

Local Theologians Consider 'Is God Dead?' Philosophy

**By Randy Irey
Junior Staff Writer**

This Easter season, an important question has burst forth before the eyes of many bewildered Christians. "Is God dead?" has become the subject of much discussion and puzzlement.

Has God really forsaken man and left him alone? Two national magazines presently have articles concerning this topic of debate. The April 8 issue of *Time* devotes its cover story to this problem. The article explains the various points of view and reasoning behind the "God is dead" theory.

"Defense Of God"

In the April 19 issue of *Look*, there is an article entitled "In Defense of God," by John C. Bennett. Bennett, president of Union Theological Seminary, outlines the

major points made by the "death" theologians and then offers his own suggestions in opposition to the theory.

On the University campus, the problem, as it has everywhere, has found some theologians in support of this theory and some opposed.

The Rev. Bill Phillips of the United Campus Christian Fellowship says that he is in favor of the idea that God is dead.

He Was Alive

"To say that He is dead," explained Phillips, "is to say He was alive. This, in itself, is a statement of tremendous faith. Most people are neutral on the subject of Him ever being alive."

Phillips believes that this shows a responsible attitude to say that God is dead because it places a tremendous responsibility on man. This is

because, with no God, man would be alone in the universe.

"If man is indeed alone, what happens to his ethical practices and goals? It is up to man to decide for himself."

Basic Confusion

"As I see it," stated Phillips, "the problem is where has God gone, rather than He is dead. The basic confusion about the existence of God comes about because the word 'God' denotes so many different conceptions. We no longer have one meaning for the word. The great concern is over the meaning."

In the *Time* article, Soren Kierkegaard, a nineteenth century Danish philosopher and theologian, is quoted as saying that "the day when Christianity and the world become friends, Christianity is done away with."

Kierkegaard is, according to Phillips, one of the leaders in the theological current which has culminated in the present theory.

Nietzsche Not Included

"Another contributing source to this current is the Old Testament of the Bible. I do not include the philosopher Nietzsche in this because he comes from outside the church. I think it is important to note that this movement, in the area of God's absence, comes from within the church, not from the secular world."

Phillips studied under William Hamilton, an author of a book on the death of God. In the *Look* article, Hamilton is said to believe that "the death of God does not mean the end of Christianity, but actually points to a great emphasis on Jesus as the Lord and center of history."

In Hamilton's own words, "I insist that the time of the death of God is also the time of obedience to Jesus. This entails a claim that the New Testament Jesus can in fact be known, that a figure of sufficient clarity is available to us so that discipleship to him—to his life, his words and his death—is a possible center for Christian faith and life."

Phillips believes that these statements by Hamilton are especially significant because they come, again, from within the church and because in the seminary, Hamilton took a very orthodox position on such matters.

"We have to take the problem of faith seriously," stated Phillips. "We can't be neutral. We must decide to live with God or without Him. It becomes, without Him, a question of man's responsibility to his fellow man."

Because of this there is a great importance placed on Christian witness. "Man's responsibility becomes that of being caretaker of the world. If he is responsible, his responsibility should be like that of Christ's—in other words, he must live for others."

Display An Awareness

"This belief in the death of God also entails the fact that the church no longer has just one aspect, that of preparing for worship, but rather must display an awareness of situations in the world in which we live."

Time states that this importance of witnessing now is in-

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Angel Flight Is 'Top'

**By Nancy Henrickson
Junior Staff Writer**

Worry is a predominant pattern at the University according to Dr. William Brill, Student Health Center psychiatrist.

Worry over scholarship is the major factor which causes anxiety in college students.

Transition

"In general," Brill said, "college life is rough because it is a period of transition away from home and scholastic and social competition is more intense."

Scholastic pressures are unremitting and uncertain. A student never knows how he'll do on a final exam, Brill continued, and he never knows if he has studied enough.

"When nervousness, anxiety and worry reach a certain point, a student becomes overwhelmed and somewhat disorganized. He cannot cope, makes unwise decisions, is unable to concentrate and becomes depressed, sleepless and irritable."

