


the GALA Last '80-'81 GALA EDITION 
Seminarian

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Issue 20

ROUND ABOUT TOWN
FOR THE LAST TIME

As I prepare to leave LTS for Buffalo N.Y. there is much that I want to say, but then again a lot of it has already been said. What I want to do is share with all of you some questions and thoughts that are on my mind as I leave the place that has been home for 3 years.

1. Will there be an SCC next year? Will it have officers? Will anyone care?
2. Now that the class schedule has been rearranged, will anyone be happier? Will lunch time go the way of the morning coffee break? In two years will there be any morning classes?
3. What will happen to the parking issue? Will it really be solved? Can it be solved as long as F&Mers park on campus and pigheaded seminarians park two cars on campus at one time?
4. Will Richards Hall finally be renamed F&M East? Or will all the noise makers be given the boot in favor of continuing education people? Or how about the Richards Hall Retreat Center?
5. And what of the refectory? Will the school ever realize that the place is understaffed and underpaid? Will students ever realize that they only get what they pay for and that it isn't the help's fault for the way things go? Will someone ever say thanks for the work these three women do? (Thank you ladies for your friendship and for the meals!)
6. Will the Seminarian become a subsidiary of the Lancaster New Era? Will it sell advertizing to stay alive? Will it ever again be eight pages long?
7. In five years from now, how many people from the class of '81 will care enough to come back for the alumnae dinner?
8. Will the arts program survive, will the vests? With this new incentive for recruitment, will the school start giving sports scholarships? A touring basketball team maybe?
9. Will '81-'82 see so many staff changes that everyone will forget what their job is? Will Allen ever teach a course in CE again? What will happen to all of Beth's great courses? And will L.H. teach some new courses, like computer research in CE, now that he has so much extra time? And will C.J.B. finally get the chance to teach a class in church maintenance?
10. Lastly, will the school, trustees, staff and students ever wake up to the amount of time and money it takes to keep this place up? Will Maintenance get more help? Will more people learn to say thank-you to the people who clean up after them?

As you can see I could go on. There are many thank-yous that I owe, hopefully I can make them. For now I say good-bye to everyone who has meant so much to me. To those I saw Wed. evening, a special thanks you mean a lot to me. To everyone, I invite you to help me unload my house, 519 W. James, into a U-Haul on May 16th around 3:30. Bring your own beer, some food provided. Anyone who has an hour or two to spare, I'd really appreciate the hlp. Take care, good luck, keep the place running. Love& kisses, Jeffrey S. Dick, future minister and alum

SISYPHUS THE CHRIST (CONCLUSION)

But why Sisyphus "the Christ"? Let me begin by saying that my essays are not aimed at displacing Jesus of Nazareth as God incarnate. I do however, find myself to be challenged and judged by both figures. They critique my existence with authority. While both "Christs" are in my opinion necessary to maintain a critical perspective on the life of faith, it is important to distinguish their respective functions as we evaluate our struggle.

Jesus of Nazareth is obedient unto death. His participation in the struggle of agape is self-less, total and overwhelming. His commitment to that ordeal is virtually unwavering. Determination and faithfulness support him as he strains against slope and stone. As he crests the summit, he does not relinquish his hold on the rock, even when it begins to topple down upon him. In the perfect manifestation of self-sending participation, he disappears beneath the stone as it begins its inevitable journey to the plain below. It comes to rest only slightly discolored by the blood of the One who would not let go.

Like Jesus, Sisyphus battles fiercely and selflessly to conquer the slope. Like Jesus, his participation in the struggle demands expense and he exhausts himself willingly. Unlike Christ, however, Sisyphus does not attempt to steady the stone at the pinnacle. As he crests the summit he steps aside and the rock rushes past him. It is at this moment that I feel most akin to the King of Corinth. He does everything he must to participate in the task before him, but he cowers before the thought of being lost in his struggle. At the most crucial point of commitment and participation, his obedience to the rock is superceded by his desire to save himself. For Sisyphus, as for me, commitment and obedience in the face of insurmountable forces appear to be suicidal. To step aside is to survive. While Jesus offers the paradigm for participation in a task which seeks completion, Sisyphus offers the paradigm for those who choose to participate in a task which does not hope for completion, but rather which finds its fulfillment in perpetual struggle. Faithfulness to the task is not measured in terms of progress or accomplishment. It is measured by what we choose to perpetuate! Sisyphus assumes "Christ-like" participation simply because he does not walk away.

