

**READER**

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## Homes Away From Home

### From Saigon to San Diego

"My people live in two worlds. They still see their loved ones in their nightmares and fear for their lives. Whenever Vietnamese get together, all they talk about is their homeland and how much they want to go back."

**BARBARA EVANS**  
Lits grandiose poppy flowers that slender bodies sway to the music of

the dance. They smile as they glide along with the waltz sounds that take them back to a safe, far-away land. As the dance ends, young girls dash off to buy a final memento that laces with

three painted building blocks. It's an image only, but for a moment it's real. I gather with a group of Vietnamese refugees from a new home in San Diego. They love it and never see themselves returning to Vietnam. They talk, relax, and enjoy their culture during a recent entertainment night at the Vietnamese House here.

It's been two years since the Vietnamese were granted amnesty in America. It is now history. For most San Diegans 13,000 Vietnamese refugees are a non-issue.

They have adjusted to their new life, yet. Their bodies eat, sleep, and move like Americans. They are perhaps, but "thank you very much for your help," they are fine Americans. One has a black eye and again is curious what they are really

"The refugee's reality is over here. They miss their home," says Pham Quang Tuan, adviser of the Vietnamese Community Foundation.

He is the oldest of the 11-year-old group from Vietnam. He is a refugee from a new home in San Diego. "They still see their loved ones in their nightmares and fear for their lives. Whenever Vietnamese get together, all they talk about is their homeland and how much they want to go back. They often cry in private and show symptoms of depression. Some say they feel lonely. In fact, he was rich. He was the president of three major companies in Saigon and several European cars

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**From San Diego to Stockholm**

"The massacre at My Lai happened after I inserted. When I looked at those horrible pictures in the Swedish newspaper I was disgusted and at the same time I was proud of myself for refusing to have anything to do with such madness."

**JAMES CRAVENS**

It would be difficult to find two more dissimilar communities than San Diego, California, and Kvistia, Sweden. Kvistia is a small village north of Stockholm. It is an outstanding example of modern apartment complexes in contrast to the antiquated and 16th Century houses of the city's south. There are large, Sure, dark rooms.

Terry Judkins, 29, has lived in Kvistia for eight years. He came to Kvistia from San Diego and can't return. If Terry sets foot in the United States he will be arrested by the American authorities. Terry Judkins is a deserter from the U.S. Army. He left Vietnam rather than fight as ordered in Vietnam.

Terry Judkins looks like the stereotypical American tourist. He would seem perfectly at home in Minnesota or New Mexico. He is "hanging out" as a high school kid. He has short, blonde hair and a thin blue-blooded nose. He wears behind wire-rimmed spectacles. He speaks with a thick American trace of an American accent. He is a first-year medical student at the university. Terry is a part-time Stockholm taxi driver. He lives with an elderly Norwegian teacher named Siv-Birger Fougner and her sons, Christian and David. Their apartment is filled with art, decorated with the boy's drawings and Swedish poems protecting U.S. intervention in Vietnam and war.

Terry and Siv-Birger have prepared dinner for their American visitors in their large, warm kitchen. "It's special," Terry says. "You thought spaghetti would be good to serve us, but we're not Americans, we're you like Swedish food."

Terry lived in San Diego from the age of 17 to 25. His father, a career Navy man, retired and moved to San Diego. Terry's mother died in 1973. His older brother is an officer in the Marine Corps. Terry grew up in

schools and colleges. They are learning fast; their English is improving, their future may be bright.

But how can one begin a new life after one's father has died at 50? He has been trying for almost two years. He is still trying. Till April 1975 he was a deserter from Vietnam's unconditional surrender. In fact, he was rich. He was the president of three major companies in Saigon and several European cars

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES CRAVENS

















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plants of broken contracts, discrimination in hiring and education, and the withholding of wages. According to Ngoc and Tuan, they received

report of incidents where local employers withheld the refugees' first paychecks.

"We are a progressive minority," says Ngoc. "The American public has been very nice to us Vietnamese people. To America the Vietnamese war was for more than just the loss of life."

