

University of Southern Indiana

Transitions

Student Magazine

February 19, 1992
Vol. 1, Issue 2



**Seperation of
Church and State**
Are we being sucked into
religious vacuum?

Last minute details....

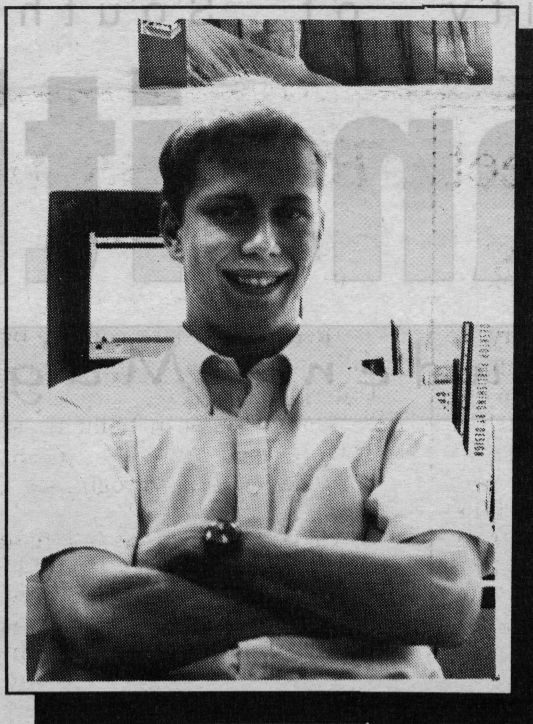
I have always had a dream to publish my own magazine. Well, that dream has finally come true with the creation of *Transitions*.

Transitions, what a beast. I never really knew how difficult it was to put out a publication by yourself. It is not very easy. I do have a very small staff and rely on submissions from students for my articles, but I do the majority of work alone.

This is the reason for only a four page issue because we are still in the experimental stage. I am trying everything that I think you (my audience) wants. I have heard several good and bad comments. I was expecting them. So give me more.

In this issue, Allen VanHoosier wrote a very controversial piece that is going to stir some controversy. The magazine, Allen and myself will get nasty letters and phone calls. I might even get a death threat or two. Who knows. But to say the least, I am prepared.

Some out there will say I had no right to print the piece, but according to the first amendment I have every right. If this issue accomplishes



nothing else, at least it will get this campus' students to think about their beliefs and rights. It is my duty as editor to create a publication that stimulates educational thought -- something that should occur at a state university.

Remember, that if the first amendment didn't exist we wouldn't have subjects to discuss and debate. I look forward to the upcoming controversy. I encourage you to stand behind your beliefs. Write a signed letter regarding your opinions. All letters will be printed, but may be edited for style, length and libel. Happy reading.

Bob Wendt, Editor

University of Southern Indiana
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Horoscopes: *For the hell of it*



By
**Madame
Fortune**

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19): Set aside some time for rest and relaxation, all work and no play can make you dull. Enjoy the next couple of days.

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20): Help a friend. Typical actions and responses will not do. Reach out and touch somebody, anywhere.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): Your problems are almost non-existing this month. New friendships or romances are good to start now. Beware of gold diggers though.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): There is always room at the top. Attempt the climb and enjoy the trip because you belong at the top this month.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 23): Those who are alone will find someone. Your path should cross

with Gemini. Those who have someone, beware, they may leave. Guard you back at all times.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Reward yourself with a well deserved splurge for all the good work you have done. Use your imagination the way I know you can. I'll be watching.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23): Relationships may be somewhat fragile and need to be handled with a very sensitive hand. Do not lose your temper when trying to rekindle the love you have.

Scorpio (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21): There will be revelations revealed in the coming days ahead. Some will be definitely better than others. Go with the ones that you feel you benefit you the most.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): There can be problems cropping up. Remember, there is more than one position to the rectify the situation.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You

are in for an excellent couple of days. Enjoy them with a loved one any way you see fit.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A positive attitude will lead to a very rewarding and satisfying relationship. Keep up the good work and maybe you might score.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Buck up little camper. Performance is what counts, not promises. Fantasy provides a welcomed and wonderful escape as well as other substances.

