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THE ENTOMBED or the LIVING CHRIST?

-- Dr. Donald M.C. Englert

(The staff wishes to thank Dr. Englert for the following feature article which he wrote at our request.)

In my student days a book about the Resurrection appeared from the pen of a most unusual source, a practicing attorney. It was called, "Who Moved the Stone?" In it the author sought to test the Gospel narrative of the Resurrection by the established rules of courtroom evidence. In much the same way that modern "whodunits" build up the readers' interest, he called in one by one the witnesses to these events of long ago. They were all asked the same question, "Who Moved the Stone?"

In the end the mystery was not solved, from the human standpoint. No one could be found who knew who moved the stone or saw it happen. On the other hand (and this was the author's conclusion), there is no mystery for the Christian. Only God could have moved the stone and liberated the entombed Christ.

While the witnesses proved incapable of explaining who moved the stone, there was no question why it was rolled there in the first place. It was done to ensure what wicked hands had done; to do away with Christ. What they were saying, in effect, when they rolled the stone to the entrance of the tomb, was "This is proof to the world that love fails; love gives itself but it dies and this stone is going to make sure that it stays dead!"

In every age and by every generation, stones have been rolled before the tomb in the hope that the Christ who was buried there stays entombed. In our day, it seems to me, men are bent on similar errands with similar motives. They hope to entomb Christ and keep His Spirit from ranging abroad in the world of men.

This may reveal itself in a kind of Bibliolatry, by which a particular theory of revelation lays claims on men's faith. Nowhere does the Old Testament give confirmation to what people sometimes read into the record. Nor does Jesus' attitude toward the Scriptures of His Day accord with these views.

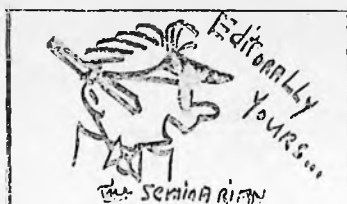
Another stone we roll to the tomb may be creed. Fifth Century or Sixteenth Century echoes of what men once believed are held up as tests of present-day thought and convictions. We seek to entomb the Christ in the verbal forms by which the Church in particular periods of her history sought to express her faith.

Again we may hope to keep Christ entombed by rolling the stone of worship-forms to the grave. In resurrecting medieval imagery or the pageantry of the Church's compromise with the world's desire for spectacle and show, we are far from the Spirit of One who had not where to lay His head, and whose sole possession was a seamless robe.

Nor should we fail to mention the desire to entomb the Christ in highly efficient organization. In my student days it was Bruce Barton's "The Man Nobody Knows" which tried to persuade us that if Christ were alive, he would be an efficient, go-getting executive. In our time, Dan Poling thinks a certain New York preacher is the embodiment of the One who went about doing good (see his letter to the editor in a recent Reporter).

Some have sought to entomb the Christ by a reconstruction of the historical Jesus. They picture Him as a lonely rabbi, fighting and dying for a lost cause in a long ago First Century. But they leave Him there. In a way, they are saying, "We admire your courage, but don't expect us to live like that today." They admire the Jesus of 20 centuries ago but will have nothing to do with the Christ of the 20th Century.

(continued: page 3)



A SPECIAL WORD OF WELCOME to Dr. Gullmann and to the alumni and friends of the Seminary who will visit with us during his lectures. We hope that, if you picked up a copy of the "Seminarian," you will have found articles in it which were both helpful and informative.

This Easter Edition is another example of the staff's policy of "quality, not quantity." This policy, incidentally, has been criticized from time to time all year. We make no excuses for it, however. We are quite aware that this paper is a "Middler paper" in many respects, and that a lot of "important news" has been missed from issue to issue. On the other hand, we are painfully conscious of how few people take a "contributing" interest in our school newspaper, and of how hard it is to get folks to keep in mind the "important news" that never grows old as far as we are concerned -- namely, that our deadline is Thursday at noon the week before each date of publication! Believe it or not, we've had a lot of fun working on the "Seminarian" this year. We're sorry that so few of you joined in the festivities! Have yourselves a merry little Easter!

the Staff

THE LENTEN SEASON IS FLEETING ... along with the opportunities for you to contribute to this season's BENEVOLENT FUND-RAISING DRIVE. Do your part ... and more, if possible. Thank you.

