



The Seminarian

Academic Year 1952-53 Lancaster, Pa. January 19, 1953

ATTENDANCE RULE FESTERS AGAIN

"There's always something brewing," as the old saying goes, and at present the stew in the local pot seems to be the old sore of most American students: the compulsory lecture attendance system.

The Society of Inquiry, at its last meeting before Christmas vacation, appointed a committee to study the Seminary's existing attendance system. That committee in turn has submitted to the faculty a list of recommendations. Although this report was posted on the dorm bulletin board, it was not made public yet, according to Luke Reist, Society president.

The faculty questioned whether the recommendations thus submitted were indicative of general student opinion; therefore the problem is scheduled to be aired publicly at the Society's meeting on Jan. 28th. Before that day the faculty will meet to discuss the situation.

Meanwhile, opinions among the students run from one extreme to the other. A few students have expressed complete satisfaction with the present system, while others prefer the adoption of a "no-system" policy.

As one senior put it, "We're in a graduate school. There should be no need for any attendance system." He was quick to add that such a change would demand a tightening of academic standards.

Of most interest, perhaps, were the opinions expressed by those Seminaricians who have experienced other systems. Warren Deardorff last year attended a school which permitted unlimited cutting of classes. "Some students abused the system, and as a result some profs averaged only 50% student attendance. Other profs, however, averaged nearly perfect attendance."

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STUDENT EXCHANGE: N. CHAS. THOMAS

Praise and thanks be to God for his boundless grace and goodness by and through which I am at Lancaster Seminary.

I have been asked many times how I was chosen to represent Lincoln University Seminary; as yet, I cannot answer that question fully, so many factors are involved.

Near the middle of the summer of '52, I received a letter from the Dean of Lincoln Seminary stating simply that the exchange program was in effect as of Sept. 15, 1952; and that I, along with my other three classmates, should reply immediately if I desired the opportunity. I found the decision quite a difficult one to make, primarily because it meant getting acquainted all over again: with the curriculum, professors, seminary family and the city of Lancaster. Weeks later, I reluctantly made my reply, stating that I would only like to be considered in the event that none of my classmates would accept the opportunity. The only response was applications from Dr. Englert!

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MISSIONARIES BRIEF AND BECKON STUDENTS

Within the past few weeks, four of our chapel programs have been enlightened by missionaries seasoned with experience in China, Japan, India, and the Home Mission fields. Coming from widely scattered theaters of operation, these men delivered similar pleas in similar tones of urgency. Heading off in a series of missionary voices was the Rev. Emil Menzel, who represented the India mission field of our church. According to him, the existence of the Hindu caste system interwoven within a tight network of static beliefs characterizes "the opposition" to missionaries there. Moreover, the forces of Communism in India (where missionaries are one per 70,000 people) have rather increased this opposition to Christianity. Mr. Menzel, since 1925, has worked at the Bismampur station, first established station in central India, and in many little "back-woods" villages. India needs help so that she can

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ATTENDANCE, continued...

Asked what he thought about the local situation, Warren said, "If the goal is to produce the best possible minister, unlimited cuts with attendance records kept should be the policy. The serious abusers may be counselled to amend unhealthy attitudes, and professors with poor drawings will revise their teaching plans."

Richard Druckenbrod, who studied in Austria under the "academic freedom" system (no attendance records) typical of European universities, also favors a non-compulsory system. "Compulsory attendance is not the answer. The final answer is personal discipline. European students soon realize that in the long run they're better off to attend classes. Imposed discipline leaves no permanent effect upon the individual. The discipline must issue from within." Others agree that indolent students, under the proposed setup, would fail courses which they now seem to be gliding through.

Looking at our system through "others' eyes", Per Haugland remarked that "any other system than the present one would mean a lot more work for the student." He pointed out that a change in one phase of our seminary program would necessitate other changes. If the attendance system were to be altered, or abolished as it were, a balancing counter-action would have to take place somewhere else.

