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NEWS RELEASE



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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USD PROFESSOR TO DEBATE PURPOSES OF LIBERAL EDUCATION

SAN DIEGO, Calif. --The purposes of liberal education will be debated by two professors at the University of San Diego on Thursday. The forum will then be open to students, faculty and the general public.

James L. Wheeler, assistant professor of English at San Diego State College has challenged the Rev. William L. Shipley, chairman of the Department of Philosophy at USD's College for Men to the informal debate on the subject.

The two have posted position papers in preparation for the battle of words at 8 p. m. in the Student Union.

Professor Wheeler takes the stand that "To 'educate' should mean to 'engage;' to enlist our intellectual energies and capacities in a mutual confrontation with our human condition; to ask again and again where we are and what that means."

He also says, "To educate himself is one of man's best desires; to indoctrinate, prejudice or in any way restrict the freedom of mind and spirit of another is surely his worst."

The best education, he says, will provide the person with an overview of himself and his culture, and to think and feel honestly, to free himself from the limitations of others.

(more)

Father Shipley's rebuttal says education is a process that enables a person to live his life more fully through the development of his physical, emotional, social and decision making activities.

"In the school, education is the joint activity of the teacher and student, but also of counsellor and counselled, of coach and athlete, of administration and faculty groups and the organized student body, of student groups such as fraternities and teams and clubs, of the school and the surrounding community," Father Shipley says.

"Thus the concept of education as the exclusive function of the individual teachers and their students would be simplistic and one-dimensional. The student learns more through school than what he learns exclusively in the classroom or in class-related activities. Such experiences are clearly relevant to the explicit purposes of an education of the whole person."

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