



THE SEMINARIAN

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SCC NOTES

The SCC has decided to go through a process of evaluation by which each of its member organizations can determine its performance over the past year. A questionnaire will be prepared and distributed by April 1.

In relation to recent vandalism in the HUB, plans have been made to install a self-locking door at the top of the stairs which lead to the basement, and to fix the basement door so that it can be used as an exit only. A number of keys will be distributed for "off hours" use of the HUB. The pool table will be repaired as soon as possible.

The nominating committee for the upcoming elections was named. Its members include: Ron Waite, Lee McCardle, Tony Szilagyi, Mike Clark, and Wayne Strever, convener. A slate will be presented to the SCC on March 21 followed by a student body meeting on April 4 and elections on April 11.

-- Steve Eifford, president,
SCC

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BIBLE STUDY

Matthew 6:16-18

The man who lived His life alone AND together with God gives us the opportunity to commune with God in secret. He creates a community whose heart and spirit are His own, which suffers and celebrates until the whole cosmos shall run head-on into the truth of His Cross.

Now we are directed to place our separate lives before Him. One joy of a Christian life is knowing that we are called to 'drop' before Him--whether we come with our future happily wrapped up in Him, or whether we come with only our fagged out and dragging selves. Now, especially we are called to remember that God knows all about us, even all the stuff we hide from Him.

Nothing we give to Him is a burden. We know this when repentance unleashes our heavy mistakes upon Him. The secret fasting He calls us to aids in this experience. Accepting repentance as a secret between ourselves and the Father is a normal part of our journey.

Jesus did not want what He surely saw coming in His personal future: a chaotic darkness, a personal annihilation. He knew His hopes for the Kingdom coming in His time were as pulverized as dust. But what mattered finally was His acceptance of God's will in obedience. It came in consultation with His Father. Only secret consultation. It pointed to no purpose beyond obedience in His gruelling route. He accepted circumstances and rejected the people's hope for a shattering break-in of the Kingdom.

God also asks us to trust Him and His purposes. Trusting requires fasting in secret. Then God can control our lives; then no one else can direct His purpose in us. When we give ourselves to Him in secret, when we are dropped before Him into supposed chaos, we find ourselves re-formed in the Cross--where the praises and applauses of peers are silenced.

-- Barbara A. Williams

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RETURN YOUR EVALUATIONS

We remind you that tomorrow is the deadline for returning the evaluation of THE SEMINARIAN on the sheet provided with last week's issue. Twenty-four have come in thus far. The results will be reported as soon as possible and the staff will take into consideration as many of your suggestions as possible.

We appreciate your co-operation in helping to make the paper more representative and effective in the Seminary community.

SILLS TO LEAVE

The grapevine of Lancaster Theological Seminary, which I have been accused of hanging from in the past, has been issuing some very interesting news flashes lately. One of these has to do with the development of another vacancy in our community. Realizing, of course, that this presently is an unofficial vacancy, subject to Penn Central Conference delegate ratification, it will be exposed to some folk's displeasure, perhaps. THE SEMINARIAN, has as one of its goals, however, the maintainance of optimum communication in our "community", and therefore this announcement will serve that function for those of us who have not yet heard about it and have some investment in LTS.

As students who love him, and as faculty and administration who will miss him, I know you will join me in my mixed emotions (reluctance to see him go, but happiness for his future) over the impending departure of Horace Silles from our midst. I, for one, wish him good luck and GOD speed if he's elected, as he undoubtedly will be, to the new position for which he has been nominated. I have no doubt that he will make an excellent conference president for Penn Central Conference. It has been my pleasure, Horace,

--Wayne A. Strever

P.S. It has been our pleasure too.

--THE SEMINARIAN

Mr. Anthony Stuckert of the J. Theodore Cuthbertsen Company will be on campus Monday, March 12 with his display of clergy apparel and accessories. The display will be located in THE HUB.

