



The Phi Sigma Tau

Bulletin

A Publication of the Department of Philosophy, Southwest Texas State University

Fall 2001

The Sleep of Reason Produces Monsters

Issue 15



relatively new field of bioethics, Dr. Callahan has remarked:

My own greatest concern over the years has been the way in which medicine has changed the way we live. It has given us longer lives, different modes of reproduction, new problems in dealing with ancient questions, and has opened the possibility of engineering important human traits. While the standard theories of morality can be helpful here in dealing with ethical dilemmas created by medicine, we need to find ways to think more carefully about which technological developments we want in the first place; otherwise ethics becomes reactive only, not proactive. Ethics should deal not only with our actual moral dilemmas but with the way we in general live our lives and manage our science—so that we can have some choice about the kinds of dilemmas we get in the first place.

Daniel Callahan, Director of International Programs for The Hastings Center for Bioethics, will give a lecture and participate in a philosophy dialogue on the SWT campus November 5-6.

His lecture, scheduled for Monday, November 5 at 7:00 p.m. in Evans Auditorium will focus on the topic *How Much Medical Progress Can We Afford?* The following day at 11:00 a.m. he will discuss *Medical Problems and Philosophical Contributions* in the Philosophy Dialogue Room, PSY 132.

Dr. Callahan holds a Ph.D. in philosophy from Harvard and a B.A. from Yale. He was a co-founder of The Hastings Center in 1969, and from 1969-1996 served as its Director and President. The Hastings Center is an independent, nonpartisan, interdisciplinary research institute that addresses fundamental ethical issues in

the areas of health, medicine, and the environment.

In addition to his work with the Hastings Center, he is a Senior Fellow at the Harvard Medical School, a member of the Institute of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences, and chair of the ethics committee for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 1996 Dr. Callahan received the Freedom and Scientific Responsibility Award of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Among his many recent publications are his book *False Hopes: Why America's Quest for Perfect Health is a Recipe for Failure* (New York, Simon & Schuster, 1998) and the edited work *Promoting Healthy Behavior: How Much Freedom? Whose Responsibility?* (Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2000).

Regarding the challenges and controversies facing the

Sponsors for Dr. Callahan's visit to SWT are: University Departments of Biology, History, Philosophy, Psychology, and Sociology; Colleges of Health Professions and Liberal Arts; SWT Honors Program

University Public Lecture Series

For more information on Dr. Callahan or The Hastings Center for Bioethics see <http://www.thehastingscenter.org/callahan.htm> or <http://www.accessexcellence.com/LC/ST/st5bg.htm>

LAB REPORT

ETHICS BOWL

The Fourth Annual Ethics Bowl will take place November 17, 2001 (Saturday from 8:30 to 1:00) at St. Mary's University in San Antonio. SWT will again send a team of students to participate. Inspired by TV's College Bowl, The Ethics Bowl is a friendly competition that gives teams of students an opportunity to exercise their moral reasoning skills. Questions (which are available in advance) pose ethical problems ranging widely over areas such as the classroom, professional ethics, personal relationships, and social/political issues. Professor Lynne Fulmer is the coach for the team. If you are interested in participating, please contact Vanessa Voss at ninjaguava@hotmail.com.

Greetings and welcome to another academic year. The Critical Thinking Lab is now fully loaded with state of the art facilities. We were able to acquire some more new Dell computers over the summer, bringing the count to thirty-five. We've come quite a long way since 1996 when the Lab and Dialogue Room opened its doors in Liberal Arts, Room 367.

Speaking of the Dialogue Room, we have lined up another outstanding Dialogue Series this semester. The Series features focus weeks on such fascinating topics as Philosophy of Mathematics and Logic, Philosophy and Film, Philosophy and Neurophysiology, and Early Greek Philosophy. During our focus week on Civil Liberties in late September, we will have guest speakers from the ACLU and NORML. We also look forward to our focus week on Bio-ethics in November, when the renowned bio-ethicist Daniel Callahan will be not only be speaking in the Dialogue Room, but also giving a public address in Evans Auditorium. Should you have any questions regarding the Critical Thinking Lab or the Dialogue Series, feel free to contact me via phone (245-2403) or email (wilson@swt.edu).

