The Semi (10-30-2000)

Fuller Theological Seminary
“Taking an Active Role”

Inside This Issue

“...you didn’t even want to get him started on the president!” — page 4

---

**Dates to Remember**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Oct 31</td>
<td>TGU Cafe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-11 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, Nov 2</td>
<td>International Prayer Fellowship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Gotcha!**

We caught Jessica Krause (3) on campus in a tree, singing with Mommy Tracey (on the ground, not in the tree) on their way to Old Pasadena. Visiting from Australia, they’re here for two weeks while Daddy (and D.Min. student) Wayne takes Church Planting: Starting and Birthing Churches with Dr. Bob Logan. Soon they’ll head home to Tacoma on the central coast of New South Wales—via Disneyland, New York, and Washington, D.C.

---

**Christianity and Politics**

by Stephen Peterson and Micah Lehner

---

**Oxymoron... or Happy Marriage?**

by Stephen Peterson

The topic of Christianity and politics inspires much contemplation, conversation and even heated debate. We commonly hear people intoning that we need good people in politics and then continuing easily into derisive humor, poking fun at the perennially easiest target of jokes, the government. Not that this is a big deal, since everyone shares the de facto knowledge that of course the government deserves such haranguing, if not more, since it is in fact the most corrupt institution in the country.

Perhaps a more enlightened view hinges on contemporary issues of theology and church ideology. After all, everyone knows that politics is the art of compromise, but the problem here is that compromise does not seem to be such a good thing when viewed through the eyes of faith. Are we not called to strive forward, sure of our convictions, no matter the opposition? “Compromise” does not claim a place of prominence in the vocabulary of Christian practitioners, does not seem to stand up well against the exhortations of the prophets, and certainly seems to connote a form of sacrifice of integrity or moral fiber.

These issues, while significant, still do not help me decide for whom I should vote, which candidates may...

---

**Election 2000—A Certain Perspective**

by Micah Lehner

The year 2000 elections are fast approaching and everyone is asking, “Who are you going to vote for?” Although there are quite a few items on the ballot, the question typically refers to the presidential race. Even narrowing it down doesn’t make the question any less tricky and annoying. Here I will subject you, the reader, to my way of thinking, or fumbling, about the presidential race—with an eye to the relationship between my Christian commitments and my political stance.

It seems that I have three main approaches to the upcoming election. The first option is to not vote at all and, in despair, resign the course of nation to the people who are informed and seem to care. Historically, this is my default position—probably because it is the easiest. The second and third approaches have an interesting feature that the despairing option lacks: I would actually vote. In the second option I would vote for a candidate of one of the two mainline parties. This could be either a positive or negative move. Positively, I might think one candidate captures and supports most of my convictions and would therefore vote for him. Negatively, I might take the lesser of two evils approach: I’m not...

---

*Oxymoron* continued on page 2

*Options* continued on page 3
rightfully claim the moral high ground, or even whether I should vote at all. Instead, what actually informs my choices are my considerations of three topics: the fundamental nature of government, Biblical implications with regard to politics, and my own experience.

**Government**—Government is, simply put, an association of individuals grouped to keep a larger group organized and interacting happily. In a small group, motivated individuals can generally keep themselves functioning efficiently with a maximum of compassion. However, as groups grow, interactions become more complicated. For example, how do we get aid to someone 300 miles away? Shall we do it? Well, we have other obligations. Can someone else? Possibly, but there are so many who need assistance. Perhaps a token would make it more convenient to purchase long-distance services—yes, money...perfect. And so on. It quickly becomes clear that all members of a society can be better served if there are a few who give up their individual functions for the sake of helping the whole group to function more smoothly. It is also instructional to remember that the word we often substitute for government, politics, derives from a root (polis) which means city or society.

At a basic level, then, government is best understood as simply an organizing tool. Not a moral agent—simply an aid for community living. Why then the negative feelings pervasive in so many cultures?

Well, then we get into the actual personalities of the individuals filling the roles. This, of course, is infinitely complicated, and I am unable to explore it here beyond agreeing with Shakespeare to say, “there’s the rub.”

