

Table Talk

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

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FACULTY DIALOGUE TERMED "SUCCESS"

The no-holds barred dialogue between two faculty members last Tuesday night appears, in light of the discussion engendered among members of the seminary community, to have been a highly stimulating and thought provoking exchange.

In keeping with the "spirit of brotherly love" normally absent in such academic adventures, Professors Wilken and Gritsch addressed themselves to the question, "What it means to be a Lutheran." The opening skirmish saw both sides address themselves to the issue in question by attempting to set up categories in which this issue could be discussed. However, in the ensuing debate, the issues became clouded and the "precise reserve" with which the initial categories were established gave way to the less precise, but infinitely more entertaining, legerdemain in which the audience witnessed the rapid metamorphosis of the self-proclaimed "fox" into the proverbial "hedgehog" and the "liturgical playboy" into an emancipated Waltheran.

Even though Dr. Gritsch began by making an impassioned plea for a re-examination of American Lutheranism on the basis of its historical sixteenth century foundation, the focus of the discussion quickly shifted to Dr. Wilken's categories defining Lutheranism as either a constitutive or a corrective movement. Although both men appeared to agree in substance that the Lutheran Reformation was a corrective movement, the essential difference of opinion, on which the discussion was to center for the remainder of the evening, was the question of what norms the Lutheran Church should utilize in assuming this function. Dr. Gritsch based his position on the view that the Lutheran Church has produced no confessional statements superior to those of the sixteenth century, specifically focusing on two points: justification by
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BANQUET AND OPEN HOUSE

The Christmas Banquet held last Thursday evening was very fine indeed. "Chief" Howser, Steward Kindsvatter and the students who volunteered for duty as waiters were at their best. The dinner was delicious, well served, and deserving of the praise of all who were in attendance.

As Dr. Heiges observed, two years ago there was but half the number in attendance that was there this year. The Refectory was filled nearly to its capacity for the candle-light affair, with appropriate music via stereo tape.

Following the dinner, most everyone adjourned to Baughman Hall where the most annual Open House got under way. With most of the apartments and 3rd floor rooms modestly decorated, students, faculty, wives and staff spent an enjoyable evening meandering through the building, stopping here and there for conversation and refreshments.

Denny Trout and his aides on the Social committee provided a tempting assortment of cookies and cakes to go with the punch in the 3rd floor lounge.

All in all, it was a gala evening greatly enjoyed by everyone.

THE PAULSSEN FESTSCHRIFT

The November, 1965, issue of the BULLETIN is a Festschrift of essays in honor of the Seminary's Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Psychology, Dr. Bertha Paulssen. It represents some excellent work on the part of Seminary Faculty as well as other friends and associates of Dr. Paulssen.

The impact which Dr. Paulssen has had upon our Seminary and theological education in general is reason enough to make this edition of the BULLETIN must reading for us. Don't overlook it!

OVERHEARD AT OPEN HOUSE....

Student to obviously pregnant wife of another student: "Hey! What's with you?"

And she replied: "Ahhh. . . .would you believe it if I told you, 'Too many Christmas Cookies?'"

THE TABLE TALK STAFF takes this opportunity to wish everyone the continued blessings of this Advent Season, a very Merry Christmas, and all good things for the coming New Year.

TABLE TALK will next appear on Wednesday the 5th of January, 1966. Deadline for articles for that edition will be noon on Monday, January 3rd.

THE PARTY IS OVER--SO WHAT

As I reflect upon the significance of the WOTS sponsored Christmas party for underprivileged children I can only remark "So what?" Your response to this event may be quite different; however, I suggest that you carefully examine the basis of your response.

If we examine the significance of this party on the basis of its festive value I doubt that anyone could label it other than successful. The festive decorations and "noble purpose" of the event fused generating a warm atmosphere of congeniality. The frantic preparations of the preceding days came to fruition in a most enjoyable evening of gaily triumphantly climaxed by the appearance of Santa Claus with his sack of goodies. It was very easy for us to depart from this traditional festivity with a warm glow in our hearts.

However, if we examine the significance of this party on the basis of a Christian witness we may conclude that it left much to be desired. Seminarians who so often lash out at the secularization of Christmas apparently find the same secularization within the seminary community acceptable; at least I have heard little criticism about seminarians rushing the season or about the absence of any mention of our Lord at the WOTS Christmas party. What distinguishing (cont'd next col.)