On the other hand, arguments by some advocates of change reveal a sluggish whim to sleep through early classes.

Professors do not lack interest in this recurrent challenge to their roll books. More than one instructor has hinted of his distaste for the "little red school" plan of attendance.

Many Seminarians regard the principle of recorded attendance as a denial of the integrity of a student for the ministry. The Seminary has changed "systems" annually in its search for the most workable system, but it has never abolished roll-taking.

Well, to return to my original figure, now that we've sampled a bit of the stew, let's put the lid back on the kettle and let the whole business simmer for a while.

and is now home on his first furlough. Paul Gregory and his wife have been serving an area of 15,000 square miles where there have been more than two evangelists at one time. He reminded his hearers that 99% of Japan is non-Christian, with a ratio of one missionary per 100,000 population. Great spiritual hunger gnaws especially at Japanese youth. However, a "tightening up" of this spiritual receptivity because of growing Japanese independence has been noticed by Mr. Gregory. He related three stories about the relentless zeal of Japanese Christian workers.

MISSIONARIES BECKON, continued...

help itself. Therein lies Rev. Menzel's challenge for us.

Rev. Karl Beck came with dramatic suddenness to present a vivid picture of the missionary work in Yuanling, Hunan Province, (China). There he concentrated on educational work in the East View Boys School in Yuanling. The spread into his province of the revolution caught him and other missionaries in the discipline program of the new People's Government. For over a year Karl Beck made his home with the Passionist Fathers in Yuanling. He was free to go about town, but forbidden to carry on his work. This work he left in the hands of the Chinese Christians in whose endurance he has great faith.

The Rev. Ward Hartman, President of the China Mission Field, came with Karl Beck. Speaking with authority from many years in the Orient, Mr. Hartman declared that now is no time to slacken our mission efforts in countries still free. "Softies", he implied in brief sentences, are not suited either for foreign service or home parishes. "While there is time we must plant the seeds of enduring Christian faith in all communities, until we are forced to leave. We need for this job men who are sure of the Good News."

Dr. Ralph S. Weiler, Eastern Field Secretary of the Board of National Missions, lost no time in relating to an attentive audience that in spite of the fact that only 56% of the U. S. population is affiliated in some way with religion, 19 new E. & R. Churches a year are being built. An interesting part of his address dealt with the construction of two towns, Fairless Hills and Levittown, as a result of the new U. S. steel plant erected along the Delaware. People there have no church, but their desires are such that will fill the religious needs of the two communities, regardless of denomination. Another example of need for churches lies in Waverly, Ohio, site of a new atomic plant. As stated by Rev. Weiler, "This is the challenge of the E & R Church of America."

Most recent of the missionary voices was that of the Rev. Paul Gregory, a 1944 graduate of our seminary. From China in 1947, he was transferred to Moreoka, Japan

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DEAN-O-GRAMS

The seniors have extended their "illumination program" from the oval to the Pine Street slope and walk.

Dr. Reginald Holfrich, our Church World Service Director, will speak on Feb. 2nd and Rabbi Roubey of our local Reform Jewish Temple, Feb. 9th at the assembly periods.

Rear Admiral Edward B. Harp, Jr., an alumnus of our seminary, class of 1929, who has recently been appointed Chief of the Chaplains of the Navy, will visit his Alma Mater in February, probably Wednesday, the 18th.

SEMINARY WOMEN

The Association of Seminary Women met in the dormitory lounge on Monday evening. Dr. Bela Vassady spoke to the group and gave them a warm and simple description of the important part they will be called upon to play as minister's wives. He pointed out the unseen yet invaluable tasks that will be theirs.

Mrs. Paul Gregory spoke to the women about the experiences of a missionary family in China and Japan. With a great deal of enthusiasm the members of the association were introduced to some of the unusual circumstances which a wife of a missionary may face.

During the business meeting the vice-president, Mrs. Banks Shepherd announced that Bible study courses will begin Monday, January 19, under the tutelage of Professor Englert. He will conduct six weekly lessons on the Old Testament personalities. After that, Prof. Moss will teach a series of lessons on the New Testament.