**Bible**—While there are many passages which are relevant, in regard to Biblical consideration of political issues, I would like to refer to a passage highlighted for me by Prof. James McClendon, Jeremiah 29:5-7. In the face of false prophecies about the future of Israel, God instructs Jeremiah to encourage the people to stop believing in a quick rescue from their captivity in Babylon, and to instead build houses, plant gardens, marry, and to seek the peace of the city. In the peace of those cities, says the Lord, they will find their peace.

While there are many powerful and symbolic implications from this passage, one which seems fairly simple and straightforward is the general instruction with regard to the communities in which these people dwell. Their command is to involve themselves. They are not only to attempt to live out the activities which normally compose a life, but they are also to advocate for the other people in their cities, to actively pray, and to generally seek peace wherever they have found themselves.

This injunction, while cloaked in heavy meaning on many levels, at a basic level still seems to convey a simple message. All these people are to become participants in society, or, described in another way, all these people are to become “politicians.”

**Experience**—The third aspect of my reflections which informs my political decisions is my experience as a legislative aide. Working for a Northern California Legislator [Assemblyman Byron D. Sher, now Senator—D, Palo Alto], I had the privilege of meeting and working with numerous state, local, and national legislators. My general opinion of these interactions was that these people were, in a word, impressive. I found myself feeling that these were the type of people with whom I wanted to spend time. These were no dolts, no slackers, no charlatans. Instead, I saw concerned, thoughtful and hard-working people. All were not exceptional, of course, but overall, the overwhelming proportion were leaders of outstanding caliber.

So, as I head to the voting booth, I think of three things. One, government is in its most basic form a simple and amoral system for organizing complex society. Second, Biblical texts assume that our lives are inextricably enmeshed in political settings. And three, the people between whom I am choosing are, for the most part, accomplished and conscientious individuals. With such thoughts in mind, I can only conclude that Christianity and politics, as we generally conceive of them, are neither in oxymoronic tension, nor merely wed together, but are in fact different facets of the same gem, or varied appearances of an identical holographic image, and should motivate our actions at election time in virtually indistinguishable ways, as co-essential aspects of our earthly existence.

Stephen W. Peterson is pursuing an M.Div. degree, and worked as a legislative aide for four years in the San Francisco Bay area. He is also the current ASC Vice-President—and he loves to dance.

"I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts."

—Will Rogers, American humorist
really excited about either candidate but one of the two will win, so I’ll pick the one that will do the least amount of damage. Whatever my rationale, I will vote for either George W. Bush or Al Gore if I decide to take the second approach. The third approach is still to vote, but to support a candidate or party that has no chance of winning the election (e.g. Ralph Nader). As you can tell by the fact that I put this choice last, this is the option I plan on taking. Now let me tell you why.

The reason lies deeper than the qualities of the current candidate pool. How I answer “Who am I going to vote for?” relies on the way I think about faith and politics. If I consider myself primarily a citizen of heaven and do not concern myself with the fallen affairs of humans, I will probably take the first option and not get involved at all. Either that or I will vote only because I feel an abstract duty as a citizen. The second and third options, however, assume a more constructive relationship between politics and faith. As Christians, we would like to think of ourselves as a positive and transforming force to the culture around us. I assume that most of us share this conviction, no matter what party or candidate we vote will for. The critical distinction, in my mind, between voting mainline and third party is the way the Christian community sees its role in transforming our country.

Here is the essential difference I see between the two options. By voting for one of the two viable candidates, I am allowing them to dictate the agenda. I learn what issues are important from the politicians. Personally, I’m frustrated because neither candidate addresses some issues that I think are important. As an example that is (hopefully) fresh in our minds, take the economic sanctions on Iraq. I believe the sanctions are a failed policy the U.S. refuses to own up to (because we’re the good guys) and we don’t want to draw public attention to our unsavory dealings. Neither Gore nor Bush supports lifting the sanctions. Ralph Nader does. But Nader and the voices of other third party positions have been largely excluded, so the public does not even know the Iraqi sanctions are a topic for discussion. Therefore, the devastation we are causing will continue politically unabated and publicly unnoticed.

