An Open Letter...

by Rob Piehl

Part of the mission of the SEMI is to give a voice to groups or issues that normally may not be included, or that are not highlighted, in the life of our community. A piece we ran in the Week 6 issue has generated some good conversation on the Board of Declaration and on our phone lines. Rob Piehl, an M.F.T. student, brought his perspective to us soon after Issue 6 came out. Ordinarily we run “Perspectives” pieces on inside pages of our paper. However, occasionally a piece contributes to dialogue on issues larger than that individual’s experience or opinion. We invite you to join us in examining a slightly different view on issues of race and cross-cultural communication. Our hope is that our publication will contribute to, not quench, dialogue on sensitive issues.

Editor

Sondra Hollinger’s article (Issue 6) addressing ‘entrenched racism, prejudice, and just plain ignorance’ at Fuller was as accurate as it was necessary. I too have observed racism, prejudice, and ignorance in our classrooms and conversations despite the ideal of being ‘one in Christ.’

I am constantly amazed by the energy many white brothers and sisters put into generating arguments to exempt themselves from charges of racism. A sample of these arguments reveals fanciful reasoning such as: “I wasn’t alive back when slavery took place, so how could I be guilty of racism?”, or “I don’t have anything against blacks; how could I be racist?” While these illogicalities indicate a desire to be prejudice-free, they fail to uncover, acknowledge, examine, or destroy the bigotry which is endemic to white (male) hegemony.

These trivialities pertain to a personal and subjective experience of race relations while failing to address the institutional and systemic nature of racial oppression. I’ve never once heard a discussion by white males at this seminary about how unfair it is that they are the beneficiaries of a political/economic system loaded in their favor and which has granted them significant advantages in many areas of life. I’ve not seen one tear shed in ‘sensitive class discussions’ about the hardship, oppression, murder, and torture of African Americans, Native Americans, or Latinos at the hands of white oppressors. I’ve heard white people defend the egalitarian nature of the U.S. government by reference to the upward availability of ethnic minorities, especially African Americans (Colin Powell) in the military, while the facts are that the military-industrial complex is owned and operated by white folk while black- and brown-skinned people are free to advance in position as long as they remain within the ranks of bullet-stoppers.

I’ve heard people defend the disproportionate number of African-American men involved in the criminal justice system (“half of the nation’s jailed inmates are black, even though blacks account for only 10% of the general population, and one in three black men in their 20s is in jail, on probation, or on parole”[L.A. Times OpEd page 2/8/96]) by saying that ‘breaking the law is breaking the law’ without consideration of or sensitivity to...
We have been a buffet, laid out before you. Won't you sit down and sup with us? At our table, among what is familiar to you, there is diversity, variety, and creativity. As you taste, you will see there is so much good—for the body, mind and spirit. If you find us unusual, allow yourself the joy of discovery. If you find us familiar, bring another to the table. You are welcome to our table. Be warmed and filled. And remember, you are what you eat.

This is the final article in our Black History Month series. However, it is our desire that our contributions to this campus are not merely tolerated for a few weeks a year. The invitation to our table stands until all of us experience liberation from cultural, racial, denominational and all other matters of prejudice on this campus and in the church.

We sincerely appreciate those who asked us questions, ate with us, proudly wore African art, watched a movie and cried with us, worshipped with us and just plain had fun with us. On a final note...

**The Last Question.**
Q. What do Black women usually do together for fellowship?
A. Make a friend and find out! :)

**The Last Fact.**
On January 6, 1863, the Second Baptist Church in Detroit held an emancipation celebration, the first such celebration to follow Lincoln's proclamation.

**The Latest Resources.**
Library: Fuller book buyers are considering purchasing the African American Answer Book series. Additionally, with inter-library exchanges, librarians are able to secure almost any title in publication.

Bookstore: Have you noticed the Fuller Bookstore's most excellent display of African-American titles this month? Additionally, the bookstore carries over 500 titles of interest by and about African Americans.

African American Resource Center and Lounge: Located on the third floor of Taylor Hall, it is open daily and by appointment. If you want to read a good book, hear a great sermon or fellowship amidst our familiar, you are welcome to hang out up there. There is a collection of videos of African-American scholars, preachers and worship services; a collection of academic and popular African-American books and magazines; and a couple of comfortable couches and cheap snacks. Do drop in!

