

1970

The Canon, [1970-71]: Volume 1, Number 3

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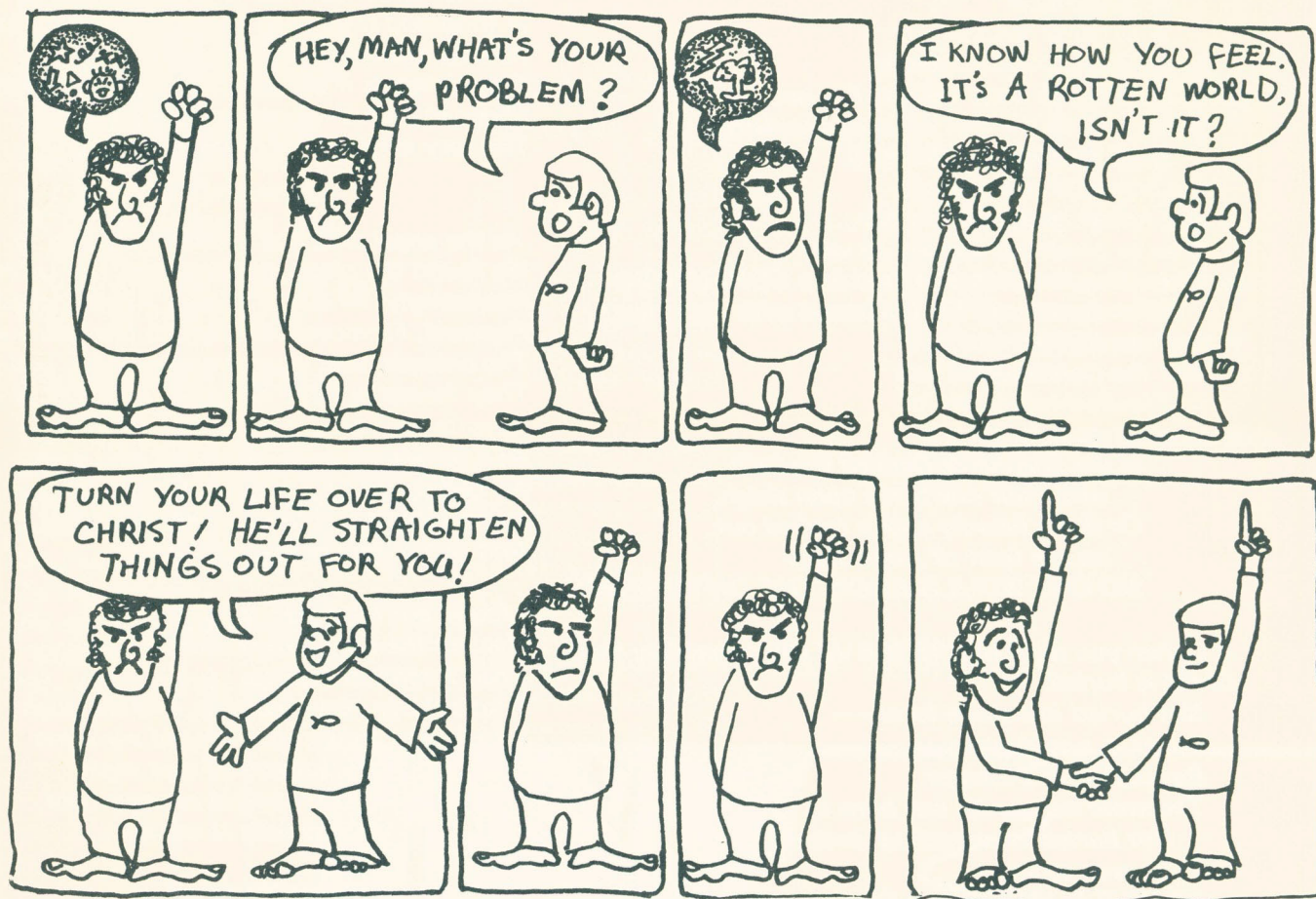
CANNON

DORDT COLLEGE

SIOUX CENTER

IOWA

VOL. I -- NO. 3



SPECIAL CHRISTMAS JOY EDITION

Lullay, Thou Little, Tiny Child
By, By, lully lullay.
O sisters, too, how may we do
For to preserve this day.

