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Why Should Christians See Movies?

By Allen Corben, staff, Registrar's Office

Approximately 14 minutes after finishing my intensive Greek final exam last fall, I was off to the movies. I saw two films: Get Shorty and The American President. Both movies were outstanding. However, I hearken back to my days in a Bible college, and I am sure that both of those films would have raised some hackles: Get Shorty for being rated R, and The American President for...well, to be blunt, fornication. In any case, both would have been 'dissed' on the general principle that they were in no way evangelistic.

And that’s what I’m writing about. Oh, sure, I could go on and on about the clever plot twists in Get Shorty or spend my precious-few words telling you about the warm-hearted comedy of The American President. But I'm not gonna do it.

What I want to write about is the importance of being involved in the culture we are surrounded by. There are two primary methods for doing this: one is through sciences like psychology, sociology, anthropology, or missiology. In fact, it is a sociological axiom that those who are least conscious of the influence of culture are the ones most influenced by it. “Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds.” If we are to take that seriously, we must know and understand our culture in order to intelligently engage the people around us, as well as to recognize the undeniable impact our culture is having upon us.

Analysis of cultures and subsequent connections with people through one or more of these sciences is the method most frequently adopted as an intention by Fuller students. The other method, far less intentionally used at Fuller, is to stay in contact with culture through the arts, through literature, through music, dance, and the like. When best-seller lists are populated with Calvin and Hobbes and David Letterman’s Top Ten Lists (both of which I love) and not with my brother-in-law’s techno-thriller novels (ask me later), then the movie is the most widely-seen piece of contemporary ‘literature’ around. I’ve even heard movies called “the novels of the 21st century.”

So I’d like to put in a plug for going to the movies. I suspect this plug is unneeded, since I am not at that tiny little Bible college in upstate New York, but I’d like to qualify the unbridled call to the cinema just a bit. Take the time to go to movies with folks you care about, and later talk about issues raised by the films. I know that sounds pretentious, but do it anyway. If you go to see a violent film, perhaps you can talk about whether ‘knowing’ the characters who are killed in the film makes it harder or easier to deal with their deaths. Was there anything funny you were uncomfortable laughing at? If you go to a movie that is arousing in some way (those Bible-college eyebrows are arching up all over my superego), talk with these people honestly and explore in what manner and why it aroused you. What’s the history of this? Have the desert mothers and fathers said anything about it? Can you take the image into a quiet, contemplative time and pray about it?

Maybe you’ve just seen a bad film; find a different angle to work it from. Explore your own creativity. What would it take to make it a better film? Or pick an unrelated topic: would a moving film be ruined if you discovered something morally reprehensible about the director, screenwriter, or actors?

continued on page 5
Several years ago, I had some classmates come to my home to study for an upcoming exam. During our dinner conversation, one of the women asked, “Do you consider yourself to be Cuban or American?” That was a difficult question to respond to because: (a) though I was born in Cuba, I hadn’t been back since I left at the age of 5 1/2 and have made little effort to know about my heritage, and (b) though I grew up in Georgia (how much more ‘American’ can one get?), I spoke a different language at home and had a name which was difficult for some to pronounce.

Since I grew up in Georgia, I knew no other Hispanics or Spanish-speaking people apart from those in my family. I ate American food, I was educated in American schools, I was an American—or so I thought, until my family moved to Miami. All of a sudden, though I was Cuban born, I was a minority because I didn’t speak Spanish well, I was more independent, and I had little sense of the culture in which I now found myself. I remember that in Miami, I was attracted to those people who were either Americans or, like myself, Americanized Cubans. I did not speak Spanglish (a mixture of Spanish and English throughout the entire conversation), I was more reserved in my manners (not as expressive as those “loud & obnoxious Cubans”), and I was less intense.

Though I am ‘green’ (a mixture of two cultures to form a new one: refer to Nancy Thomas’ article in week 4 of winter quarter), I have come to respect those things my heritage stands for. For Cubans, family and relatives are very important, and education is highly valued. Though I struggle at times because I have chosen to move away from my immediate family, these things are still important to me today.

