

The Phi Sigma Tau

Bulletin

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

Fall 2000

Homecoming Edition

Issue 13

Wisdom Soirée

Every Friday @ 4:00 pm, Psy 312

This semester we are reading and discussing Marcus Aurelius's *Meditations*. All interested persons are welcome, and we extend a special invitation to all alumni. The discussions are very informal and do not require advance preparation. Each week passages are selected and read aloud by volunteer discussion leaders. Come join us and learn a bit about Stoic philosophy in general and Marcus Aurelius in particular.

Weekly Schedule:

September 22 Books I-II

September 29 Book III

October 6 Book IV

October 13 Book V

October 20 Discussion group will not meet.
Philosophy Alumni Banquet
6:30 University Club--Basement of Commons

October 27 Book VI

November 3 Book VII

November 10 Book VIII

November 17 Books XIX-X

December 1 Books XI-XII

Sponsored by *Phi Sigma Tau*, the Philosophy Honor Society



The owl of Minerva spreads its wings only with the falling of the dusk.
-Hegel, Philosophy of Right (1821)

Ethics Bowl

For the third year, the SWT philosophy department and SWT's *Delta* chapter of *Phi Sigma Tau* will be represented at the South Central Texas Regional Ethics Bowl at St. Mary's University in San Antonio. Sponsored by the St. Mary's Center for Professional Ethics, this event gives teams of students an opportunity to apply their moral reasoning skills in a friendly but competitive environment. Teams are asked to field questions that pose ethical problems ranging widely over areas such as the classroom (e.g. cheating or plagiarism), professional ethics (e.g. law, medicine, engineering, etc.), personal relationships (e.g. dating, friendship etc.), and political and social ethics (e.g. free speech, gun control, etc.). Professor Lynne Fulmer will again serve as coach for this year's team: James Hulgan, Clinton Hopper, Jennifer Runnels, and Michael Vaclav.

***Phi Sigma Tau* officers for the fall, 2000 semester are:**

James Hulgan, President
Michael Vaclav, Vice-President
Clinton Hopper, Secretary-Treasurer

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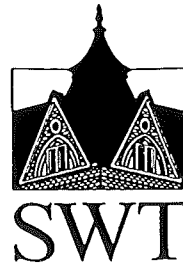
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The *Phi Sigma Tau* Bulletin

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Call for Papers



Southwest Texas State University Fourth Annual Philosophy Symposium March 30, 2000 (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). Application is open to undergraduate and graduate students and to SWT Philosophy Alumni.

Deadline for submissions: January 31, 2001
Notification by: February 23, 2001

Send two copies of your paper to:
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E-mail: jc28@swt.edu

A cover page should include: title of paper, author's name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and classification (undergraduate/graduate/alumni). For video or multimedia, please submit a detailed description of the presentation and a list of any equipment which will be needed.

Papers on any philosophical topic are welcome.

Sponsored by *Phi Sigma Tau*, Texas *Delta* Chapter

Spring 2001 Courses

Phil 1330.251 Critical Thinking MW 3:30-4:45 Prof. Lynne Fulmer
Phil 2312.251 History of Phil. Since 1660 T-Th 11:00-12:15 Prof. Kalsi
Phil 2330.251 Elem. Logic MWF 1:00-1:50 Prof. Hutcheson
Phil 2330.252 Elem. Logic T-Th 9:30-10:45 Prof. Joy
Phil 3301.280 Phil. Issues T-Th 6:30-9:15 Prof. Hanks
Phil 3315.251 Contemp. Phil. MWF 10:00-10:50 Prof. Geuras
Phil 3321.251 Contemp. Moral Prob. MW 12:30-1:45 Prof. Hanks
Phil 3322.251 Busi. & Professional Ethics T-Th 6:30-9:15 Prof. Hanks
Phil 3340.251 Symbolic Logic T-Th 2:00-3:15 Prof. McKinney
Phil 4351.251 Phil. Of Education T-Th 2:00-3:15 Prof. Carson
Phil 4356.251 Phil. Of Knowledge MWF 11:00-11:50 Prof. Hutcheson
Phil 4371.251 Asian Philosophy MWF 9:00-9:50 Prof. Zhu
Phil 5351.251 Phil. Of Education T-Th 2:00-3:15 Prof. Carson
Hon 2390D.251 New and Old World Phil. MW 2:00-3:15 Prof. Luizzi
Hon 2390G.251 Phil. Issues in Lewis Carroll's Writings MW 2:00-3:15 Joy
Hon 3391L.251 Phil. Explor. In Film T-Th 11:00-12:15 Prof. McKinney
Hon 3393K.251 Naturalism from Hume to the Present: the Science of Matter,
Mind, Morals, and God MW 2:00-3:15 Prof. G. Fulmer

Lab Report:

We're completely settled into our new computer lab in Psychology 104. Our computer programs are developing nicely, thanks to Matt Stone and Beverly Pairett. Our newest faculty member, Craig Hanks, even has a program that can be accessed via the internet. Our dialogue series this fall has been one of our finest. With dialogue topics as diverse as Philosophy of War and Postmodernism, and with a wide range of speakers from other disciplines, such as Todd McGowan and Steve Wilson from English, Chris Frost from Psychology, Kay Hofer and Bill Desoto from Political Science, and Paula Williamson from Biology, the SWT Philosophy Department is celebrating one of its greatest years. Please contact me at 245-2403 or via email (wilson@swt.edu) if you have any questions about the Critical Thinking Lab or the Dialogue Series.

