

Well, it's been an interesting spring quarter here in  
Campbell Hall.....

Together we launched a course called VOICES OF THE STRANGER,  
and, as far as I know, it is the first time any of us  
took a course by this title.....

We began with some simple but basic ideas.

We acknowledged that our world is tremendously diverse....  
within which some voices are louder than other voices...  
within which some voices are more prominent than other  
voices.....

And we wanted to hear the voices that are not always heard...  
or are perhaps only rarely heard....

And we agreed, at the outset, that we would bring the subject  
into Campbell Hall. Instead of talking about the subject  
from some distant vantage point, we would bring the subject  
right here.....

Instead of addressing the issues of racism, for example,  
or instead of dealing with ethnicity..... we would  
simply ask that some voices be heard....

Voices of all kinds and diverse descriptions....  
Voices of Black Americans, Voices of Mexican Americans, Voices  
of Native Americans, Voices of Asian Americans....  
Voices of persons with handicapping conditions....Voices  
of the blind...Voices of persons suffering AIDS....  
Voices of persons in wheelchairs....

Voices of persons living at the margins or at the periphery  
of the society....

And we agreed together that we would try to listen....  
that we would ask these persons to help us listen....  
to teach us how...

We got excellent assistance along the way....

On the 2nd day of class, We heard STEVE HERRON speak to us from the wheelchair....and he told us about feeling like a NON-PERSON for almost 20 years of his life...  
On the 3rd day of class, we heard JIM GARRETT tell us about an experience in Vietnam, when a young child came up to him, pointed to Jim's eyes, and then to his own eyes, and said "Same, same."

On the 4th day of class, we followed Johnny Flynn as he ~~kxxx~~ guided us into the attitude and perspective on the world of NATIVE AMERICANS...

And along the way we heard Brian Shaw, Brian Johnson, Leander Wilkes, ~~kkkxkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkk~~ and the controversial James Meredith tell us about the experience of Black Americans.....

And we heard from a monk who has chosen to live at the margins of Society...

and from a Vietnam Veteran who was not welcomed back into the society when he returned from warfare...

And from at least two persons born in Vietnam who are living here now....

and from a fellow-student who was born in the Phillipines, was abandoned as a child, and now wants to keep the Filipino heritage alive as she strives to be an American too.

And we heard from a person who is suffering with AIDS....

who taught us some very eloquent lessons on what it means, fundamentally, to be human, particularly when one knows that one doesn't have much longer to live....

And we heard from a hostage...the first American hostage to be released from Beirut....who talked to us about the goodness of God and the richness of life....