Paul Wilson
CTL Coordinator/Program Faculty

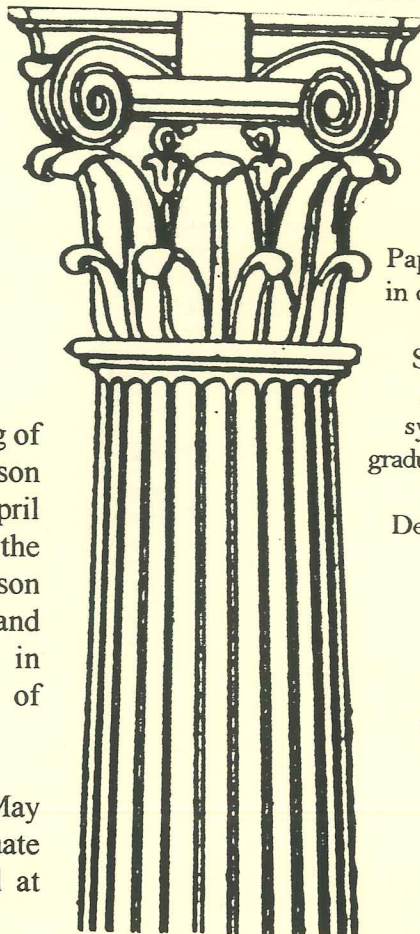
Phi Sigma Tau Officers:

Vanessa Voss
President
Silvia Elguea and Taj Watkins
Co-Vice-Presidents
Jo Ann Carson
Advisor and Secretary-
Treasurer

STUDENT NEWS

"Birth, Death, and the Meaning of Life," a paper authored by Jason Simus, was published in the April 2001 issue of *Dialogue*, the Journal of *Phi Sigma Tau*. Jason graduated from SWT in May and is now doing graduate work in philosophy at The University of Colorado in Boulder.

Jennifer Runnels, another May graduate, also began graduate studies in philosophy this fall at The University of Maryland.



Call for Papers

Southwest Texas State University
5th Annual Philosophy Symposium
April 5, 2002 (Friday)

Papers will be presented throughout the day in our Philosophy Dialogue Room, PSY 132.

Submissions should be suitable for a 20-minute presentation (8-12 pages). The symposium is open to undergraduate and graduate students as well as SWT philosophy alumni.

Deadline for submissions: February 1, 2002
Notification by: February 28, 2002

Send two copies of your paper to:
Jo Ann Carson
Department of Philosophy
Southwest Texas State University
San Marcos, TX 78666
Phone: (512)245-3143
Fax: (512) 245-8335
E-mail: jc28@swt.edu

What's Up?

We want the most current information available on our SWT alumni and friends. Please take just a couple of minutes and complete this form.

➤ **Name** _____
 First Middle Maiden Last

Date of Birth _____

Preferred title _____ Mr. _____ Ms. _____ Miss _____ Mrs. _____ Other _____

Email Address _____

Other colleges attended (List degrees received) _____

➤ **About Your Family:**

Your spouse _____ **Date of birth** _____

Did he/she attend SWT? _____ **When?** _____ **Class Year** _____

Your children (please list names and date of birth) _____

➤ **Your Employment Information:**

Your employer _____

Your business title _____

Self employed? _____ **Retired?** _____

Your spouse's employer _____

➤ **Home Address** _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Business Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Home phone () _____ **Work phone ()** _____

➤ **Comments** _____

➤ **Looking for someone?** [?] **let us know**
Name: _____

Levels of Giving
Department of Philosophy
Southwest Texas State University
San Marcos, Texas 78666

The Gods \$1000.00 and above

The Socratics \$500 - 999

The Platos \$100 - 499

The Aristotles \$11 - 99

The Sophists \$10

Amount

- \$1000.00 and above - The Gods
- \$500 to 999 - The Socrates
- \$100 to 499 - The Platos
- \$11 to 99 - The Aristotles
- \$ 10 - The Sophists

(Special development projects include Dialogue Series, scholarships (Development Liaison & James Treanor Scholarship), endowed professorship, Philosophy Alumni Chautauqua, and the Teague Lecture.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone#: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments: _____

Spring 2002

Philosophy Classes

Religion 2315

Christian Scriptures: Survey of the New Testament

12:30pm-1:45pm T-H

Prof. Raphael

An introduction to the contemporary academic study of the New Testament including apocryphal and post-canonical works

Religion 3366

Studies in Western Religions

9:30am-10:45am T-H

Prof. Raphael

Study of the history, doctrines, and rituals of one of the major Western traditions

Religion 4388

Problems in Religion Taught on Dead Sea Scrolls

10:00am-10:50am MWF Staff

Independent study of specific topics in religion

Philosophy 2312

History of Philosophy Since 1600

2:00pm-3:15pm MW

Prof. Fulmer

Modern philosophical thought through the 19th century

Philosophy 2330

Elementary Logic

1:00pm-1:50pm MWF Hutcheson

9:30am-10:45am TH Joy

A study of the nature and forms of correct reasoning, deductive and inductive

Philosophy 3301

Philosophical Issues (substitutes for 1305) 10:00am-10:50am MWF

Prof. Hanks

2:00pm-4:45pm W Prof. Kalsi

The great philosophical concepts which through the years have challenged the best thoughts of people and have contributed to the fulfillment of the good life. Emphasis upon the applicability of those concepts to human life in our time and to the development of intellectual perspective. Approximately one half of this course will focus on the student's critical thinking skills.

