

The Seminarian

The Student Paper of the Lancaster Theological Seminary

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Issue 2

TWO STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

The Soviet Clergy Play 20 Questions...

An evening of conversation with four Soviet Christians was conducted at Nevin Chapel, Franklin and Marshall College last Wednesday, October 3rd, 1984 at 8 p.m. I went in by myself, but sat with a fellow LTS student, Barron Barley. I admit my attitude was preconceived about Russian Christians and I was apprehensive. The appearance of the Soviet delegation did little to soothe me; the two older priests wore flowing black robes, crucifix necklaces, both had fashionably long dark hair and sinister beards. There was a younger priest, similarly dressed yet less menacing. The fourth delegate was a seminarian - tall, dark and handsome in a dark suit, black shirt and grey striped tie.

They each spoke in turn, beginning with the younger priest (who was an Armenian), followed by the older "Protopresbyter", the "Archpriest", and finally the seminarian. They gave a brief statement of welcome, then the floor was open to questions written on cards prepared by the

Soviets, Protesters, and Me: A Night I Remember

On Wednesday, October 3rd, four clergymen from the Soviet Union, whose trip was sponsored by Bridges for Peace, arrived in Lancaster for a question and answer forum in Franklin and Marshall's Nevin Chapel. They were greeted by a capacity crowd, a Channel 8 camera crew, and a group of loud protesters.

I was there as a person with a great lack of information about the Soviet Union, or the United States for that matter, though my self-perception is that I am more aware than the average individual. In other words, I felt in no position to conclusively judge any answer given by any one of the clergymen as to its rightness, wrongness, integrity or honesty. I entered the situation feeling open and full of anxious good will.

Of the clergymen, three were Russian Orthodox and one was Armenian Orthodox. Each was able to speak English on some level, though each spoke through an interpreter at some point in the discussion.

Audience questions were fielded in interesting and telling ways.



(Tune: I've Been Working
On The Railroad)

I can see the big green Mayflower
Truckin' down my street.
I don't like to see the Mayflower
'Cause I know what it means.
Guess I'd better go start packing,
Driver's blowin' his horn!
I can hear the bishop calling,
"Don't look so forlorn."

Driver, won't you go?
Driver, won't you go?
Won't you go and leave my home?
Bishop, if you please,
Make me feel at ease,
Leave me where I am, I plead!

[illegible]

---Words by Robb Henderson

To help all United Methodist Clergy become aware of this new practice, a song has been composed for them to sing twice a day as they kneel in front of the bishop's picture. Once it is memorized, they may teach the congregation if they wish. For those of you at Lancaster Seminary, here is a sneak preview of the Song:

THINK AHEAD

LTS jackets are a great birthday, holiday or anyday gift - both to others and to yourself. Get yours now at the Bookstore!

20 Questions (from page 1)

audience. (Neither my question Nor Barron's were presented) Their answers were carefully made if not evasive.

At one point, a question was asked to the effect, "Would it be good if the Soviet leader were a Christian?" The seminarian, George, cleverly responded, "It would be good if the leaders of both of our countries were Christian." This was met with applause - and laughter. The audience for the most part was not pro-Reagan. My impression was that it was a mistake to laugh at our leaders in front of foreign visitors. They were playing a game with us and we didn't know the rules. I don't think they would as readily laugh if their leader was the brunt of a joke.

Finally, questions were open to the floor. Rather than ask something about Afghanistan or the KAL 007 incident, I wanted to know their theological position. "What do you believe is the Christian mission?" The one who answered my question was the Armenian. He referenced Christ's illustration of Christians as the "salt of the earth" and related this to the effort towards peace. I was dissatisfied with such a lukewarm answer and felt the need to respond, but did not. Later, I realized that the one member of the delegation that I liked and trusted most (based on initial appearances) was this Armenian who answered my question. His reference had scriptural basis and though modest, was reassuring in that salt does not lose its taste.

There was a question about the Pentacostal family that had been living in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. The Soviets admitted that they had heard about the incident, but did not know enough to comment. I feel confident that this is correct. My primary concern was the suspicion that the Christian church in the

A Night I Remember (from page 1)

Questions concerning Christian rights and Christians who are imprisoned "due to the practice of their faith" were handled on the basis of the constitution and a seemingly Lutheran approach to Christians in society. The Soviet Constitution was cited to proclaim that Christians have the same rights as any other person in the USSR, and that each person is treated equally under the law. The Lutheran view, in my eyes, (I don't even know if they know Luther), came out in the idea that action deemed Christian by the Church is limited to those actions which are legal under Soviet law, so that the law (Soviet law) dictates what Christian action is and is not (in effect). According to this view, civil law must be obeyed to preserve order and safety. The Russian Orthodox Bishop said that it is remarkable how when someone is jailed, they suddenly turn "Christian". I suppose he was saying that these criminals turn Christian to gain both Eastern and Western sympathies. It was also remarkable that they could cite a few cases where U.S. criminals could be called "political prisoners."