So what’s my story of reconciliation... well, unbeknownst to them and only recently (really recently) to myself, I think reconciliation has come to me through the Hispanic community on the Fuller campus. I’m not actively involved, but watching them and having had interaction with several of them as individuals, I find that I still connect with them, though I’m not completely one of them. My stereotypes of what I, as a Hispanic, should be are starting to change; I’m going through a “paradigm shift.” I am not embarrassed to admit that I speak Spanish (as a matter of fact, I sometimes speak it when it’s not required just because I think it’s neat); being bilingual has been a plus (something I knew I was capable of but was not aware of its advantages); and, whether I want to admit it or not, sometimes I wear my emotions on my sleeve (ask anyone who’s heard me preach/speak). I would hope that I’m not the only person out there who has had to struggle to combine two or more cultures to become a more put-together individual.

As I’m coming to the conclusion of this article, I realize that I may be a bit out of my league. According to the American Heritage Dictionary on my computer, to ‘reconcile’ means: 1. To reestablish a close relationship. 2. To settle or resolve. 3. To bring (oneself) to accept. 4. To make compatible or consistent. I have not necessarily reestablished a close relationship or completely settled things between my Cuban heritage and my American upbringing. As a matter of fact, it’s not something I think about or ponder unless it’s brought up in conversations/dialogues (or I’m asked to write about it). However, I can now say that I am a Cuban-American who recognizes the positives in both cultures, even though they are not both equally represented in who I am becoming on a daily basis. Though I haven’t integrated these two cultures perfectly, perhaps my story may help some to become reconciled to who they are. A friend said...
Glimpses of Yazzie

by Catherine Price, SOT student

The 3rd annual Spring Festival of the Arts will feature a visual artist who embodies its theme: Through Faithful Hands. Elmer Yazzie is a Navajo muralist, art teacher, storyteller, and creator of yucca brush paintings. Beyond being a uniquely creative individual, he is simply an extraordinary man. Pete Harkema, a personal friend of Yazzie's from their days at Calvin College, shares a glimpse into the heart of Yazzie in this manner:

Jill and I met Elmer when he first came to Calvin College in 1972. We were first-year resident directors and even in our initial encounters with him, we knew him to be a man with a huge heart. Elmer is the kind of person who goes where angels fear to tread. He is disarmingly honest and his art unfolds the gospel in provocative ways. Art is his way of doing ministry. Elmer grieves for some of the fallenness in the Navajo people, but at the same time he deeply loves the richness and beauty of his culture. His art often represents his expression of the reconciliation between his Christian faith and the Navajo tradition.

His commitment to bring the healing of Jesus to the lives of his people is most evident in his role as an art teacher at Rehoboth Christian School in Gallup, New Mexico, which was founded as a missionary boarding school and is now in the process of becoming independent. Elmer is highly involved in the fight to keep the school strong academically during the transition, as well as ensuring that it will continue to keep indigenous teachers. He stresses the importance of teaching Native American kids about their culture, and creates images to reflect that passion. Elmer believes in the power of Christian education in the lives of Navajo children, and the kids love him.

His exposure as a Christian educator also led to perhaps the most significant event for Elmer as an artist; he was invited by an evangelist to the Navajo people to create a mural in a church in Red Mesa, New Mexico. This invitation led Elmer to move with his wife and two children to Red Mesa for a year. The product of this project is a mural that surrounds the interior of the church, and serves as a teaching tool for the evangelist. In images real to Navajo people, the mural boldly depicts the salvation story. I have visited the church twice, and each time felt deeply moved by the dramatic and unusual images.

He has a different sense of time and likes to play with that in a culture that places so much emphasis on schedules. Relationship is what is important to Elmer, not time — so he'll call at 6 a.m. just to say hi because we're on his mind and he wants to connect. Last time I saw Elmer in Michigan, I was sitting in my living room reading a book, and suddenly there was Elmer peering through the window at me, unannounced.

He was always teaching us that we were much too confined by life. Elmer is spontaneous, and great things happen when he blows off schedules and focuses on what he feels is important.

Elmer is a fisherman. He loves to ice fish at night on a mountain lake and will take anyone who wants to go with him. He'll go out at 7:00 in the evening and come back at 2 a.m. (or later!) and be perfectly fresh to teach in the morning. A professor from Calvin took a group of students to New Mexico to study alcohol abuse among the Native Americans and stopped by to visit Elmer. Intrigued by the invitation to fish, off they went into the cold, dark New Mexico night. When this fairly-refined, ordained PCUSA minister and psychologist speaks of it now, his eyes light up with delight and he recalls dreams he has of going back to ice fish. He considers it a high point of his life. That's the magic of knowing Elmer. He relishes life.

