

THE SEMINARIAN

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED)
Volume VII * Academic Year 1957-58 * May 26, 1958 Number 13

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The fact has been brought to the attention of the members of this "community" that we have failed to meet the figures recommended by the Finance Commission and passed by the Society of Inquiry membership as the Benevolent Budget for the year 1957-58. It is not the purpose of this letter to comment on, or to discuss this situation in its totality - unfortunate as it may be - but rather to remark briefly on one aspect of the benevolent giving on this campus, i.e. the middler project.

Those of us who have been in residence here for the past three years have heard the middler project discussed, debated and decried more times than we could begin to count. As necessary as such conversation may be it has at times become somewhat tiresome - perhaps because in our thinking and talking we have failed to view this activity in light of its ultimate aim. Seldom have our conversations centered around the purpose of the project and the significant contribution that it makes to our cloistered, provincial existence in this place, but rather they have dealt with the procedural aspects. In light of such thinking the middler project has become a battle-ground of belief. Its real meaning has been lost. The tension thus created has been felt by each one of us, so much so that in some circles the words "middler project" have become fighting ones. To spell this out further would be to state the obvious, to say that the situation as it now exists is unfortunate is to speak the truth!

On May 7 at 6:30 P. M. the members of this "community" had an obligation to fulfill at the Refectory. Those in the Senior and Junior Classes had been invited to be the guests of the Middlers at the annual Middler Banquet. The planning committee had planned - the publicity committee had publicized - the decorations committee had decorated - in short the Middlers under the direction of their President had shouldered their responsibility in this project, creating one of the most attractive Middler Banquets that this writer can recall. However the evening could hardly be called a success. Tension was high - enthusiasm was low - and many of the invited guests were conspicuous by their absence. (Approximately 50% of the total student body in attendance; 12 out of 26 Seniors, 20 out of 25 Middlers, 8 out of 27 Juniors, 3 out of 7 "other students").

Could these facts be attributed to the thinking regarding the middler project as it now exists in our "community"? Has the transfer of emphasis from purpose to procedure "killed" one of our most worthwhile undertakings? Regardless of our individual beliefs as to the way in which the middler project should be handled it is our responsibility to support this activity-- with our presence as well as with our pocketbooks. As Seniors we have had our chance to determine the form the middler project should take, as Juniors the opportunity to follow in the steps of tradition or to break away still lies ahead. But as Seniors or Juniors, it was our duty to support the Middler class in their choice with the same degree of enthusiasm which we expected and will expect. This we failed to do!

Some time ago a prominent New York clergyman observing the short-sightedness of local church groups made the following comment: "If church people would devote the time and enthusiasm to the areas of inter-racial and international understanding which they spend decrying the practice of Bingo in churches, the world would be a far better place." Are we guilty of such

short-sightedness, and if so is it not time that we moved beyond in an attempt to grasp the real significance of the middler project and in so doing give to future middleers the support which they and the project deserve?

Mead M. Bailey

DEAN NOTES

As Commencement time approaches all students (and faculty members) are referred to the article on page 3 of the 1957-58 Handbook, headed "The End from the Beginning", as well as to the three-page manifesto entitled "Toward 1958 Commencement", distributed by the Committee on Arrangements. This committee consists of Nevin Kershner, Middler Chairman; Carroll Luckenbaugh, Junior Chairman; and President Moss, Faculty Advisor.

Any question about procedures and functions should be addressed to this committee. Any permission for absence from any part of the program must be secured from President Moss.

Copies of the Commencement program, beginning Sunday afternoon, June 1, with the final choir concert and continuing through the Commencement program and luncheon that follows it, are posted on bulletin board. Extra copies may be obtained from President's office.

Two Corrections of notes on the first page of "Toward 1958 Commencement":

- 1) Under Seniors: (3). B.D. theses must be finally typed and ready for binding by Friday, May 30th.
- 2) The paragraph under Juniors applies to Middleers as well.

We are happy for the return of Fred Kurkowski and Janet Moll, both in much improved condition. Corinne Heintzelman is still enduring tests and is staying with her aunt, Mrs. William Stecker, 939 Macada Road, Bethlehem, Pa.

Dr. and Mrs. Theodore C. Seybold, lately returned from many years missionary service in India where Dr. Seybold was, until recently, president of the Mission, will be guests of the dean on Thursday, May 29th and will speak at the last session of C. H. 36 on Thursday at 11:20.

A beautifully fair evening greeted the annual seminary picnic at Long Park on Wednesday, May 21.

The red paraments which the Senior Class has given as their graduation gift will be dedicated by Dr. Sayres at the chapel on Monday, May 26th.

SPRING TERM WORK must be in the hands of the several professors by noon of Friday, May 30th.