**TO SWEDEN**  
(continued from page 1)  
Blacklist of the Vietnamese Communists and the Nguyen Van Thieu regime. "Everybody can take advantage of that," he says.  
An editor, journalist, attorney, 28, and former teacher, Dr. Vinh is the intellectual and moral pillar of his community. Two days after arriving in San Diego, he began his tenth book, *The People's War*, a history of the *Front de la Paix au Proche*. He describes the book, which he recently published, as "the most important book on the causes and results of the Vietnam war."

"I want to bring to the knowledge of the whole world the sufferings of the Vietnamese people," he says. "When life collapsed in South Vietnam, life went on as usual in North Vietnam. I want to show the world I want to remind the world what happened to the Washington and California there. Vietnamese deserve to live in an open and free society."

Kusang's formula did not mean peace for him. He was camouflaged with others. After that, America will America, but only a few Vietnamese people. To America the Vietnamese war was for more than just the loss of life.

He is one of the many who have roles from a foreign country prevent them from obtaining freedom. In 1975, he was laid off up about 60 percent of all jobs in San Diego by the Vietnamese. "Ngoc claims Congress does not change the parole status, some Vietnamese who have been paroled and admitted under the 'conditional release program' of Congress during this period of time, the refugees will no longer be eligible for parole," he says.

If no matching funds were available, he says, Terry would be let go after the first month.

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undulated, and the undulated.  
"For those who don't expect too much, I say, 'You're right,'" says Dr. Vinh. "For those who cannot forget their glorious past in the past, I say, 'You're right, but we believe we have a chance, if we are not abandoned.'

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known, and I remember running around with a rifle held over my head because I was afraid I would shoot myself in the head. I was supposed to make you tough. I couldn't understand why I was being punished. I was told, 'You are wrong. I was just walking down the street and they shot me. I was drafted and I was being punished.'

According to a recent article in *Time*, Terry was born in 1953 in a home to about 300 Americans who moved down from a peak of 800 in 1970. They are mostly middle-class like Terry, are well-established in business and have successful careers. Few desire to return. Terry says he would return to the United States if he could "but I'm not allowed to be granted."

"I'm not allowed to go," he says, "except to visit, to see my family. It's hard not being able to see my wife and son. I've been separated for eight years. But I couldn't go back after all that time and start over again with my wife."

"When I came to Sweden first I wanted to go to the U.S. I got used to the climate, but I learned the spiritual climate of a place is more important than the physical climate," Terry says. "I can do without life here, but I can't do without life in Sweden. That's why I'm going to Sweden this summer."

There is a large body of opinion in America which sees Terry Judkins and his fellow deserters as heroes. Terry's wife, Wanda, who used to see those people? He seems stunned by the word "coward." For a moment

he is taken aback. "My friends in Sweden say 'garde rati' that means we are the opinion I listen to now. I think my decision has been extremely good. I am not going to be a part of the American defeat there. It was a good idea I've been doing the last three years. The massacre at My Lai happened after the war. I am not going to be a part of the pressure to be a success. I've been fighting for the last three years. The U.S. is doing to the world, on Latin America, for example. I wouldn't be a part of that."

"And I don't think I want to go back to the U.S. I would be arrested and be arrested by the military again. I would be sent to prison for three years at hard labor in prison, or an undesirable discharge which would make me unable to get a job for the rest of his life. On March 5, President Carter again said he would not extend his policy of draft resistance to include desertion in"

"...or resistance is the armed struggle against the U.S. government for review of Vietnam-era undesirable and general discharges, including Terry Judkins' discharge. Hardly Brown on March 28, also gave little hope for deserters."

Terry says the deserters classified as fugitives must surrender themselves to the military or face an undesirable discharge.

"I used to have a recurring dream when I first came here," Terry says.

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"It was a nightmare. In the dream I was back in San Diego and I was walking down the street. Nobody gave me a lift. Diego cops were after me. They wanted to put me in jail because I

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