

the Seminarian



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THIS IS MY STORY, THIS IS MY SONG

It is amazing the mass of information and the process of calculation that pupils in Nigerian schools of fifty years ago and beyond were taught to carry in their heads. Thus, weights and measures tables - symbols of which they had never seen (ounces, pounds, hundred-weights) - multiplication tables up to 12 must be learned, and in some schools up to 25! as published in Collins Mathematical tables, as well as other facts and methods collected in his little pamphlet by Major Hans Vischer of Northern Nigerian Department of Education in the 1920's.

English language was taught in fragmentation. Apart from Reading and Writing, Spelling and Dictation occurring on the class schedules as separate subjects, there appeared also Sentence making, reproduction Composition, Grammar and Analysis. In Grammar, which was taught formally, the Comparison of Adjectives, principal parts of verbs must be committed to memory.

This memory-work was still in vogue during my Primary school days. I want to recall a scene in my English language class as a primary school pupil. The scene points to a moral and no doubt adorns the story I'm going to tell.

Apparently on this fateful day, I had not done my homework well and was confused by the irregularity of the Capricious forms of these tenses. The class-teacher, as usual with stick in hand, was asking the pupils the principal parts of some verbs - cling, clang, clang, sing sang, sung, ring, rang, rung, and so forth, the sound produced with the recitation of these verbs in turn was so melodious you can almost dance in the class.

Coming to my turn, the teacher asked for the parts of pluperfect forms of 'think', and I rang out "think, thank, thank"! I cannot remember if the cane fell on me (and I should not be surprised if it did), but I remember the teacher remarked that it is they who THINK that THANK! Thus, 'thank' may be etyologically wrong as past tense of 'think', but certainly, you will agree, it is functionally and philosophically related to 'think'!

This is my story, this is my song, let us as creatures of His hands, endowed with the 'reasoning faculty', think of the wondrous works of the Creator, in Creation, Redemption and offering of Salvation, beholding His beauty and love to us in things around us, think and thank Him saying: "When all thy mercies, O our God,
Our ransomed souls survey,
Transported with the view we've lost
In wonder, love and praise!"

Through all eternity to thee
A joyful song we shall raise;
For, O, Eternity is too short
To utter all thy praise.

Segun Okubadejo

ROUND ABOUT TOWN

This week has been a busy one, over the last few days I have thought of writing at least 5 or 6 articles. Instead I am going to just write 2. In keeping with the purpose of this column, information about LTS and its surroundings, I feel it is necessary to speak about Communication. Maybe I should rephrase that as the lack of constant, good and quality communication.

There are three areas I wish to address this concern to. The first being the SCC. In the three years I have been here, rarely did anyone know what was happening in SCC. Up until last week I doubt most people even knew SCC was operating without adequate representation. If SCC ever has a meeting, what happens in it is never really communicated to the community. Last year, Dr. Glasse stated he would like to see the minutes of all committees printed in the Communicator.

But this brings me to my second part, does anyone know what has been happening in COMP or Executive Cabinet? I haven't heard a word from either, yet each of these committees has student representation. Did you know the student representative to the Executive Cabinet changed? I didn't. Why aren't the students reporting to the other students? So often we blame the "administration", but here it is our own fault. I guess if you want to know anything you have to go and search for it. This is a bad and very poor communication system.

Now for the final point, our own student newsletter. From time to time it is an excellent piece of work. Yet it doesn't always exist. We have a vehicle for communication and we are not using it. Don't we as students care? Are we so wrapped up in our own worlds that we don't want to get involved? The Seminarian screams out for people to help put it out, to contribute. Yet it is always the (continued next column)

ROUND ABOUT TOWN cont.

same people who do. As to the consistency of its being published I am upset. I would like to see it come out every week. I missed not having it for 6-8 weeks (Dec. to Feb.), maybe no one else does. I feel its absence tends to devalue it. I also feel that the quality of the paper, print and typing do not help. The Seminarian needs to improve.

I don't want to just complain, thus will propose a solution. First, more students need to get involved, that is a must. Second I feel a better typewriter needs to be used. I also feel that to help publish the Seminarian, we need to pay someone to do it. Why not hire a work-study person to type and print it? The Communicator is done in this manner, so why not the Seminarian? If the Seminarian is important to have, then let us do it right. Speak up and let your feelings known. We need to communicate.

Jeffrey S. Dick

ALTERNATIVE SPORTS REPORT

The LTS Basketball team took to the floor Monday night and came away a winner, I think. I missed most of the first half, but when I arrived we were losing. The second half was a tough game. The Christians came out against the lions and you could not tell the two apart. It was a rough game, one of elbows, verbal abuse, bad calls, sloppy play and even worse unsportsmanlike conduct. Yes the team we played got our dandru up and we went at them with everything we had. Instead of playing our best, we played our worst. For me it was the worst game of the year, I hated every minute of it. This year for the first time in three seasons has been fun, but not the last game. In the end it was a win, but how costly? For those interested the score was LTS 44, F&M(I don't know their name)40, Christian Love 0. We have one more game, let's hope for the best.

JSD