

9-10-1970

## From/To: Syd Wyatt & Joan Culp (Chalk's reply filed first)

Syd Wyatt

Joan Culp

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September 10, 1970

C  
Mr. Syd Wyatt  
Miss Joan Culp  
Office of Church Relations  
Pepperdine College  
1121 West 79th Street  
Los Angeles, California 90044

Dear Joan and Syd:

O  
P  
Y  
How very thoughtful of the two of you to write to me regarding the "Midnight Cowboy" controversy. I feel strongly the correctness of my personal views regarding the film, but of course, deeply regret the negative reaction many have had to those remarks. It was one of those times when I dared to speak in a controversial area without choosing the words that could not admit of a double interpretation. The brotherhood reaction to the whole matter has been extremely disappointing but I remain committed to the Lord Jesus and to the knowing and doing of His will in my life.

The fact that both of you took the time to write was an inspiration. Your personal thoughtfulness will be remembered, especially in the midst of the many negative reactions. Thank you so much for taking the time to let me know of your concern and love.

Syd, I send you my personal commendations for my personal best wishes for the success of your new work. I can imagine the many responsibilities you must have and appreciate the sensitive nature of your responsibilities. Pepperdine College made a very obvious and wise choice in asking you to work with them. You have my sincerest best wishes.

In Joan Culp you have a young lady whom I respect very deeply. Knowing her, and more especially knowing her sister, has been an enriching, spiritual experience. I send both of you my deepest respect.

Fraternally yours,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:lc

# PEPPERDINE COLLEGE

1121 WEST 79TH STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90044

September 1, 1970

Dear John Allen:

Joan and I are aware of some of the fire that you have been under recently, and realize what a great disappointment it must be to you that the brethren are reacting so adversely to you.

We have both seen the movie, "The Midnight Cowboy," and agree with your evaluation of it. I, personally, feel that you made a professional mistake, however, under the circumstances, I know you did not realize the extent to which you would be quoted. Morally and spiritually your evaluation and actions cannot be questioned. We appreciate your honesty so very much, and know that our young people do too.

I guess, John, the reason we are writing is because we want you to know that we both love you very much. We don't want you to be soured by this experience. The church needs you as never before, and we don't want you to be isolated from the brotherhood. You have too much to say that we need to hear.

We pray daily that you might have the strength to persevere in your work. May God continue to bless you richly in His service.

In Christian love,



Syd B. Wyatt  
Director  
Church Relations



Miss Joan Culp  
Secretary to  
Mr. Syd B. Wyatt

Mr. John Allen Chalk  
Church of Christ  
South 5th & Highland Avenue  
Abilene, Texas