11-10-1997

The Semi (11-10-1997)

Fuller Theological Seminary

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.fuller.edu/fts-semi-5

Recommended Citation

This Periodical is brought to you for free and open access by the Fuller Seminary Publications at Digital Commons @ Fuller. It has been accepted for inclusion in The SEMI (1991-2000) by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Fuller. For more information, please contact archives@fuller.edu.
Christianity and Entertainment
Reflections on the Film and Television Industry
by Laura K. Simmons, editor

In the most recent Theology News and Notes, George Marsden describes the climate at the time of Fuller's founding, pointing out that evangelicals "were set apart by prohibitions of the classic vices of the barroom and the city: drinking, smoking, dancing, card playing, and theater or movie attendance." Fifty years later, Fuller co-hosts its fourth annual film festival. Has evangelicalism changed dramatically in its relationship with the entertainment industry?

The SEMI recently met with several individuals who have worked in "The Industry" and/or who regularly partake of film and television. Trudy Dumont, a student who also works in the Office of Presbyterian Ministries, worked on the Roseanne show for several years, leaving after she became a Christian. Sandra Furukawa of Housing Services worked on Friends and in the human resources division of Warner Brothers, and temped at Fox Studios. Admissions' Elias Gonzalez and Carmen Valdés and Laura Simmons of Student Services often compare notes on recent or favorite films and television shows (go, Rosie, go Rosie...).

Films and television serve myriad functions for 'consumers' of these media. Valdés, for example, learned English by watching television. Some grow up in families where the television is on most of the time, providing background noise for the activities of the family. Others see movies and television as an escape, a different experience than what they find in everyday life. Furukawa observes, "I cry more watching movies than at real-life things sometimes, because I feel others' souls more (in movies)—in real life they hide their feelings..." Gonzalez, on the other hand, does not experience movies as escapist: "Film-watching for me is often a way I think about what's going on in my life: how do I identify with certain characters or certain scenarios? What am I learning about myself by watching certain characters respond to situations? How would I do that? How does it remind me of things in my past? Poorly-made films can still have a deep impact and be very personal for me because of the subject matter." More than one interviewee mentioned the importance of Christians' engaging with the culture. Dumont points out that "There's sometimes a tendency for us to get insulated, being together with only Christians." Movies and television offer us a view into a world beyond our own. Gonzalez shares how he used to drive from his home near USC to an art class in Santa Monica, and drive down a different street each time, to get a different view of the city. "What amazed me," he says, "is that my church experience, my religious experience, had taught me nothing about knowing the variety of people that are there, and the way pain looks, and alienation..." Furukawa also finds that films teach her about subjects she might not have other opportunities to explore: "I probably learned more about geography and about different cultures from movies than I ever did in class...I could never tell you what it's like to grow up black and on the street, but from..."
METHIBOSHETH SCHOLARSHIP
Present or future full-time Fuller students with a physical-sensory disability and demonstrated financial need qualify. Applications are available in the Office of Financial Aid.

HEATHER MARIE BERGMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Applicant qualifications include the following: women students with a disability (preferably deafness); enrolled within the schools of Theology or World Mission; have and/or maintain a 2.5 G.P.A. for the duration of the scholarship in order to re-apply; have financial need as determined by the Office of Financial Aid's application process. Both applications are available in the Office of Financial Aid.

FORD FOUNDATION
Predoctoral and dissertation awards are available to U.S. citizens or nationals who are members of the following ethnic groups: Native American Indian, Alaskan Native, African American, Mexican American, Native Pacific Islander, or Puerto Rican.
Awards will be made for study in research-based doctoral programs (Ph.D.) in the behavioral and social sciences, humanities, or interdisciplinary programs.

PEW YOUNGER SCHOLARSHIPS FELLOWSHIPS
Goal: To nurture Christian scholarship and strengthen the Christian intellectual community.
Awards: Ten $39,000 fellowships ($13,000 for 3 years) to support study in the humanities, social sciences, and theological studies.
Eligibility: No degree beyond a terminal master’s; not currently enrolled in or offered admission into a Ph.D. program; not beyond the age of thirty when the Ph.D. program begins; G.P.A. of 3.3 or higher; GRE test scores available by application deadline.