This is only one example, but it illustrates the way the media and the political machinery set the agenda. As Christians, our role shouldn’t simply be reacting to what the Republicans and Democrats put on our plates. They set up the game and want us to play so that one of them and their entourage of interest groups can win. I’m not saying we should abolish the game or refuse to play, but we shouldn’t be unwittingly and uncritically sucked in by it. For this and other reasons (military spending, nuclear arms issues, environmental issues, and so on), I will cast a protest vote for Nader. This signals both my dissatisfaction with the current political situation as well as a commitment to positive action.

In the end, I think it is the underlying attitude toward faith and politics, not who you vote for, that really matters. Voting in the election should be the commencement, not the culmination, of political activity. Who you vote for isn’t as important as what you do once they are in office. My voting for a third party is a symbolic act of rebellion in which I signal my intention to stay active but not co-opted. As a Christian community, why filter our concerns through Republican or Democrat or Green party agendas when we can take direct action as our own entity? We should be heard on our own terms. Of course this path takes much more intentional action on our part. It involves listening to the marginalized voices, seeking alternative sources of news, involvement with faith-based organizations, time, prayer, passion, and compassion.
The question is whether to allow ourselves to be the tool of some political ideology—left or right—or whether to speak as loyal followers of Jesus.

The idea that separation of church and state means the church should not say or publish anything that disagrees with government policy is the opposite of what its founders meant. If it meant the churches should be muzzled and not have freedom to speak, then we did not need separation of church and state because that is how it was before.

So churches are free to speak.

But the key for Christian churches is not whether to be engaged and to speak; it is whether they’re engaging and speaking to support authoritarian rule by the powers and authorities, to support secular ideologies and the status quo, or whether they are speaking the word of Jesus. Jesus taught and enacted forgiveness and healing, alternatives to killing, and peacemaking. He taught and enacted the sacredness of human life, the status quo, or whether they are speaking the word of Jesus. Jesus taught and enacted forgiveness and healing, alternatives to killing, and peacemaking. He taught and enacted the sacredness of human life, the word of Jesus.

The question is whether to allow ourselves to be the tool of some political ideology—left or right—or whether to speak as loyal followers of Jesus.
An estimated 182,800 new cases of breast cancer are expected to occur among women in the United States this year alone. I never thought that I would be among those numbers. I was only 25 when I was diagnosed and began treatment for breast cancer. Of all the things I came to do at Fuller, going through treatment for cancer was never a part of the plan. And yet, for the past two years, my studies at Fuller have revolved around doctor’s appointments, therapy treatments, and many sick days. And yet the one thing that I am ALWAYS grateful for is that the cancer was detected and treated early. For many women, this is not the case. An estimated 40,800 women are expected to die from breast cancer this year.

Breast cancer occurs when cells in the breast tissue become abnormal and divide without control or order. Cells normally divide in an orderly way to produce more cells only when they are needed. If cells divide when new cells are not needed, they form too much tissue. This extra tissue, called a tumor, can be benign or malignant. Eighty percent of all breast tumors are benign. They are not a threat to life since they do not invade other tissues and do not spread to other parts of the body. Malignant tumors are cancerous—they divide and grow out of control, invading and damaging nearby tissues and organs.

I find it necessary to share this information because I have found that many people do not understand what cancer is. I still find many people who act as if I have a life sentence over me because I have cancer. Their fear and lack of understanding make it difficult for me because I find myself educating people rather than seeking and receiving support from them. Many times it’s easier to just smile and go about my day rather than deal with that. Breast cancer is treatable and curable if found and treated early. That is why National Breast Cancer Awareness Month is very important. Awareness is the key.

It is still not known exactly what causes breast cancer, but what is known is that certain risk factors are linked to the disease. While all women are at risk for breast cancer, the factors mentioned below can increase the chances of having the disease. Having one or two of these risk factors doesn’t mean that a woman will develop breast cancer (7 out of 10 breast cancers occur in women with none of the important risk factors, other than simply being a woman). But knowing your personal risk factors and understanding what that means will help you plan a course of action that may reduce your chances of ever getting the disease or, at least, to detect it in its earliest, most treatable stages.