He will be very entertaining here. He's quite a guy. He'll challenge our theology to see how it works out into life. If it's too conventional, he'll poke at it.

There will be several opportunities to interact with this unique and creative individual, as well as view his art work, during the Arts Festival, April 20-27. Watch for details in next week's issue of the SEMI.
Bridge of Dreams

What are our dreams for bridging the gaps between us? I have a dream that Fuller would be a community of the kingdom, completely reconciled to one another and propelled as instruments of blessing to a broken world.

How is God already bridging those gaps? The willingness of the community to address those issues that divide us has brought us closer as we struggle to find solutions to our problems. The emphasis on the uniqueness of each school, ethnic groupings, and genders is now being discussed. We are different and yet we are one. We are one because we have been redeemed by Jesus’ precious blood and called to serve. We are different because we have been called to perform different aspects of the ministry of reconciliation.

Some of us come from other cultures where we consider reconciliation as a time for celebration. For instance, in my culture, if sin has been committed blood is required to remove it. A younger person who intentionally slaps an elder would bring a live rooster to the elder in the presence of other members of the community. Both parties would put their hands on the rooster and confess the sin and their intention to be reconciled. This is just the first step toward a lasting reconciliation. The second step is to kill the rooster. The blood is poured away with the sin. The meat is then cooked and eaten by the parties and other people in the village. Whatever was violated is now fully restored. Reconciliation is completed when the enemies have eaten together.

Fuller provides a conducive environment for eating together, discussing, and sharing as equals committed to reconciliation. What is lacking at Fuller is action. We talk but most of the time we do not take the next step of reaching out to our brothers and sisters in humility and respect. All of us first need to build bridges in love, bridges that are cemented with the Blood of the Lamb. Jesus is the real bridge, and bridges that are built without him will not last.

To prepare for this Spring’s Day of Prayer, we must strip ourselves of all the masks fear brings on us. We must get out of the victim syndrome and build bridges. Our individual and collective finger-pointing must be placed at the foot of the cross. Our Day of Prayer will be meaningless if we do not really mean what we say together. As a community, we must be prepared to pay the small price that comes with real reconciliation.

My dream is to see a Christ-like institution where each one is respected, loved, and honored as a special tool in the hands of our Lord. My dream is to see a colorless Fuller where the bond of peace transcends our nationalities, ethnic groups, theological and ecclesiastical traditions. I dream that Jesus will be the Lord of my life, totally, and the “little me” will be a servant to my brother and sister here at Fuller and the world.

Pray that each one of us will be ready to open his or her heart to others—to serve one another in love in small things as well as in big things.

Stephen J. Niyang
Chair, International Student Concerns Committee
Day of Prayer Planning Team

Spring Opportunities

↓ Making Space for God – Tuesdays at Ten (10:00–10:40) in the Catalyst.
↓ Orthodox Morning Prayer – 7:30am–7:55am, Monday – Friday in chapel above Library
↓ Common Lunch Time – Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:15–1:00

↓ Bridge of Dreams
During the Arts Festival week, look for your opportunity to contribute to the Bridge of Dreams banners in the Garth and the Psychology courtyard.

↓ Genesis Journeys
This is a program offered through the OCC which seeks to foster and develop community in the context of the outdoor environment. This Saturday and Sunday, April 13-14, you will have an opportunity to come closer to God and others as we offer our first Genesis Journey of the quarter. If you are interested in taking an already formed group on one of these “journeys”, or would like to be placed in a group for the day, give our office a call.

↓ The Couples Garden
April 13 will be the first Couple’s Garden this quarter. This is a time to grow closer to your spouse through practical communication exercises and a structured date. For more information on the Couple’s Garden and other opportunities to nurture your marriage, call the OCC.

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

The SEMI April 8, 1996
Emma Emgard

Program: Ph.D. SWM

Research Interests: Team leadership for short-term mission teams. She hopes to work as a consultant to churches and organizations in Asia.

Country of Origin: Sweden, but has been in ministry in Holland and was a missionary in Hong Kong and Singapore for many years with YWAM.

Facts about Emma: Lived in community for 17 years; has had over 250 roommates of at least one month! Knew from early childhood that she wanted to be a missionary.

What Brought Her to Fuller: “I was called to go back to Sweden for a few years to work with discipleship and leadership training there. I never had any real training for being a leader, or for training leaders.... I wanted to come to learn the theory and theology behind what I had been doing for years.

