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Dimensions in Teaching

It is not often a college student is reminded that his professor teaches both in and out of the university classroom.

Usually the student thinks of learning as a passive transfer of a teacher's knowledge of a course into his own memory. But there is another teaching responsibility, a responsibility that requires both knowledge and a degree of courage.

Fourteen of Mercer's professors have reminded us of both of the responsibilities of teaching. These professors saw a faction of Southern Baptists condemning a seminary professor who wrote a book that did not agree with what they thought Baptist doctrine should be. The 14 Mercer faculty members distributed a statement affirming the principle of Biblical interpretation and study removed from a set of man-made restrictions.

The book's author has been dismissed from the seminary faculty, and the Mercer professors have again voiced their distress.

As students, we should make careful note of the actions of the Mercer professors. They have fulfilled their obligations as teachers and made us aware of a situation that is of vital personal importance to all students. Now it is our responsibility to learn and judge their actions.—R.H.

Cooperate And Park

The parking problem at Mercer has been growing worse for several years and this year because of either the record enrollment or the affluence of Mercerians the ratio of cars to parking places has increased tremendously.

Our Student Government Association and the University Administration have implemented a plan that could help matters if all our mobile Mercerians would only cooperate.

No one is required to drive a car to Mercer. No one is required to park his car on campus. No one is required to register his car and put on a decal if he does not park on campus. But the SGA has asked all students who park their cars on campus to register the car and obtain a window decal for identification purposes.

This is not unduly restrictive. There are many parking places on streets adjoining the campus. But if a student finds it inconvenient to park off campus it does not seem to be asking too much to require him to obtain a decal for on-campus parking. Then if those students who have not registered their cars would no longer park in the lots we think parking would be simplified for all concerned.

The enforcement of the parking rules listed in the student handbook has been lax thus far in the quarter, because of a shortage of decals. But we understand that now stricter enforcement has begun and parking tickets will be given to violators.

We do not enjoy seeing Mercer students harrassed with too many rules and regulations, but anyone who parks in the lots on campus must realize the need for some regulation.

Perhaps if we all show our respect for the SGA by cooperating with it and following these simple rules we now have, stricter action will not be necessary.—LM



The Long Sleep

Adam slowly opened his sleepy eyes. All his surroundings were exactly as he remembered them before he had drifted off into sleep, but for some reason he was afraid. It seemed to him that he had traveled a great distance and endured a great hardship. Here he was, however, just as he had last remembered before the sleep had come.

The light was already brightly shining. Outside the room he could hear the familiar voice of his mother softly singing to herself. On an impulse Adam called out to her. Perhaps she could explain why he felt so strange. Automatically his countenance brightened as his mother drifted into the room. "My son, what is wrong?" You look frightened and worried.

"Mother," he began, "the strangest thing just happened to me." "While I slept I thought that I was in another world. A world filled with people quite different from the people of our world. They had a different dress, a different talk, and entire-

ly different manners, but yet I was one of them. Even while I was a part of this world I began to change. I grew from an infant to a man and then the strangest part of all . . ."

"Yes, my son?" His mother's eyes glowed with tender understanding.

"I dreamed that I ceased to exist. This is what is so strange. Here, in our world, we never cease to be. It was at the moment that I ceased my existence that I awoke. Mother what is wrong with me, why should I dream such a dream as that?"

His mother carefully spread her angel wings and sat on the edge of his cloud. "My son, you have had what we call here in heaven, a nightmare. Others have called that nightmare, Life. Don't worry, for each of us has had such a nightmare at one time or other in our existence, but after that one there is no more. You simply had a bad dream."

DICK SHIVER



The Elliott Controversy

May praise and honor be heaped upon the heads of our faculty members who firmly stated their position on the dismissal of Dr. Ralph Elliott from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Herein lies the failure of our Southern Baptist Seminaries in meeting the need for academic "freedom" in the arena of theological speculation. Have Southern Baptists so arrived at the complete "truth" about God and man that we can no longer entertain diverse interpretations of theological concepts? Are we who profess the freedom of interpreting the Bible according to our own personal relationship with God and our fellow man to allow the administrative hierarchy of the Southern Baptist Convention the selfish privilege of telling us what we are to believe? The trend is pointing in that direction. If so, we had best borrow the doctrine of "Papal Infallibility" from the Catholic Church, holding ourselves in humble gratitude for neglecting such an obvious "truth."

As a protest against the action of the Board of Trustees of Midwestern Seminary, may I submit the following information:

A meeting of the Board of Trustees, after examining Dr. Elliott's doctrinal beliefs, voted on

December 28, 1961, its confidence in him "As a consecrated Christian, a promising scholar, a loyal servant of Southern Baptists, and a dedicated and warmly evangelistic preacher of the Gospel."

In January, 1962, the Sunday School Board affirmed the right of the Broadman Press to publish books representing certain segments of Southern Baptist beliefs. It also acclaimed that The Message of Genesis was "representative of a segment of Southern Baptist life and thought."

