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Western Theological Seminary

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Social Action Committee Formed By Students

The recent racial difficulties in Mississippi were the cause of much concern to many students of WTS. A suggestion, originating with the men of Zwemer Hall, was made that an open letter from the student body and faculty be sent to the students of the University of Mississippi. The suggestion was taken up by the Student-Faculty Council, and was elaborated into the idea of a committee to deal with social issues in which it was felt that the seminary as a whole should participate. It was further suggested that such a committee could well sponsor a student newspaper which would provide an organ through which seminary students could be kept informed on vital issues, and where the various opinions of the student body on these issues could find free expression. A committee of eight was subsequently appointed, consisting of the following members: Erv Roorda, president; Gordon Dragt, secretary; Daryl Johns, Werner Minke, John Groeters, Del Neroni, and Dick Stadt, the representative from the Student-Faculty Council.

The first action taken by the new committee was to draft an open letter pertaining to the immediate racial situation as it then existed on the campus at Oxford, Mississippi. This letter was approved by the Student-Faculty Council and sent to the student newspaper and the University of Mississippi and the Church Herald. The letter restated the position which the Reformed Church had already clearly taken in its Credo on Racial Relations.

Following this, the committee elected Delmont Neroni editor of the proposed student newspaper. It was decided that the paper would be published on a bi-weekly basis, and that it would contain sections for news and news commentary, articles, reviews, and creative writing. It is expected that this paper will play an important role in the rapidly expanding horizons of student life here (Cont’d on page 5)
New Field of Study
At Western

"Theology and the Architecture of the Church" is a course which is not only being taught for the first time at Western, but according to S. T. Ritenour, Executive Director of the Dept. of Church Building and Architecture of the National Council of the Churches of Christ, it is also the first time such a course is being offered in any Protestant seminary in the United States.

While this subject has long exercised Continental theologians and architects, and has resulted in some very meaningful churches in Europe, the importance of the visual statement of belief is only slowly being recognized in America. It is perhaps not inappropriate that while the Hervormde and Gereformeerde Churches in the Netherlands produce some of the finest Reformed churches on the Continent, Western Seminary should also take the lead in this field in this country.

The concern of the course is obviously neither with "style" nor aesthetics, but with the theology of architecture. Whether one likes it or not, church architecture has a great deal to say about belief. The pulpit, Lord's Table, baptismal font, the seating of the congregation, the placement of the organ and choir, all have powerful implications concerning our beliefs. This course seeks to relate what we believe to the architecture of the church, so that we may learn to build in conformity with our beliefs.

The course, an elective for both Masters and Bachelors degree students, is taught by Dr. Donald J. Bruggink, who together with Prof. Carl H. Drop-...pers, architect, of Cleveland, Ohio, has devoted considerable study to this subject, which included a tour of European churches in the summer of 1961.

Osterhoven - Miller Edition of Heidelberg Catechism Published

A new translation of the Heidelberg Catechism in contemporary English has just been published under the sponsorship of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches to mark the 400th anniversary of the Heidelberg Catechism in 1663. The translation from the original German and Latin texts was done by Dr. Allen O. Miller of Eden Seminary and Dr. M. Eugene Osterhoven from Western Theological Seminary, and puts into common usage the first new translation of the Catechism done in America since that of Philip Schaff for the Tercentenary celebration of the Catechism in 1863.

In addition to an excellent translation, the usability of this new edition has been further enhanced by the inclusion of almost all of the biblical texts used by the authors of the Catechism. The edition is published as a hardcover, with an attractive red and white cover, square back, and is printed on excellent paper. It should prove to be very useful in adult instruction groups within the church. It is already available at the Reformed Church Bookstores.

As a seminary community we can well take pride in the vital role played by Professor Osterhoven in providing the church with this splendid new translation.

Goyim Chooses Project

Each year the Goyim Missionary Fellowship, one of the most active student organizations at WTS, conducts a mission drive among the seminary students on behalf of some particular missionary effort of the Reformed Church. This year's project is the collection of funds for the building of a much needed chapel at Cool Springs, Kentucky. The forming of a congregation is well under way there. At present they are meeting in an old school house. A man from this group has already offered land on which the chapel can be built.

Goyim does more throughout the year than simply collecting funds for missionary projects. Goyim conducts a year-long ministry of prayer on behalf of the needs of the church and her missionaries. Each Thursday noon at 12:50, the men of Goyim meet for prayer in the Seminary chapel. After a prayer letter from one of the Boards is read, they divide into groups to remember the concerns mentioned in the letter, and to pray for the cause of world missions in general.