For most of us, our lives and ministries (professional and lay), seem to parallel Sisyphus. We push until we are threatened and then we step aside. We do not want our blood on the boulder. In frustration and/or despair, some sit at the summit staring skyward and evoke God's omnipotence, while others sit in the shadow of their tormentor and curse God's indifference. Others simply walk away. We have, however, been forged for struggle. We do it best and it is our destiny to do so. Let us focus our energies on the stone before us. Let us revel in the ceaseless task of perpetual motion, savoring each revolution of the rock, exulting in the participation. Let us sweat behind and beneath our burden, enjoying this orchestration of hands, feet and stone. Let us exert ourselves in that which gives our existence meaning, recognizing our limitations and accepting the expense.

For those of us who anticipate graduation in a few weeks, the rock appears to be more imposing than ever. Our hands seem softer, our legs weaker. For myself, I am awed by what lies before me, terrified and anxious, yet inexorably drawn to it by my confession of participation. I tremble. It is my hope that we never measure our faithfulness to the task by what we are able to accomplish or complete. Let us measure it, rather, by what we are able to perpetuate.

Ron Parks

THE BEST OF THE SEMINARIAN 1980 - 1981

What a year we've had. I can hardly believe the material I've just read through. From human rights to SCC disappointments. And the Seminarian has brought it to you in living color. Yes it's that time again. Time when the Seminarian takes a long hard look at what has appeared in print this past year and pulls out what it feels is the absolute best. So let's go folks, yank those old copies out from under the couch dust them off and take a look at the greatest material of the year. *(note: Doug Hahn and others who have been using them for note taking and scratch paper, can drop by the Seminarian office for extra copies).

There are several new awards this year, due to the nature of the material, but we begin.

The Best Series of Articles. After due consideration of the material available, the award goes to the Honorable Ron Parks for his work "Sisyphus the Christ" appearing in these pages from April 2 till April 30. Very insightful, Ron. Bravo.

Best around Campus Reporting. There were many who fell into this category, but the most consistent was the work of Jeff Dick, who throughout the year gave us such great works as "Art Critic Launches new Column" (under the penname of Le Critic de Art) of March 26, 1981, "Round About Town", appearing throughout the year, and many more. Thank you Jeff for enlightening us in such a thorough way.

Best Editorial. This was a rough one. The Editor put out many good works this year. However, one stands out as truly inspiring, thought provoking, and gutsy. This of course was the Editorial entitled "An Open Letter to the Board of Trustees" by Don Mason appearing in the November 5, 1980 issue.

Best Letter to the Editor. No competition in this field. Lenn Zeller won hands down with his thank you note for the announcement of a new course in Excuse formulation. His work was indeed a heartwarming and gratifying one. It can be reread with empathy in the Oct. 8 issue.

Best Article. This was indeed a tough one to pick, for there were so many exquisite consciousness raising works throughout this year. From Bruce Dalious' "When will the killing end-Another Point of view" to "Racism/Sexism" by Patti Carque, to "Reflections on Wholeness" by Segun, to "Gay Perspective" by Barry Lace. Needless to say, our hands were full. However, after going on a long "Best Article Choosing" retreat sponsored by the CPDM in which we at the Seminarian participated in gruesome introspection exercises and values clarification games. During this time we clearly discerned the most influential and valuable article to appear in these pages. Thus the award goes to Scott Sanders for his work of genius in "Dear Editor" wherein he reveals the Theological implication of the Seminary's obvious oppressive attitudes toward short people. This can be found in the March 5, 1981 edition. For those of you who may complain that Scott's work has been misclassified and should fall under "Letters to the Editor", sorry, but what can you expect from a CPDM retreat.

Best Short Story. (no pun intended) For the second consecutive year our Editor takes home this award for his Yuletide Extravaganza - "How the Grinch stole the Christ" which appears in our Gala Christmas Edition of December 7, 1980. Good job Don.

Best Poetry. There are two awards given this year under this category. The first was a tough one, the best poetry by a seminary student. There was such a diverse amount of material to choose from, and all of it was very well written. The victor was Patti Carque for her memorable work "First Communion" (Dec. 3, 1980). Way to go Patti. The second award is one of special recognition of and thank you to David Tillotson

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BEST OF... Cont. from p. 3SCC ELECTIONS

for his contributions. Thank you David and keep a writin'.

Best Interview. Again after serious study of the available material we gave the award to Ernie Shaffer for his exquisite interview with Lord Shovel appearing in the Nov. 5 and Nov 22, 1980 issues. Thank you Ernie.

Best Filler Award. This award goes to John Dalles for his filler "An Engagement is Announced", found in the October 29 issue. Great job, John, but what does it mean?

One new award this year is that of the most promising new comer to the writing class at this seminary. This we have named the Tipsy typer award and it goes to Barbara Kershner for her contributions throughout the year. Way to go Barb. You look good for the future of the Seminarian.

