### Vietnam: Will It Ever End?

The Unfinished War: Vietnam and the American Conscience By Walter H. Capps Beacon Press; 177 pages; \$13.50



But to Capps, the war not only continues to affect Vietnam vet-erans. It pervades the social fabric of Ameri-ca — even to the ex-tent of helping to cre-ate the Moral Majority.

Before Vietnam," he says, "It was easy to tell our dren the story of America in a positive way. We had fidence that we were the best hope of humankind, ere were our heroes — Washington, Jefferson, Lin. We landed on the moon and translated that to a pacify to solve other problems.

But the outcome of the Vietnam experience un-mined our optimism. We lost ... and Americans of lose. We stand in a covenant relationship with d, so we shouldn't lose. God doesn't want losers."

oo, so we shouldn't lose. God doesn't want losers."

Nor, of course, do Americans. "So many veterans ad an athletic temperament." Capp says. "They talked ohn Wayne, used macho football terms. They respondd to their country's call as if a coach were telling them go out there and do their best."

to go out there and do their best."

In the chapter bended "The Combatants," the author whose much of American life is competition, corrected and how the "transfers easily to the discipline of military involvement." Even our Judeo-Christian tradition, Capps believes, establis a form of battle, and this is where the Moral Majorriy comes in.

"The Marul Majorriy is lying to review collective."

The Marul Majorriy is lying to review collective. The Marul Majorriy is considered to the stable of the Majorriy shall be the Victama. However, the stable of the Moral Majorriy shall be the Victama War was an apocapytic occurrence that should have been prevented, the Moral Majorriy I. I have discript a province of the property of the Majorriy I. I have discript a province of the province of the Moral Majorriy I. I have discript a province of the moral was the stable of the moral work of the work of the work of the stable of the moral was the stable of the moral work of the work of the work of the work of the stable of the moral was the stable of the moral was the moral was the moral was the stable of the moral was the was the moral was the moral was the moral was the moral was the was the moral was the moral was the moral was the was the moral was the was th

many people seem to want. 
"Victama into involved some Americans in Eastern 
beliefs." (Appa adds. It's ironic that, while the war was 
fooght in Asia, most Americans didn't know anything 
about Asian. Now they seek out Asian religious that 
are often the reverse of our. Western religious as 
success-oriented. When there's failure, the individual 
feeds loot. Some veterans are going through a 'dark' 
ingist of the soul,' an absence of God. They can't find 
God and, I they could, wouldn't list him.

As for the need for a "collective healing" to finally ag the Vietnam War to an end, Capps suggests, "The lissue is whether healing can occur and wholenes discovered before the trauma of 'the unfinished'

Jean Collins in on the staff of The Chronici

ENTER

**Unequaled Selection** 

FIST EFFICIENT SERVICES

of Quality Carpets

and Area Rugs

## Lonely Heart Ad by Union Leader's Killer

### Burglar Gets Marie Osmond Bridal Gown

Tokye

A helicopter yesterday rescued all 31 crew members from a Panamanian tanker that ran aground on its maiden voyage at the island of Iriomote in the Ryukyus off southern Japan, battered by heavy winds and rain from Typhoon Cecil.

### 35% OFF ALL FUJI FILM Savings like: 135-36 print ASA 100 Was \$4.55 CARPET

Now \$2.96! CLICK

ONE HOUR
COLOR
FILM PROCESSING
267 Sutter Street
33 Powell Street
966-3356

OPEN 7 DAYS

## CORRECTION

me are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused

Sears

## H& R BLOCK TO OFFER TAX

## SCHOOL IN THE BAY AREA

rejecting a job tending boilers and disprison record



S PER DAY! Look for

BLANK VIDEO SPECIALS! VIDEO CLEARANCE SALE!

\$500PER DAY

# BANK FREE

Homestead Savings

FREE INTEREST EARNING CHECKING

No Minimum Balance · No Service Charge

FREE SAFE DEPOSIT BOX

SATURDAY BANKING

# Homestead Savings

San Francisco, (Main Office), 5757 Geary Blvd. (415) 387-4300 on Francisco, 130 West Portal Avenue (415) 661-1440

n Francisco, 4638 Mission Street, (415) 334-9720 San Francisco, Parkmerced Shopping Center. (415) 334-8484

\*San Francisco, Norhet Street & 10th, (#15) 552-4222 \*San Francisco, \$42 Hearny Street, (415) 421-9850

Morin

Marin San Rafael, 221 Phird Street, (415) 456-3350 \*Sausalita, 675 Phird Street, (415) 332-0580