#### NEW STAFF NAMED BY EDITOR-DESIGNATE

Walt Long, soon to assume the editorship of the "Seminarian," has organized his staff under the following assistants. These new staffers are already planning for their initial issue -- May 2nd.

Editor-in-Chief: Walt Long  
Associate Editor: John Stoudt  
Features Editor: Rodney Henrie  
Sports Editor: James Bright  
Production Managers: Donald Houli and Paul Miller

#### TELL THE DISCIPLES

-- Author Unknown

Into the tomb they took Him, sad of heart,  
And rolled the stone, then turned aside apart  
To mourn each one the unfulfilled fair dream  
To which their dead hopes could no life impart.

Back to the tomb they went at break of day.  
The stone that sealed the tomb was rolled away!  
Frightened they looked, and heard the words of joy,  
"Fear not; for He is risen. Go your way.

Tell the disciples." From the tomb they came,  
Renewed in hope; with eyes alight, they bare  
Christ risen in their hearts, alive, not dead --  
And, lo, He has been with them everywhere!

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MAY THE GLAD DAWN of Easter morn bring joy to thee.

MAY THE CALM EVE of Easter leave a peace divine with thee.

MAY EASTER NIGHT on thine heart write, O Christ, I live to Thee.

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## The Entombed or the Living Christ?

(continued from page 1)

How many have sought to entomb the Christ in a beautiful system of humanitarian ethics? They worship Him as a good man, possibly the best man who ever lived; but still only a man. For these people He is an example, but merely an example. They honor Him as a prophet of righteousness, but because He is only an entombed prophet, none of His power to overcome the world flows into their lives.

Or how many have sought to entomb the Christ in a particular panacea for our day? They have equated the Kingdom of Heaven with some particular form of government or economic system or some bit of much-needed legislation. Then, when this or that law is passed, they are content -- the Kingdom has come.

So, in one way or another, we are rolling the stones of Bible, Creed, Liturgy, Humanism, Social Reform, or what-have-you in the hope that the Christ who lies buried there will stay dead. But the power of God is greater than man's desire to entomb and confine His Son. Every Easter Day, yea, every day of our lives, we have new evidence that the power of God cannot be held in by the stones of men's rolling.

Whenever and wherever the power of God in Christ His Son is at work in the world, the stones are being rolled away, and the Living Christ is free to range the world of men's affairs. It may be in South Africa where the Michael Scotts and the Canon Riddlestons are working for a peaceful alternative to a Church's Apartheid policy, or in our own Southland where men of good will are seeking a non-violent solution to the thorny problems of desegregation, or where young people give up their summer vacations to work in far off places to bring a measure of compassion to a war-torn and war-weary world. Men may seek to entomb love and good will and mercy, but they just plain refuse to stay dead. God is forever rolling stones away from entombed Christs. This is a part of what Easter means to me.

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**MIDDLER BANQUET GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER!** Only two-and-a-half weeks remain until it will be "operation pocketbook" time for the whole Seminary Family. Again, let us remind ourselves of the date: Wednesday, April 20, at 6:00 pm. The Middlers are hard at work on plans for the food, fun, and fellowship! Everyone, however, must do some "budgeting" between now and the 20th, if the evening's Auction is to be a success.

### "SOCIETY'S" MERGER-TALK -- FIRST POST-EASTER EVENT

Dr. Douglas Horton, Minister of the General Conference of the Congregational Christian Churches, will discuss the proposed merger of the E. & R. and C.C. Churches at the last Society meeting of the year. This meeting will be held in Santee Chapel on April 12th at 6:30 pm.

Ministers of the E. & R. Church in the Lancaster Synod have been invited to attend this first post-Easter event planned for the Seminary Family. All seminarians are urged to attend this outstanding meeting.

