

TABLE TALK

Vol 1 No 1

STUDENT BODY NEWSLETTER OF THE SEMINARY

SEPTEMBER 11, 1964

GETTYSBURG, SEP 10 1964

A PROPOSAL FOR A CAMPUS FORUM

NEW STUDENTS ENTER SEMINARY

As a newcomer to the Seminary Faculty I do not, of course, know ~~very~~ much about the campus "atmosphere." I do, however, know something about human nature as well as about the subtle temptations presented by our particular culture. I also know that the Seminary by its very nature is involved in the task of being a "Christian" academic institution. As such it is called not only to be a place of intense academic involvement but also a place where we are intensely involved ethically. If this is true then it is also true (since being involved as a Christian means also continuously taking "unnatural" stands) that a seminary campus should be a place of discussion, excitement, and controversy. In addition to all this, I know, too, that before long, and very likely already, the pressures on a seminarian toward conformity and toward being a good "system" man are going to be intense, so intense that it will be a kind of miracle if one is not destroyed by them. One gets corrupted as he gradually becomes less and less a "free man" and more and more a slave to an environment which may demand a dreadful price in exchange for the "success" one so desperately wants. And in spite of the fact that the Scripture knows few "successes" and in spite of the obvious fact that the Christian call is a call to bear a cross and not a crown, yet no less than the business man (see Whyte's, Organization Man and just substitute "clergyman" for "junior executive") are we men of the cloth tempted to sell our souls for the mess of pottage of a successful career, and prestige and status as a man who is a "fine leader," etc.

Well, there is no easy remedy for any of this. After all, this is all part of the Christian life in which daily we battle the devil, the world, and our own flesh. Still, we should do what we can. One thing we might do is to make it as difficult as it can possibly be made to avoid ethical involvement, controversy, and taking stands. And one possible aid might be the establishment of what I have called a "Campus Forum." Such a forum might be conducted in several ways, but let me at least indicate something of what I have in mind.

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The new students entering Gettysburg Seminary in September 1964 total forty-three. Of these, thirty-nine are Juniors, two are Seniors, one is an exchange student from Finland, and there is one special student. Thirty-one of the students are single while twelve are married.

Their names and the colleges from which they graduated are as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| William O. Avery | - Gettysburg |
| Kirk W. Bish | - Thiel |
| James R. Bramer, | -Susquehanna |
| Michael R. Brendle | - Colgate |
| James P. Bricker | - Gettysburg |
| J. Gary Brown | - Thiel |
| Robert C. Camac | - Bucknell |
| James E. Crowfoot | - Knox |
| David L. DeLong | - Susquehanna |
| Joseph F. Ertl | - Wittenberg |
| Keith S. Farber | - Kutztown State |
| Darrell G. Frey | - Bloomsburg |
| Ronald P. Garrett | - F & M |
| Kara V. Goebel | - Eastern Oregon |
| Mark H. Gruebmeier | - Wittenberg |
| Elwood B. Hipple, Jr. | - Susquehanna |
| Vappu K. Kataja | - Helsinki Univ. |
| Orlando F. Kibbe | - American Univ. |
| James L. Kimmell | - Thiel |
| Charles C. Kindsvatter | - Wittenberg |
| Frederick P. Krautwurst | - Univ. of Md. |
| Leonard J. Larsen | -Brooklyn |
| Charles H. Lisse | - Gettysburg |
| David L. Martin | - Elizabethtown |
| Charles M. Miller | - Gettysburg |
| Tommy D. Moore | - U. of Wyoming |
| Bruce D. Nissen | - Whitworth |
| John W. Novak | - Wittenberg |
| James T. Parks | - Susquehanna |
| Robert G. Pielke | - Univ. of Md. |
| Thomas Renninger | - Muhlenberg |
| Joseph W. Sabo | - Gettysburg |
| Robert W. Sassaman | - Gettysburg |
| David W. Schneider | - Gettysburg |
| Richard A. Seaks | - Susquehanna |
| Donald J. Seiple | - Susquehanna |
| Paul L. Showalter | - Gettysburg |
| Russell O. Silar | - U. of Richmond |
| Dennis L. Trout | - Albright |
| John M. Vought | - Susquehanna |
| Robert J. N. Walborn | - Susquehanna |
| Roderick Wallace | - Newberry |
| Dale A. Wenzelburger | - Thiel |

We're back! So what??

This year ten interns have returned to our community, and speaking as one of them, I will assure you that the task of re-integrating ourselves into the community is not as easy as would be expected.

For exactly who are we? Exactly where do we fit in? When we left it was easy for it is always easy to leave. For when you leave you leave what you know, you leave the people you know, you leave the sur-
rent thoughts, the current opinions, the current crises, all of which you know.

