



KERUX

Howdy! by Richard Bodini

Howdy! My name is Richard Bodini. I am the editor of this publication. That means I get to determine what gets in and what doesn't. I am a Senior in the M.Div. program. I am also a Canadian, so I have a certain bias or slant in my writings and feelings. This is my second and last year doing this. I am looking forward to this opportunity again, learning and expanding my abilities in writing and editing a student newsletter. Anything you can do to help me improve is gladly accepted.

What is Kerux? For all you Greek scholars it is taken from a Greek word meaning "to proclaim." For Hebrew scholars, I would invite you to come up with a Hebrew equivalent for me. The Kerux lets you know what is going on, as well as being an open forum for student opinion, information, community events

and focus. It also gives opportunity for the Seminary to draw together and to celebrate and fellowship with one another. The Kerux acts as both herald (kerux) and koinonia.

As editor, you don't want to hear my opinion or thoughts on what is going on. I try to keep my ears to the ground around here and report on what is moving and shaking our community or even what is making it tick. I have even been known to critique things around the Seminary. My point is that the Seminary community wants to hear your voice, your opinion, your thoughts, your feelings on any particular item. Be it contemporary issues in theology discussed in Prof. Bolt's class, church life issues, social and political issues facing the Christian Church and CTS. We also would like to have articles that help build



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What we Name it Matters by Paul Ryan

One of our professors once commented, with some wit, about the recovery of liturgical lament: "Does that mean that churches will begin forming Lament Teams?" Of course I smiled at our professor's dry musings, but at the same moment I began to ponder a truism. *The name we give things often reflects their perceived function.* For instance, a football team plays football and a basketball team plays basketball. We seem to have no problem with this (unless, of course, in your country, football teams play what we Americans call soccer). In many of our churches, however, our language seems to be confused. Often, groups of dedicated lay persons form to lead our liturgies,

and instead of calling themselves, say, Liturgy Leading Team, they decide upon the name Praise Team. Praise Team? This is a like a football team naming themselves Tackling Team or a basketball team deciding upon the name, Slam-Dunk Team. Does not liturgy involve more than just praise? How about adoration, confession, lament, assurance, thanksgiving, proclamation, dedication, and so on?

On second thought, though, perhaps our language is not confused. Judging by an informal observation of churches, most Praise Teams truly serve only one function: praise. Often, they are limited to a set of two or three songs at the opening of the

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Schedule of Events

- September 4—Classes begin; Convocation
- September 5—All-Seminary Conference
- September 14—editor's birthday
- September 17—Hebrew Comp
- September 18—1st drop/add day
- September 24-27—National Council of Churches in Christ Committee on Disabilities
- September 25—Special Interest Day
- September 25-27—Seminary Board of Trustees Meeting
- October 1—Greek Comp
- October 2-3—Missions Institute Lectures
- October 14-15—No classes
- October 14—Canadian Thanksgiving; Faculty Retreat
- October 16—Special Event
- October 22—Bible Knowledge Comp
- October 27-28—Registration
- October 30-November 1—“Christianity, Culture, and Worship Worldwide” Conference
- October 31—Reformation Day
- November 4-5—Stob Lectures
- November 12—Last day of classes
- November 13-14—Reading Days
- November 17-21—Exams
- November 24-28—Thanksgiving Break

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community (koinonia) in the Seminary. Many people who come to CTS have left homes and families far, far away. For some it is a difficult transition, for others it isn't as difficult. But we are here to lift up and support each other through our encouraging words “heralded” through this paper. If you have articles, ideas, comments, letters, poems, etc., please submit them to me at .

Many of last year's columns will return this year (Schedule of Events, Chip Shots, Voice from the Field...). I am also looking at introducing some new ones. I need your help in this area. I would love to see a Korean language column informing our Korean students of what is going on or helping them to understand how some things work around the Seminary. I need someone to compile a list of Cares and Concerns, something that was done in the past, but needs work

Book of the Quarter—Fall 2003

Two years ago a new program began at Calvin Seminary. President Rev. Cornelius Plantinga, Jr. would choose a book for each quarter of the academic year to be read and discussed by the entire seminary community—students, staff, and faculty. It became known as “The Book of the Quarter.” The chosen books are provocative, appealingly written, and inexpensive. According to President Plantinga, “we might not agree with nearly everything in the books, but they would help us see God, the world, and ourselves with new eyes.” These books are also used by a number of book groups in

now. Another possibility is “Hello, my name is ... and this is who I am.” This column would introduce us to some of our international students and allow us to get to know them better. Finally, we will be getting regular column from the Student Senate.

I look forward to all of your contributions through out the year. Oh yeah, the Kerux is usually printed every other week or at least twice a month before Christmas. After Christmas it tends to come out every 3 weeks. In the last quarter we'll see what happens with the number of submissions. However, this January there are several major events happening with me that will probably make it quite interesting getting an issue out. We'll see about that when we get there.

the wider Christian community. Some of which meet on campus during the year.

Last year we had experts on the authors present some interesting facts about the authors and their books to the Seminary community. We were able to meet face-to-face with Dorothy Bass (*Receiving the Day: Christian Practices for Opening the Gift of Time*), John Timmer (*God of Weakness: How God Works Through the Weak Things of the World*), and from a distance at the January Series Barbara Brown Taylor (*Speaking of Sin: The Lost Language of*

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service, a time traditionally devoted to praise. At the same time, many of these teams have little opportunity to function in other ways, because, frankly, little other than praise takes place. And unfortunately, their song repertoire is often selected from a tiny pool of publishers that are well publicized but poorly representative of the variety of liturgical functions. In light of this, Praise Teams in many churches *are* appropriately named.