THE SANDY FORD MEMORIAL FUND
Sixteen scholarships of $20,000 for the 1998-1999 academic year are available for those pursuing careers in missions and/or evangelism. Applicants must have completed a B.A., reside in the country where they plan to study, and be between the ages of 25 and 40. All required application materials are available in the Office of Financial Aid.

continued on page 6
A Place To Lean
by Robert P. Meye, Dean Emeritus, School of Theology

Dr. Meye wrote this reflection after the September 17 reenactment of the Old Fashioned Revival Hour. The article was initially shared with the School of Theology faculty, and Dr. Meye has graciously allowed us to reprint it here for the benefit of the entire Fuller community.

This morning Fuller Theological Seminary, co-founded by Dr. Charles E. Fuller, kicked off its Fiftieth Anniversary celebration with a reenactment of Dr. Fuller’s well-known radio broadcast from an earlier time in this century, the Old Fashioned Revival Hour. True to the broadcast configuration, the reenactment gave a very large place to gospel music. Anyone who had any association whatsoever with the Old Fashioned Revival Hour, or a heart for “gospel music,” had to be deeply moved and blessed by the latest emanation of the Old Fashioned Revival Hour.

Personally, I was “strangely warmed,” and most deeply moved, by one of Dr. Fuller’s “favorites” (there were many!), sung in the closing moments of the “Hour:” Leaning on the Everlasting Arms. It is a familiar gospel song which I have known and sung since a wee child in a small country church. I note only several lines here:

...what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms...O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms...what have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms

Leaning is what the song is all about: leaning on the everlasting arms of God. Where else to lean—from the vantage point of the faith which comes to expression in this faithful gospel song!

Early on in the singing of the song, already strangely warmed and deeply moved, I was forced to close my eyes, both in a deep reverence for the God upon whom only we can safely lean, and also, I am sure, out of the deep emotion of the moment. Then, as naturally as the dawning of a new day, I said to myself, “I know a lot about leaning.” I know an awful lot about leaning! The recent years of my life have forced this leaning upon me—in a way no other time in my life could have done.

Since 1989 I have been subject to a series of biopsies, minor surgeries, and major surgeries for cancer. The latest (in 1994) of two major surgeries required the cooperative efforts of two teams of surgeons working all day and into the night, some fourteen hours by the anesthesiologist’s clock. In addition to surgery there has been major radiation, and much else. And the net result of it all has been a batch of major readjustments in my life, not the least of which is losing the ability to swallow. I have not had one bite of food nor one spoonful of water since November 7, 1994.

But more than the surgeries (during which time I was blissfully asleep and unaware of a jaw being sawed in two, etc.), and the aftermath of surgeries, there is that specter of cancer hanging over one’s horizon. Make no mistake: cancer can be deadly; it is a killer on the loose. It is fearsome. As for me, to take just one example from my life, in the fall of 1994 a surgeon reported (using my own “killer language”) that the cancer deep in my throat could kill me in a matter of months. Of course, even when cancer itself does not kill, it establishes the conditions for death.

All the signs of cancer, and all the appearances of cancer, given what we know about it, are bound to touch our heart and mind and spirit—our whole self—in the deeps. It’s rather like being tossed an object too hot to handle; you need something with which to handle the object. It’s like standing at the edge of a chasm, and needing a protective barrier to give you some feeling of safety. It’s like being a child (with a parent in tow) who sees a big dog, teeth showing and all, coming down the walk “at them;” the child instinctively leans into the parent. The child needs a place to lean. Big children also need a place to lean.

In respect to cancer’s shots at my life, and in respect to its repeated direct hits in one of my most sensitive “zones” (the mouth and throat), I have greatly needed something, better “someone,” to lean upon.