The most common risk factors are: age, family history, breast cancer genes, having an early first period, having a pregnancy after 25 or 30, having no children, a poor diet, smoking, consuming alcohol, and inactivity. The risk of breast cancer increases as a woman grows older. And although it is uncommon that it happens in young women under 35, I live every day with the fact that it can happen. During the course of my treatment I have met other women my age who have breast cancer as well.

Some of the risk factors have to do with the role of estrogen in a woman’s body. Although estrogen does not cause breast cancer, it may stimulate the growth of cancer cells. Other risk factors, those relating to lifestyle, have more to do with keeping the body in shape so as to reduce the chances of developing the disease. While smoking and drinking do not cause breast cancer, they do contribute to other diseases and cancers that may affect the body’s overall health. The American Cancer Society is a great resource in learning more about the risk factors for breast cancer. All the information that I have shared here comes directly from them.

The American Cancer Society recommends these guidelines for finding breast cancer early:

- A mammogram and a breast exam by a doctor or nurse (clinical breast examination) every year for women over the age of 40.
- Between the ages of 20 and 39, women should have a clinical breast exam every 3 years.
- All women over 20 should do a monthly breast self-exam.

Together, these methods offer the best chance of finding breast cancer early. There are resources, both government and private, available to assist with the cost of screenings and mammograms, as well as the cost of treatment, should that be a need. The important thing is to be aware of that and to use whatever resources you need to help yourself.

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month isn’t just about learning about breast cancer and what to do to detect and treat it early. It is also about learning to give our bodies the attention we so rarely give them. So much of the attention is focused on the outside of the body while we know so little about what goes on in the inside. Of course, if you’re like me, you aren’t good at paying attention to the outside or the inside. I hope that for you it doesn’t take something like breast cancer to get you to start paying attention.

For more information about breast cancer and breast cancer risk, please call any of the following toll-free numbers, or log on to our website at www.nbcam.org.

- **American Cancer Society**
  - (800) ACS-2345
- **Cancer Care, Inc.**
  - (800) 813-HOPE
- **Cancer Research Foundation of America**
  - (800) 227-2732
- **Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program**
  - (888) 842-6355
- **The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation**
  - (800) I’M AWARE
- **National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations (NABCO)**
  - (888) 80-NABCO
- **National Cancer Institute’s Cancer Information Service**
  - (800) 4-CANCER
- **National Cancer Institute’s Cancer Information Service—TTY**
  - (800) 332-8615
- **Y-me National Breast Cancer Organization**
  - (800) 221-2141
- **Y-me Spanish Hotline**
  - (800) 986-9505

Gloria Llamas is in her third year in the MAT program. Although she is currently in treatment, her outlook is good.
A Hungry but charming, SungHee Esther Shin and Kristina Lee (who, yes, happens to be around a lot when the SEMI takes pictures) bum food off of Brian Park. Brian shared with us that he is now working at a church but, you know, he might have to get a second job if he keeps hanging around with these two!  

B There’s a fungus among us! Mushrooms are growing on campus. Now, knowing the desperation of poor, hungry Fuller students... quick—is there a fungi expert around to tell us if they’re edible or not?

C Chris Koch, Ann Lee... D Kristina Lee, MyungJin Lee, John Hansoo, and Lisa Lee (not pictured) gave the Thursday chapel crowd a mini Connections Tour concert, not only sharing but also showing firsthand how God is working through Fuller students.

Whether to study, catch up or just relax, Fuller students seem to always congregate where the food is!

The following awards are now available:

1. Grace Foundation Scholarship application deadline is October 31. Application criteria are as follows:
   A) Must be from China or Southeast Asian country with preference given to those planning to return to minister there
   B) At least 3.0 GPA and at least 500 on TOEFL
   C) Financial need
   D) Completed at least one year at an accredited four-year college or university

2. Mephibosheth Scholarship application deadline is Friday, Nov. 17. Applicants must have physical-sensory disabilities which are likely to continue indefinitely, be a full-time student at Fuller, and have financial need. Applicants must have also submitted or will submit a 2000/2001 financial aid application in the Office of Financial Aid.

