

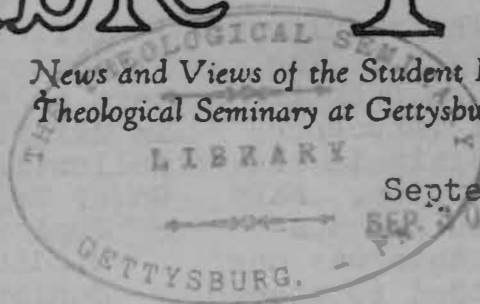
# Table Talk



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

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September 30, 1965



## THE JUNIOR AS GUINEA PIG

Your roommate may share his room with one, or perhaps your wife cooks meals for one. You'll often find them huddled silently before the refectory door or indulging in a furtive game of ping pong. The species is "seminarius juniortissimus"--commonly known as a guinea pig. These nervous little creatures are found on a hill overlooking historic Gettysburg nearly every September as they prepare to dig in for the winter. This year, perhaps because there is an uncommonly large number of them, they are being studied scientifically by the local residents. The hope is that by subjecting them to a large battery of tests it can be learned whether or not they really possess the will to survive. As soon as they appeared coming over the western mountains, they were placed in a large maze to see whether or not they had the ability to orient themselves. (The results of this test are not in yet.) They were then broken down into what the experimentors refer to as "learning units;" the object of this extended series of organized frustrations is known only to the scientists themselves--who have refused to divulge any further information to this reporter. It is of interest to note, however, that they call this plan the "new curriculum." No sooner had this test begun than the harried little creatures were taken into the heart of Washington, D.C. and "exposed" to such inclement environments as the Walter Jenkins

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## CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION

It is impossible to adequately describe CPE or to convey my own enthusiasm for the program in an article such as this. The only thing that can be said about CPE is that it is hard to describe and that everyone who has taken at least one quarter feels that it was one of the most valuable experiences they have ever had. With this in mind, I will attempt to describe my quarter of CPE.

The chaplain supervisor was George N. Young (a Lutheran pastor) and the center for the course was Danville State Hospital in Danville, Penna. There were seven students in the program, representing four denominations and five seminaries. Our daily schedule was usually divided into two parts although it was very flexible and varied from day to day. In the morning, the group met together for a lecture by the chaplain or one of the staff members at the hospital, or for group discussion which many times was very close to group therapy. In the afternoon, we were on our own to visit patients, observe various aspects of hospital life, discuss our visits with staff members, or simply to read. Once a week we met with the chaplain to talk about our progress with the patients or any personal problems which may have come out in the group discussion.

One of the distinctive features of the CPE program was the balance between the theoretical and the practical. We did not, for example, simply listen to lectures or read about schizophrenia but were

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## Junior As Guinea Pig (cont.)

Memorial Y.M.C.A. (The results of this test are not in yet.) The next step was to return them to this land of pastoral innocence and place them once again in the "learning units" situation. Many of them appeared tired and despondent. Presumably this was due to a loss of time needed to absorb fully the material presented in the "new curriculum." To test whether this were really so, the originators of the project asked that they be placed in a "group life situation," during which they could be studied for an entire weekend and also during which they would be unable to assimilate the material presented to them in the "learning units" program. Once again they appeared tired and despondent; the experiment was considered a success.

We guinea pigs--yes, I confess, I am one of these furry little fellows--are rather pleased, however, with the humanity of our keepers. We submit in docile silence with full knowledge that the total experiment will be beneficial. (The results of this confident attitude are not in yet).

John Woods

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## Clinical Pastoral Education (cont)

involved with schizophrenics every day. Also, we didn't merely discuss the place of the church and the chaplain in an institution such as Danville, but every day we had to deal with the other staff members and thus work out a relationship with them. Through this, a much clearer picture of the relationship of Christianity to psychiatry and medicine has begun to develop in my mind. By discussing my work with a particular patient with the chaplain and with the psychiatrist, social worker, clinical psychologist, and nurses who were also involved

(Cont. col. 2)

## Speaking of Groups....

Official figures as of Sept. 22 indicate that there are 140 of us here on the Hill. This community is described statistically in the following report masterminded by Roger Grothen.

Juniors - 52

Middlers - 37

Seniors - 40

There are 6 Interns, 4 students on leave and 1 special student.

Fourteen LCA synods are represented, with Central Pennsylvania leading the parade, and the other Pennsylvanias, Maryland and New York as runners up.

There are 13 students here that represent church bodies and denominations other than the Lutheran Church in America.

We discover that 38.5% of the Juniors are married, 62.3% of the Middlers and 75% of the Seniors.

Of the 124 students actively engaged in classes here, 37.9% of them live off campus, all of them being married. Thus, 61% of the married students live off campus.

And for a final figure, 55.0% of all students this year are in the married category.

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## CPE (cont)

with that patient I was able to develop a clearer understanding of my responsibility to that patient and also I was able to check my findings with those of the other staff members. Of course, there is a very direct carry over of the insights gained in this situation to pastoral counseling in the parish.

The most important part of the program was the insight into and understanding of myself that I gained. Part of this occurred because of the contact with people who were in a crisis situation. This naturally demands that you take a careful look at yourself. Also, there was constant pressure from the group to become the best

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## WOTS NEW?

New voices will be heard in Table Talk this year as space has been included for the Women of the Seminary. The women students, faculty wives and wives of seminarians, feel very grateful to become more active members of this Christian community.

Where has the time gone? Our second meeting has already taken place with a very large and active membership attending. At our first meeting one of the most pertinent subjects discussed was the hopeful prospect of establishing a scholarship for a deserving student to the kindergarten at Christ Lutheran Church.

The second meeting was highlighted by Prof. Reinberger's illuminating presentation of the origin and deep meaning of the Lutheran liturgy. We were very fortunate to be "first-nighters" for the previewing of an enlightening film strip on the Lutheran liturgy which will be presented to catechetical classes throughout the L.C.A. The film strip was written by Prof. Reinberger and represents another contribution of the seminary faculty to the Church at large. Due to the lack of time for discussion after the film, Prof. Reinberger generously offered to meet with us at a future date to answer further questions concerning the liturgy. Let's accept his invitation!

On Oct. 6th we will meet in front of the Administration building at 7:45 p.m. and visit St. Francis Xavier Church in Gettysburg. The objective of this visit is to gain a better understanding of our Roman Catholic friends.

June Camac

## CPE (cont)

in CPE it is almost impossible. There were times when I would have done almost anything to escape the next group discussion but as it turned out these were the most beneficial sessions of the summer for me personally.

I could go on talking about CPE indefinitely but I don't want to alienate the editor of Table Talk or bore those people who feel compelled to read my article. If anyone is interested in knowing more about the program at Danville, I would be glad to discuss it further. (The single students - and the wives - may be interested in the fact that 73 charming student nurses lived about thirty yards away from us.)

Paul L. Showalter

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## CPE (cont)

possible person you can be and this means understanding yourself fully. In most other situations you can avoid a critical look at yourself,  
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