

# THE SEMINARIAN

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AS I SEE IT . . .

We have just passed through the door of a new twelve-room house. In each room, God willing, we shall spend a brief four weeks. The furnishings of these rooms has been predetermined, but what we shall do in these rooms is entirely a matter of personal choice. We may use or misuse the furniture of these rooms in any manner that seems best to us. Our transition from our last dwelling to this one has come about in one of two manners. Some of us changed dwellings optimistically, confident that in these new rooms we may find a happier life than was in our last annual dwelling place. Others were inclined to be more sober and pessimistic. However we may have entered this edifice, we have the same twelve rooms in which to see the fulfillment of the many aspirations that fill our minds.

An almost universal human weakness is the desire to know the content of these rooms before we have entered them. Men are not content to wait until the doors have swung open to see what shall transpire in our brief sojourn in the months ahead. The tea-leaf reading and dream interpretation of Joseph elevated him to a high position in the court of the Pharaoh. The prophets proclaiming "Thus saith the Lord..." were held in high regard by the people. The pseudo-sciences of astrology, palmistry, and fortune-telling have gained an all-too-large popularity throughout the ages. Something in men compels them to grasp at the veil of the future so that it may be ripped aside. We want to be, like Moses, elevated to a mountain height from which we may contemplate the future.

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"TO BE OR NOT TO BE"

In Church History the other day, Dr. Dunn mentioned the play "Family Portrait", which the F & M Green Room Club staged about four years ago. This made me think again of one of my pet ideas. What would be the possibility of having some sort of dramatic organization here at the Seminary? None of us can doubt that dramatics is a powerful vehicle to drive home a message. As such, it seems to me, it could be utilized to an advantage as a part of our extra-curricular program here. If channeled correctly, with the right kind of productions, it would not only give those participating a good wholesome form of recreation but would also be a beneficial part of our education here, both in the case of those in the cast and those in the audience.

Certainly there would be no lack of good Thespian material. If some of the wives would be interested, the problem of feminine leads would be solved. I imagine most, if not all of us, have had some dramatic experience either in high school or in college, or both, and many would like to continue a hobby they enjoy. Also, a little stage presence can often do a minister a lot of good, both as preacher and pastor. Add to this then, the fact that in some of the Seminary professors we might find interested advisors if they would consent to help. Here we have the basis for a fine functioning group.

In taking a quick poll of the staff of The Seminarian, I find that there are a couple of very interested parties there. We would appreciate knowing your reaction to the scheme, whether favorable or unfavorable. How about telling us what you think of the idea? Maybe something can be done.

Dick Glatfelter

## A JUNIOR LOOKS AT THE SEMINARY

First impressions do not always last, nor are they discarded with little effort. Experience probably tells us an entirely different story. It is often true that first impressions cling tenaciously within our minds only to appear later as forces behind our various attitudes toward life. Therefore, the importance of creating good initial impressions upon the mind of one's fellow man is readily understood by intelligent men.

The latter sentence applies specifically to our life here at the Seminary. For instance, I was quite favorably impressed with chapel services. This short period of quiet meditation and worship provides us with an opportunity to realize each day some meaning and purpose in our lives, present and future. As students, we cannot expect to conduct the 'perfect' service, nor can we expect it of our fellow students. What everyone has a right to expect, however, is that each one of us put forth our best to help the student who is doing his best. Even a slight sense of fairness should tell us that much. At any rate, it is expecting far too much from anything to think we can get more out of it than we are willing to put forth ourselves.

Another favorable impression which I noted was the 'family' spirit engendered by the institution. Would that more parents fostered a similar spirit within their homes! In this instance, I am forced to criticize members of my own class for one of three things: laxity, narrow-mindedness, or self-satisfaction. Christianity is hopeless with any one of these heinous mental diseases. If these elements exist in either the Middler or Senior classes, I am not aware of it. But there is little doubt about the Juniors; we have more to learn than preaching and pastoral counselling. While I am on the subject, I cannot help but think back to the days of Jesus and wonder how many of us would have followed Him then, considering the radical changes He effected in the staid traditions of Judaism. It might be well for us to remember that it takes a strong heart and an open mind to follow our Lord. Let us hope and pray that our Seminary training will develop this within all of us.

Before I make any more enemies, it becomes necessary to change the subject. So, my last point will revolve around the question put forth by Dr.

