

the "GALA 1st Lenten Issue" Seminarian

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FACELIFT AT L.T.S.

Last week in the Seminarian we were privileged to sample some of the literary-critical skills of Michael Vaughan. The topic being the changing face of the student body of LTS. Well, Mike, I must say that I wholeheartedly agreed with you, until yesterday, I should say Tuesday, morning. You may ask, what are you talking about?, and that is a good question. I was witness to a facelift in progress in the Hafer Center as a number of students attended the "open" meeting of the SCC.

How exciting, I thought, the opportunity for dialogue over the pressing issues of the community, with a more than adequate representation of the community present. This has the ingredients of a very productive meeting. How wrong you were, Mike, there is a level of student interest that is only beginning to reach out. There are some people around here who have a genuine concern for the community of LTS beyond their personal comings and goings, beyond their selfish living and eating concerns. Michael, these people came here to assess the SCC, to see where they fit in, to see if there was anything they could do to help. Why, a real face lift is in the process of happening and I'm sitting right in the middle of it.

Let's take some time to analyze some of the key elements of the facelift, and try to understand some of the dynamics of the meeting. The SCC perceives its function to be one of answering student needs within and among the community. This is somewhat amazing to me. Now. In March. At this time the SCC chooses to apply itself to the needs of the students. How magnanimous. We really appreciate the concern for our interests. One question: Where has it been until now? Oh, merely an issue of communication. I understand. The Seminarian after all hasn't been reporting anything about the SCC activities, matter of fact the editor of the Seminarian (who is a member of the SCC) is not aware of anything the SCC has done to meet the needs of the students this year. Now that the SCC is an entity under fire, a group (by the loosest definition of group) which feels the threat to its existence by the authors of flaming editorials and articles, they now choose to act "in the interest of the Students". I'm sorry, but it's a little bit too late.

The "open meeting" of the SCC was the manner which was chosen to address the student need for dialogue. The result was an agendized structure intended to effectively channel the discussion constructively. The meeting served to effectively squelch any "open" dialogue. This is an act of defensiveness. The SCC has acted to protect itself from the scrutiny of some people who threaten it. We know from our pastoral theology that defenses are fine, unless they are intended to cover up a serious disorder which will be better dealt with in the open. The SCC is suffering from a serious disorder. The SCC has called another "open" meeting. Please, everyone, read the two articles within this issue of the Seminarian, and see the other side of this "open" meeting.

Editor Don Mason
The Seminarian

THE COMMUNICATOR AND SEMINARIAN
March 4, 1981

On behalf of the Seminary Community Council, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all of those persons who were able to spare the time to attend the regularly scheduled SCC Meeting held Tuesday March 3, 1981. I personally wish to acknowledge both your physical presence and contribution to what we hoped would result from that meeting. Thank you!! Minnie Shaffer, Bill LaSalle, George Leathrum, Elaine Yencer, Don Mascn, Jeff Dick, Mike Vaughan, Ron Parks, Steve Rogers, Allen Tyndall, Paul Gerhart, Mike Bair, Jeff Roth, Judy Wadsworth, Lou Ann Earnst, Art Runyan, Gail Tillotson, Stephany Seghrist, Lon McSherley, Marie Grayson, Bruce Strotman, Beth Nordbeck, Father Ed, Don Freeman, and anyone else whose name I may have missed. I especially want to thank Don Freeman for his invaluable help in the process of helping this group to focus in depth on the key issues of concern that need to be addressed and to understand that their input support, and interest is highly valued and will not be taken lightly. Allen Tyndall, Stephany Seghrist, and Don Freeman have assumed the responsibility for tabulating and prioritizing the concerns of those seminarians present. To you who volunteered to work in the furthering of the process initiated at this meeting, to be part of a specific committee dealing with your particular interest(s) and gifts, and to bring these buds to glorious flower, we will contact you as soon as possible.

The concerns of those seminarians which were enumerated through the small-group sessions will be made public and appear in the Seminarian and Communicator. The minutes of the SCC Meeting will be also made public and will be posted on the bulletin board in the basement of the Lark Academic Building by the mailboxes.