Her Fuller Experience: “My horizons have definitely expanded here, and I have loved these years of learning. Some of my theology classes have revealed God to me in a way I never knew before....”

Movies . . . from page 1

Does it trouble you to see some films profiting people you would love to see go broke? Perhaps you can even go to escapist movies and talk about those things from which you are escaping. One of my holiday traditions is to go to the movies with my family; it seemed that we often did this as much to attend to something other than our discomfort with each other as anything else.

If we want to know what the world is putting forth, and what it put forth yesterday, we have to engage our culture, and film is an option that is more accessible to more people than missiology is to the lay members of your church Sunday School class. Ursula K. Le Guin has said (it’s not true, of course), "Fiction writers, at least in their braver moments, do desire the truth... but they go about it in a peculiar and devious way... writing down a pack of lies, they say, 'There! That's the truth!' . . . Is it any wonder that no truly respectable society has ever trusted its artists?" I am therefore urging us all to risk being a little less 'respectable' and get involved with the arts, and this pitch is for films in particular.

The following groups 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

- New Apostolic Churches & Ministries
  Psych Bldg. 314

- Presbyterian Church (USA)
  Travis Auditorium

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

- Roman Catholic
  Library 205 (Refectory on 4/15)

- 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 Barnell Hall (behind the Catalyst) or call 584-5387.
ON APRIL 13TH,  
THE EVENT OF THE YEAR (BESIDES THE BOSH BASH)  
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FULLER FOLLIES '96

APRIL 13, 7 PM - 9PM  
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But we need your help!  
Sign up your act today!  
Call Jim and leave a message at 818-792-3364.  
(This means faculty as well.)  
10 acts are needed to have the show.  
Also, we are in desperate need of a House Band or a D.J..  
Any suggestions? Call Today!

The Spring Red Cross Blood Drive, sponsored by the ASC, is upon us – Tuesday, April 9, from 10 am – 3:15 pm in Payton 101. We have a goal of collecting 60 units of blood this season (which has the potential of saving 240 lives!). Please contact Meg at the ASC office to sign up today! 584-5452.

The Spring Red Cross Blood Drive, sponsored by the ASC, is upon us – Tuesday, April 9, from 10 am – 3:15 pm in Payton 101. We have a goal of collecting 60 units of blood this season (which has the potential of saving 240 lives!). Please contact Meg at the ASC office to sign up today! 584-5452.

If you are able to stay a second hour, Fuller faculty members Hendrika Vande Kemp (Wed.) and John L. Thompson (Thurs.) will respond to Charry’s presentations.

Though I am Green  
- from page 2

to me recently, “you have always shown me a sense of acceptance.” Maybe my journey towards personal acceptance has taught me to be more accepting of others and their uniquenesses. After all, isn’t that what reconciliation is all about?

Carmen is the Assistant Director of the Office of Student Services. She graduated from the School of Theology in 1995 with an M.Div.

Join the SEMI staff on Tuesday, April 9, from 12:15 - 1:00 p.m. in the Faculty Commons if you would like to discuss this article or reconciliation in general.
**Financial Aid Applications Due!**

1996-97 Financial Aid Applications are due! SOP (Clinical & MFT) & SOT Applications are due Monday, April 15. Come pick up your applications if you haven’t already!

**Free Movies On Campus!**

Mark your calendars for the following movie in the CFD Resource Center (465 Ford Pl.): *My Left Foot*, showing at 3 pm on Friday, April 12.

**Job Opportunity**

Continuing and Extended Education is a market-driven, service-oriented office, where your gifts of service can be put to work! Flebile hours, part-time work available to the right people desiring to labor with others who are dedicated to making a difference. Send your resume to Human Resources marked “a few great folks.”

**Moltmann Materials on Reserve**

Get ready for the Payton Lectures featuring Jürgen Moltmann! Materials by and about Moltmann are on reserve in the library for students interested in preparing for his lectures. You must check these materials out from the reference desk.

**Donations Needed**

International Student Services is in need of donated kitchen supplies and linen. We need complete used or new sets of dishes, pots and pans, and linen in good condition. Please notify our office before bringing donations over (584-5395). We want to welcome our new international students, many of whom arrive with nothing for their homes, by providing some useful essentials for their apartments.

