

The Seminarian

No edition
next week -
Easter

AN SCC PUBLICATION '77

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GET YOUR PAPERS READY

March 29

TO THE SEMINARIAN:

I love a good controversy. You've given me three! Thanks to all.

On the popular demand for an end to all chapel services: Fellow non-attenders, get off the backs of chapel goers! Let them worship in peace. They don't have to care for their souls the same way non-attenders do. Trust them with their spiritual lives!

On the problem of training for the parish: thanks for pointing out the opportunity! If a program is lax in the parish, do we call in the faculty and administration to fix it up? What a chance we have to practice leadership right here at LTS. By shaping programs here we get both the process of leadership and the content we may need.

On the question, "Is Lancaster Theological Seminary really Lancaster Theological Church?" Nope. Not to me. I can tell because I don't get IM credit for attending CA 120.

DAN HAMLIN

To the Editor of the Seminarian:

CONCERNING CHAPEL:

May I be allowed to make a couple of observations?

1. If there is anger and frustration in the system, why don't we have an OPEN FORUM of the whole community, faculty and students, and air what is in our minds?

2. Perhaps one of the reasons why chapel is not being served properly is a failure of method. A notice stuck on a wall inviting people (i.e., those who read notices!) to put down their names as volunteers has never been successful in the promoting of any enterprise. Heed the lesson when you go to your parish. Don't get angry with your people when they fail to respond to written appeals in the church bulletin. Motivation doesn't get to many people that way.

Thanks for the space.

IAN DIXON

Pam's letter in the last Seminarian should have made us all ask whether, indeed, it is valuable to us, as the Seminary community, to continue daily chapel services. After all, in light of dwindling chapel attendance and the lack of leaders, it seems that many people have already decided that chapel is simply not worth the effort. We, as a Collegium, though not all regular, or even irregular chapel attenders, were disturbed by this, because after discussion of some valid reasons which we found for having daily chapel services, we were convinced that the Seminary as a religious community would suffer from its loss. However, it is obviously unfair to put the responsibility of guaranteeing the presence of leaders solely on Pam and Jim. Thus, we as a collegium have volunteered to lead chapel services for the week of April 4-6 and 12-13, in the hope that other groups will also take a more active role in the future. LISA LAPPAS for Rev. Coleman Rader, Dr. Hartley, Judd Hurlbert, Jim Myers, Rich Luh. Frank Gassler, and Curt Kemmerer

WHAT IS ART?

An artist is not a special kind of person.
Every person is a special kind of artist.

-St. Thomas Aquinas

Have you ever stood in an art gallery and watched people relate for the first time to something with which they are unfamiliar? Perhaps you've even heard them ask".... Yes...But is it art?" Of course its art...to someone, for some reason, often personally determined. But it is art as long as it is the product of somebody's personal creative urge.

We often lose sight, wrapped up as we are in our own esthetic value judgements, that art is not only the thing produced out of the creative urge. Art is also the process that transforms a particular media i.e. paint, clay and stone, words, motions, tones, into expressions of ideas and feelings, i.e. paintings, sculpture, poetry, the dance, music, etc. And we often allow the media to be the message, that is, if it's not rendered in the types of media I have just mentioned, it cannot be art. It is true that until the last hundred years these were considered to be the media that the true artist chose for his creative statements. The artist was also limited in form, being able to express his message only in naturalistic forms. Any product varying from these "artistic norms" was delegated to the category of "non-art."

With the advent of the trend of impressionism, to expressionism, to dada etc, this "non-art" category became an invalid judgement as manipulative skill (craftsmanship), "classical" media, and naturalism as the only basis for judgement of art were re-evaluated and placed in relationship to such other values as subjectivism, texture and color impact, etc.

In addition the consciousness of the origins of art were re-examined, and a new realization that all our arts grow out of crafts was accepted; for example, the limner of the 16th century would be the professional painter of the 20th.

This all means that there is virtually no basis for labeling a created product "non-art" or for distinguishing between the artist, the artisan, and the designer-crafts-person, because a well executed random weave fabric constructed from specifically dyed fibers is effectually stating the same thing as a Jackson Pollock piece; an afgan done in solid squares surrounded by black might express the same message as a Piet Mondrian a piece of ceramic, whether thrown or constructed can be considered a special kind of sculpture.

The arts festival committee has considered these kinds of approaches to art; the committee members have not sought to decry any personal approach to art evaluation or esthetic. For that reason, we reiterate, we can accept, as art, the product of any personal creative urge, expressed in any conceivable medium, in the conviction that the LTS "household" (used in preference to "community") is made up of many "special artists" whose message, technique, and process are as worthy of being considered "art" as any other. The committee, therefore, invites, on behalf of the rest of the "family", all to come and share his/her art with each other, whatever that art may be.