Mrs. Eberts announced that the January and February schedule for readings at Heart Haven being conducted by the group was completed. Mrs. Heckert was in charge of the worship program.

CHOIR

The Seminary Choir has launched into its work with great enthusiasm. One of the largest in the history of Lancaster Seminary choirdom, it is some forty strong. Every member shows great interest in the rehearsals. Sectional rehearsals--tenors and basses separately, have helped considerably to familiarize the individual members with their part of the music. Under the able direction of Mr. Frank McConnell, who has selected a good program of sacred music, the Choir promised to be a worthy body of "Ambassadors for Christ" in song this year.

Activities of the Choir so far include voluntary participation in the Reformation Pilgrimage at Baltimore in early November and the

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Visitors to come; Loren Walters, Director of Leadership Training and Irene Balliet, Assistant Director of Children's Work, both under the Board of Christian Education, will speak briefly at Wednesday chapels on January 21st and 28th respectively.

The Faculty's reception to the members of the Middle Class and their wives will be held in the refectory on Tuesday, January 27th at 8 o'clock.

Dr. Paul S. Minear of Andover-Newton Theological Seminary has been chosen Swander Lecturer for next fall. The dates of the Convocation are November 10th and 11th.

Rev. Raymond Lindquist, a Presbyterian minister from Orange, N.J., will be the Anniversary preacher on Tuesday evening of Commencement Week.

Seniors, 31; Middlers, 29; Juniors, 34; M.R.E., 4; Special, 1. Total 99. Of these 99 students, registered for the Winter Term, 89 are of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, and from the following synods: Lancaster, 12; Reading, 10; Southern, 99; Lehigh and Philadelphia, 8; Mercersburg and Susquehanna, 7; East Pennsylvania and Pittsburgh, 6; Magyar, 4; Central Pennsylvania, 3; Potomac, Southwest Ohio, North Wisconsin, 2; Michigan-Indiana, New York, Northeast Ohio, and Southern Indiana, 1.

In addition to these there are 4 Methodists, 2 each from the E.U.B. and Brethren Churches, 1 Evangelical Congregationalist and 1 from the Church of Norway (Lutheran).

"ACHTUNG!"

Winter Term half through by Friday, January 16th.

Last day of term Friday, Feb. 20th. Spring Term begins Monday, March 2.

YEAR BOOK NOTES: Richard Fehnel has been appointed Assistant Editor of the 1953 Year Book. Paul Heckert is Editor.

Pictures of the Junior and Middle Classes and of the Dormitory Council and Society Officers will be taken on Wednesday, January 28, at the noon recess. Schedule to be posted on bulletin board.

Note: Information sheets in regard to B. D. theses can be secured at the office or from the Dean.

Scrise's InkPot

THE "ROLL-BOOK RULE"

At first glance it seems foolhardy for any student to want to change the present system of "compulsory" class attendance. Just look at its record. For as far back as professors can remember, seminarians (under one system or another) have been constrained to "get right with the roll-book." Be present for all lectures or explain any rare absence penitently. Under this roll-book rule, only one student in ten years has received a failing grade in any course! And it is rumored widely that NO student EVER "flunked out" of school academically. This record can mean that class attendance makes scholars out of students. It is defended as a builder of discipline and a persistent light for dark minds. But it really isn't enforced too hard, anyway. It's actually a pretty soft system. "So why do you want to fight it?" concludes the argument.

Yet, even realizing that in practice the professor's roll-book shows vast mercy, students and some profs. fire on the system at least once per year. Why? Is this sore deeper than skin-deep?

Revulsion against "roll-book rule" has various roots. One root leads to chronic complainers who simply want to sleep past morning classes. Another root leads to the student who knows how better to use his time reading than to attend certain lectures. (This is not always rash, unwise and irresponsible. Some lectures add neither light nor heat to the hearers' ministry; were this disclosed the instructor might improve them.)