On matters concerning foreign affairs, especially the arms race and the Afghan War, all they really can say is what their historic experience has been and what information the Soviet government has given them. The clergymen know that the Soviet and Eastern block peoples want and even crave peace. They further believe that the reason the Soviet Union is in Afghanistan is because they were invited, asked for help....a statement which seems not to be untrue. They seem to be satisfied with their government's approach in the face of their perception of our approach.

What is most telling about these answers to questions, is that information does not flow freely either in the U.S. or the USSR, that it is easy to manipulate

PRAYER CHAIN SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Again this year the Spiritual Life Committee is seeking volunteers who wish to participate in a prayer chain. This prayer chain will receive prayer requests through word of mouth and written requests placed in the box at the entrance to the chapel. The request will be passed through the chain to be incorporated into the prayer life of the members of the chain. Anyone wishing to join the prayer chain or wishing to coordinate this type of supportive praying can do so by contacting any member of the Spiritual Life Committee: Barron Barley, Bill Beck, Cliff Moone, Harry Moyer, Nayiri Karjian.

---Barron Barley

STUDENT EDITORIAL

On October 9, 1984, the Executive Board of the SCC met for its scheduled meeting at 9:30 a.m. At about 9:45 a.m. we were asked if we would adjourn and go to convocation. There seemed to be a lack of students at the convocation to listen to the speaker. This incident brought the problem of student apathy to my mind.

Student apathy faces all areas of the LTS community. Organizations have trouble finding interested people to join them, Activities are sometimes poorly attended. Convocation speakers are faced with only a few warm bodies in the chapel when they come to speak. There does seem to be a type of apathy on campus.

Yet student apathy does not cover all instances. We are a community of resident student, faculty and staff. We are also a community of commuting students, faculty and staff. On weeknights,

WANTED: BELLRINGERS!

A schedule is currently being created for volunteers interested in ringing the LTS tower bell. We are ringing the bell at 9:25 a.m. but see the possibility of ringing it at 8:00 a.m. also. Volunteers could choose to be responsible for ringing the bell for a few days or a week at a time, depending on their schedule at LTS.

As a seminary, we have this opportunity for making the community more aware of us. A bell at 8:00 a.m. would let the community know of our commitment to education. Another bell at 9:25 a.m. would show our commitment to corporate worship. Isn't this potential for community awareness our duty?

Please, let us know if you are interested in ringing the LTS tower bell. Also, if anyone is interested in seeing the bell tower let us know.

---Harry Moyer
---Jim Symonds

(Editorial continued)

we have church meetings, night classes, previous commitments and our personal family life. On weekends, we have churches to attend and serve, studies to attend to, classes to plan and our personal time. Finally, during the weekday, we are not always available for certain activities. We may not be on campus that day or we may be on the road to or from school. In the case of convocations, we may not be interested in meeting our school and personal commitments. Time is precious to us all. We each must decide our commitments and priorities. No one else can tell us what we should be doing with our time. Choose and spend your time wisely.

---Helen M. Henderson

20 Questions (from page 3)

Soviet Union is being used as an instrument of that government. By inference, however, I venture to say that the Christian Clergy are suspect by that same government. They have to watch what they say and the temptation to parrot government policy is undoubtedly present.

Nevertheless, they represent the official Christian Church in the Soviet Union, and the government would have gotten rid of them a long time ago if they could have. Christianity is still a viable force to be reckoned with (as events in Poland attest to). The danger that it becomes an organ of the state, as in the case of Nazi Germany, is real. There is hope if people are reading scripture and understanding it (as I hope the Armenian is doing).

As Barron and I were leaving F&M, we ran into a group protesting the presence of the Soviet clergy. The group was sponsored by a fellow named McIntire of the International Council of Christian Churches. They had signs inscribed with "Freeze Now, Fry Later" and similar slogans. At one point, there was a near confrontation between a protestor and a student who tried to take his megaphone-loudspeaker away. This was broken up by a campus security guard using a city ordinance against noise as his authority.

Several discussions ensued thereafter, significantly less heated, but still emotional. After about an hour and a half, there was still a handful of people talking, representing different groups - protestors, students and faculty. There was less of a desire to assert one's opinion over the other and more of an openness to seek the truth. Time will tell what changes in attitudes have taken place.

