



# THE SEMINARIAN

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## AN EDITORIAL

I think it is time that the church and religious institutions as this seminary look at its identity. I sit in classes for hours and out of these studies I have come to the conclusion that the church has lost its identity within Western Society. If the church and religion become in fashion and vogue, people attend, if not it doesn't matter. The church has been adapted and consumed into the life of modern man. He uses the church to free himself from guilt and to pat him on the head and say, "you are all good boys and girls." The church itself has become the biggest hypocrite of all times, it preaches love and justice and the good news and then it sits and waits for an eternal time. It denies the gospel it was founded upon and the love that is written on its pages. People mean very little, if one finds himself in need he might as well be half way around the world. We will ignore him, and the love of Jesus becomes a myth, a fantasy. The issues that the church seems to be dealing with are nothing but trivia, they mean absolutley nothing. Issues like how we should decorate the church, economics of the church, the administration of the church that is taking care of the cemetery instead of giving life to the congregation. It is taking a survey instead of understanding the needs and wants of the congregation. It is satisfying the conference instead of the people in the congregations of our churches. And the thing that appalls me the most is that this seminary

promotes this entire system. This system teaches the politics of the system and it is obvious after a year that the game is a big reality, because no matter what one belives, the important goal is to be engulfed within society and the church and to do nothing! And if this is the church--I want out.

Nancy Lilly  
Editor

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## A RESPONSE TO CHAPEL

I cannot help but grieve for the state of this seminary and the church in America after seeing this morning's chapel service. I can't help but hear the words of one of the Pastors in Germany who told us that his beggest fear about religion in America was its leaning toward Civil Religion. And the next statement he made still haunts my thoughts: "Even at the height of Hitler's power in Germany no flag was ever allowed into the sanctuary of any church." This morning, there was not only one American flag but several on the chancel rail of the chapel. Is this not civil religion at its height? You might argue that the presence of the American flag in a church sanctuary doesn't necessarily equal civil religion, and I would say that there might be merit in your statement. However, most churches don't place the flag front and center and obstruct your view

(cont. p2)

of the altar with it.

But my grief over this mornings service goes beyond the presence of the flag in the sanctuary. I have never witnessed a more blatant misuse of Christian worship, then I saw this morning. Rather then confessing our grief and turmoil over our country's presence in several armed conflicts and two world wars -we haughtily stood and boasted of our presence at the same. It is one thing to offer prayers that our leaders rule justly and wisely and that peace may reign in the world and our country; it is quite another thing to pray indiscriminately for the might of America. Rather then offering intercessary prayers for the downtrodden, the sick, the alienated, the poor and those different then ourselves we offered prayers that the mighty power of God might continue to be on our side, with all the true Americans, that is all those Americans who are Christian. Rather then lifting our voices in song to sing of Christ's love and redemptive power and concern for the church universal, we sang of America with a strong emphasis on the flag thrown in.

True Christian worship should celebrate what God has done for us in the redemptive art of his son Jesus Christ. I saw no celebration of this in chapel this morning, instead I saw the nation and the flags as the new redemptive art being worshiped which is the height of idolatry. I will continue to show proper respect for my flag and my country as long as they merit that respect. But I will reserve my veneration and my worship for God.

James Werner

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"EDITOR'S NOTE"

The editors of the Seminarian support the preceding article concerning this morning's chapel

\* service\*\*\*\*\*

The November meeting of A.S.W. will be held 11/10 at 7:30 pm at the home of Mrs. Kathy Smith, 531 N.Pine Street.. The program for this meeting is a speaker from the Family and Children's Bureau of Lancaster. The subject for the evening will be "Child Development form the Age of Birth to ten Years Old--- Normal Growth and the Problems that can arise out of this."

A.S.W. CRAFT NIGHTS to be held in the downstairs of the Hub at 7:30 on each of the following evenings listed with the item to be made on the particular evening.

