

Religious Studies 155
February 6, 1986

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chicano Studies Program....

Reminder: Mid-Term Exam due on Tuesday...

Guest Speakers for Next Week:

(1) Shad Meshad (description

(2) Gloria Emerson... WINNERS & LOSERS

BIG NEWS: Governor Bob Kerrey of Nebraska...
scheduled for March 6....

here last year....

was on the McNeil-Lehrer Show a couple
of weeks ago... (on leadership....)

A WORD ABOUT GUEST SPEAKERS...and how we secure them...

Principles: (1) they must be fully qualified....

(2) I must know who they are....

(3) they must submit to a full discussion
before going on...

(4) what they say must fit the themes we are
studying and discussing....

many letters from Vietnam vets who wish to speak...
many offers from some of you about people you'd
like to hear....

HOW WE PAY FOR IT.... Provost Sprecher...

Mrs. Laucks

(a woman in San Francisco who
does not wish her name to
be known....)

But speakers come on a no-stipend basis...

We pay travel only...and most of them stay at
our house....

Two specifics: we're going to hand around a sheet of paper
today with names of speakers on it....and you can
write to them if you wish, to thank them for
being here....

a second one: John Wheeler and Sandie Fauriol...who
took vacation days to come to Santa Barbara, and
received no pay, have asked that we submit a
questionnaire to all of you....

*SOON -
Vietnamese
people -
Native
Americans -*

And this introduces another distinctive characteristic of this class....

WE ARE NOT AFRAID OF THE EMOTIONS....

We do not believe that classroom experience need be emotionally flat...or even emotionally free. We understand that when you get in touch with your emotions....you are reaching into a part of yourself that is fundamental to who you are.... And we believe that the emotions and the intellect need not run forever on a collision course... instead, that they can be harmonized.... that they can become mutually supportive....

Floyd Striegel...a Vietnam Vet...sat in on this class a year ago....

Dan Gizel...a Vietnam Vet... the same phenomenon... A student came up at the end of the last class and handed me an envelope.... he too had been moved to write a bit of poetry... and he offered it to me, he said, for whatever use I wanted to make of it.... He said it was a CONTRIBUTION TO THE CLASS....

Well, you know what I wish to do with it.... I'm going to take it back to Washington, D.C. next week, and pin it to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial..

It happens consistently: a year ago one of the students wrote a piece of music...dedicated it to the class...

-- Thomas Merton...

he found out who he was there.... I guess I believe that self-knowledge is the beginning of enduring wisdom.... I take it a step further: I believe that self-knowledge is the surest pathway to knowledge of God...

BUT I wish to say something else about the uniqueness of the class....

And I think I first learned of this from the communications people... the network television folks who were here in abundance last year....

You know, they came to Santa Barbara to do a piece on the class.....

THINK OF IT: if you were in their shoes, how would you approach a television portrayal of an undergraduate class? how many times have you seen a class featured on the evening network news.... (This, by the way, is when I first came to believe that we really had something.... I was sitting home....Kathleen Sullivan...)