



VIET NAM GENERATION

Kali Tal, Editor

July 25, 1997

Dear *Viet Nam Generation* supporter:

I apologize for the long silence and for the amount of time that has lapsed since you last received an issue of the journal. Let me assure you, first, that I have every intention of continuing to publish *Viet Nam Generation*. However, since the fall of 1995, I have been delayed, first by lack of time to assemble the issues, and then by lack of money to print them. In 1995 my business partner, Dan Duffy, left Viet Nam Generation, Inc. to pursue his own work in Southeast Asian Studies. In 1996 I ended my business partnership with Steve Gomes when I moved to Tucson to take a job as Professor at the brand-new Arizona International campus of the University of Arizona.

It was my hope that AIC would give *Viet Nam Generation* a permanent home, but conditions at AIC were dismal for faculty and, I believe, due to my outspoken objections to the sweat-shop atmosphere on campus, my contract there was not renewed for a second year. (You can read all about the situation at AIC in Margaret Regan's *Tucson Weekly* article, which can be found on the Web at <http://www.weeklywire.com/tw/07-17-97/feat.htm>.) I am now engaged in the work of starting a new business dedicated to providing Web sites for individual academics, academic departments and institutions. This is taking a great deal of my time, but I believe that success in this endeavor will finally give me a sound economic base from which to continue my efforts to publish *Viet Nam Generation Journal*, continue to run the press, and to hold Sixties Generations conferences.

The delay in publication will likely continue into 1998. The last issue of *VG* which we published and mailed was 7:1-2. If you subscribed and did not receive that issue, please drop me a note and I will make sure that you get a copy quickly. If you have subscribed for Volume 8 or Volume 9, please be patient. As I said, I plan to continue to publish *VG*, and your subscription will continue until you have received all the issues for which you have paid.

In the meantime, we do have copies of back issues and of books for sale. I know that it has been difficult in the past for some of you to order books for your classes, since Viet Nam Generation, Inc. has not had a stable address or phone number. I've rented a permanent post office box in Tucson, and, even if I relocate, the mail from that address will be forwarded in perpetuity. The address, email, and telephone information on this letterhead are current.

I urge you to use our books in your classes. At the moment we have in stock copies of the following titles: *A White Man's War*, *Australia R&R*, *The Big Book*, *Gender and the War*, *The Homesick Patrol*, *In the Army Now*, *Informed Dissent*, *Just for Laughs*, *Kent & Jackson State*, *Lessons Learned*, *Lost in America*, *The Separation*, *Stripping the Adult Century Bare*, *Swords Into Plowshares*, *Symptoms of a Finer Age*, *Walk On*, *Trooper*. The more of these books you and your students order, the more funds we'll generate to print issues of *VG*.

If you have subscribed through Volume 7, Maggie Jaffe's latest volume of poetry, *How the West Was One*, beautifully illustrated by Deborah Small, will be coming to you in early September. It is at the printer now. Packaged with that book will be a copy of David Willson's novel, *In the Army Now*. If you haven't subscribed through Volume 7, it would be a great help to me if you could update your subscription through that period. If you do, I can send you immediately Volume 7:1-2, and volumes of poetry by Horace Coleman, Dale Ritterbusch, and David Vancil.

Next to go to the printer will be Renny Christopher's volume of poetry, *Viet Nam and California*. I'm sorry to announce that the anthology edited by Robert K. Brigham, *Viet Nam & the West*, has been canceled due to the long delay in publication. Michael Bibby has been quite patient about waiting to see the publication of *The Viet Nam War and Postmodernity*, and I'd still like that volume to see print, though I am not yet sure where I'll find funding. Also in the wings is Gerald McCarthy's long-awaited *Throwing the Headlines*, which waits, fully typeset, in a file drawer, for me to dig up the money to pay the printer. Journal issues are far more expensive and time-consuming to print than books, and so 7:3-4 sits, in manuscript, on a shelf.

Libraries, please note: If you have a continuing subscription to *Viet Nam Generation*, do not automatically subscribe for Volume 10 in 1998. Please suspend the automatic renewal until you receive the issues for Volume 9. We will send you a notice when you need to renew for Volume 10.

Viet Nam Generation was born out of my determination to create a forum for contemporary scholarship and creative writing on the Sixties and the Viet Nam war, and your support for that venture. A combination of unfortunate personal and professional setbacks has caused me to fall behind in fulfilling my obligations, but I am writing to you to renew my commitment to my subscribers and to the community of writers who give their work so generously to *VG*. I've weathered difficult periods before, and with your patience and support I'll get *VG* back on its feet once again.

The Sixties Generations conference was canceled in 1996, and it looks like it won't be held in 1997 either. But I'm negotiating with some folks at the University of Arizona to get space at the campus to hold the conference there in 1998. The 1995 conference was such a success it would be a pity not to repeat it.

Thank you for all of your help and support over the years, and for your continued patience.

Sincerely,



Kalfi Tal