

Sharp Has Concern For Future Pulpits

(Continued From Page Two)

dents from 20 Protestant denominations and the least effective recruiter was discovered to be the high school guidance counselor.

Recruitment for church vocations becomes increasingly difficult in a time when the ministry is no longer the prestige profession that it was once. Space programs, large universities, gigantic scholarship programs, mass communications media have all heralded the new hero—the scientist and mathematician. There is more glamour and publicity for those who explore outer space than for those who probe inner space. The appeal of ancient manuscripts, the study of Greek, Hebrew and Latin are not as appealing, for many, as feeding data to the electronic computer.

Young people are going to be hesitant to consider seriously church vocations because of the wide-spread attacks upon the profession by vocal right-wing elements. It is tough enough to minister to all of the people of the parish without having "pot-shots" taken at you from disgruntled outside political elements. Youngsters hear the barbs of "pink," "traitor," "radical," "Communist," but seldom hear that no clergyman of good standing in a major denomination in America has ever been convicted of being a Communist.

The best recruiters for church vocations are (1) ministers and (2) parents, in that order.

The Economic

Whether we like it or not, ours is an affluent society. And unfortunately this is a major factor in the ministerial shortage. The church has priced itself out of the market. Some would state that the other way; however, the facts will substantiate that the ministerial profession is terrible underpaid. It is not the multiple roles that ministers must play, nor the burdens of the office that cause them to drop out.

Do you hear of large numbers of medical men dropping out? How about lawyers? Certainly we will agree that the physician has a most demanding schedule. People call him at all hours and expect miracles of him. Why are we now hearing calls for more medical schools and less seminaries? Physicians are not leaving medicine because they are willing to endure the multiple roles imposed upon them for they are being paid adequately to assume the demanding roles of medicine.

Clergymen have to pay the same prices at the stores for clothing and food as do the more fortunate people of other professions. It costs the minister as much to educate his children as it does the engineer or lawyer. There is more opportunity for competent clergymen to advance in position and salary in other professions. A capable young minister told this writer recently that he was offered an executive position at \$25,000 a year. One of our graduates this year with a bachelor of science degree in chemistry started to work for \$10,300 per year. The sad thing is that he came to study for the ministry in another denomination. I am sure he will

be a good layman, but we need intellectual ministers.

In most churches the budget is subscribed by lay people who give from one to five dollars a week to the church. The profits of the affluent society have not gotten into the church in sufficient amounts for competitive salaries to be offered.

Educational

A final factor which accounts for the ministerial shortage is the educational factor. This is closely related to the financial factor as well as the prestige factor. The minister is expected to go to four years of college and three years of seminary. In an equal amount of time this person could obtain a law degree or medical degree or a doctorate in most academic disciplines. The minister, however, after seven years of extensive and expensive study obtains a master's degree, a degree which he could obtain for one year's graduate study in practically every other field except religion.

This is the first year that the three years of graduate study in a seminary culminated in a master's degree. Previously he would receive another bachelor's degree (bachelor of divinity) for three years' work.

We would do better to trim the fat off of our seminary degree requirements and have the minister go two full years as a full-time student for which he would receive a master's degree and then if he wanted a doctor's degree let him go an additional two years and complete competent graduate work for a doctor's degree. This could easily be done by removing courses which duplicate undergraduate pre-theological work and by strengthening those courses which remain in the curriculum. Such a proposal, if carried out, would speed up the process of getting qualified ministers on the field and at the same time would give opportunity to the exceptionally bright young person who wanted a doctorate to pursue it.

CONCLUSION

It is time we put the matter where it belongs—in the hands of dedicated church men and women. They will have to decide how important the church is, whether it deserves an adequate leadership that has some equality with other professions, and whether or not the message of redemption in Christ Jesus is important enough for our day to guide their own children toward this kind of life commitment.

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Foreign Students Making ACC Campus Their Home

Second In Series

By BETH BEST

(Editor's Note: This is the concluding article on our foreign students. The article this week features Michel Belanger of the Republic of Panama and Anya de Bruijn of Wassenaar, Holland.)

Michel Belanger, now in his sophomore year at Atlantic Christian, is from Colon, Republic of Panama and came to our campus on the suggestion of his older brother who attended ACC several years ago.

Michel plans to major in accounting and to continue his studies in graduate school. Mike has found that a smaller school is more beneficial for a foreign student, for he is enabled to know more students personally. When he first arrived in the United States he was surprised at the newness of everything such as the buildings in the cities. Disappointment was his reaction when he saw our idea of a city; he imagined a city to have great numbers of people, and wondered how we could say "the city of Wilson."

But college students he thinks to be much the same as in Panama, except that American students are more tolerant politically. Mike's only complaint is that most American students are not really interested in foreign students; he remarked that there has been "only one student who asked me about Panama." It is his wish to get to know more students in order to be able to create better un-

derstanding.

Newest

The newest foreign student on the campus, Anya de Bruijn, came to the U.S. two months ago from Wassenaar, Holland. A freshman, Anya plans to major in psychology; however, after college she hopes to be able to travel throughout the U.S., especially to the northern region



ANYA

MICHEL

in order to compare it with the southern region. She is now taking sophomore level courses because of her excellent training in the secondary school at home; she attended secondary school for 6 years, with 13 subjects in a year. English was one of the subjects which she studied during those 6 years, but until coming to AC she had never written a composition in English.

The decision to attend AC was not her own; she applied to the Netherlands America Institute to attend college in the U.S., her application was sent to several colleges, and AC expressed the desire to give her a scholarship.

Anya has found southerners to be "very, very nice people" and has been impressed with their helpfulness and hospitality. The greatest surprise to her was the degree to which everything in college life is related, for in Holland students are more prepared to live their own, even to the point of renting their own rooms rather than living in dorms. However, socially Americans seem to be more independent; in Holland social activities are enjoyed in groups of well-known people.

Anya admits encountering one difficulty in adjusting to American students, and that is the lack of understanding on the part of students when she tries to understand some of the popular "slang" phrases commonly used. However, even that has not created much of a problem for Anya, for she has adjusted remarkably to the challenge of college in a strange country.

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