Madame Fortune can be found daily in the University Center for private counseling. For a small fee, she will tell your future. For a larger fee, she will tell you a very good future. And for an even larger fee, she may become a part of your future.

You be the judge!

Tell Madam Fortune your comments on this column. Should we continue???

Cover Photo: The American Flag. Symbol of our country and government. Could religion play a big part of their actions? See related story page 3.

Photographer: Bob Wendt

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1.) In the beginning, man created God; and in the image of man created he him.

2.) And man gave unto him a multitude of names, that he might be Lord over all the Earth when it was suited to man.

3.) And on the seven millionth day, man rested and did lean heavily on his God and saw that it was good.

4.) And man formed Aqualung of the dust of the ground, and a host of others likened unto his kind.

5.) And these lesser men, Man did cast into the void. And some were burned; and some were put apart from their kind.

6.) And man became the God that he had created and with his miracles did rule over the Earth.

7.) But as all these things did come to pass, the Spirit that did cause man to create his God lived on within all man; even within Aqualung.

8.) And man saw it not.

9.) But for Christ's sake... he'd better start looking.

—Jethro Tull

The religion of Christianity is widely accepted around the world as being the only way to achieve an eternal afterlife with "God." But where did this "God" come from? Or, should I say, where did the Christian concept of God come from?

Some unknown force allowed the universe and our planet to be created. Then, by the natural process of re-creation, bio-genesis, and evolution, the homo-sapiens that we are today, turned around and produced their self-serving image of "God almighty." Not an all loving and accepting God mind you, but a judgmental and condescending God.

Man could not comprehend why it was, or for who it was that they lived and breathed for. The only thing they did know was that they did exist. But...why, and more importantly—how? To them, there could only be one answer... God.

Man was then presented with a question that left him in great turmoil; how does one come face to face with God? The only logical answer they could come up with was the afterlife. But, what did man have to do to secure his place with God in this afterlife? That is why they attempted to fill their life with good deeds and charity to others; for surely, God almighty was a selfish God, rewarding those who did good in his name.

This led man to yet another perplexing notion. If a holy man

does good in the name of God, then surely there must be a source for those who were "evil." Enter Satan.

Totally disregarding the idea of human nature, the creators of Judaism conjured up the story of a great war that raged in heaven, and how one of God's angels became so self-righteous, that God cast him out to a world to his own. The myth states that those who do evil will be sentenced to this world to be horribly tortured for all eternity.

The creators of these ideas were a race of people known as Hebrews. The main reason these people developed these beliefs, was because for centuries, they had suffered as a nation under the yoke of Assyria, Babylonia, Persia, Greece and Rome. Their only hope of deliverance was their created God, whom they believed chose them as his own. Their freedom, they believed, was to be initiated by a Christ, or messiah, who would unlock their shackles of persecution forever.

During the first years of the Christian era, many of the basic beliefs of Christianity were shared by almost all of the religions of the time. Among the most important Christian borrowings was the concept of the virgin birth... the belief that Gods appear in human

form.

At the time when Jesus was born, it was commonly believed that all eminent men were products of virgin births. Buddha was supposedly born of a virgin. Zoroaster, Romulus, and Alexander the great were also supposedly born of a virgin.

Purification, absolution, and spiritual progress were also adopted from other Mediterranean religions of the time. The concept of water baptism was found in most of the contemporary religions of the time. The concept of the sacred meal (or communion) which is considered to be exclusively Christian, was a common practice in the Mediterranean religions of the time of Jesus. The use of noise makers such as bells, drums, and tambourines—which is found in some fundamental Chris-

tian religions, was adopted from non-Christian groups in the near east which they used to frighten off evil spirits.

The religion of Mithraism was a Roman cult which influenced Christianity in a vast way. It was the cult of Mithraism which created the concept of the sacrament of bread and wine for unity and fellowship of the spirit. Ironically enough, Mithras was supposedly born of a virgin, which was witnessed by shepherds. The similarities become more compelling. The shepherds that witnessed Mithras' birth, believed him to be the God of truth and the way and the light.

