

SUNDAY Santa Cruz Sentinel

\$1.50
AT THE NEWSSTAND
SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA

151ST YEAR, VOL. 20
© SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL
PUBLISHERS CO.

www.santacruzsentinel.com

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2007

INSIDE today



SPORTS

War through the eyes of a surfer

A new documentary called 'Between the Lines: Two Surfers and the Vietnam War' features stories from Santa Cruz surfer Pat Farley about his experiences in the Vietnam War.

PAGE C1

'At Pleasure Point, Pat's a great guy, a mellow surfer, and he looks like the standard Santa Cruz cat, but underneath that is a pretty intense person.'

FILMMAKER SCOTT BASS



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

Local surfer and filmmaker Pat Farley keeps a souvenir Viet Cong flag in his office. Farley, pictured below as a boyish-looking sergeant in the Army in Vietnam, is one of the subjects in a documentary looking at how surfers dealt with the war.

Vietnam, through the surfer's lens

Documentary to look at different paths, including Pat Farley's

SANTA CRUZ — When Pat Farley came back from Vietnam in 1970, he was no longer the same carefree Santa Cruz surf grom he'd once been. Limbs and skill intact but mentally and emotionally scarred from what he'd seen and done — what he'd had to become to survive — Farley, now 57, spent more than seven years in treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder.

Farley's stories about his experiences in and surrounding the Vietnam War are paired with those of another surfer, Brant Page, in an upcoming documentary called "Between the Lines: Two Surfers and the Vietnam War."

As a 17-year-old deeply into surfing, Farley, considered his options and chose to volunteer for the Army in 1967 before he got drafted for something he considered worse, like the Marines. On the opposite side of the spectrum was Page, now 57, of



GWEN MICKELSON
In The Water

Hawaii, who dodged the draft and fled to the islands, where he surfed all day but lived a life on the run.

"The themes of the movie are freedom and choices," said Scott Bass, 41, one of the filmmakers and online editorial director for Surfer magazine. "Pat and Brant are the characters, exemplifying those two themes the best."

The movie also features other surfers, including Mark Martinson, who hid from the Selective Service for nearly seven years, and Herbie Fletcher.

Besides Bass, the other filmmakers are Ty Ponder, who flies airplanes for the federal government, and Troy Page, Brant's son, a video editor and photographer.

Surfing and Vietnam have long been linked in film ("Apocalypse Now," "Platoon," "Big Wednesday"), as well as in the memories of the many American and Aus-

See MICKELSON on PAGE C2



Mickelson

Continued from Page C1

tralian soldiers serving in Vietnam who introduced surfing to the country's tropical jungle-lined shores.

Soldiers created informal surf organizations including the China Beach Surf Club and the Allied Surf Association of the South China Sea, ran small military surf contests and even began making boards out of a military-subsidized plywood shack in Da Nang, according to the Encyclopedia of Surfing.

Surfers on the coastal front lines allegedly made deals with local North Vietnamese soldiers: Wave-riding privileges in exchange for a cease-fire during daylight hours.

"Between the Lines" is not politically motivated, but its aim, in part, is to make people think about the current conflict in Iraq, said Bass.

"We want people to go out for a cup of coffee afterwards and ask themselves what they would have done," said Bass, of Encinitas, whose father went to Vietnam with the Air Force, flying F-100s and F-111s. "Would they have gone into the Army, or would they have evaded the draft? Which of those guys did the right thing, and which is paying for what he did?"

They want to leave the movie open-ended and have the viewers ponder what freedom is all about, what's in their own hearts and how the choices people make affect their lives, said Bass.

Troy Page, 26, said he'd like for people "to get an understanding about war, as I have, talking to all these veterans."

The kernel of the idea for the film started with a friend of Bass's, Vietnam vet Howard Fisher, and grew outward into an examination of all surfers in the Vietnam War, said Bass.

"Once we started researching, we found so many great stories," said Bass. "And surfing is near and dear to our hearts. We said, no one's ever done this, let's look at the Vietnam War era and its effect on surfers, from the way the surf media portrayed war and surfers to the way the mass media did, and how the whole thing evolved."

The filmmakers found Farley — one of the old-line surfers in town whose past life includes running a sandal business and owning a surf shop, and more recently making surf films — by searching the Internet. Farley's book, "Surfing to Saigon," an autobiographical account of his experiences in the war, came up online, and the filmmakers read it and dropped Farley a line.

"He saw a lot of traumatic stuff and has had to live with it his whole life," said Bass. "At Pleasure Point, Pat's a great guy, a mellow surfer, and he looks like the standard Santa Cruz cat, but underneath that is a pretty intense person."

The movie lets the guys tell their stories and includes archival footage of the Vietnam War and surfing in the '60s. The filmmakers got footage from sources such as Greg MacGillivray, co-creator of 1972's "Five Summer Stories," as well as the University of Texas, which has images of soldiers surfing in Vietnam, said Bass. They also came across "great photos of guys stationed there hanging out with surfboards and everything," said Bass.

They're nearly done with the filming. In February, they plan to head to New Zealand for a bit more modern-day surfing footage, then

start the editing process. The release date is tentatively set at late 2007 or early 2008; early 2008 would dovetail nicely with the 40-year anniversary of the Tet Offensive, said Bass.

For Farley, the timing of the movie speaks more to current events.

"I think it's going to get a good response," he said, "because Iraq is turning into Vietnam."

On the Net: betweenthelinesfilm.com.

For a movie clip that will be up until the end of the week: www.yousendit.com/download/SGxdijC7kY95TA%3D%3D, password: pointman.

■ **GET MAV'S FEVER:** Anyone up for stoking their Maverick's contest fires while waiting for the green light? You can check out "High Noon at Low Tide," a Powerlines Productions presentation that documents the historic, five-day swell of December 1994. You know, the one that immortalized Jay Moriarity, the one that killed Mark Foo. The footage is incredible, and in fact, the DVD includes footage and interviews with the late Moriarity and shows Mark Foo's last ride (creepy but compelling). There are also interviews with other surfers, who look remarkably baby-faced back in 1994. Surfers in the film include all the latest Maverick's suspects, plus other big-wave experts and old-schoolers such as Ken Bradshaw, Vince Collier, Don Curry, Christy Davis, Steve Lowry, Doc Renneker, Mike Parsons and Dave Schmidt. It's available at local surf shops or at mavfilm.com.

■ **SURF QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** "If you accept the doctrines of society, you'll never be a surfer." — Nat Young [from "Surfing and the Meaning of Life"].

Send surf items to Gwen Mickelson at gwickelson@santacruzsentinel.com.