On Tuesday, October 2, Goyim held its first meeting of the current academic year. The Rev. Edward Tanis, Western Field Secretary for the Board of World Missions, showed slides and spoke of the Reformed Church missionaries in world missions. It proved to be a very informative and worthwhile meeting.

Indian Student Works Toward Master's Degree

The Rev. J. Sam Ponniah from Wandiwash, India, will be attending Western for the next year and possibly next summer. He is working towards a Master's degree. Rev. Ponniah was one of Dr. John Piet's first students when Dr. Piet was in missionary work at the American Arent Mission in 1941. This was in Voorhees College, a junior college at Vellore, South India.

Following his Junior College experience, Sam entered the four-year Madras Christian College in Madras and was graduated in 1946. He then became active in religious work, and in 1948 entered United Theological College in Bangalore, Mysore State, graduating in 1951. In 1952 he was ordained a deacon in the Church of South India and was reassigned back to Dr. Piet to head one of the four pastorates in Dr. Piet's circle which besides the four pastorates took in 30 schools and some 75 teachers.

In 1955 Sam married Dr. Susella, a graduate of Christian Medical College in Vellore, long headed by the late Dr. Ira Scudder. Since 1957, Sam and his wife have carried on the work from the Wandiwash center. Besides the village, (Cont'd on page 3)
Osterhaven in Netherlands

Dr. M. Eugene Osterhaven, professor of Systematic Theology at Western, is presently engaged in post-doctoral studies in theology at the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands. He has been granted a one-year sabbatical leave of absence by Western Seminary as part of a program in which each professor in a seven-year rotation is granted a year of absence to pursue a specialized course of study.

Dr. Osterhaven holds the A.B. degree from Hope College, the B.D. degree from Western Seminary, and the Th.D. degree from the Princeton Theological Seminary. He also studied at the University of Basel in Switzerland and the University of Gottingen in Germany.

The Osterhavens are reportedly enjoying their stay in the Netherlands very much. After some time spent in touring, Dr. Osterhaven is settling down to his studies. He writes, “This is the place to work. I spend most of my time reading. There is no end to it.”

Following the sage advice of “When in Rome, etc.” Dr. Osterhaven has provided himself with a European-made car for transportation purposes, while the younger Osterhavens seem to prefer two-wheeled vehicles, and have equipped themselves with motor-driven cycles. Collectively, the Osterhavens will have covered a good many miles by the time they return home.

Dr. Osterhaven’s address is as follows:
Dr. M. Eugene Osterhaven
Kouwerplantsoen 68
Utrecht, the Netherlands

Mrs. Lubbers Heads New Study Program

A new program of study leading to the granting of the Master’s Degree in Religious Education was begun this fall at WTS.

Dr. E. M. Eenigenburg, acting academic dean of the seminary announced prior to the fall semester that the degree, commonly known as the M.R.E. degree will be granted after a two-year course of study to both men and women students entering the Seminary with a Bachelor of Arts degree or its academic equivalent.

Eenigenburg said that the curriculum includes newly established courses in the area of Christian Education as well as those already being offered by the Seminary in its regular B.D. program.

Past administrations have noted the growing need for people with specialized training in the direction of educational programs in the churches. This new program, Eenigenburg noted, is tailored to meet such a demand.

With the addition of such a program the faculty has been expanded by the appointment of Mrs. Elaine Lubbers as

Indian Student

(Cont’d from page 2)
they worked in nine clinics in outlying areas where Mrs. Ponniah mainly ministers to lepers, usually treating 5,000 a week. This area of South India has perhaps the highest incidence of leprosy in the world, and it was estimated that there are some 20,000 victims in a 10-mile radius.

Rev. Ponniah’s trip here took two days by jet. This transportation was provided by the Board of World Missions, RCA, which will arrange some speaking engagements in the local region after Rev. Ponniah completes 10 weeks of study at the Seminary. He is staying at Zwemer Hall.
New Study Program
(Cont'd from page 3)

A.B. degree at Austin College in Sherman, Texas. Following her husband's death in 1955, Mrs. Lubbers enrolled at Austin Presbyterian Seminary and completed a Master's degree in Christian Education. She has written numerous articles for religious journals and also done curricular work for the Southern Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Lubbers and her four children arrived in Holland in August when she began her work at the Seminary.

With the latest faculty and curricular additions, Western is currently offering a full program of work leading to the Master's degree in church vocations.

This program of master's work includes the Master of Theology Degree offered in the fields of Historical and Systematic Theology, and in the biblical areas of Old and New Testament. This fall the Th.M. degree was expanded to include work in the field of Practical Theology, in the areas of Preaching, Christian Education and Pastoral Counseling. Dr. Henry Bast is the head of the department in which this practical work is offered.

