



THE SEMINARIAN

Published by the students at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia

vol. 33 no. 11³

December 1, 1971

SOME THOUGHTS AT ADVENT

Advent is once again upon us and we begin another new year in the church. To be sure, it's a busy time for all - Christmas is coming, and that means a lot of work getting ready for the celebrations that are a part of Christmas, there's gifts to buy, plans to be made for getting families together plus many individual concerns to make the holiday the highlight of the winter that we hope it to be. In addition to Christmas, finals and the end of another semester are approaching quickly. This probably is the main concern of many of us here in Philadelphia right now.

But, for a number of reasons: the Advent season with its new beginnings, my having a part in the worship life of the Seminary this week, Rick Sebastian's announcement in this week's Seminarian, I'd like to call the community's attention to something that may go by the boards and fall unnoticed in this busy time of the year. We often give special emphasis to what is directly confronting us - finals, Christmas; and ignore what is of more importance, namely our relationships to God and our neighbor.

It seems that in many ways the spiritual life here at Mt. Airy has improved this year and that's good! But I feel that we still have room to progress in this area. I don't know if many people see me as an idealist, I doubt it; but for the reasons mentioned above, I want to take the opportunity to more or less sound off or at least to let some people hear my opinions in some pertinent matters. Ready? Here goes...

I for one would like to have some advice, help, and suggestions about what one does to somehow establish a personal devotional life. If I can't get some practical tips about this in seminary, where can I? Perhaps someone would be able to give me and the whole community for that matter some help here. Does anybody have any methods he finds helpful? Maybe if some people don't mind baring themselves a bit, we could print some suggestions since I know of some others who also feel these kinds of frustrations. (Anybody from the other schools who reads this and could help us out here - please do!)

And now, about chapel. Things there have been going pretty well this year. I'm not trying to get a plug in for chapel this week because in a way I'm partly responsible for it, but I do think that occasionally we must call attention to some of the basics which makes this a community of Christians. It's not hard to forget basics, especially when they're assumed; and in a way I see worship, both public and private, as the basis for our relationship, not only with God, but also with our brothers.

Piety is not a bad word. Piety might be something as simple as treating others as we would like ourselves to be treated. This is where worship can help us out - it can make us aware that there is something greater than ourselves. It can help us to realize that we stand in a place common to other men. Hopefully the results of this would be a little more concern for others, not forgetting about others because they stand in the shadows cast by finals or Christmas planning.

Well, I've had my say and I thank you for listening to me. I hope that somewhere in this community, somewhere among the brotherhood, there might be someone who is willing to help me out with some kind of response. I hope that studying as well as Christmas preparations are going well, and that you're enjoying this hectic time of another beginning.

Dennis Kohl

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

In early November, faculty and students met separately in order to give the delegation to the "Worship and Spiritual Life Conference" a representative viewpoint of the community on this topic. Numerous requests for another opportunity to discuss the spiritual and worship life of the seminary have been expressed. Therefore, on Wednesday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel, there will be a joint gathering of all interested faculty, students, and wives. Everyone is urged to attend so, hopefully, further concerns in this area can be shared.

Rick Sebastian

GLASS

On Friday Dec. 3, I'll again be taking my glass for recycling. If anyone wishes me to take their glass with me, please drop it off in my room, A Hall, room 7 anytime between Tuesday night and Friday afternoon.

Peter Helmers

HELP NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to assist in chaperoning the Christmas Shopping Trip sponsored by the Philadelphia Junior Chamber of Commerce at Lit Brothers Dept. Store, 8th and Market Streets on Dec. 14th. Wives of married students are also asked to help in this project which gives underprivileged children of the Phila. community an opportunity to do their Christmas shopping free (\$7.50 worth). A party will be held afterwards for chaperones at the Adelpus Hotel. See Ken Gould for further details.

Next week the material for the newspaper will be due on the 7th and the paper will be put to press on the 8th...please get your articles in to us early, if possible.

