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MT. AIRY TO HEAR BAROQUE

The Chapel of the Seminary will this week witness a special event in the Seminary year. Thursday night, December 7th, a group of soloists and instrumentalists will present a concert of Baroque music. The concert is open to all, and there is no admission charge.

Participants in the presentation are: Mrs. David Krewson, Soprano; Mrs. Robert Bornemann, Alto; Mr. Donald Simmons, Tenor; Mr. Conrad Weiser, Baritone; Mr. Robert Bornemann, Recordist; Mr. Charles Seivard, Flutist; Mrs. John Hayner, Violinist; and Mr. George Weckman, Harpsichordist. Mr. Weckman has arranged the program.

The term "Baroque" is being interpreted for this concert as a period, not a style. The music is of Bach, his predecessors and contemporaries. For the most part, instruments of the period will be used.

The main work on the program is the cantata by Buxtehude, Jesu, Meine Freude, which is a series of variations on a chorale by Francke. Two chorale settings by Bach will also include the chorus. The rest of the program will be given over to various instrumental combinations and solos.

The harpsichord being used in this concert was built this past spring in Bavaria by Kurt Wittmayer. It has three sets of strings and two manuals. Although a modern instrument it has been built entirely according to Baroque patterns. It will also be played by Mr. Weckman during the reception in the Krauth Library after the Advent Vespers.

This is the first venture of interested people from the Seminary community to present a concert of this type. Plans are under way for another program during the third quarter.

The concert begins at 8:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DANCE ANNOUNCED

The annual Christmas Dance will be held on December 15, 1961 at 8:30 p.m. in the Refectory. This dance, one of the few dances held at the Seminary, is sponsored jointly by the Wives Club and the Social Committee of the Student Body. Mrs. Ralph Welsh is chairman of the Wives Club committee, and Richard Miller heads the students' committee.

Admission fee, payable at the door, is \$.50. In addition, each couple is asked to bring a small gift (costing about \$.50). The gift should be a toy which is safe for any child to play with. It should be wrapped and marked for a boy or girl. These gifts will be distributed to the children at the Pennhurst State School in Spring City, Pa. The Lutheran Children's Bureau assured the Dance Committee that this institution is usually not remembered by the public at Christmas.

Those who need accommodations for dates should contact Mrs. Nancy Nicholson (CH 7-1582) who will arrange for them to stay in married students' homes. Also, the Cresheim Arms Hotel offers comfortable rooms for \$6. per night.

All faculty, students and their wives, and friends are warmly invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.

MRS. NEWPHER LEAVES

Mrs. John Newpher, long-time friend to students and office secretary at the Seminary, has had to leave her post to follow her husband, the former pastor of Ascension Church, as he takes up his new duties as pastor of Christ Church, Orland. The Seminary community wishes them God's blessing in their new life and is grateful for their presence among us.

The Seminary will not hire a replacement for Mrs. Newpher, sure proof that she is irreplaceable!

UNITY



The second of the two items of news coming out of New Delhi which I mentioned last week is the old 'acceleration debate'. This term is mine but it captures, I think, the essence of the clash between Archbishop Ramsey and Mr. Potter of the Student Christian Movement. The latter is impatient - he says that unity is taking too much time somebody is dragging his feet. Meanwhile churchmen of the Archbishop's class are insisting that this is no easy matter - Rome was not built in a day.

The problem of acceleration is ages old, even prior to the automobile, but an analogy here might be informative. There are two things which can prevent a car from accelerating beyond its normal speed. One is its actual mechanical incapacity, but this is often never even reached because of the other factor: the driver. He is considering the conditions on the road and the laws, and because of them he is setting a limit to the process of acceleration in the car.

So it is with the Church. Her actual capacity to become one may indeed have limitations, but I suggest that we have not even begun to approach that point. The 'drivers' in this case are church leaders who are all too aware of the hazards on the road to unity which may upset the whole cart. Remember this chariot is freighted with a lot of dead wood which hierarchs of all stripes guard zealously. These leaders are also cognizant of the laws of the theological road, and no matter how unjust or outmoded they are followed.