Have you ever made jelly or preserves?
You've made preserves out of my Lord.
You've boiled away His life
His death.

And left me with
A BABY and
A CHRISTMAS of gifts
cards
Santa Clauses
highway accidents---
A JOYLESS CHRISTMAS.

Lully, lullay...preserve this day....
You've preserved the day so well
That the lullabye has melted into CONFUSION:
(You try to mix His Christmas with your own).
Not the JOY---
But the Confusion
The Turmoil
of Christmas:
If the Shepherds Decked the Bells
with their one horse open sleigh,
Or if the heavenly angels looked out
on the feast of Jingle Bells
NO ONE WOULD KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.

It's when you want to PRESERVE Christmas Day that
Christ is buried.

Not buried in a stone tomb---
not in a cold grave.
But buried in a manger.
The same manger he was born in.
Not buried in swaddling clothes
Or even straw---
YOU'VE BURIED Jesus Christ in His Cradle
With Tinsel
and ribbon
with things --- with Confusion.

YEARS AFTER

by Hugh Cook

The wind was devilishly cold that night
As it sliced through the camp. The sheep
Were fidgety, as if they had some premonition
Of the night's events. We didn't. We cursed
The cold, and tried to keep the fire lit.
Our frozen breath spiralled upwards with the
Smoke. The moon was full, surrounded by
A thousand stars---one shone unusually brightly
Almost overhead. We thought it strange.
It was then as if the moon and stars exploded.
Sheep scattered---someone gave a shriek---
The very earth shook under our feet!

We did
As the angel said, and found that it was so.
We found the place, and knocked, and entered
Hesitatingly, all out of breath. As we inched
Forward, I removed my cap; no one said a word.
The animals, too, were strangely calm, as if
They feared to wake the child, which slept
Despite the cold---it was about as drafty
As a fisherman's net. We didn't stay long,
We had to tell of the miraculous event.
As we went out, I gave my seamless coat,
And said a little prayer of thanks.

I found out later that my coat
Was not the only thing I'd left---
I had forgotten my cap.
That's thirty years ago now, and although
All kinds of things have slipped my mind
Since then, the memory of that night
In Bethlehem burns bright as angel light.
And still, I wonder why it was us....

But would you pass the wine?
This bread's a little dry.

un - ? - REAL !

by Larry L. Meyer

Because You died to save me from my sin
And then arose from death to set me free,
Opened the door and let me dwell within,
Then I will thank and praise the One in Three.

Did I deserve such love from You, my Lord?
Could I do deeds for You to earn such love?
Did I deserve to escape Your mighty sword?
Unearned Your mercy came from Heaven above.

Help me, Oh Lord, to live my life for You.
Alone, I'd walk the wide and easy path.
Each day, give me Your strength and keep me true
So I may escape the justice of Your wrath.

Announcing the
ENGAGEMENT
of
Cannon (nee Item)
and
Arete

The wedding ceremony
will take place
soon

FIRST CHRISTMAS

By by Pat Dykstra

REACTION

by Verlyn Vander Top

*The night sun died
And disappeared.
The great earth became sick
And went into convulsions.
The dead arose
And watched in disbelief.
The holy veil trembled
And tore itself in horror.
All fingers pointed to man,
SHAME.*

