

# Table Talk

News and Views of the Student Body of The Lutheran  
Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.

Vol 1 No 8

GETTYSBURG, - NOV. 4, 1964

## VANDALS ACTIVE ON SEMINARY RIDGE

Return with us now to that night of yesterweek, when from the top of the Apartment Dorm came a cloud of dust, thundering hoofs, and a hearty "Heigh Ho Middlers!" The shrouded figures moved up Confederate Avenue past the soundly sleeping residents.

It was a terrible group - Big Bad Bill, Merciless Marty, Lugubrious Lanny and Jumpy Jere. What dastardly deed were they going to perpetrate? What treachery was brewing in their black hearts? And then they reached their objective - the unsuspecting Doctor Luther.

A heart-rending sight it was as they silenced Dr. Luther's cries for help by turning him to stone. Thus subdued, the good doctor could but sit helplessly and bear the brunt of the criminal assault. His spectacles were exchanged for non-prescription ones, and his head was adorned with an unorthodox chapeau (which at least was of the proper liturgical color). Dr. Luther's strong chest was desecrated with a huge St. Valentinian love symbol. In his pacifistic hand was placed a six-gun. And from his knees was hung a disrespectful message for Pope Leo.

Their dirty work done, the Fearsome Foursome silently retreated to the shadows of the Chapel for what historian Gritsch would call an "anxiety conference". Deciding that their mission was accomplished, they strode down Confederate Avenue and back into their red brick imitation ivory tower.

The next morning, Thursday, the population of Seminaryville was properly appalled. Chaplain Reirberger was seen weeping in his office, while a floor below, a

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF TABLE TALK

The Evangelical Lutheran  
Church of The Resurrection  
825 Greene Street  
Augusta, Ga.

October 26, 1964

This morning - even with all the work on my desk, which includes forms to fill out for Dean Stroup, sermons to be written, letters to be answered, and names of people to be called - I decided that now was the time to write to "Table Talk". First, a big thanks to those who decided to take the responsibility of this paper, and secondly, a big thanks for sending the paper to the Interns. It makes good reading and a change of pace from Goldwater signs and the hospital sick lists.

Greetings from the South and a big "Hey" (That's the Southern word for the friendliest of Hello's) The weather here is warm and sunny and as far as I'm concerned it can stay that way. Contrary to Yankee thought, the state of Georgia is not a swamp. Augusta is a big, busy city with all the problems that a city can offer. The pace seems slower, but that is only an illusion. These people have learned to do twice as much and look half as busy (which, incidently, makes living a pleasure).

All of which leads me to say that the Intern year is the greatest (You're welcome Dean Stroup)! It is worth every minute to be thrown in contact with the world in all of its greatness and weakness. There is never a dull moment, from Communion with a 90 year old woman, to radio programs, to synod meetings, to emergency ambulance runs. This spectrum even omits pleasurable sidelights like greeting the incom-

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FEATURE EDITORIAL  
by Ed Vogelsong

A recent article, "Our Badly Educated Clergy", which appeared in a Sunday supplement magazine, has pointed out that a gap exists between the seminary curriculum and the type of work that faces the pastor when he begins his duties in the parish. There can be no denying that our education is not as good as it could possibly be and that there is an ever-recurring need to examine, evaluate and adjust our educational program in the light of the needs that it is called to meet. But we must be careful to avoid the hasty conclusion that the great weight of our curricular work should be placed on the "practical" courses, and that it is the responsibility of the seminary to train its students in all fields of ecclesiastical life.

One common misconception is that the pastor is called to perform all the duties and functions of the church, and that his education, therefore, should include the complete spectrum of training from business math to architecture. The fact is, however, that we have forgotten the basic Christian concept of the pastor and have expected our clergy to perform every ecclesiastical duty with dexterity. The pastor who allows himself to be thus manipulated and used by a congregation has no one to blame but himself, and he cannot help but feel that his education is insufficient.

One of the primary failings of the clergy today is that they have spread themselves too thin by trying to administer all aspects of the church life, and that they do not devote enough of their studying and time to the acts of calling, preaching, teaching, and worshipping. This area in itself presents a diversity of tasks in which few men become proficient; and, to increase our responsibilities means that we will be even less competent for each additional phase of our work.

