

Role of Religion In World Today

By DR. LUTHER H. HARSHBARGER
University Chaplain
Second of a Series

Karl Marx once defined religion as "the sigh of the hard-pressed creature, the heart of a heartless world." He was being derisive, but can you think of a better definition? Marx knew what we all should understand—that no analysis of what's going on in the world can omit the religious problem, for religion is the main source of transcendent judgment on any human society.

It is literally true that we are the kind of beings who must have some kind of underlying faith or philosophy, some explanation of the meaning and purpose of life which will provide basic directives for living. Intellectually, we need something beyond mere physical survival to work for and toward. There is ample documentation in the history of man for this view, just by listing all the substitute religions which men and societies have pursued.

While no religious faith can give a detailed blueprint of what should be done in every international tension situation or power struggle, Western religion, or the Judeo-Christian tradition, or the Biblical perspective does possess the necessary intellectual validity and the ethic to give basic direction to human society.

It is unfortunately true, however, that contemporary religion has not provided a theology to meet the demands of the thinking mind or provided adequate guidance to its adherents in solving the problems of the social or international order. This is partly due to the unfortunate compartmentalizations of our life, by which we assume tragic dichotomies between the religious and the secular, voting and praying, church and Congress, congregation and the market place, nations and races, and believe these unhappy divisions to be finally real.

The Biblical perspective corrects that error. All Jewish and Christian thought about the world must begin with God and His purpose, not with man and his needs. The Bible insists that since this world is the medium of God's self-disclosure and is the community in which God acts and reveals Himself, the whole of this actual world has to be taken seriously. This principle is amply demonstrated in the story of the covenant between God and Israel and in the drama of the Incarnation in Christian history.



Dr. Luther H. Harshbarger

When the religious man, therefore, asks the question, "What's going on in the world?" the essence of his answer is that God is moving and acting in the historical events of his time; in all the problems, good or bad; in all the international mess; and his responsibility is to keep his eye on the future for God's next move. This means, as Reinhold Niebuhr has pointed out, that the religious man has to face not only ultimate, but also immediate issues. It is his task and the task of religious institutions to see what can and cannot be done about justice on earth, to renew the truth they hold, and apply it to themselves, to the problems of war or peace.

While the Biblical perspective gives us no assurance that men can march ever onward and upward, it is, at the same time, not a counsel of despair. A realistic understanding of man and his limitations is a necessary foundation for dealing effectively with political or international problems, and this understanding will save us from many utopian illusions, as well as the slough of despond. The religious man necessarily understands that the battle is never wholly won or lost, and therefore, he must always look for new and fresh opportunities to reduce tension and to administer justice.

To a student of history it is clear that we are living in a time of great revolution. In our lifetime, Western civilization and Western religion have met many challenges—Nazism, Fascism, Communism. Each challenged the fundamental convictions and concepts of our faith and society. Where are we going? While this direction is not so clear, it seems to me that we are moving inexorably toward a world community and human solidarity. We may struggle against that, but it is the movement of history and the direction in which God is going. This world, originally created in harmony, has been utterly at the mercy of the agents of confusion. It is clear to the religious man that it is God's purpose to reunite it and to reconcile mankind.

In the face of these overwhelming events, the individual might well ask what he can do. He can, first of all, acknowledge his inescapable involvement in all the problems of our times as a part of his religious duty. Secondly, he can accept the moral consequences of decisive action. And, third, he can participate in the political and economic decisions at the place where these decisions are made.

(Continued on page five)

Wills Named Chairman Of IFC Board

George Wills, junior in arts and letters from McDonogh, Md., has been named Interfraternity Council Board of Control Chairman.

Wills succeeds Richard Shillinger, senior in business administration from Mount Alton.

Hart Appoints Chairmen
James Hart, IFC president, has also appointed Samuel Fleming, sophomore in pre-medicine from Huntingdon, chairman of the IFC workshop committee, and Thomas Wellington, junior in physics from State College, chairman of the IFC public relations committee.

Board Members Named
Five new members have been appointed to the IFC Board of Control. They are Frank Farrell, junior in arts and letters from Alden; Edward Long, junior in arts and letters from Wanamie; Alan Ruebens, junior in pre-medicine from Philadelphia; David Lenzner, junior in business administration from Scranton; and Robert Yeager, junior in metallurgy from Bellefonte.

Nelson to Head Ad Fraternity

Paul Nelson, junior in journalism from Palmerton, has been elected president of Alpha Delta Sigma, national professional advertising fraternity.

Other officers are Pat Palmier, junior in journalism from Brookville, vice president; Thomas Foster, sophomore in journalism from Bellefonte, secretary; and John Lytle, senior in agriculture from Indiana, treasurer.

