

TET

The Role I get -- to introduce people and to try to make things fit together....

Today -- Some Observations on where I think things are going....

CLASS HAS HAD AN INTERESTING EVOLUTION: *Evolution*

In the beginning -- goals were very modest....

--- (describe goals)

--- avoiding the hypothetical -- THE WAR DID IN FACT HAPPEN

--- We wanted to describe it....

UNEXPECTED THINGS HAPPENED -- Veterans started showing up...

Buzz Conklin.... the first one....

JOHN MURPHY.....

BOB KERREY --- Waltzing Matilda....

-- Class was not an indictment of American foreign policy....

--- Class was not necessarily anti-war....

--- CLASS WAS NOT EVEN VERY POLITICAL.....

MILITARY SCIENCE majors have taken it....

GLOBAL PEACE & SECURITY people have taken it....

people who vote democratic....

people who vote republican....

people who don't vote at all....

And all have taken some kind of message from it.....

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THE MOST CONSISTENT MESSAGE: THAT WAR IS REAL....

THAT WAR DOES REAL THINGS TO PEOPLE....

THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN A WAR WITHOUT BEING AFFECTED BY THIS EXPERIENCE.....

(WAR SCARS.....

Many vets have said: I HAVE DECIDED TO TALK HERE TODAY

BECAUSE I WANT YOU YOUNG PEOPLE TO AVOID WHAT I HAD TO GO THROUGH.....

NO MORE WAR....

NO MORE WAR.....

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ALONG THE WAY, SOME UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENTS:

(1) THE VETERANS LED THE NATIONAL RESPONSE TO THE WAR...

GIVE EXAMPLES..... Parade....building of the Memorial.... classes that have been taught....

CONSEQUENTLY: WHEN AMERICANS CELEBRATE VETERANS DAY...

AND OTHER PATRIOTIC HOLIDAYS...WE TEND TO GATHER AT THE VETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL.....

(2) VETERANS BEGAN TRAVELING.....

In 1988 a group went to the SOVIET UNION.....

~~xx~~ Beginning in 1988, groups went back to VIETNAM.....

WHAT THEY DISCOVERED: (1) Persons who participate in wars the world over have had similar experiences.... and tend to react in the same way....

TELL PETER STORY:.....

"...and tell them that there has to be a better way....."

TRIPS BACK TO VIETNAM:

Xgrowing numbers of VETS wish to do this....

VETS FOR PEACE.....

VETS WITH A MISSION....

Fredy Champagne in GARBERVILLE.....

Le ly Hayslip.....EAST MEETS WEST FOUNDATION

WHEN HEAVEN & EARTH CHANGED PLACES

--- What do you find..... RECONCILIATION....

(singing..... NO MORE WAR.....)

In Mini-Bar...)

FROM ALL OF THIS: TIME TO ESTABLISH NORMAL RELATIONSHIPS....

lift the EMBARGO.....

AND I've been talking about FINISHING THE WAR.....

INCLUDE THE VIETNAMESE (continue ... expand)

BUT the BIGGEST DEVELOPMENT IS THAT WE HAVE ANOTHER WAR ON OUR HANDS:

Now, how are we to think about this?

How do the LESSONS OF THE VIETNAM WAR apply?

(1) we should not commit troops unless we are prepared to have them win

(2) it is ill conceived from the outset -- we got ourselves enmeshed in a national liberation movement, and there was no way we could win....

(3) in a nuclear age, WAR SHOULD BE OBSOLETE

Buddhists who visit my house on Saturdays are saying...  
The Council of Bishops is saying this.....

Some need considerations / the wars are CLEARER IN RETROSPECT

Contrapuntal:

... But there are some things worth fighting for.....

perhaps the freedom of the free world is being threatened by a madman... *detriment*

... human beings are capable of heroic acts, that is, when the survival of human life depends upon it....

... we use force as a last resort....only after we have tried all other means...