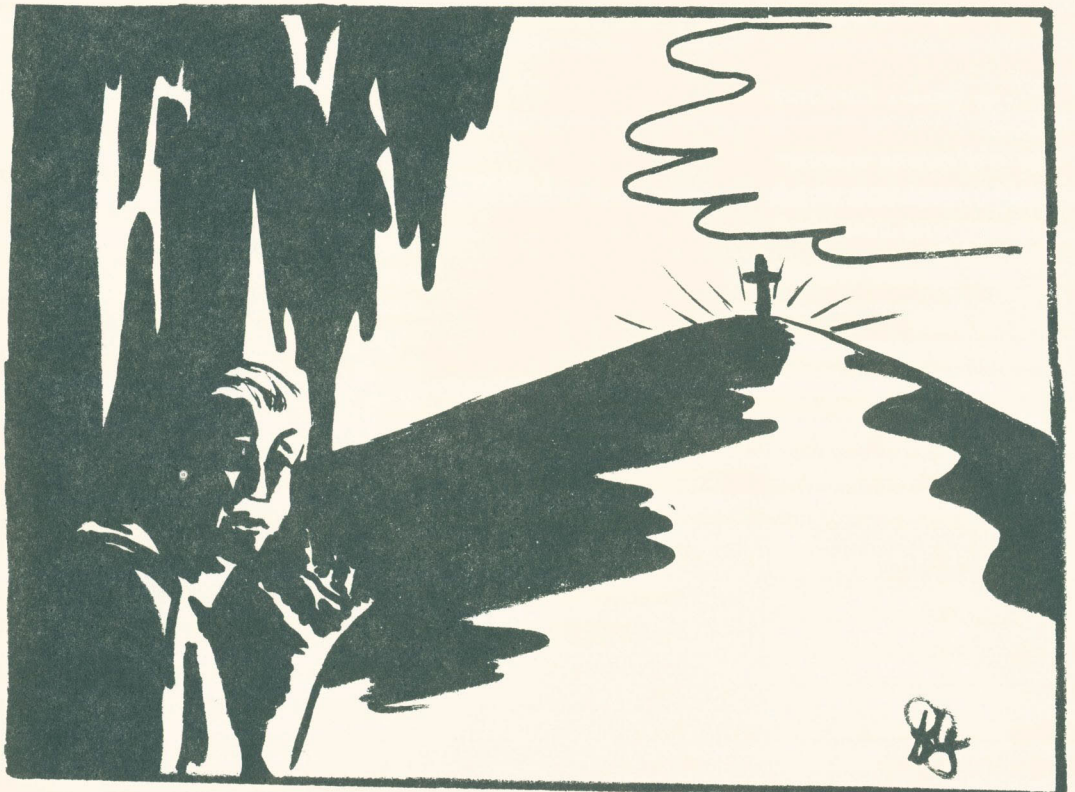
*"Father, forgive them for they
Know not what they do."*

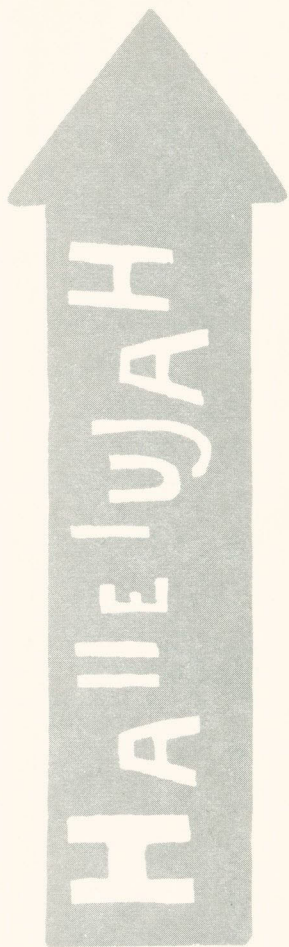
*The glorious sun rose early
And shone brightly.
The eager earth trembled
With joy.
The unbelieving heart went into shock
And ran.
God was again coming
To His children.
He holds out his arms saying,
"COME"
"My Lord and My God"*

*God went Christmas shopping
for the perfect gift.
He chose something we'd always
wanted, wrapped it
In his tender love, and
put it under his care.*