Worry over scholarship, may come indirectly from boy-girl or husband-wife problems. Scholarship suffers and the student has the additional worry of maintaining his grades.

Situational stress may be another unknown reason for worry. Sometimes a student doesn't like a course and is restless and can't study, Brill said.

Anxiety

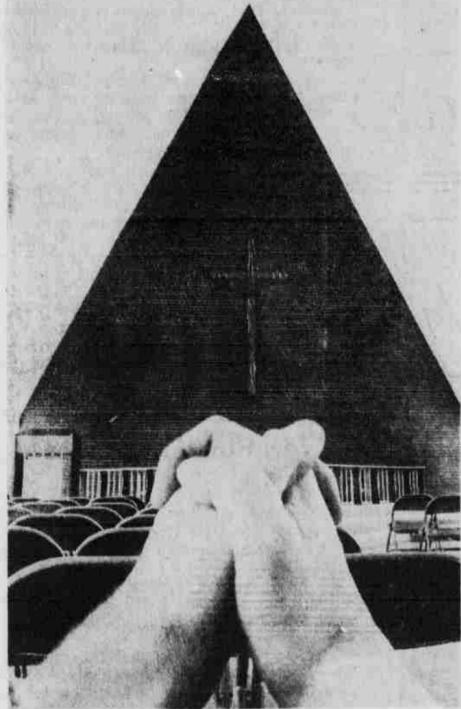
Anxiety is real, a person's mind becomes blocked and he is unable to exercise his volition.

"Many on campus are somewhat crippled," Brill said, "and are unable to study very effectively."

Depression, feeling blue, sad and futile, is related to anxiety, but varies in the individual.

Isolation

Reasons for depression include a student not having a good image of himself, a definite feeling of loneliness and



CLASPED HANDS . . . show that at least one student doesn't believe in the theory that "God Is Dead."

Faculty Resignations . . . University Seeking Answers

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the fourth and last story in a series by Julie Morris, senior staff writer, on why University faculty members leave Nebraska for jobs at other universities.

"We are trying to find out from faculty who have left the University why they have left," A.C. Breckenridge said. "They'll never succeed," Dr. Robert Manley rejoined.

Breckenridge is vice chancellor and dean of faculties. Manley, associate professor of history, is one of 20 permanent faculty who are resigning this year.

Manley's statement about the impossibility of discovering exactly why faculty leave the school has been largely borne out in interviews with faculty who are resigning.

Myriad Of Reasons

There are a myriad reasons for resigning, the teachers said. Most offered more than one reason for leaving and many noted that the reasons often are more complex than anyone realizes.

Some of the reasons these faculty gave for resigning included better opportunities for advancement within the school, better research facilities, more time for research, better salaries and advances in rank.

Faculty who were interviewed, however, generally responded that they have also enjoyed their time with the school and had some positive points to make concerning their tenure here.

Second To None

Roberto Esquenazi-Mayo, professor of Romance lan-

guages and chairman of that department, said "I have found the students at the University second to none anywhere, they come up to the challenge of a good teacher."

Robert Dunn, instructor of psychology, also praised students. "Students are not aggressive," he said, "but, if you can say nothing else about them, they are very likeable."

Dunn also noted that his "relations with other members of the faculty here have been extremely pleasant." He gave credit to the Faculty Newcomers Club, which, he said, gave him the chance to become a well-established member of the faculty community.

Storm Cloud

"The only storm cloud in my first year here," Dunn said, "was the library. I couldn't find the references I needed."

Dunn is completing his second year at the University. His new position is at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Wash.

The fact that faculty leave the University only demonstrates the University's "healthy condition," according to Robert Sakai, professor of history and chairman of the history department. Sakai said the University's turnover rate "has been high, but this can be attributed to the fact that our staff have acquired national reputations."

Contribute Effectively

Dr. David Trask, associate professor of history, responded "I felt that I was able to contribute effectively" dur-

ing his tenure with the University. He is leaving, he continued "because I don't feel I can continue to be effective any longer."

Robert Hiller, associate professor of Germanic languages, commented on the "good relations between faculty and students in my experience at the University." He added that he liked the school and felt he has been "well treated" here.