Initiates of Alpha Delta Sigma are Ronald Casarella, James Ferraro, Richard Schilpp, James McGrew, John Clifford, Hugo Henderson, Charles Reiser, Ronald Martino, Albert Buffington, Riggs Griffith, William Kieffer, Robert Piccone, Thomas McDonald, Raymond Young and Leonard Epstein.

TIM Approves Retention Of Present Council Plan

Town Independent Men last night passed a constitutional amendment to retain the present system of representation of town independent men by an elected council.

The council system has been used on a trial basis for the past semester and the TIM officers said it proved much more effective than the previous system of open meetings.

The open meetings had been in use since TIM was formed in 1954. Under this plan all TIM members were asked to attend meetings.

Interest Was Low
Council members said attendance and interest was so low under the meeting plan that little was accomplished at meetings. This year it was decided to try the council system. At the beginning of the semester, a council was elected and has been successful enough to warrant continuation, according to the council.

A constitutional amendment providing that members of TIM who served on the council the previous year are to be automatically placed on the ballot for the next election was also approved. It will also be noted on the ballot that the man has been an incumbent on council.

Must Get Petition
The amendment further states that members of TIM who have not served on council must be nominated by a petition signed by 20 town independents.

Fifty town indies have signed up for the TIM banquet which will be held at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at the Pleasant Gap Grange Hall. Bruce Pellnitz, ticket chairman, said some tickets are still available, for \$1.50 each. They may be obtained from Pellnitz at AD 8-8078.

ICCB to Meet Tonight

The Intercollege Council Board will meet tonight in 217 Hetzel Union immediately following the All-University Cabinet meeting. The board will discuss council elections and freshman Orientation week.

Lion Predicts Clear Skies

The Nittany Lion rejoiced at today's prediction of clear and cooler weather.

The expected high for today is 65 degrees.

The Lion is still slightly incapacitated by a large splint on his tail—a grim reminder of his recent sports car mishap.

Undaunted, he was busily writing a speech for today's Armed Forces Day ceremonies. He announced that he was through with sports cars, and would lead the parade in a Cadillac, complete with three cushions for his tail. He commended the weather bureau on its "fine prediction."



WMAJ 1450 On Your Dial

Thursday	
6:30	Sign On
6:32	Morning Show
6:38	Morning Devotions
6:45	Morning Show
9:00	Robert Hurlleigh
10:00	Cecil Brown
10:15	Classical Interlude
11:00	News
11:05	Music for Listening
11:15	A Woman's Decision
11:30	Queen for a Day
12:00	Music At Noon
12:15	Centre County News
12:30	What's Going On
12:35	Music
12:45	Area Sports
12:50	Centre County Ag. Ext.
1:00	World News
1:15	Swap Shop
1:30	Afternoon of Music
5:00	Bob & Ray: News
5:45	Music for Listening
6:00	World News: market summary
6:15	Music for Listening
6:30	Sports Special
6:45	Music
6:55	Local News
7:00	Fulton Lewis Jr.
7:15	World News
Thursday Night	
7:20	Music for Listening
7:30	Headlines in Chem
7:45	Music for Listening
8:00	Hubzapoppin
8:30	The Queen's Men
9:00	Campus News
9:15	Music of the Masters
10:00	Groovology
1:00	Sign Off



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Elections Committee

Students wishing to apply for membership on next year's All-University Elections Committee may fill out application forms before May 23 at the Hetzel Union desk.

★ **STARLITE** ★
DRIVE-IN
SHOWTIME 8:45 EDST
TONIGHT & FRIDAY

TAB HUNTER & NATALIE WOOD
Starring in
The Girl He Left Behind

PLUS
HUK
George Montgomery
Mona Freeman

JIM DANDY
—by William Saroyan

Final Performances Today, Tomorrow and Saturday

CENTER STAGE
8:00 P.M.

Tickets available at HUB Desk . . . \$1



STATE NOW
Feature: 1:30, 3:24, 5:18, 6:55, 10:01

"The Cruel Tower"
PLUS
SNEAK PREVIEW
at 8:30

CLUE - COMEDY
—Technicolor—
—CinemaScope—

★ **CATHAUM**
NOW: 2:00, 3:56, 5:52, 7:48, 9:44
BEN GAZZARA
"THE STRANGE ONE"
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
"Exceedingly Good Movie"
—Sat. Review of Lit.
"YOUNG STRANGER"
JAMES MacARTHUR
KIM HUNTER

★ **NITTANY**
NOW - DOORS OPEN 6 PM
JAMES CAGNEY
PAT O'BRIEN
"FIGHTING 69th"