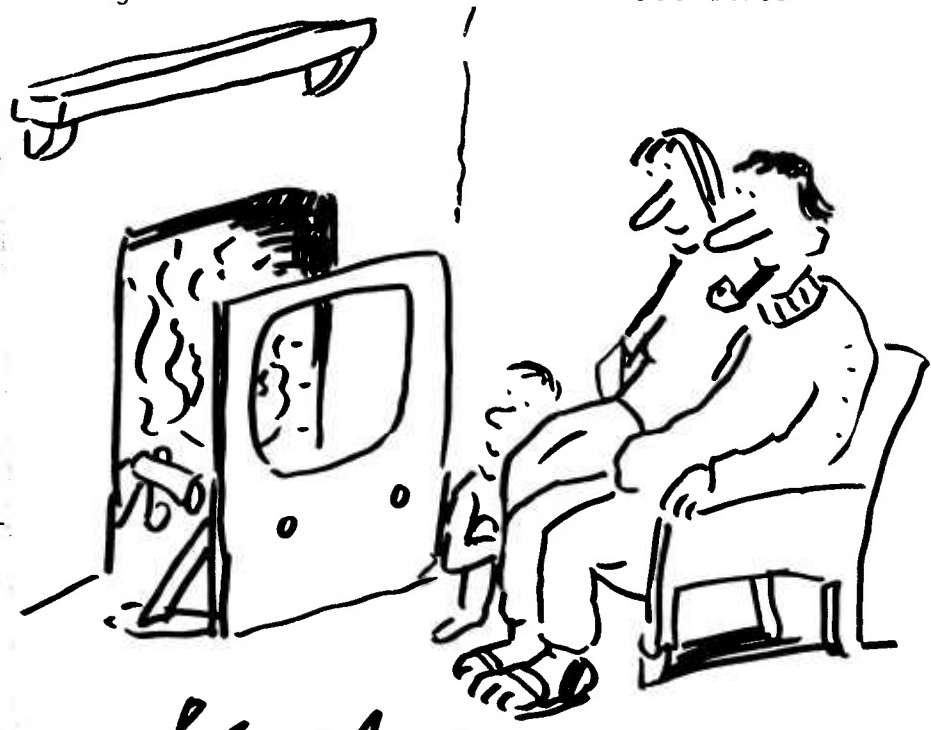


they're for burning (Ac.19.19), as the fundamentalist book-burning on Martha's Vineyard 27Mar83. Said the 30-year-old storefront pastor, his parishoners' repentance-action "was more than symbolic. It was the literal casting out of leftovers from their past lives." Our members are "those no one else wants."--CCTimes, 26Apr83, pp.1f.

ELEMENTALS AND ADIAPHORA:

An Invitation to Moral Sorting ----- Elliott #1708

Weight, everywhere and always, is used as a metaphor for what's important (here, the "elementals" as what's as necessary to truly human life as are sun/water/nutrients to plant life) from what you can set aside with no loss of the basics (Gk., *adiaphora*, of negligible importance, light-weight, to which we can be indifferent without impairing our humanity). To be a moral person is to take seriously the task of sorting existentials into these two categories; and the abstract term for this decision-making is "ethics."



Lotin Whelan

1. What chuckled me when I saw this cartoon (ONE WORLD, Apr/83, p.14) was the fact that, before a fire on our upstairs hearth, I'd often remarked "How much better is watching the fire than watching most TV!" A simple fire is elemental to human life, and electrons phosphoring in a cathode is epiphenomenal, adiaphoristic--though some PBS, and very rarely commercial, programs advance the humanum.
2. Social justice properly insists that society provide for the other physical elementals: food, clothing, shelter.
3. Our very humanity insists that we provide for the transphysical elements: intimacy, mutual caring and protecting (and so government), wider social communication, education, public worship (including "civil religion," the pieties observed by the wider society), freedom.
4. All year 'round, Loree and I experience the elementals of the plant world. Every month, in greenhouse or garden, new leaves appearing and various plants in the various stages of life-cycle. One way of worship if you will it so: to be symbiotic with plants. Elemental.
5. Reverie is elemental. Everybody goes on head trips, daydreams, fantasies--asleep and awake! It's a form of weaving; and each person determines the fabric: what gets your attention is warp woven on the woof of your life-substance. The process, and the fabric, are elemental. "Prayer" is the word when all this is offered to God.
6. Poets help us do this sorting. Robert Louis Stevenson: "Books (now read "television programs") are a mighty bloodless substitute for life," for "the commonplaces are the great poetic truths." Gerard Manley Hopkins (in inexpensive paperback) is good training in elementals. So's the Shakers' "'Tis a gift to be simple." And here's a poem I wrote yesterday (24Apr83), called Religion in Japan: The Cherry blossoms are beautiful: Shinto/Visit the shrine.//The petals fall: Buddhism/Visit the temple.//The roots spring up again: Christianity/Visit the church.
7. Nonelementals are "dung" (Phil.3.8 KJV) in comparison with elementals. Sometimes