---Drew Willard

A Night I Remember (from page 3)

popular judgement through the selective use of honest information and that it is unfair for us to ask questions and expect answers that are as direct or full as we would like. We might see it as unfair, too, if we had been invited to visit the Soviet Union and then were expected to answer questions in the style that they thought appropriate.

Some questions raised by the audience were also telling. I'll mention the one that sticks out in my mind. It was, "Do you think it would be better if your leader (political) were a Christian like President Reagan is?" The response was, "We wish both leaders were Christian."

Following the forum, another LTS student and I began a conversation with the demonstrators who were outside the chapel on College Avenue. My intention was to learn from the protesters as well. Most of the protesters never entered into conversation because their sole purpose was to give a message that basically said, "don't trust these four clergymen because they are just another part of the Soviet-Communist imperial plot." As these people proclaimed their Christianity they also condemned Christianity in the Soviet Union.

Personally, I am disheartened by both the message sent by Moscow and by the message sent by the group of protesters, because neither will accept the other until the other becomes one of them. Yet at the same time I rejoice in the four Soviet clergymen and the one protestor that did converse long into the night, for in these cases there was an attempt to accept in love and to live in the newness of life, the chance that gives hope to which each is called.

---Barron Barley

PLEASE DON'T GO TO HELL!

Please don't go to Hell!
I stand and plead with outstretched hands
To tell you that your life is 'nought
If in Hell's clutches you 'be' caught.
If Jesus Christ has chosen you
Stand fast and free, be strong and true.
Our God is powerful and strong
Be patient, though you suffer wrong.
But please don't go to Hell!

Please don't backslide down to Hell
Though times it seem you may as well.
Though times you may be bending down
Be found still reaching for the crown.
And if you fall, arise and cry!
Lift up your voice unto the sky.
Though men may deem it all disgrace
Repent! and fall upon your face,
But please don't go to Hell!

The road to Hell is smoothe and wide
With shady trees on either side.
Which yield the most delicious fruit
That spring up from a bitter root.
But pray your road be narrow still
And rocky as you climb the hill,
With not a tree to shade the sun
Not fruit to give you strength to run.
But please don't go to Hell!

The joys to Hell may seem the best
Increased with tempting suit and dress,
Where mirth is lifted high above,
Where travelers take their fill of love.
But let your joys be in the Lord,
Be glad just trusting in his word.
Though long you wait companionship
Be patient, though you bite your lip,
But please don't go to Hell!

I would to God you hold your ground
And come what may be Heaven bound.
With heart and mind and conscience free,
Look up for immortality.
For Hell, one promise God shall give
To burn so long as God shall live.
The word of God does testify
That God shall live and never die.
So please don't go to Hell!

Rev. Belgium N. Baxter

(submitted by Christopher Jones)

PORNOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK

October 27 to November 4 has been declared "Pornography Awareness Week" by the National Federation for Decency. Pornography is a growing problem in America and its circulation and content is almost totally out of control. It is time for every decency-loving Christian to get informed and get involved in the battle against the unbridled and illegal tidal wave of pornography spreading across our nation.

The Chaplain of the U.S. Senate, Dr. Richard C. Halverson, issued the following urgent call to action on October 1st of this year:

"History is replete with evidence that no great empire was defeated from without before it had disintegrated spiritually, morally and ethically from within. The Roman Empire certainly did not collapse for lack of military power. It was fatally vulnerable to the fierce forces without because of its materialism, its hedonism and self-indulgence, its amoral, permissive social decay within. America, the strongest nation in history, will be destroyed not by forces from without but from its own decadence. The need is critical for the people to take a stand against those forces which are contributing to the pollution, corruption and moral decay of American life. There is a story of a little boy who came running excitedly into his mother's bedroom when the hall clock chimed 13. "Mother" he shouted, "it is later than it has ever been before!" It is later than we think!"

THE FACTS

- ***Pornography is an \$8 billion annual business.
- ***There are an estimated 20,000 adult bookstores in the U.S.-- that's more than the number of MacDonald's fast food outlets!
- ***Over 900 X-rated movie theaters operate in the U.S.
- ***Almost every major city has a "dial-a-porn" phone number that is accessible to young children.
- ***Cable television pumps pornographic movies into homes which can be viewed by children.
- ***State police in Michigan found that pornography is used or imitated in 41% of the sex crimes they investigate.
- ***Sex crimes have been committed by children as young as eight years old.
- ***Victims of pornography have been as young as eight months old.