So... with the spreading of Christianity, one might ask if Christianity is the only, true way of obtaining everlasting life—or if it is nothing more than a plagiarized placebo?

If you read this "holy" book called the Bible with the notion that is nothing more than a story, a "revelation" may dawn upon you; "Wow, the

people who wrote this book are closed-minded, racist, sexist, judgmental hypocrites!"

Believe it or not, the white, male, Anglo-Saxon that is writing this happens to be a minority in this golden land of freedom that we call the United States; I happen to be a self-righteous, fiery, voisterous, politically-active, bleeding-heart liberal... agnostic; and I'm damned proud of it too.

I live in a country that is 93% Christian. That frightens me daily. The supposed separation of church and state that we have has been thrown out the window. If you don't believe me, let me prove it to you with something that is the most blatant violation. Whip out a dollar-bill and look at it closely... what does it say? "In God We Trust."

— continued on next page



Also, countless cities have the gall to set out nativity scenes year after year in public parks, city hall front lawns and other state or county-owned properties. More importantly, what do you think would happen if somebody like myself had to testify in a court of law, and I refused to take an oath or affirmation so help me God? I'd end up in the slammer!

Also, isn't odd that our public schools and state supported colleges are getting away with those opening and closing prayers during the ceremony? Again... another blatant violation of the separation of church and state.

You may hear some Christians pipe up and say, "The words separation of church and state are nowhere to be found in the constitution!"

Well, they aren't. There is only one constitution that has those exact words, and that is the former Russia. But, our constitution says virtually the same thing.

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibit the free exercise thereof."

What this means is that the government cannot show or represent in any way a religious doctrine of any kind. The doesn't mean that the president cannot say "God bless America", that's free speech. It means that the government cannot, and better not try to get me to say it.

As for nativity scenes, the only



place they have the legal right to be set up, are on private or church property.

As for prayers in schools, if you want your kid to pray in school, send him/her to a parochial school where they indoctrinate and brainwash you to proselytize the entire human race, rather than educate you to make it outside the religion vacuum.

And the currency issue? Why not "in the people we trust"? Some might want it to say "in the government we trust." Saying that is just as frightening as "in God we trust" because the majority of our government is Christian. In fact, two-thirds of the federal judiciary have been appointed in the Reagan-Bush years. These people have life-time appointments! Since Reagan and Bush are "God-Mother-Flag-Coun-

try" freaks, it doesn't take a Robert Tilton to figure out the convictions of the supreme court.

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas is a member of an Evangelical church that speaks in tongues! Can you imagine that on Sunday, Clarence is "Holy Rollin' it" up the pews in the Washington D.C. Church of the Holy Illiterate, and he goes to work on Monday to vote on a woman's right to make decisions about her own body?

To all of the people out there who still believe in the constitution, let your voice be heard! Don't let the Christian Fascists take over the country! They will never take over me, or my mind... I will take my own life first. But to you Christians out there, don't let that be such a shocker; aren't you "hung up" on martyrdom, anyway? The

only thing I lack is a crown of thorns (but I may have one...you don't know... all's I need is twelve people to believe that I have one, and I could convince countless millions of it).

But... I do have long hair and a beard; does that count?

Editor's Note: The opinions and views expressed in this article are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent those of the University, its faculty or staff. It is Transitions' aim to publish all opinions and views. All letters to the Editor are welcome on this subject but must be typewritten and include a name and phone number. Letters are subject to publication based on amount space available.

—BW

NEXT ISSUE:

- On the Road to Victory
Profile of Coach Dugan
- Death Penalty
Americans Pro & Con
- More Horoscopes
For the Hell of it.
- In the Mix
Detailed Concert Info.
- Plus a whole lot more.

Don't miss the next issue

WANTED

Someone interested in writing a monthly column for a pro & con forum to defend a conservative viewpoint.

If interested or for more information, contact Bob Wendt at 464-1856 or stop by UC113A.

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