

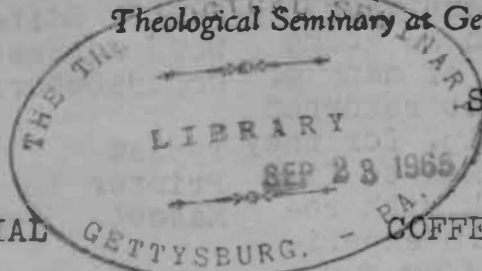
Table Talk



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

Vol. II No. 1

September 23, 1965



FEATURE EDITORIAL

COFFEE SHOP PROCEDURE

The summer is over and the old and new students are firmly established here on the Hill. Everyone is back from their various summer activities and beginning to get adjusted to Seminary life.

The past summer has meant different things to different ones of us. For some, the summer marked the close of a valuable intern year. Others served congregations during the past months; some participated in specialized ministry programs; still others received clinical training or worked at one of a score of summer jobs.

Events of the "vacation" months on a larger scale were staggering in many respects. Packed into this short time were things such as the escalation of the Viet Nam conflict, the Gemini orbiting, Adlai Stevenson's death, the Los Angeles riots and other events of local, national or world concern.

Now as such events and our personal summer experiences fade into the background, we turn our attentions to matters academic. We begin a year of learning and growth together in the Seminary community.

There is no discontinuity between our summer work, the events of this time and our academic pursuits in preparation for our ministries in Christ's church. Today Christianity must speak to the strife tearing peoples apart from one another, to the space scientist, to the statesmen of the world, to discrimination and racial discord, and to the individual person seeking his place in the world he inhabits. The witness of Christianity embraces these areas and more. As Seminary

(Cont. in col. 2)

The Coffee Shop is staffed only during the morning "Coffee Hour". At all other times during the day, it is on a self-service basis. The cost of the first cup daily is 10¢, and it is 5¢ for each additional cup for the rest of the day. Doughnuts and buns are 5¢ each as long as they last. Money for coffee and buns is to be deposited in the box on the counter.

It is requested that students return coffee cups to the counter when you are done with them. Hopefully, this will be by 8:55 AM so that the washers will have time to wash and dry the cups. At other times during the day, you are requested to see that your empty paper cups, candy wrappers, etc., are disposed of in the trash can rather than left on the tables for someone else to clean up.

Your cooperation in the Coffee Shop will be greatly appreciated.

Editorial (cont.)

students we are preparing ourselves to be servants of God's will in witness to His world.

We are fulfilling our present calling, the calling to gather knowledge and experience for the tasks ahead of us. It is to this calling that we must direct our attentions in a most serious manner. It would be safe to say that our individual summer experiences have in some way made each of us more aware of the great challenge that lies before us...a challenge which we have accepted.

(Cont. on p. 3)

PICTURES OF INTERNSHIP

"How does one relate to others what he feels to be the most valuable aspects of his intern year?" This is a question which is going to be probing the minds of many of the seniors who have just returned from a year of internship, for they also are going to be asked to fill this space in Table Talk with reflections of their intern experiences. One might ask, "Why run a series of articles written by those men who have served an internship?" This writer feels that there are three main reasons for such a series. In the first place, this is one of the best ways to personally communicate just what the intern year is all about to the middlers who might be interested in it, or to those juniors who find themselves required to be interested in it. Secondly, through this series, it is hoped that a cross-section of the various types of internships available will be brought forth. And in the third place, it is hoped that these articles will give the entire seminary community a chance to find out just how those men who have returned from their intern year felt about the whole thing.