FLICKS

Thursday, 2 December, we will present our only December screening. The bill will consist of Laurel and Hardy, Buster Keaton, and W.C. Fields. The three comedies will be 1929's, "Big Business," considered one of Laurel and Hardy's best; "The General," a clip of Buster Keaton's 1927 classic; and, "The Circus Slicker," a clip from W.C. Fields' 1938 Universal studio's, "You Can't Cheat an Honest Man." See you at 8P.M. in Hagan Hall. These are worth it.

Bob Boyer

PAINT YOUR ROOM

On Saturday, November 27, 1971, the Property Committee of the Seminary Board met to discuss various matters concerning the physical plant. One such matter was whether or not to allow students to paint the room and rooms they now occupy. The decision was that room painting be permitted only under the direct supervision of the Superintendent of the Physical Plant. This would include the choice of color, type of paint, application and the equipment to be used. Some rooms are already scheduled to be painted by the maintenance crew during the holiday vacation. We are looking for students to help during this time, on an hourly pay basis.

Students who desire to paint their rooms or who would like to work during the holiday time should contact Ken Garver.



This is your last chance to place your name on the Street Hockey List in the basement of Hagan Hall. Wednesday afternoon at 5:00 the list will be taken down and those on the list will be approached concerning the acquisition of equipment. Some hockey action is anticipated in the near future at which time we'll see what it's like to face some of these people around here with sticks in their hands. It could make for some interesting encounters. We understand that usually mild mannered individuals undergo a metamorphosis when a hockey stick is placed in their hands.

SCHWEITZER ON STREETCARS

Yesterday an incident occurred at the beginning of Dr. Heinecken's class in Christian Sacraments which has great strassenbahnological significance. The brethren were all seated in the rear half of the long classroom on the first floor of Hagan Hall known affectionately as the bowling alley. Now in and of itself this situation was by no means extraordinary, since such a seating arrangement had spontaneously arisen during the first weeks of the semester and had come to be one of those unwritten laws according to which we govern our behaviour in a given situation. However, on this particular morning the name-sake of a famous Dutch beer reversed the precedent and ordered (in a nice way) all of his listeners to so rearrange themselves that the front half, rather than the rear one, would be filled. After making a passing reference to the seating arrangement on streetcars, which was not taken up and pursued further, he began his lecture on tent making ministries.

As is so often the case in this exciting field of streetcar studies, the seemingly harmless, indeed almost reckless statement by Dr. Heinecken has opened up a heretofore untapped source of material for scholarly research. Namely, after spending over two years concerning ourselves with the external matters we have finally been awakened to the reality that we have devoted all too little attention to the interior of the streetcar. The possibilities as to areas to be explored are almost endless: seating arrangements, fare collecting procedures, provisions for entering and leaving, entertainment on board, advertising, interior lighting, reading matter (if any) available on board, window arrangements, heating, graffiti, et al. But all these topics are just preliminaries, which lead us to the deeper, more ultimate concerns of streetcar riding. The first of these concerns will be stated this week, but a detailed treatment will have to wait until all of the above-mentioned data has been collected, since I would not presume to shoot the bull about an area in which I do not yet have a firm grasp of the subject matter.

But nevertheless, we have to take the great leaps somewhere, else we will never get beyond the prologomena. Therefore, it gives us great pleasure to pose a question for which, frankly, we do not yet have an answer:

Why do the passengers on the streetcar all want to sit up front, when the motorman in seeming disregard of this basic drive keeps urging them to move on back? Ancillary questions, dealing with such problems as the practice on the part of passengers to exit by the front door in utter disregard of the commandment "EXIT CENTER DOORS" do not really come into play here. Obviously there is some connection between this observed habit of the Fahrgäste and the way we were sitting in Dr. Heinecken's class, else he would not have alluded to the streetcar before beginning his lecture, even if his allusion was all too irresponsible and indeed downright cavalier. In any case, he has obviously unearthed a monster, and we will have to deal with it sooner or later, in spite of the fact that it rudely awakens us out of the false sense of complacency in which we have indulged all too long.

John Schweitzer, Streetcar editor.