The SCC in response to some of those concerns indicated at the meeting is prepared to do the following: (1) immediately re-new "Bot Luck Suppers" with one being scheduled for Wednesday March 11, 6:00 P.M. in the Refectory. For those of you bringing the food, you may begin setting up the serving tables beginning around 5:50 (and please not before). Grace will be offered promptly at 6:05. You are encouraged to bring your own place settings (plates, tableware, napkins, cups, etc.), however, paper plates, napkins, paper cups, and plastic eating utensils will be available.

A Thru F	Salads (relish tray, dressings, etc.)
G thru L	Desserts (cookies, cakes, pies, etc.)
M thru R	Main Dish (casseroles, platters, etc.)
S thru Z	Vegetables

It is hoped that at least one member from each grouping (spouse, family, friend, etc.) can be available to put the chairs and tables back, empty trash, wipe off tables, and general clean-up. (2) By a group consensus, it was felt and decided that the matters which were brought before the SCC are of such importance that they should not wait for a follow-up discussion until the next monthly meeting. THEREFORE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 11, AT 11:30 A.M., A SPECIAL CALL MEETING WILL BE HELD IN HAFER CENTER. THIS WILL BE AN OPEN FORUM. BRING YOUR LUNCH. WE WILL ADJOURN AT 12:50

Stephen B. Andrews

GREAT SHORT PEOPLE
IN HISTORY

Before I begin my article, I would like to thank all of you who after reading my editorial of last week offered me such things as step ladders, mirrors big enough for my mouth to be seen in, and ultra-high-heeled shoes. You all think you're very clever in commenting on my "short" editorial and spouting more "short" people jokes. Well, I've heard them all and your comments (those of you who are guilty of these slanderous and unkind words know who you are) only intensify my perception of the discrimination against short people at LTS.

Now to the real subject of my article, "Great Short People in History". I am aware that there have been some short persons in history whose greatness can be disputed. These people include Adolf Hitler, Atilla the Hun, and Ron Parks. But the great short people far outnumber the infamous.

Great short people can be found in all areas of life. In acting we have Debbie Reynolds and Mickey Rooney. How about Olga Korbut? Voltaire, Balzac and Keats were under 5'3". Picasso stood proudly at 5'4".

You religious people should be aware that St. Francis Assisi was only 5'1" tall. Then there are the famous short people in politics- Joseph Stalin, Queen Victoria, Nikita Khrushchev, Napoleon Bonaparte, and even a U.S. president, James Madison.

Last but certainly not the least we must not forget Dolly Parton. I bet you never noticed how short she is.

This all goes to show that there is certainly no correlation between height and creativity, or height and success.

Next Week. Some Advantages of Being Short.

Barbara Kershner

STUDENT CONCERNS
SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF TUESDAY'S
OPEN MEETING OF S.C.C.

Is the S.C.C. viable and/or necessary? Should the S.C.C. re-define, rethink, or restructure its role and purpose? These two concerns were the consensus of opinion of the twenty-two seminar-ians present at the open S.C.C. meeting held on March 3, 1981.

During the one-hour meeting, a twenty-minute brain storming session was held in which 31 items were presented for total group consideration. Each person was asked to vote for not more than 5 of these items in order to give priority to the items. The concerns of viability/necessity received 13 votes, the rethinking concern received 12 votes.

The other major vote-getters were to improve communications between S.C.C. and seminar-ians -9, items that relate to meeting personal needs (finding and serving LTS community needs, need mutual support and help to orient new students and ease transition into the community) -8, fellowship concerns (more social interaction, resurrect pot Luck) -6, a new program or more active role for the Seminar-ian -6, Chapel attendance 5, Foreign Trip ("Seminar abroad") 4, and coordination of student activities -3.

Other items receiving votes were "Pre-ordained" adversary relationship among faculty, Admin. and students, the call for elections, a wider variety of speakers for community hour, running a used book store, communication channels for students, parking, and organization of a student outreach program.

Allen Tyndall, Jr.

Stephany S. Sechrist

WE GET LETTERS...

