The Semi (01-29-1996)

Fuller Theological Seminary

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Imagine trying to pursue a degree from Fuller without ever attending class. You pray for classes requiring papers instead of exams, and you learn to skim really well. You cannot afford to go to class, because you work full-time (to pay the bills) on top of fulfilling a demanding internship (a degree requirement) and maintaining relationships with your spouse and children. Is this an unreal nightmare, or a reality for some Fuller students? A perennial issue for our students is money. Students leave Fuller with average loan debts of anywhere from $20,000 to $60,000, depending on the program from which they graduate. It is not uncommon to find a student who studies full-time, works full-time, and also has ministry responsibilities.

Is there anything we can do about ‘the money thing’? The SEMI spoke with Vice President for Finance Lee Merritt last quarter, to get the ‘official’ perspective on Fuller finances. We asked him, for example, if last year’s New Era debacle will hurt students financially. Merritt explained that “we are not out-of-pocket any cash” because of that unfortunate grant proposal and award. He shared, though, how the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Bill Brehm, wants to cut tuition increases to zero percent (this year’s increase was four percent). Said Merritt, “We were expecting grants from New Era to help us do this quickly. Clearly a quick solution is not in the cards any-

more, and we’re back to earning money the old-fashioned way, which is going out and finding lots of donors to participate instead of one large donor.” He reminds us that the Service Committee is not ignoring Brehm’s request to reduce tuition increases. The biggest impact of the New Era loss was that “the speed with which we respond to the chairman’s request will be affected; it will take us longer to get there.”

The Service Committee is currently examining a variety of models by which to keep tuition increases down. Merritt suggests that “increased endowment is probably the wisest and most stabilizing strategy for this institution” to choose. Presbyterian students are quite familiar with the benefits of a large endowment. The story they tell again and again is, “I could have gone to Princeton for almost nothing; how do I justify (to the presbytery) going to Fuller?” Remembering that Princeton is roughly 150 years older than Fuller is helpful in this regard; an institution can build up quite an endowment in 150 years!

We asked Lee Merritt what he would do if he were a student coming to Fuller, and whether finances would play a role in his decision to come. He pointed out that “We have an outstanding faculty, and it is worth the investment. My counsel to
“I Heard an Old, Old Story…”
Folklore in the Fuller community

Have you heard that we get to leave class if the professor doesn’t show up in the first twenty minutes? This is a piece of folklore that resurfaces in almost all institutions of higher education, and Fuller is no exception. One ‘twist’ on our version is that we can leave even sooner if it’s not a full professor. Woe to any adjunct who shows up five minutes late!

What qualifies something as folklore? Generally, if a story circulates beyond a particular setting and becomes universalized for a larger community, it may be folklore. For example, do you really know anyone who has ‘tipped a cow’? Another nation-wide piece of folklore is the ‘cookie scam,’ which has happened with recipes claiming to be from Mrs. Fields and Neiman-Marcus. These always come with a story attached of how someone was, unbeknownst to them, charged several hundred dollars for the recipe and they decided to give it away to everyone they knew to get back at the original company.

What function does folklore serve for people? Sometimes it simply serves to unify a community. One interesting tidbit of Fuller folklore is the story that the Fuller trustees are not invited to the School of Psychology graduation banquet because the SOP wants to ‘roast’ the trustees and administration at the banquet. The person who told me this was quick to add that the rumor is NOT true. Nonetheless, it serves a unifying function, giving the School of Psychology a special ‘in-joke’ to smile about.

In many other cases, folklore is our way of defusing anxiety about things. Patricia Turner, a folklorist at the University of California, Davis, specializes in folklore from the African-American community. Two common rumors resurfacing nationwide are the story of the ‘Kentucky-Fried rat’ and the ‘alligator in the sewer’ tales, both of which reflect anxieties among African-Americans in urban areas. (For more on Turner’s research, read I Heard it Through the Grapevine). Berkeley folklorist Alan Dundees shocked his colleagues by writing a paper on jokes about the Shuttle Challenger disaster. After most tragedies like that one, jokes pop up and quickly circulate as a way for us to release some of our nervousness about unexpected tragedy. During the Roe v. Wade case in the early 1970s, ‘dead baby’ jokes were rampant. We probably all know one or more jokes about Los Angeles, given the riots, fires, earthquakes and floods of recent years.

