

the Seminarian

AS

Volume XXXII February 26, 1981 Issue 12

THE CHANGING FACE OF L.T.S.

I find myself, upon finishing perusal of last week's Seminarian willingly applauding Jeff Dick for his observations. To me, many were on the mark and needed to be said. As well, Don and Ron's article of two weeks ago again deserves applause. For what they are spelling out are warning signals which to me are important to recognize.

The seminary sports a new face among its student body this year. A face which is not looking outward, but inward. I mean this not in the spiritual sense, but in the personal sense. It seems the student body is, or has, turned inside itself. This to me is not a knock on the students, but an observation. I make this observation as a senior looking back over the years.

The early years of my seminary experience were marked by heated debates over parking issues, institutional red-tape and an SCC making a futile attempt to patch up differences. As well, I can remember an SCC that made honest attempts to provide community involvement, to both successes and failures.

Today, a radical change is apparent. We do not have an SCC that is inept or making valiant attempts, but one that does not, to my visual perception, exist at all. And, no one cares.

Perhaps, as Jeff Dick points out, it is a lack of communication. I would suggest that there is a deeper level. The level of concern. Who is concerned whether the SCC is or isn't? Who is concerned that the leadership of this community is being handed over to the institution and its administrators? I know. Over dramatic. In truth, there may be no reason to complain. The administration may very well be able to run the community better than its members. Who needs a voice in what is going on?

As well there is the Seminarian. I have worked as an active member of the staff for two of the three years that I have been here. We have always found it tough to put a weekly edition out. People in the community contribute sporadically, most not at all. However, the one facet of this publication that everybody enjoys contributing to is criticism. Whether it is my spelling or the editor's typos or the infrequency of its appearance, we are overwhelmed with contributions in this area. The community does so despite our constant pleas typed in bold print on the pages of the Seminarian for HELP! in its production. The people with the talents and abilities necessary to make the paper look good must not be responding. I agree with Jeff, it needs to look better than it so very often does. Who is concerned enough to help?

These are evidences of what I have suggested, the internalizing going on, the values being placed on things. There are other signs: the lack of attendance at the January seminar held by the Senior Collegium; the disappearance of Community pot luck suppers; the waning interest in challenging the administration. The list can go on. Who cares? (Continued on page 2)

NEW FACE CONT.ROUND ABOUT TOWN

Up to this point the article sounds terribly critical. I'm afraid I have done that without meaning to. The change of face may very well be necessary. Each of us carries the burden of time and money. There is only so much time in each day. We must pay bills, we must relax, we must study, we may have to work, many of us have other involvements outside the seminary, the list can go on. Who has the time to spend on the SCC, or the Seminarian or in keeping an eye on the Administration?

I say this because I am in the same boat. My time and finances are spent for this year (and probably the future years too). It is easier for me to say because I am a senior and am leaving soon. Who is going to be coming back? Is it important to you to have an SCC? Last week's Seminarian is an illustration of what the paper looks like on the average when Don and I do not contribute with articles, editorials, filler, and poetry. Take away Jeff Dick, and what does it look like? Realize that Don is not going to be here forever, Jeff is graduating in May, I in December, and what do you have? Is there anyone out there who is willing to work on it? To put in the time and creative energy needed to fill a paper? To put up with the criticism either due, or at times unjustly given? Perhaps. Does anybody care?

While Jeff's solution is an interesting one, I find it unappealing to have a paper put out by someone who is paid by the institution. Something about that puts me on edge. Perhaps the SCC could fund that staff salary rather than LTS. But then, do we have an SCC? Does it matter?

The changing face of the seminary student body is becoming more evident. It is concerned with survival. It is time we consider what is needed to get through Seminary. If SCC, the Seminarian, and so on are not on the list, then they will disappear unquestioned.

History has proven, the fastest road to oppression is internalization.

R. Michael Vaughan

There are so many issues that one can speak to these days that it is hard to choose one. In writing this column I had hoped to not deal with just issues, but information as well. This week I find I am called to speak to an issue, one which is of the most serious nature, yes, you guessed it, ROCK MUSIC. The dreaded habit of young people across the nation and around the world, and even here at LTS. It has come to my attention that many of you are playing these round discs at all hours of the day, instead of studying. Not only that, but you are playing them backwards as well. The secret is out, you who thought you were getting away with playing those albums backwards, looking for the hidden messages, now we know all about it. For those of you who may not know, there are anti-Christian messages hidden on rock albums. Take the song by the group Led Zeppelin, "Stairway to Heaven." When played backwards reveals the lyrics, "my sweet Satan." Yes, it is records like this that are being sold everywhere and bringing about the downfall of the world.

So to all of you rock music listeners, the cat is out of the bag, and people are spreading the word that rock music is just a cover for satanism. The cause to wipe out rock music is fast replacing that work out issue of wiping out world hunger. Smash your rock albums, trade them in, or better yet, by wholesome country music albums.

Till next week

Jeffrey S. Dick

(an ex-rock music fan)

DEADLINE ETC.

