

Acknowledgements: First and foremost I would like to extend my extreme gratitude towards Christine Satory, my Academic and Thesis Advisor. I would also like to thank my family and friends for all their support as I have explored this very difficult and ambiguous subject of religion and the search for basic truths. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the role of God, my heavenly father, in my life. Throughout my research I have learned that he appears in various roles and meanings in many lives. I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to explore this subject for a semester and find myself closer to my own personal truth.

Diversity in Religions

"Religion is not like a house or a cloak which can be changed at will. It is more an integral part of one's self than one's body. Religion is the tie that binds one to one's creator and whilst the body perishes, as it has to, religion persists even after death." -Mohandas K. Gandhi

With the millennium drawing close at hand the prophecies of old are being quoted by their people as they try to identify themselves and their relationship with a higher power. Known as God, Allah, Buddha, Mother Earth, etc...the need to be in touch spiritually has become increasingly important. In the process to identify one's spirituality within oneself the person often becomes so involved in his/her personal truth that they tend to block out the possibility that their higher power may exist on different levels to different cultures. Hence the issue of bias towards religion. The differences between religious groups and beliefs are emphasized so much that the similarities are lost within the true meaning.

After being raised with a solid church background I have become very curious about spirituality and I have sought out different churches the past few years looking for my spiritual place within one church. As a part of my search I have decided to focus my Senior Honors Project on the values and ideas that are constant throughout various religions. After extensive research I am going to use four religions: Buddhism, Judaism, Catholicism, and Indigenous People for the basis of exploration for common themes with which I will communicate my ideas.

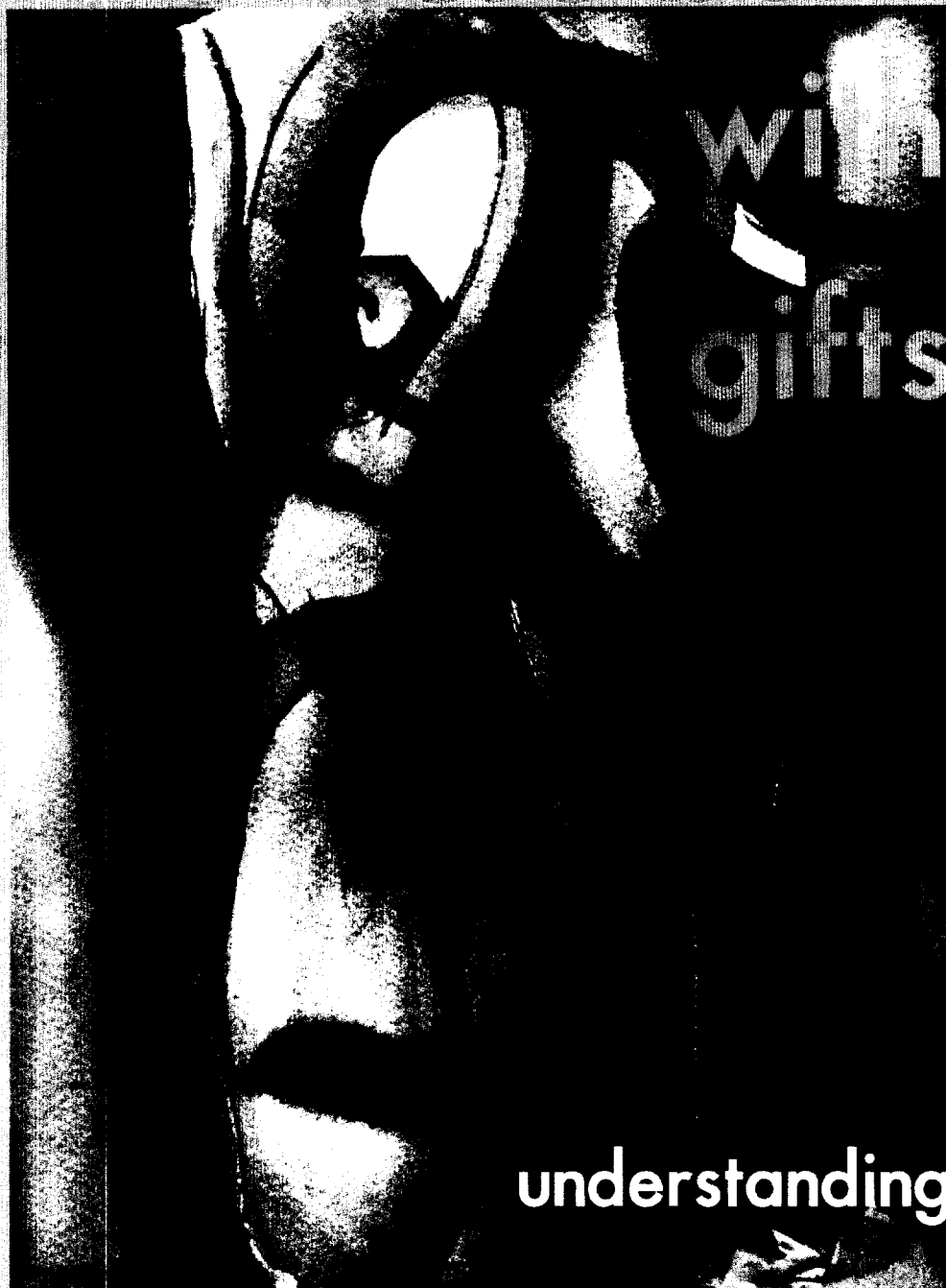
I will be graduating in May 1999, with a B.F.A. in Graphic Design. As a graphic designer I will go out in the realities of the world and communicate ideas visually to a now highly "visual society." Using my graphic design capabilities I am going to create three posters exploring ideas I have discovered through my research. I plan to emphasize basic universal truths of human experience found in any religion by visual communication.