Best Sermon. This goes to Bill LaSalle for his work "Mr. Upright". Way to go Bill. By the way, we've all preached it atleast once. We hope you don't mind. It works. This can be found in the March 19, 1981.

The triple Crown goes to Mike Vaughan this year for his many contributions. As you may remember, the triple crown is awarded for outstanding contributions in the three main areas of the publication, poetry short story and articles (those of you who may think the big three are spelling, punctuation and grammar, were wrong. Mike wouldn't stand a chance there.) Great job Mike.

The final award is for the most persistant/least appreciated writer to have graced these pages. Last year the Seminarian staff won for simply producing the paper in the midst of constant gripes over spelling, typos and material. This year there was a tight race between Don Mason, Editor, for continuing in the face of the same gripes, and Barry Lace for his attempts to portray a homosexual's plight in the face of a diverse and often belligerent social ethic standing in opposition. Final consideration awarded the prestigious "Nice Try" award to Barry Lace. Better luck next time Barry.

Thus endeth this year's best.
The Seminarian Staff

The election process has been re-started. Nominations may be placed in the box near the mailboxes until Friday, May 1, at noon. Nominations may be made for the following positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and 2 positions of Representative-at-large.

On Monday, May 4, a ballot shall be placed in each mailbox of students in any Masters program (Please note MDiv mailboxes was incorredtly typed in the April 28 flyer. That should have also read all Masters students) Completed ballots are to be placed in the box to again be located near the mailboxes. Voting concludes at noon on Friday, May 8. The votes will be tabulated on May 8 at noon in the Hafer Center. Student participation is invited. Formal installation of officers will be planned for September 1981.

SCC Dates:

April 28-May 1 (noon) Nominations

May 4-May 8 (noon) Voting

May 8 (noon) vote counting

May 8 4:01pm Quad Beer Blast

NOMINATION COMMITTEE:

Lee Schleicher, Rosemary Baumgardner, Steve Andrews

QUAD BEER BLAST

Join us at the quad to loosen up and get rid of all the semester pressures. There will be lots of munchies, soda and beer for all. We will start at 4:01 on Friday May 8th, and the blast will last until everyone leaves. What better way than to party away the hassles of finals and get all set for the summer break? See you Friday, May 8th.

Paul Gerhart, Jeff Roth
Rosemary Baumgardner
Quad Party Planners

MASTER KEY

The master key to the apartments and the dormitory will be kept by the Masons this summer, beginning yesterday.

Jay

ED VICE COLUMN

Dear Ed,

We are about to be turned out into the world of pastor and wife. This is an odd question, but, what do I wear? You see, I've been working to put my husband through Seminary as a stripper, and my wardrobe consists of only professional outfits.

What do I do until we can afford suitable clothing? Wear my costumes? Stay home from church? Or finally- sue for divorce?

a Distraught wife

Dear a Distraught Wife,

What a wonderful person you are having supported your husband through seminary! Any congregation will appreciate your dedication to him. I suggest that you attend church in your least revealing outfit, perhaps wear a coat over it. Congregations want to see their minister's wife no matter what she has on. Don't worry about your clothes, they'd complain if you were covered from head to toes with clothing.

Why don't you continue your career as a stripper and use your earnings to buy more suitable clothes for a pastors' wife. Strippers are in demand. There should be no problem finding a position no matter where you may live. The congregation will appreciate your hard-workingness, and your special ministry to the community. Few of us have the figures to be professional strippers. God bless you in your ministry and good luck in the parish.

Ed

A letter which Ed did not have the time to respond to:

Dear Ed,

How far is it to Hell? One of my parishioners told me to go there, and I want to be sure I am given the proper amount of reimbursement for my travel expenses.

Prack Tickle

SCC NOMINATIONS!!
MAY 1 (NOON) HAFER CENTER
Y'ALL COME!

A LAMENT

I learned the scent
of Messiah
in the air
turning sour
on the odor
of rotting fairy tales

I followed
the umbilical trail
rocking in the waters
of Her womb
drowning
in Her bountiful breasts
nestling

in Her cupped hand
breaking me out
in birth
and independence

I was struck
by the weight
of discipline
the cross
of responsibility

the hymen of my soul
ripped open
to question
in surrender
is this the warmth
of a lover
or the fire
of a prostitute

Patti Carque

THANKS

I'd like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, cards and visits during my hospital stay. I'd especially like to thank my consciences -- you know who you are!

Debbie Derby

FAREWELLS AND GREETINGS

Barb Kershner gave me an article for this week's paper which I promptly lost. In that article she accepted the Seminarian's editorship for next year, and set a meeting for noon May 5 to brainstorm about next year. That is the greeting.

This is the farewell. I would like to thank all who gave of themselves to make this paper a worthy expenditure of my energy.

Don Mason