

READERS SPEAK:

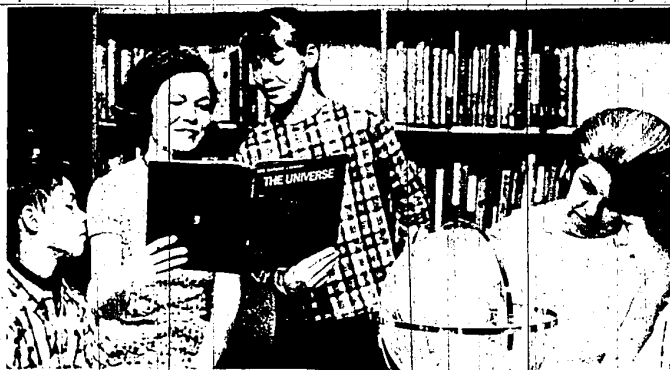
Disagrees With Philosophy

EDITOR:
Since silence is too often equated with agreement, I feel I must offer a rebuttal to two recent articles appearing in Elizabeth Wissman's column. I am referring to the interviews with Rabbi Wine (June 18) and Rev. Pelham (June 25). My purpose is two-fold: (1) to register my total disagreement with the theological and philosophical positions of both gentlemen, and thereby (2) to state a conservative Evangelical position.
The failure of contemporary religion as a guide to mankind in this time of global confusion is probably the most tragic aspect of this age. Men attend Temples, Cathedrals, and Churches listening to sermons and lectures with one question foremost in their thinking: "which way is truth?" Men are searching for a spiritual relationship that will be their sustaining force in their avenue of life.
To declare, as Rabbi Wine did, that the very Source of life, God, is unimportant and irrelevant to man's needs, is to commit intellectual and spiritual suicide. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man can come to the Father except by me." (John 14:6 NED).
Furthermore, with regard to the existence of God and the creation of the universe (to

which the Rabbi says there is no answer) the Bible clearly states, "... all that may be known of God by men lies plain before their eyes; indeed, God himself has disclosed it to them. His invisible attributes, that is to say his everlasting power and deity, have been visible, ever since the world began, to the eye of reason, in the things he has made. There is, therefore, no possible excuse for their conduct; knowing God, they have refused to honor him as God, or to render Him thanks." (Romans 1:19-21 New English Bible).
Basically, Rabbi Wine and Rev. Pelham have the same philosophy: the redemption of society through socio-economic channels. Rev. Pelham calls it a "new reformation" concerned with reaching people and effecting changes through the "new unity, new theology, new evangelism, and new morality." Rabbi Wine says his main concern is "not with God, but with man," his nature and needs, and how to fulfill those needs.
Now, I quite agree that faith must be relevant to every day living, and that the socio-economic problems of man loom large in our society, and that they need prompt, effective action. However, it seems incongruous to endeavor to redeem society, noble as it might be, without first of all leading men who make up that society

to individual redemption. All socio-economic ills have their basis in the individuals in that society.
Therefore, each man needs to be rescued from what he has become and restored to what he was created to be - a child of God following the precepts of God's Word, the Bible. Man must be redeemed through Jesus Christ first; then having been restored to God, society will be redeemed. Changed men lead to changed society. To reverse the order is, according to scripture, to "worship the creature rather than the Creator." (Romans 1:25 NED). While I am certain that sound social, economic, and political policy is essential - in a moral universe this must be true - I am equally certain that we need God's Truth, revealed in His Son Jesus and His Word - the Bible - within our finite grasp, to solve our problems. To repeat, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man can come to the Father except by me." Finally, in further words of scripture, "You shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32 NED).

REV. PAUL D. BERSCHKE
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THIS BUSY GROUP at Gill School illustrates the correlation which exists between the learning resources center and the library. Librarian Lee Dumas suggests suitable reading material to supplement the work being done by Marge Candler's fifth graders. From left, David Willson, Vickie Smith and Vickie Bamberger.

Exchange Student Leaves

To The People of Farmington:

My year here in the United States came suddenly to an end, and I am now sitting here looking back at the wonderful time I have had together with you all. It seems like a very short time since I arrived, a beautiful day last August, and I kind of wish that I was back here again, and could live the year over with all the knowledge I have now, and with all the fun ahead of me, instead of behind me.

The reason I write this letter is not to tell you the story of my fabulous stay, though I wish I could, and by that sharing my experience with you, but rather to thank you all for making my stay possible and in addition to that, you made a great and valuable year out of it.
The reason you can do things like this is your hospitality, your friendliness and your willingness to hear about new and different ideas and cultures, and I hope that I, at least, in some ways have answered your questions, and that your understanding of my country is a little bit better now than before.

AS THE LAST day in Farmington is rapidly passing by, I know that it will be hard to leave, and I don't think that I fully realize that it is all over. Especially hard will it be to leave the Berschs with whom I have been living the whole year, and they really are like a second family for me.

Of course I have made many friends during my stay, and many of these are the best friends I ever have had, and it will be a great emptiness when they all are gone, and the same goes for all my teachers, and all the rest of you who have helped me, and make such a wonderful place of Farmington, my second hometown.

Last, but not least, my thanks go to the whole Farmington AFS chapter, for their great job and the care they have taken of me, and I hope that all exchange students in the future will find Farmington as charming as I have.

Of course it is very hard to show how much you really enjoyed things here, and our hospitality I will probably never be able to pay back, but remember if any one of you would come to Sweden look me up because I want to see you again, and some day I will be back.

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