



THE SEMINARIAN

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EDITORIAL

At the risk of being the only dissonant note in the symphony of enthusiasm enveloping the arrival of our new seminary President, Dr. Peter M. Schmiechen, I would like to comment on one of the more mundane, yet important, issues related to his coming. When Dr. Schmiechen and his wife first arrived on campus some weeks ago, I noticed that they were spending an inordinate amount of time in and around Nevin Hall here on campus. Later on, I found out that the Schmiechens were not just being congenial with the residents of Nevin Hall, but were in fact, living in the "V.I.P. Apartment" on the first floor of that building. The reason for this: the remodeling of the President's House on Pine Street was not scheduled for completion for six to eight weeks.

I find this situation to be very discouraging. After all the bad press associated with the departure of our last Seminary President, (a fact which the local papers will never let us forget), it would seem that our Board of Trustees and Administration would want to do everything, short of sacrificing first-born children, to ensure that Dr. Schmiechen's tenure here gets off "on the right foot". It comes as a surprise to me then, (well maybe it doesn't), that in the years since Dr. Glasse's departure, the refurbishing of the Presidential Manse was not completed. Even more surprising is the fact that in the months since we have all known of Dr. Schmiechen's coming, nothing much was done either. It is only since his arrival on campus that somebody said, "Gee, maybe we ought to get busy and fix up the house now. After all, by golly, the President is already here!"

If I were called to a church and, similarly, was told that my parsonage would not be ready for "six to eight weeks", I would begin to wonder just how much that church really cared about having my leadership. The same could be said of the arrival of the Schmiechens.

The only thing I can say at this point, Dr. Schmiechen, is that, first of all, I apologize for your inconvenience and, secondly, that my wife and I, along with many other students who live in seminary housing feel some solidarity with you. After all, we've been through this, too.

Russell Clark, Co-Editor,
The Seminarian

PARKING - continued from Pg 2

7. VISITORS

Visitors on campus for Seminary business for more than two hours will be required to obtain a temporary parking permit from the Business Office. These permits will be displayed in the front window of cars and authorize parking only in area(s) designated on permit.

8. PARKING IN UNDESIGNATED AREAS

There will be no parking on campus in other than marked spaces. Please park within lines. There will be NO parking in front of Bowman Hall except to load and unload (maximum of TEN minutes). THIS IS A FIRE LANE!

Enforcement of parking regulations has been assigned to the Business Office. Fines for parking violations are as follows:

- First Violation - warning
- Second Violation - \$2.00
- Third Violation - \$3.00
- Fourth Violation - \$5.00
- Fifth Violation - \$10.00

NOTE: Owners of vehicles unauthorized on Seminary property are subject to legal action. An additional assessment of \$2.00 will be imposed for failure to settle parking violation fine within 10 calendar days. Payment of fines is to be made at the Business Office, Room 202, Schaff Library Building.

Those with unregistered cars and without parking permits will be subject to trespassing charges through legal channels. Fines and costs are an estimated minimum of \$25.00.

9. SNOW

In the event of snow, please remove cars from the reserved areas until plowing has taken place. Then remove cars from the other areas to enable plowing to be done. The cooperation of all is asked.

FOCUS ON FASTING

What do you think of when you think in terms of your own personal piety or devotion? I would suspect that most people would speak in terms of a time of daily prayer accompanied perhaps by Bible study or devotional readings. Probably very few people would think of fasting being a part of their own spiritual life. Eating is an obsession in our country, and we all want to be sure to do it right, to do it well, and to do it as much as possible and still maintain our appearance.

Fasting seems strange and extreme, yet it seems to have been a normal part of the spiritual life of the religious community at the time of Jesus. In Matthew 6:16, Jesus starts a teaching on fasting with the words, "Moreover, when you fast. . .". He doesn't say, "if you fast", he says "when" and gives the impression that it should be as normal as praying and giving alms.

The praying and fasting group here on the campus of Lancaster Theological Seminary hopes to make prayer with fasting a normal occurrence, at least once a week. This group met during Fall semester in the chapel, and this semester, will be trying Room A-102, which is adjacent to the chapel. Meetings will be held on Wednesdays from 12 to 12:50 pm, and will basically be focused on prayer.

No standard has been set as to how much or little fasting the participants will be doing. Some may wish to skip one meal, others may go for one or more days. This decision will be totally up to each individual.