The special half-price sale in the bookstore on selected titles will be extended until Tuesday, March 13. So bring your cash and pick up some great bargains while they last.

GIVE IT UP

Giving up something for Lent? Instead of giving up food (which usually is just an excuse for dieting), the "boob-tube" (which just forces you to study as you should anyway), smoking (which should not be done), or something else material, why not give up some more important things? How about giving up criticizing unduely, insulting others, turning our backs on others who need our help. Maybe give up a half-hour of sleep for prayer and Bible meditation. It's my proposal that for Lent we all give up those things which are not Christian, and that after Lent we continue to give up these things. Maybe then we can have more of a community and also we can be better Christ-ians.

--Dennis A. Moritz
Student Body Editor

AMNESTY VIEWED

On Sunday, March 11, at 2 p.m., WGAL-TV will present DUTY BOUND, a 60-minute drama dealing with the question of amnesty. A young American comes home from Canada hoping for amnesty and turns himself in for draft evasion. Viewers will be invited to participate in an opinion poll. We urge you to do so and to thank Nelson Sears, program manager, for airing this program. Tell others about it.

--Mike Clark

TED'S ON FIRE!

Yes Ted Nace is still burning the pins, even more than before, as he has increased his league leading average to 170.4 which is more than 15 points higher than Dick Peebles' second place average! Closely following Dick is Jack Seville, Larry Canfield, and John Payne (a newcomer to the top 5). The second division has Pandey Leisey leading followed by "Doc" Englert, Bruce Walthour, Bob Stoudt, and Paul Thompson in tenth.

Reactions

This issue of the Seminarian witnesses the resurrection of "Reactions." When in the course of human events (i.e., Seminary life) it becomes necessary to speak out for the basic rights such as the pursuit of happiness, etc., Reactions will appear.

For those not initiated into the mysteries of Reactions, let me summarize a complex oral tradition (which has become so interwoven and obscure that only legend remains) by saying that "Reactions" is what happens when Night Watchman calls out that all is not well. It is a curious phenomenon that the annual Washington Birthday Doorbuster Sale (alias seniors seeking church employment) does not affect the mental stability of middlers and juniors. Hopefully, this specific column will awaken an existential awareness in these underclassmen so that they might correct a short-circuit before it causes an electrical fire that ultimately might consume them. If they don't, they too will be snowed under (granted it was ashes - but I do claim literary license) similar to the honorable citizens of ancient Pompeii.

The present system requiring all U.C.C. seniors to submit themselves to the mandatory panel of three professors for personal records recommendations on occasion is synonymous to leading innocent lambs to the slaughterhouse while being told that they are going to a feast. This year certainly has been no exception.

First of all, it is unfair that the same three professors be subjected to filling out recommendations on all U.C.C. seniors year after year. It must get terribly monotonous so that, like the teacher wearied after grading myriad of papers, it is unavoidable that those who come first should come out better than those who come last and get the short shrift.

Secondly, it is humanly impossible for these august professors to know all of the seniors well enough to pass a fair judgment. Therefore, it is inevitable that some students find biographical data which is outdated in their profile - or else find a professor honestly admitting that he doesn't know. Neither of these extremes are advantageous for the seminarian seeking a church in a buyer's market.

Thirdly, it is but human nature (again like the proverbial teacher) for the professor to have a tendency toward giving spice and everything nice to those whom with he has had a good experience and ashes and coal for those who have rubbed him the wrong way. After

all, a recommendation is a pseudonym for a value judgement, which as we all know is in itself worthless in that it is highly subjective. And yet it is expected, so we plunge ahead, sociological convictions or not.