"I have mixed reactions about leaving," Edward Grubb, instructor in business organization and management said. "I've enjoyed many of the people here." Grubb has been on the University staff two years. He has accepted a new position at Portland State College in Portland, Oregon.

Good University

"Many people don't realize

how good the University is," Rocco Vanasco commented. Vanasco, instructor of Romance languages, said he will be "sorry to leave the school."

"I've never adjusted to the University," Manley said. He said his new post as chairman of the history department at Hiram C. Scott College in Scottsbluff will be much more to his liking.

"The small liberal arts college is the answer" to today's giant "multiversity" establishments, Manley said. Personal contact between students and professors, he stressed, is one of the most important aspects of the learning experience. Personal contact in a multiversity, he said, becomes virtually impossible.



DR. BRILL . . . discusses student worries.

Scholarship Worries Cause Student Ills

isolation and a lack of deep relationships with people.

"If a student gets anxious enough he has an anxiety reaction, an illness in itself."

Nervousness to the point that a student is unable to concentrate is very predominant in maybe 20 per cent of the student body, Brill said.

Solutions

Sometimes a simple action such as taking a walk, talking to someone, working and not worrying, will solve anxiety. Some people just worry and don't do any work.

Accident proneness on examinations is prevalent among students Brill said. Students who know the work make errors unconsciously on the exams. Accident proneness is most predominant among self-defeating people who have images of themselves as losers and are unconsciously afraid to win, he added.

In handling anxiety problems of students, Brill said that they try to find out what the person is like and his life situation in psychotherapy. Sometimes students are hospitalized for a few days for a controlled environment.

"We are very particular in using tranquilizers with the young population. They are used over a limited period of time to get over a stressful week or two."

Vacation Schedule

Spring vacation closing schedules for the Nebraska Union, Love Library, and Student Housing have been announced.

The Student Union will be open every day during vacation except Easter Sunday and Saturday, April 16. On the days that it is open, the Union will observe 8-5:00 hours. Regular hours will be resumed on Sunday, April 17. Following regular policy, the Crib will close thirty minutes before the Union closes.

Love Library will be closed Easter Sunday, and April 16 and 17. On Saturday, April 9, the Library will be open 7:50-12:00. From April 11-15, the Library will be open 7:50-4:50.

University dormitories will close at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 9, and will re-open Sunday, April 17, at 1:00 p.m.

Vacation Time Is A Problem

**By Toni Victor
Junior Staff Writer**

To some out-of-state University students, where to go over spring vacation is more of a problem than a pleasure.

All dormitories are closing their doors, and fraternity and sorority houses "customarily close" during the period, according to Dean of Women, Helen Snyder.

Edward M. Bryan of the University housing office, stated that a temporary dwelling for left-over students is usually set-up, but that there were too few requests to warrant it this year.

Residents of Florida, Oregon, New Jersey and California have a problem of transportation at vacation time. Most admit that they are forced to stay in Lincoln because the price of jet-fare home is prohibitive.

"I couldn't afford to go home by the regular lines of transportation, and my parents wouldn't let me hitchhike," said Sally Russell, of Boston.

Alan Vreen, whose home is in Los Angeles, solved his problem. "I put up a notice on the Riders Wanted map in the Nebraska Union and I finally got a ride with a bunch of guys that were going to San Diego," Vreen stated.

Where do these students stay if they cannot afford to go home, or if they do not want to go home during vacation?

"I'm being pawned off on my grandmother who lives here in town," stated Carl Noberg.

Another student admitted that she had "received an invitation to go home with her roommate."

Kate Okamoto, noting how far it was to go home to St. Louis, said she was instead traveling to Denver with some friends.

Lengthy course assignments over vacation add to the necessity of getting home quickly and staying there long enough to open the text books.

"I live in Washington and it's too far to go home. Besides, I have assigned work that has to be done," stated Steve Hungerford.

A coed reported that she has three projects that have to be finished during the eight-day vacation, and that she needed peace and quiet away from her family in Ohio.



SOMETIMES . . . one might think there are more cars on this campus than people, more parking lots than buildings and more traffic problems than scholastic problems. One way or another a university campus is a car dealer's paradise.