No official charge of heterodoxy or heresy has been levied against Dr. Elliott.

Dr. Elliott offered not to republish his book if the board would officially request him not to do so. The board cowardly turned down his proposal, not wanting to accept the responsibility of banning the book.

After Elliott's dismissal, President Millard J. Berquist of Midwestern Seminary declared: "I have constantly and steadfastly supported him and his position . . . I have believed in the book and in the author, and still do."

In my judgment, unjust action of this nature against a devout and dedicated scholar and man of God must not go unmentioned.

AL STEPHENSON

Neglected Opportunity

Despite the seemingly firm words of President Kennedy and the imposing show of U. S. strength in establishing a naval blockade of offensive arms to Cuba it appears that we have thrown away a golden opportunity of reasserting our belief in the principle of freedom for nations of the western hemisphere and indirectly for the world.

To be sure, the action at first taken in the Cuban crisis justifiably bolstered the hopes of liberty-loving peoples everywhere. But assurances given by the United States concerning future action may well have seriously undermined or even possibly destroyed any basis for continued future hopes of this nature.

As a result of President Kennedy's action and the support he received from the American public and nations of the non-communist world, the stage was set for a great leap forward in American foreign policy. As U. S. ships and planes went into action forming a protective ring around Cuba, Khrushchev and the communist leadership began to back off.

Khrushchev hesitated at first, then agreed to remove the offensive weapons from Cuban soil. With the Communists in retreat, the United States could have pressed its advantage to exact important demands without conceding anything on its part.

The Communists were revealed to the whole world as deceivers and liars. The true nature and extent of their evil designs against the Western hemisphere were openly and unmistakably revealed—too many people for the first time. Consequently, hemispheric opinion united against their presence in Cuba.

Under these circumstances it seems likely that the United States could have gained important Soviet concessions—and these short of war. We could have demanded for instance, that all Communist weapons in Cuba be turned over to the U. S. This was not done. We could have insisted on the withdrawal of all Communist military personnel including "technicians" from Cuba. This

was not done. We could have called for the destruction of submarine bases as well as missile sites now under construction. This too, was not done.

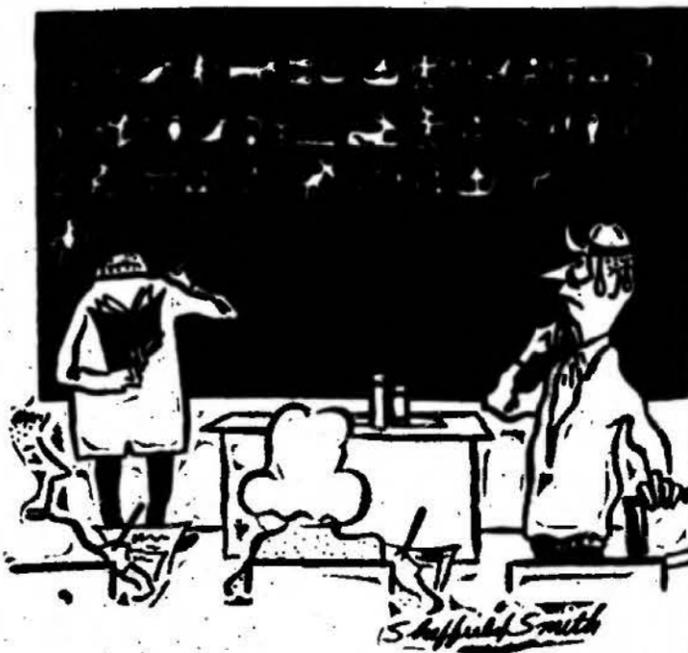
None of these concessions which could probably have been achieved with a minimum of extra effort were even asked for by President Kennedy.

Indeed, instead of gaining concessions, the U. S. gave concessions. In return for simply the promised withdrawal of offensive weapons from Cuba, President Kennedy promised that the U. S. would neither invade Cuba nor seek to oust the Communists from the island.

We have been promised the withdrawal of land based "offensive" missiles. But the need for the removal of supposedly "defensive" missiles as well as other weapons has not been firmly insisted on or even greatly stressed by the U. S. Nothing has been said about either the construction of submarine bases in Cuba or the influx of Russian subs, some capable of launching missiles into the area. Subs, it should be noted are an excellent means of introducing espionage agents into a hostile country. Above all we have not shown any intention of removing the Communists themselves from Cuba.

If the present attitude continues unchanged the U. S. will, in effect be guaranteeing the Communists the continued use of Cuba as a base for subversion, espionage, sabotage and propaganda activities directed against the nations of the hemisphere. Such an acknowledgment would be a tremendous blow to the cause of Freedom. Unfortunately, the Kennedy administration seems to be orienting itself more and more in this direction.

This, of course, is only an assumption—one person's opinion based on facts and vents as he sees them. It is moreover, an assumption of tragic future consequences. Let us hope, therefore, that this is a wrong assumption.



MID-TERMS