

Table Talk

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

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November 1, 1966

A TRIP TO CONCORDIA

Our heads are still spinning with vivid memories from the conference of the Association of Lutheran Seminaries held at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis on October 21, 22. There were 25 seminarians present as a result of 9 responses from 20 seminaries invited. The ALC was represented by men from Central Seminary, Fremont, Nebraska, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., and Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, by men from Springfield, Ill. and St. Louis. And the LCA, by men from Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatchewan, Canada, Lutheran School of Theology, Maywood, Ill., Northwestern Lutheran Theological Seminary, Minneapolis, Minn. and Gettysburg. Accommodations, food, and weather were all that could be desired. An active interest was taken by everyone in ferreting out the current issues facing each seminary, and good fellowship was enjoyed, as was the significant privilege of communion extended by the Missouri Lutherans and celebrated by Dr. Arthur C. Piepkorn.

There were four main lectures. Dr. John Elliott spoke on 'Early Catholicism and Canonical Authority', Dr. Kurt Aland on 'The Fulfillment of the Ages--The Expectation of the Imminent End of the World in the Second Century' and Dr. Piepkorn spoke twice on 'The Authority of the Lutheran Confessions Today.'

Dr. Piepkorn addressed himself primarily to 'the two great crises which confront the Western Church in her history': the theological crisis of Nicea-Chalcedon (the need to be able to theologize about the nature of Christ and the internal relationships of the Trinity) and the soteriological crisis of the Reformation (the need to determine the substance and implications of 'gospel',
(Cont'd next col.)

DR. WILKEN RESIGNS

Dr. Wilken has resigned from his position on our faculty effective June 1967 in order to accept a position on the graduate faculty, department of Theology, at Fordham University. -Editor

There is no need here in this article to go into the good that has come to this seminary during Dr. Robert L Wilken's term of residence. I think we can only be thankful for the academic, liturgical, and personal aid he has afforded to the Gettysburg Seminary community throughout these three years. Of course, there is regret at his leaving, but even more there is a firmer conviction that his future work for the Lord and His Church will be beneficial and rewarding not only to himself but also to those who are fortunate enough to study and grow under his instruction. We of the seminary can only offer our deep appreciation to him and his family for our time spent together here at Gettysburg. The Lord be with you.

Bill Quail

CONCORDIA (Cont'd from col. 1)

'justification', 'kerygma', 'atonement', etc.) The latter crisis forced the methodological question of interpretation of Scripture and was resolved in the Symbols with a 'soteriological hierarchy of pericopes'. Thus, in the case of both crises documents later called creeds arose spontaneously to meet the demands of the situation.

This provoked the question of the possibility of a third crisis. There was some speculation on this possibility
(Cont'd on page 4)

PICTURE FROM OVERSEAS

(Biblical Division: read Rev. 9:3,5,10)

This week we bring you the half-family portrait of a young couple that disturbed the tranquility of Beit Yusef, headquarters house of the Ai expedition, suffering as a result a case of complete unheilsgeschichte.

The wifely mate showed up on the floor of the garage one day when a cartton of sherds was moved. A lynch mob led by a doughty Arab descended upon her. After a few moments of violence only a grease spot remained.

Scorpio, the lesser half who sat for this picture, was safely hiding on the wall of the same garage a few days later. All was well until someone spotted the upper part of his claws, which he had indiscreetly allowed to protrude above the lid of a box. This time cooler heads prevailed. Staff members executed a bring-em-back-alive maneuver that tumbled him into an empty preserve jar. There he remained for the rest of the season. The lid of the jar appears on the ground beside him in this candid shot.

Some workers who shared the garage with Scorpio exhibited signs of nagging anxiety over his continued presence. In an effort to reassure them as well as to encourage such scientific spirits as might wish to do research with Scorpio, the following passage from an article in the Encyclopedia Britannica (eleventh edition) was brought to their attention: "It has been shown that insensibility to the pain of the sting and immunity to the ill effects can be acquired by any one who has the courage to permit himself to be repeatedly stung". Difficult as it may be to believe, the rare opportunity to test the validity of this statement went untried.