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EDITOR'S CORNER

Now that the fervor of the political campaign has died down, let's remember that there are other subjects worth writing about for Table Talk. People have questioned me concerning what type of material is suitable for publication, and my answer is this: anything of interest to the seminary community and which would not overlap the area covered by the Theolog. Would you like to write a weekly column? You pick the topic -- book reviews, sports, world affairs, anything. Perhaps some Junior would like to write a column on the most interesting field work experiences of the week. Perhaps your inspiration only comes sporadically; we welcome any inspiration which comes to you before noon Monday.

Table Talk will publish next week if the end of the quarter study push does not stifle people's writing talent. We will not publish, however, the following week during finals.

R. F. G.

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IT'S A FACT

Have you seen the latest in Halloween costumes? In the Gettysburg Halloween parade last week, one little boy was seen dressed as Christ, limping along with a large cardboard cross on his back.

## CHAPEL CORNER

by Robert Richards

It is unfortunate that more persons did not attend the Reformation Service Thursday night. Dr. Reumann's subject was most stimulating and challenging. However, the manner in which the Communion was conducted left something to be desired. Continuous communion may have the approval of the L. C. A., but it may not have the sympathy of most of the students at Gettysburg. It seemed cold, and resembled a production line more than a communion line. This situation was inharced by the fact that kneeling at the rail after receiving the bread and the wine seemed more like an after thought than anything else. The procedure should not blind us to the essential value of Holy Communion, but we must not devaluate the inhibitory capacity of external arrangements. You may want to suggest a more suitable way of administering Holy Communion.

It is not the function of this article to criticize the technique of the preachers. However, one question should be raised at this point. Is it the purpose of the preacher to perform an exegesis in the pulpit? Although it may be done with the precision of a surgeon's scalpel, it seems that the exegesis should be the spadework of the preacher, not the end result. What do you think, Mr. McCleary?

From time to time it is pleasant to hear a sermon that challenges the imagination. Professor Stuempfle certainly did this with his imagery about "smell". One of the marks of a good preacher is his creativity. That enabled this sermon to come alive.

Another sermon that was alive and penetrating was the one by Dean Stroup. I mentioned this one last week, but it can be referred to again. The urge to be a critic of culture is very strong in our day. The danger is that this critical activity can become an end in itself.

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Without love, knowledge becomes cold and lifeless. This is a danger that can befall both preachers and students. How much love is there behind the words that we speak and the knowledge that we seek?

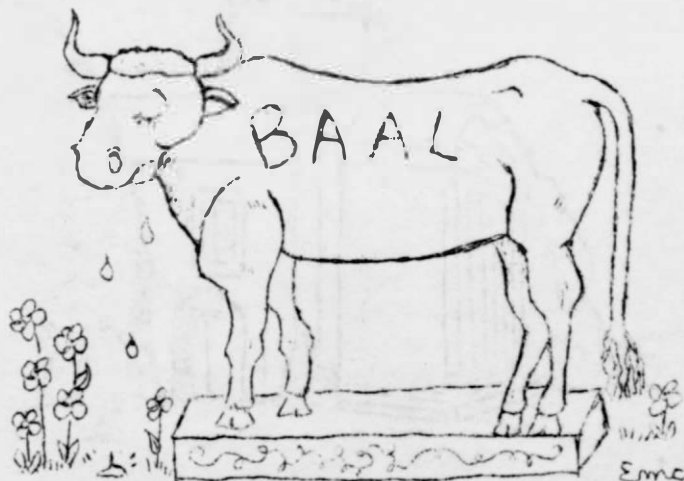
One of the outstanding developments recently in Chapel is the intercessory prayer. This is an expression of the community's consciousness of itself. This is a good trend. The community on the "hill" is slowly becoming aware of itself as a communion of individuals within the body of Christ.



