

23 May 1984

Dear Shad,

You are an inspiration to me. After seeing your two appearances in my Vietnam class at UCSB, I have come to greatly admire you. You care for people, as evidenced by your commencing, and commitment to, the Veterans Center.

Every aspect of the Vietnam War puzzles me. I am very thankful that I have had the opportunity to hear numerous veterans speak about their experiences in the War, and about their reintegration into society. My feelings range from hatred of our government for becoming involved in the first place, to anxiety and astonishment concerning "man's inhumanity to man" the War exemplified, and to concern that all veterans realize that people like me care. I have learned so much from you and your fellow veterans, knowledge that I cherish. Now I realize the power of "it don't mean nuthin."

Your book is awesome. I read it at one sitting, and will definitely recommend it to friends and relatives. I was previously unaware of the racial problems in the War. I don't like racism. The characters Bratman and Weatherwax really irritated me - I'm glad you didn't shave!! I am thankful you recorded the experiences of your tour in a book, myself and many others appreciate your wisdom.

I could ramble on, but I think I'll stop now. Thank-you very much. You have touched my heart in a special way. Hey, Shad...welcome home.

All My Love,

Bob Wilson