**Part-Time Youth Position**

Rev. David Wong, pastor of the Chinese Baptist Church in Eagle Rock, will be on campus Tuesday, April 23 to interview anyone interested in a part-time youth and children’s position at the church. Pay is $400-700/month depending on your time and interest. Sign up in lobby of Carnell Hall.

**Fuller Phonothon Hiring**

Want a great part-time job? The Office of Development is now accepting applications for the Spring 1996 Phonothon to help increase funds for student assistance. Training starts Monday, April 15th and the phonothon will run through Thursday, May 16th. We’ll be calling Monday through Thursday, 5:00 to 9:00 pm & we’d like you to work 2 to 4 nights per week. Go to Human Resources (next to Amy’s) for an application, or contact the Office of Dev. at 584-5683.

**Christmas in April**

“Christmas in April” is a nation-wide effort to organize volunteers who will give their time and skills for one day to make repairs on selected homes for low-income, elderly or disabled homeowners. Whether you are a skilled crafts-person or an unskilled-but-willing worker, we’d love to have you! Call 833-1033 for info.

**Doctoral Student Directory**

Women and ethnic doctoral candidates and graduates are invited to list their academic credentials in the 1996-97 edition of the Minority and Women Doctoral Directory. Listing is free for your first year. The directory is an important tool in increasing minorities’ and women's representation on university faculties. Application forms available outside the Office of Women's Concerns, upstairs from the Catalyst.

**Call for Singers!**

The Fuller chapel choir presents music each Wednesday as part of the chapel service. Additional voices are needed for the spring quarter, and choral scholarships are available for those who participate. Come to our practice (Wed., 11am-12 pm at the First Congregational Church choir room) or contact Dr. Janet Harms, choir director, at 909-394-9990.

**Library Book Sale**

Fuller Library Book sale will take place on April 15, 16. Hard-cover books are only $1.00, and paperbacks are just $.50 while supplies last. Starts at 8 am.

**Clinical Pastoral Training**

Chaplain Phil Manly, from USC Medical Center, will be on campus Tuesday, April 23 from 9:00 - 10:30, to meet with students interested in doing a hospital practicum during the summer quarter. Interview sign-up sheets are located in the lobby of Carnell Hall. For more information, contact the Office of Field Education, 584-5377.

**Ministry Enrichment Seminar**

Rev. Elizabeth Nordquist, Associate Pastor at St. Peter’s-by-the-Sea Presbyterian Church, will speak on “Accountability in Ministry,” Thursday, April 11, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. in Payton 101. Staying centered in God’s call demands both inner resources and outer support systems. Rev. Nordquist will address ways pastors can develop resources and skills necessary to staying nourished and honest in ministry.

**Kaiser In-Service Chaplaincy Workshops**

On April 10, the Office of Continuing Education is sponsoring a Kaiser In-Service Chaplains’ Workshop. As a chaplain, busy with day-to-day, minute-by-minute crises, there is little time to spend in fellowship with other chaplains or in receiving invaluable in-service training. Fuller Seminary, in cooperation with the Kaiser hospitals in Southern California, provides speakers and support for Chaplaincy Workshops. Call 584-5290 for more info.

**Final “Cherry Pith”**

Ellen Cherry, of Perkins School of Theology, will speak at Fuller for the Annual Women’s Lectureship, April 10 and 11. (Cherry will also be a respondent during the Payton lectures with Jürgen Moltmann the following week.) Our last “Cherry Pith”: “At its best the Christian tradition has maintained both that Christianity is good for us because it is true ... and that it is true because it is good for us.”
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.


Organist/Pianist Needed for Community Christian Reformed Church in Fountain Valley. Will provide primary music for Sunday morning services. For more information call Anna at 714-847-1515.

How are You Paying for School? Home-based business. Low start-up, earn stocks, profit share, expense account, health & life insurance paid. 805-274-0941.

New Image Hair Salon: Under new management. We have new prices on all services for Fuller students and staff. By appointment, we have a special for perms on short hair, price $35. 585 E. Walnut St. Pasadena. 584-9311.

Getting Engaged? Or just want a reliable jeweler? Many Fuller students have come to us and it has been a privilege to help them. We do not sell to the general public. Walter Zimmer Co., wholesale manufacturing jewelers with 78 years’ experience. Call 213-622-4510 for hours, days open and directions. Ask for Mel or Ken Zimmer. (Mel is a member of Glendale Presbyterian Church and is active in the healing ministry.)

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

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