€ast Bou

Antioch, 1411 "R" Street, (415) 757-5711 Berkeley, 1480 Shottuck Rive., (415) 848-7941 Dublin, 7889 Dublin Blivd., (415) 829-5700 El Sobrante, 3885 Son Poblo Dom Rd., (415) 223-6500

(415) 923-6500
Hoyward, 28700 Mission Blvd. (415) 886-2611
\*\*Uhermore, 909 - Stanley Blvd. (415) 443-0611
\*\*Uhermore, 1560 First Street, (415) 453-1020
Neutris, 1618 Thorston Rive. (415) 769-9400
Coklond, 3900 Pledmort Rive. (415) 652-4243
\*\*Pinole, 1540 Fitzgorold Dt. (415) 292-5220
\*\*Colleged, 36400 Histoprici DB.d.\*\*

Finaler, 1940 Hesperion B. (41) 228-5220 San Leranzo, 18490 Hesperion Blvd. (415) 278-6260 San Pablo, 2400 Mission Bell Dr. (415) 235-4005 Vallejo, 440 Santa Glora St. (707) 644-4011 East Vallejo, 2299 Springs Road. (707)

Member FSUC

# **BOOK WORLD**

# Vietnam: Will It Ever End?

The Unfinished War: Vietnam and the American Conscience

By Walter H. Capps Beacon Press; 177 pages; \$13.50

By Jean Collins

nightmare in Vietnam ended Cince America's officially in 1975, there have been as many suicides among veterans as combat fatalities during the war. This astonishing statistic is alleged by Walter H. Capp in his book, "The Unfinished War: Vietnam and the American Conscience."

stress reaction" is erupting among another half million; about 30,000 Vietnam veterans are in prison. Yet, for most of us, the Vietnam War is past - and we'd like to

Orange, are only now recognizing its effects; "delayed

He says 21/2 million veterans, exposed to Agent

forget it ever happened.



Walter H. Capps

But to Capps, the war not only continues to affect Vietnam veterans, it pervades the social fabric of America - even to the extent of helping to create the Moral Majority.

Pl

M

le

de

m fr

m

lif

W F

is

S

d

Capps, former director of the Robert Hutchins Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions and now on sabbatical from his teaching post at UC Santa Barbara, was in San Francisco recently and shared his thoughts about the Vietnam era.

"Before Vietnam," he says, "it was easy to tell our

children the story of America in a positive way. We had confidence that we were the best hope of humankind. There were our heroes - Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln. We landed on the moon and translated that to a capacity to solve other problems. "But the outcome of the Vietnam experience un-

dermined our optimism. We lost ... and Americans don't lose. We stand in a covenant relationship with God, so we shouldn't lose. God doesn't want losers." Nor, of course, do Americans: "So many veterans

had an athletic temperament," Capp says. "They talked John Wayne, used macho football terms. They responded to their country's call as if a coach were telling them to go out there and do their best." n his chapter headed "The Combatants," the author shows how much of American life is competition-

of military involvement." Even our Judeo-Christian tradition, Capps believes, entails a form of battle, and this is where the Moral Majority comes in.

oriented and how this "transfers easily to the discipline

"The Moral Majority is trying to revive collective confidence and give it religious sanction. In a way, that's legitimate. But there's the other connection: while the Vietnam War was an apocalyptic occurrence that should have been prevented, the Moral Majority doesn't fear apocalypse - in fact there's a yearning for it. I heard Jerry Falwell say he's not worried about MD missiles because Christians will survive them. . . If we had won the war in Vietnam, I doubt we'd have this religious movement playing to a motivation that America must never again be defeated."

n the book Capp calls this the "Armageddon Mentality" with its "eagerness to divide the world into sharp contrasts: right versus wrong, truth versus error, good versus evil . . . " The Armageddon world, he says, is "shaped by conflict," and by a simplicity that many people seem to want. "Vietnam also involved some Americans in Eastern beliefs," Capps adds. "It's ironic that, while the war was

fought in Asia, most Americans didn't know anything about Asians. Now they seek out Asian religions that are often the reverse of ours. Western religions are success-oriented. When there's failure, the individual feels lost. Some veterans are going through a 'dark night of the soul,' an absence of God. They can't find "Eastern religions teach people to expect suffering

God and, if they could, wouldn't like Him. and eliminate anxiety."

As for the need for a "collective healing" to finally bring the Vietnam War to an end, Capps suggests, "The real issue is whether healing can occur and wholeness be discovered before the trauma of 'the unfinished war' is re-enacted."

Jean Collins in on the staff of The Chronicle