UNDER THE TABLE  
by Dick Graf

Have you ever expressed such promise in an evening cut that your wife (or special friend) has spent hours on her dress, face and hair in enthusiastic preparation? Have you ever looked forward to such a gay and festive time with good friends that you have laid aside your thoughts of thesis, closed that book you had to be through by Monday, or turned off that exciting TV show five minutes before the ending in order to be ready on time? And have you ever gathered your friends, your wife (or special friend) and your images of fun and fellowship and trudged out into the cold night air and then, upon arriving at your destination, you're slapped in the mouth with a "cold fish" waste of time? This writer has attended everything from balls to bashes in country clubs, gymnasiums, on beaches and everywhere (well, almost everywhere) else, and with apologies to the one member of the faculty and staff of the Seminary who, with his wife, at least gave the impression of enjoying themselves, and the handful of students who put forth a commendable effort to lift drooped spirits, the recent "Baal Bop", in my opinion, was a blooper. Halloween is that grand old traditional fiasco when kids bum candy, grown-ups grumble at kids bumming candy, and teen-agers bust up property, get arrested and

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have lots of similar "fun". Only a hearty laugh at the "Great Pumpkin" and his court and a pleasant meeting of a few friends in a local lounge after the dance(?) salvaged an otherwise "ghostly" evening.

Lest the reader think the column this week is all discontent, this word about the forum on Wednesday night in the Coffee Shop. In a well-attended, well organized, well handled discussion such as the Political Forum was, Dr. Jordahl has found strong support for his suggestion of having such sessions within the Seminary community. The two speakers, the moderator, and all responsible for the affair added greatly to our activities this year, and the evening will long be remembered as informative and enjoyable.

In closing, this tale:

A mother trying to impress her young son with the sufferings of Christians for their faith, took him to see a painting of martyrs being cast to the lions. The scene was masterful and the boy started to cry. The mother tried to comfort him to no avail. "Mama, mama," he sobbed pointing to the picture, "there's a poor little lion over in the corner not gettin' any!"

And so with these pleasant thoughts we leave you.

Fax.

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the Baal Bop Blurped Because  
Bad Bop Business Boosted Bad Feelings  
For Adequately Adorned Attendants.  
Dress Demanded Dynamic Segregation  
of Seminary Students, Stimulating  
Sagacious Salty Sarcasm. Finally,  
"Floating Fish" Frequented Minds  
Made Merry Merely by Magnificence  
Instead of Intended Inhibition  
of a small Halloween Party.

Donna Moore

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Sometimes a man with a clear conscience only has a poor memory.



Let me make my point very clear: the pastor is not called to be an administrator, a psychoanalyst, a financial expert, or a recreational director. These offices in the church are (or should be) delegated to laymen. The pastor's primary role--the role for which he is educated--is that of being a shepherd to the flock. This does not exclude the pastor from becoming proficient in another area, but this specialization must be pursued in post graduate studies.

The new proposed curriculum at Gettysburg is practical precisely because it places greater emphasis on the academic. To diminish our academic work by taking more time for practical training is to deceive ourselves if we seek to make our education a valuable tool for our ministry. Too often we hear the complaint, "This work can't be of any value in the parish, why do it?" and too seldom we remind ourselves that we are primarily students in an academic institution. The work of the pastor is not to be a jack of all trades, but the master of one.

This means that the cornerstone of our education must be in the areas of Biblical studies, theology, the tradition and heritage of the church, and the art of preaching. It is by neglecting a deeper knowledge of these fields, and not by advocating a broader knowledge of many fields, that our clergy will be badly educated for the primary job that confronts it.

#### JOKES OF THE WEEK

#### Notice to Married Destitute Divinity Students

Your wives can make ends meet by preparing beef tongue and ox tail soup.

You are aware, of course, there is no need to say a table grace when you eat left overs. You thanked God at least once for everything on the table before.

#### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

"My how handsome you are" ! ! !

ing class of nurses and sailing.

Last year I overheard two seniors commenting on the fact that they used nothing on their Intern year that they learned at seminary. It was an exaggerated statement at that time, but I did not realize just how exaggerated it was. My advice to the Juniors and Middlers is to grab a hold on to everything they can. It is a frightening experience to have people two and three times your age and experience looking to you for advice and instruction (on every topic).

Enough for preaching! Ya'll come South for a visit. I've got room for a couple at a time, and I'd be glad to hear from anyone who has time to write. I'm still enough of a Seminarian to have opinions on anything! Just ask.