Philosophy 3315

Contemporary Philosophy

9:00am-9:50am MWF

Prof. Zhu

Selected readings in the late 19th century and 20th century philosophy: existentialism, positivism, also analytic philosophy, phenomenology, and pragmatism.

Philosophy 3317

Science and Religion

2:00pm-3:15pm MW

Prof. Joy

An examination of the nature of scope of science and scientific method as well as nature of religion. An exploration of the relationship between religion and science and a study of the effects they have had on each other.

Philosophy 3318

Reason, God and Nature

12:30pm-1:45pm TH Fulmer

An analysis of the concept of God, terms predicated of God, and theological propositions. An attempt to determine the nature of religious utterances in comparison with those of everyday life, scientific discovery, morality, and imaginative expression.

Philosophy 3321

Contemporary Moral Problems

3:30pm-4:45pm MW Hanks

Exploration of philosophical dimensions of such contemporary moral problems as abortion, euthanasia, poverty, animal rights, nuclear war, and privacy in a computer age.

Philosophy 4301/5301

Applied Philosophy

10:00am-10:50am MWF

Prof. Gueras

Ethics in a Political Context: The course will study philosophical ethical theories and apply them to political issues, including issues in public administration.

Philosophy 4350

Philosophy of the Arts

2:00pm-3:15pm T-H

Prof. Gordon

A critical and historical analysis of

the nature of aesthetic experience and creative genius.

Philosophy 4351/5351

Philosophy of Education

11:00am-12:15pm TH Prof. Carson

An examination of the nature and goals of education focusing on such topics as the learning process, cognitive and moral development, the reciprocity of teaching and learning, ideology and education, traditional vs. progressive education, and the role of popular culture and technology in education. Classical and contemporary readings include Plato, Locke, Rousseau, Dewey, Piaget, Freire, Gutmann, Rorty, Searle, and others.

Honors 2390

Old and New World Philosophy (Philosophy 1305 substitution)

11:00am-12:15pm T-H

Prof. Luizzi

An introduction to Western philosophy by way of pragmatism, America's main contribution to world philosophy. Studies will include a mix of American voices, including African American, Hispanic, Native American, and Feminist thinkers.

Honors 3390

Philosophical Explorations in Film (International Persp., Adv. Phil, or counts toward Media Studies -Minor credit)

11:00am-12:15pm T-H

Prof. McKinney

After becoming acquainted with the vocabulary and techniques of film, we will examine self-deception, emotions, and love. The "text" through which we will strive to understand these concepts includes writings of Kant, Sartre, Plato, Rich, and Nussbaum, as well as films by Deren, Van Sant, Lee, Baroda, and others.



the

Owl People*

invite you to our discussion of

THE ODYSSEY OF HOMER

Fridays at 3:30

PSY 312 (The Attic)

*sponsored by *Phi Sigma Tau*, the philosophy honor society, but open to all

Fall 2001

September 14	Introduction: Epics, Heroes, and Homecomings Telemachus, Penelope, and the Suitors	Books I and II
September 21	Guests and Hosts: The Travels of Telemachus	Books III and IV
September 28	Odysseus, a Goddess, and a Princess	Books V and VI
October 5	Odysseus Among the Phaeacians	Books VII and VIII
October 12	Odysseus Tells the Story of His Wanderings	Books IX and X
October 19	The Wanderings Continue	Books XI and XII
October 26	Odysseus Returns to Ithaca and Plots Revenge	Books XIII and XIV
November 2	Odysseus and Telemachus are Reunited	Books XV and XVI
November 9	Odysseus in Disguise Returns to His Palace	Books XVII and XVIII
November 16	Odysseus (still in disguise) and Penelope	Books XIX and XX
November 30	Odysseus Slays the Suitors	Books XXI and XXII
December 7	Penelope Recognizes Odysseus Athena Imposes Peace	Books XXIII and XXIV

- ❖ Discover intriguing connections between literature and philosophy
- ❖ Experience the joy of learning without the pressure of tests and projects
- ❖ Come when you're able—attendance at all sessions is not necessary and advance preparation is not required
- ❖ Converse with unique and fascinating people
- ❖ Enjoy homemade comfort food
- ❖ Fight the SWT party school image
- ❖ Get the weekend off to a great start!!