Jim Moyer

RECYCLING

Just a reminder to everyone that we recycle all types of paper, glass, and aluminum. It is kept under the pavilion in the quad and you can leave these items there at any time. I urge you to join in reducing the waste that uses landfills so rapidly and may lead to the condemnation of yet another farm for this purpose in Lancaster County.

Please note: There is as yet no recycling program for any but aluminum cans.

Some have been contributing all cans which must be picked out anyway. (Check with a magnet if in doubt.) I have also recently discovered that not all seamless beverage cans are aluminum. Of those sold in the CPD only Mountain Dew is in aluminum so the machine must be changed if we want recyclable glass or aluminum. Those concerned might mention this to the SCC. Thanks to all those who have already made a move toward ecological stewardship. Ross Reide:

Life at LTS

Recently there have been many articles in the Seminarian bemoaning the lack of esprit de corps here at LTS. The SCC has lost the will to live. A suggestion is made that the defunct organism be given a decent burial, and loud cries are heard for resurrection! "Where is responsibility? Fortitude? Loyalty? Cries of community are heard. "We must get together and integrate the communities and save the SCC." Yet students have no interest, apathy is rampant, and cynicism abounds.

Support for the newspaper fades, then revives. Questions are raised about lack of "practical preparation for the parish ministry," our express purpose. Yet we do not recognize that "our aim and goal is, and should be to be a Church," we are told in sermon style, but we are asked not to respond with a sermon; for then we will be too much like a church! (Strange the ambivalence about sermons here. Four of the last six I heard in the chapel were preceded by a statement to the effect that, "This is not a sermon you are about to hear.") IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG WITH US? Could be.

The ASW struggles to attract attention. Get Involved. Chapel is dying. Lack of leadership and response from professors and students. (Could it be that we have nothing to say?) Lack of attendance is endemic. Please won't you people come to church? (I mean chapel!) Excuses for not coming or leading. Guilty responses, "We have a responsibility to attend, lead, resurrect chapel." Fears of criticism and hypocrites. Complaints about preaching (again) and directed prayer, about saying anything! After condemning others for their somewhat stilted efforts to lead chapel it seems it seems rather ironic to talk about spiritual harmony in all our activities

Yes, something is wrong with us. The fact is that we are limited creatures and most of us are too busy to devote time and energy to things that we do not see as central in our lives, or to things that do not appear to be meeting real needs, and all the moral scolding in the world won't change that. But on a deeper level than that I believe, are the radical religious and theological differences which prevent deep spiritual unity. LTS has such a vague theological stance as an institution that there is little chance of there being a sense of mission that is agreed upon by all, or even most. There is no message that must be proclaimed (that we can agree on!)

The "thread of life" unfortunately is not strong enough to build loyalty, enthusiasm and a sense of communal unity. Talk about being the body of Christ has little meaning when there is not basic agreement on the meaning of the words body, and Christ. The nature of the Church and the Christian message, what resurrection is, who Jesus is, etc. are all defined as grey areas. Each person attaches the definition they please, in the name of freedom, and there is essential agreement only among small segments of the seminary. Students are of every persuasion from Unitarian to fundamentalist are attracted by the carefully worded statements in the catalog and other literature. We are not "all here for the same purpose", yet we expect spiritual and communal unity, loyalty, and a sense of responsibility to develop, and cries of anguish are heard when it cannot be found. Students are many, programs expand, and budgets flourish, but are we spiritually and theologically solvent? The LTS stance seems to be that theology isn't really that important. I wonder!

PS- My apologies to those whose articles I so freely plagiarized.

Ross Reider

Reply from the Editor:

Ross, what troubles me about your article is that you seem to be saying that we must all agree. God forbid! The body incorporates different functions and members. Yes, there is some incorporation needed on the part of the students and faculty, but to necessitate agreement seems to say that I must follow what others believe and do not allow me to search and struggle on my own. Never before has everyone agreed on the theology of Christianity and it seems quite a task to lay this respon-

sibility on the community of LTS. Therefore I consider the theological stance of this institution to be more than adequate. I want to enter into conversation with any and all perspectives. In this way, I shall have learned more and received more understanding of what Christianity and who makes up its followers.

I can see nothing wrong with us. Yes, we are limited creatures. Therefore I wish to make the most of learning from others. If we all agreed, then we would have stopped learning. We could say that "we possess the truth." I am quite comfortable with our disagreements because it illustrates that we are listening somewhat and the spirit to keep on thinking and searching is never laid to rest.

And I believe it is my prerogative to feel guilty or radical if I want to. I hate puppets. My feelings may not be warranted in your eyes, but they are my feelings and I feel like expressing them. Yes, I do note some cynicism, the same kind I heard you expressing. I don't mean this derogatorily, but I mean to say that there are some strong disagreements here and sleep is sometimes difficult. But I would rather lie awake than be mobile and dead. The day the entire world agrees on anything will be for sure...the culmination of the Kingdom.

