

March 17, 1985

Prof. Walter H. Capps
Dept. of Religious Studies
University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, Calif.

Dear Mr. Capps,

I'm sure I'm not the first to write to you about the Los Angeles Times' March 10 article, "Vietnam War: Veterans Relive Their Horrors in the UCSB Classroom." I have carried the article around with me for the last week as a constant reminder to write this letter.

On several occasions, I have unsuccessfully combed bookstores looking for sources that would help me understand why the war was fought, the arguments of the conscientious objector, and what happened at our nation's universities--exactly what you've been addressing in your class.

If I lived closer to Santa Barbara, I would beg to experience what your students are learning, feeling and, most importantly, understanding. But since that's not possible, I'm writing to you today with the hope that you can send me in the right direction for a better understanding. You must have some sort of reading list that you suggest to your students--is it possible you would be so kind as to send a copy to me?

Mr. Capps, I thank you for answering the very crucial need of those of us who were too young, too ignorant, too fearful--and now sometimes feeling too guilty--to understand what the war was all about. I applaud you for your work and sincerely hope you can find the energy to continue your efforts.

I thank you in advance for taking the time to read this and hopefully grant my request.

Kindest regards,


Tricia C. Martella