For the poor student who is startled out of his senses in an interview where he is told that his profile is exceedingly negative, it is like being condemned without having a trial by jury. When this occurs the professor has become judge and jury combined in his august personage. In an era when the seminary stresses collegiality and its role as being that of a facilitator, it wouldn't seem possible that someone could get the shaft without being notified ahead of time - and yet the phenomenon occurs just as it has this year. It is unthinkable that a professor would write a recommendation which amounts to an occupational blackball without at least giving previous consultation. In an optimum situation the professor's sincere pastoral and professional concern would cause him to make at least one attempt in regenerating the fallen student and help him/her mend his/her ways. But this just isn't the way it is (maybe we don't have the right to expect optimum conditions in the seminary - or the church for that matter!) - using the words from Porgy and Bess, given the way things should be, we find in reality, "it ain't necessarily so."

Therefore, fellow sheep facing the prospect of the slaughterhouse - and august guardians, professors, facilitators, administration, stewards, etc., etc., etc. I am calling for the complete annihilation of the present system and reversion to the old system whereby the student has the freedom to request 3 professors of his/her own choice to write a recommendation.

For those who instantly accuse me of calling for a system where the student invariably comes out smelling like roses (even though he smells like a p-u skunk!), let me hasten to add that there must be some professors on campus who will be objective and call a rose a rose and a pile of dung a pile of dung.

Al Johnson

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CHURCH AND MINISTRY CONFERENCE

During last Wednesday's Church and Ministry Conference, many issues important to the seminary were discussed. First a four member panel presented the four factions concerned with theological education; seminary, students, association, and conference. Horace Sills, speaking for the seminary, dealt with acceptance of students, both at seminary and "in care", and the sharing of information about the student. Mr. Sills also stated that the seminary and association need to work together to meet the needs of students. For the students, Brad Lutz spoke on two topics: opportunities for ministry--what is the student's responsibility; role of the church, association, conference, and national. Mr. Lutz also spoke on the cut in the student aid from the National Church and Ministry Committee, plus the fact that there seems to be little concern for strengthening of the local church. Development of the student's life and the three-way partnership in ministry (church, seminary, and student) were also discussed by Mr. Lutz. Three suggestions were then presented by Brad concerning evaluation of students by the church not the seminary, the integrity of the students and what is expected, and the need of U.C.C. students to be familiar with the history and polity of the U.C.C.

Next, David Focht spoke for the associations about "in care" status, ordination, and what happens when student is in the parish and has problems. The conference was represented by John Shetler who spoke on the relationship with the student, co-ordination between associations, placement of students, and determination of fitness of students to enter the ministry.

To summarize this panel, there are six points which stand out: 1) need of mutual consultation between student, seminary, association, conference, and pastor before acceptance of student to seminary; 2) preparation of the church; 3) involvement needed in the curriculum by the church; 4) evaluation needed in middler rather than senior year of student; 5) need for unity of concern; and 6) growth toward maturity of the student.

Following the panel, George

Nishimoto spoke for the National Church and Ministry Committee. There were five points stressed by Mr. Nishimoto: 1) need for national plan; 2) a more selective process for recruitment; 3) the commitment of the student; 4) the image of ministry as seen locally; and 5) the lack of the voice of students in making policy.

The national cut in student aid was also discussed. It was pointed out that there has been an 80% decrease in money available down to \$20000 for next year. Some of the reasons given for this cut back were that there are enough ministers (actually that there too many ministers), that seminaries are self-supporting, and that the OCWM giving is cut back. Proposals on support were offered; local church supported student, and that all churches should put their support money into associations who could then give it out wherever it is needed most. A task force to study was then set up to study the student aid situation with Horace Sills to be the convener.

--Barry M. Lohman
Dennis A. Moritz

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STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE

Editors: Brad S. Lutz
Tony Szilagyi
Student Body Editor: Dennis A. Moritz
Typist: Wayne Strever
Proofreader: Barry Lohman
Assembly: Françoise Subilia
Rob Brown

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NOTICE: Due to week reading week next week, THE SEMINARIAN will not be published next week. The next issue will be published March 22. Deadline for articles will be noon March 21.

copy of this issue will be sent to all members of the church and ministry committee and to all members of the seminary and association. It is hoped that this will be a helpful issue to all.