THE STUDIES

- ***Researchers at the University of Wisconsin and UCLA have found exposure to pornography, particularly sex linked to violence, motivated some 35% of male viewers to violent acts against women.
- ***A November 1983 study by Larry Baron and Murray Strauss found that "readership of...sex literature is highly correlated with rape". In fact, FBI data shows that one of every three 12-year-old girls in the U.S. will be sexually assaulted in her lifetime.
- ***Dr. Victor Cline of the University of Utah stated four effects of repeated viewing of violent sexual presentations: (1) stimulates and arouses aggressive and sexual feelings, especially

Pornography Awareness Week
(continued from page 7)

THE STUDIES

in males; (2) shows and instructs in detail HOW to do the acts; (3) the acts are, in a sense, legitimized by repeated exposure; and (4) there is increased likelihood the individual will act out what he has witnessed.

***Dr. Shirley O'Brien, University of Arizona Human Development Specialist, estimates as many as 600,000 children--boys and girls as young as 3 years old and as old as 18, but mostly 10- to 16-year-olds--are kidnapped, seduced, sexually molested and photographed to produce "child pornography."

While most Christians are quick to express disapproval of the use of prnography for themselves, too many are slow to get involved in the public battle to curb and control its availability. Influenced by false and deceptive arguments against censorship and for free speech, these well-intending people become part of the problem rather than part of the solution!

Every Christian who fails to take a stand against the current obscenity scene in our society is supporting that situation by silent consent. Until our lawmakers know we want a clean community rather than a prnography polluted one, they will assume that we do not care.

The Pornography Awareness Week Calendar of Events has some ideas listed through which you can take a stand and get involved. A copy of a suggested letter to the President regarding pornography is also included for your information.

For more information, feel free to contact me personally, or write the National Federation For Decency, P. O. Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803.

---submitted by Paul H. Dionne

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday October 29	Write President Reagan and urge him to get the attorney general and the entire Justice Department to do all it can to enforce the federal laws on pornography.
Tuesday October 30	Contact your local district attorney or county prosecutor; urge him to make sure your local ordinances banning pornography are being enforced.
Wednesday October 31	Visit a local store that sells "adult" magazines. Ask the manager to remove the pornographic magazines.
Thursday November 1	Contact your mayor or county supervisor. Ask what steps are being taken to keep pornography out of your community.
Friday November 2	Day of national prayer and fasting. Recall when Our Lord drove a demon out of a boy after His disciples had failed. When His followers asked Him why they could not rid the boy of the demon, Christ said, "This kind does not leave but by prayer and fasting." (Mt: 17:21) Pornography is such a demon. Our united prayer and fasting will help drive pornography out of America.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
(continued from page 8)

Saturday Write your two U.S. Senators and your congressman.
November 3 Urge them to work for national legislation to help fight the spread of pornography.
Sunday Day of Thanksgiving for all the blessings God has
November 4 showered on our work here at the National Federation for Decency; and a Day of Petition asking God to continue to bless our NFD ministry.

LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

Dear President Reagan:

Over the past few months I have become aware of serious problems created by the multi-billion dollar illegal sex industry. These problems help create a moral poison for our America and its people. I am concerned, as I know you are, about this blight on our society.

Related to the moral problem are many allegations regarding the involvement of organized crime.

I understand that there are federal laws on the books which, if enforced, will help to solve this problem. These laws regulate mail, transportation, broadcasting and imports. I urge you to issue an executive order to the Department of Justice, directing the enforcement of Federal obscenity laws. I will be most grateful for your urgent attention to this request.

Sincerely,

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Seminarian is a student-sponsored newspaper of Lancaster Seminary's community. Faculty, students, staff and administration contribute to the paper. Contributions can be in the form of letters to the editor, features, poetry or articles. We also welcome any ideas or suggestions.

All submissions will be printed as long as they are thoughtful and responsible; we will not print anything written as personal attacks on individuals. All submissions must be signed to be printed.

We are enthusiastic about the year ahead and the possibilities which can be realized for the paper and for all of us.

---Helen Henderson,
---Russell Clark
Editors

--TYPIST NEEDED--

The Seminarian has need of a typist for the upcoming issues. If you are interested, contact Helen Henderson or Russell Clark. (a fee of \$10 per issue will be paid)

The following people contributed their time and talents to this issue:

Barron Barley
Russell Clark
Cathy Dionne
Paul Dionne
Helen Henderson
Robb Henderson
Christopher Jones
Harry Moyer
Jim Symonds
Drew Willard

****ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT SEMINARIAN ARE DUE NOV. 16, 1984****