The question, therefore, remains an open one. Everyone of us must decide just what is too fast or too slow in this situation. "Say buddy, where do you think you're going, to a fire?"

George Weckman

PH: Christianity is sensible and sober.

PH: The Devil does not exist.

PH: Jesus' healing miracles were the result of psychosomatic medicine.

FROM THE MAIL BOX

Just in at the Seminarian office is the November-December issue of Educational News, published by the Board of Higher Education, featuring notes on the activities of the Board, the Lutheran colleges and seminaries. Of particular interest is the section on church vocations, especially for those seminarians involved in either youth work or adult work in which Christian vocation is emphasized. The newest ideas in terms of skits, films, and exhibits are presented. The publication is available in F 69-70 for anyone interested.

Agora, an inter-seminary journal written and published by theological students, serves as a forum for theological discussion among seminarians of the various religious traditions in America. The editors have invited all interested to discuss and write articles on the theme of its next issue: Theological Education in a Pluralistic Society. Further information is posted in the Mail Room. Lee Miller will be glad to answer any questions.

PRT- The ULCA has named a nine-member commission of theologians and educators to "undertake a study of church and state relations in a pluralistic society." The Rev. Rufus Cornelson, who will direct the commission, declared that "There is hardly a question on which the Church has been a lesser light to its members, not to speak of society at large." The issue of church and state relations is one in which the Church has failed to educate its members.

Included on the commission are Drs. Tappert and Lazareth of this Seminary.

COMING SOON -- A series of articles indicating how pastors may keep "up to date" in biblical, historical, systematic, and practical theological developments. The articles will be based on interviews with various members of the faculty.

Throughout the Christian Church there seems to be an interest in finding ways to make her witness to the world more relevant and effective. In the belief that the seminary community shares in this interest and that it wishes to take constructive steps to resolve, or at least to understand, the problems involved, the writer proposes that the ancient institution of academic debate be revived at the Seminary. In the further belief that a resolution of the problems is closely associated with the questions implicit in the following theses, the writer stands ready to defend them in public debate (but with participation limited to the Seminary community):

1. The witness of the Church could be more relevant and effective.
2. A critical re-examination of her attitude toward the Scriptures could strengthen her witness.
3. A critical re-examination of the doctrine of justification as it is applied in practical situations could strengthen her witness.
4. A critical re-examination of the doctrine of the two kingdoms could strengthen her witness.
5. The manner of life of pastors and church members substantially weakens her witness.
6. Her manner of life as an organization substantially weakens her witness.
7. Intellectual pride among the scholars of the Church has greatly weakened her witness.

Others may wish to defend other, and more important, theses.

Should there be sufficient interest in such debates it is suggested in the interest of good order and effectiveness that Dr. Bagger, or someone appointed by him, prepare proper rules of procedure, provide a moderator, and encourage an adequate measure of preparation by participants.

R. O. Bender

(Ed. Note. The staff of the Seminarian supports the suggestion of Mr. Bender and welcomes comments from its readers. These may be in the form of "Letters to the Editor" which we will be glad to publish.)

PH. It's not what you believe, but that you believe, that counts.

David Wartluft, Athletic Committee Chairman, has announced the dates of the coming basketball games, starting times and opposing teams.

December 11-8:15 P.M. - Wissahicken
 December 21-7:30 P.M. - Burbas
 January 4-7:15 P.M. - Village
 January 10-8:15 P.M. - Muratone
 January 18-7:30 P.M. - Water Tower
 January 24-8:15 P.M. - Robertson
 January 31-7:15 P.M. - Hawks
 February 8-7:15 P.M. - Rockets
 February 12-7:15 P.M. - Spiders
 February 19-8:15 P.M. - Wissahicken
 March 1-7:30 P.M. - Burbas
 March 7-8:15 P.M. - Village
 March 14-7:15 P.M. - Muratone
 March 22-7:30 P.M. - Water Tower
 March 28-7:15 P.M. - Sheeleigh Tech

Make-up games will be held on January 11 or 25.

