

THE SEMINARIAN

Published by the Students at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia

vol. 33 no.2

September 16, 1971

SCHOOL COMES TO SEMINARY

A nationally known educational experiment is coming to the Northwest part of the city of Philadelphia, and we have been invited to be a part of it. Last week Dr. Olson received a letter from a staff member of The Parkway Program of the School District of Philadelphia. The letter invited Mt. Airy Seminary to allow the program to use seminary buildings as classrooms since this high school is without walls. The school is as large as the city itself; utilizing museums, libraries, businesses, and churches as the classrooms for its students. Students spend their school day working with their regular teachers as well as professionals who have chosen to teach electives in their chosen field. After working with regular staff members in English and Mathematics (state requirements), students move off on public transportation or foot to a myriad of electives they have chosen themselves. These electives range from a physician giving a course in health services, a printer teaching printing, a jeweler - gem cutting, or an art historian teaching a course in art history.*

The school is casual and open, with an honest interchange between instructor and student. Students are always involved in staff changes, course offerings, and other important decision making opportunities. Applications to become a member of the student body come from all over the city and the selections are made by lottery without regard for academic standing.

The Parkway Program first surrounded a two-mile length of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, but this fall the Delta unit has come to Germantown Avenue. The Seminary Family has the opportunity to become an active part in this educational experiment. Any person who has a particular field of competence will work with an accredited teacher of The Parkway Program to help each volunteer establish a course description. The course will then go into the Delta Unit's catalogue as a possible elective for the students. The instructor has the responsibility to find space in which his class can meet. Portions of seminary buildings are available for this instruction, but all classes must be coordinated with the existing schedule of the seminary course offerings.

The Parkway Program offers the family of the Mt. Airy Seminary the opportunity for an educational ministry to the surrounding community right on this campus. It also offers everyone the opportunity to teach and work at their favorite interest while studying at the Seminary.

More information can be obtained by making your interest known to Ed Larson and Bob Young.

*Cf. Time, March 23, 1971, p.55.

JOB APPLICATION

Applications are now available for the position of assistant bookstore manager. The position includes training for the job of bookstore manager in your middler year, a salary of \$1.75 per hour, and being able to purchase your books at cost for your four-year seminary career. Anyone interested should pick up an application in the bookstore and return it by no later than 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 21st to Dwight Shellaway or Bruce Amme. Interviews will be set up during the week of Sept. 20th.

Dwight Shellaway

A soda machine is located in the lounge in F Hall. In the interest of ecology, we requested that this machine be stocked with returnable bottles. This means that we must pay a deposit for them. In light of this, please return your empties to the cartons next to the machine, or the carton at the bottom of the stairs in North Dorm. A soda order is made up every Wednesday night, and this order is based on the number of empty cases we have to return. Therefore, if possible please bring down all empties you may have in your room by Wednesday night. Please help with this, the machine was put in for everyone's convenience, and so we hope everyone who uses it will help us with its maintenance.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN RECYCLING?

If you are interested in trying to set up a collection center somewhere for cans, bottles, and newspapers for recycling, please attend a gathering on Tuesday Sept. 21, 1971 at 7:30 p.m. in Rm. 1 of Hagan Hall. We will discuss the possibility of setting up a collection center and set up a committee to carry out the gatherings' wishes. Please contact Jeff Pretz (2472320) if you would like to be on this committee but can not be present at the Tuesday evening gathering. This gathering is for people, not for cans, bottles, and/or newspaper.

Jeff Pretz

SPORTS

The volleyball game between the fabulous faculty and the stupendous students has been postponed until next Thursday night Sept. 23 at 7:30 p.m. on the memorial astro court. Refreshments will be served. Bring your mugs. Everyone welcome! Don't miss this sports bonanza.

Sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin board in Hagen Hall for anyone interested in the annual tennis tournament and the volleyball tournament. We already have 4 full teams and would like as many people as possible to take part.