The trunk of the whole matter, however, is that a removal of the roll-call impediment would focus attention on learning. When we say, "Let the student come and go as he feels he ought," we look around for some gauge to measure his growth. And then we realize that, in general no clear standard would be left! Class attendance itself has been a major criterion for course credit! Remove this crutch of student and professor, throw the decision (whether to attend a lecture) into the student's lap, and he will need to ask: If I'm on my own, what am I here for? What do I need to learn? What, while I am here, is my duty to God and to my future work? No doubt professors will need to re-think the requirements of their courses and to examine more diligently the knowledge of their pupils. As a result, the casualty rate may climb. Lazy students will fall back. But students who know the free system insist that students and professors engage

MEDITATION PRAYER

O Lawd, give thy servant dis mawn-
in' de eyes of de Eagle and de wis-
dom of de Owl. Connect his soul wid
de gospel telephone in de central
skies. 'Luminate his brow wid de sun
of heaven; turpentine his imagina-
tion; grease his life wid possum oil
and loosen his tongue wid de sledge-
hammer of thy power; 'lectrify his
brain wid de lightning of thy word;
put inetual motion in his arms; fill
him plum full of dynamite of thy
glory; 'noint him all over kerosene
of thy salvation; and den dock Lawd
set him on fire.

(Rev. Jim McCoy in a Georgia
turpentine camp; contributed
by John Firestone, Junior Class)

"HIGHER EDUCATION: SPOON-FED"



FAMILY ENTERPRISE

At inventory-time, staff members of The Seminarian discovered that in Fall and winter of 1952, 39 students and at least 4 professors have worked on this school newspaper! The mailing list, a new enterprise, has grown rapidly to include still another segment of the seminary family.

more zealously in a common search. The spirit of sharing knowledge is fostered. No one is cajoled into taking "Academic Castor Oil" for which he feels no need. Yet defective students can be counselled and helped. But final responsibility lies upon the student. There are clear standards to meet. Comes exam ination day, and he is or he ain't! Comes graduation day, and he knows that diploma is no mere attendance certificate! That is why many want to make the system tougher by junking "roll-book rule".

FACULTY TIES SECOND FOR LEAD

The improving Faculty team swept three games from First Floor to tie Second Floor for the bowling lead. While Second Floor tumbled a record number of pins in beating a hapless 330 team, Faculty edged First by only 130 pins.

The 548 team in other league action toppled Out-of-Domus to gain third place. With three men among the leading five scorers 348 threatens to overcome the early lead held by Second and Faculty.

(In reference to scoring of the games this department must make a suggestion that each team's score depend on the highest five bowlers on the team.... otherwise teams using only better bowlers have an advantage.)

STUDENT EXCHANGE, cont'd...

Before coming, though, I spoke to many of my friends hoping that they would help to discourage my coming. To my amazement, each of them bade me waste no time in packing to leave. My mother and the Dean at Lincoln, at the same time, assured me of the partnership of God. They said, "He will be praying for you." A young lady from the "Lincoln Village" almost took me off my feet when she said, "I hate to see you leave, but I feel that God wants you to go." I was sure, by this time, that my prayers for a decision had been answered, and I left Lincoln with an inward satisfaction that I was leaving some of my brethren to visit others of them.

Upon my arrival at Lancaster Seminary, one September day, I found a note left by Dale Lockman, who was to be my roommate, under paper weights made of candy; the note read: "Dear roommate, every thing I have is yours...select what ever you want and I will be the suffering late-comer." The candy was very good, but by the looks of the almost empty room I could see why Dale had offered me everything he had there! He arrived the next day.

I must say (and I blush to admit it) that it took me a day or so to really realize that people were praying for me. But when I came to myself, I was a member of a "big happy family" with the Dean and President as "big brothers."

