

Announce that John Wheeler's TOUCHED WITH FIRE will be in the bookstore by tomorrow or Thursday....short book... required for the final exam...

Explain about Final Exam

results of survey

stories that did not get told:

(1) Duane Samples, in Oregon penitentiary

(2) The Westfalls, in New Mexico

UNCLE CARL...the AUGUSTANA BANNER....

going to the train station.....

we saluted.....

the contrast: didn't know anybody....

Governor Kerrey -- couldn't even get anyone to stand next to him.....

relation between war and religion....

dysfunctional theories.....

quote from John Wheeler....

-- meeting in San Diego..... Thomas Merton.. "dark night of the soul...."

THE WALL..... likened to Plato's "myth of the cave...."

and they return..... it's about reality....  
and it's about illusions....

sanctity of life....

Did we lose the Vietnam War?

Yes, in a sense.....

In another, more profound sense..... we won the Vietnam War....

Did America win? well, maybe not.....

But perhaps humanity did.....

It don't mean nothing..... YES, perhaps it means everything

Because of Vietnam, I don't think there'll ever be another

Some final comments.....

Notice that the class was not scripted....

We made no attempt to program your response to the materials.....

In fact, we tried our hardest to give you a variety of opinion and judgment to choose from....

MY OWN OBJECTIVE was to make the class as much like the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, in Washington, as possible...

That is, what I was aiming at....what I will continue to strive for, is the educational and academic equivalent to the Memorial.....

Now, I hope it isn't presumptuous for me to say this.....

But what I understand to need is THE SPACE, like that SPACE that surrounds the Memorial....

within which we can learn and offer our response to the war -- both individually and collectively.

When we were back at the Memorial, in Washington, standing out there in the snow....

I said that we from Santa Barbara had journeyed to Washington....

to that national symbol....

because it had become the FOCUS OF THE NATION'S RESPONSE TO THE WAR....

And we noted that Maya Lin's was the winning design...

because it captured the full range of responses to the war....

In fact, it is the kind of Memorial that SUSTAINS the wide varieties of thoughts, feelings and passions about the war....

There one found veterans alongside persons who had protested the nation's action in Vietnam alongside persons who had written about the war alongside persons who watched the war on television alongside persons too young to know what the war was about alongside family members of those whose names are inscribed on the war....

AND ALL BELONG THERE.....  
THE MEMORIAL IS FOR EVERYONE.....  
ITS POWER AS A SYMBOL LIES IN ITS ABILITY TO  
INCLUDE EVERYONE..... AND WHEN WE MADE THE  
CIRCLE THERE, AND PRAYED THAT THE DIVISIONS WITHIN  
THE NATION MIGHT BE HEALED....ALL OF US WERE  
ABLE TO JOIN IN.... IT INCLUDED EVERYONE...

Well, I wanted the class to have the same characteristic....

My goal, throughout the quarter, was to insure that we'd keep everyone in the room....

(because we couldn't do that, fifteen or sixteen years ago, when there were riots in this community because of the Vietnam War)

We wanted to keep everyone in the same room.. [pause]

It would have been an altogether class had there been no veterans in the room.....or had the veterans not participated fully in our proceedings.....

It would have been an altogether different class had there ONLY BEEN VETERANS in the room.....

WE WANTED TO KEEP EVERYONE IN THE ROOM...SO THAT  
WE COULD GO THROUGH THE PROCESS TOGETHER....  
BECAUSE THIS IS THE KIND OF PROCESS IT IS.....

- - - - -  
There's also something about the REFLECTIVE QUALITY of that Memorial in Washington that I wanted to capture when organizing this class....

WHEN YOU GO THERE, and look into the names on the wall...  
You see your own face looking back at yourself....  
AND YOU ALSO SEE THE FACES OF THE OTHERS WHO ARE PRESENT THERE WITH YOU....

I took a cue from this in WANTING TO HAVE EYE-WITNESSES TALK ABOUT THE WAR....

WHY? Well, to a certain extent, the VIETNAM WAR is a PERCEPTUAL OCCURRENCE.... [do you know what I mean?

That is, its reality, its meaning, lies in how it is perceived....  
and in how it is perceived by the varieties of people who have been engaged by it....

AND PART OF THE PEDAGOGICAL TASK is to TRAIN THE EYES....

To cultivate our perceptual abilities so that we truly see it....

listening...and thinking...and seeing at the same time...  
like, IF I hadn't believed it, I wouldn't have seen it....

So we had speakers bearing witness....painting pictures...  
drawing analogies....

singing songs (like "Waltzing Matilda")

FEEDING OUR IMAGINATION....

GIVING OUR PERCEPTUAL FACULTIES A TREAT....

WE had EYE-witnesses in order to help train our EYES..  
You walk out of here, at the end of the quarter,  
not only having THOUGHT SOMETHING...but having SEEN SOMETHING....

as in "if I hadn't believed it, I wouldn't have seen it...."

Years from now, you'll still be able to remember how these various speakers and presentors looked when they talked with us... You may forget some of what they said... but you won't forget how they looked....

-----  
I talked about the CLASS being designed in the likeness of the Memorial....

I wish to draw another implication....

We talked about the Memorial as being the focus of the nation's response to the war....

IT is also TRUE that the MEMORIAL is the place where the MEANING OF THE WAR is DISCOVERED.....  
even CREATED....

I'd like the class to have this role too....  
the place where meaning is discovered....  
the place where meaning is CREATED....

SOME OF you, right now, wish the meaning of the war to be a bit CLEARER THAN IT IS.....  
particularly now that we've reached the end of the quarter....

BUT we're going to resist that impulse....

For, my hunch is that the meaning of the war will become clearer in what you all decide to do with what you have learned...and with what you have seen...  
and with what you have felt....

The meaning will be found in your responses.....

AND I'M TALKING ABOUT WHAT YOUR LIVES WILL BE ABOUT....



You know, I'm a religious studies professor.....  
And I'm thinking today about some paragraphs in the  
writings of St. AUGUSTINE....who lived a long  
time ago....

St. Augustine was talking about time.....  
and he was talking about certain experiences  
that human beings have....  
certain events in which human beings  
participate....  
whose meaning cannot be contained within the  
amount of time it takes for those  
experiences to occur....

The kind of experiences that one thinks about....long  
afterward.....  
and each time one recalls them....  
one discovers a little more of the  
meaning and significance of the  
event....

For me, this class functions in just this way....  
There's always more in it than can be contained  
within the hour and fifteen minutes of each session.  
There's always more in it than can be contained  
within the ten weeks of the winter quarter....

It goes on.....  
It continues to give me courage....  
It continues to give me hope.....  
It continues to make me optimistic about the  
future.....  
and to appreciate the power of the  
grace of God.....

But what the world doesn't know is that the energy I draw  
upon is the energy you provide....  
the energy that is reflected back....  
in your faces....  
in your responses.....

SO I WISH TO THANK YOU FOR THIS.....  
AND THANK YOU FOR A GOOD QUARTER.....