

Panel Repudiates, Accepts "God Is Dead"

"God is Dead", a quotation taken from Nietzsche was both repudiated and accepted by members of a panel discussion on October 16th in Wauneita Lounge.

"Everything is God," "Our age is post-Christian", "A true Christian is almost an agnostic," were some of the remarks made by panel members Prof. Terence Penelhum, Philosophy; Prof. John Sowton, English; Rev. Vern Wishart, Chaplain; and Dr. R. J. Crawford, Chemistry.

The panel members whose beliefs ranged from pantheism to agnosticism to Christianity were given five minutes each to comment on the topic. A discussion followed in which the audience participated.

Dr. Sowton began the discussion by quoting the philosopher Wheelwright on the inevitability of individual predisposition in examining philosophical and theological questions. Dr. Sowton stated his tenets were Christian.

He went on to say that God made in man's image is continually being manufactured by man and is continually dying. The political and social God died in the slums of the Industrial Revolution. He became irrelevant as other better means were used to keep man in his place. The scientific, dictionary God was abandoned as man came to understand more natural phenomena.

Though he affirmed his belief in God, Dr. Sowton said that Christians have to live in a world that has learned to do without God; in an age that is post-Christian.

Dr. Crawford was hesitant to use the word God, as it means many things to many people. He holds

the pantheistic view, in which everything is God and God is everything. "God" is natural, not supernatural, and the universe is infinite in both past and future.

Prof. Penelhum, in commenting on Dr. Sowton's remarks, agreed that God is intellectually and socially dead. Further, since morality exists without God, He is morally dead. But this doesn't mean that God can't exist. Dr. Penelhum felt that a belief in God enriches personal life.

He pointed out the dangers which may arise out of Dr. Sowton's suggestion that we bring the gospels and our concepts of God up-to-date. When modernizing God, the clergyman may go to the point where He no longer exists.

Rev. Wishart felt the supernatural miracle, where God barges in and upsets natural law is diametrically opposed to the Christian perception of God.

He felt the pantheist ran into difficulties when considering evil and suffering.

Denying a Christian monopoly on God, Rev. Wishart stated Hindus and Buddhists have a better view of God than many Christians.

New Parking Rule Changes

The Administration has made new rulings regarding the registration of vehicles and parking violations.

Cars must be registered if operated on campus at all. The Board of Governors has approved a sliding scale of fines in place of the previous mandatory \$25 fine. First offenders will be warned, second offenders will be assessed a \$10 fine, and third and subsequent violations will draw a \$15 fine and be referred to the Dean's Council for punishment. This may include extra fines or removal of parking privileges.

Punishment for parking privileges is removed and such further punishment is imposed as deemed suitable by the Dean's Council.

This year the Campus Traffic Patrol members have been made special city police constables. For offences involving parking meters, fire hydrants, bus stops, city police tickets will be issued for appearance in court.

More Money Needed

"The location and tapping of new sources of revenue to pay for education's increasing costs is Canada's greatest problem." This view was expressed by Dr. Walter Johns, president of the University of Alberta, at a provincial government seminar last Thursday.

"Historically, it has been the provincial government's responsibility to give leadership and financial aid to education," said Dr. Johns. But he welcomed the federal government's move to provide grants for the establishment of vocational schools.

ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY

Dr. Johns noted that there is a growing tendency in Alberta for teachers to accept a greater responsibility in carrying out the curriculum.

The provincial department of education must continue to lay down minimum standards, while at the same time increasing the autonomy of educators. Common tests and standards are needed because teachers are not equally competent, he reported.

He expressed hopes that common, nation-wide standards will be developed to facilitate the movement of students from one province to another.

SERIES PROPOSED

The seminar, held at the Jubilee

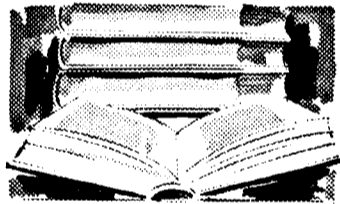
Auditorium, ended Wednesday. It was the first of a proposed series of seminars to promote more efficient communication between the government and the people.

Liberals Rising

The Liberal party has been steadily gaining strength in the last year, said Jim Coutts at a meeting of the campus Liberals last Monday.

Mr. Coutts is national leader of the Young Liberal Federation.

He highlighted the Liberal gains in the last election, noting they doubled their number of seats in parliament. Stating the next election will result in a Liberal government, he emphasized all Liberals should think hard, speak hard, and work hard, to attain this goal.



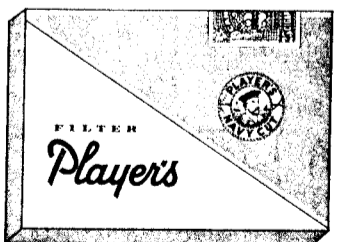
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BREAK-TIME



DATE-TIME



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498

1995

798

1298

3950

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