I spent my intern year at the Lutheran University Center in Pittsburgh, Pa., under the direction of the Rev. Charles W. Carlson. Our ministry was to the Lutheran university students in the greater Pittsburgh area which included such schools as the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Institute of Technology, Chatham College, Duquesne University, several nursing schools, and several junior colleges. While the University Center was "officially" an arm of First English Lutheran Church in downtown Pittsburgh, in reality, it operated independently of any parish, being under the direct authority of the Division of College and University Work of the National Lutheran Council, and the board of the Lutheran Student Foundation of Western Pennsylvania. Both of

(Cont. in col. 2)

TABLE TALK STAFF

Managing Editor	Fred Krautwurst
Junior Editor	John Woods
Senior Editor	J. Paul Balas
WOTS Correspondent	June Camac
Contributors	Richard Clapper
	Darrell Frey
Typist	Cheryl Trout
Printer	Kirk Bish
Mascot	"Byrde" the Parakeet

Table Talk will regularly appear every Tuesday morning. Deadline for articles is 9 AM Thursday for the following Tuesday's edition. Anyone interested in writing for Table Talk is encouraged to do so.

 Pictures of Internship (cont.)

these governing structures are operated jointly by the American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America.

Our center of operations was a new student center; a two story, hexagonally shaped, concrete block building strategically located half way between the campuses of the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Institute of Technology. It was from this place that our ministry of worship, calling, counseling, education, and fellowship was extended.

The ministry was worship centered. Two scheduled services were held each Sunday, one at 11:00 a.m. in the contemporary, central altar chapel at the center, and one at 7:30 p.m., at the Heinz Memorial Chapel at the University of Pittsburgh. The Communion was celebrated at one service each week. At the other service we used the offices of Matins or Vespers depending upon the time of the service. Once a month, at the Vesper hour, we shared in a Service of Christian Unity with the Baptist, Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, Methodist, and Roman Catholic communities. In addition, "informal" worship was the starting point for all other activities,

(Cont. on p. 3)

Pictures of Internship (cont.)

I did most of my calling at Carnegie Institute of Technology, and I'll just say that this alone was quite an experience. Our educational ministry was centered around seminars which ranged from Sunday morning discussions about religious drama to a weekly seminar for graduate students who met to discuss Vol. II of Paul Tillich's Systematic Theology. My counseling load was light. This was due to the fact that I wasn't in the situation long enough to gain the trust necessary for a counseling relationship. In contrast, Pastor Carlson, who has been in the Pittsburgh situation for about seven years, many times found three fourths of his time devoted to counseling. Most of the counseling I did occurred in spontaneous situations such as "bull sessions" in dormitory rooms, on street corners, or in the center's recreation room.

Enough of what went on. How do I feel about the intern year? The year had its ups and downs. The ups caused mostly by the people with whom I worked, the downs caused mostly by the fact that here, for the first time in quite a few years, I was both forced and given a chance to think, to ask questions, to have myself and my ideas confronted and challenged, to test myself, and to listen. This was probably the most significant part of my intern year. Here I discovered that many of us, whether we want to admit the fact or not, make our theological education a protected world of pages and print; a world characterized by rote memorization, doctrinal formulae, theological systems, biblical scholarship, and "intellectual" discussion. If I may quote Jerry Huhn here, "I don't know whether it's a womb or a tomb," but regardless of the classification, it's safe. On my intern year I found myself dealing with theological questions, but not in a protected situation.

(Cont. in col. 2)

There was the ever persistent nagging of the Unitarian chaplain who kept insisting that Christ wasn't really necessary because when it came to treating our fellow man, most Unitarians did much better than Christians. There was the question of how one is to write a sermon each week and preach it to a congregation of people who were for the most part bored with the Church, confused by its language, but still hoping to find something there. There were my own questions about who I was, and what I was doing there anyway. Yet in the midst of the university, I met people who were genuinely concerned about the Church and about their work as part of it. It was these people, who, whether they know it or not, helped me to put the pieces back together again, and made my intern year an experience I shall not forget.

J. Paul Balas

Editorial (cont.)

Thus the transition from summer to Fall is met here on the Hill with the earnest prayer that we all shall be blessed with learning and growth in the coming year. "Grant this, O Lord, unto us all."