Nov. 5 - Lamps (Mary Jo Jessup )

Items needed:

1. Dinner Plate
2. Bean Jar and Lid
3. Small Margarine Tub and lid
4. Saucer
5. Toothpaste Lid
6. Peanut Butter Lid
7. Deodorant Top
8. Epoxy Glue

Nov. 12-Continuation of Lamps Quilling (Norma Hull)

Items needed:

1. Hat Pin
2. Scissors
3. Elmer's Glue

Nov. 19 Continue Quilling/Burlap flowers(Mary Jo Jessup)  
(Watch bulletin Boards for items needed for Burlap Flowers)

Nov. 25 Crocheting/Knitting (Dianne Moser and Chris Wetmiller)

Items needed:

1. Crochet Hook and or Knitting needles (Size of needles will be announced at Nov. 19 Craft Night)
2. Yarn

Dec.3 Pine Cone Wreath(Mary Jo Jessup)

Items needed:

1. Pine Cones
2. Small Wire Frame
3. Wire Cutter(if you have one)

EVERYONE IS INVITED AND ALL ARE WELCOME.

Theology is the discussion of Ultimate Concerns, of Unknowable Knowledge, of an Infinite God. Hence, theology is essentially mythology, and to theologize is to mythologize: to create images that speak to us of God (the Unknowable) in symbolic terms. These images, which are really idols, bring us closer to the unattainable knowledge of God's essence. All are distortions; some are less distorted than others.

All our notions of God are fun-house mirrors to the Infinite, giving us images which reflect the Ultimate as nearly as possible from our cultural angle from the mirrors. Writing about the theology of Paul Tillich, John MacQuarrie says:

"...even the most adequate symbols fall short of the reality which they symbolize, and must be both affirmed and denied at the same time, in clear understanding of their symbolic character. Otherwise the symbols themselves can be made ultimate, and in that case they are idolized and given a demonic character....God transcends the symbol employed." (MacQuarrie, 1963)

So the symbols we use can take on more than a symbolic nature, even to the point of manifesting the demonic. Thus the symbol of Yahweh the Creator and All-Powerful God becomes the deus ex machina who rushes in to deliver some from ruin but whimsically withholds his succor from other persons for his own inestimable purposes. Bonhoeffer, writing from a Nazi prison camp, could not accept the deus ex machina as truly representative of the God he believed in and worshipped. The symbol did not speak to his understandings, for he had drunk the bitter cup of human atrocity and could not vindicate an all-powerful God who acquiesced to those horrors when He held the power to intervene. For Bonhoeffer, God is a suffering God, "He is weak and powerless in the world, and that is precisely the way, the only way, in which he is with us and helps us. . . only the suffering God can help." (Letters, pp. 360-61) He found a new symbol, consistent with a strain of Christian tradition, that expressed God as he now perceived Him to be.

Bonhoeffer's prison experiences and martyrdom present the classic case for the mythological character of theology. When one set of symbols fail to speak to the everyday needs of a person grappling with theological understandings, he must

(continued above right)

rethink, reshape, re-create those symbols in the light of his new life experiences. He must, in fact, remake Christianity in his own image--for that is all he has to work with--and attempt to bring his new understandings in line with the traditions of some school of Christian thought. This dialogue between existential awareness of how things are and traditional statements of how things always have been is the chief labor of the theologian who chooses to call himself Christian on the one hand and free thinker on the other. Less than this is not true theology, but deductive legalism. And in such a dialogue, may we not perhaps hear the voice of God?

"We dare to say such things because of the confidence we have in God through Christ. Not that we are in any way confident of our own resources--our ability comes from God. It is he who makes us competent administrators of the new agreement, and we deal not in the letter but in the Spirit. The letter of the Law leads to the death of the soul: the Spirit of God alone can give life to the soul." II Cor. 3: 4-6

-- Tom Schreck

### SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMITTEE

The spiritual life committee is presently in the process of soliciting new black choir robes. Anyone having leads to churches who may wish to contribute new or used black choir robes in good condition, please contact Jim Werner (393-5841) or Mike Iski (393-1404) Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Dates ahead to Remember:  
November 26 -9A.M. Thanksgiving Worship. December 16 - 8 P.M.- Family Christmas Worship. There are several morning chapel services open , we encourage all seminarians to sign up, as worship is the responsibility of the community and not just a select few.

### SPIRITUAL LIFE

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ARE YOU GOING TO THE HALLOWEEN  
PARTY FRIDAY? ? ? ? ?

## RESOURCE CENTER

The resource center will continue to offer pottery classes on Tuesdays at 4:00pm. Anyone who is interested in individual pottery throwing lessons please see me and we'll try to arrange for them.

I will also be offering lessons in printmaking - particularly silk screen printing and block printing. If you want to make your own Christmas cards or graduation cards or ordination announcements this is your chance. Of course, you may want to make posters or pictures or etc, etc. The time will be announced a little later.