3. ASC Ethnic American Scholarship deadline is Friday, Nov. 17. Applicants must meet the following requirements:
   A) Be a U.S. citizen/permanent resident of either Asian-American, African-American, Hispanic-American, or Native American origin.
   B) Enroll for at least 24 units between summer 2000 and spring 2001.
   C) Demonstrate financial need of at least $2000 by submitting a 2000/2001 application for financial aid through the Office of Financial Aid.
   D) Not be a previous recipient of the ASC Ethnic American Scholarship.
   ***Check your current status through Campus Pipeline or call 584-5421.***
CAMPUS EVENTS

Ministry Enrichment Seminar
Monday, October 30
1-2:30 p.m., Payton 101
Dr. Rik Stevenson, from the LA Black Church History Project, will present “The Church and Its Civic Responsibility.” Dr. Stevenson will discuss biblical principles and address how churches can become involved in civic concerns.

International Prayer Fellowship
Thursday, November 2
6 p.m.
Join us for prayer at the chapel on the second floor of the library. We want to know the international students needs, those of their families, and their countries. Sponsored by the International Students Concerns Committee.

UMC Representative Visit
Monday, November 6
Attention UMC Students!! Dexter Garman and Dr. David Schramm from the North Indiana Conference will be on campus to meet with students. You may schedule an appointment with Jay Thompson in the Office of Denominational Relations at 584-5387.

Ministry Enrichment Seminar
Wednesday, November 8
3-4:30 p.m., Geneva Room
Dr. Yea Sun Kim, School of Theology, will present “Developing Family Ministry for Korean Churches.” Dr. Kim will explore the rationale of family ministry in Korean churches in the U.S. and in Korea, and will propose tasks that Korean churches need to carry out in order for them to develop family ministry. (Korean Language)

Free Car Wash
Saturday November 11,
10 a.m.–1 p.m., Psych Parking Lot
Sponsored by the Barnabas Partners. This is an outreach to the Pasadena community. Get the word out to your churches and neighbors.

SOT Advising for Returning Students
November 14-17
It’s time once again to schedule a SOT Advising Appointment! If you’ve not yet scheduled an appointment with your advisor to prepare for registration, please come by our office or call 584-5425 to make an appointment as soon as possible! We look forward to seeing you!

Candlelight Worship
Friday, November 17
7 p.m. Prayer Garden
Sponsored by the SOT Graduate Union.

For Your Information

International Student Party
Friday, November 17
6 p.m. The Garth
Sponsored by the International Students Concerns Committee. Details to come in next issue of the SEMI.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Affordable Psychotherapy
Available to SOT and SWM students, staff, and families. Ideal for those having difficulties in relationships, adjusting to Fuller or other life changes, and those interested in personal growth or learning more about their thoughts and feelings. $75.00 for 15 sessions. Contact Fuller Psychological and Family Services at 584-5555 for more information.

Two New FPFS Groups Starting
An adult Anger Management Group to help people cope with anger in relationships and resultant emotional difficulties. And an Adolescent group dealing with relationship, peer and school difficulties, substance abuse, violence, emotional and motivational problems. Please call FPFS for more information at 626-584-5555

Sabbath Worship
Please come and praise God in Payton 101. Every Saturday from 10–Noon, followed by fellowship and potluck. Open to all: faculty, students, staff, regardless of religious or ethnic affiliation. For more info, call Mamiko at 584-8993

All-Seminary Worship Jam Session
Every Wednesday from 5-6:30 p.m. in Payton 101. Bring yourself, your instrument of choice, and your music—and join fellow music lovers. Sponsored by the Chapel Office. Call Kristina Lee at 584-5560 for more information.

Parenting Support
Fridays from 4-5 p.m. at Koinonia Community Life Center there will be a parents’ forum. There will be a brief presentation, discussion and prayer on topics such as discipline, managing family transitions at seminary, and child development. Kids Club will be available. For details and registration, contact Katie at 584-5464.

