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Table Talk



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

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TO LEARN OR NOT TO LEARN * IS THAT THE QUESTION?

There is, hopefully, more than one way of viewing the validity of the increased emphasis on learning. The issue of increased scholastic requirements has thus far evoked an either-or response. In the one camp the cry is raised that increased requirements will nullify community spirit or fellowship while in the other camp sarcastic digs are made at the non-scholastic shallow learning approach of repeating meaningless phrases with an Elizebethan accent. But it may first be helpful to ascertain whether the issue which quickens the pulse and raises the temper is learning?

Are seminary students really afraid to learn or is there a question raised as to the methodology employed to raise the standards of the institution? Are seminary students really afraid of considering this a graduate school as opposed to a professional school, or are they concerned with having their temporary home only a graduate school? What should the keen minded twentieth century minister know upon graduation? Should he be able to relate to his sophisticated congregation in terms of understanding their problems or should he identify with them right up and down the line in terms of competitive spirit, selfish motives, political "savvy", lack of personal regard, well-defined defenses, and so on? Is the minister really the philosophical answer to the pragmatic materialistic scientist? Is this the battle he is really training for?

It is this student's opinion that before the work load is mechanically increased to accommodate the Jones' with whom everyone seems to keep up, a perspective must be clearly defined for the students in which they be made aware of the relevancy of their particular learning experience. Rather than emulate the mushrooming scientific schools with their increasing standards of excellence to meet an increasing competitive industrial situation, and assuming that the religious scholastic institute is emphasizing the mission of making the gospel comprehensible and relevant to our age, we should first discover what is the peculiar contribution of the ministry.

Saturating the student with memory requirements before he can effectively digest or wrestle with the new ideas or finally incorporate them into his own personality is not the answer. On the other hand, increased emphasis on genuine comprehension of basic theological principles, basic historical situations which give him an essential historical perspective, basic biblical knowledge both of the historical milieu (Form Criticism) and of the religious significance, and basic psychological and sociological training to at least help him understand the social problems which impede Christ's message or religious growth in the troubled membership is important.

Learning, therefore, certainly involves an interplay of ideas, concern for understanding, intellectual concern for competence rather than grades, and sufficient intellectual freedom in interested areas of research through allowance of time for this sort of work.

(cont. on page)

EDITOR'S CORNER

With this last issue of Table Talk for the school year I end my editorship and prepare to leave for intern year. Looking back on my "term of office," I can honestly say that in my eyes Table Talk has performed a much needed function on this campus. It has provided the one place where a student or faculty member's voice can still be heard throughout the whole seminary community, including interns, commuters, staff members, special students, and all others to whom the usual channels of communication may never reach. We've published news, comedy, controversy, and personal opinion all in an effort to express the thoughts, interests, and feelings of all who make up our community.

Table Talk was by no means my own personal brainchild, and in fact I was "drafted" into my editorial position after a group of seniors began publishing the first issues. But I've developed a personal interest in Table Talk which will keep me reading it and I hope contributing to it during my internship. The real future of Table Talk, however, is in the hands of those of you who will still be here next year. The new managing editor will be Fred Krautwurst, but as yet he has no staff to work with. This year's entire staff, with the exception of Fred, will be leaving campus, and (pardon the expression) a "new breed" will have to take over. Perhaps you've been dissatisfied with Table Talk this year. If so, now is your chance to have a part in making your publication what you would like it to be. Why not volunteer to Fred for a staff position? Table Talk is still a young, impressionable creature, and the personality it will eventually develop is up to you.

R. Graefe

STAFF OF TABLE TALK

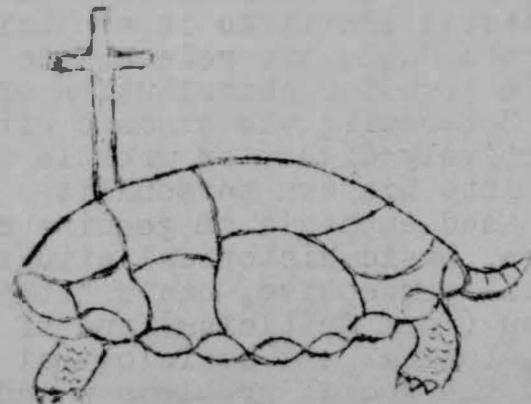
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 FALL LECTURER

The Student-Faculty Lecture Committee has again contacted Dr. Charles Long, Professor of History of Religions (comparative religions) at the University of Chicago. Dr. Long received top priority on a student ballot earlier this year, but had to turn us down for the spring lectureship because of previous commitments. Now, however, he has accepted the fall lecturership and will speak here on October 27. Dr. Long, a negro scholar and author, is a specialist in non-Christian religions who related his field to traditional Christian theology in a dynamic way.