*When Christmas day came
we were all gathered around.
We tore off the wrapping
exposing the gift to
Our puzzled stares of what
it was good for.*

*In its corner it gathered dust,
till the stranger came
That one day, played with it,
and broke it.
So we tossed it away, not
knowing it was irreplaceable.*





HIP, HIP, HOORAY

by Pat Dykstra

*Three cheers for God
who
in His serene manner
said
no weeping good-bye
to His Son,
but,
as he bent
down to earth and
deposited His gift
in my heart,
smiled.*

A LIBRETTO OF LIBERATION

(for our Lord Jesus at Christmas)

--Merle Meeter

*Leader: Sing a new song to the Lord;
Worship Him in the beauty of holiness.
All earth and heaven, hymn praise;
The handiwork of God illuminates His earth.*

*All: Adam strode the earth as ruler;
He walked and talked with God.
Eve's obedience made their home,
While Adam dressed and kept the Garden.*

*Leader: But then the Snake,
Sly Satan,
Contrived to trick
The woman.*

*She ate the fruit;
Gave Adam---
So sin and guilt
Brought death in.*

*Men: Cursed is the ground and barbed with thorns,
Cursed are the plants, birds, beasts, fish, man;
All earthly creatures writhe and weep,
Men toil and lust and cannot sleep,
Pain claws at the womb that bears a child,
And Satan's hate rants fierce and wild.*

*Women: Your Seed, said God,
Will crush the head
Of your tormentor.*

*Your King shall spring
From David's root
As your Defender.*

*Leader: Slow rolled the ages
While mankind waited:
Years by the thousands showed the Flood
And Babel and Egypt and rivers of blood,
And hecatombs of sacrifices,
High priests, bold kings, brave prophet voices.
While chanting their psalms
With dance and timbrel
And harp and drum
And flute and cymbal,
The longing, lonely, weary, trusting people waited.*

*All: Oh, how we grieved for our sins in those years of the fetters,
The hooks in our noses, the goads and the kicks and the
scourges.
Derided in houses and temples of God—cursing aliens,
We prayed for the Day of the Lord and our freedom.
Then our still—faithful God touched the hearts of our captors
To restore us our homeland and buttress our courage.*

*With sword and with trowel we built up our walls and our dwellings
And, weeping, the temple of God in spite of the frenzy of Edom.*

*Leader: Wealth and war,
Wisdom and valor,
Doubt and belief---
How we yearned for the Messiah.*

*Rome and her power,
Bored soldiers quartered,
Roads, order, and peace---
Yet we Jews swore defiance.*

*Men: Sudden the heavens dazzled with light;
And legions of angels vanquished the night!
A shining past sunlight prostrated the shepherds,
As the angels recited their message of joy:
"Glory to God on His throne--all glory!
And peace to all men who enjoy His favor."*

*Leader: Surprised by joy:
The Word come true!
In David's city--
But in a stable?
Would God the Son be born
Of simple peasant stock,
And cradled with cattle?*

*All: Yes, only God Himself would do it,
Only Christ could rescue through it,
Only foolish men pooh-pooh it,
Only Satan's slaves will rue it.*

*Women: Son of Righteousness, arise with healing in Your wings:
Immanuel, Immanuel, has come to ransom Israel---
His water of life now makes free and fertile
The desert of dragons, usurped by the Hell-King.
For, "Son of the Highest!" the virgin mother's message rings,
And the song of salvation succeeds the death knell.
Son of Righteousness, arise with healing in Your wings:
Immaquel, Immanuel, has come to ransom Israel.
He fills up the hungry and frustrates aspiring,
Pardons the sinner and makes the sick well.
Wonderful, Counselor, Prince of Peace Eternal,
All praise to God for Your wondrous reconciling.
Son of Righteousness, arise with healing in Your wings:
Immanuel, Immanuel, has come to ransom Israel!*

*Leader: Into the Palestine blackness,
Into the horror of sin,
The Light out of heaven came breaking,
The Hero came, willing to die.
The Bread of Life came to be broken;
The Shepherd met death for His sheep.*