Many myths are told about Scorpio's kind. While it is true that they go in for night life, they are in actuality basically shy, avoiding the bright lights, particularly that of the sun. Furthermore, they do not sting themselves when exposed to heat and danger. Only whatever happens to be handy.

Dr. Howard Bream

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ALL SAINTS' DAY

The community will celebrate All Saint' Day, November 1, 7:30 P.M. with the Service of Word and Sacrament. The guest preacher will be the Rev. John H. Tietjen, Th.D., who has recently been named Secretary for Public Relations of the Lutheran Council of the United States of America. Dr. Tietjen is a pastor of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and had served a parish in Leonia, New Jersey, for the past ten years. During part of this time, he had also been editor of the American Lutheran, an independent Lutheran magazine.

Several things will be done Tuesday night to make our celebration more festive. Among them will be a procession into the church with choir and congregation singing a hymn of praise. We ask you, instead of entering the church upon arrival, to assemble on the porch and sidewalk in front of the chapel.

- H.G.S.

HOLIDAY BUREAU

Would you believe that we need an hour or two of your "free" time? This year again the WOTS are organizing the operation of the Holiday Bureau--a clearing house for the exchange of information for persons in need of material aid at Christmas time. From December 5th thru December 23rd volunteers are need to man the Holiday Bureau, located in the Child Welfare Office in the Court House Annex, 111 Baltimore Street. The job involves answering the phone in this office and receiving and dispersing specific information. (Cont'd on page 4)

DR. PANNENBERG

This past Thursday the seminary community had the honor of hearing two lectures by Wolfhart Pannenberg, Professor of Theology at the University of Mainz. Professor Pannenberg is currently a visiting professor at Harvard Divinity School, and is widely recognized as one of the most creative young men in systematic theology today. His two lectures were examinations of the theological relevance of the Kingdom of God. The first, entitled "Eschatology, God and Creation," sought to explain what Jesus' announcement of the immanent kingdom--that is, the coming kingdom as a future dominating the present--does to our understanding of the concept of God. The lecture was highly technical to be sure, yet at the same time even the uninitiated, as seminarians must be in these realms, could catch a glimpse of the exciting proclamation involved in Pannenberg's call for a God who Reign is his Being, whose Future is his Freedom, who is coming at us via the future with the on-rust of the Gospel itself. The afternoon lecture, "The Kingdom of God and Ethics" sought to find the meaning of the Good in terms of the metaphysics outlined in the morning lecture. At the risk of oversimplification it might be said that the core idea here was that God's movement toward the world out of the future--his grace--allows us to participate in the coming of his kingdom and therefore in his essence, and "an ontology inspired its consequences." A synthetic term for the position advanced might be "A Situational Ethics of Revolution."

Certainly the opportunity to listen to these complicated but exciting lectures was one of the major events in the career of most of us as seminarians. I would exhort, cajole, or wheedly all those who did not attend to get ahold of the tapes made and spend an evening listening to the music of the theological sheres.

John Woods

FROM THE SPORT'S WORLD

Hello, all you sports lovers out there in Table Talk land. Glad to see that you all made it back safely from the gala Reformation Day parties and that there were no losses incurred at the hands of right-wing Lutherans over Manifesto. If the top brass keeps this up, we'll all be in shape.

Before getting into the good news for this week, I would like to say "Hats off" to all of the enthusiasm which has been building up within the community for sports activity. Personalities in sports that we would like to recognize this week include that little figure in gray that has been seen taking nightly runs. I would also like to call attention to the new Physical Fitness Club. I am sorry to inform its present members, however, that any attempts to "filch" money out of my budget are futile. Might I suggest that you go to next year's President's Reception and load your pockets with cookies--this should take care of the refreshment problem. As for weight-lifting equipment in the coffee-shop, just be patient--at the present rate, it will be dropping down from "heaven any day ndw."

