

# *The Seminarian*

JCC

Volume 29 Number 2

we need volunteers

October 11, 1977

## The Bullentin Board:

The worship Committee has noticed a shortage of UCC hymnals. It would be appreciated if you would check your shelves and if there be any humnals, please return them to the Chapel.

Craig Snow, Chairperson

## Halloween Party

There will be a halloween party on the 28th. Everyone not wearing a costume will be charged a 25¢ admission charge. There will be games for the children. For more information, contact...

Jeff welsh  
Social Life Committee

## Football

Football practice will be held at 4 o'clock on Wednesday, Oct. 12. New players welcomed.

## Town Meetings

There will be another town meeting next Tuesday morning in the Refectory at 9:30 after a brief chapel service. This will be a time to bring up concerns of the campus. There is no rigid agenda other than what is on your minds. The Constitution is not to be discussed, but suggestions for this topic should be forwarded to Lee Portman. There have been a lot of issues arising on campus thus far, so let's take advantage of this situation so that we all may benefit.

We would like to reiterate the desired openness for these meetings and hope that everyone will see the value of these experiences as we strive to build community among ourselves.

Rich Luh by Al Mann

## Seminarian

There is still a need for volunteers to help make this publication a valuable asset. Contact Al Mann.

## Spirituality

Believing in a transcendental God and a purely natural theology, I find that the immanence of God within our existence is dead. The holy spirit that was present in the 'kairos' of the Christ has withered away. From my existentialist view, I feel that we are estranged from God. We live as though the Christ never existed. Our culture is becoming more and more filled with despair. We have left only our religious illusions of conquering estrangement. Our spirituality is the same as that of the Pharisees. It is so much noise lost in the wind. We routinely go through our religious rites and ceremonies putting a bandage on our despair. We have lost our chance of conquering estrangement. The Christ is no longer alive in the church. My spirituality mourns the state of sin within which our existence is trapped.

Lee McCauley

\*\*\*\*\*

## LTS Choir

I am anxious to meet all members of the Seminary Community who have an interest in forming a choral group. Please gather in the Refectory at 6:30 P.M. Wednesday, Oct. 12 to sing and to get our forces in high gear.

A homegrown Seminary choir is always a positive asset, uniquely enriching our lives.

Persons unable to meet at the stated hour are asked to speak to me individually. Particularly at this point in our planning we need the voices and wisdom of all.

Frank McConnell

\*\*\*\*\*

### "Trust? or walls?"

"whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Mt. 16:25).

It seems to me, that seminaries have few things in common, but one of the major points that is common, is that they are comprised of people. The people themselves seem to have little in common outside of an aspiration to a ministry in the Church of God, and learning towards that end.

There does however, seem to be a possession in common, they all have "WALLS". Walls behind which they hide themselves, walls to shield and protect them. For some, the walls also serve as a personal fortress from within which they launch their forays into life--rarely travelling too far from the protection, but far enough to hit, then scurry back to safety.

Walls vary in thickness and construction according to the needs of their builders. They vary from paper thin to adamant rock. The quality that walls have in common is that they are opaque. Walls are intended to exclude light, and herein lies our common tiny construction fault. When we make our walls opaque, we build in a peculiar opacity in that it is a one way thing, we exclude light intentionally, but do so in such a way that our walls become invisible to our own eyes. We can see the world about us, but can't see the walls we have made to separate us from it. We can't see our own walls. In many cases we don't even realize that they exist until we crash against them in effort to get out. Its even worse when someone tries to get in and love us, then has to back away, buried, hurt, bewildered, not understanding why.

The problem with our walls is that they work in two directions, not only do they keep hurt out, they also keep it in. They hinder us, they stop us from forming relationships, not only with people, but also with our God, for our walls are specifically made to exclude light, remember? Walls hem us in and baulk us when we would like, Oh! so very much, to get out and see for ourselves just what it means to live as a free fully human person.

We build our walls intentionally, if unconsciously, we build them to ward off hurts and threats both known and unknown, both real and unreal. Some we built way back in our cradle days, some when we were in our "growing up" process. It is quite probable though, that some of our strongest walls were built after we assumed we were "grown up". Walls are built so easily, well its easy for an expert, and we are experts in this field, after all, we have been doing it all our lives. Besides we were taught by experts- our parents, their parents, - relations, neighbours, the church, all have added something to our own expertise, just as we do for them, including our own children.

