

Editorials

The Royal Nonesuch

Is chapel becoming a ritual, a mere mechanical operation that requires nothing more of its participants than it would from a room full of robots? If so, why?

For one reason there is not enough variety to merit the audience's attention. Week after week it is the same old thing. Listen for prelude, call to worship, song, prayer, anthem, scripture, "sermon," song benediction, postlude—then leave. It reminds us of a broken record.

Lack of freshness is another reason that chapel is on the death march. After all, what is its purpose anyway? Are we supposed to get something out of it? We realize that every chapel program cannot be an act of revelation, but at least it should be aimed at sparking the audience's attention.

Trite vocabularies and generalized topics are two serious drawbacks in the chapel talk itself. Does this point to the speaker's lack of interest or preparation—or maybe both? If chapel is important enough for Dean Moore to send out explanatory letters to the students concerning the seriousness of cutting chapel, it should be important enough for those in charge to present a program that is well written, and delivered.

In the letter it is stated that those in charge of chapel should assume their responsibility to us.

Why not give a student (or students) an opportunity to organize and present a program occasionally, one that would not necessarily have to conform to the "standard"?

There are several different directions the chapel programs can take: interpretive dances, plays, readings, talking choruses, or singing programs. However, we are certainly not suggesting that every program should follow along these lines but we are saying that they could be used for variation.

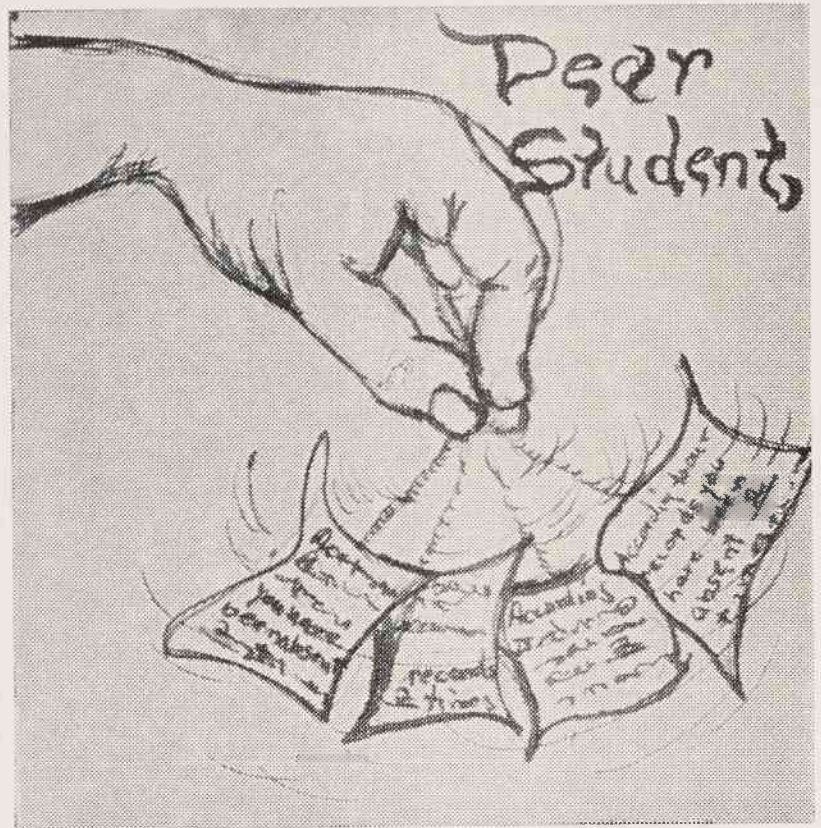
What is most important to us is making the program that we have more effective. Chapel (as stated in the handbook) is one short period a week "when the college community unites in worship." At present there does not seem to be much "uniting" going on.

Crying In The Dark

In Chapel February 29, the Rev. Calvin Knight made this interesting comment: "Too often many of us are like the child who screamed, 'There is too much dark, there is too much dark,' and yet we do nothing about it . . . It is not the superior spectators who win a game but the players in that game."

Right now The Decree would even welcome the "children crying in the dark." Do we have any students interested enough in our college life and its problems to write letters of criticism to the editor? Is there no room for improvement in any area of campus life? The place to voice your opinion is where it will be heard and do the most good. Bring it out into the open! Let us all hear about it.

I agree with Rev. Knight that we need "men of action" but in this case we also need some "crying in the dark." Where are the critical spectators?



"You say you wouldn't miss chapel and student assembly for the world?"

Situation: Comedy

There seems to have been a rash of minor pranks at the Women's Dormitory last week. Ranging from an emptied fire extinguisher on third floor to misplaced name plates, these pranks have been received with "mixed emotions."

To some the whole thing is outrageous (certainly not done in an adult manner) and to others it is pure vandalism. Some feel that the guilty persons should pay for the damages and there are those who

want to forget the whole thing.

Regardless of the attitude, it is a "big to-do" over nothing. The Administration wants the expense of filling the extinguishers (another one on first floor was discovered partially empty) paid for and they naturally want to prevent it from recurring. But somewhere along the line of diminishing authority they have missed their goal. What started out in fun, on the girls part, has turned into revenge.

Letter To The Editor

Efforts Misconstrued

Recently a group of girls emptied a fire extinguisher in the Women's Dormitory. There has been a lot of controversy on the nature of this offense. This in time led up to several discussions on the purpose of going to college. As yet we have heard nothing from the actual participants. Underneath the frivolity they have a point to make:

Dear Editor:

We, the members of the Wesleyan Girls' Dorm Volunteer Fire Department, are seriously concerned over the reception with which our efforts to combat the fire hazards on third floor has met. It seems that our illfated expedition has not been considered in the same benevolent spirit in which it was conceived. We have sat silently by and heard our valiant attempts maligned until we can be silent no longer.

They have been referred to as

"vandalism," an outrage, water-waste, and various other epithets which we will refrain from listing here. We have heard recently a nasty rumor that we are here for four years of concentrated study. We cannot express how appalled we are by this gross misconception; we hope to correct this situation in our own humble, albeit necessarily devious, way.

We have at heart the interests of the college community, and do not wish to see its aims of brotherhood and friendliness thwarted in these formative years by priggish notions of self-righteousness.

Our Volunteer Fire Department forms the core of a hard-fighting, kindly, patriotic, and loyal group concerned with the spreading of a right Christian spirit and debauchery.

Sincerely,
WVFD

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