



wall as a national touch stone for cleansing. The books that have recently been written and the movies and television programs recently made are part of it. This class, and other classes like it and other presentations like it are all part of the cleansing process.

But, because of the delay in this process of cleansing, and because of the rapid changes taking place in our society during and since the war, there have been more and deeper affects <sup>due to</sup> the missing ritual of cleansing. For some vets that have committed suicide it is obviously too late. <sup>25-60 thousand</sup> For society and its associated guilt, we are plagued with a continuing suspicion and lack of confidence. Our whole society has been changed as a result. We felt that we were all part of a huge betrayal. A betrayal of our early commitments to freedom and respect of human life, and a deeper feeling of betrayal of our warriors. We were also betrayed by our leaders. ~~We felt both betrayal and having been~~ Our dreams and ideals of american goodness were shattered. We felt like we had lost control, our input into society would not mean anything. We were exhausted from this national emotional breakdown. As a result we turned toward personal survival. We turned inward. The only american ideals that seem to make sense anymore were those of individualism and the self made millionaire dream. The me generation took charge. All the divisions that occurred during the war, between hard hats and hippies, the californians and the new yorkers, the haves and have nots, <sup>the older & younger generations</sup> the vets and the antiwar protestors remained in place. We only trusted ourselves or those who looked like and talked like us.

This all started happening before you all had much of a chance to do anything about it. it was in place by the time you got to U.C.S.B. you havent realized it but it has shaped alot of your thinking and goals and purpose in life. it has led <sup>some</sup> ~~most~~ of you to believe that the most important thing that you are doing here at U.C.S.B. is that you will get a high paying job upon graduation. Most of you are business econ or engineering majors. Your goal in your educational process here <sup>may be</sup> ~~is~~ to have a BMW and a condo in Newport before you are too old to enjoy them. Sure you will help other people, after you have your security in place. You are caught up in the race after the great pie in the sky. <sup>FOR SOME</sup> On-campus interviews are just as important if not more so than finals, <sup>SOME OF</sup> some of you prepare more for the interviews than you prepare for finals. Potential earnings. You measure your self worth in dollars. bullshit. <sup>WILL</sup> ~~should not~~

Real self worth comes from being a part of a circle. The circle at the wall, the circle of friends, the circle of family and the circle of humanity. The circle was broken during the vn war, we are forming it again, and that is the healing process. The healing takes place within that circle. In that circle we realize we are not alone. In that circle we are part of the whole. As a part of the circle we come home. We are all returning home when we join the circle. We can deal with all are problems if we share them within the circle. Outside the circle, alone, we cannot.

The men that have talked to you in this class, have shared their pain with you. And in so doing they made their pain yours, some of you actually shed tears for them you felt that pain so close. We shared their pain. We actually made some of this pain go away from them. We came closer together. We came closer to home.

The final exam in this course is a take home exam. You will take a home from this class, you will pass or fail depending on your ability to be a caring human being, <sup>to join a circle.</sup> Hopefully, some of you have seen the syllabus for this course. If you have, you have seen that this course really wasnt about vietnam. It was about you and me and what happens to us if we are alone without each other. You have seen that the bottom line on this syllabus is your own ~~xxxx~~ part in the vietnam experience. ~~xxxx~~ together we are leaving vn behind, together we are coming home. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ so, I will say it to you... welcome home.