

# The New York Times

## Art in Review

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### TOD PAPAGEORGE

## American Sports, 1970 or, How We Spent the War in Vietnam

*Pace/MacGill*

*32 East 57th Street, Manhattan*

*Through Aug. 28*

So what did you do during the war? The war in Vietnam, that is. Did you grow your hair, smoke pot, practice free love, protest, get tear-gassed? Perhaps you also attended the sorts of events pictured in this exhibition's photographs.

In 1970 Tod Papageorge, now director of graduate studies in photography at the Yale School of Art, received a Guggenheim Fellowship to document professional sports in America. But Mr. Papageorge's project turned out to be less about athletics than about the fans who came by the hundreds of thousands to watch baseball and football games and horse and auto races.

Most of the pictures, all black and white, are of spectators viewed from near and far and above and below. Many show marching-band musicians, cheerleaders, clowns and other extracurricular participants. In some we see people being arrested. Few of the individual images are remarkable. An exception is one taken at a college football game between Michigan and Ohio State in which a leaping cheerleader appears to be levitating with spread arms. She looks as if she has been crucified on an invisible cross.

Mr. Papageorge's project is really an obliquely critical study of that broad swath of Americans who were not revolutionized by the '60s, the "silent majority" who did nothing out of the ordinary during the war. As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Woodstock, the absence of hippies, yippies and other dissidents is part of what makes his series a thought-provoking time capsule. - **KEN JOHNSON**