Immediate Job Opening
The Office of Development is seeking callers for the Fall 2000 Phonathon (Nov 6-16) to help raise money for grant-in-aid and other Fuller Fund needs. $8.50/hour. We’ll be calling Monday-Thursday, 5:00-9:00 p.m. and we’ll like you to work 2-4 nights per week. Paid training provided. Come to Human Resources (next to Amy’s) for an application or contact Barbara Clavo in the Office of Development at 584-5490.

ASC Administrator
Fuller student government is looking for a new administrator. Position is 20 hours, and includes office hours in the Catalyst, taking minutes in ASC council meetings, and general administrative support to the ASC.

Children’s Volunteer
The Office of Residential Community is seeking to expand programming for different age groups offered through the Kids/Youth Clubs program, which meets on a weekly basis. Attendees are children of Fuller students. Call Kinoti at 577-6742 to volunteer for your favorite age group.

Coordination of the Career Resources Center
Update and maintain career development materials and job listings in the Center. This position also assists the associate director of Career Services in planning and implementing various seminars and workshops for students and alumni/ae of all three schools. For more information, contact Amdag Beblawi at 584-5665.

FOR SALE

Discount Entertainment Books
$25
Good throughout San Gabriel Valley until November 2001
Available at the SOP Front Desk
Proceeds Benefit Clinical PGU’s Internship Care Program. For more information call: (626) 584-5519
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 584-5430. Note: Individuals are personally responsible for checking on the quality and type of service before contracting or using it. The SEMI and Office of Student Services do not recommend or guarantee any of the services listed.

**Therapy.** Fuller alum provides therapy for those struggling with depression, anxiety and/or unresolved pain and conflict. Sliding Scale available. Supervised by Bonnie McLaughlin, MFC # MFC31478. Call Jane Han, M.S. at 568-7517.

**Car For Sale**

**Group Therapy Sessions**
Announcing two therapy groups facilitated by Sam Alibrando, Ph.D.
1. Helping Professionals Therapy Group for mental health professionals and pastoral counselors; and, 2. Sex Addiction Recovery Group. For information, call 577-8303.

**Used Appliances For Sale**

**Ride Auto Insurance Services**

**Family Dentisty**

**White Rose Cleaners**
UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP
115 North Lake Ave.
20% Discount on dry cleaning to all Fuller students and staff, at even lower prices!!!
(626) 583-8080

**Give It Once, It’s a Nice Gift. Give It Every Year and It’s a Nice Education.**

Giving Savings Bonds now can make a difference for the future—to help with expenses like college tuition or that first car. They’re available through banks, your work, or the new Savings Bonds EasySaver Plan at www.easysaver.gov.

For complete information about U.S. Savings Bonds, visit our Web site at www.savingsbonds.gov.

---

**Dear Santa,**

I have been good all year, so please help me with these small requests: First, I have no books. I would love to join my friends, Chris and John, but the minimum deposit of $50 is too high. Second, please reduce the cost of gas so I can ride my bike. Third, when I get my license, I would like to buy my own car next summer. I would never be late for school and I would also be saving some money.

Second, I would like to suggest a few changes to the typical Santa experience: First, instead of giving me new toys, you could help me save money for college. Third, you could provide me with a savings account. From, Timmy

---

**Dear Timmy,**

Since you have been such a good boy this year, I will grant your Christmas wishes:

First, the Credit Union is cutting the minimum deposit in half for students. It’s now only $15.

Second. I have arranged for you to choose your first order of checks free. But only until November 30th (even Santa can’t do everything, Timmy), you should remember from last year that Santa doesn’t do Holiday Loans, however you’re in luck, FYI.

Once you’ve joined, you can apply for a Holiday Loan. There and a half, for next Christmas you can start saving now with a Christmas Club Account. It’s only $1 to start, and you一直处于 access to the money until November 30th, you’ll be sure not to spend any. Timmy, Direct Deposit to your savings won’t do any good if you keep transferring it back out. Staff next year... Santa

---

**Santa's Account**

Have a job opening or service to provide or things to sell? The SEMI knows 1,500 people who are eager to respond. Affordable ads, good looks, great response rate.

For more info call (626) 584-5430 or email <semi-ads@dept.fuller.edu>