Dick Olson

FALL WEEKEND

The social committee premieres on Friday night, September 24 with the first of its many sultry and scintillating activities. This is the way it shapes up:

Friday afternoon - Football game vs. an as of yet unnamed opponent. It will be either with one of the local seminaries (damn their souls) or an intramural game.

Friday 7:00 p.m. - Our first feature film, Edgar Allen Poes, The Masque of the Red Death, starring Vincent Price. Place will be announced later.

Friday 9:00 p.m. - A "Purple Passion" party. The place will be announced later. If you need a date see John Harding or Tom Omholt.

Folks, here is your chance for a cheap date, that is you may have a date that is cheap, rather it won't cost but peanuts.

The Social Committee

1971, March 23, 1971, p. 35.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

September 14, 1971

Dear Editor,

It makes me feel good to think that I may have a piece of news in the Seminarian. I think that I ought to talk about my adventure with beer. (You would not think a 10 year-old kid would be talking about beer. Back to what I was saying.) My father thinks that I ought to pour beer for the students because, well, the seniors would get a good "head"! I think that pouring beer is a good job until the men drink too much, and then you know what happens! The trick is when any one guy comes up to me, I hand him a glass of beer. (They never object!) This is only, of course, if they get thirsty, and then I've got it made. For myself, all I ever drink is Coke. They ran out of paper cups, so they all brought down mugs. Man, were they big! Perhaps even bigger than an elephant! I am telling you, they could drink a glass as big as an elephant. With courses like this, I may even join the Seminary!

Paul Lazareth

FIRE

Neverblind I

See

Coruscations in my skull.

Firefalls plunge and surge

Against that darkness which is neverdark.

Cold stars bleeding golden blood.

God weeps.

I love - you love - he loves

Who loves?

Only Him.

Thou, oh Lord didst make me

To be a fire - a storm of love

Consuming all, embracing all

Unchecked

And I have spent a lifetime building walls

Around my fire

All scratched with clever graffiti.

Thou, Galilean,

Help me smash the walls

Before my fire burns out.

Bill Berglund

FOOD STAMPS

DEADLINE

Everyone must eat. This includes married students studying at our seminary. Unfortunately, some people do not have enough money to buy the food they need for good health. The United States Department of Agriculture's Food Stamp Program is a way to help these people, including some of our students to buy more and better food.

WHO CAN OBTAIN STAMPS

No single students! The student must be married and live in a place where he can cook meals. The welfare office will tell the student how much to pay for stamps and how many stamps the family gets. Anyone in the family can take the food stamp book to the local food store and use the stamps like money.

(continued in next column)

Publication deadlines for the

Seminarian is Tuesday afternoon at 5:00PM.

Any articles you wish to have printed should be placed in the "K" mailbox in the television lounge of "C" Hall. We would also appreciate any typist or articles you can afford to give us. - ed.

(Food Stamps cont.)

WHERE TO GET LOCAL INFORMATION

The student should go to the local welfare office. He should bring with him papers to show:

Where he lives

How many are in his family

Monthly income

What the family is paying for rent and doctor bills

ACTS

LETTER TO

Among the many activities at Ministerium those of us of the community who were there participated in, was a film shown on Saturday night called ACTS. It was produced under the auspices of the Lutheran Film Associates (LFA), an independent corporation related to the three main Lutheran Church bodies in the U.S. The purpose of this corporation is to produce films for the Lutheran Church, and some films to their credit are MARTIN LUTHER (1953), QUESTION 7 (1961) and A TIME FOR BURNING (1967). The LFA's short history contains some notable successes.

However, their latest film, ACTS, filmed from 1967-1969, has not yet been released to the general public because the film does not seem a success. Although there was a beer party after the showing of the film that precluded any serious discussion of the film, I did notice a general lack of enthusiasm among the people, including me, who saw the film. The film was cold, a still-born child. Why?