**The Last Events.**
Friday, February 23: "The Season for Preaching," an African-American worship experience with Pastor Coy Turrentine and the Deliverance Tabernacle Church of Pasadena; 7 p.m. in Travis Auditorium.

Thursday, February 29: "House Party," the African-American version of a coffee house. 6:30 p.m. in the Catalyst. Slots still available for three-minute acts—the serious and hilarious are welcome.

**Coming Next Year:** "Hitherto the Lord Has Brought Us: The Conference." Tentatively scheduled for early Spring, this weeklong in-gathering of African-American scholars, preachers, students, community and the people who love us is sure to be a phenomenal time of learning, sharing and growing. See you there.
How would you feel if I granted you an extra week off between the 10th week and finals? I believe we would all benefit from an additional reading week before finals to catch our breath and slow down the pace of life around here. A 12-week quarter could vastly improve the quality of our lives. If we took this bold step as a seminary community, we could demonstrate our belief that quality of life is more important than studying and working every waking hour. Is it really OK to work 40 hours a week, while pursuing a graduate degree, and with a family?

I don’t believe that God intended for us to live fragmented, driven lives – even for the lofty purpose of obtaining graduate degrees. I’m calling for a radical refocusing of priorities, whether or not the Seminary decides to grant us an extra week in the quarter. We are kidding ourselves if we think we will cast off patterns of drivenness and workaholism when we graduate. Making time for God, family, friends, and self must happen now. Taking an “incomplete” in these areas has long-term ramifications. We are building our future on what we do today.

I would like to propose that we measure our lives by a different standard than our academic accomplishments. Holistic learning and growth leads to an alternative lifestyle that requires a change of values. For example, some of the greatest lessons you could be learning might be from the person with an incredible life story sitting right next to you. There are boundless treasures residing in the people who have come from many miles to be here. There are also treasures in you that could make a big difference in the lives of the people around you. We often miss discovering these treasures in pursuit of success and survival in a climate of business.

I recently spoke with a friend about holistic living, and he shared with me his “Life Report Card”. I present to you a modified version. Before the end of the quarter, fill in this report card for yourself. Later on, hold it up beside your grades. See what kind of grades you can give yourself (A, B, C, or even D in these areas – no F’s please!)

Selena Headley
SWM GU Vice-President

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child of God</th>
<th>Spouse, Roommate or Family (S/R/F)</th>
<th>Friends</th>
<th>Self-Care</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Minister</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spent time with God</td>
<td>Spent time with S/R/F</td>
<td>Spent time with friends</td>
<td>Enjoyed solitude</td>
<td>Maintained a learning posture</td>
<td>Spent time seeking God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared myself with God</td>
<td>Shared myself with S/R/F</td>
<td>Shared myself with friends</td>
<td>Did something bringing me joy</td>
<td>Faithfully did assignments</td>
<td>Depended on the Holy Spirit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listened to God</td>
<td>Listened to S/R/F</td>
<td>Listened to friends</td>
<td>Spent time reflecting</td>
<td>Participated in class</td>
<td>Loved my co-ministers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obeyed God</td>
<td>Served S/R/F</td>
<td>Served friends</td>
<td>Took care of me</td>
<td>Encouraged classmates</td>
<td>Served others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received grace and forgiveness</td>
<td>Invested in S/R/F’s future</td>
<td>Prayed with friends</td>
<td>Gave myself a break</td>
<td>Used what I have learned</td>
<td>Empowered &amp; released others to minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enjoyed God’s creation</td>
<td>Prayed with S/R/F</td>
<td>Prayed for friends</td>
<td>Took care of my body</td>
<td>Took risks for growth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worshipped God</td>
<td>Prayed for S/R/F</td>
<td>Took care of personal business</td>
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<td>Prayed for others</td>
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The SEMI February 26, 1996
Confessions of Yesterday

Yesterday was one of the worst days of my life.

It seemed like I totally blew everything. In meetings I felt like a babbling idiot. I regretted some choices I made. I was in inner turmoil. I was curt and judgmental toward friends. I was ashamed.