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DIALOGUE (cont'd from page 1)
 grace through faith and the unity of the Word and Sacrament. Dr. Wilken countered by asserting that historical criticism has relativized these norms, as well as all others, including the Scriptures and the resurrected Christ.

While these issues were never clearly resolved, a consensus of the students present at the discussion seems to indicate that the endeavor was extremely worthwhile and highly thought provoking.

William Avery
 J. William Novak
 Russell Siler

PARTY (Cont'd from col. 1)
 characteristic of this party might enable us to describe it as Christian?
 And if we examine the significance of this party on the basis of its humanitarian value we may have been better expended in other directions. While we may believe that such moments of glitter are "nice" and that they should be enjoyed by every child, I suggest that if this was our goal, there are many children in this community who are more needful of such an experience than were many of the children at the party. I further suggest that the funds expended upon this party could have made a much more significant contribution to the welfare of the underprivileged had they been used to support a child in Operation Head Start or expended on another project with some depth to it. My objection is that the party meant far more to those who gave it (myself included) than it did to most of the children.

Having examined the party from this perspective I can only conclude that we can do better. Might I suggest that most of what passes for benevolent activity in this community is in need of serious (cont'd on page 3)

PARTY (cont'd from page 2)

review? Until our benevolence amounts to more than a few crumbs brushed from the table, I suspect that those who need help can do little more than remark "So what?"

Ronald P. Garrett

MISSIONARIES?

At the December 9 meeting of the Student Association, a motion to contribute \$30.00 to Gettysburg High School in support of its American Field Service student exchange program was defeated. The opponents of the motion feel that money from the mission fund could be put to better use. One of the suggestions for the better use of this money was Operation Head Start.

The argument against the support of the American Field Service is a valid one. A close look at the treasurer's report submitted at the December 9 meeting, however, indicates that the Student Association should investigate our expenditures more closely in light of our Christian purpose. In the period from September 8 to December 8, the receipts from Seven-up Coca-cola, coffee shop and Lance totaled \$1247.38. The expenditures for the same were \$1119.72. The receipts of the social committee totaled \$205.26. Their expenditures were \$21.08 for the fall dance. The receipts for the athletic committee were \$43.21. At the meeting, expenditures of \$15.00 for ping-pong paddles and \$2.50 for the basketball league fee were approved. The lecture committee received \$205.26 and disbursed \$100.00. "Table Talk" received \$86.44 and spent \$27.00. The missions fund brought forward \$89.90 and received \$97.23. The \$89.90 was transferred to another fund (as were monies from other funds) and there were no other expenditures.

Obviously, we make money in the coffee shop and at the same time provide an opportunity for our "community" to gather informally. This is a healthy situation. Yet the fact remains that (cont'd next col.)

MISSIONARIES? (cont'd)

in a three month period we spent \$1119.72 in our own interest. Likewise, the athletic program at the seminary is necessary and should not be slighted. Yet, the fact remains that we approved expenditures of \$17.50 for ourselves. The fall dance was well attended and provided a valuable social event for our "community." Yet the fact remains that we spent \$21.08 on ourselves. Likewise, lecture and "Table Talk" are valid programs of the seminary. Yet the fact remains that we spent \$127.00 for ourselves. With the possible exception of \$9.45 paid to a florist and \$2.28 paid to miscellaneous, the disbursement portion of the treasurer's report shows expenditures of \$000.00 for others. In fact, the last expenditure from the mission fund was a \$35.00 loan to the health fund.

This is not to say that we ought to expend our total budget or efforts all at once. It seems to me that we can learn a lesson from WOTS in this matter. Financially, they are not a major group in our community. Yet with a total expenditure of only \$12.00 from their budget, they sponsored a highly successful Christmas program for underprivileged children--that is, for others. Might this be likened to the widow's mite?

Apparently the Student Association has felt a similar responsibility to people outside our "community." We do have a mission committee with 9% of our total budget at its disposal. The American Field Service may not be the best place to invest our money. If it isn't, then the Student Association is responsible for finding the agency or agencies which do deserve our support and then give it to them. The other alternative is to dissolve the mission committee and transfer its remaining funds. Then we can officially continue to entertain ourselves without concerning ourselves about others.

James Bricker