My friend Hubie thought the cinematography was lousy (he has some professional experience in that field), and I must agree with him. Yet I feel that the film was strikingly honest in its interplay between its major figures. There was a solid core of content, of honesty, which is rare in modern film, but which the picture possessed.

There are two areas in which to judge a film--form and function (or artistry and content). For a film to be great both must be present. If one or the other is strong, it will carry the picture enough for it to succeed. Artistry concerns itself with cinematography, ability of the actors, directors, etc. Content concerns itself with a philosophical outlook--the reason for the existence of the film.

The technique used in the film was what is known as cinema verite. It is a technique unlike candid camera technique in that a situation is found which might make a good film and from the film makers association and absorption into the situation comes the concept of the film. The difference is that the film maker tries to absorb the truth of the situation and molds the action that is done in front of the camera from the experience he has acquired. In other words, it is a symbolic representation of actual events, the symbols being portions of the actual events lifted out and portrayed for the camera. This technique requires an intense honesty on the part of everyone, and especially the film maker. Editing becomes all important. I feel that this honesty was present.

The film maker was a man who has had previous success with the cinema verite technique in A TIME FOR BURNING, William C. Jersey. ACTS was his first feature length film using subjective editing. He is the president of a small independent film company, Quest Productions, located in New York. He has done extensive documentary and short length film work and is interested in quality and honesty in film making without any overt religious purposes. He specializes in film about confusing people and situations.

The chief characters are the Rev. Finley Schaefer, pastor of the First Methodist Church, Washington Square, Greenwich Village; and Eugene Lion, art director for the Washington Square church at the time of the filming and a professional radical both in politics and in art.

Pastor Schaefer is a native Philadelphian with an intensely religious background not centered on any one denomination chiefly because his father thought the church too corrupt.

Eugene Lion is a native New Yorker who was raised in a family tradition of distrust of any institutional formed organization. He is a professed atheist and a dedicated humanist.

As can be seen, the three people involved are kindred spirits, confused people in a confused time (1966 to 1970) and as a result, the film suffers.

The technical end of the filming is lousy. The hand-held camera might give a director a feeling of honesty, but it is sheer hell on the viewer. (One is tempted to make connections with HUSBANDS, another failure with kernels of honesty). The quality of the print is too low for public viewing and the sound is terrible.

But I feel that the flaw is to be found chiefly in the editing. The film has been edited twice, once by a professional experienced in the "straight method"

(traditional objective viewpoint) and once by another professional, Tom McDonough who specializes in the subjective technique. The second editing was done because Jersey was not satisfied with the first job.

The film is flawed as a result of three reasons:

1. The film intended to portray the tension and confusion of two people and the church at large. Because of the technique, the director was enveloped in the confusion, participated and became confused himself.
2. In the search for an honest and consistent technique of editing, the film was edited twice by people with conflicting viewpoints and therefore the film suffers -- you can almost see the conflict between the two on the screen.
3. A film must have a clarified purpose for existing and there never was one for this film. Since the end of the 1966-1970 political period there hasn't been enough time to evaluate it in terms of today. We were all splendidly confused in 1966 but a film even that portrays confusion and indecision cannot in itself be confused.

A third and proper editing from a clarified viewpoint will probably save the film.

I confess that I have not liked other cinema verite films I have seen: MEDIUM COOL, HUSBANDS, and FACES (I liked FACES), but I cannot agree with another student who thought that this film was one more cheap attempt by the church to be relevant.

The one sequence in the film which made it interesting to the point of absorption was the scenes in which the fate of the draft resister, Donald Beatty, was decided and the climatic subsequent historical event excitingly framed and placidized by the Mass Media organizations. This study of the events leading up to an historic movement is exciting and clear, it is the excitement of the decisions which lead up to unrevokable and decisive actions, the crystalline form to come out of our muddled and confused talk. This is what saved another muddled film, MEDIUM COOL, and this is what should be the focal point of a new editing job.