Some days are just like that.

The whole day it seemed I was wrestling with demons and angels, compelling old patterns and desperate hopes for new ones.

The War of Yesterday wasn’t a battle between getting it right and getting it wrong. My “sin” would not be in getting it wrong, but in allowing my shamed pride to distance me from these sisters and brothers, allowing enmity or indifference to build. It was a battle for new life.

Could I birth new responses that weren’t mired in shame? Could I live within the reality that I was a new creation? Not a perfect creation. A new, grace-filled creation.

Could I respond with love? Loving myself by being gentle even though it was “one of those days.” Loving others by experiencing my own exposed feelings as a conduit for intimacy. Loving God by crying out for mercy.

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day.... All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.” II Corinthians 4:16; 5:18

Yesterday was one of the best days of my life.

I didn’t sink into depression or self-pity. I kept calling on God’s mercy during my rawness. My vulnerability was God’s grace to give me humility within confrontations. It provided the vulnerability to contact people with whom I needed to make amends.

I was compelled to reconcile, freed to love.

Katie Price Foster
Assistant Director, OCC

Winter Opportunities

♦ Genesis Journeys - This is a program offered through the OCC which seeks to foster and develop community in the context of the outdoor environment. The idea for Genesis Journeys grew out of the need to bring Fuller’s Pre-Sem program “closer to home” and to give Fuller students an opportunity to experience community in creation. If you are interested in taking an already-formed small group on a day retreat or want to become a part of a group for the day, you will have an opportunity on March 2nd and 3rd. An experienced group leader will facilitate the time, so all you have to do is show up and be encouraged (prices range from $15-$40). Call the Office of Christian Community if you are interested.

♦ Community Living - Have you heard about ALLELOUS? Take it from me (someone who actually lives there) when I say that it has been a great experience. I know that many people have frustrations with community life here at Fuller. I have been one of those who was frustrated! Living in a community setting has changed my attitude towards Fuller and my perspective on life in general. It’s been a great experience to have a common group of people to share meals with as well as our lives. If you are interested at all, there are a few apartments left. We would love for you to join us (singles and couples are welcome). Give us a call at the OCC.

♦ Bridge Toward Wholeness - Do you have a group where you can share your deepest struggles and joys? The Bridge toward Wholeness is a safe and confidential place that is open to all Fuller students and faculty. The 12 Steps will be applied to your life to move you towards spiritual and emotional wholeness. It is an open meeting so you can either come for one meeting or every week - there is no long-term commitment involved. It meets every Thursday, from 7:00pm-8:30pm in the Office of Christian Community. Come if you need support or want to learn more about the twelve steps.

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.
"What do you mean by ‘Chatty Pith’?"

By the Rev. Dr. Barbara L. Eurich-Rascoe
Director, Office of Women’s Concerns

Mark Your Calendar for the
1996 WOMEN’S LECTURES:
“The Salutarity of Christian Doctrine”

You’ve already seen the bright half-sheets appearing around campus. They look suspiciously like last year’s “Bondi-watch” broadsides. It’s that time of the year again! Since 1983 Fuller Theological Seminary has invited female scholars such as Renita Weems and Sister Joan Chittister to highlight women’s contributions to the academy. This year we are privileged to welcome as our lecturer Dr. Ellen Charry, who is a theologian and professor at SMU’s Perkins School of Theology.

Dr. Charry is currently completing By the Renewing of Your Minds: The Salutarity of Christian Doctrine, to be published by Oxford University Press. She is supported in this work by a grant from the Louisville Institute for Protestantism and American Culture. She has been awarded a 1995-96 Luce Fellowship in Theology from the Association of Theological Schools for the Christian Self.

Dr. Charry received her doctorate from Temple University. She was a Henry Luce Fellow in Theology at Yale Divinity School (1989-91) and a member in residence at the Center for Theological Inquiry, Princeton, New Jersey (1991-92). She is actively involved in the Dogmatics Colloquium of the Center for Catholic and Evangelical Theology, the faculty for the College of Bishops and the Clergy Leadership Project of the Episcopal Church, the Advisory Committee for the Center for Theological Inquiry, Princeton, NJ, and the Leadership for Ministry Project of Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary sponsored by the Lilly Endowment. She is the author of Franz Rosenzweig on the Freedom of God (1987). Her writings have appeared widely in scholarly books and journals, including Theology Today, The Journal of Ecumenical Studies, and The Christian Century. Dr. Charry is a member of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Dallas, Texas. She is married and the mother of two daughters.

