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## News And Notes: Volume 18.1

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## NOTES AND NEWS

### *Forthcoming Special Issues*

Topic: God and Freedom  
Date: October 2002  
Advisory Editor: John Martin Fischer  
Deadline for Submission: January 1, 2002

The cluster of topics pertaining to God and freedom has been of great interest to philosophers throughout the history of philosophy, as well as currently. Papers for this issue of the journal could explore historical treatments of the issues; alternatively, they could take an ahistorical, analytic approach. Perhaps the most salient question is whether God's omniscience is compatible with human freedom. Authors could explore different conceptions of God's knowledge, including temporal and atemporal conceptions, and conceptions on which God is said to have beliefs and those on which God is not construed as having beliefs. If God is thought to have beliefs, how are these belief-states similar to (and different from) human belief-states? Also, papers could investigate more and less "robust" views about the range of God's knowledge of future events. Similarly, submissions might consider different conceptions of human freedom and how they relate to God's omniscience; for example, some philosophers have argued that whereas God's foreknowledge rules out human freedom in the sense that involves alternative possibilities, it does not rule out a different sort of freedom (that does not involve alternative possibilities). In addition to these topics, submissions could address other related questions, including, "Does God have freedom (and in what sense)?" and "What is the relation between God's freedom and human freedom? (Are they similar or different? Is human freedom rooted in God's freedom and, if so, how? Does God's freedom limit human freedom? And so on.)"

Topic: Augustine  
Date: October 2003  
Advisory Editor: Gareth B. Matthews  
Deadline for submission: January 1, 2003

Augustine is widely recognized to have set the terms of debate on several of the most philosophically contentious issues in Christian thought, including the problem of evil and the problem of God's foreknowledge and human free will. His discussion of time in the *Confessions* and some of his views on language have received considerable philosophical scrutiny. Commentators have disagreed among themselves about whether Augustine invented the notion of the will, and if so, why, and whether doing so was a good thing. Augustine's anti-Pelagian views have been claimed by some to be philosophically prob-

lematic and, by others, to be morally offensive. Contributions are invited on any of these topics, as well as on topics that have been relatively neglected by philosophers, such as Augustine's Biblical hermeneutics and his views on science and religion.

### *Conferences*

#### Augustine's Confessions

Date: October 4-6, 2001

Place: Baylor University

Submission Deadline: April 30, 2001

Augustine's *Confessions* is an autobiographical account of his journey from a modest childhood in North Africa, through his conversion in a garden in Milan, to a lengthy and distinguished career as the Bishop of Hippo. Using enormous literary and rhetorical skill, Augustine chronicles a story of education and miseducation and narrates a spiritual quest from the wasteland of sin to the liberation of salvation. The freedom that emerges permits him to move from faith to understanding and to understand the ultimate underpinnings of the relationship between God and the soul. The impact of the *Confessions* on subsequent Christian theology, literature, history, and philosophy, in both the Catholic and Protestant traditions, is unparalleled. 1600 years later, the 2001 Pruitt Memorial Symposium will commemorate this monumental text and celebrate its profound influence. We are pleased to announce that Genevieve Lloyd (University of New South Wales), Robert Neville (Boston University), John Smith (Yale University), Colin Starnes (University of King's College-Halifax), and Carl Vaught (Baylor University) will give plenary papers on the *Confessions*.

We invite papers for concurrent sessions from all academic disciplines. Submitted papers should be for a twenty-minute reading time and should include a title and a concise abstract. Each applicant must also submit a current curriculum vita. For further information see <http://www.baylor.edu/~IFL/events.htm> or contact [Anne Marie Bowery@baylor.edu](mailto:Anne_Marie_Bowery@baylor.edu); [C Vaught@baylor.edu](mailto:C_Vaught@baylor.edu). Please send submissions to: Augustine's *Confessions*, Baylor University, PO Box 97270, Waco, TX 76798-7270.

### *Announcements*

#### Book Donations for Daystar University

Daystar University, a new Christian university in Nairobi, Kenya, is adding a program in philosophy in the next three years. For students to succeed in this program, Daystar needs to build a library collection of primary sources in the history of Western and Asian Philosophy and of major secondary sources. It would also welcome books in African

Philosophy, including anthologies. If you have books of library quality (not textbooks, but books you would order for a foundational library collection in philosophy) that you wish to donate, please contact Dr. Bruce Reichenbach, Augsburg College, 2211 Riverside Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55454. The university would especially welcome the library of faculty who are retiring from teaching. Contributions are tax deductible.