How does this kind of folklore find its way into the Fuller community? Consider students’ feelings about the school’s policy on the use of nondiscriminatory language. Interview five students and you are sure to find at least one who is convinced he or she will be graded down or otherwise punished for not using inclusive language in a paper. While it is true that the policy puts enforcement in the hands of individual professors, most of our faculty do not strongly enforce it. “I will circle it (non-inclusive language) if I see it in a paper,” said Marianne Meye Thompson during a 1994 discussion, “but I don’t know anyone who actually grades down because of it.” Our folklore is indicative of our nervousness about the policy and the reasons behind it. (No, that’s not meant to get you to test your professor’s limits!)

A plethora of other rumors reflects our ambivalence about Fuller’s status as an evangelical school and as a competitive academic institution. One student cites the common perception that “Fuller is so liberal, I’m not sure half those people out

Continued on page 5
Online with Mike

Buying a computer

by Michael Beetley, M.A. student, SOT

W ell, it's time for my annual "computer-buying" column. I'm going to give a few pointers for buying a new computer or upgrading the one you've got. I will confess at the outset, I'm a bit more familiar with IBM-compatibles than with Macs, but I'll do my best not to be biased either direction.

Having broached the subject, let me begin by considering the Mac/IBM question. It seems that virtually every computer user has some sort of opinion on this one, and quite frequently the opinions are rather passionately held. So what's the big deal? Well, there are numerous distinctions, but I'll just give you what I see as the most significant ones. If you're buying your first computer, Macs tend to be a bit easier, but significant ones. If you're buying your first computer, Macs tend to be a bit easier, but Windows 95 in particular (which comes with many, if not most, new IBM-types) has narrowed the gap quite a bit. There is a greater variety of software available for the IBM than for the Mac, although for the ordinary user, this might not make much difference. [Note: with the right software/hardware, the better Power Macs can run IBM software fairly well.] While each has certain things it does better than the other, for most of you, either type of computer will be able to do anything you need it to. So flip a coin. But if you are upgrading, I would really recommend sticking with the same type that you currently use. Most of the "ease of use" issues stem from familiarity rather than sheer simplicity of operation, so if you are used to a Mac, get a new Mac, or Windows, get a new Windows PC. Oh, and if you are a DOS-user, you might prefer a Windows 3.1 computer. Windows & Macs can be really confusing for us DOS hacks.

My first caveat when computer shopping is this: don't let a salesperson try to sell you the latest in technology if you don't need it. If you basically need to write papers, keep track of your finances, maybe access the Internet, and play solitaire on your study breaks, just about anything which is commercially available will do the trick for you. So what is necessary? In the following, you might not understand all of the numbers & names, so you might take this with you when you go shopping to compare. Mac buyers should get a Power Mac if they can afford it, and IBM-compatible buyers should do the same with the Pentium. In that thing called RAM (which is what we might call the computer's "short-term" memory), you will want at least 8MB of RAM. As for the hard drive (or "long-term" memory), Mac users will probably want at least 500 MB, and IBM-ers, at least 1GB (1000 MB). You will want 16-bit sound (standard on all Macs and most IBM's) as well as a CD-ROM drive, at least double-speed (which you might see called "2X" in a computer ad). You will want at least a 14.4Kbps modem for good Internet access, and a 28.8Kbps (twice as fast) if you can afford it. The "requirements" I've listed above apply to Macs and IBM-compatibles, and will allow you to use just about any software you will need. (By the way, with all of these numbers, if I've given a number, and you see a higher one advertised, it's probably better than what I've listed.)

As far as notebook computer vs. desktop computer, you can get more computer for your money going desktop, but then portability is out of the question. If you're really wealthy (or like debt), you can always get a good powerful desktop and a cheap little notebook just to take notes. And remember that a notebook computer is useful for more than just in-class note-taking: you can also use them in the library (2nd floor only, please) if you study there a lot. Just make sure you consider your wants & needs before deciding.

If you are buying your first computer, you would do well to get a name-brand continued on page 4

DENOMINATIONAL

The following denominations will be meeting on Monday mornings at 10:00 am, with exceptions where noted. This time is set aside for you for worship, for support, to network, and to connect with denominational issues.

