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Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library and Christian Theological Seminary Present “Vonnegut and Religion”

November 6 event brings together national experts, moderator Steve Kroft

Indianapolis, IN – Kurt Vonnegut had a complicated, fascinating relationship with religion, and a panel of experts will gather in Indianapolis on November 6 to explore that relationship. The panel discussion will be moderated by *60 Minutes*' Steve Kroft and is open to the public.

Vonnegut often referenced religious figures and God, as in his masterpiece, *Slaughterhouse Five*: “And Lot’s wife, of course, was told not to look back where all those people and their homes had been. But she did look back, and I love her for that, because it was so human.” He even created a religion, Bokononism, in *Cat’s Cradle*. Vonnegut never clarified his personal beliefs, and the hints in his writings continue to intrigue scholars and fans of his books.

Moderated by Hoosier native Steve Kroft, the panel will include author (and Vonnegut friend) Dan Wakefield, representing Christian perspectives; Quaker expert Grace Miller; educator Rodney Allen on Bokononism; Marc Leeds representing Judaism; and Christina Jarvis, State University of New York – Fredonia, who will speak to humanism in Vonnegut’s work.

Vonnegut Library founder and CEO Julia Whitehead said, “We are thrilled to partner with Christian Theological Seminary on this event. So many visitors to the Vonnegut Library have questions about Vonnegut’s relationship with religion, and our panelists will shed light on his topic. It is fitting that the event be held at the beautiful and spiritual setting of CTS in Vonnegut’s hometown.”

Steve Kroft, born and raised in Kokomo, has always been a great admirer of Vonnegut's writing and sensibility. Kroft said, “I had the good fortune of meeting him in the Hamptons years ago. We had lots of mutual friends. On a few occasions we dined in each other’s homes and always talked about growing up in Indiana and going to Lake Maxinkuckee.”

CTS Bookstore Manager Nick Buck said, "When the Vonnegut Library suggested we delve into Kurt Vonnegut's thoughts on religion, CTS jumped at the chance. Talking about Kurt Vonnegut and religion is a great way to spend an evening."

The discussion will take place at CTS, 1000 West 42nd Street, on Friday, November 6, at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are available at <http://bit.ly/1hNPXu0>. The evening includes a light meal and wine provided by Monarch Beverage Co.

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Christian Theological Seminary (CTS) is a fully accredited graduate school, open to all, related to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). More than 30 denominations are represented among CTS faculty, staff, and students, and the school enjoys a vibrant, longstanding tradition of interfaith dialogue and engagement. Learn more at www.cts.edu.

The Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library champions the legacy of Hoosier author Kurt Vonnegut and the principles of free expression, common decency, and peaceful coexistence he advocated. www.vonnegutlibrary.org.