

VIDEO PROJECT

NOTES

12/15/13

A Personal Reflection on the demands of Religion in the Classroom by Joe Bustillos

There's a call to us all to love all humanity 3
 Every race on the face of earth 15
 come to unity
 "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." 29
 These, the Master's words, would do us well 38
 But Man's belief, religious creeds, can make him blind 46
 The narrow way is not a narrow mind. 55
 - Teri DeSario¹

1:09

My fundamentalist father and I had a boisterous discussion the other day about "the state of education." In the past my father's general arguments (true to his conservative roots) have centered around a need to return to the basics---reading, writing, arithmetic. He wanted to know how my teacher training was going to address the moral needs and foundations of my students. Ouch, I wasn't ready for that one (I should have been ready---we've been having religious tussles since I was fifteen).

25

I wanted to say something about the separate roles of public education and religion but I knew that wouldn't get very far. I mean, the question about moral ~~education~~ education has always been a cornerstone to his theory about the decay of the education (which predictably includes the need to bring prayer and Jesus back to the school system). No, this was a very old discussion that I should have seen coming. I could have said something about Irvine School District voting to require graduating high school seniors to take courses in Ethics and Morals but I knew that that wouldn't begin to address the crux of his concern. The real difficulty with what he wants is that to "teach morality" of the fundamentalist Christian variety in our divergent society is to open a Pandora's box.

The thing is that I've been there before, I understand my father's concern. He and I may not see eye-to-eye but I understand that "to not teach X" is "to teach Y." That is, on the surface one can talk about Morals and Culture and Heritage and Religion like they're all complete separate subjects with no association but that's a bit like teaching To Kill a Mockingbird without talking about racial prejudice.

Humans are Religious creatures. The Soviets weren't able to erase it in 70 years. In the West, Television and its attendant shallow pop-culture has defamed it and trivialized it but not eliminated it in 50 years. Those who say that they don't

¹Teri DeSario, "A Call To Us All" off the album of the same name, Dayspring Music, 1983.

believe in any religion are in fact practicing the religion of "no-religion." In the end we believe or choose not to believe, not because of "objective scientific inquiry" but because of gut-level personal faith. We like to think we're being rational but when push comes to shove the tenor becomes very emotional.

So then, how does one teach Morals or Ethics or Religion? Without being overly didactic, it's a matter of casting a broad enough definition about what is considered "normal" human behavior and culture. One thing that I learned during my brief stint as an Anthropology major was that the Polytheistic cultures tended to reflect the greater range of human behavior in their gods without downplaying the moral consequences of that behavior. They didn't suffer from the tyranny of the "One Standard" that on the outset is not a "Human Standard" at all. It will not satisfy the conservative factions,² but teaching religion, or morals or even cultural diversity is a matter of presenting it as just another part of the "normal" human experience. This is certainly preferable to ignoring it like it was something our ancient ancestors did but that we've "grown beyond."

²But then it is their historical mandate to maintain the religious/moral/cultural/ethnic purity of their respective groups.

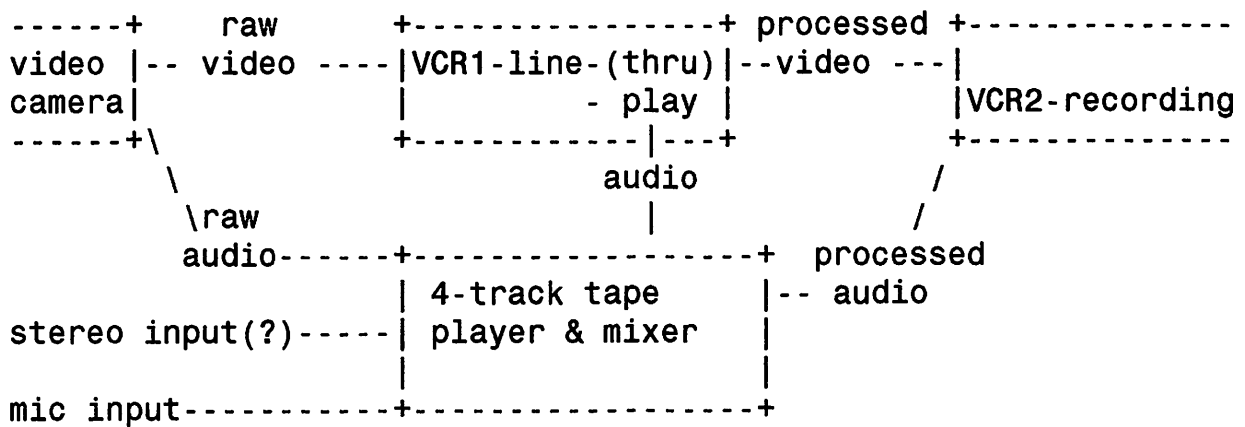
MULTICULTURAL PRACT/PROJ PRESENTATION NOTES

SEQUENCES:

video commentary

1. "A call to us all" blip/Title Sequence: low-tech Cue Cards
2. Religion in the American classrooms Quiz - what is it? statement/question
3. Personal discussion - outside a Catholic church.
 - cutaway - Berlin wall
 - cutaway - PTL/700 clubsters
 - cutaway - people ... (Sunday morning?)
4. conclusion/Credits...

EQUIPMENT ARRANGEMENT



SEQUENCE/SOURCE SETTINGS:

no	title	video	audio1	audio2	time	comments
1	Call/titleseq	camera	mic	stereo(music)1	00:00	pre-record s/t
2	Religion Quiz	VCR1	mic	stereo(music)2		brief/games show music
3	Personal discussion	camera	mic	stereo(music)3		spoken audio (audio1) throughout sequence #3
3a	c/w:PTL	VCR1	camera(sp)1	stereo(music)3		
3b	c/w: kids	VCR1	camera(sp)1	stereo(music)3		
3c	c/w: Berlin Wall	VCR1	camera(sp)1	stereo(music)3		
3d	c/w:/Sunday mornings	VCR1	camera(sp)1	stereo(music)3		
	credits	camera	mic	stereo(music)1		pre-recorded s/t title/repised

Several Irvine Churches

00:25

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camera #1
ver #1

1:07
1:38

music down
wre

PAUSE - camera
AUX

PAUSE

Am?

ST. Celilia's Catholic Church (audio on camera)

00:12

*check #4
VCR w/a*

*CSL 0010
0010
0016*

Some say that religion has no place in public education but that would just bolster his belief that today's alleged moral decay is a direct result from kicking God out of school. The thing is I understand my father's concern.

*VCR Player - CUT AUDIO
DUX 2#*

Irvine School District

00:21

*check #2
VCR #2*

*1:38
2 00*

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continued

-2-

Camera Roll 10/15

media clips: KungFo, Berlin Wall, Altered States

00:34

Camera Roll
VCR #3

02:00

02:14

Humans are Religious creatures. The Soviets weren't able to erase it in 70 years. In the West, Television and its attendant shallow pop-culture has defamed it and trivialized it but not eliminated it in 50 years. Those who say that they don't believe in any religion are in fact practicing the religion of "no-religion." In the end we believe or choose not to believe, not because of "objective scientific inquiry" but because of gut-level personal faith. We like to think we're being rational but when push comes to shove the tenor becomes very emotional.

(1/20/11 original 00:27)
1/27/11
ROUSE