- American Baptist
  - Psych Bldg. 116

- Assemblies of God
  - Psych Bldg. 311

- Episcopal Church
  - Thursday Lunch
  - Garth

- Evangelical Covenant
  - CFD Learning Center - 465 Ford Pl.

- Friends
  - Stephan Hall 207

- Korean Students
  - Payton 304

- Lutherans
  - Library 203

- Messianic Jews
  - Glasser Hall - Second floor

- Post-Denominational and Foursquare
  - Psych Bldg. 314

- Presbyterian Church (USA)
  - Travis Auditorium

- Reformed Church in Am./CRC
  - Psych Bldg. 120

- Roman Catholic
  - Library 205

- Seventh Day Adventist
  - Library 204

- Southern Baptist
  - Payton 301

- United Methodist Church
  - Psych Bldg. 130

- Vineyard
  - Payton 302

Note: If your denomination is not meeting at this time and you are interested in starting a group and/or connecting with others of your denomination, please come by the Office of Denominational Relations, located 2nd floor of Atwell Hall (behind the Catalyst) or call 584-5387.
them is to work for a year and save a lot (before coming); that takes the pressure off.” Suggesting that one year’s savings might not help fund more than a few months or a year in seminary, we asked Merritt what he thinks is a realistic balance when one has to work while in seminary to offset costs. He told us that he earned his MBA while working 40 hours a week, and acknowledged that “it’s a time frame in your life when you don’t have any discretionary time. Every minute you invest is a minute in work or study. It takes an understanding family life, and it’s a character-building time.”

We also asked Merritt what he recommends as far as loans go. He said, “I think it’s advisable to slow the program down and avoid too much debt (‘too much’ needs to be defined by each person individually). Students are better off slowing down their program, working while they’re here, taking a break for a quarter while they work full-time, so that the debt burden doesn’t overwhelm them.”

Students hear a variety of stories about tuition at other schools; we know that Princeton has a large endowment, but what about schools more similar to Fuller in size or makeup? Merritt explained, “we do comparative studies. Our tuition is very close; it might be a few dollars higher than Garrett, Trinity, Talbot, and Dallas... Fuller’s a little bit more expensive, but a whole lot better. It’s a better investment... given the benefits of being in this particular institution with its environment and the options with three schools, faculty and student body diversity, I think there’s a good buy.” Given that Lee Merritt has been working here for almost 25 years, he must be convinced of the value of being at Fuller. We asked what keeps him here, and he answered, “An intense commitment to the mission of the institution; I think training men and women for the church is an incredibly effective way to leverage my time in life. I can’t imagine anything more effective to the Kingdom than training its leadership. I have loved every minute of it.”

Online

with Mike

- from page 3

only see the particular computer brand offered at one store (and please shop around), it isn’t name brand. Name-brand computers offer better warranties, better “technical support” (which you will need if you have any problems), and, usually, good software already included with the computer, which will cut down on your initial costs. Note that the name-brand issue primarily applies to IBM-compatibles, since the Mac-compatible market only recently came into being.

Finally, for those of you who don’t necessarily understand all of these numbers and jargon above, and who get confused when you get to a store, just ask. Lots of questions. And if a salesperson can’t explain something to your satisfaction, don’t buy from them. Nothing against such salespeople, but you need to know what you’re getting into when you make any large-scale purchase. Ask your friends who own computers what RAM, CD-ROM, Power Mac, Pentium, hard drive, etc., mean. Even send me a note in my box (290) or by e-mail (mbeetley@fuller.edu): I’ll try and answer (though it might take a while, since I’ve got classes too) to the best of my ability. Happy computing!

FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid and Fuller grant applications for the 1996-97 school year will be available in the Financial Aid Office on Monday, February 5, 1996.

Also, please review the following grant and loan opportunities. Stop by the office for further details and applications.