Visually communicating with an audience involves using a certain design process.

I have used this process on the majority of my projects in graphic design. I began the process by deciding which religions I would focus on and then researched them. The second step of designing is doing thumbnail sketches to get an idea for a visual solution. I usually go through about twenty to thirty sketches before narrowing my ideas down to a few. From there the sketches turn into large mock-ups using different mediums to find which one works best with the idea.

I plan on exploring each idea with various mediums such as photography, illustration, computer imaging, and mixed media to better relate my ideas to the audience, which is another important part of design, relating ideas to a specific age range. Some of the principles I am basing the themes off of are: How cultures use different forms of expression for worship; the content of every religion is relatively similar in the matters of truth, respect, and the search for understanding; and the exploration of human nature.

I believe using common themes will promote positive understanding towards the many cultures and their beliefs and practices, and thus bring about more respect, tolerance, and willingness to help one another out in a time of need between various peoples.



with
gifts

understanding

These expressions are often
our foundation for worship,
praise, and understanding.
towards a higher power.

Throughout life we are all given
certain gifts. It differs from person to
person, but all gifts are forms of
personal expression.

The vessel may be bitter

er

comfort will
& remain
the

Not a question of religion



but of human nature...

It is human nature to seek happiness and fulfillment. Throughout the world different peoples use their beliefs and values to continue their search... What brings us together is our common need for understanding.

Bibliography for Research

- Deloria, Vine Jr. God is Red, A Native View of Religion . North American Press, Golden CO. 1992.
- Moore, Reavis. Native Artists of North America. John Muir Publications, Santa Fe New Mexico. 1993.
- Neusner and Chilton, Jacob and Bruce. Jewish-Christian Debates- God, Kingdom, Messiah. Fortress Press, Minneapolis. 1998.
- Palmer, Martin. Religions of the World. Transedition Limited and Fernleigh Books. New York, NY. 1997.
- Raschka,Chris. Simple Gifts. Henry Hold and Company. New York, NY. 1998.
- Robinson and Johnson, Richard and Willard. The Buddhist Religion, A Historical Introduction. Wadsworth Publishing Company. Belmont, CA. 1997.
- Strickland, Tessa. One Earth, One Spirit. Sierra Club Books for Children. San Francisco, CA. 1997.