

Department of
Botany and
Plant Pathology



Corvallis, Oregon 97331

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March 14, 1985

Professor Walter Capps
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

Dear Dr. Capps:

Last weekend, while in Los Angeles, I read the article in the L.A. Times on your "course" on the Vietnam experience. I congratulate you on an effort from the heart.

I was a graduate student at Berkeley from 1963-66 and an Assistant Professor at Madison, Wisconsin from 1966-71. During that time I was "tear gassed" many times for being on-the-other-side of official policy. I wonder if in your thinking and/or course you present the option that the war was not stopped by a president or politicians, or the soldiers--it was stopped by people in the street. In fact the people that ruined their lives by leaving the country or, like Mohammed Ali, lost their fame, paid an equal price to many of those who chose to go and fight and returned with problems. This is not meant to be a trivial suggestion, but rather just a request for a balance to what a "total" Vietnam experience really entails.

How I would love to see veterans still dressing in fatigues presented with facts on what happened "back home"--and how it helped to bring them home alive. Maybe your students would "applaud, speak gratitude and even apologize" to these people also. They are also heroes--but there is no memorial to them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fred Rickson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Fred" being more prominent.

Fred R. Rickson
Professor of Botany

frr/kgb