- Soroptimist Fellowship: Given to outstanding women. Deadline for the application is March 1, 1996.
- Reformed Church of America: Loans are available to RCA students. Deadline is March 1, 1996
- Santa Barbara Foundation Interest Free Loan: $2000 loans, with a ten year repayment period. You must have attended schools in Santa Barbara county from the 7th through 12th grade or be able to demonstrate strong ties to Santa Barbara County. You must hand in your application to the Financial Aid Office by March 1, 1996 to qualify.
Meet Joe Student. Joe is married, has two children, works at least part-time, teaches Sunday School and takes a full class load here at Fuller. His wife volunteers at the local church, takes care of the children and takes a class here and there. The woman sitting next to Joe in class, Jane Student, is a commuter. She has a part-time job, works at her practicum site and takes 16 credits per quarter year around. Their professor, Dr. Faculty, works as a professor full time, sits on at least one committee, has a private practice on the side and occasionally is published in professional journals. Welcome to graduate school! Find a peer or professor to mentor you into our life style of busyness and stress, and jump into the fast lane of professional ministry!

This is a brief sketch of a pervasive problem Fuller Theological Seminary faces: The Stressed-Out Overachiever Syndrome. We embrace this life style at every level of the institution, although we may call it by different names. A prospective student recently visited Fuller and commented on the “obsessive-compulsive” tendency he observed. I fear he may have trouble locating a graduate school not struggling with this dilemma, but who knows...

Of course, some people here have managed to maintain a healthy immunity to this condition, successfully achieving a comfortable sense of balance in their lives. In general, though, have been struck by the number of persons I encounter who seem to be in survival mode from quarter to quarter at Fuller. If you are one of those few balanced persons, congratulations! You need not read further.

This very issue was the central concern driving the recent Town Meeting where we discussed schedules and calendars. Many of us are run-down, overworked, stressed-out overachievers. What can we do? Should we change the system? Go to trimesters? Semesters? Lower the standards, expectations or contact hours in classes? Offer fewer intensives? More scholarships? Seek out more mentoring opportunities? Address it on a personal level? These and other questions were raised during the Town Meeting.

As an institution, we value relationship with Christ, service to others, and scholarship, to mention a few of our priorities. Yet, on a personal level, are we really able to do everything we find important while being students? I venture to guess that those who do manage to squeeze it all in are feeling a bit stressed out by about their second year here at Fuller. What type of lifestyles are we endorsing at Fuller? What kind of examples will we be in the Body as we leave here for ministry or service? Are we learning to be busy? Are we learning to juggle numerous tasks at once? To be excellent under a fast pace and pressure? To push ourselves just to the edge of burnout? How to say no? How to prioritize?

There are costs and benefits to our atmosphere and pace here at Fuller. My question is simply this: What really are (and should be) our priorities, and do we as a community reflect those with our time and in our lives? I’ve noticed many who seem to have “balance”, many who struggle, and still others who have simply decided to abandon the struggle and cruise through a few years of chaos. Is this just the state of an excellent graduate school or can we be different at Fuller Theological Seminary?

Tami Anderson
PGU Co-President,
MFT Division

Fuller Folklore. . . from page 2

there are saved!” While this is a perception that follows many students to Fuller, most of us find ourselves pleasantly surprised to arrive here and find professors sharing clearly-evangelical devotions, praying and leading worship in their classes. Perhaps more vexing is the ongoing folklore about certain professors’ being “easy A’s”, international students’ turning in sub-standard work and receiving good grades for it, or Fuller’s being only as academically rigorous as an undergraduate institution. Whether there is any credence to any of these rumors is unknown; perhaps they are merely another way for us to deal with anxieties about being in a school as diverse and complex as Fuller. Any institution with a dual commitment to ministry preparation and academic excellence will vacillate between these poles.

Some of our most common folklore concerns certain ‘favorite’ faculty members. One academic advisor cited two persistent rumors about faculty leaving; have you heard that Nancy Murphy is going to Princeton or that Ray Anderson is about to retire? These stories resurface almost every year. A member of the faculty mentioned the recurring advice that “everyone should take a class from ‘Big Dan’ (Dan Fuller).” These are stories repeated regularly at Fuller, but nobody knows where they began or how they gained credence.

At other times, real elements of our history enter into our common storytelling as ‘Fuller legends.’ Hank Bowman, a man who loved children and served everyone he met, is one of our community heroes. Several true stories have circulated about custodians who are royalty in their home countries, come to Fuller, and end up scrubbing toilets. Rob Johnston’s oft-told tale about student pranksters publicizing Fuller as ‘the logical seminary’ will be repeated for years to come.