Al Mann



Easter
time

THE MYSTERY OF GOD

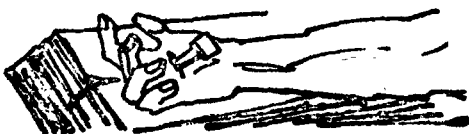
The most fascinating story of all times still remains the same: GOD. God is the infinite of all mysteries and deservedly so. The one who doubts, the one who questions, the one whose faith is short, shakes his fist at the sky and shouts- "Man invented God." And God silently whispers from above- "I invented you." Some believe in God; some do not. The very young believe without question because of His majesty and glory. The very old believe because we so often leave them nothing else.

But when we are strong we seem to believe that we possess the power and knowledge to direct our own lives. Faith is no stronger than a blade of grass in a tornado. Faith becomes a fever chart. The human brain is but three pounds of intelligence prone to error. It is just big enough and bright enough to say, on occasions- "Is there a God?" Pain, sorrow, and death are not God's doing. Through disobedience and free will to act against God, the sinless and deathless state of man came to an end. When health fails, men appeal to God for a longer life. Man struggles to put off his final reward. He will fight for life, incur insurmountable medical debts, and then beg God to let him live.

Man's hope is not within himself. His character will not improve. His selfishness is absolute. His future, clinging to a ball of mud in space, is limited. Faith is the only thing which can help him to live for ever. God's mercy is one of the strangest things one's mind can comprehend. We all live with a little "if". We are certain God is here, there, everywhere. If He loves us no more than we love Him, then we deserve perpetual darkness. His love must be greater, more constant. We believe but we do not learn. We lie, cheat, we steal, and, yes, some even kill in His name.

What makes the difference? God's mercy and His way of dealing with His creation is the difference. For this makes this a world of hope.

Jim Myers



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CELEBRATION!

An exciting slate of events has been scheduled for this years Arts Festival. It needs just one more thing to be a success. YOU. At best, the Arts Festival will celebrate the creative spark in each of us. For this reason, the festivities will revolve around the 3-day long display in the CPD of your handiwork. Don't overlook this opportunity! Not feeling artsy-craftsy? Well, how about that green thumb you're sporting? Why not show the fruits of it. Or, are you a collector; stamps, coins, old issues of "The Seminarian" (old Seminarians)? We'd enjoy a display like that. There's the "What's Cookin'" bake contest. That's a chance for you to bake your best dessert recipe for judging (and eventually eating!).

If you feel more qualified in the entertainment arena, don't hesitate to sign up for the latest talent show. (Rumors are about that we even accept acts that have been "gonged" on TEE-WEE coast-to-coast.)

Entry blanks for the talent show- "Thanks for the Memories," the bake contest and arts display are in the CPD. Attached to them is the schedule of activities. (It's the yellow flyer circulated a few weeks ago.)

Plan to attend. Your presence will certainly make the celebration a success.

K. C. Ackley
Publicity Committee

THE AIM OF BEING "CHURCH"

In response to Allen Heckman's statement of what he sees as the purpose of Seminary in the last issue of the Seminarian, I would like to add my two cents. Allen says his aim is different from mine, but I do not believe it is. Allen sees the purpose of the Seminary to be that "of exposing me to the resources and skills necessary for my edification in becoming a parish minister." I believe this is another way of saying we are called to be a church. One of the major aims of a church should be to expose its members to the resources and skills available to them as background for their attempts to be ministers to the world and one another. Further, I believe the degree and manner in which we experience such an exposure here will greatly determine the manner and style we will use in our future ministry. The church we experience here, will be the church experience we create there.

In order to further clarify my aim that we should be a church, let me give a specific example. Yesterday in our collegium we did a role play exercise trying to understand and see the role of Maslow's hierarchy of needs in a church financial committee meeting. In our discussion following the role play we discovered that no one's needs were even heard, let alone met. Some persons even reported feeling put down when they did try and express their needs. We also discovered that none of us had any truly concrete ideas of how to go about bringing out and meeting each person's need. This was all discussed in terms of a typical church setting and was felt to be a vital and important part of a church's ministry. But how does a minister get a handle on how to solve the problem? I am assuming here that God calls his church to meet the needs of individuals, and that this is part of a definition of "church."

