a year. Thus:

STANFORD IS WORTH THREE DAYS OF THE WAR

YALE IS WORTH FIVE DAYS OF THE WAR

HARVARD IS WORTH ONE WEEK OF THE WAR

The total cost of the Indochina war from 1965 has amounted to 105 billion dollars. Thus:

WITH THE COST OF THIS WAR, ONE COULD HAVE BUILT 420 STANFORDS  
FROM THE GROUND UP.

The largest project on campus is a new computer center for which 3.5 million dollars are needed; this could be found by stopping the war one hour earlier.

The costs mentioned above are only U. S. military costs. They come from the federal budget and therefore can be straight-forwardly shifted to higher education. These figures take into account only the cost of destroying; they don't include the cost of what is destroyed, nor the cost of defense on the part of the Indochinese. They don't include the cost, since it is unmeasurable, of tens of thousands of Americans and hundreds of thousands of Asian lives.

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