STRASSENBAHNFEHLER:

Our heartfelt apologies go out to all of you who tried to find that fascinating book listed by Brother John Schweitzer in last week's Seminarian. All of you buffs of trolley-lore were no doubt disappointed, not to mention deeply distressed and panicked at the failure to locate said volume in the old Krauth Memorial Library. Well, we mistranscribed Mr. Schweitzer's galley proof. The name of that fine and honored tome of trolley poetry is: O. Strassenfeldt, "Einleitung in die Strassenbahnkunde", see especially part one, "Die vorliterarische Stufe: die kleinsten Redenformen und ihr Sitz im Leben". This book can be located in the HG (Horsegeschichte) section--good luck and enjoy that imaginative reading.

Dennis Kohl, ed.

STAFF

BEWARE

PHILA

The Seminarian is a student publication of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. It is usually published on a Wednesday evening, as it will be next week, but for this week we published on Tuesday so that we could get to the Oecumenical service on Wednesday night at PDS. (Hope to see you there!) The office is on the third floor of "F" Hall facing the tennis courts. We appreciate any articles, cartoons, poetry or any other contributions coming from the student body. We need your help in order to keep this a newspaper of the students. We would also appreciate any criticisms which you have. The staff is any one who helps. Our staff is varying, but the faithful this week are:

- Editor: Dennis Kohl
- Ass't. Editor: Robert Young
- Streetcar editor: Herr John T. Schweitzer.
- Contributors: Rick Sebastian, Peter Helmers, Ken Gould, Bob Boyer, Mr. Garver.
- Crank: Paul Bartlett
- Stampler /sic/: Jeff Rhein
- Resident Grouch: Karl /sic/ Mangold.

Visitors and other added attractions:
 Rich David, Bob Mitman
 Inspiration: Kookie Monster.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"It's inconceivable that anyone who preaches the gospel of Jesus Christ should be anything but a celibate."

John Cardinal Krol,
 Archbishop of Philadelphia.

Alternate Quote of the Week:
 Be more prompt to go to a friend in adversity than in prosperity!
 Chilo

There have been rumors around Philadelphia about the recent sighting of the monster from the lagoon of Fairmont Park. He was last seen on Monday night in the Mt. Airy area. It has been reported that the origin of this monster is unknown. However our reported has uncovered an underground story about some organ transplants being carried on in Fairmont Park. (We hear that the last results of these strange operations has been successful enough to become a mayor of one of the larger cities on the east coast. Of course, this is all speculation as to the origin of this heinous monster. If anyone has seen this monster in the neighborhood, please report his whereabouts to the local sheriff or Tom Richards who has sworn revenge on the monster for breaking into his room and stealing his month's supply of lasagna. Your help is needed to keep this monster under control. This is a public service announcement.

IT'S A BABY!

Congratulations are in order to two members of our community whose wives gave birth this past week to two babies:

Roger Levensgood's wife had a baby boy. Rich Gardner's wife had a baby girl. Congratulations to both these families.

Ed and his lovely wife Janet are here now and rumor has it that they are expecting.... Dinner sometime in the near future! (Ha-Ha!)

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THE SEMINARIAN



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vol 33 no 14

December 9, 1971

NOTE FROM AN INTERN

One of the biggest gripes of some conscientious parish pastors today seems to be their lack of time for reading, study and meditation. Life styles seem to be so hectic that unless a pastor has a disciplined program of study beyond sermon preparation time, he soon will be "stale." As an intern, I have felt this pressure in the past 6 months and have heard pastors voice their concerns for the same. I have observed other pastors who ignored the enrichment of a book or further bible study, who blissfully drift...direction uncertain...maybe nowhere! My intention here is not to come out in praise or in judgment of the churches' interns or pastors but to share with the seminary community a finding of my own that can help solve the problem of daily or weekly continuing education for the intern or pastor.

The "Clergy" cassette series (copyright, Concordia Publishing House) has on occasion been a help to me amid the pace of being emersed in "witnessing" among and caring for the people of the congregation (my use of the word "witness" does not mean that I've sold out to fundamentalism!) This monthly series contains excerpts from addresses, interviews and other pieces of information by noted scholars and churchmen on numerous topics relating to the ministry of Christians today. In this series, our Missouri brothers are offering us (for a price!) some interesting and vital information that is capitalized for the convenience of anyone willing to set aside some study time. With the cassettes, one isn't restricted to the student's desk but may flick on the machine in the car or push the button as he emerges from the shower, preparing for a day of ministry. There is resource material for pastoral counseling, historical background, exogetical and homiletical helps, and book reviews of those "new ones" that many of your parishioners might be reading, but which you might not have had the time or money to which to avail yourself.