*Men: You know, no doubt, about His doings?
The demons He foiled, the dead He raised?*

*You've heard, by now, about His cross-death?
The sin He, sinless, suffered for our sake?
And you peruse His Word, the Holy Scriptures---
But does He fill your heart and mouth
and gestures?*

*Women: Surrender your minds
To the Lord of their sinews,
Surrender your bodies
To the King of their beauties,
Surrender your hearts
To the Triune Creator,
Surrender your lives
To the Sovereign God.*

*All: I'll tell you a wonderful secret:
We will not sleep forever,
For we shall be changed!
And that in a moment,
In the wink of an eye.
For the trumpet shall sound,
And we shall be changed!
No death nor decay,
No sickness nor trouble,
For we shall be changed!
For Jesus has done it---
The Conquering Monarch.
The sting of death is drawn,
The jaws of the grave unlocked,
The head of Satan smashed:
Christ's victory has won it!*

REFLECTION

by Verlyn Vander Top

*christ
wow
the devil slayer
the soul saver
he saved me
dirty rotten insignificant
me
fantastic
he saved my friend
who took drugs
blasphemed god
but christ loved him
now he loves christ
right on!*

THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS SHALL ARISE!

by J. B. HULST

Read Malachi 4, the last chapter of the Old Testament.

When Jesus was on earth He said, "I am the light of the world." (John 8:12) And again He declared, "When I am in the world, I am the light of the world." (John 9:5) Concerning this last statement John Calvin comments that Christ's "bodily presence was the true and remarkable day of the world, the lustre of which was diffused over all ages. For whence did the holy Father in ancient times, or whence do we now, desire light and day, but because the manifestation of Christ always darted its rays to a great distance, so as to form one continued day."

When man fell into sin the darkness of evil and death settled over the world and in the hearts of men. Cut off from covenant fellowship with God, man groped about in the blackness of night. But into that darkness God brought a small ray of light, promising One who would crush the head of the serpent. (Genesis 3:15) The light did not shine very brightly, but it was a beginning and it was light.

From that beginning the light became brighter and brighter, so that one day Isaiah, speaking of the future as though it was the present, could say: "The people that walked in darkness have seen a light: they that dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined." (Isaiah 9:2) And thus he calls to the daughter of Judah: "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of Jehovah is risen upon thee." (Isaiah 60:1)

Therefore, coming to the close of the Old Testament, the prophet Malachi ad-

resses those who fear the Name of God, saying, "The sun of righteousness shall arise." The light, which began as a small ray and continued to shine brighter and brighter, is about to rise and shine forth in all its glory.

When does the sun of righteousness arise? Four hundred years after the prophecy of Malachi. Where? In Bethlehem. What is the sun of righteousness? He is Jesus Christ the light of the world. When He comes, as a babe in the manger of Bethlehem, the light of the world arises. All the light throughout the Old Testament, beginning with that first ray, was the Christ. All the light we possess now is Christ, for He is the sun of righteousness who has risen.

He is the light because He is the sun of righteousness. Darkness is caused by that which is not right with God and His will. But Christ comes to reconcile His people and all things unto God; that is, to make us and all things right with God by His death and resurrection. Therefore He is the sun of righteousness, the light of the world.

By entering into our sinful, sin-darkened hearts, Christ makes us partakers of His righteousness. Doing so, He makes us children of light and instructs us, through the Apostle Paul, to walk as children of light, proving what is well-pleasing unto the Lord. (Ephesians 5:8, 9) This means, of course, that if we have received the babe of Bethlehem into our hearts we will busy ourselves bringing the light, which is Christ, everywhere. The children of darkness are busy everywhere speaking, working, living contrary to the will of God. That is why there is so much darkness in our world — in hearts, homes, colleges, cities, factories, halls of government, courts, etc. But we have been made right with God through Christ Jesus. The sun of righteousness has dawned within us and upon us. We are children of the light. And now, in the power of Him who is the light of the world, we must enter these places and work to make things right. We must work to bring things into harmony with the will of God. This will involve us in a struggle with the children of darkness. That struggle will become increasingly severe. But we must not let this discourage us, for one day Christ, the sun of righteousness, will dawn and shine forever in the new heaven and the new earth.