Monday, December 4, saw the Mt. Airy Angels victorious over the Spiders. In overtime the Angels surged ahead to win the first victory of the season. Students are reminded that the gym of the Presbyterian Church will be available Tuesday afternoons only. For further information contact Dave Wartluft.

CHOIR SEASON OPENS

On Sunday the Seminary Choir will present four concerts as a prelude to their many appearances this year. The presentations will be heard in three churches of the Philadelphia area.

In the morning the choir will travel to St. Timothy's Church, Fox Chase where they will sing at two services. The afternoon will find them at Tabernacle Church, 59th. and Spruce St., and the evening at Epiphany Church, Camden, New Jersey. The latter two will be full concerts.

Advent Vespers, December 19th. promises to be one of the real highlights of the season. The service will be patterned after the one of last year, with different music and lessons. Following in design the Advent services of the various chapels in Cambridge University, England, our Advent Vespers provides opportunity for congregational participation and expression, as well as special choral music.

Biblical Play Criticized:"I AM THE LORD, GIDEON."

Tyrone Guthrie, the director, and members of the cast have succeeded in putting together a work of deep significance. Frederic March who, with four streaks of gray hair running through his shaggy locks, profile, and finger gestures, resembles God in Michaelangelo's, "Creation", is superb in portraying the noble and tender character of the Angel. "I am the Lord, Gideon", a line which is essentially the theme of the play, is done with just the right nuance of voice and gesture. Equally masterful is Douglas Campbell in his portrayal of the comic and pathetic aspects of Gideon's character. The supporting cast is quite strong, particularly in scenes which bring warm chuckles to the audience. Of further note, in the last act there is a delightful little belly dance. This needs no further comment.

All in all, Gideon is a play packed with power and insight. Among the issues raised by Paddy Chayefsky, there are three which are most noteworthy. For one thing Mr. Chayefsky is asking us to consider what it really means for a nation or a person to recognize utter and complete dependence upon God. He shows the paradox involved. Gideon experienced both dread and comfort from this awareness. God has given men freedom; at the same time, God has also given man the awful responsibility of being totally accountable to Him for his actions. The playwright shows what happens when this freedom is misused. Gideon succumbs to the temptations of worldly success and openly rebels against God. The action reveals that Gideon and his companions only have true significance as human beings when they recognize their dependence upon God and act accordingly.

A second important problem brought out in the play is the tendency in man to worship man rather than God. The proclamation that man is the measure of all things marks a turning point. The Israelites begin to experience licentiousness, discord, and the pangs of despair. At the end of the play the Angel has a very curious conceit. In effect he says, "Let man make a cult of man and someday he might..." At this point there is a long pause; he turns and walks off. You are forced to draw

your own conclusions to this statement. These lines, in my opinion, are a judgment upon the contemporary human situation. If man continues to reject openly the will of God and to take pride in his own achievements, he may eventually destroy himself.

Finally, we are shown that in spite of all that man does contrary to His will, God still loves him. However, in order to hold His people in the covenant, He must become a God of wrath, since He knows that He cannot hold them in love. For us of course, the denouement comes in the person of Christ. This is briefly hinted at by the Angel when he announces that someday He will come again to redeem the world.

This play is filled with gems of theological insight. It shows the power and influence that a playwright who has some theological sense can wield. Although set in 1100 B.C., Gideon is a play which is distinctively modern, both in the dialogue and in the questions and problems it raises. Paddy Chayefsky is serving the church in a very important way.

Wesley Hamlin

(ED.--Next week a review of the film currently appearing in Philadelphia, Splendor in the Grass. Students are urged to see this film and not to be misled either way by the advertising.)

NOTES & QUOTES

An anonymous literary collection appeared this week on the campus, presumably the work of students. The interest of these students is noted here, and a longer critique will appear in next week's Seminarian.

#NEWS FLASH (XP) A lit. Airy student is beginning to show signs of the gift of the stigmata on his left wrist. This may yet be the greatest Lent in Mt. Airy's history.

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