### TOMORROW: APRIL 5th -- IMPORTANT DATE!

Tomorrow night, April 5th, at 9:00 pm in the Chapel the last Lenten Devotional period, sponsored by the Commission on Spiritual Life, will be held. At that time THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS, a symphonic poem for organ by Marcel Dupre, will be presented on records. All are invited to this Holy Week quiet-hour.

Earlier tomorrow evening the Middler Class Communion Service for members of the class of '56, their wives, and families will be held in the Chapel. Dr. Sayres will deliver the Communion meditation to the Middlers; and Dr. Meek, assisted by Jim Cress, will serve as liturgist for this special class event.



## COACH "DEACON" WEST- COAT ~~and~~ BASKET- BALL TROPHY

THIS RARE "PHOTO" was "taken" by the editor of our school paper soon after the decisive game in the championship-tournament at F. & M. which was won by the Seminary basketballers, 59-55, over the fraternity league-leaders of Lambda Chi Alpha.

As one can see by this picture, Coach Westcoat's victory grin exemplifies the happiness of the whole Seminary Family over this glowing achievement.

Last year this time, the Seminary was licking its wounds from the loss of a similar all-college championship try with the frat. men from Chi Phi. This year, however, "Deacon" and his pet ulcer coached the boys to victory and revenge. The coach's assistants in this struggle included Dr. Englert, the teams' "talent scout," and those high-scoring fools Rader, Sponsler, Gerber, Cress, Baylor, and substitutes like Henning. Rader and Gerber added to the team's victory two of their own -- two positions on the College "All-Star" team, chosen after the championship was decided. The editor joins his sports-staff in congratulating all the fellows and faithful fans who together won this series.

The Seminarians opened the BASEBALL SEASON officially, after several practice games, last Wednesday afternoon (March 30) by winning a decisive victory over F. & M.'s Kappa Sigma fraternity. The final score was 18-11. This high-scoring contest gave opportunity for everyone to play. The boys looked good; and they will be working hard the rest of the season for the championship in this Spring League.

-- Hal and Bob



EASTER RECESS: from Wednesday, April 6 (12:15) through Monday, April 11.

"GULLMANN DAY" -- this Tuesday -- will feature our distinguished guest at two lecture-periods. Dr. Gullmann will speak first at 10:00 am, and again at 2:00 pm in the chapel. Regular Tuesday classes, not conflicting with these two hours, will meet

as usual.

DEADLINES AHEAD: for the Schaff Prize essays (Friday, April 15)  
for other essays and sermons (Monday, April 18)  
for texts of E.D. theses to be submitted to professors (Monday, April 18)  
for registration for Fall Term courses (Wednesday, April 27)

ASSEMBLY VISITORS: April 18: Carl Bade, Associate Director of Volunteer Service Training Center

April 25: Miss Naomi Blalock of our India Mission

May 2: Dr. William Webster Hall, new president of F. & M.

ANOTHER WELCOME VISITOR: Dr. Florence Partridge, Executive Secretary of the Women's Guild, who will meet with Dr. Gable's classes at 10:20 and 11:20 on Wednesday (April 6) and speak to the wives of Seniors in the evening.

WILLIAM E. HARNER of the Middler Class has been chosen by his classmates with faculty approval to succeed LARRY REZASH as "dispenser" of preaching appointments for next year.

## NEW SOCIETY COMMISSION CHAIRMEN and MEMBERS SET

Harold Lamm, president-elect of the Society of Inquiry, met with the other officers of the student governing body and worked out the assignments for next year's eight Commissions.

The following listings include present Juniors and Middlers and all special students who will be at the Seminary for the academic year, 1955-1956. If anyone has been missed, president Lamm asks that he contact Lamm himself, or Ronny Kriek or Ann Schoup -- indicating his Commission preference.



Present Seniors are urged to continue serving the Commissions to which they were assigned last Fall, until their graduation in May.