Spring semester's topic: Nietzsche's *Beyond Good and Evil* (Free book available to participants)

PLEASE

JOIN

US FOR

OUR ANNUAL

PHILOSOPHY ALUMNI BANQUET
AND PHI SIGMA TAU INITIATION

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND, 7:00PM

THE UNIVERSITY CLUB

(LOWER LEVEL OF COMMONS)

Philosophy Alumni Banquet
The University Club (Lower Level of Commons)
Reservation Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Enclose \$20.00 per person (unless Phi Sigma Tau initiate) and return to the SWT Department of Philosophy no later than October 19, 2001

Southwest Texas State University
Department of Philosophy
601 University Drive
San Marcos, Texas 78666

Indicate:

_____ Lasagne

_____ Vegetarian Lasagne

_____ Vegan

_____ Phi Sigma Tau Initiate

(Enclose \$25; banquet fee waived)

Words from the Chair - Vince Luizzi

There was some talk after the terrorist attacks Tuesday morning on 9/11 of canceling classes, but the consequence of unleashing a large number of commuters on IH 35 to accomplish no clear goal advised against it. Classes did meet. In some the tragedy was acknowledged and the normal business of the day ensued while in others the period was devoted to reflecting on the events. We discussed in Business and Professional Ethics how complex the issue of responsibility for some event could be, what responses to such violence seemed appropriate, and how a moral evaluation of it could be approached. I mentioned how Buddy Sosthand, an SWT philosophy alum, had produced a film a few years ago, *The Devil*, which grappled with the issue of complex and multiple responsibility. In our Dialogue Room, sociologist Audwin Anderson's discussion of moral relativism turned to the question of whether we could identify some act that everyone could agree is morally evil; discussants considered alternative perceptions of the terrorist attacks in this context.

Prof. Rebecca Raphael's class on Christianity decided to shift its focus from religion and the environment to religious violence. Her other classes talked about where violence stops, how violence begets violence, whether hatred is purely emotional and beyond rational discourse or whether it has a rational component that could be stated as propositions. Prof. Jeff Gordon organized an interdisciplinary symposium for Wednesday night, 9/12 with Profs. Barnes (Sociology), Leder (Political Science), Liddle (History), Milhalkanin (Political Science), Pohl (History) and Raphael (Philosophy). About 400 people attended. Students asked what they could do now. Profs. Gordon and Raphael both enjoined students to dedicate themselves to their studies and to learning why a democracy's vitality rests on an informed and critically reflective citizenry. Gordon emphasized how college students should see themselves as preparing for roles of leadership in a society which demands educated minds. Alum Jo Ann Carson, now Professor Carson, reported writing on the blackboard, "The Sleep of Reason Produces Monsters." That is the title of one of Goya's etchings which was mentioned in an article her class was discussing. The article was about the value of reflection, and the class was able to make obvious connections with the events earlier that morning. Alum Jody Dodd wrote to us from her post at the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in Philadelphia with some information about non-violent responses to the terrorism. Alum Rick Chafey sent us information about the necessity of coupling military action with the moral determination of the American citizenry to conquer terrorism.

I ended up in NYC near "Ground Zero" on the evening of 9/27 when my flight to upstate NY was canceled and I was re-routed to Newark. I welcomed the chance to witness the destruction, as it still seemed to have an air of unreality to it. It was eerie that night to see streets usually teeming with people and traffic mostly deserted as much as it was to see green smoke rising from the hills of rubble remaining where once the towers stood. What I never anticipated though nor heard anything about previously was how people's freedom of movement in the area was restricted by police and blockades. I had a reservation to stay at a hotel in the Tribeca area. Police initially wouldn't allow the cabbie to drive me to my hotel and said I'd have to walk a few blocks to get there. At another blockade, police required me to have proof that I was a guest at the Cosmopolitan, which I didn't have. About an hour later a representative from the hotel came to escort me to the hotel where I was issued papers identifying me as a guest for passage in the area. I explored further and saw for myself firemen huddled outside a local station where candles burned next to photos of fire fighters who had lost their lives; I saw posters identifying missing persons plastered on a wall near the entrance to Penn station: more chances to witness things we had seen on the news. And another reminder of unexpected restrictions on liberties when a police officer barked at me when I held my camera up, "NO PICTURES." However much this detour through NYC made the tragedy less an unreal event unfolding in the media, it did add a new dimension of what was hard to believe was happening.

The *Phi Sigma Tau* Bulletin

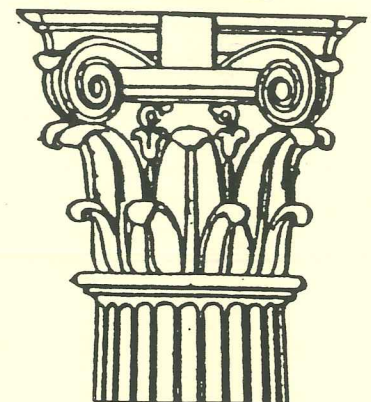
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monsters

Francisco de Goya, c. 1798. From the *Caprichos*.