I feel the primary reason why most ministers cannot get a handle on the problem is that they never had the experience of being in a group which tries to meet everyone's needs. Taking a course or reading a book can be helpful, but learning and skill really happen and develop only in an atmosphere, an environment. Hence, the atmosphere, for instance, in the classroom determines what our model of church will be. How many of our classes really seek to hear and answer our needs each time we meet?? Few of mine really do. As a result, here at Seminary I experience an atmosphere in which the meeting of person's needs seldom happens (although occasionally it does, usually by accident). The experience of this atmosphere I will carry with me, and when I enter a church I will still have no idea of how to handle the problem despite whatever courses or books I read. If, however, we can view the Seminary as a church, with the very same problems as any other church except in different forms, may be we can begin to explore solutions to problems. The church is not out there, but right here. We have the same problems as any church. But if we can consciously and continually envision ourself as a church and begin to see and deal with our own calling to be a church, we will be better prepared when entering another church.

Jeff Diller



"He asked me if I'd accept a nomination to be Program Chairman of the youth group this coming year, and when I said, 'Yes,' he fainted!"

WHAT'S AN IMSAI??

Many students, faculty members, and visitors to the CPD have been curious about what we are doing with a computer at LTS. We would like to share an article with you, which we wrote for "keeping you posted." It tells part of the story:

SALVE FOR THE SEVENTIES

In today's world of extreme mobility and rapid change, the prospect of a truly personal and meaningful ministry is becoming much more of a challenge and, at the same time, of great urgency. Yet today's parish minister, serving the large parish or the multi-point rural charge, is faced with simply awesome administrative responsibilities. Buried under a pile of paperwork, today's parish minister is in danger of becoming more and more impersonal, simply for lack of time.

We are exploring one solution to this problem, utilizing technology which is presently available to the local parish. Electronic microcircuitry has reduced the cost and size, while increasing the reliability and flexibility, of very small computer systems. The possibilities within the parish are exciting. Some uses we are currently developing:

- **Instant updating of ALL mailing lists within a church, with one simple keyboard entry. Immediate printing of any subdivision of this list---e.g., Jr. Highs, Women's Club, College Students, etc.
- **Errorless typing of mimeograph stencils for bulletins, newsletters.
- **Library functions; volunteer banks; catalogue of parish resources.
- **Building use allocations; efficient use of energy; room and meeting scheduling.
- **Budget building; quarterly (or instant!) giving statements, immediately available and printed automatically---complete with address.
- **Building maintenance and security; uses of data systems in this area are already common, and will undoubtedly continue to expand as new buildings are built.
- **Even birthdays can be called up immediately---send a card to your parishoners on their birthday! The machine will even type the envelope...
- **Christiaan Education: Situation games, designed to simulate anything from Biblical stories to real-life problems of land-use management; non-violent interactive games; learning resources; curriculum materials stored in electronic files; etc.

The uses are as limitless as the human imagination, but the goal is always the same---to give the pastor more time to do what no machine could ever do; minister to the people in the most personal and effective means possible. The cost is not prohibitive; purchase---Not rental---of a complete system would be about the same as the salary for a full-time secretary for one year.

Our commitment to this project also stems from our conviction that the Church should be at the forefront of the ethical use of computers, in view of their great--and diverse---potential.

Anyone interested in learning more about our work, or who would like to join us in an idea exchange, can contact us here at Lancaster Theological Seminary. Already we are communicating with Church people all over the country, as far away as New Mexico and California. The ability to assist in expanding the power of the pastor to do the Lord's work is indeed exciting!

In His Service,
Larry Calvert and Curtis Ackley

The excitement generated by this idea is astounding! We are pursuing several different avenues simultaneously. We're always interested in brainstorming with others as to new applications, ideas, pro's and con's of the use of microcomputers

in the church, etc. If you'd like to share with us, please feel free to rap with us any time about any ideas you have.

We are also trying to design a course for next semester, which will probable take the form of a CE (1-hour). We'd like to ask interested people to fill out the response slip located below, and return it to one of us.

Basically, there are at least two ways we could go, depending on the interest. One is to stress the general aspects of the computer, and the range of possibilities within the church; programming would be taught in light of this. Ethical issues and general brainstorming would play a part, as well as an analysis of the problems and present possibilities inherent in the use of a microsystem. An alternative would be to teach programming and set about working up the actual programs to do some of the things laid out in the article above. Games, administrative tools, etc. would be stressed. For those who already know how to program, we could work right away on this aspect. Obviously, a third alternative would be to combine the two as best we can, teaching some application-oriented programming, and some general theory, butnot going into as much detail with either.

We are very much interested in your response to this, or any other ideas for a course--what would be valuable to you in this field.

I would like and am intersted in some course in the application of the computer in the parish...

_____ I would prefer a course in the application of the computer system in the parish.

_____ I would like to learn how to program a computer, with consideration to applying it to the parish directly.

OTHER IDEAS:

Please return to Larry Calvert's or
Curtis Ackley's mailbox

The preceeding info by Curtis Ackley

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