AMEN
BROTHER

cloth-
covered
squares
emitting
electronic
carols . . .
protruding
bundles bump-
ing into numb
humans . . . pine
aromas embalming
dead giving . . .
babels of topsy-
turvy cardbox towers
. . . slooshy, splattering,
wheel-chewed slushstreets
. . . toasts to happiness at
white-sepulcher parties . . .
QUICKSAND JOY!

no
base
to
rest
on

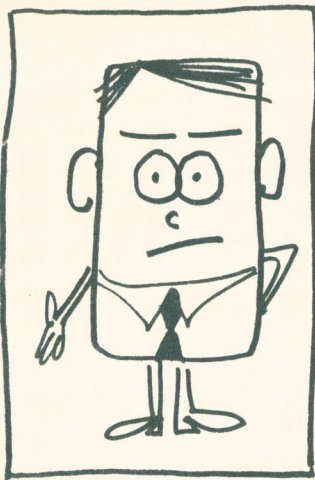
Act MCMLXX
by Jan Jasper

christists. . .
child-spirited
davids dancing
to a 100% christ
deliverance . . .
STURDY JOY!
the keeps trees
base rescued up-
which right

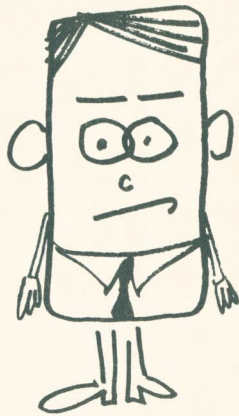
HE IS RISEN



Dave DeGroot



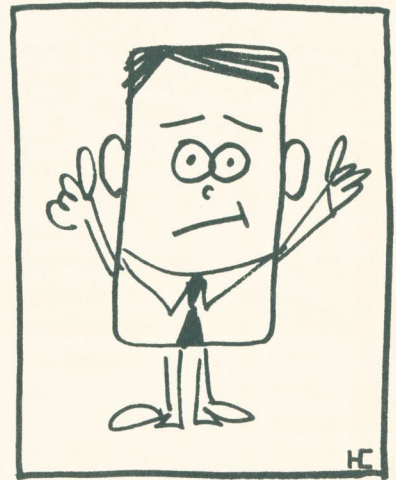
I COULDN'T DECIDE
BETWEEN THE 99¢
CUFF LINKS



AND THE 89¢
BLACK SOCKS



SO I BOUGHT
HIM BOTH!



WHO SAYS I DON'T
BELIEVE IN GOOD
WILL TOWARDS MEN?

THE NIGHT THE DEVIL DIDN'T SHOW

by Dave DeGroot

*When the bishops of St. Adrian
Challenged Satan and his fiends of gloom
To mortal combat in the Astrodome,
The crowds packed in with only standing room.*

*Standing around the sacrificial fire,
The holy men presented quite a show.
But even though they prayed and sang all night,
Old Satan never showed his horny brow.*

*By dawn, the disillusioned crowd had left,
Convinced that since the Prince of Darkness Grim
Had not revealed himself, he was a myth.
Their groundless fear had been a childish whim.*

*Unnoticed in the shadows, sipping Coke,
A dark-eyed man laughed loudly at some joke.*

Topic for the next issue of Cannon: THE CHRISTIAN AND THE FILM ARTS. Your opinions are needed!

Page Eight

NOTICE

With this issue, the Cannon editorial staff is happy to announce that the Cannon constitution has been fully approved by the necessary councils, committees, and authorities. Henceforth it shall be a completely legitimate publication of Dordt College!

Cannon

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