

Table Talk

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

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A LAYMAN'S VIETNAM

(To the Editor: This article was written prior to the February 1st issue of Table Talk, and is submitted in its original form.)

The repeated appearance of what seems to me to be "defeatist" articles on our activities in Vietnam do not, I hope, represent the thoughts of the entire Seminary community. At the risk of standing alone (which I almost did in the last presidential election) I welcome the opportunity to here present another view.

Certainly every sincere and dedicated citizen would pray for immediate peace. The peace we seek however should not be "peace at any price". No one disputes the horrors of war and the devastation it brings to all nations and people so engaged, but there are times that arise when the issues at stake are worth fighting for.

In my mind the United States is now engaged in a conflict that had to be faced. The fact that this physical conflict is centered now in a remote Asian area rather than in our own back yard, does not alter the basic reasons for our necessary stand. We are fighting in Vietnam to help the South stop the aggression from the North, but we are also facing an enemy at this point which threatens the free way of life for the entire world. In my thinking, our stand for our way of life could well have been demonstrated to the world in the Cuban crisis a number of years ago. The fact that the administration in 1962 did not have the courage and foresight to carry this further, means we must now display our stand in a spot half way around the world. J. F. K.'s great moment of glory came when he declared to the world that we would not tolerate missiles, sites etc. (cont'd on page 2)

GREAT ARCHEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY

Editor's Note: Recent discovery of some ancient health pills on the fourth floor of the "Ad" Building prompts the following article.

Armed with spiritual pith helmets, the Fourth Floor of that historical ruin, rivalling Meggido in sheer survivability, has shattered the usually calm world of Biblical archeology by the amazing discovery of two dozen small artifacts presumably dating back to the late Bronze Age of the Seminary; attempts at deciphering the Accadian inscriptions found thereon have led the investigating scholars to conclude that The Rosetta Stone never had it so good: despite some controversy over the exact text, chief philologist of the bonanza has isolated such words as "nervous prostration", "seminal weakness", and "loss of sexual power and impotency". The discovery of the "Nervitoro Diggings" has even brought W.F. Albright out of retirement. The final evaluation of this momentous event will be known in a few days as Art Patterson's pet squirrel has consumed three of the pills and is reported to have assaulted Pete's snowplaw.

Barry Bence

SPRING DANCE

The Social Committee has announced that the Spring Dance will be held on April 15th from 8:30 to 11:30 PM in the Refectory. Denny Trout and his committee have lined up the following details: a variety of music via stereo records and tapes; refreshments arranged by the WOTS; Emceeding by the inimitable Dave Clement; and entertainment by Jim "Floyd Cramer" Bramer. AND...there has been a rumor that the hit of last year's party for Dr. Heiges, the SCHMUCKER STIGERS, may make an appearance at entertainment time. Dress will be coat and tie; more info from Denny Trout.

VIETNAM (cont'd from page 1)

in Cuba and would take steps to stop this. The "ball was dropped" following this and we adopted a wait and see attitude. We waited too long and now face a difficult logistical problem.

Previous wars had a Kaiser or Hitler to hate, or a Pearl Harbor to unify the cause. Most of us that engaged in World War II were proud of the fact that we were chosen to help rid the world of the evils we were fighting. Horrible as much of this was, I still cherish the fact that we attempted to do what we thought was right in fighting for the American democratic way. The fact that this war, to end all wars, did not solve all the problems, is something that makes most of us heartsick. Yet we are now faced with an evil in communism which should cause every American, and especially every Christian American, to give deep thought to his role.

Some of us are corny enough to experience a shiver or spine tingle when we see the American Flag waving, hear the Star Spangled Banner, or listen to taps played. I revel in the freedom I have to write this article, read what I wish, attend the church of my choice, vote for the under-dog etc., and I know that only under our democratic form of government can I have these privileges. Is it wrong for us to want the rest of the world to have this, anymore than wanting the unsaved peoples of the world to hear of and accept the Christ we worship?

I feel that our government has been striving for peace in Vietnam, even to the extent of allowing the build up of forces in North Vietnam during the bombing lull. Military men know what an advantage you give the enemy in such a move, and our future losses will undoubtedly prove this. To clamor for the practice of not bombing the enemies' stronghold in North Vietnam is like making a public announcement that your back door is never locked and thieves may come in any time they wish.

(cont'd in col. 2)

TABLE TALK

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A WORD ON WIGGLE. . . .

The city of Chicago is the scene of a current study on "feminie wiggle," a phenomenon known to all males. A specialist has said that there is no physiological necessity for wiggling motion in the posterior region of the female while she is walking. In other words, it's all a put-cn.

On Saturday, January 29th, the ABC television network conducted some interviews with various women in the Chicago area. One of these, aired nationally that evening, was with a cute, blond bunny at the Chicago Playboy Club.

The reporter asked Miss Bunny if the size of the woman made any difference in the "wiggle." The Herner-ette hardly batted an eyelash as she replied:

"Well.....if you have more woman then you're gonna have more wiggle."

How about that, sports fans?

VIETNAM (Cont'd from col. 1)

Weak-kneed individuals who preach that we cannot win and should stop fighting have never been imbued with the true American spirit. Americans with a deep concern for their freedoms and a vivid awareness of the American potential should know we cannot lose. Our history is rampant with rallying to a cause worth fighting for and if one can realize that what we possess, and wish others to have, is a priceless heritage, then we can rally (cont'd on page 3)

VIETNAM POSTSCRIPT

By Mark H. Gruebmeyer

Why we are in Vietnam and how long we should stay there are questions which more and more Americans are asking themselves. I believe it has been made clear in our administration's peace efforts that we are now in Vietnam to insure that sometime in the future the Vietnamese people will have the opportunity to choose their own form of government. In my opinion we are not there, as some think we should be and others think we are, to cultivate and insure an ally in the Far East. Our goal in Vietnam is free elections. At the present time this is impossible because of Communist intimidation. Until free elections are possible and insured, I believe we should stay in Vietnam and support efforts in this direction both on the battlefield and at the conference table. That such free elections might result in a communistic form of government in South Vietnam is a risk we must take if we are to allay suspicions that our intent is imperialistic.

The question has been raised whether or not the South Vietnamese people want to be liberated from communistic intimidation and control. Some have suggested that perhaps only a few politicians in Saigon are actually in favor of American troops being in Vietnam to champion the cause of freedom. I do not agree with this position. Within the last year about 1500 province and village officials, who had been elected or appointed on a local level, have been killed by the Viet Cong because they had refused to "kneel under." Those leaders accepted local positions knowing full well the risks to themselves and to their families. Certainly, this indicates that our support in Vietnam is not just among a few Saigon politicians, and that our commitment is also to those local leaders who live and die for what they believe is best for their people.

VIETNAM (cont'd from page 2)

to combat communism and its doctrines in all ways.

The Seminary community knows well that I have a personal investment in the troops in Vietnam. I also have two boys that face the prospect of serving in the armed forces; yet I wish them to know that to serve their country and protect their freedoms is an honor. To escape the dangers we have, or wait for a more opportune time to combat them is unrealistic. I too pray to God for peace, but I pray the peace our God grants to us will be one we deserve and not again "peace at any price."

Clarence A. Benson