The film could easily be cast as a radical training film and not another churchy religious drama. The film is called ACTS and it is about actions quite by accident, and quite by accident it has shown along with the Berrigans, the direction the church needs to take to get itself out of its own magnificent confusion and lack of purpose.

Characteristically the actions the filmmaker and the church have once again overlooked are the most important thing in the world today and the most interesting thing in the film, the ability to act, a moment at once as exciting and religiously heroic as Martin Luther's "Here I Stand."

ELECTION RESULTS

"30" (John Newpher)

The Seminarian is a student publication of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. The office is on the third floor of "F" Hall. We welcome any articles or aid you can give us. The staff this week is:

Editor: Dennis Kohl.
 Ass't editor: Bob Young.
 Executive Printer: Dick Olson.
 Typists: George Treutle, Skip Mc Dowell, Dwight Shellaway.
 Stenciler: Peter Fauerbach,
 Crank: Dwight Shellaway.
 General ass.: Bruce Potteiger (That's Assistant).
 Contributors: John Newpher, Bill Berglund, Dr. Bornemann, etc.

The Junior Class held its elections on Wednesday. The results are as follows:

President--Jeff Bortz
 Social activities Secretary--Tom Omholt
 Athletic Secretary--Tom Richards.

Also elected on Wednesday were representatives to two faculty committees:

Professional Coorelation and Admissions--George Harpel.
 Wally Taylor
 Academic Integration and Library--Mike Boggs
 Eric Royer

Senior class representatives will be elected on Monday, September 20.

THANK YOU

I should like to express appreciation and thanks to all those who shared in last week's retreat: to Wally Taylor, who served so capably as chairman of the Retreat Committee; to the many students and faculty members, who carried out the work of the several sub-committees; to the discussion leaders, and to all who participated.

A special word of thanks should be spoken to Martin Heinecken and Foster McCurley. The generosity with which they gave their time and thought is much appreciated. Their presentations, penetrating and yet delightful, will be remembered not only as the highlights of the retreat, but surely one of the highlights of the year. It is a privilege to have teachers and colleagues such as these.

The retreat weekend is over, but our hope is that the spirit felt there will continue, and that some of the ideas and issues which arose will be picked up and developed through the year.

Again, thanks to all.

Sincerely yours,
Robert Bornemann
Chairman, Seminary
Community Committee

RETREAT TO OPENNESS

To once again look at the value of such a retreat which many of us here at Mt. Airy experienced this past weekend could be a deadly maneuver, simply because any good thing which might have come out of the retreat may easily be destroyed for you by over stating the case. However, it seems that there should be some kind of official recognition given to the fellows who prepared the weekend and some

(Continued next column)

kind of feed-back might be good for those from our numbers who did not get to Camp Ministerium this year.

What I am about to say about the retreat I am saying as an individual, so here goes:

Being a middler I have the fortunate opportunity to be able to compare this year's retreat with the one which we experienced last year. I must admit that I enjoyed this year's retreat more than I did last year. In a number of ways I felt better about the kind of things which were raised in the discussion groups this year. Our group was able to be honest about our trepidations about the community here at Philly. We started off the morning by patting ourselves on the back, but wound up by admitting to each other that we were not the sort of people who could easily express our spiritual feelings with each other. I do not wish to give an official report of the groups activities here however. Friendliness and relaxation were two important elements which many experienced this weekend. These two things were missing in my opinion from the gathering last year. Pastor Terry did a good job as far as I could see and I heard a number of comments expressing similar feelings during the time we were away. It was a shame that some of our group could not be at the retreat, they were certainly missed by someone there.

To everyone involved in the retreat, planning and speaking, the community should extend a thank-you. People have often criticized Mt. Airy for being a community of scholars, this we are to be sure, but it seems that Mt. Airy is also a community of people with feelings -- good feelings for each. I hope this atmosphere can continue to exist here for the rest of the year. It seems that community can be here in Philadelphia. Perhaps this is one of our greatest reasons for rejoicing!

Dennis Kohl