Fall Convocation
At Camp Geneva

Western held its annual fall convocation conference on Sept. 13 and 14 at Camp Geneva on Lake Michigan. Dr. Manford George Gutze, Professor of Biblical Exposition and Christian Education at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, was guest speaker. Dr. Gutze addressed the seminary student body, faculty, and guest ministers from various denominations on the themes "The Word Was Made Flesh," "The Lamb of God," and "The Hope of Glory." The convocation marked the formal beginning of Western Seminary's 97th consecutive academic year in a long history of outstanding contributions to the life and work of the Reformed Church in America.

Theological Commission
Meets at Western

The Theological Commission of the Reformed Church in America met here at Western from October 16 through 18. Professor Lester J. Kayper was elected as Chairman of the Commission to replace Dr. Donald J. Bruggink, while the Rev. Sylvio Scorza, a graduate of WTS now serving on the faculty of Northwestern College, was elected Secretary to replace the Rev. Isaac C. Rottenberg.

W T S Alumni News and Notes

All alumni share deeply the loss to WTS through the resignation of President Englund. We pray God's blessing upon Harold in his continuing ministries and pledge our support to the administrative personnel, Henry Kleinheksel, Henry Ten Clay and Elton Eenigenburg, who are now charged with carrying on the leadership responsibilities of the Seminary. A word of appreciation is also extended through this column to the Alumni officers of the past year, Collins Weeber, Allan Dykstra and Don Den Hartog, for their dedicated service and contribution. The executive responsibilities for the Alumni this year are in the capable hands of Allan Dykstra. Tentative approval has already been given to the furnishing of Zwemer Lounge as "project 63" for the alumni. With grateful spirit and open purse let's respond to the call when it comes.

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Harvey Hoekstra is to be congratulated on the culmination of a task begun thirteen years ago: the publication of his translation of the New Testament into Anauk, the language of a Sudanese tribe. Still new fields to conquer as Harvey now turns his attention to performing the same task for the Murle, an adjoining tribe to the Anauk.

Chaplain Howard Scholten has been promoted by the Air Force to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. In active service for fifteen years, Chaplain Scholten has just completed a three-year assignment at Ramstein Air Base in Southwest Germany and is now assigned to the Hamilton Base near San Francisco.

Gordon Laman after completing two years of language study in Tokyo is working as a district evangelist in cooperation with the United Church of Christ in Japan at Saga City, on the island of Kyushu in Southwest Japan.

Gordon De Free, after being Chaplain to Servicemen's Guides in Hong Kong for three years, is now affiliated with Northwestern College, Orange City, Iowa.

BORN TO THE MINISTRY

Paul William, born February 26, 1962 to the George D. Muyskens, class '56.

Gregory Scott, born March 30, 1962 to Gordon and Mary Hondorp of Portland, Oregon.

Peter Ian, born May 20, 1962 to Paul and Carolyn VandeWoude of Vancouver, B.C.

Again a plea for more news from more of you. Address news items to me at Hope College or 86 West 21st Street, Holland, Michigan.

Cordially yours,
Henry Voogd, Executive Secretary

Western Seminary is host to several students from foreign countries this year. Here, pictured with Dean Ten Clay, are (from left to right) Elsie Law, Moses Keng, Jeremy Law, Jason Chen, Sam Ponniah, and Leocio Yao.
Western Seminary Receives Church Gift

A long-felt need of the Seminary was met recently through the generosity of the Immanuel Reformed Church of Grand Rapids. Through the years no drinking fountains had ever been installed at Zwemer Hall, the single men's dormitory, nor had water coolers been provided in the new main Seminary building.

A memorial bequest of a parishioner of the Immanuel Church was shared with the Seminary recently, so that this somewhat mundane but necessary service could be installed.

With a twinkle in our eye we suggest that there are still such things as furniture for the newly-refinished Zwemer lounge to be acquired, just in case you wonder whether our list of needs is exhausted!

Student Assistance Fund Meets Needs

Who hasn't had times in his life when the shoe pinched, financially speaking? Most of us can recall student days when we found ourselves in urgent need of money for tuition, books, or living expenses. In these days of high living costs such situations arise frequently in the lives of our students at Western.

The Student Assistance Fund of the seminary was created to meet such needs. Full scholarships of $500.00 have been provided by the continuing generosity of churches, laymen's groups, and interested individuals, who sense here a stewardship opportunity of great importance in helping dedicated young men prepare themselves for the gospel ministry.

If any group in your church desires more information on this important program, write to the school's business manager, Mr. Henry Kleinheksel.