From beginning to end I have leaned upon the everlasting arms—of God. Indeed, before cancer ever appeared, I was a practiced “leaner,” although not as reliable a leaner as I might have been. And I long since had taught others, many congregations, and three decades of students in seminary classrooms about the arms that were there for us to lean on, and about the urgency of leaning upon those arms, the arms of God. Unbelief says that leaning on external agents is a sign of weakness; this I gladly acknowledge, even as I rest securely in the strong arms of God.

Unbelief says that leaning on external agents is a sign of weakness; this I gladly acknowledge, even as I rest securely in the strong arms of God.

I gladly note here the many human arms upon which God has privileged me to lean. The arms of God, it turns out, are many—not as depicted in some non-Christian symbols—but as in Truth. But I have found that the strength of these lesser arms is measured by their own readiness to lean upon the everlasting arms of God.

Yes, I know a lot about leaning—on the everlasting arms of God. Those arms have held me “safe and secure from all alarms”—including that great alarmer, cancer. The strength of those arms has helped me to surmount the dread and fear of cancer. The warmth of those arms has filled my life with peace. Indeed, I, a man described by an eminent oncologist as a “cancer former,” can still say, “O how bright the path grows from day to day.” Yes—when leaning on the everlasting arms of God.

I know a lot about leaning. And I celebrate the gospel song that helps me, with countless other “leaners,” to express my joy in leaning—on the everlasting arms of God.
The following groups will be meeting on Monday mornings from 10 to 10:50 a.m., with exceptions as noted.

**Denominational Groups**
This time is set aside for you to worship, for support, to network, and to connect with denominational issues.

- **American Baptist**
  Psych. Bldg. 116
- **Episcopal/Anglican**
  Preaching Arts Chapel
- **Evangelical Covenant**
  CFD Learning Center
  465 Ford Place
- **Lutheran (all)**
  Library 203
- **Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**
  Payton 303
- **Reformed Church in America/CRC**
  Psych. Bldg. 120
- **Roman Catholic**
  Library Chapel, 10:15 a.m.
- **United Methodist**
  Psych. Bldg. 130
- **Vineyard**
  Travis Auditorium

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 Denominational Relations Office on the second floor of Carnell Hall (behind the Catalyst), or call (626) 584-5387.

**Other Groups**
- **Korean Students**
  Payton 301
- **Messianic Jews**
  Glasser Hall, First Floor
- **Monday Morning Meditations for Non-Denominational Women**
  Back Room of the Catalyst

---

**Dining with Dan**

**Marston’s Restaurant**

(5 stars out of five!)
151 E. Walnut
Pasadena

I know some of you have been going here for years, but fortunately I stumbled onto this place through the son of the owners, Otis Marston, who works here at Fuller in the Young Life office. I warned him that if he fed me I, like a cat, would keep coming back. Needless to say, he decided to take me anyway.

I had the Crab Capellini, a delicate blend of deviled crab, capellini pasta, parmesan cheese, and seasonings. It comes crisply grilled and served with honey-mustard sauce, avocado and jicama salad. Doesn’t that sound good? Well it should, ‘cause I’m reading right from the menu. Otis told me that his dad loves to stay in the kitchen and be an artist, creating new tastes and textures, thereby turning the ordinary into the extraordinaire. I’ve been told by several professors that Marston’s has the best breakfasts in Pasadena. The french toast is even rolled in cornflakes before being grilled, for a unique and delicious crunch.

Best of all, Marston’s is just down the street, located at 151 E. Walnut Street. Marston’s is closed Sundays and Mondays and does not serve dinner. Check ‘em out and tell them that Dan sent you.

Until next time, may your tummies be happy and your heartburns be few,

Dan

---

**Fuller’s Day of Prayer!**
Christianity and Entertainment
Continued from page 1

Boyz 'n the Hood I have some inking of what they're up against—and I wouldn't have known it. Do you think I could walk up to someone on the street and ask what it's like, and have them think I'd understand?