I would like to recommend to anyone on the Library Committee who reads this to investigate and then possibly purchase this series for the use of Mt. Airy students. I have found some stimulating reading, and also some very boring material; but generally speaking, it's been a great help in my ministry to keep my mind stimulated when "book time" has not been available. Give it a try!

Dave Roppel, Intern
Trinity Lutheran Church
Lansdale, Pennsylvania

(If the library has it--wonderful! I'm going on the assumption that it doesn't.)

P.S. My best wishes to the seminary community for a joyous Christmas season!

CHOIR TAKES ON NEW SHAPE

For the first time in the history of the Mt. Airy Seminary Choir, women have joined our ranks! Several wives and a member of the deaconess community have contributed a new dimension to the previously all-male ensemble. Not only are rehearsals much more enjoyable, but the addition of a treble section to the usual compliment has enabled us to indulge in a more varied repertoire.

The "New Choir" will participate in Advent Vespers on Thursday, December 16.

Skip McDowell

B O P

Mr. Joseph Gould, Board of Pensions Representative, will be on Campus on Wednesday, December 15, from 9:00 am on, in the Hoh Lounge. There is a sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board in the basement of Hagan Hall.

Paul J. Rabenold

IT'S BADMINTON TIME!!!!

The Wissahickon Badminton Club has made its courts available to the Seminary Community when the members of nearby schools are not using them. If you wish to play I have a key to the club. Drs. Bornemann and Newpher also have keys. Everyone is welcome to participate in this underrated and fast-moving game. I can assure you that after a half hour or 45 minutes at playing this game right you can really have a workout.

Dick Olson

HELP WANTED

Volunteers are needed to assist in chaperoning the Christmas Shopping Trip sponsored by the Philadelphia Junior Chamber of Commerce at Lit Bros. Dept. Store, 8th and Market sts. on Dec. 14. Wives of married students are also asked to help in this project which gives underprivileged children of the Phila. community an opportunity to do their Christmas shopping free. (\$7.50 worth.) A party will be held afterwards for chaperones at the Adelphus Hotel. See Ken Gould for further details.

Ken Gould

OOPS WE GOOFED

Once again we must break out our typewriter to typewrite another apology for a mistake in last week's The Seminarian. We, alas, trusted the oral tradition of Mt. Airy Seminary (see Otto von Abstrom-nemer: The Oral Tradition in Lutheran Theological Education and Bake Sales in the Twentieth Century in North America with special emphasis on the Pennsylvania Dutch Influences, Translation Press, Philadelphia, 1883). Actually we did make a mistake, a big mistake. We told you that Roger Levengood's wife had a baby boy--well, we were wrong. She had a baby girl. Sorry Roger. We hope you weren't too upset by what you've been reading in this here newspaper.

MORE ABOUT BABIES

Speaking of Babies...Fred Nelson, who is interning in Troy, New York is the father of a brand new baby girl. (We're fairly sure that Fred's new baby is a girl). Fred's wife, Barb was president of the Wives' Club last year. Congratulations Fred and Barb!

HOCKEY

Street Hockey has hit the Mt. Airy campus. You might have noticed a number of healthy looking guys hitting a red or yellow ball around the volleyball courts. That's not some gang trying to kill each other, that's us playing Street Hockey. We've even managed to get some people interested in the sport who didn't seem to want to be involved originally. Only one catastrophe so far...George Treutle's glasses when he was charged by the terror of Germantown Ave, Dennis Kohl. So goes life. Maybe you'd like to play too?

ADVENT VESPERS

Advent Vespers has been set for December 16, next Thursday evening.

Here is the way the evening shapes up:

6:00 - 7:30 P.M.: A buffet "on the house." It will be served in the refectory.

7:30 - 8:00 P.M.: A concert featuring Harry McDowell II on the harpsicord, Dr. Bornemann on the recorder and harpsicord and Miss Nora Frost, soprano soloist.

