FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Reality of The Resurrection, Comparison of Koran and New Testament are Topics Of Jan. 31 Philosophy Programs at Cal Poly

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- In two separate programs Jan. 31 at Cal Poly, internationally known British atheist philosopher Antony Flew will compare the New Testament and the Koran and will debate American theologian Gary Habermas on the question of whether Jesus rose from the dead.

At 2 p.m. Flew will give a talk titled "The New Testament and the Koran: A Comparison" in the University Union's Chumash Auditorium.

At 8 p.m. Flew and Habermas will meet in a program titled "Jesus' Resurrection: Atheist and Theist Dialogue," also in Chumash Auditorium. The pair have debated the question publicly before, and the 1987 book "Did Jesus Rise from the Dead?" was based on their debates. The discussion will be moderated by Cal Poly Philosophy Professor Joe Lynch.

The public is invited to the free presentations.

Flew, an empiricist -- a philosopher who regards experience as primary -- is a professor emeritus in philosophy at the University of Reading, England. He has held permanent teaching posts in philosophy at Oxford University, the University of Aberdeen (Scotland) and Keele University (England) and was often a visiting professor in the United States -- most recently at UC San Diego in 1978-79.

After serving in Royal Air Force intelligence during World War II, he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Oxford and his doctorate from Keele University.

Flew has written extensively for journals, magazines and reference books, including the Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Encyclopedia Britannica, Makers of Modern Culture, Collier's Encyclopedia and The Encyclopedia of the Paranormal. He has authored more than 20 books,
including "God, Freedom, and Immortality" (1984), "Thinking About Social Thinking" (1985), "Atheistic Humanism" (1993) and "How to Think Straight" (1998). Two of his 2002 articles were on "Islam's War Against the West" and "Lessons from America's Making."

Habermas earned a master's in philosophical theology from the University of Detroit and a doctorate in history and philosophy from Michigan State University, as well as a doctorate in theology from Oxford. He is the Distinguished Professor of Apologetics and Philosophy as well as chairman of the Department of Philosophy and Theology at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va.

He has written more than 100 articles for journals and magazines such as Faith and Philosophy, Religious Studies, Philosophia Christi and Christian Scholar's Review and has given more than 800 lectures at more than 70 colleges, universities and seminaries around the world. He has authored, co-authored or significantly contributed to more than 20 books, including "Beyond Death: Exploring the Evidence for Immortality" (1998), "In Defense of Miracles" (1997) and "Dealing with Doubt" (1990). He is an internationally known expert on Jesus as an historical figure and on the Shroud of Turin.

Flew's afternoon lecture is sponsored by Cal Poly's Philosophy Department. The evening debate is co-sponsored by the Philosophy Department, Associated Students Inc. and the Veritas Forum, a week-long series of events jointly sponsored by ASI and on- and off-campus religious organizations.

For more information on Flew's visit, call the Philosophy Department at 756-2041. For more information on the Veritas Forum, look on the World Wide Web at www.veritasforum.com or call philosophy student Michael Swanson at cell phone (209) 969-6985.

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