

Sizing Up Religious Ventriloquism

In our current campus life, where the drive to accumulate material things holds undisputed sway in the lives of many, where the downward pull of spiritual pride results in the nonfulfillment of human potentialities, and where gain in quantity often appears to result in loss of quality, it is obvious that the mind can become obsessed with trivia, and that possibilities might not emerge into expectations.

If we seek to gain insight into the present difficulties, we can discern that one of the main problems is with religion and its orientation to the present world. In our country where religion plays a secondary role to technology, and where many individuals are but religious ventriloquists of an age gone by, seeking no religious experience of their own; prophesying "moral" perfection instead of divine perfection, it is easy to see how some individuals become mangled in this established order. A trip to any mental institution will exemplify how "meaningless religion" can function as a contributing factor to distorted minds and disappointments. Further, our immense dissatisfaction, lack of self confidence and initiative are but reflections that we are deficient in internal momentum. We need a remedy, but how shall we go about obtaining it?

Our search for authenticity is one prescription, but the tragedy in this is that many of us compromise with vagueness and matters of secondary importance. To be sure, no one can possess truth in its entirety, but the deep need of today seems to be for an individual to find truth for himself and escape from the current belief in standardized religious experiences. Thomas wanted to believe, but he was not willing to believe allusions. He had to know the truth for himself. At Mars Hill truth is especially accessible, and even though the search and acquirement of it can be painful, the end result is always spiritually rewarding.

—David Crook

Give-Us-No-Test Week May Be Proclaimed

The joke that this is National Aardvark Week may not be any joke at all. For instance, October 9-15 was International Pizza Week and October 16 has been set aside as Father-in-law Day.

Other special events in October and November are: National Macaroni Week, October 19-28; National Pretzel Week, October 24-31; National Popcorn Week, October 24 - November 1; National Cooking With Butter Time, November 1-30; Sour Cream Time, November 1-30; Cat International Week, November 5-11; and Youth Appreciation Week, November 13-19.

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LITTLE CAMPUS



The Legend of Tommy Hawk

By ROY BOWER

Barbering is one of the more honorable occupations in the world. During the Middle Ages, barbers performed operations as surgeons do today, in addition to cutting hair. Yet, like all other occupations, barbering is only as honorable as those people who engage in it.

Such was the case of Tommy Hawk, who became a notorious amateur barber at Jupiter Valley University. He entered barbering while a student there in order to earn some extra spending money.

Now the story of how Tommy Hawk became a barberous barber took place in this way. One day when the natives of Clown Dormitory (where Tommy lived) became restless, after having cooked their housemother in every way known to the great witchdoctors all over the uncivilized world, Tommy suggested that they open a barber shop for college students.

Gil Becomes Barber

The first person to invest in the new business venture was Gil O'Teen, an Irish renegade who had previously been voted the Most Incompetent Surgeon of the Year because he was unable to cut anything decently. It was not known why Gil decided to become an amateur barber. He was descended from a long line of lawyers and judges. In fact, his great-great-great-great-grandfather presided at a famous series of trials in Salem, Massachusetts in the year 1692. Later, during the last decade of the eighteenth century, Gil's great-grand uncle, while presiding at a trial in Paris, gave the defendant a very short haircut — from the neck up.

The shop was organized in Clown Dormitory (which then became known as Clown Wigwam) as the Scalp-Me-Quick Salon of Barbering Unlimited, when stockholders (who for the most part were members of the Mad-in-Sin Indian tribe and residents of Clown Wigwam) met and drew up a statement of policy for the company. First, there were to be two kinds of haircuts that would be given

to customers. One was to be a regular haircut with a scalp treatment, complete with tomahawk. The other was to be a shorter haircut, developed first by Napoleon en deLouse Tou-scalp (Gil's great-grand uncle), for people who had mental problems. Second, the price of either haircut was to be one hundred shekels.