DEAR EDITOR:

I have been moved to write you in regards to a letter published in last week's issue of the Seminarian by a certain, Miss Barbara Kershner. I, as many colleagues would tell, am not an overly opinionated person. I am fairly shy and quiet and I keep much to myself. However, I found Miss Kershner's short letter (no pun intended) to be of such distressing dimensions that I felt a deep need to respond in a public forum.

What I heard and felt being said by Miss Kershner's editorial were deep rooted and deeply felt cries of help from an obviously oppressed person. What was even more distressing was that she points her (rather short stubby) finger at we, the members of the Seminary community in her charges of discrimination against short persons. What can the Seminary community do about the mirrors being too high and chairs with long legs or those top shelves in the library? Let's be creative people! Get your minds in gear and think, think of the wide variety of gifts which we have all come to this Seminary with. Let's use our creative energies to overcome these serious, daily, repetitive oppressions of short people.

Here are some of my suggestions, offered in a concerned, caring spirit. For the mirror problem in the Richard's Hall bathrooms a simple wooden box to stand on would do the trick. Or if you want to get biblical about it, make it a footstool. (You see; we do have the resources to overcome oppression) The chair problem in the Lark building and Hafer Center? Simple, post signs stating, "No Short People Allowed!" All classes involving short people would have to be held elsewhere, perhaps the Refectory.

The shelf height in the Library could be resolved by one of three ways as I see it. 1. All library personell would have to provide piggy-back rides for short persons to use the higher shelves. (this might
(cont. next column)

LETTERS... cont.

fulfill a need of Steve Rogers, library assistant.) 2. The Library could purchase several sets of stilts and provide them on a deposit basis for short people. (This would free up busy library personell.) 3. (No doubt the best idea.) It appears as though half the volumes in the library are written in foreign languages such as German, Greek, Hebrew, Latin and Systematic Theology. Seriously now, who ever really reads them? Isn't that just a front to fool Accreditation Committees? We should just remove all of those volumes from the shelves creating much more space and allowing condensing of the remaining texts on the lower shelves.

These suggestions could resolve several of the physical repressive attributes of the Seminary structure. However, Miss Kershner also referred to two instances of verbal (short people) abuse/oppression conducted by both faculty and students. Again, I could make concrete suggestions as to getting at these oppressions. For instance, the use of 'small' groups by faculty members could be: 1. completely banned with violation of the ban resulting in dismissal. 2. used only in classes where all students are six feet tall or more. 3. create a limit on class size to only two people, making the use of the phrase, "let's move into small groups", utterly silly.

These concrete suggestions might work superficially but the real heart of the problem, as I see it, is the low sense of self-esteem short people experience. I'll be brief (no pun intended) what it will take for short people to feel tall is affirmation by us normal size people. Can we do it? I believe we can! Let's all A.S.P. AFFIRM SHORT PEOPLE! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Scott M. Sanders
LTS Representative to
A.S.P. International

THE GLASS DOLL

I have one secret fantasy,
a desire of the heart-
a wish of the soul-
that of the glass doll.

She dances to the music box chimes
of "Für Elise"; an angel fairy
submerged in a mist of white light,
the nightlight moon, reflecting
from her sterling silver stage.
A ballerina, dainty, sleek.
Crystal flesh, transparent silk
in slow pirouette, precise, petite.

The sun, her spotlight in the
morning,
sending colored ribbons streaming
from her prism soul,
entangling my heart in spectral
awe.
I would dance with her,
here, imprisoned outside her
window,
swaying in the whisper of the
chimes
as it seeps through the walls of
my dream.

I do not touch her.
These rough worldly hands,
dirty and scarred,
would only smudge and leave her
broken, I shattered.
Fear would still my hand
reminding my eager soul,
if not for the grace of her beauty
I would not even have the dream.

Today she no longer dances free.
Her chains, the bold black letters
clinging to her delicate feet,
my cross-

"Sold".