Is this the twentieth century church?

Richard Cooper

Interest level at the seminary graduate "level" should never be a problem. It would be assumed that those sufficiently interested in coming here are also very much interested in understanding their faith and its effective application to their particular "world." Yet with a purely mechanical increase in book learning some of this will either be lost, and their rebellion against the system set in, or an attempt made to understand the reading material in light of one's personal issues, and thus the problem of available time.

In a purely graduate school the competitive atmosphere leads the student more and more in an egocentric frame of mind. As he feels the pinch he worries more and more about keeping his head above water, or if he is more gifted or ambitious he sees ways and means to achieve his end in spite of his fellow students. It seems that a student by virtue of his being a student is somewhat egocentric! Should this particular aspect of his personality be encouraged? We would hope not. For if seminary is more than merely a graduate school then may the added plus be its particular marks of Christ? Rather than encourage students to say "We can wait for this or that till we get into the parish", let us encourage them to live Christ as well as learn about him. The Parish or Chaplaincy will have its own peculiar problems which can not be assimilated in the student role, but there are many basic Christian traits which need be encouraged now so that the future role will be successful.

Is religious fervor such a terrible thing? Can we attend Chapel services merely to objectively review the theological points stressed or the method of presentation? Do we not worship God even here? If we are conscious of this privilege here and now, then devotional allowance of precious time is necessary and fruitful. If we are further conscious of Christian character then genuine neighborly regard is basic to our education. If habits of "right conduct" with regard to our neighbor are not reenforced here, how can we expect them to suddenly become available in the Parish? It is therefore the contention of this student that implicit education regarding the marks of the Christian is just as important as explicit education regarding the other points mentioned. The keen minded twentieth century minister needs to also be the "fool for Christ." Though his theological insights may hopefully be more sophisticated than those of his congregation he remains "a servant to all in need." He is, after all, relating the wonderful news of salvation in spite of himself. In addition, if the legitimate words of admonition to continue learning after leaving seminary are to bear fruit, then the love of learning needs to be learned now. Grades will pass away and hopefully with them some unethical methods of achieving scholastic standing. When we place the emphasis on discovering the Truth as we are able to perceive it, and living the joy of finding this "pearl buried in the field," then the dynamic life in Christ will invariably complement the dynamic search for the objective reality expressed in relevant terminology.

Charlie Pohlhaus

Tabletalk

Dear Editor,

Here in Gettysburg I have frequently been asked a question which I regard as being very important. But it was also one which until last month I found particularly difficult to answer. In the meantime, however, the official publication of the Lutheran Church - Mo. Synod has answered it in terms which I think reflect a new attitude. I would like to take advantage of Tabletalk to direct the attention of those interested to the following quotation:

What are the doctrinal differences between the American Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Church in America and the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod?

What the doctrinal differences ... really are can best be determined through direct discussion. That is why the proposed new council (LCUSA) provides for a division of theology and "systematic and continuing" study of the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions to ascertain what difference may exist and under the Holy Spirit's blessing, to reach doctrinal consensus.

"We are at a critical point in American Lutheranism," according to Dr. Bowman, St. Louis seminary professor. ... "God has given us an opportunity to engage in serious theological conversation with other Lutherans. ... This is particularly important on the local level throughout the Church. ... Without mutual understanding, respect, and confidence on the local level the achievements of top-level committees will mean very little. But if there is a proper atmosphere, it may be possible for all who bear the Lutheran name to keep the channels to communication open and to help each other understand more clearly, confess more fully, and practice more consistently what being a committed Lutheran really means."

--The Lutheran Witness, March 16, 1965, page 14.

This semester has been such an experience for me. It has proven to be one of the most influential experiences in my life. I believe that I have seen a commitment to a Lutheran expression of faith demonstrated especially in the determination to allow Christ, present in His Word and Sacrament, to become the source and strength of your Seminary life.