This year’s lectures by Dr. Charry, as well as many past lectures, will be available for purchase on cassette tape through Fuller Seminary’s Media Center (584-5227).

Dr. Charry is a member of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Dallas, Texas. She is married and the mother of two daughters.

During the second hour each day there will be an opportunity for questions and discussion.

❖ Lectureship Schedule ❖

- Wednesday, April 10th, 10 a.m.: “The Sermon On the Mount: An Interpersonal Ethic for the Humble,” with response by Dr. Hendrika VandeKemp, School of Psychology.
- Thursday, April 11th, 10 a.m.: “Learning Love and Justice: Saint Thomas and Mother Julian,” with response by Dr. John Thompson, School of Theology.

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.

- Action for Reconciliation & Renewal
  Tuesdays 10 am, Psych. Bldg 120
- 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 303
- 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

For changes or additions to this list, contact the Office of Denominational Relations, located 2nd floor of Carnell Hall (behind the Catalyst) or call 584-5387.

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the biased nature of those laws which are made and enforced by and for white people. There has been no grief, sorrow, or repentance openly expressed in class over those current unfair imbalances of power from which the white population benefits. I am truly ashamed for them and for myself.

Understandably, Sondra, you were upset that day in class when the slavery which held your great grandmother captive was ‘defended’ by a brother in Christ through a reference to the ‘spirit of the times.’ There is no justification for that remark. I want to validate your experience that it seemed to you as if no white brother or sister would call that remark into question. I was in class that day and was gauging my response just as you slammed your hand on the desk. My sense of the truth is that most students, white or not, did not speak up because they saw nothing wrong with that statement, but some whites might not have spoken up in deference to you because of a fear of being just another white person dominating the discussion.

And perhaps in your tears my woeful attempt to comfort you by offering encouraging words after class did not have an effect. Let me repeat what I then said. I’m glad you spoke because it was needed; it was indeed a racist remark and you have every right to be the judge in that regard. I also said the remark stunk of bigotry because it assumed the ‘spirit of the times’ today is somehow not racist. This assumption denies just how deeply racism is embedded in our society.

I also said that those downtown L.A. hotels, with their exclusively Latino service-sector employees, are one example of the ‘new plantations.’ This was not meant to disparage or minimize the cruelty of slavery, but rather to call attention to the ever-new forms of unfair domination white people institute from their privileged position. This supports your claim that racism is alive and well today. A parallel case might be labeling the U.S.-sponsored slaughter in East Timor the ‘new holocaust.’ If these statements are perceived as offensive and minimizing to African Americans and Jews respectively, then I can learn to stop using these parallels. In the meantime, I believe such comments raise the level of discussion a notch above those in which white people attempt to defend themselves as ‘not racist.’

Sondra, you’re right; racism, prejudice and ignorance operate here at Fuller, and sadly I am one of those people to whom those attributes apply. I am ashamed for my guilt in these matters and am trying to do better by listening to, rather than defending against, charges of racism. No doubt I am not alone in this effort. Unhappily, however, the reality of ‘one in Christ’ will not be known until the parousia. Meanwhile, I look both within for the testimony of the Holy Spirit directly to my heart, and without to leaders like you who help bring me out of ignorance in order to ‘tear down the spiritual walls that separate us.’

Many blessings to you.

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**Spring Deadline Schedule**

for articles, ads and announcements

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<th>Issue</th>
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Submissions are due to the SEMI office by noon on Tuesdays. Questions? Call the SEMI at ext. 5430 or write FTS Box OSS.

6 The SEMI February 26, 1996
The Board of Trustees cordially invites the Fuller community to attend the installation service of Dr. James D. Guy as the Dean of the Graduate School of Psychology on Monday, March 4, from 10 - 11:15 am, at First United Methodist Church (500 E. Colorado Blvd., corner of Colorado and Oakland). A reception will follow in Barker Commons. All offices will be closed for this celebration.