Our faculty, academic advisors, and Registrar’s Office staff hear more ‘tall tales’ than others on campus; stop someone and swap a story!
“Love Connections”

Fuller is a place of Love Connections. And I’m not talking about the fact that I met my husband while playing intramural sports!

Love is connecting folks all around campus. Sometimes I am oblivious to these thoughtful, kind, and gracious acts of service. In fact, often I focus only on the Love Connections which I or the campus lack. I miss opportunities to savor these Love Connections and express my gratitude for them.

Some of these Love Connections are profound. Some are wholly mundane. Most are unappreciated. Many are even unnoticed. So this week I accumulated a list of my Love Connections...

- Coming home to a hot meal prepared for me at Allelous
- Calvin’s giving me a ride home when I thought I was stranded in the dark
- My husband’s praying for me in my struggles with God
- Admissions staff Elias, Erin, and Elaine’s taking personal care to connect prospective students with others in the community with common interests
- My supervisor and work team’s loving and valuing me even when we differ in ideas and styles
- Having a beautiful prayer garden
- Barbara’s approaching me to work through an incident of potential conflict
- B. J.’s always saying “Hello sister!”
- Gwen and the advising gang’s caring for individual concerns
- The baked goodies on our floor
- Fidel, Suzanne, Gary, and others for hanging out in the office
- Hugs from David, Peter, Cathy, Raedorah, Doug, and of course Gino
- Baby Glory for her smiles
- The time and thoughtfulness of notes written by Frank Anderson on my last paper
- GM 503 small groups who love one another by working through confrontation of difficult issues
- All the folks in Housing and Building Services for providing me with a home
- Russ for taking time and interest in community living.

Surely the Spirit of Christ permeates these actions, showing me the abundant Love of God.

What are your Love Connections?

Katie Price Foster
Assistant Director
Office of Christian Community

Winter Opportunities

❖ Escaping the Messiah Trap: When Helping You is Hurting Me - All of us in the Fuller community are preparing for caretaking roles. Join Carmen Renee Berry, who authored a book of the same name, for a day to explore the limits of our caretaking role and how we can protect ourselves from burnout. The workshop will be Saturday, February 10 from 9:30 - 4:30 in Payton 101. Cost is $15 including lunch and you can register by calling 584-5322.

❖ Community Living - Have you heard about Allelous? If for some reason you haven’t seen the many flyers and brochures laying everywhere - you must read this paragraph!!! Allelous is a Fuller complex where you share nightly meals with the community, comprised of couples and singles. It’s a great place to build deeper relationships and have people around you who know what’s going on in your everyday life. Don’t miss out on this opportunity to grow in community while at Fuller. There are even a couple of singles that are looking for roommates, so don’t let that stop you either!! Hope to see you there soon!!!

❖ Art Contest: Prizes Given - We are looking for artwork to brighten up the covers of the Lenten Devotional and the OCC Overall Brochure. We invite all artists and creative minds to submit any ideas to our office - the prizes for each will be gift certificates to the Fuller Bookstore or Higher Grounds (your choice). This will be for a short time only, so call soon for more information.

❖ Prayer groups - If you’re interested going to a weekly prayer meeting, we have a list of all the opportunities in our office. Give us a call at 584-5322.

The Office of Christian Community may be reached at (818) 584-5322, or FTS Box 243, and is located on the second floor of the Catalyst building.
SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

Great summer employment opportunity at Mt. Hermon. Interviews will be conducted on January 31, between 10 am - 12 noon. A sign-up sheet is located in the lobby of Carnell Hall. For more information, contact Eva Peters at 584-5576.

LUNCH WITH PEACE

The TGU is sponsoring a brown bag lunch with Dr. Richard Peace on Wednesday, February 7, from 12 - 1 pm at the Geneva room (2nd fl. of Payton). Dr. Peace will be sharing his experiences as a missionary to South Africa reaching the South African youth culture through coffee house evangelism. Bring bag lunch and questions. Drinks will be provided.

