Richard Welter

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Dr. Monson

Spiritual Autobiography

 This is a fair ado for the individual who will be reading this paper. Allow me to give an appealing, yet convincing introduction of myself. My name is Richard Welter. If, by any means, you need to contact me, whether it is about an assignment, or a conversation pick-up, you can reach me at welterr@bethanylb.edu, or text/call me via cell phone: 469-237-1548. I currently live in Gregory Hall here at Bethany College.

 I am a first-time freshman here at Bethany College. After the fall semester, I wish to be considered as a sophomore because of how many total credits I have earned, however I will not receiving that recognition. I am eighteen years old, and will be turning nineteen on January 21. I originally came to Bethany College because of my love/hobby towards running. However, because of my priorities and major injuries, I set that aside to focus on my academics. I am from The Colony, Texas, which is a small suburb north of Dallas. I have joined many groups at Bethany College. I am the Freshman-class President, which means I am part of Swede Government Association. SGA (for short) is a student council group that discusses ways to improve not only the student body, but also the institution itself. I have been accepted into the Greek fraternity Pi Sigma Chi, where I will be seating as Secretary during the 2012 year. Freda Strack and I have been discussing about reviving the Multicultural Student Union, which explores the plethora of worldwide cultures. I am a member of several academic clubs such as von Neumann Society, Bio/Chem Club, and most importantly, Tri-Beta, which is the nationwide honorary society for Biology/Chemistry majors. I belong in a Men’s bible study group called Alpha Omega. And finally, in the spring I will be in the Men’s ensemble singing group that goes by Vokala Lejon.

 Picking a major was possibly the hardest decision coming into Bethany College. Because my strengths are in math and science, my original major was going to be engineering. However, as I experienced a semester’s worth of studying, I have changed my major to Chemistry and minor in Psychology. I know that the career possibilities are endless with Chemistry as my major; therefore, if I decide to change a career choice, still having a chemistry degree will still be beneficial. I have always been fascinated about the human condition. With the Freshman Honors Seminar course I took in the fall semester, choosing Psychology as a minor was a decision I feel will help me towards the future. After graduating from Bethany College, my next goal is to go to medical school and do research on Autism. Although English is not necessarily a subject in which motivates me, my writing in particular has improved immensely. With that, I am hopefully aiming to earn a MD-PhD.

 Although it is hard to admit, or even realize, I feel religion plays a vital role in the world. It doesn’t matter if an individual is a Christian, Buddhist, Islamic, Jewish, or even Hindu, our role in a religion shapes how we interact with one another. In America especially, where the nation is a “melting pot,” we see all sorts of religions, cultures, and nationalities that are not homogenous like it used to be. Although religion in today’s society is more lax than what it was in the past, religion—to me—still shapes my life in a way that cannot be expressed by words.

 I was baptized Catholic when I was an infant. My dad’s side of the family is Catholic, so me being baptized Catholic is not so surprising. However, my mom and dad got a divorce shortly after; and when my dad remarried, we decided to go to a Lutheran church because that’s what my step-mom is. When I was a child, I did not really participate in church; I only went to the services with my parents on Sunday. However, as I started growing up, I got more involved. It was my junior year in high school, and my friend’s Methodist church went on a mission trip down to San Marcos, Texas. What we did there shaped me who I am spiritually. Being able to help those who were in the dregs and in critical condition made me ponder how my aid was analogous to Jesus’. This trip has allowed me to connect myself into the spiritual world and become more reliant on a higher being rather being so realistic. I feel the most significant concept in the spiritual world is prayer. It is a time when the outer world “shuts down” and it’s an opportunity to speak to that higher being without any distraction. This time is so vital to many religions because it allows us to expand our thoughts in the spirit world as well as a way to find an intangible answer.

 My only question about the spirit world is the extent of bias playing a role in the course. I understand we are going to learn the five largest religions, but unconsciously, there will be some bias, depending how “faithful” that person is towards their denomination, sect, and/or practices.