Themes will play a part in the focus of the group in the coming weeks. Lent, usually thought of as a time of self-denial, will be a theme. The suffering of the starving people in Africa and other parts of the world will also be the subject of prayer. Fasting is an excellent way of keeping mindful of the

IFFY DINKLEMEYER ON SPORTS

The 19th SUPER BOWL is history, and for those of you who for some strange reason were not one of the 100 million viewers of this spectacle, San Francisco trounced the Miami Dolphins in a most unexciting contest. It was a difficult decision for some Americans to make the hard choice as to which team to cheer, but we had to take a stand!

For those who live in the competing cities, the decision was easy. They were swept up in an outburst of mindless loyalty to a horde of mercenary thugs who just happen to work for a few months of the year in their towns. But for the rest of us, whose favorite mercenary thugs didn't get this far, we had to choose Miami or San Francisco. I never choose a team on the basis of its players. Instead, I consider the cities they represent and which population I would like to see happy or miserable.

Neither Miami nor San Francisco are real football cities. In a true championship, you should have Chicago playing Pittsburgh, or Cleveland against Detroit. In other words, smokestack cities, cities of tatoos, broken noses, missing teeth, battle scars and soot-covered snow are real football towns.

A football game should be played in mud and snow, with a wind chill of 20 below, the blood freezing on the noses and lips of the combatants, and the fans cheering until they drop.

That's a football game!

SAN FRANCISCO? Football was never meant to be played in a fog. Too many earthquakes, anyway.

MIAMI - Who are they trying to kid? Palm trees? The team mascot is a fish, (O-kay, you biologists, a mammal)!

Neither San Francisco nor Miami are places for real football.

We could have ignored the whole affair, but that would border on Un-American. Even the President took time out

cont. next column

Iffy on SPORTS - continued

from his inauguration weekend to flip the coin for the opening kick-off. This was the first time a President has ever flipped the Super Bowl coin! It leads us to hope that if all-star wrestling ever becomes popular enough, maybe the Commander-in-Chief will referee a tag-team match.

Who did I cheer?

San Francisco - of the two cities, Miami deserves to be miserable because when it's 120° here, it's always 78° and sunny in Miami.

Any place that is 78° in February deserves to be miserable!

Enough is enough

IFFY

NOTICE!

When depositing trash in the trash collection area between Harner and Nevin Halls, please deposit all trash IN CANS if possible. Otherwise, pile it on top of full trash cans.

Please refrain from depositing outside of building.

Extra-large trash items are the exception.

Thank you.

C. Jay Burket

ASHES - continued from Page 5

Baptism is a primary emphasis of Lent.

"Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit . . ."

Nancy L. Weir

* From Ash Wednesday Liturgy
Lutheran Book of Worship 197

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The following letter was received in response to the December 3, 1984, issue of THE SEMINARIAN:

Dear Helen and Russ,

A fine issue of THE SEMINARIAN. The calibre of articles (unfortunately not poetry), the serious intellectual intent, the quality of writing and the well-typed, proofread, and mimeo-ed paper mark a highwater mark we have not achieved for some time. Keep up the good work!

I'm sorry that the response to the article on pornography was unsigned. I would like to commend that author as well.

Cordially,
Paul Irion

Editor's Note:

The editorial response to the article on "Pornography Awareness Week" was written by Marian L. Shatto. We are sorry that her name was inadvertently cut off of the bottom of the page. THE SEMINARIAN does not publish unsigned articles.

- The Editors

FOCUS ON FASTING - cont. from Pg. 3

plight of so much of the world's population which does not have enough to eat.

It probably needs to be stressed again that the main purpose of the group is prayer. This is not a group which endeavors to glorify fasting or become obsessed with it, but rather one which sees it as a way of increasing our focus in prayer and of making each individual more sensitive to the leading of God's spirit in prayer. It is a way of humbling ourselves before God, something which everyone needs. It is a sacrifice to God also; a denial of the flesh in order to sow to the spirit. In times past great men of God prayed with fasting and saw wonderful things happen. This can still happen today.

Jim Dillner

THANK YOU ---

Dear Christian Friends,

My family and I wish to express our deepest thanks for all the care and concern shown to us during Ray's illness and death. Your prayers, words, and expressions of sympathy will always be remembered.

