

THE SEMINARIAN

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YOU CAN SLEEP ON THE GROUND, TOO!

Barry leaped up from his chair and sent it flying into the bed behind him. "Ah! What's the use? I can't concentrate on this bloomin' Systematic!" His hands clutched his hair and beads of perspiration dotted his forehead. His heart was thumping rapidly and a light tremble shook his body.

Barry was twenty-three years old, a good conversationalist, and he got along well with people. He had attended St. Mark's Reformed Church regularly as a child and seemed to have a reasonable faith in the God he worshipped. Then too, he was above average in intelligence. After all, he had been a 'B-list' man and thought he had found a sound approach to life. Physically, he was A-1 (or 1-A, as you like it). But there were these times when he felt so unstable, so nervous (not too completely abnormal, do you think?). If you met him casually, you would think that he was a perfectly normal individual. But inner turmoil and uncertainty in many things were beneath this seemingly placid exterior. "Maybe I ought to try prayer", he said pensively. No, he had often asked for this sort of help. Evidently it wasn't in God's realm.

A buzzer sounded out in the hall; Barry looked at his watch --- 10 P.M.! There was a light tap on the door and Al popped his head in, "C'mon, Barry, go 'long over to chapel for a few minutes."

"You go 'head, Al. I don't think I'll go tonight. Anyhow, I can pray just as well right here in my room."

"Oh, sure you can. I don't doubt that a bit! You can sleep on the ground, too -- if you have to. But, Barry, you know as well as I do that a fella's environment and his mental attitude have an awful lot to do with the way he thinks. C'mon. Go 'long and give it a try."

"We-l-l, ----okay."

Al closed the outside door behind them, and the sound of soft music came from the chapel. As they opened the chapel door, the light from the hallway filtered past the columns and flashed quickly over a few scattered heads -- then was gone. The reflection of two altar candles faintly outlined the cross. That was the only light in the place, aside from the slip coming through the doorway. A feeling of awe filled Barry's heart as the strains of Bach blended with the calm, soothing light. Maybe it would be easier to know God there. The saints on the reredos -- there they stood; and all the experience of men who had known God down through the ages shone like a

his path." His hand dropped to move the kneeling bench quietly, and his head sank in prayer. "---and, Heavenly Father, help me to overcome my fears and uncertainties. Grant me Thy forgiveness for these things I have confessed to Thee. May my mind be at rest, looking only to Thy will for my life and finding in Thee strength to overcome the world." In what Barry felt as the expressions of the Creator all about him, from the depths of the universe seemed to come an answering voice to say, "Yes, my son, you have asked all these things. Now accept what you have asked for. You know my love for you, my son. Know, too, that your fellow men have sought me here and found me."

Barry slipped quietly from the chapel; he hadn't realized it was 10:30 until he had heard the music stop. What had happened? He felt a new sense of security. There was peace in his heart, his soul -- yes, his mind. He had never before accepted God's forgiveness for his wrong-doings. He had asked, but then had waited. He knew now, too, that the answer to much of his lack of peace lay in practicing God's presence with all the aids that could help him. He sat down at his desk and saw there the verse that he had placed on his desk lamp three months ago --- "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee. (Isa.26:3)"

Dick Wentz

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Thursday, April 27 -- Choir concert at Hamilton Park Church.
- Sunday, April 30 -- Choir concerts at Pottstown, Doylestown, and Sellersville.
- Tuesday, May 2 -- 7:45 -- Last session, School of Religion.
- Monday, May 8 -- Beginning of senior examination week.
- Tuesday, May 9 -- Lancaster Area Conference on the New Curriculum.
- Wednesday, May 10 -- 7:00 -- Holy Communion
Liturgist: Dr. Dunn
Speaker: Dr. Englert
- Monday, May 15 -- Dead-line on senior work requirements; beginning of middler-junior exam week; beginning of senior vacation week.

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<u>FACULTY</u>	<u>ANNOUNCES</u>	<u>PRESIDENT</u>	<u>R. H.</u>
<u>STAFFORD</u>	<u>AS</u>	<u>COMMENCEMENT</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>

The faculty has announced that President R. H. Stafford of the Hartford Seminary Foundation will deliver the annual Commencement Sermon.

Commencement activities begin Sunday, May 21, at 3:30 O'clock. The service - "The Christian Year in Song" - will be the presentation of the Seminary Choir. A reception for the entire Seminary family will follow. At 7:30 P. M. Dr. Nevil G. Harner will deliver the baccalaureate sermon.

The Board of Visitors has scheduled its annual meeting for Monday, May 22, at 7:00 P. M. President and Mrs. Meek will entertain the Senior Class after the meeting.

President Stafford will deliver his sermon Tuesday, May 23, at 8:00 P. M.