Not all in the entertainment industry is salutary, though. Both Dumont and Furukawa reflect on what Furukawa describes as the soullessness of Hollywood. Dumont, for example, believes “It's a miracle that I was led to Christ on a secular show by a Christian. That whole environment was pretty dark.” She chooses not to watch much television anymore, because “To me, it's garbage. I think it's such a trap to turn on the TV at 6:00 at night and then turn it off at 11:00... When I worked on Roseanne there were thirteen people who were basically godless, taking their thoughts and their take on life and channeling them into something that 20 million people a week watched. That frightened me!” Furukawa had some terrible work experiences, including being told by Friends that she was too friendly. She enjoyed some aspects of her work in the industry (like seeing movies for free), but shared: “It's all you could want sometimes, but the price you pay is your integrity and your soul...”

We talked about the content of some shows. Dumont, for example, is bothered by the ease with which Seinfeld's characters hop from bed to bed, and perhaps more so by the fact that “They're not even close relationships, and they make fun of their relationships—what's going on here?” Valdés shares about a time when she would not see R-rated movies (which is still the standard for many evangelical Christians): “The critics might say a movie's great, but they don't tell you if it's very violent or graphic. Since I'm very visual, for me it's a question of, 'Do I need this image in my head?'” Simmons has similar experiences with music: “I tend not to listen to secular music, because whatever song I heard most recently is going through my head all day. Sometimes I'll turn on a new song or sing something, just to get something more edifying in my head to replace whatever I just heard on a store’s sound system...”

Vuong catalyzed this article by observing the power of movies. They make you dream, and empty lives you wouldn't have seen back when Fuller was founded, or even 20 years ago (remember how easy step-parenting was for the Bradys?).

Even in the midst of that realism, though, a spiritual search has begun to manifest. Martha Williamson's Promised Land and Touched by an Angel have had a strong enough response that several new, similar shows have popped up this season. Dumont agrees that “there is a tremendous need for more shows like Williamson's, but there's also more need to infiltrate the secular shows...” Bringing light into a dark industry may be as simple as writing a Christmas episode for a show, as one of her successors at Roseanne was able to do. He said, “I got to do one thing that glorified God...” She and Furukawa might go back to working in the industry, if they could do it in ways that would not compromise their integrity. There are several organizations for Christians who work in entertainment, so the support networks are there on some level. Furukawa says that part of her soul is still in the entertainment industry: “I love movies; I love the Generation-X experience of entertainment, the sense of not wanting to have pat answers, and wanting to ask hard questions—that's not what you would have seen in Father Knows Best...” Films today often reflect a grittier, more realistic world of dysfunctional families, broken relationships, and empty lives you wouldn't have seen back when Fuller was founded, or even 20 years ago (remember how easy step-parenting was for the Bradys?).
FROM THE OFFICE OF:  

FINANCIAL AID

continued from page 2

PEACE SCHOLAR
DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS
Supports one year of dissertation research and writing ($14,000) on topics addressing the sources and nature of international conflict and the full range of ways to prevent or end conflict and to sustain peace. Successful candidates must have completed all course work and examinations toward their doctoral degrees except the dissertation by the time their fellowships begin.


For applications, contact:
United States Institute of Peace
Jennings Randolph Program for Int’l Peace
1550 M Street NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005-1708
phone: (202) 429-3886
website: www.usip.org

THE HARVEY FELLOWS PROGRAM
Several annual stipends, for a maximum of three years, of $13,000 are available for Christian graduate students, enrolling in the highest-rated institutions, with potential to assume top-level leadership positions in strategic vocations in which evangelical Christians appear to be underrepresented. Applications are available in the Office of Financial Aid.

Application deadline: December 1, 1997

AID FOR WOMEN
The Philanthropic Educational Organization offers several grants and loans (maximum of $7,000) for U.S. citizens and permanent residents as well as international women pursuing graduate education. While general information is available in the Office of Financial Aid, interested students may contact local member Mrs. Grace Verburg for application materials and an interview at:
626 W. Huntington Dr. #121
Arcadia, CA 91007
Phone: (626) 446-7915
Application deadlines: There is none for the loans, but it is December 1, 1997 for grant applicants.