Ron Heinze

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#### "THE HITCHING POST"

Another of the dwindling ranks of single seminarians is planning to take the inevitable plunge. Ron Garrett has asked Table Talk to express his sincere invitation to those of the seminary community who wish to attend his wedding to Miss Dolores Pletcher on November 21, at Christ Lutheran Church in Lancaster. Ron and Dolores will be moving into the Apartment Dorm on the First of the year. Best of luck to them both!



Vandals

(cont. from p. 1)

misty-eyed Dean Stroup was trying to figure out the psychological ramifications of the incident. Meanwhile, his secretary was busily burning all of the MAT's, MMPI's, and TSI's on file. Down the hall, Mrs. Mac could hardly control the switchboard as it lighted up with indignant calls. Down in the bookstore, Doc Jones hastily wrote an order for a new abnormal psychology book for Professor Hale, both men staining the order form with their tears. Over in the Refectory, the Chief was crying so much that the barbeque served that noon was almost totally liquid. In Chapel, Professor Stuempfle valiantly hid his emotions and tried to continuously scan the audience for a guilty looking face. The acolyte was so upset that he almost did not get the Gospel candle lit.

Later that afternoon, several students from the nearby college came to see the terrible sight and immediately labelled it as The Lone Luther. All in all, it was a bad day on Seminary Ridge!

F. P. K.

## RESULTS OF STRAW VOTE

101 students, faculty, and staff members voted in the Seminary straw vote last Thursday and Friday. The results are:

Total: Goldwater--37 votes  
Johnson----63 votes

Breakdown by parties:

Republicans for Goldwater--33  
Republicans for Johnson----39  
Total Republicans voting---72

Democrats for Goldwater-- 3  
Demcrats for Johnson----20  
Total Democrats voting---23

Six voters did not specify party affiliation; five of these registered as independent and one as conservative. One person voted "undecided" for president.

A similar vote taken at the Philadelphia Seminary resulted in 40 votes for Goldwater and 110 for Johnson.

Also included in the Philadelphia vote was the issue of relocating that seminary to a site near the University of Pennsylvania; results on this question were 93 for relocation and 60 against.

Nov. 2, 1964

Dear Stan,

Again the Student Body of the Seminary has expressed its concern for my husband, and encouraged and cheered him with its gift of flowers. Yours were the first to arrive and brought scenes here, into his room (as well as his heart) with their bright golden tones.

We both thank you very much -- that is, the Student Body through you as its president -- for the flowers and the prayers and good wishes which they brought.

You will like to know that the bouquet is as fresh this evening as the day they were delivered.

Most cordially,

Mary Heiges

Thank you note written to Stan Trout, Student Body President.

## THIS IS ANOTHER BALLOT

Unfortunately all elections aren't as clear-cut as the presidential election. The Lecture Committee's poll resulted in a near 3-way tie, and the only solution seems to be a re-balloting. Two of these men received an equal number of first place votes, and a proportional consideration of second and third place votes did not clear up the dilemma, but merely brought the third man into the running.

This time vote for CNE MAN GILY and have the ballots in my mailbox or to me in person BY MONDAY.

1. Dr. Carl Braaten -- Professor of Theology at Maywood (Chicago) Lutheran Seminary. An authority on contemporary trends in European Theology; especially interested in Bultman and in the area of the "New Quest for the Historical Jesus".
2. Dr. Charles Long -- Professor of History of Religions (comparative religions) at the University of Chicago. A Negro scholar and author who is no narrow specialist in non-christian religions but relates his field to traditional Christian theology in a very important way. Also could give interesting theological perspectives on race relations,
3. Bishop Kilmer ("Kim") Myers -- Episcopal Dioceses of Michigan. Best known for his early connection with East Harlem Protestant Parish, his passion for human rights, and his part in the search for new forms of relevant Christian ministries in the urban metropolis. Possible subject: "The Fernert in the Metropolis and the Future of Protestantism"

Only 24 people turned in ballots last week. We hope this is not an indication of how many plan to attend the lectures in April. This is your Lecture Committee, for the purpose of bringing to the campus men you'd like to hear. All members of the seminary community can vote. You don't even have to be 21.

IF YOU DIDN'T VOTE LAST WEEK, VOTE THIS WEEK!!!

Richard Graefe  
Chairman  
Student-Faculty Lecture Committee