This is an official revival of the weekly appeal for contribution and assistance toward the betterment of the Seminarian. Deadline for contributions is noon Wednesday and I work on the paper during the day on Thursday.

Don Mason

TO ALL STUDENTS

This note is to call your attention to the January course alternatives offered at the Overseas Missionary Center in Ventnor, N.J. (The center is non-denominational and houses missionaries on furlow from all over the world, an excellent library specializing in missions, and various conferences and seminars.) We highly recommend any or all of the four 1 week seminars each worth one credit. Your interest does not have to be in missionary work to benefit, in fact the primary thrust is more along the lines of purpose, role, etc. of mission and the implications that generates. The guest lectures are numerous and all of them have excellent credentials, many with national and even international reputations. Our class the first week this year, also comprised an international body. Discussion periods were always lively and needed to be cut short. though we usually continued them back at our residence four blocks away. We were housed at the Sisters of Charity retreat house located right on the boardwalk just a few miles south of Atlantic City. The accommodations, the food and the company were excellent. We had numerous meaningful dialogues with Episcopalians from Virginia, Aouthern Baptists from Texas, and a Lutheran from Gettysburg among others. We would urge any of you who get the chance next January to attend at least one week.

John-Christian Aierstuck
Debbie and Gary Sickles

NOTICE

Did you work in the City of Lancaster last year? Then you probably got a tax form called "Per Capita and Occupation Taxes." This is just one of many taxes you must pay, unless you are a full-time student and make under \$3600. If you qualify, contact the City Treasurer's Office or the Business Office at LTS for a tax exempt form which when sent with the tax form will save you some Money.

J. S. Dick

DEAR EDITOR

I would like to speak to an issue today that is very troubling to me - the discrimination against short people at LTS. I am not alone in my feelings. I have always been aware of my short stature but LTS has reinforced it in the most unkind ways. Richards Hall is a prime example. The mirrors in the bathrooms are placed on the walls for one who is at least 5' 5" tall. I can barely see the top of my head in the mirror. It is a good thing that I know where my mouth is to brush my teeth. When a piece of furniture needs to be moved, the inevitable comment comes out, "Let Barb walk under it!" When a short person sits in the chairs in both the Lark building and Hafer Center, our feet don't touch the floor, and we need ladders to reach the books on the top shelves in the library, a chair does not suffice.

The worst injustice is when a professor asks the class to move into "small" groups, which results in fits of giggles and outright laughter from class members. What's so bad about being small? Christian brothers and sisters, let's be more considerate of the shorter members of our community.

Barbara Kershner
(next week: Great Short People
In History)

BULLETIN.....BULLETIN.....BULEETNI

Once again, the Seminarian has scored a tremendous coup, pulled off the scoop of scoops! We have obtained a copy of the final exam to be given to all graduating seniors on May 9 of this year. The exam is printed starting on page 5 of this issue. Eat your heart out, Jack Anderson!!!

Ernie Shaffer
Chief of Seminarian
Espionage Agency
(SEA)

SUBMITTED BY AN ALUMNUS (Barb's Dad)

A rather old-fashioned lady, always quite delicate and elegant, especially in her language, wrote to a particular campground in Florida and asked for a reservation.

She wanted to make sure the campground was fully equipped, but didn't know quite how to ask about the toilet facilities. She just couldn't bring herself to write the word "toilet" in her letter.

After much deliberation she finally came up with the old-fashioned term, Bathroom commode.

But when she wrote that down, she still thought she was being too forward, so she started all over again, rewrote the entire letter, and referred to the bathroom commode merely as the B.C.

"Does the campground have its own B.C." is what the proper lady actually wrote.

Well, the campground owner wasn't old-fashioned at all, and when he got the letter he just couldn't figure out what the woman was talking about. That B.C. really stumped him.

After worrying about it for a while he showed the letter to several campers, but they couldn't imagine what the lady meant either.

So the campground owner, finally coming to the conclusion that the lady must be asking about the location of the local Baptist Church sat down and wrote the following reply:

Dear Madam:

I regret very much the delay in answering your letter, but I now take the pleasure of informing you that a B.C. is located nine miles north of the campground and is capable of seating 250 people at one time. I admit it is quite a distance if you are in the habit of going regularly, but no doubt you will be pleased to know that a great number of people take their lunches along and make a day of it. They usually arrive early and stay late.

The last time my wife and I went was six years ago, and it was so crowded we had to stand up the whole time we were there. It may interest you to know that right now there is a supper planned to raise money to buy more seats. They're going to hold it in the basement of the B.C.

I could like to say it pains me very much not to be able to go regularly but it surely is no lack of desire on my part.

As we grow older, it seems to be more of an effort particularly in cold weather. If you decide to come down to the campground, perhaps I could go with you the first time you go, sit with you and introduce you to all the other folks.

Remember, this is a friendly community.

FINAL EXAMINATION, LTS, 1981

INSTRUCTIONS: This is a closed book examination. Closely examine several books before beginning this exam. Please remember to refrain from referring to You-Know-Who in SEXIST terms when writing your answers. In fact, please try to refrain from referring to You-Know-Who as much as possible.