The staff of the "Seminarian" suggests that you clip off the following portion of this page, so that you will have a permanent record of next year's Society Roster. (A - indicates Advisor; C - indicates Chairman)

### Spiritual Life

Dr. Dunn (A)  
William Hanner (C)  
Winfield Engler  
Daniel Kratz  
Lancy Wright  
Paul Curvey  
Robert Danroll  
James Fleckership

### Vital Issues

Dr. Bartholomew (A)  
William Flickinger (C)  
James Gold  
Mary Gorn  
Joseph Keimig  
Lelan Bender  
Larry Fisher  
Harold Lamm

### Curricular Needs

Dr. Vossady (A)  
Gerald Winkle (C)  
James Bright  
Thomas Adams  
Donald Studer  
Charlie Settlementire  
Charles Williman

### Social Life

Dr. Stonerifer (A)  
Robert D. Myers (C)  
Kerrill Rossler  
Arpad de Kallos  
Donald Orander  
Donald Flick  
Ronald Kriek  
Max Tunsey

### Outreach

Dr. Moss (A)  
Dr. Sayres (A)  
David Koch (C)  
Rodney Menzies  
James Spragg  
William Barr  
John Stewart  
Walter Long  
Frank McCall

### Athletics

Dr. Englest (A)  
Paul Westcoat (C)  
George Rankin  
Richard Farris  
Leonard Sponsler  
Harold Henning  
Glenn Rader  
Russell Mengel  
Robert Godfrey

### Finance

Dr. Moss (A)  
Dr. Gable (A)  
Fred Irwin (C)  
William Foyer  
Arthur Roberts  
Joseph Glen  
Paul Miller  
Ann Schoup  
Harold Schoup

### Facilities and Maintenance

Dr. Meek (A)  
Wallace Fisher (C)  
Donald Leonard  
Carl Krops  
H. Elwood Williams  
Donald Houli  
Robert E. Myers

## THIS TIME OF YEAR ...

(an Easter meditation by Mary Gerna)

CHRISTMAS WAS WONDERFUL! "... opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh."

Only a few months have passed since Christmas gave us the opportunity to follow the example of the Magi. We placed our white gifts upon the altar. We were eager to provide for the needy of our communities, for the children at the orphanage, and for the aged people at the Old Folks' Home.

At this time we prepared a surprise package, was it ever so humble, for each loved one in our family. We also gave evidence of our thoughtfulness to our neighbors and friends. As we attended to our many errands in the shopping center of our community, we eagerly dropped coins in the box presided over by the Santa Claus of the Salvation Army. It was good to know that this gift would help provide a dinner for one who was "down and out."

There was great rejoicing. Happiness was radiated by the sparkling eyes and laughter of the children. The genuine handclasp of friend with friend emphasized the mutual joy in the friendship. How good it all was! But, we need something more for a well-rounded Christmas experience ...

WE ALSO NEED EASTER! Easter comes with the re-awakening of nature. We find it a good time to take a walk and enjoy the beauty of the out-of-doors. As we walk, may we be reminded of the walk of some of the early disciples on the road to Emmaus. If we were privileged to walk that path, would we recognize the Master? Or, have we been so eager in our quest for knowledge of His life and philosophy that we have overlooked His message to us as persons? Could it be that we have been so occupied in discussing our views of these matters that we haven't been aware of Him walking at our side?

What a pity, if the Seminary year were to come to a close, and we had to admit that we did not encounter Christ the Risen Lord during all these weeks! Would not our hearts burn within us?

Throughout the glorious Easter season, let us be in readiness to receive His message. Through it we shall come to understand the meaning of God's forgiveness of sinful mankind, and the great hope that is ours in the resurrection of our Lord. These blessings will remind us of the love we owe God who first loved us. These blessings will give us, this Easter-tide, a well-rounded Christmas experience.

"... and every tongue shall give praise to God."

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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### CORRECTION! (ref.: Issue of March 21st)

The April meeting of the Association of Seminary Women will be held on the evening of April 18th, and not as previously announced. At this meeting there will be an installation service for the newly-elected officers of the group in the chapel and a social hour.

HUSBANDS! TELL YOUR WIVES!

(As we go to press ... a "tip" picked up by chance ... the "mystery writer" of letters to the faculty may be connected with a secretive "bull-session" in 104 or 106 Richards Hall, held Wednesday night, March 30th... that is all!!)

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