Den Ouden Fund Aids Students

WTS has received a total of $937 contributed for the John den Ouden Memorial Fund. Of this amount, $562 was received from the Chicago area and $375 from the Holland and Zeeland area. In accordance with the desire of Mrs. John den Ouden, the Seminary has entered this sum into the Student Assistance Fund. During the past year this fund was used to help 22 students with either scholarship grants or student loans. The Rev. John den Ouden, a graduate of WTS, served for some years as a member of the Board of Trustees, as secretary of the Board and of its Executive Committee.

Social Action Committee . . .

(Cont'd from page 1)

at WTS. The first issues will appear during the second quarter.

The Social Action Committee is now undertaking a survey of racial relations in the immediate vicinity of Western in an attempt to determine the extent to which this problem exists here. The Committee is establishing a liaison between itself and the Christian Action Committee of the Reformed Church in America in an effort to keep the students at Western abreast of the rapidly shifting social difficulties we face in our time. Such problems as divorce, sexual mores, changing cultural patterns, and juvenile delinquency are all among the difficulties which the students here will face in their ministries, and are thus important topics for present consideration. We feel that the establishment of the Social Action Committee is a great stride forward in the Seminary's recognition of itself and the role it must play in the life of the Church and in the great social issues of our day.

Dr. Simon Blocker Celebrates 81st Birthday

The 81st birthday of the eminent Dr. Simon Blocker was celebrated when he was guest of honor at the Seminary early in the fall quarter. Over 100 students and faculty members assembled in the Seminary commons following a Chapel prayer service.

Dr. Blocker is emeritus professor of Practical Theology, having served in that chair at Western from 1936 to 1952. He served a seven-year pastorate in New York City and a 21-year term in Patterson, New Jersey before coming to the Seminary. Dr. Blocker is the author of four books and more than 1,000 articles and editorials in religious publications.

Pastor's Institute Held at Western

The second annual Hope College-Western Seminary Pastor's Institute was held here in Holland during the week of June 18-22. It was attended by 47 Reformed Church ministers from Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, New York, New Jersey, and six other states. This is a gain of 15 over the 32 enrolled in 1961. The Institute faculty included Dr. Ralph G. Turnbull of Seattle, Washington; the Rev. Wallace Pollock of Glen Ellyn, Illinois; the Rev. William C. Brownson of Chicago, Illinois; Dr. Henry Bast and Dr. Harold N. Englund of Western Theological Seminary; and Dr. Clarence De Graaf of Hope College. Dr. Lars I. Granberg of Hope College served as Chairman of the Institute Planning Committee and as Institute Director.
Thought Provoking Lectures to Come

During the 1962-1963 academic year, WTS will continue with its annual series of special lectures by members of the faculty and distinguished guests. Faculty and students alike are eagerly anticipating the appearance here of world-famous New Testament scholar, Dr. Oscar Cullman, who will come from the University of Basel in Switzerland and will be lecturing at Western some time during the coming Spring. Other guest lecturers will be Dr. Oleg Grabar, University of Michigan; Dr. H. Berkhof, University of Leiden, The Netherlands; Dr. Bastian Van Elderen, Calvin Seminary, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Dr. Justin Vander Kolk, New Brunswick Seminary, and Dr. Rachel Henderlite, Presbyterian Publications, Richmond, Virginia.

As mentioned above, members of the WTS faculty will also be presenting special lectures in this series. These will include Dr. Richard C. Oudersluys, fresh from a year of New Testament studies in Switzerland; Dr. John H. Piet, former missionary in India; and Dr. Elton M. Epenigenburg, currently the acting Academic Dean of the Seminary.

If you want to be placed on the Seminary mailing list for card invitations to these special lectures, just send a card to Western Seminary, 86 E. 12th Street in Holland, giving your name and address, and requesting this service.

Commencement: Seniors Take Leave of Western

Western Seminary held its annual commencement on May 16, 1962 in the Seminary chapel. The address was presented by the Reverend Raymond R. Van Heukelom, Th.D., Pastor of the First Reformed Church, Orange City, Iowa. Thirty students received the B.D. degree and one the Th.M. degree. These graduated seniors are by now already involved in the work of the church or, in some cases, in further study. William Unzicker, president of the student body during his senior year, won the Henry W. Pietenpol Senior Excellence Prize. Unzicker is now under assignment to Japan by the Board of Missions.

Paul R. Fries, a senior from Muskegon, received the first fellowship award for graduate studies to be taken from a gift of $15,000 given to the seminary by John and Mattie Osterhaven of Grand Rapids. Fries will continue his studies at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan.