

Poem for Shin Yasui

On a street,
so far from war,
a casualty, among the best of
my generation:
killed in a car crash.
He was a peacemaker,
he fought so hard
to make us listen.

A lot of people liked Shin—
people all over the world
shook his hand and wished him
well.

The idea of the noble fallen—
of death linked up with
death—
is wrong.

We die, and no one is grati-
fied.
but it makes me break to
think
of Shin's work undone.
What will not follow because
he is not here to take it on.

And I cry for myself,
for death linked up with
death.

There is a limit to our time
here
but that we find it—
in the work, in the love,
at the hollow of life
we contain our own fires

too often like stars seldom
seen in the sky.

Shin pulled on us, and in the
distance

his absence pulls us in.
Let's now at least break from
our private wars
make peace in the names of
the peacemakers,
make of our own hollows a
place to live.

Vincent Reynolds
Journalism

Message is a concern

Womenspace has some con-
cerns about the message of the
Promise Keepers. We in no way
condemn the good intentions or
the needs of the individual men
who attend Promise Keepers ral-
lies, but we do disagree strongly
with the implications of the
Promise Keepers' message.

Womenspace's mission is to
end domestic violence. Domes-
tic violence happens when one
partner, who is statistically likely
to be male (95 percent reported),
uses tactics such as sexual, phys-
ical, emotional or financial abuse
to maintain dominance, or power
and control, in a relationship.

Promise Keepers leader Rev.
Tony Evans underscores the au-
thoritarian nature of the organiza-
tion when he tells Promise Keep-
ers to "take back their role as head
of household. I'm not suggesting
you ask for your role back, I'm urg-
ing you to take it back." The as-
sumption of roles in this state-
ment is in direct support of a
relationship with one partner
dominant and one submissive.

The Promise Keepers seem to
be filing a void for many men,
but at what cost to society?
There are alternatives to defin-
ing one's place in the world
through domination of another
person. We encourage men to
not only seek egalitarian rela-
tionships with their partners,
but to also seek out those places
where they can find acceptance,
emotional awareness, belonging
and spirituality. And we hope
that those places include room
for women, people of color, ho-
mosexuals, children, people
with disabilities and all other
marginal members of society.

Evelyn Anderton
and three co-signers
Womenspace

Respond to violence

With all of the events going
on recently, I'm curious to
know what the responses of
University students, faculty
and staff are to the continuous
stream of accidents our papers
and television news programs
are reporting. As educated col-
lege students who will have to
enter the work world in the fu-
ture, what do we make of some
of the occurrences that have
gone on?

For example, an elderly war
veteran was recently murdered
in his home by a robber. A rural
young man stands accused
of killing both of his parents
and burying them a few miles
away. Then there was the
Thurston High School tragedy,
where someone opened fire
and killed and maimed many
people. Up in Seattle, a drive-
by shooting killed several
members of the Vietnamese
community.

I am writing this letter be-
cause I am concerned. A terric
pattern of violence is ensu-
ing, and many concerned
citizens have written letters ad-
dressing the problem. Howev-
er, on campus and in the com-
munity, a tremendous feeling
of apathy exists.

So, what is it people think of
these events? How can we, as a
culture, turn the problem
around? Perhaps we need to re-
alize that everything is con-
nected and that until we honor
that connection, violence will
continue to occur. Just as the
news media is fond of using
terms like "economic indica-
tors," these perhaps are solid
accounts of "social indicators"
that everything is not A-OK.


David Schlessinger
Environmental Studies

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