QUESTIONS

1. Discuss in five (5) words or less, why you want to be a minister. (Warning: "It pays well.", or "It beats working for a living.", are not acceptable. "It was either this or go to jail", would be acceptable if it were not more than 6 words. Don't use it.)
2. Write a short essay on your spiritual journey during the last 24 hours. Be specific! Was it by car? Amtrak? You know what we want.
3. Which of the following are not LTS graduates?
 - A. Pat Robertson
 - B. Amerigo Vespucci
 - C. Nancy Reagan
 - D. Alan Alda
 - E. None of the above
4. Memorize the entire Field Education Manual, then go on to the next question.
5. Go back to question #2 and do it over. We said be specific, and that's what we want!!
6. Consider the following situation. You are the pastor of a small church. Ten minutes before a crucial meeting with the consistory, the mimeograph machine, which you are using to make copies of your presentation, breaks down. What would you do?
 - A. Call the PRC for advice.
 - B. Open the Bible and seek to convert the machine.
 - C. Try to counsel with the machine, starting with where the machine is (on the table)Now ask yourself, Why would you do what you did?
 - A. The PRC is a toll call.
 - B. Even mimeograph machines are part of God's creation and so need salvation.
 - C. The first thing a broken-down mimeograph machine needs is to work through its paper. Counseling can help that process.
7. Here's a question for you closet fundamentalists. Is the Bible true? If so, why? If not, don't bother to finish this exam. You-Know-Who will give you your grade.
8. What part of your total educational experience here at LTS has been most meaningful for you? Or, put another way, what do you want to really lift up and celebrate? Choose one of the answers below.
 - A. Church History lectures
 - B. Middler Seminar
 - C. Refectory lunches
 - D. Learning to operate the coffee maker on the second floor of the Lark Building.
 - E. Listening to F & M students play their stereos.
9. Here are Shaffer's famous "Four Formative Factors." Rank them according to their importance in your life. SEX, MONEY, POWER, FAME.
10. Fill in the blank. "I was able to catch up on my sleep most often in Dr. _____'s class."
11. Using only back issues of the Seminarian and the Communicator, as resources, design a complete program of at least six (6) years duration for brick churches in the E&P tradition of the Protestant Episcopal church which are located in small towns at least 20 miles from Wallingford PA, and whose congregations are composed of white, Anglo-Italian females who go bowling every Thursday evening, eat

(OVER)

Cheerios for breakfast, and think Ronald Reagan is a Communist agent. Allow 20 minutes for this question. (Oh, stop griping. If you can't answer a simple little question like this, how do you ever expect to hack it in the parish?????)

12. Consider the following questions carefully. Should politics and religion mix? Should they even be seen together? Should they date? Go steady? Live together? Get married? You tell us.
13. You are in your first parish--which, knowing you, will probalby also be your last parish--and you arrive at the church on a Sunday morning at 11 only to find the church completely empty. What would you do?
 - A. Enroll in a Continuing Ed. course at LTS.
 - B. Learn to speak English.
 - C. Check your calendar to make sure it really is Sunday.
 - D. Change to a new mouthwash.
 - E. Go the the church office and try to fix the stupid mimeograph machine.
14. In a long essay--at least 10,000 words--explore the following related questions. Why have the students who are holding the faculty hostage refused to negotiate? Why did the raid on the Bricker room fail? Where are the hostages being held now? In the Library? (Good place. No one ever goes there!) In the bell tower? Why has the business office frozen all student assets? Are the hostages being well treated? Do they have enough coffee?
15. If you're still not finished when you reach this point, your time for this exam has run out, and you have failed the exam. Do not answer any more questions. Do not pass go. Do not collect \$200. Tough luck, sucker. You-Know-Who loves you, but you flunk.
16. Form a Lay Committee of 25 persons. Divide them into quads.
17. Which of the following hobbies or pastimes would you consider to be most useful in your ministry?
 - A. Knife throwing.
 - B. Building models.
 - C. Blackmail.
 - D. Water polo.
 - E. Collecting dust.
 - F. Sermon writing.

You have now completed the questions on your exam. Some further instructions:

1. If you are a left-handed female, born between May 4, 1891 abd June 16, 1892, and have never been single, put three (3) red stars in the lower left corner of your final answer sheet.
2. If you're a man, that's your problem.
3. If you are male, over six feet tall, have blue eyes, drive an expensive sports car, and expect to be a millionaire by the time you 're 30, Blondine Wallop in our office would like to get to know you. Call her (collect) 1-999-111-2222.
4. Now, place your answer sheets in a plain brown envelope. If you want a grade, enclose \$25.00. If you want a passing grade, enclose \$50.00. (No stamps, please!) Seal envelope securely and mail to:
Rev. Jerry Falwell
Thomas Road Baptist Church
Lynchburg, Va.
(Look up the Zip Code yourself, lazy!

Respectfully Submitted,
Ernie Shaffer