Yale divine to probe death of God theories in RE week talks

By MORAG FULLLOVE
The Presser Reporter

The controversial "God is Dead" theology will be the topic of this year's Religious Emphasis Week program, to be presented by William Muehl of the Yale Divinity School in a series of three mid-morning lectures next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

University President K. S. Pitzer has encouraged professors to dismiss those classes which conflict with the lectures.

The Death of God theology is particularly relevant not only to students functioning within the godless academic community but also to modern man in his search for meaning amidst the war and poverty of our age.

**Nietzsche**

Nietzsche's well-known statement asserted that it was self-centered man who had killed God. The idea, however, has impressed men from Kierkegaard and Bonhoeffer to the modern death of God group: Thomas Altizer, William Hamilton and Paul Van Buren.

Since the death of God theology seems to stem from the incompatibility of traditional belief and the modern secular world, Professor Muehl is especially qualified to discuss it. A lawyer and a former Lay minister, Dr. Muehl has spent much of his life attempting to reconcile Christian faith with social responsibility.

The 1964 Rice Baccalaureate speaker, Muehl has been at Yale since 1954 teaching public speaking and homiletics, the art of preaching, a field in which he is considered an expert.

**New Communication**

His main interest lies in the development of a new conception of Christian communication through preaching.

He has published two books, "Politics for Christians" and "Mixing Religion and Politics," as well as numerous articles in periodicals. He is a past state chairman and national board member of the Americans for Democratic Action, a past president of the New Haven Cooperative Society, and a member of the Michigan State Bar Association.

**College Visits**

During his visit to Rice, Dr. Muehl will appear at one meal to discuss the lectures with him. As a biennial tradition at Rice, Religious Emphasis Week is planned a series of informal discussions to be led by the several campus clergy here for effort to help students arrive the campus on religion in an

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(Continued from Page 1) at a better understanding of the promises and problems of faith.

A questionnaire is being prepared by the student committee on RE Week to give students an opportunity to suggest topics for the lecture series. The questionnaires will be distributed later this week by the members of the committee.