But what about Calvin Seminary? Suppose a group of dedicated students decided to form a team to lead, on occasion, our chapel services. What should they call themselves? If the name we give things often reflects their perceived function, the name must be selected thoughtfully.

Therefore, a good starting place for these students would be to reflect upon the question, “What are we supposed to do in our chapel services?” There is hardly enough space in this article to outline an entire liturgical theology, and I don’t dare lose your attention at this point. But to get at this essential question, I want to offer some action verbs that are inspired by Ron Rienstra, Associate for Student Worship at Calvin College. In chapel, we *renew* the covenant; *participate* fully, actively, and consciously; *engage* our minds, hearts, and hands; *expand* our world through time and space; *bow*

in reverence; *follow* the Spirit; and *anticipate* God working among us. In addition to this, I offer humbly that we *join* Christ is his perfect work, *edify* one another through a variety of gifts, *glorify* God in all we do and say, and *voice* creation’s on-going praise and lament.

What I appreciate about this list is its breadth and depth. In all honesty, how often do we think to ourselves, “In chapel we sing, pray, listen, read, stand, shake hands, etc.?” Yes, of course, this is what we do, but so do devoted baseball fans during the seventh inning stretch! Shouldn’t participating in chapel at Calvin Seminary be so much more? Moreover, this list of action verbs get *beyond style*. Liturgical expression in the church of Jesus Christ, and, therefore, Calvin Seminary, is formal *and* informal, its new *and* old, its organ *and* guitar, its spontaneous *and* prepared, its Liturgical Folk *and* Praise & Worship, its global *and* local . . . I could probably go on for another paragraph. It is the above list of action verbs that help us not to exclude various expressions, but to discern *within* them true liturgical piety.

So what should this devoted group of students call themselves? There is a word that I have up to this point refrained from using that embodies all that we are to do in chapel. It is *the* active verb. Worship. I avoided bringing this word into play, and especially avoided joining it to the word “team,” because I want us to see it afresh. There *is* a group of

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students at Calvin Seminary who have started a Worship Team. But it may not be what you would initially expect from a group with this name. It is our desire, as a *Worship* Team, to embrace and facilitate *all* that is to be done in chapel. We are not devoted to a particular function or style. We are devoted to the fullness of Christian worship in a variety of expressions. What we have named it, therefore, matters.

Presently, we are four students working on music, but isn’t worship so much more? In order to do things well we need to devote ourselves to regular practice and develop our core leadership. For the time being, we are not seeking new members. In the future, we look forward to expanding the team to include more musicians, readers, liturgists, and artists so that we might grow into all that worship in chapel can be. If you are interested in more information please feel free at anytime to email me at .

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"By wisdom the LORD laid the earth's foundations, by understanding He set the heavens in place." Proverbs 3:19

Chip Shots from the Rough by Richard Bodini

Welcome back! It is hard to believe that a whole summer has come and gone. I still can't get over how fast it went by. I only made it out the links a couple of times. Far less than I wanted to do. I always find that I want to get out and golf more and more, but I never get out there as much as I can. I think it is like doing devotions. You always to get out there and do more. You want to do it, but it never works out.

In the next issue, you'll read some comments from students on what to stay focused on while at Seminary. I'll enter my two cents worth now. Remember why you came here. For some it is to be ministers of the Word. That means you should keep focused on the Word. Read it. Study it. Meditate on it. There are a multitude of ways to do this. Find out the one that fits best for you. For others, you have come for an MA or an MTS. Keep working on learning about the church, about theology, about youth. Re-

member that all of this is based and rooted in the Word.

Now, you might be wondering what the title of this column is all about. Last year I thought that an editorial column would be good. Actually, I wanted to vent a little one time and had to come up with a title. I am a golfer, so this title just popped into my head. Since I'm not a good golfer, I tend to spend a lot of time in the rough and land up doing a lot of chip shots from it. A chip shot is a short, soft hit that tries to get the ball as close to the hole as possible. So this column is an attempt to get as close to an issue as possible. Sometimes I come at it with several different shots or approaches, other times I just go with one shot. Another reason for picking this title is because an editorial column usually has a few "shots" at something. You'll see those later on in the year.

I'm hoping that you year at Calvin Seminary will be a good one. There have been a few changes this year. I am looking forward to them. One of these items is pool in the President's house basement on Friday afternoons. Look for a list later this month. That will give Pres. Plantinga time to practice. I hear he is pretty good at 8 ball! The other list to watch out for is dinner with the President. Dates and times to be arranged in the coming weeks. It should be neat to meet and greet the Plantingas in the home and enjoy good fellowship with them and other students.

Welcome to all. I look forward to meeting many of you over the coming months.

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Salvation). I'm not sure which authors will be arriving on campus this year, but there is a rumor that Frederick Beuchner might be at Calvin Theological Seminary in the spring. He will be at Calvin College for the 2004 Festival of Faith and Writing April 22-24. Another rumor is that we will be reading a Beuchner book in the Spring quarter. Look for more information on that as well.

For the Fall quarter we will be reading two children's books. Yikes! Kiddie lit at the Sem? You bet! Pres. Plantinga had so much fun reading children's books this summer he wanted to pass on the experience to us as well. If he doesn't talk about it, ask him when you see him in the hallway (I'm told he doesn't bite... that hard). The author is Katherine Paterson and the books we will be reading are "Bridge to Terabithia" and "Jacob Have I Loved."

I read a review of *Bridge to Terabithia* which ended with this line "Katherine Paterson's characters will stir your heart and put a lump in your throat." I'm looking forward to reading the books and I'm sure you will be also. If you haven't received your copy yet, talk to Mary Brasser in the President's office.