But when you return it is not so easy. The institution might be the same. Oh it is true the walls might have been painted and the rooms redone. And it is true that the faculty and the staff might have had additions. But yet it is still the same institution. But all the rest has changed. The students we knew have all but gone, only those of you who were Juniors when we left and have not gone out on an intern yourselves are at all familiar to us. The community has a new make-up, the faces, the topics of debate, the areas of concern, even the subjects of attack have all changed.

How then do we re-enter the life of the seminary? We re-enter it, in most cases, from a year which has been marked by its lack of communication between the intern and the seminary. Visits have been rare. Reports, letters, and publications keeping us abreast of seminary news and views have been rarer still. We return almost as uninformed as an incoming Junior. (The responsibility for and the solution of this problem ought to be discussed.)

In any case we return. But what then? How we accepted and how ought we to accept? We are not really apart of the regular community.

Our absence has denied us many positions and involvements within the active life of the community. And our 'branded' title of intern will deny us even more now that we have returned. It would be very easy for us to simply withdraw, as I am afraid so many interns have done in the past. If we are not involved, why ought we to become involved? We could live in our own little world, our own little community, our own little fellowship. And this is the danger.

It is our responsibility not to allow this to happen. But there is yet another responsibility. And this is the current student body's responsibility. And this is to accept us and to allow us to re-

Feature Editors:
John Hagedorn Jr.
Fred Reisz Jr.
Bob Richards
Ed. Vogel song
Managing Editor: Jim Mummert
Publisher: Chuck Hartbauer

Purpose of this news and views letter:

- 1) To relate important news of the community.
- 2) To stimulate creative thought to be expressed in writing.
- 3) To provide a medium whereby the Seminary community can become closer through its various relationships.
- 4) To create an awareness and concern for one another.

Policy of the news letter

- 1) The paper should have one faculty advisor.
- 2) The advisor and managing editor should meet prior to each edition of the paper.
3. They should discuss (among other things)
 - a. the number of pages necessary, which may vary.
 - b. the maintenance of proper balance between news and views.
 - c. the wisdom of printing certain articles of little value or derogatory purpose.
 - d. the best articles or most timely for front page.
 - e. the mechanics involved-who will type the stencil, run off stencil, and staple and distribute the paper.
- 4) All articles submitted must have the name of writer. All subjective articles published must at least bear the initials of the writer.
- 5) The newsletter should be mailed to student interns and professors on leave.
- 6) The paper should live on its own merit, ie, on the student body's creative contributions, not upon the simple desire of the editors to publish regularly.

enter that which we have left. It would be just as easy for you to allow us to withdraw as it would be for us to withdraw. It would be just as easy for you to not become involved with us as it would be for us not to become involved with you.

We are back. We are glad we are back. And we are members of the total community. It is our task to watch that we do not fall into the trap of the closed in-group. It is your task to make sure we don't fall. JH

A Proposal - (Cont'd from page 1)

We might, say from October through March, set aside one evening a week at which time there would be an announced speaker. The speaker might be an outsider (for instance, someone representing the N.A.A.C.P.), a member of our faculty, or a student. The speaker would in any event be completely free to say what he wants to say, and hopefully he would say it in a way that "bites in." The one thing the talk could not be would be a "read paper." All members of the Seminary community would be invited to attend. After the speaker has finished (he would be allowed anywhere up to about forty-five minutes), the floor would be opened for questions, arguments, and discussion. It could continue as long as people want to stay and those who would have to leave could simply get up and go. And because I envision something as loosely organized as possible the project could be kept alive by its inner vitality. If it goes stale it could die a natural death.

To what extent such a program might interest the Seminary community I have no way of knowing. I do know that if properly planned it ought to interest people. It should at least be worth a try.

by Dr. Leigh D. Jordahl

 THE BUSINESS OFFICE KEEPS ROLLING ALONG

The Campus is a very busy place during the summer and therefore the Business Office must remain in operation full time to lend assistance to the activities.

The Seminary has been host to ten different conventions, seminars, schools, retreats or conferences ranging from some 400 at the Maryland Synod Convention to 25 attending the Lay School of Theology.

In addition to this, the Business Office has had the normal financial concern (people do like to get paid), so Mrs. Anderson and Mr. Campbell keep the books in first rate order. Mr. Benson has been primarily concerned with the remodeling and renovating that has taken place. Returning students will notice some decided changes and improvements. Please remember this office is here to help in any way possible and all are eager to serve in any way they are able.

SPOT ANNOUNCEMENT: Ed Huber extends an invitation to students and faculty to stay in his parsonage when visiting in New York City. His address is: 120-12 140th St. South Ozone Park, Queens, New York.

(contact editors for similar announcements)

LECTURE COMMITTEE SCHEDULES SPEAKER

Several days ago a man whom name of us yet know arrived in this country from far around the world. This man is no ordinary sightseeing traveler, but instead is a scholar from Jabalpur University in India bound for a teaching assignment in the United States. The man is Dr. Eddy Asirvatham and his destination the Chicago Seminary's School of Missions where he will be a visiting professor for two quarters.