8:00 P.M.: The Office of Vespers with lessons and carols centering on the theme of Joy. The choir will sing works by Kodaly, Holst, Persichetti (poem by e. e. cummings set to music) and featuring a cantata by Heinrich Schütz for alto, tenor, and bass, with violins, cello, and harpsicord.

After Vespers: The entire first floor of Main Dorm will be open and in use. It will have The Pub serving grog, coffee, hot chocolate and food; The Trim-A-Tree Shoppe to make your own decorations for the Seminary tree; Dancing in the Student Lounge; The Banner-Making Shoppe in Tom Richards' and Tom Umholt's room. The catwalk will be decorated with greens and lights and our centerpiece is a tree to be decorated by everyone. We'll sing carols, eat, drink, decorate, dance, and have a jolly-ho time.

See You Thursday evening, December 16.

P
O
E
M

POEM # 60:

The dimly-lit barroom is a microcosm of existence. The put-ons and come-ons all depict loneliness at its zenith. The barkeep, a psychiatrist, marriage counselor, lonely hearts editor, and all-round guru and good guy sees all, knows all, and tells no one that Maybe he is human, too.

Jeff Rhein.

As you might have noticed the Seminarian is missing one of its regular items this week; there is no Strassenbahn Spalte! The Strassenbahn is being detained this week in North Philly because the rails have been blocked. Have no fear though trolley fans--the streetcar will roll again. Just as theology goes on when it isn't being discussed, so also the Strassenbahnology continues when there is no noise being made about it--probably the one break with reality of the trolley that it isn't making noise unless it is running!

Do you have a funny story about the trolley that you'd like to share with the rest of us, maybe a joke or riddle which centers on the old 23 tracks? Tell John Schweitzer--he's getting ready to publish his first work: The Trolley in Myth and Legend. Congratulations John!

STAFF

The Seminarian is a student publication of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. It is published weekly by the students, although faculty and friends' contributions will be gladly accepted. We are trying to make the Seminarian a paper which will reflect the moods and interests of all the members of this community (including wives). The office of the Seminarian is on the third floor of "F" Hall, facing the tennis courts. We usually have a jolly time preparing this piece of journalistic masterwork for the community, so if you would like to become a part of it, or just see your name in print, please stop around and give us a hand. We can especially use typists, although any talents which you might have can certainly be used here, whether that be stapling, cranking or colating, please come! We need your contributions also. It is your paper, so don't feel inhibited about contributing.

Our staff is any one who wants to help and it varied from week to week. Here of late however, it is becoming a little more stable than the American Dollar (\$)! The faithful this week are:

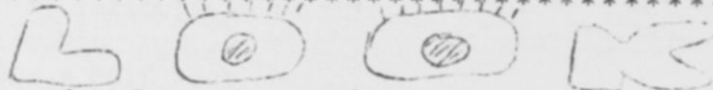
Editor: Dennis Kohl

Assistant Editor: Bob Young.

Typists: Dennis Kohl, Bob Young, Jeff Rhein

Cranks, stampers /sic/, and general helpers: Dennis Kohl, Bob Young, Jeff Rhein, Carl Mangold.

Contributors: Dave Ropel, Ken Gould, Paul Rabenold, Harry McDowell, Dick Olson, John Marding.



Next week, December 16 will be the last issue of the Seminarian for this semester. If you have anything which must be said this semester, please submit your written material by Tuesday, December 14 at 5:00p.m. We here at the Seminarian are looking forward to our finals and papers with bated breath and feel that we abstain from publishing in the week of finals in order to do justice to our studies.

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Ed's lovely wife Janet was here again tonight. We're beginning to look forward to her visits. Tonight she brought us a Christmas Present--delicious Chocolate Chip Cookies. There are only a few left, so Janet can be sure they were appreciated. Dwight's Kookie Monster ate nearly half of them--We all say thanks to Janet for the gift. It is really appreciated!!

Next week: The adventures of Ed and his lovely wife Janet as they visit the pajama factory for hunchbacks. (part two in the continuing adventures of Ed and his lovely wife--Janet!) See you then.