A MESSAGE FROM:

ACADEMIC ADVISING

School of Theology
If you have not seen your advisor yet, set up an appointment immediately!

The advisors may be operating on 15 minute appointments, so we encourage you to pick up your class request card early and have it ready to sign at your appointment.

If you cannot meet with your advisor in person, you may set up a phone-in appointment by calling (626)584-5425, or through e-mail: advising@vax.fuller.edu.

Please note the following changes to the course schedule (as of October 17):

Additions
LG502 Beginning Hebrew (Lundberg, MJ) 8 units TuTh 1-4:50 p.m. HEB
PM511 Person and Practice of Ministry (Patterson, EL/Blackmon, RA) 4 units M 3-5:50 p.m. MIN 6

Deletions
OT535 Method in OT Interpretation (Butler, JT) 4 Units TuTh 10:50 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
ST502 Teologia Systematica II (Van Engen, C) 4 Units Th 3-5:50 p.m.
PR511 Preaching Practicum (Johnson, DW) 2 Units Th 3-4:50 p.m.

Corrections/Modifications (Corrected information is in bold type.)
ST547 Theological Research Orientation 2 (Stevenson, RL) 4 Units Th 7-9:50 p.m.

School of World Mission
Please note the following SWM course changes for winter, 1997 (as of October 10):

Addition
ML580 Leadership Issues in Korean Context (Park, T) 4 Units Th 7-9:50 p.m. Prerequisite: Korean speaker

Deletion
MM595 Contemporary Mission Issues (Lee, KS) 4 Units Daily Intensive, 2/9-20 3-6:50 p.m.

Corrections/Modifications (Corrected information is in bold type.)
MN574 Urban Practicum: Spirituality/Leadership 2 (Chamberlain, S) 4 Units W 8-9:50 p.m. Note: Course meets at Bresee Institute in Los Angeles.
MT550 Christian Ethnotheology (Kraft, C) 4 Units Daily Intensive, 2/9-20 3-6:50 p.m. Prerequisite: MB520

ECDs available on the Internet: http://www.fuller.edu by school
CAMPUS EVENTS

Dialogue Group About Poverty
2nd Friday of each month, @ 7 p.m.
Interested in becoming part of a dialogue group for people working with the poor? The second Friday of each month at 7 p.m., we will be praying for, encouraging, and challenging each other. Contact Barbie Floyd (626)798-2731 for more information.

Field Ed Internship Opportunity
Monday-Tuesday, 11/10-11
The Rev. Richard Lyon will be on campus November 10 and 11 to conduct interviews for a volunteer church internship at Trinity Community Presbyterian Church in North Hollywood. The internship involves Christian Ed., worship leadership, some preaching, pastoral care, and working with session. Spanish language helpful. Sign up in Carnell Hall. Contact Field Ed. for further information at (626)584-5377.

Toronto Blessing
Tuesday, 11/11 @ 3-4 p.m.
On November 11, from 3–4 p.m., John Arnott (pastor of the Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship) and sociologist Margaret Paloma (who has taught at Fuller and has followed the Toronto Blessing phenomenon for several years) will be speaking on campus. Join them in Travis Auditorium from 3–4 p.m. as they share about the Toronto Blessing. Sponsored by the Provost’s office.

Current Issues in Biblical and Theological Studies Conference
Monday-Wednesday, 11/17-19
International theology and NT scholars will be lecturing in SOT classes November 17–19. These sessions will be open to the public. Seating limited. Speakers include: I. Howard Marshall, Richard Bauckham, David Parker, Trevor Hart, Alan Sell, and recent Fuller graduate/Ph.D. student Linda Peacore. For schedule and signup, contact SOT Dean’s Office at (626)584-5300 or e-mail: <theology@fuller.edu>.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Hospital Internship
Glenwood Memorial Hospital and Health Center, a 350-bed acute care medical facility, is offering a hospital internship supervised by Rev. Carmen Okos, M.Div. (This is a 2-unit FE 546 Field Education course.) The Hospital comprises: intensive care, psychiatric, rehabilitation, perinatal, oncology, and general/medical. If interested, please contact Chaplain Okos, at (818)502-4578, or Gwen Ingram, Office of Field Education, at (626)584-5377.