Dawn Phibbs

ASHES ARE FOR REMEMBERING

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." *

With these words, for those who so choose, the sign of the cross is imprinted on the believer's forehead. The harsh press of ashes startles one's awareness to remember how harsh the cross was for our Lord to bear. The rough ugliness of the ashes brings to mind how black and ugly our life is in relation to the perfect Beauty God reveals to us in his Son.

The dead finality of ashes helps us remember how finite this body is and that each one of us one day will have these words said over us in the committal in the burial service, "earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust".

Ashes can be so ugly, yet ashes are an extraordinarily rich symbol rooted in ancient practices. Ashes, in Hebrew and Christian tradition, suggest judgement and God's condemnation of sin; frailty, our total dependence upon God for life; humiliation; and repentance.

On the other hand, ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were once used as a cleansing agent in the absence of soap, and on Ash Wednesday, the ashes have sometimes been understood as a penitential substitute for water as a sign of Baptism. (And remembering and returning to our relationship with God as he desires in

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SEMINARIAN ANNOUNCES NEW PSYCHOLOGICAL TEST

Many seminarians here at LTS have experienced a great deal of anxiety and confusion over the results of their "Myers-Briggs Type Indicator" tests, which Junior students take during September. These tests can be unsettling at times, especially when one thinks of himself or herself in terms of four letters.

To respond to this problem Junior James Dillner has formulated a condensed version of the test designed to replace or confirm the results already obtained with the M-B. He has graciously waived all royalty payments and granted us permission to reproduce the test here for your enjoyment.

DILLNER SIMPLIFIED TYPE INDICATOR

duplicating privileges dup 1985, James M. Dillner

1. When you are in front of a crowd, do you like to:
 - (a) take off your pants and run around doing cartwheels and flips?
 - (b) lie down on the floor and assume the fetal position?
2. You are asked to calculate the speed of a flying duck. Will you:
 - (a) rent an airplane?
 - (b) try to communicate with the duck telepathically?
3. When asked to fire the poor elderly janitor, you:
 - (a) immediately comply, even though he is your father.
 - (b) get him and yourself drunk, give him your life savings, then fire him.
4. Indians are attacking your wagon train, and up to this point they have killed everyone but you. You will:
 - (a) keep on heading west, little dogies.
 - (b) inquire as to the opportunities for learning Indian lore.

SCORING:

- | | |
|------------|---------|
| 1. (a) = E | (b) = I |
| 2. (a) = S | (b) = N |
| 3. (a) = T | (b) = F |
| 4. (a) = J | (b) = P |

THE SEMINARIAN

Editors:

Russell Clark
Helen Henderson

The following poem was submitted by Robb Henderson who came across it while at work. The attributes described within the poem apply to school bus drivers, and with a little imagination, they can apply to ministers, youth ministers, and Sunday School teachers. . .

WHAT IS A SCHOOL BUS DRIVER?

A Bus Driver is a person who smiles in the morning and smiles in the evening and eats Roloids in between.

A Bus Driver gets there when nobody else can; he finds houses which don't exist and children with no names.

He dries tears, dispels fears, and finds lost notebooks.

A School Bus Driver has eyes in the back of his head and hears every word that is said, even in sign language.

He separates the meek from the mighty, the timid from the bold - and gives reassuring nods to anxious moms standing at the end of their lanes.

A School Bus Driver is the epitome of patience and perfection of skills;

He also has a good understanding of human nature and Mother Nature!

A Bus Driver leaves before daylight and returns after dusk and communes with the elements.

He has a grudging friendship with the glaring sun, the beating rain, and the driving snow, and he knows all about the geological formation of gravel.

He is immune to noise. His favorite color is yellow.

A Bus Driver's favorite words (besides 'Good Morning' and 'Good Bye') are, 'Sit Down!'.

A Bus Driver's worst apprehension involves 5 year olds with motion sickness... especially in winter when the windows are closed and the heaters are on!

A Bus Driver knows all of the school songs and pep cheers.

His vocabulary is always up-to-date.

To be a Bus Driver, a person must be able to memorize the phone numbers of the bus garage and the supervisor.

He can also read maps.

Sometimes a Bus Driver gets tired, but he seldom gets angry; and always, most faithfully, he gets there. Many people set their clocks by a school bus driver's schedule; many mothers set out for another cup of coffee.

A Bus Driver sits at the helm of a 6 - 7 ton, \$25,000 machine loaded with 72 units of the most precious cargo on God's earth - OUR CHILDREN.