My staff (of one) was also very impressed with the article which appeared in the last issue about road rallies. This is another one of those fine American sports which it might be good for us to look into. It might turn some of the excess energy that some of us display behind the wheel into constructive expression.

The big new this week is that we are going to have a second try at beating the boys from Philly in football. The date for this contest is November 4 at Philly and plans are incomplete as to whether we will hire six or seven buses to take the Gettysburg fans down to cheer on the team.

That's all for now fans. In closing remember, "As a door turns on its sockets, the sluggard turns on his bed." (Proverbs 26:14).

Art Patterson

CONCORDIA (Cont'd from page 1)

but the matter was left in the hands of the Holy Spirit. The marked implication seemed to be that there is no current need for more documents but rather a series of crises and revolutions in the attitudes of those handling the earlier documents.

The third lecture was Elliott's. Basically he sketched the problem created by the recent finds of form-criticism in the Bible: pronounced elements of 'Early Catholicism' (as characterized by: organization according to hierarchy, mon-archic episcopacy, rule of faith, emphasis on orthodoxy, the conception of faith in static, objectified terms, etc.). These factors seem to throw Protestantism and the principle of Sola Scriptura into a dilemma, for the alternatives appear to be either the excision of those elements on the basis of a canon within the canon or a capitulation and the trek to Rome. The lecture then drew out the various possibilities of solution in terms of the work done on this problem by Kasemann, Gonzelmann and Schlier. The implications were seen as: the need for historical-critical work to be done on the entire 'canon', the need for exegetical-systematic interdepartmental efforts, and the realization of the implications of relativity for systematics. Elliot concluded with the remark that ecumenism happily would 'force the question of the evangelical guts of any given proclamation.'

The final lecture was given by Dr. Kurt Aland. It was primarily a close, scholarly study of the Scriptures and attendant writings of the Spostolic Fathers in an attempt to distinguish just when imminent eschatology was replaced by future eschatology. In accord in spirit with Elliott's work, the boundaries of the question were spread wide again, the basis being the discovery of imminent eschatological thinking as late as ca. 150 A.D., whereas it was originally thought displaced by future eschatology ca. 90 A.D. Aland also suggested that it was probably believed by lay people--as opposed to circles of theologians--for some time longer.

If anything was impressive about the lectures, in addition to their academic fastidiousness, it was the lecturers--

CONCORDIA (Cont'd from last column)

each made every effort to explore and answer if possible the questions which the students brought up.

The ALS business meeting entertained two items of interest: the next conference (1968) may be held here pending our acceptance and Maywood's inability to host; and there was initiated a general, geographical districted intern-conference for the purpose of providing opportunities for fellowship among Lutheran seminaries.

Primarily the conference made me aware of the quality of our education here at Gettysburg and of the privilege of openness and academic honesty which we enjoy. While we have much to learn with respect to taking our historical legacy seriously, we have a freedom for self-criticism which not all others are allowed. There is indeed not enough reflective criticism here; but it would seem that there is even less elsewhere.

For the chance to compare our education with others, to hear fine lectures and meet new people, and for a lovely jet-airplane ride (a mode of travel which we alone of the seminarians present utilized), we thank you.

Fred Aigner and Martin Rathke

HOLIDAY BUREAU (Cont'd from page 2)

mation. The hours involved are 2-4 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 2-4 p.m. Saturday afternoon. You will find a schedule on the bulletin board opposite the mail boxes. Please choose a convenient hour and sign up. All members of the seminary community are invited to volunteer.

A guide sheet for volunteers will be waiting for you at the Bureau explaining the procedure. If you want additional information, call Peggy Shenberger, 334-6645. The schedule will remain on the bulletin board through next Tuesday.

Peggy Shenberger