I'm ~~xxx~~ struggling with all of this.....

HOW THE MEANING OF THE VIETNAM WAR APPLIES TO THE PRESENT SITUATION:

- (1) don't know the cultures very well in either place...
- (2) We're so rich we can bomb BAGGDAD TO DUST... while pleding that

BUT THERE ARE SOME PRELIMINARY FINDINGS:

- (1) It's much better to know the people before the conflict breaks out.....

ENEMY.....

someday...about the Iraqi people....

- (2) It's also most beneficial to know the culture.....

- (3) HUMAN FIRST.....

theological point: getting one to accept oneself...

God loves the VIETNAMESE people just as much as he loves us... GOD LOVES THE IRAQI people just as much as he loves the AMERICAN PEOPLE...

PRIZE: TO THE PERSON WHO CAN FIGURE OUT THE THESIS OF A COURSE LIKE THIS IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS.....

FRED DOWN  
VICTOR WESTPHAL

Greet Guests: George Hall, distinguished retired Episcopal priest, All Saints by the Sea Episcopal Church, in Montecito, and member of the U.C.S.B.

Douglas Schmidt, an attorney in town....  
president of the UCSB Alumni Association,  
and a member of the Board of Regents of  
the University of California

John Stephens -- a local geologist...great  
friend and benefactor to the University...

Eulah Laucks....

Laura Capps

Shad Meshad --

responsible for 500,000 Vietnam Vets...  
just announced that he is leaving the  
program....

Jane Hollander -- great friend, and, perhaps,  
the best cook in the world.....

King Harris -- who spoke here just a week ago...

Governor Bob Kerrey --

came during a very busy legislative season in  
the State of Nebraska...  
came here because we asked him to...  
came in late last night, by car, from LAX because  
the Santa Barbara Airport was closed down....

Democratic National Convention....

bright, compassionate...caring....  
certain blend of humility and courage....

INTERVIEW: Elie Wiesel....

then what I wrote....

My hunch: following Elie Wiesel's insight....

it took awhile....

it took awhile for Shad Meshad to do what  
he had to do....

it took awhile for the Memorial to get built....

it took awhile for classes to develop on uni-  
versity campuses.....

(remember Leslie Fiedler's comment)`

it has taken awhile for the nation to develop

LARRY  
DECKER -

Carl Witzler  
SF State

leadership based on a positive evaluation

It has taken awhile for leadership to develop....

But there have been two governors who are Vietnam Vets...

Chuck Robb of Virginia....

and there is at least one key Senator...John Kerry  
of Massachusetts.....

my hunch: the future of the country depends on a positive, constructive response to the real lessons of the Vietnam War.... And that response will be led by persons who felt the impact of that war the most acutely.....

We have such a person here today....

one of the most highly decorated veterans of the war....

truly, one of the most highly decorated....

who was also very severely wounded in action in Vietnam.....

one of the most popular governors in Nebraska's history...

I'm absolutely thrilled today to present Bob Kerrey....

*— Medal of Honor  
winner*

*and many a GP*

Some STATISTICS on MINORITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE WAR:

For starters: 26,800,000 (27 million men who belong to  
the Vietnam Generation)  
16,000,000 (16 million) never served.  
11,000,000 served in the military  
4,000,000 served in Vietnam

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58,000 died in the war  
8,000 died during that time from non-hostile  
causes

of the 16,000,000 who never served:  
- *others: disqualified, exempted, - Conscientious*  
500,000 were given occupational deferments *objectors*  
millions were given student deferments.... *- disqualified*

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Minority involvement specifically:

assumption: it would be a mistake to take well educated people  
and sacrifice their lives in battle when there were  
less well educated people who could be called up...

assumption: "You can do more good for society in politics  
or academics or in medicine than you can do by getting  
killed in a trench."