Yes, we all have walls, strong strong walls, walls which, if anything are made stronger when a frontal assault is made to breach them. Walls cannot be broken down, but they can be made to disappear, to cease to exist, to be made to become as though they had never been. There is only one quality against which no wall can prevail, an element of human life which causes their annihilation. That element is TRUST. Trust, which if followed by other human qualities, leads to the ultimate of LOVE and ACCEPTANCE, both of others, and self.

Before a person can rid self of walls, that person needs to learn the meaning of trust. Once that is learned, other qualities have a chance to follow. Trust however, will not come until and unless the wallmaker sees a need for relationships. The need for warmth, companionship, for love, cannot be imposed from outside the walls, only from within. Trust

has to be wanted, and in such a way as to be prepared to pay whatever costs are involved. If not, the walls will remain and the life of the builder will remain the stunted, and unfree and lonely existence it has been, and will remain until the motivation to trust does arise.

If and when the motivation does arise, it will probably be because of something seen in another person, perhaps freedom. Perhaps the first move may be a question: "What has that person got that I would like to have in me?" In the search for an answer to this question it is conceivable that it will be seen that the other lives a life of relationships, both with people, and with God, - that is, the Christ life.

If this occurs, and the Christ event becomes the motivation for trusting, then trust will come, and come abundantly. There will be no need to seek it out as a deliberate action, for the wallmaker-now the free seeker, will find trust and the qualities which follow it in the course of just living his freedom, being people, listening, hearing, sharing, loving, becoming.

All of this is possible to one who is prepared to trust him or her self to be vulnerable, who is prepared to be weak and defenceless, who is prepared to die to the old system of existence, and to seek out into a new and different possibility. This is resurrection, and in Christ, that resurrection is assured, even to me.

David Turner

\*\*\*\*\*

To the Seminarian Community:

First, I wish to extend a warm "welcome back" to all the Seniors who went to England and Scotland this past month.

Also, as we start our regular semester program, I hope we can have a most enjoyable term-spiritually, academically, and socially!

Now for just a few comments concerning our Town Meeting Oct. 13th. I was enthusiastic with the turn out of faculty, students, and spouses-nearly 100 people! To me, this shows the extreme interest and concern which you have for this community. I pray that this feeling grows stronger and continues throughout your stay here at LTB.

I know that many of you had concerns which you wanted to express at this meeting, but were unable to do so because of the main focus on the revision of the Constitution. A provision for special meeting to cover the extensive work needed on the constitution at other times is a real possibility. In this way, our next town meeting will not be confined to the same issue, but rather, will be devoted to individual concerns as pertains to the majority interest and benefit of the entire Seminarian Community. Please let us know what your thoughts are on this. And we will do something about it. Remember, these are your meetings which will give you a chance to express your concerns about life here on campus as it affects you and your fellow Seminararians. What suggestions or recommendations you come up with at these meetings that fall within the realm of the SCC, we will discuss and act upon those concerns at the regular SCC meetings on the 3rd Wed. of each month.

Likewise, the faculty present at the town meetings will be able to find out more about what concerns we have and, when feasible, act accordingly in their own meetings.

Speaking about regular SCC meetings, I want to cordially invite each and everyone of you to attend all our meetings held on the 3rd Weds. of every month at 3:15 in the Student Lounge in the basement of Richards Hall. The next meeting will be October 19th.

We are also very excited about the film series to be held on campus starting Oct. 26th, 7:00 in Hafer Center. The first presentation will be Heavens Above, starring Peter Sellers. Everyone, faculty, students, spouses, children are invited. There will be an admission charge of

fifty cents per person (those under 12 yrs. old and under-free) to cover the cost of the film.

Another of other works are in the works plus whatever you would like to see.

I anticipate a very active and exciting year for each of us.

I wish to thank some of the people for their efforts thus far: Jim Meyers, Pam Moffat for getting things organized and ordered for the picnic. All of the women who made delicious salads etc. for the picnic; to Lisa Lappas in her film series work, Craig Snow for all the time and effort he has been putting in to the Spiritual Life Committee; Lee Zortman for his work on the Constitution; Jeff Welsh for his efforts in putting up the town meeting and with Joe Beer-the endless number of things they have taken care of. To all the people and the countless others that have contributed a lot of time and effort in helping to shape this fall program for campus...many thanks. With people such as those, and all of you who have made countless suggestions, I feel that there is nothing we can't do if we work together. While errors will be made, we'll also score plenty of runs to succeed.

Cordially yours for a great community,

Rich Luh