Meck to one of his classes: "What do you think of this course in worship?" Could anything be more democratic and Christian than a professor asking his students for an honest critical evaluation of his course? The potentialities of such a practice are amazing, if the practice is conducted properly. I think every student would be happy to hand in an anonymous evaluation of his course to his professor, thus helping himself to think fairly about the subject, and simultaneously aiding his professor by letting him know the main interests of the class which the professor is teaching. The immediate benefits are two-fold, but the ultimate worth of such a practice lies in the ministry which the students will carry on after their Seminary days have ended. I am all for it, and I know many others who would readily agree with my views.

If, as a 'rookie', I have spoken out of turn, I apologize for my errors, but if my criticisms are valid, I am deeply grateful for the privilege of presenting my ideas. May God see fit to help us make our small contributions to His Kingdom!

Ray L. Harwick

## VESPERS TO BE HELD IN CHAPEL

As a result of the work of the worship committee arrangements have been made for vesper devotional services to be held daily, Monday through Thursday, at 6:15, in Santee Chapel. The facilities of the chapel will be available to members of the Seminary family for personal devotions from 6:00 till 6:15 each evening. The sorship service will be conducted between 6:15 and 6:30.

The committee extends an invitation to the entire institutional body to attend and participate in both private devotions and corporate worship. The committee urges anyone interested in taking active part in the services to inform the chairman of the worship committee of his desires.

Earl R. Marks

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For this issue of The Seminarian we are using the new Multilith machine which the school has just purchased.. We hope that, following the advice in the editorial, we may profit from our own mistakes.

# NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The editors wish to take this opportunity to commend the work of the worship committee in securing the facilities of Santee Chapel for private devotions and corporate worship each evening at 6:00. In view of the rather dismal condition of the vesper chapel, we feel that such a move represents definite progress. Furthermore, sentiment in favor of extending the period for private devotion has come to our attention. The editors subscribe wholeheartedly to this sentiment and hereby pledge the support of The Seminarian for any such project. Due consideration has been given to some of the technicalities attending such a plan. The backers of this plan are seeking the support of the student body. When a consensus of opinion has been reached, action will be taken to secure the support of the faculty for the plan.

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Inasmuch as articles appear in this paper from time to time that deal with controversial issues and problems that affect the social and intellectual life of the entire Seminary family, the staff of The Seminarian is interested in adding a new feature to the publication, a section in which we can print one or more Letters to the Editor each issue. If an issue is of any real importance it must be kept alive. The staff feels that such an innovation would go far to determine the consensus of opinion within our institution of many vital matters. Please give our suggestion your consideration. Thank you all.

## OFF THE COURT

In this issue we're catching up on some back work that should have been started before. Here basketball has been going full swing in our midst and hasn't received proper attention. So far this year's edition of the court Crusaders has had an even break. After several exhibition games with Crispus Attacks the boys swung into the regular intra-mural schedule across the street. The team opened with Hartman Hall #1 before the Christmas holidays and lost a tough one 24-20. Evidently the off time over Christmas helped because in the first 1949 rendition the gang dumped the County #1 outfit 43-24. Bruce Hatt paced the winners with a resounding 18 points, while Stan Dunn took second honors with a very helpful 12 counters. The next outing is

against City #1 on Feb. 10. Here's to luck for you, men! We've got a big experienced team this year and they should go a long way toward duplicating their performances of the last two years. Let's all go over to the games and give 'em our support.

## AS I SEE IT...(Continued)

But we must bear in mind that from the mountain height Moses was able to look backward as well as forward. And it is in this backward look that we find our greatest blessings and opportunities. Men study history so that they may profit by the errors of the past. The new year should be the time at which men look back over the joys and sorrows of the past year and those preceding it so that they may be better equipped to face the ones ahead. Retrospection, rather than prophecy, is the real key to meeting the problems which the future will present to us.

Quite true; it is necessary to live in the present and plan with an eye to the future. Those who live in the past are indeed unhappy, ill-adjusted folks. But those who plan their future with some regard for experience dearly bought in the past find the going much easier and life much richer and more meaningful.

At the threshold of this new house, then, let us pause briefly to remember some things about our sojourn in the last one. If the furnishings of any of the rooms we are about to enter bear any similarity to those of the ones from which we have just emerged, let us note that similarity and temper the course of our actions with the wisdom gained previously. With such a procedure it is ever so much easier to enter the new year confidently, optimistically, hopefully, knowing that we can use the God-given furniture of our new home to best advantage.

Dave Mark

## DR. ENGLERT'S WEAKLY JOKE

The old lady seeing Plymouth Rock for the first time asked the guide, "Why did they go to all the trouble of climbing over the iron fence to land on the rock?"