Respectfully yours

F. E. Nelson

April 30th, 1965

LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Graduating Seniors and Calls

Bachelor of Divinity

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Donald Rodger Almy | Pastor | Zion Lutheran Church Fairfield, Pennsylvania |
| Gary Thomas Bilbie | Clinical Training | Elgin State Hospital Elgin, Illinois |
| William Walter Bruggeman, Jr. | Pastor | Homer City Lutheran Parish, Penna. |
| Richard Paul Cooper | Call pending | |
| James Elbert Crowfoot | Graduate study | University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan |
| Volkert Hans Goebel | Assistant pastor | St. Paul's Lutheran Church 7902 Liberty Road Baltimore, Maryland |
| Richard Byron Graf, Jr. | Pastor Chaplain to Lutheran students | Grace Lutheran Church Appalachian State Teachers College Boone, North Carolina |
| Bernhard John Hagedorn, Jr. | Graduate study | Boston University Boston, Massachusetts |
| John Philip Hamm | Pastor | Mt. Wolf LUB Parish Pennsylvania |
| Charles John Hartbauer | Pastor | St. Mark's Lutheran Church New Stanton, Penna. |
| Roland Carl Hobbs | Assistant pastor | Evangelical Lutheran Church Frederick, Maryland |
| Arthur Carlton Kappler, Jr. | Pastor | St. Luke Lutheran Church Roaring Spring, Penna. |
| Gerhard Klaassen | Pastor | Mennonite Church Fairfield, Penna. |
| Thomas Samuel Kramm | Pastor | St. Paul Lutheran Church Newville, Penna. |

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| James Robert Larson | Pastor | Messiah Lutheran Church Baltimore, Maryland |
| Leon Allen McCleary | Pastor | Blue Mountain EUB Parish Newville, Pennsylvania |
| Larry Adams McConnell | Pastor | Freeburg Lutheran Parish Pennsylvania |
| John Paul McDowell | Pastor | Hooversvill Lutheran Parish, Pennsylvania |
| George Raymond Mitchell, Jr. | Clinical training | Elgin State Hospital Elgin, Illinois |
| James Allen Mummert | Pastor | Seven Valleys Lutheran Parish, Pennsylvania |
| Howard Warfield Myers | Assistant pastor | Our Saviour's Evangelical Lutheran Church Naperville, Illinois |
| Paul Ronald Peel | Graduate study | Iliff School of Theology Denver, Colorado |
| Edward Harry Pepler | Pastor | St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Baltimore (Mt. Winans), Md. |
| Elizabeth Alvina Platz | Campus counsellor | University of Maryland College Park, Maryland |
| Howard I. Ratcliffe, Jr. | Assistant pastor | St. John's Lutheran Church Norfolk, Virginia |
| Howard Frederick Reisz, Jr. | Graduate study | University of Chicago Divinity School Chicago, Illinois |
| Robert Joseph Richards | Pastor | Peace Lutheran Church Alexandria, Virginia |
| Ray Willard Schloyer | Pastor | Leesburg EUB Parish Pennsylvania |
| Robert Joseph Seilnamer | Pastor | Ickesburg Lutheran Parish Pennsylvania |
| James Edward Stough | Assistant pastor | St. Paul's Lutheran Church Lititz, Pennsylvania |
| Irwin Shaw Suplee | Pastor | Reformation Lutheran Church Vandergrift, Penna. |

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| Karl Albert Swartz | Assistant pastor | Church of the Reformation Rochester, New York |
| Stanley Robert Trout | Associate pastor | Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity Hershey, Penna. |
| Donald Lee Turley | Pastor | All Saints Lutheran Church Baltimore, Maryland |
| Edward Lee Vogelsong | Pastor | St. Paul's Lutheran Church Johnstown, Penna. |
| Allan Stephen Wysocki | Pastor | Trinity Lutheran Church Greencastle, Penna. |

Master of Arts

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| Gwendlyn Louise Hilburn | Social case worker | Dept. of Public Assistance Los Angeles County, Calif. (tentatively) |
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Carol Louise Lange

Master of Sacred Theology

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| Paul Lauver Snyder | Pastor | The Brethren in Christ Church Carlisle, Penna. |
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In addition to those listed on the official list of calls, a number of our other students will be leaving us this year for various destinations:

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| F. Edward Nelson | Assistant pastor | St. John the Evangelist Lutheran Church Brooklyn, New York |
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| Vappu Kataja | | National Lutheran Council Japan (still awaiting specific assignment) |
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Plans are still indefinite for Errol Scheer and Carol Lange
Five of our students will be leaving for intern year:

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|-----------------|--|-------------------|
| Jere Hock | St. Paul's Lutheran Church | Carlisle, Penna. |
| Martin Young | Lutheran Church of the Resurrection | Augusta, Ga. |
| Richard Graefe | Lutheran Inner Mission Society | Washington, D. C. |
| Landis Coffman | Lutheran Service Society of Western Penna. | Pittsburgh |
| William Diamond | Messiah Lutheran Church | Decatur, Georgia |