Paul Wilson
CTL Coordinator

Homecoming 2000

Monday, October 16

5:30pm - Karaoke Night, Mugs in the LBJ Student Center

Tuesday, October 17

7:00pm - Bobcat Volleyball vs. Rice, Strahan Coliseum

7:00pm - All Caampus Talent Show, Evans Auditorium

Thursday, October 19

6am - midnight - Student Rec. Center Open House

8pm - Western Homecoming Dance

8pm - Forever Plaid, Musical, University Performing Arts Center

Friday, October 20

8:00am-5:00pm Homecoming registration & check-in, Alumni House

6:00am-8:00pm - Student Rec. Center Open House

8:00am-5:00pm - Philosophy Open House

12 noon - Golden Grads, Class of 1950 Luncheon, LBJ Student Center

1:30pm - Hour of Dialogue with SWT's Golden Grads, LBJ Student Center

3:00pm - Soapbox Derby, Roanoke Street

5:30pm - The Golden Grads Reunion Dinner and Dance Honoring the Class of 1950, LBJ Student Center

5:45pm - Homecoming Parade, Roanoke Street
Following Parade - Homecoming Sprit Rally, LBJ Student Center Mall

6:30pm - Philosophy Alumni Banquet, University Club

7:00pm - Bobcat Soccer vs. Southeastern Louisiana

8:00pm - Coser Than Ever, musical revue, University Performing Arts Center

10:00pm - Bobcat Burn, behind the softball fields.

Saturday, October 21

8:00am-10:30am - All Alumni Homecoming Breakfast Buffet

8:00am-3:30pm - Homecoming Registration, Alumni House

10:00am - Liberal Arts Open House

9:00am-11:00am - 1970-1975 - Silver Reunion

Brunch

10:00am-5:00pm - Student Rec. Center Open House

10:00am - Alumni Art Show Reception and Award Ceremony, Art Building

10:00am - noon - Van Tours, Alumni House

10:30am - African American Alumni Brunch, LBJ Student Center, Lower Lair

11:00am - Reception honoring Jack Gravitt, Flower Hall 2nd floor

11:30am - Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony & Luncheon, Reed Parr 11th floor JCK

1:00pm-3:00pm - Alumni & Parent Pre-game Barbecue, Bobcat Stadium

2:00pm - Coalition of Black Faculty and Staff Alumni Pre-game

Gathering, Bobcat Stadium

2:30pm - Pre-game Homecoming festivities and parade, Bobcat Stadium

3:00pm - Homecoming Football Game

6:00pm-11:00pm - All-Alumni Casino Night, LBJ Student Center Ballroom

6:00pm-8:00pm - All-Alumni Homecoming Dinner, outside Casino Night

7:00pm - National Pan-Hellenic Greek Step Show, Strahan Coliseum

8:00pm - Forever Plaid, Musical, University Performing Arts Center

Sunday, October 22

8:00am-10:30am - Sunday morning worship, Campus Crusade for Christ

1:00pm - Bobcat Soccer vs. McNeese State, Location TBA

3:00pm - Closer Than Ever, Musical, University Performing Arts Center

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PHILOSOPHY WEB PAGE

www.swt.edu/philosophy

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR

This fall we began the Philosophy Alumni Chautauqua, a project designed for philosophy alumni to join discussions we're having on campus about a selected philosophical work. This fall the book is Marcus Aurelius's *Meditations*. On campus we've had one discussion devoted to it in the Dialogue Series, and each Friday Prof. Carson's "Wisdom Corner" discusses a portion of it. All of our alumni can present their thoughts on the work in our Dialogue Room on the web. Right now we're using this virtual Dialogue Room for any discussion pertaining to the activities under discussion in the Dialogue Room but soon should have a special link entitled "Philosophy Alumni Chautauqua" for the reading/discussion group. We're looking forward to your joining us in these deliberations and welcome suggestions for works to read and discuss in the future.

Best wishes,

Images of Women Video Series

Psychology 132 (Philosophy Dialogue Room)
Thursdays at 3:30

Thursday 21 September: *The Brandon Teena story* (Dir: Greta Olafsdottir, Susan Muska, 1998).