The Historical Society of the E & R Church meets Wednesday, May 24, at 9:15 o'clock. "Some Historical Aspects of the Mercersburg Theology" will be the topic of Professor Luther Binkley, who will address the group. At 10:30, the Alumni Ass'n will hold its annual meeting. The school year will officially close with the benediction at the commencement service, scheduled for 11:30 o'clock. At this service, seniors chosen by the faculty to represent the various departments, will deliver 8-minute essays. Those who will speak, and the departments they represent are

Ernest Hawk - Old Testament
Edouard Taylor - New Testament
Francis Ringer - Systematic Theo.
Richard Check - Practical Theo.
John Martin - Church History

AS I SEE IT . . .

The late Governor Huey P. Long once attempted to justify some of his shady practices by saying that good eventually must rise out of evil. Although time has proven wrong many of his ideals and methods, there still remains the ring of truth to this assumption.

To see this more clearly, let us expand the implications further, saying that beauty can spring from ugliness, truth from untruth, and virtue from evil. Certainly the lovely flower must trace its origin to the ugly brown bulb placed in the damp brown earth. Composers with unlovely bodies and personalities like Wagner and Beethoven have produced triumphant flights into the heights of musical composition. In the midst of the intellectual darkness of the middle ages sprang the blazing light of the Renaissance, and a new age was born. In the heart of the whole of excesses of papal strangulation of truth and religious freedom grew Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin. In the midst of the misery and evil of crumbling Israel and Judah were found the great voices of Hebrew prophecy. And in the dark days of Roman domination grew the Christian tradition under Jesus and the early Church. These instances are not merely coincidences. As the infirmities of life often mould and buttress personality, so the ugliness, untruth, and evil in life can motivate creativity.

Looking at the collapse of traditional morality, religion, economics, and philosophy of government today, we might very easily be inclined to say along with the unknown writer of Ecclesiastes: "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity! What does a man gain from all his toil at which he toils?" We might justify such cynicism if we were not Christians. But to be a Christian means the rejection of stultifying pessimism. We must turn the other cheek to life, not our backs!

Is there is any real reason why our age is unique? Is it conceivable that our age alone should frustrate the ongoing purpose of God for the evolutionary betterment of the world and the development of finer human personality? Have our mistakes been so monumental that we alone must bear the misery of seeing progress come to an end? To ask the question with one hand and seize hold of historic perspective with the other is to answer the question. There is no reason for the theologian and the philosopher to crawl to the wall-

(Cont'd on page 3)

AS I SEE IT . . .
(Cont'd from page 2)

ing wall. The still recent realization of Theodore Herzl's Zionist dream is only one example of long-frustrated expectations triumphing over the weight of scepticism and cynicism. We must raise our eyes to the Eternal Spirit of Good for aid in restoring order and vitality to our religion, philosophy, and way of life. We must prove wrong the prophets of doom.

Dave Mark

TEAM # 4 IS A HARD LUCK TEAM

The dart baseball season closed with a sustained drive by all teams to capture the title. But when the smoke cleared away and the results were tabulated, Team # 2 was in first place. The records show, however, that only four games separated the first and last place teams. This will give an indication of just how close the race was.

But the irony of the situation is that Team # 4, which finished last in the league, walked off with honors in all departments. It had the most runs scored in the season, the most hits in league competition, and it had on its roster the league's leading hitter, Bruce Hatt, who walked off with the batting crown with a mark of .740. His teammate Tom Harting finished third with an average of .621. The number two man in the batting contest was Miller of Team # 2.

The dart baseball season was a great success. Everyone enjoyed the sport and all hope that this popular pastime may be available for the Seminary family again next year.

Dick Masters

AN END PREFACE . . .

The 1949-50 school year comes to a formal close Wednesday, May 24th, so says the Dean. That date, however, is later than the end of class sessions for the term. It is "The" day for our soon-to-depart seniors--Commencement Day, concerning which we all as students are reminded of the requirement, our obligation, to remain about the campus. The requirement is not "iron-clad," however. But unless excused by President Meck for emergency reasons, all students will be expected to attend Commencement functions on Sunday and Tuesday evenings and the Commencement service on Wednesday morning.

To the 1950 class of prospective bachelors (of divinity), requirements come three-fold. First, all departmental work must be in the professors' hands not later than Monday, May 15.

All financial obligations, secondly, must be settled at the president's office by May 15 (including the \$10 graduation fee).

Third, except for final typing and binding, all B.D. theses must be completed as well as approved by the responsible professors also by May 15. Theses must be in the hands of Dr. Stoenhoffer, ready for binding, before the morning of Commencement; otherwise the diplomas of retardants will be withheld.

Concerning 1951 B.D. theses, members of the Middle Class are advised that they must have the subjects of their theses, approved by the professors under whom they are writing, in the hands of Dean Dunn--again, by May 15.

Waiters for the Commencement Day dinner, Wednesday, May 24th, at 1 P.M. by requirement will consist of recruits from the Junior Class. Unless excused from duty for good reason by Dr. Meck, all juniors will necessarily act in the capacity of waiters and will also be present for the Commencement solemnities.