Yet as he passed the east coast on his way to his mid-west destination, it was probably not without thoughts of Gettysburg Seminary. For our paths are due to cross, thanks to the efforts of the Student-Faculty Lecture committee and the watchful eye of Dr. Fred Wentz. Last fall Dr. Wentz spied a brief article in the Lutheran, announcing Dr. Asirvatham's plans and suggested the committee contact the School of Missions. Arrangements were made, Dr. Asirvatham was contacted in India and accepted the lecture opportunity, and the agreement was sealed for October 21.

Dr. Asirvatham's background and teaching experience has encompassed more than religious fields alone, and his lectures will undoubtedly be pointedly pertinent to the challenges of facing Christianity in today's world. He teaches in political science and public administration in India, is a graduate of Madras, Harvard, and Edinburgh Universities and Hartford Seminary, and has served on the faculties of a half dozen noted schools and universities throughout the world.

Why not make it a point now to plan to attend Dr. Asirvatham's lectures on October 21? Upperclassmen certainly remember the Cornell scientists and Dr. Forell from Iowa State last year, and will want to support the committee's programs for the current academic year. But you can do more than merely attend these lectures and programs. The Student-Faculty Lecture committee needs personell to replace last year's graduates and to assist in the many aspects of preparing for such programs: selecting speakers, supplying necessary publicity, serving as hosts for the lecturers when they arrive. What better way for an incoming junior or any other student to contribute to the seminary community than to use his talents in planning and guiding the extracurricular aspects of our education here.

Richard Graefe - Chairman

As we begin this academic year there are two thoughts that I would like to share with you.

The first is that each one is here because he has been called to be here by God. Our call may not have been as dramatic as St. Paul's on the Damascus road, or as direct as Christ's call to the fishermen on the shore of Galilee; but our call is none the less real. Regardless of how we were called or to what specific Christian task we were called, we all have one thing in common; and that is we can not fully answer our call until we are properly trained.

St. Paul spent fourteen years following his conversion experience in preparation before he set out on his first missionary journey. The disciples spent three years with the Master Teacher, Christ himself, before they began their ministry.

Thus our responsibility now is to prepare ourselves that we might begin aright the ministry to which we have been called. This means then that we must come here with an open heart that the Holy Spirit might guide and enlighten us. It means that we must keep an open and an inquiring mind and be faithful and diligent in our studies.

My second thought is that we must be aware of the seminary community in which we are studying. We do not learn in isolation or from books alone. But rather an important part of our growing experience comes from the people we associate with here at the seminary. We learn as we enter into a bull session over a cup of coffee in the recreation room. We grow as we participate in a discussion over the dinner table at the refectory. We learn as two or three couples gather on an evening in an apartment in the apartment dorm.

What I am getting at is that we are all members one of another. We all belong to one Christian community, one family of God here on Seminary Ridge. As a community, a family of God, we must live in a relationship to one another. It is this relationship that I am primarily concerned about in this second thought. This relationship should be an extension of the relationship that each one of us has with our heavenly Father; a relationship of Christian love and Christian concern.

This means that each one of us as a

Once again we turn our thoughts in the direction of the school year with its scholastic challenges; the fellowship of the community; and the various community activities designed to help us in our future roles and point the way to a successful ministry.

An important element in our community's life is the social sensitivity we show to those in need. It is the function of the Missions Committee to minister to the needs of a particular element in the surrounding area. In the years past we have visited with the senior citizens at the Adams County Home. This visit has required one hour per week on Wednesday afternoons between 3:00 and 4:00.

The Home is situated just north of Gettysburg College. Its facilities are bright and modern but for all of these benefits there is no greater thrill for the senior citizens than to have visitors who are interested in their well-being. Contact Karl Pohlhaus if you are interested in this ministry. (by K.P.-Ch.) member of this community has a responsibility for every other member of the community. We who are upper classmen have the responsibility to make the members of this new Junior Class feel welcome and at home. The returning interns are responsible for sharing their greater experience and knowledge so that the whole community might be enriched. The Juniors have the responsibility to enter into the total life of the seminary and add to it their many and diverse backgrounds that this might be a rich and meaningful year for us all.

We are called to study and prepare ourselves for the greater service ahead. That can best be done by sharing our thoughts, our doubts, our anxieties, and our faith with one another, and being concerned about the individual persons that make up the community and being concerned about the seminary community as a whole.

As we prepare to answer our several Christian callings in this academic year, may God's richest blessing rest on each of us and may the Holy Spirit guide, enlighten and strengthen us in our calling. WHO SAID? (in 1958) "TO LIVE IS TO KNOW WITH EXCEEDING GREAT JOY THE VOCATION GOD HAS IN STORE FOR EVERYMAN."

(see next issue for answer)