The true story of Brandon Teena, a woman (born Teena Brandon) who chose to live life as a man and who was ultimately killed by those intolerant of that choice. This film, winner of Best Documentary honors at the Berlin and Vancouver Film Festivals, details Brandon's largely positive dating relationships with women, as well as the moral climate and events that would eventually lead to his death. This tragic story was also the basis for the acclaimed dramatization, *Boys Don't Cry*.—from www.facets.org

Thursday 28 September: *Xiu Xiu* (Dir: Joan Chen, China, 1999). Mandarin with English subtitles.

Actress Joan Chen made an impressive directorial debut with this tragic drama about a young girl victimized by the worst aspects of communist China's "cultural revolution." The title character is a teenaged city girl who is forced to relocate to the countryside as part of Mao Tse-tung's mass experiment in social engineering. Sent to the rural lands so that she might know the life of the worker, the impressionable girl is only alienated and ultimately sexually exploited. "...an assured and impassioned directing debut that's all the more powerful for its control and restraint" (Jay Car, *The Boston Globe*).—from www.facets.org

Thursday 5 October: *La Ofrenda: the days of the dead* (Dir: Lourdes Portillo, USA, 1988).

Lourdes Portillo has been working as a filmmaker and writer for over twenty years. Her work often deals with cultural and political events in Central and South American Countries. Previous films include *After the Earthquake*, about the Nicaraguan revolution; *Las Madres de la Playa de Mayo*, chronicling the struggle of Argentine mothers to bring the government to account for family members who have disappeared; and *La Ofrenda*, a portrait of the Mexican holiday that celebrates and honors the dead.—from the Video Databank catalog

Thursday 12 October: *Jane Campion shorts* (Dir: Jane Campion, New Zealand, 1988).

Jane Campion, the Australian director of *Sweetie*, made an unprecedented debut at the 1986 Cannes Film Festival, bringing these three short films which she made while she was a student at the Australian Film and TV School. All three films are distinguished by a mischievous sense of comic irony, keen emotional insight, and uniquely dry humor. Highly recommended. Includes: *Passionless Moments*—This series of vignettes humorously examines the seemingly unimportant private moments of everyday living. 3 mins. (B&W); *A Girl's Own Story*—Tells a story of girlhood in the Sixties, where family is strange, adulthood lonely, and innocence perverse. 27 mins. (B&W); and *Peel*—On a hot Australian summer's day, a recalcitrant, freckled, red-headed family of three goes for a Sunday drive in the country. Their outing results in an intrigue of power struggles and emotional belligerence. 9 mins. (Color). Total running time: 49 mins.—from www.facets.org

Thursday 19 October: *Household saints* (Dir: Nancy Savoca, USA, 1993).

When the Santangelos, an Italian-American couple, pray for a miracle, their wish is granted, or so they

originally think, in the form of a daughter they call Teresa. Tracey Ullman, Vincent D'Onofrio, Lili Taylor and Judith Malina star in this humorous fable of faith, sainthood and sausage.—from www.facets.org

Thursday 26 October: *Wild women don't have the blues* (USA, 1989).

Wild Women Don't Have the Blues shows how the blues were born out of the economic and social transformation of African American life early in this century. It recaptures the lives and times of Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, Ida Cox, Alberta Hunter, Ethel Waters and the other legendary women who made the blues a vital part of American culture. The film brings together for the first time dozens of rare, classic renditions of the early blues.—from www.newsreel.org

Thursday 2 November: *Regret to Inform* (Dir: Barbara Sonneborn, USA, 1998).

Emotional and profound, this film shares the story of the Vietnam war as experienced by the women who lived through it and the widows of the men who died there. Director Barbara Sonneborn, whose first husband died in combat, travelled to Vietnam to meet with the women on the other side of the conflict and found a common, haunting bond with the American women she had spoken with. *Regret to Inform* was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature and won the Director's Award (documentary) at the Sundance Film Festival. "...an elegy for both sides in the war...the film has about it the terrible ache of sadness, and of truth" (Lance Morrow, *Time*). —from www.facets.org

Thursday 9 November: *Watermelon woman* (Dir: Cheryl Dunye, USA, 1997).

Prompting an infamous little ruckus at the NEA because of its interracial lesbian lovemaking scene, Cheryl Dunye's startlingly fresh debut is a film within a film. Dunye, playing herself, is a young black woman making a documentary about Fae Richards, an obscure black actress known as "the Watermelon Woman."—from www.facets.org

What makes *The Watermelon Woman* special is its layered story line and its willingness to present its characters as comically flawed. Dunye also creates an aura of mystique around the enigmatic watermelon woman, and her life and tribulations become fascinating to the viewer. Even Camille Paglia shows up to make commentary about the "actress," and while the story-within-a-story concept is tricky, the power and purpose of the movie emerges, and the character becomes as fascinating as if she were flesh and blood. —Paula Nechak—from amazon.com

Thursday 16 November: No Film

Thursday 23 November: No Film: Thanksgiving (Recommended viewing is *Home for the holidays*, dir: Jodie Foster, USA, 1995).

Thursday 30 November: *Carmelita Tropicana: your kunst is waffen* (Dir: Ela Troyano, USA, 1994).

ALL ARE WELCOME