Free Group Therapy
Explore how shyness, embarrassment, and shame may keep you from taking important risks. This 10-week group is free, in return for your participation in our research. Spring quarter groups are forming now, and filling up fast! Call Ramona at 584-5555.

Women's Dinner
Join the Women's Concerns Committee for dinner on Wednesday, March 6. Meet by 5:15 pm. outside the Office of Women's Concerns (above the Catalyst), and we'll carpool from there. Bring about $6. Mark your calendar, and bring a friend! All Fuller women welcome.

Spring Festival of the Arts
Chalk drawings, painting classes, museum trips, mural creations, faculty debates, art galleries, musical offerings and more! Don’t miss Fuller’s 3rd Annual Spring Festival of the Arts, Through Faithful Hands; Celebrating the Visual Arts, April 20 - 27.

Original Play Reading!
Come to a reading of a new play by SOT student Garretta Omaia, Saturday, February 24, 7 pm, at the Catalyst. Don’t miss this opportunity to check out a new play and support our local talent!

Free Therapy
Division of Marriage and Family Therapy is offering 10 free counseling sessions starting the first week of the Spring quarter, to engaged or married couples, and families who wish to improve communication and interaction patterns. For more information, call Susan Kalnay 584-5344. Space is limited. Offer not available to School of Psychology students.

"Charry Pith"
Last year was Bondi Watch — this year it’s Charry Pith. “A defense of the tradition must be mounted with reasoned arguments, lest defenders of the faith think that loudly affirming and repudiating positions is all that the church’s faith requires...” Catch Ellen Charry in April!

Summer Opportunity
Youth Works Missions, run by a Fuller alumnus, has some awesome summer staff positions available for working with a young, youth-missions organization — we run mission trips for high school youth groups at sites around the U.S. and in Mexico. Great pay! For more information, call 800-968-8504.

Hallmarks of Commitment
On Wednesday, March 6, the Pasadena Church of the Brethren will commemorate this year. The celebration will be on February 28, from 10 -11:30 am at the First Congregational Church. A reception will follow.

1996 Gilbert Peace Lecture
The Pasadena Church of the Brethren would like to invite the general public to the 1996 Gilbert Peace Lecture, given by Dr. James Wm. McClendon, Jr., distinguished scholar-in-residence at Fuller. His lecture, entitled “Toward a Peaceable Culture,” will be given on February 23, at 7:30 pm at 1041 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena. Call 797-3235 for further information.

Artists!
Start thinking now about submitting pieces of your art for the Gallery Show during Fuller’s Spring Arts Festival. Submissions will be taken from April 1 - 12. Watch for further information.

Fuller Art Publication
“Offerings” is a publication of poetry, prose, and sketches by Fuller people. If you’d like to submit some of your work, drop it off in the ASC office before March 15th. Call Beth of the Arts Concerns Committee at 584-5215 with any questions.
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.


Christians need cars tool SIDCO Auto Brokers serve Christian Colleges, Missions, Staff/Students/Alumni. This is our 10th year serving the Christian community. Fuller Hotline 909-949-2776 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.

Need a Typist or Transcriber? Simply bring me your papers, reports, etc. I’ll give you the professional touch. LOW rates. 15 yrs. experience. Robbie 818-791-1855

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.

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


English-speaking Youth Director Wanted! Need a part-time job or internship? Why not check out JOY Christian Presbyterian Church in Rowland Heights? It is a new Korean church so compensation is $200 per month, plus the opportunity to be part of something new and exciting. Contact Pastor Kim [818-332-9686] or Peggy Marcy [818-398-8487] by March 1.


Supplemental, Building Income: Easy-to-share quality products that stay with market trends. Excellent support environment. Bilinguals have extra advantage. 818-398-6578.

The SEMI is looking for a reporter/writer! We would need you to write 2-5 stories for our spring quarter issues. We’ll pay by the story. Stop off at the SEMI office (upstairs from the Catalyst) to pick up an application.

Rose City Cleaners
20% discount on dry cleaning to all Fuller students and staff!

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