R. Michael Vaughan

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLPARK

That's right folks, it's that
time again, time to engage in Amer-
ica's favorite pastime the red,
white and blue sport of softball.
A sign up sheet will be posted on
Monday Morning March 9 by the mail-
boxes. This year there will be no
contract renegotiations!!
Major Leager, Coach etc.

ROUND ABOUT TOWN

After last week's discussion of a
burning issue, I feel it is time
to comment positively on some
things happening here at LTS.

Many of you are aware of the re-
cycling project and its somewhat
success. Well there is another
recycling project happening on
campus and this one is a big suc-
cess. This success leads me to
nominate Doug Hahn as student- of-
the-month. Yes Doug is that cre-
ative soul who picks out paper fr
from the garbage cans and reuses
it to take notes on. Now you may
wonder why, but have you looked
at tuition prices lately? Doug's
lifestyle needs to be lifted up,
thus to Doug we say, well done!!!

Now just think if the faculty,
staff and administration would do
the same. We might be able to
save enough money to lower tuition.
Think about it and start reusing
scrap paper.

J.S. Dick

THE FOOD CRISIS

Did you know?

That US farmers make up only 3%
of our population yet produce
enough to feed all of us and pro-
vide more than 85% of the world's
surplus as well? This means chemi-
cal bombardment to increase pro-
duction, a factor which may link
to the cancer epidemic.

Do you know?

Where your food comes from? How
much food you produce? How much
food you could produce? How much
food your community could produce?
Who controls the food system and
if there is anything you can do
about it?

DON'T MISS THIS IMPORTANT PROGRAM.

Dr. Joseph P. Senft, a research
scientist in organic gardening and
farming will be the speaker in the
Community Hour, Tuesday March 10,
at 11:00 am in the Hafer Center.
His topic will be The Cornucopia
Project, Organic Paths to Food
Security. Come and hear what you
can do about the food crisis.

Paula Ereen

"A PASTOR WHO WOULDN'T DO"

A church was in need of a pastor. One of the Parish Council members was interested in finding out just what kind of a Pastor the church wanted. In order to do this, he composed a letter as though it had been received from a pastor, and read it to the Parish Council at a meeting. Here is the way the letter was written:

"Gentlemen and Ladies:

Understanding that you need a pastor, I would like to apply for the position.

I have many qualifications that I think you would really appreciate. I am a freelance Apostle of Christ and a missionary of great standing, I have been blessed to preach with power and have some success as a writer, some say that I am a good organizer and so I perceived myself to be. I have been a leader in most places where I have gone as a missionary; of a fact I am a well-lettered pastor, this is no boasting, but a statement of fact.

Some folks, however, have some things against me; which I think I should share with you, this is one of my characteristics as I am very open-hearted.

As it is difficult for me to distinguish between my two nationalities, I am called a pastor with no stable citizenship. Women in some of the congregations I have preached branded me a "Male Chauvinist", the men re-baptized me and coined out a new name for me - a "Women's Liberationist". I am over fifty years of age. I have never preached in one place for more than three years at a time. In some places I have left town after my preaching, and other activities have caused riots and disturbances.

I have to admit that I have been in jail three or four times, but not because of any wrongdoing.

My health is not too good, though I still get a good deal done. I have to work at my trade to help pay my way. The churches I have preached in have been small, though located in several large cities. I have not gotten along too well with the different religious leaders in different towns where I have preached, and I am sure that they will not recommend me, so don't expect any letter of recommendation.

In fact some of them have threatened me, taken me to court, and even attacked me physically. I am not too good at keeping records and on some occasions I have been known even to forget whom I have baptized.

However, if you can use me, I shall do my very best for your church, even if I have to work to help with my support."

After reading this letter to other members of the Parish Council, he asked if they were interested in the applicant. They replied that he would never do for their church, the echoed NO....!!!, rocked the building to its foundation.

My dear brothers and sisters, the people were not interested in an unhealthy, trouble making, contentious ex-jailbird, and were insulted that his application had ever been presented.

But one of them did ask the pastor's name, and the Council member replied, --"THE APOSTLE PAUL". My question is, How do you as co-pastors now, or sooner, or later, see the great Apostle - 'Paul'?

Segun Okubadejo