ACOUSTIC COFFEEHOUSE

The Arts Concerns Committee of the ASC is sponsoring an Acoustic Coffeehouse on Saturday, February 3, at 7 pm in the Catalyst. If you would like to perform, please contact J.J. at 818-683-0516.

COUPLES' ENRICHMENT

Join our 6 week group for couples' enrichment Wednesday nights, from 7-8 pm. The cost is only $35/couple/session. Call FPFS at 584-5555 to reserve your spot to improve your communication patterns, increase the level of intimacy in your relationship, and other information to enrich your marriage.

"HOLD ME"- AN EVANGELISTIC PLAY

"Hold Me" - a play by Jules Feiffer, will show at Travis Auditorium on Friday, February 2nd and Saturday, February 3rd. Tickets are on sale at the Office of Christian Community, the Fuller Bookstore, and TicketMaster. Invite an unchurched person in your life; gospel presentation will follow! Unchurched guests' tickets are even less than the student rate!

LUNCH WITH ARTS CONCERNS

Did you know that the Arts Concerns Committee has a lunch-time discussion group every Thursday from 12:15 to 1 pm in the Catalyst? Please join us for informal and interesting conversations.

JOHN WIMBER SERMON SERIES

There will be a special sermon series at the Anaheim Vineyard Christian Fellowship, given by John Wimber. He will be teaching on kingdom power using notes from his lectures on Signs and Wonders and Church Growth. The series will take place on Sunday evenings at 6 pm, at the Anaheim Vineyard, 5430 E. La Palma Ave. Anaheim. Call 714-777-4777 for more details.

All-Seminary Chapel

This Wednesday, January 31, our speaker is Dr. Cecil Murray, of the First AME Church. We gather for the Wednesday Chapel at 10 am at the First Congregational Church. There will be a brief time of fellowship following chapel.

On Thursday, February 1, George Kuravilla, M. Div. student in the School of Theology, will be sharing a message after a time of praise and worship led by the Chapel Worship Team. The Thursday All-Seminary Chapel meets in Travis Auditorium at 10 am.

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This section of the SEMI is for the announcement of events or services not directly offered by a Fuller office or organization. For information about rates, contact the Office of Student Services at 584-5430. Note: Each person is responsible for checking on the quality and type of service before contracting or using it. The SEMI and Office of Student Services do not personally recommend or guarantee any of the services listed.

**Auto Repair:** SMOG CHECKS, tune-ups, oil change, brakes, batteries, etc. Complete service. Hrant Auto Service, 1477 E. Washington Blvd., Pasadena. 798-4064. Call for an appointment.

**Tax Time:** Tax preparer, licensed and bonded, specializing in ministers, Fuller community students and staff. Reasonable prices. Ask for Tom Dunn at 818-352-8237.

**Christians need cars too!** SIDCO Auto Brokers serves Christian Colleges, Missions, Staff/Students/Alumni. This is our 10th year serving the Christian community. Fuller Hotline 909-949-2778 or 1-800-429-KARS. “A good name is chosen rather than riches.” - Proverbs 22:1

**For Rent:** Vacation Get-Away at the Harmony House. 4 bedroom retreat center (sleeps 10-12) in beautiful Lake Arrowhead. $295/weekends, $650/week. Call Dr. Janet Harms 909-394-9990 (Fuller choir director) for brochure and reservations.


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**Play the Drums:** Have you ever wanted to play the drums? Now is your chance. I also play for churches and special events. Call Mike at 818-792-8603.

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**Mountain Retreat:** Beautiful country-style cabin (2 bedrooms, sleeps 6-8), located in the Big Bear area, available to churches and the Fuller community, $125 weekends; $45 weekdays; $275 per week. Call John Hull (D. Min. office), 818-584-5312.

**Monrovia - large 2-bedroom apartment.** Patio, no pets. Call Pat at 818-792-6732. $675.00. Easy move-in.

**Editorial Services:** Professional editing for dissertations, theses, articles, books. Reasonable rates. References provided. Dr. Denise Blue, Blue Pages, 818-441-5106.

**Leather Sofa and Loveseat:** $799 (overstuffed style). Fabric sofa set: $499 (contemporary style). Buy factory direct / Fuller student / save 70%. Showroom on 711 Walnut, call 818-568-1588.

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