Such a warm welcome was extended to me from the students and faculty that I am sure I shall never forget them. Yes, I have learned to love and enjoy the family, but I dare to mention, very meekly and reluctantly, that I feel the relationship between faculty and student a little more formal than I experienced at Lincoln. Perhaps I have not been at Lancaster long enough to hold to this "theory".

By way of comparison, Lincoln is much smaller, with less than one third of the students that Lancaster Seminary has; in many respects, the curriculum is similar; Lincoln uses the semester system which varies from Lancaster's three term (concluded, page 6)

DEVILS JOLT ANGELS' TITLE HOPES

In a run-a-way game in the F&M gym the pre-theos from F&M bombarded the Angels' basketball team out of the lead in inter-mural activity for the first time. Avenging a defeat suffered earlier in the season at the hands of the Angels, the Devils controlled the game completely from the opening whistle. Led by Glenn Radar they showed a brand of ball that may carry them past the rest of the league to the title.

At present both teams are tied for first place, and should continue that way until the league play is over. Such a tie means another game to settle the championship. We look forward to a 'heavenly' victory and a cup for our collection.

LOOK!

Feb. 3, at 6:00 p. m., at the Steven's House Restaurant.....a banquet for Seniors by the Presbyterian Minister's Fund Insurance Co.

CHOIR, continued

traditional "first public appearance" at the Convocation on November 11 and 12. On both occasions the men proved themselves worthy of praise.

Plans for the rest of the year include several Tuesday night concerts in churches within a hundred miles of Lancaster and a week's tour during the spring recess. The Tuesday night concerts begin February 10 and continue weekly through April. There are still a few Tuesday nights open. If you know of a church which would like to have the Choir sing, see Banks Shepherd about the particulars.

This year's spring tour will take the Choir through central and western Pennsylvania, to Wheeling, West Virginia, and Northern Maryland. The first concert will be in Harrisburg on Sunday morning, February 22, and the last one will be in either Cumberland or Hagerstown, Maryland on Friday evening, February 27. The Choir will return to Lancaster following the Friday evening concert. Dr. Sayres, Faculty advisor to the Choir, will accompany the Choir and will bring greetings from the Seminary to each congregation.

How long since you have asked yourself, "Why am I here?"

STUDENT EXCHANGE, *continued*

school year. I am quite impressed by the latter. In many other respects, the two schools have in common those things which make for Lincoln, I do miss the family prayer cell and the short strengthening prayers before each class.

Since I arrived here in mid-September, the activities which have included me have been interesting and helpful. Among them were: seven weeks work as chaplain to the migrants at the Salunga camp; membership in the interracial council and subsequent "work camp"; and along with "social action meetings", many other extra curricular activities.

All these means of work and fellowship suggest to me that the "exchange idea" was a wonderful one. How long Lancaster Seminary will continue such a program, I do not know. But the idea of Christian brotherhood conveyed in this one act is enough to start a revival in the whole church.

The time has come when we must "sell out for Christ". If it is prejudice that holds us back, we must repent and work much harder.

A "torii," or Shinto gateway, is depicted on one of the stained-glass windows of Santee Chapel!



if it is negligence, we must wake up to the sense of our duty; if it is thoughtlessness, we must remind ourselves to do the will of God; if it is fear, then we must lean on the everlasting arms, "for God has not given us the spirit of fear, but that of power, love and self-discipline". II Tim. 1:7. "Knowing this, I have decided to know nothing among you but how I may best do the will of God." This exchange can mean very little unless we begin to build upon the opportunity we now have.

I do not know what part I can play in the total problem, but if joining one of the Synods of the E & R church would help, then it is as good as done. (The same spirit which I express here is shown all the more by Bill Radar at Lincoln.)

I cannot do everything of course, but I can do something: whatever I can do, by the help of God I will do it.

Dr. Meek will be at Catawba College Jan. 19-21 for meetings of the Apportionments for Higher Education Commission, and Life Enlistment Committee of our church.



From "The Circuit Rider," news sheet of the seminary at Albright; "A little flattery now and then Makes husbands out of single men."