James Fallows: why did it take so long for a Memorial to be  
built...because there weren't very many Gold-Star  
mothers in Beverly Hills, Chevy Chase, Marin County,  
and Palo Alto....

why did the war go on so long? -- Fallows: because, in the  
main, it was being fought by members of the lower-  
economic class....

"You can do more good for society in politics or academics or in medicine than you can do by getting killed in a trench."

the larger implication: THE BEHAVIOR OF THE UPPER CLASSES IN AVOIDING THE WAR'S PAINS IS BOTH A SYMPTOM AND A PARTIAL CAUSE OF THE CLASS HATRED NOW SO BUSILY BREWING IN THE COUNTRY...

A deeper thought: why did it take so long for a Memorial to be built.....?

Fallows says there are two reasons:

- (1) because of the kind of war it was....
- (2) MORE IMPORTANTLY, because of who the veterans are....

he says they are the boys from Chelsea....

"AND IF WE WERE EMBARRASSED TO SEE THEM AT THE INDUCTION CENTERS, WE'RE EVEN MORE EMBARRASED TO SEE THEM NOW...."

Let's ask some questions about all of this....

Who fought in the Vietnam War?

From what races and social classes were they drawn.....?

Try this for starters... The Draft was conducted by The Selective Service System....

by 1967, there were 16,632 board members of the Selective Service System...

how many of them were black? only 1.3 percent

further, IN the SOUTHERN STATES, in ALABAMA, ARKANSAS, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, ~~KENTUCKY~~, and NEW JERSEY, there were no blacks on the Board of the Selective Service System....

CONCLUSION: The bulk of the fighting in Vietnam was done by the working class and by the urban poor.

SOME INTERESTING NUMBERS:

*Wallace Terry: from 1964 to 1975 - 14% - 25% of U.S. casualties*

*blacks = 11% of the U.S. population*

by 1965, 1 out of every 6 killed in Vietnam was a draftee

in 1966, 1 out of every 5 " " " " "

in 1967 and 1968, 1 out of every 3 killed in Vietnam was a draftee

BY 1969 and 1970, draftees suffered more than 40% of the casualties in Vietnam

By 1969 and 1970, draftees, constitut-d 60% of ARMY deaths....

WHAT ABOUT BLACKS, in PARTICULAR:

~~Between 1965 and 1970, Blacks averaged about 10% of total active-duty personnel....~~

Fallows, page 3

*Letter to the U.S. people*

Between 1965 and 1970....

Blacks numbered about 9% of the total U.S. fighting force in Vietnam....  
During the same period, Blacks accounted for 12.6% of the fatalities....

A SPECIAL EFFORT LAUNCHED TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO SIGN UP FOR THE DRAFT...

PROJECT 100,000...instituted by Robert McNamara, Secretary of Defense...

an "upward mobility" effort...

draft board personnel combed the ghettos for draftees....  
and lowered the qualifying standards....

Before Project 100,000, the minimum passing score on the Armed Forces qualification test had been 31 out of 100...  
With Project 100,000, the minimum was reduced to 10 out of 100...

Recruiters went to ghettos, making it clear to people living there that there was a place for them in the military....

- In Oakland, in 1969, the Marine Corps accepted 120 volunteers...
1. 90 percent scored under 31 on the qualification test
  2. almost all had police records
  3. and more than 70% were black or Mexican American...
  4. a large proportion had less than a fifth grade education....

A study done in 1967... 64% of black enlisted men believed that the black fight was in the United States, not in Vietnam...

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SOME ADDITIONAL DISTURBING CHARACTERISTICS:

P.T.S.D. -- by the late 1970s, 70% of blacks who were in heavy combat are classified as STRESSED...  
~~only~~ and 40% of all black veterans are classified that way  
In same year, only 20% of whites are classified as STRESSED...

ANOTHER BIG ONE: 12% more blacks were involved in heavy combat than white.... 25% of whites  
37% of blacks involved in heavy combat



Myra McPherson says "blacks are noticeably absent even at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington...."

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