Business at the salon began after the greatest advertising campaign since Little Bighorn. The enthusiasm extended into the beauty treatments which, in their calmer moments, resembled the Spanish Inquisition. First, the customer was tied to a stake and, after building a fire around him, Tommy would recite the salon's motto, a jubilant cry that transcended all geological periods. Then the customer was given the haircut-scalp treatment combination. If he desired the shorter haircut, he was sent to the studio of Gil O'Teen, where French was spoken with an Irish accent. M. Gilbert usually gave his customers a special beverage, produced at the University of North Carolina, to calm their nerves. The customer then relaxed and lost everything that troubled him and many things that did not worry him at all.

Hats Reduce Glare

Students soon found that they preferred to pay one hundred shekels for a permanent treatment than to go to the village and pay one hundred twenty-five shekels for a temporary treatment. However, after Tommy and Gil finished with their customers, most of them had to wear a hat to reduce the glare cast by their new, shiny domes—that is, those customers who still had a dome that shone. Unfortunately, Gil's customers could not control themselves and always lost their heads. An Indian chief summed up the operations of the salon in this way, "Ugh!" When the shop finally went out of business, because of a shortage of customers, Jupiter Valley University became known as Sleepy Hollow, the Land of the Midnight Suns.

Barter Play Welcome Departure in Lyceum

Seldom does a change simply occur. The course of history has not been a coup d'etat of events, rather it has been an evolution. We feel that Mars Hill is now evolving from the stuffiness and absurdity of the safe and the sane.

The Barter Theater's great presentation of "The Course of Love" is the source for our optimism. It was a production without eight-syllable words; it was a production without a message of justice and righteousness and truth and sincerity — its message was simply one of entertainment.

The Hilltop commends the faculty members responsible for the choice of the Barter Theater as an addition to the lyceum series. We particularly commend and laud the members of the Barter Group who made that Tuesday night a memorable one indeed — it was a terrific example of talent and professional polish.

"The Course of Love" may very well prove to be a stepping stone for our stride towards becoming a truly "liberal" arts college. Nonetheless, it may also have been a stumbling block in our movement towards becoming a senior college.

A four year college must be ready to be a four year college. It must have high ideas but it must have enthusiastic students. One may well wonder why so few turned out to see a professional acting group. How many other colleges would have jumped at such a chance? Yet the shame of it all is this: that when the Barter Theater Group came to Mars Hill (enrollment 1104) it was greeted by less than 200 students!

This is not a favorable sign. Can we, in the light of our progression towards senior college status, afford to show such lack of enthusiasm and such antagonism towards culture? —WNW

Outer What?

The question of recognition of Outer Mongolia was put before the members of Congress. In answer to whether or not we should recognize Outer Mongolia, 40% answered "yes", 40% answered "no" and 20% replied, "Outer what?"

The parallel of this fable is the Mars Hill Alma Mater. Since classes began in September, not one freshman has heard the school song. In chapel we sing, occasionally, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" but never our Alma Mater. At football games we declare we have the T-E-A-M on the B-E-A-M and yet we don't have the school S-O-N-G in the T-H-R-O-N-G. This is not a shortcoming of students, but of administrative planning. Must we take a survey and end up with answers such as "Alma who?"

Play It Cool-- Stay in School

"Avoid the rush, flunk out now!" We might chuckle a little, but it is a tragic fact that some of us seem to be following this advice.

Our purpose is not to preach to you on how to study. Instead, we'll try to illustrate in a few lines the "importance" of study.

Last night a good friend stopped by the room and said good by — he was dropping out of school. He said it was just too hard and too much studying. Several days before, another student had told me he had so much work to do that he would just like to throw all his books out of the window.

At this point the going seems especially tough. In each class we attend it seems the teacher will never stop piling up the work, but this is what separates the men from the boys — the girls from the women. It is exactly why college graduates are in such demand in our modern world. For example, the personnel manager of a large company in Virginia recently confided that when he sees, on a person's application for employment, that he is a college graduate, he immediately sees the applicant in a good light. He knows the applicant has had courage enough to stick it out. This is the type of person he wants.

Yes, the going is tough. The teachers are putting us to the test. They want to see if we can "stick it out." They are getting an excellent view of us under pressure. Remember, after we graduate, our prospective employers may check with Mars Hill to see how we held up under the strain. Better play it cool and stay in school.

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