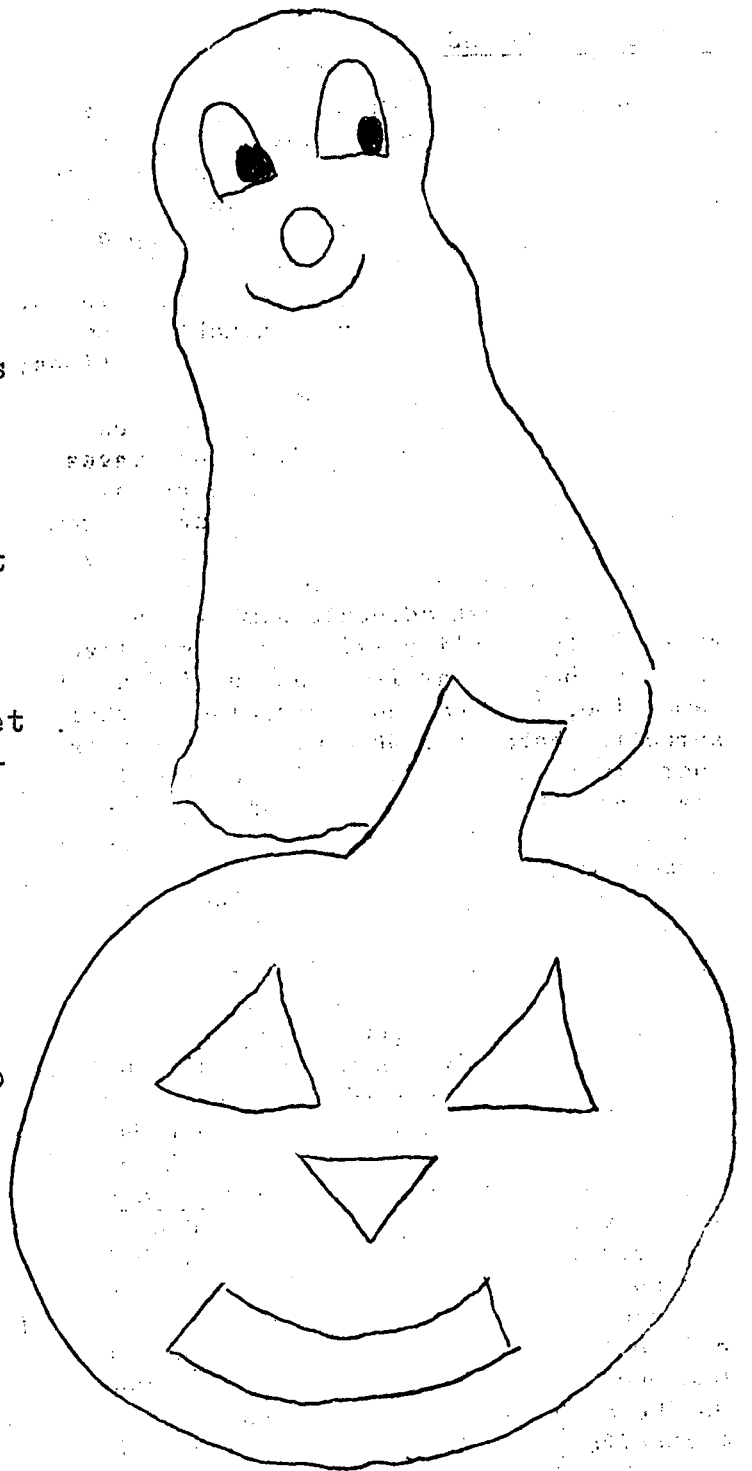
If you are interested we can set up enameling (jewelry made from enamel placed on copper or silver classes, bread baking classes, batik classes, wood working classes. Time and place of these will be announced.

Anyone who has old scraps of material, yarn, wood, paper, egg cartons styrofoam meat packers, etc. The Resource Center could use these. We could also use any leads on places to scrounge materials. If you have anything please bring the stuff to the Hub and put it in the room across from the mailboxes. If you have any leads please let me know.

ALICE

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EVERYONE IS  
coming to the  
Halloween Party  
THE GREAT PUMPKIN  
LUCY  
CHARLIE BROWN  
AND EVERYONE - SEE  
you There!!



HAPPY  
HALLOWEEN

THE  
EDITORS OF  
THE SEMINARIAN