Ministry Positions Available
The Rev. Jeff Johnson, of the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Rosa, CA, will conduct interviews on Nov. 11 for two positions: 1) interim director of youth ministries, 9 months, full-time, $2,333/month; 2) director of college ministries, permanent, part-time, $833/month. May be used as Field Ed. internships. Sign up and obtain job descriptions in Carnell Hall.

Childcare Workers Needed
Fuller student wives’ S.U.P.P.O.R.T. class needs preschool and nursery workers for supervised activities on Wednesdays only from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Pay is $15 per week. Contact Anna Hoffman at (626)683-8522.

Urban Task Force Position
The Urban Task Force, a three-school committee, is looking for a student to help coordinate the work of the task force. The position is for 10 hours per week, through June, and remuneration is in the form of scholarship money. Please contact Jude Tiersma Watson at (626)584-5348 for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New CD Released
Dr. Jeff Bjorck, SOP professor, has just released his acoustic piano CD to the general public. Pure Piano Portraits is a collection of original compositions, presenting quiet music to calm the heart in a noisy world. It is now available for sale at the Fuller Seminary Bookstore.

All Students and members of the Fuller community:
are invited to a special welcome reception for
Betty Sue Brewster, Missions Faculty
and
James Thomas, Theology student
the new
Advisors to President Mouw on Diversity.
Tuesday, November 11
5-7 p.m.
School of Psychology student lounge
Introduction and remarks at 5:30 p.m.
Hors d’oeuvres, botanos, pupus, and other snacks available. Sponsored by the All Seminary Council and the ASC concerns committees.
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 SEMI at (626)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.

FOR SALE

'83 Toyota Tercel Wagon. 4-wheel drive. Great condition inside & out. High highway miles. Stick shift, sunroof. $2,000 or make an offer. Call (626)794-9366.

Bibliophile Alert! IKEA six-shelf wood bookcases, clear pine finish, almost new. Selling ten at $50 each, (retail $130). See Howard Wilson, Admissions Office, (626)584-5434.

Make your holidays memorable! SLR Minolta 35 mm camera for sale, plus other accessories. Call Marilyn Marshall (626)584-5442 or (626)285-7020.

JOBS

Role Model/Tutor for 11-year-old boy. Monday-Thursday, 2:50-5 p.m. Auto insurance required. (310)475-8322.

Earn $ have fun! Sell film at the Rose Parade. Average profit is $75. Interested? Call Dave at (626)303-7179 or George at (213)735-2050 for info.

Bull's-eye! Looking for an opportunity to own your own business without any of the typical hassles? You've hit the bull's-eye! We require no inventory, no delivery, no quotas, and no experience. For more information, call today Scott (SOT ’93) (818)248-8832.

New Church Being Formed!

If you are interested in being a part of history in the Los Angeles area, then call for information about a new church that is

1. Evangelical in its message
2. Charismatic in its expression
3. Sacramental in its worship

"Three streams—One mighty River"

For further information about a new "Charismatic Episcopal Church," please call (805) 287-3562.

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 80 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.)

Special!

Selected Sushi 1/2 price all day!

10% off lunch (Kitchen Lunch Specials only) with Fuller Student I.D.

927 East Colorado Boulevard • Pasadena, California 91106 • 626.356.0099

lunch served from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

210 Freeway

Walnut St.    Mentor Ave.   Park
Petch/Union (One Way)   Parking Structure   Park
Boston Ct.    Lake Ave.   Parking Structure
Colorado Blvd.   Park

“Highly recommended”

Zagat Survey, 1997
All U.S. Sushi Customer Election Poll

Free Parking in structure on Mentor Ave. with validation from Sushi Polo

• Take Boston Ct. east from Lake Ave.
• Turn right onto Mentor Ave.
• Turn right into the parking structure
• Bring the ticket to Sushi Polo for validation