

Table Talk

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

Vol. III No. 8

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THE STATE OF THE CHURCH

Dean Stroup passed this article along to the editor stating that, while we have discussed the advantages and disadvantages of merger among ourselves at great length, we have not heard an outsider's view of the "givens" for productive theological education. The writer is a non-clerical member of the Board of Theological Education, and it was delivered at the L.C.A. meeting at Kansas City. -Editor

I am privileged to talk for six minutes this morning on professional excellence. I do this as a member of the medical profession involved in education, and I am presenting a point of view of the professional members on the Board of Theological Education who are not clergy.

The Board of Theological Education is charged with concern and action for our theological seminaries and in general for the education of our ministers. It is to this that I direct your attention. The non-theological professionals on our Board recognize the professional competence of our clergy in the seminaries but we are not in the intimate circle of their discipline and we are perhaps in a better position to evaluate the end result at the parish level. We are certainly better able to assess the impact of the church upon our professions. As laymen in relation to the clergy, we can also hear better the clamor of society for the church to respond to our changing world.

As professionals, we recognize the enormous task of relating one discipline to another; but we feel that if our lives are to have meaning, the church must relate to all these facets of learning. The ferment in education, and
(Cont'd on page 4)

HEFNER GOING TO L.S.T.C.

Needless to say, the announcement of Dr. Hefner's resignation effective June 1967 and planned move to Chicago has been greeted with mixed feelings. On the one hand, we wish him the best of luck and the greatest happiness and success in his new position. But on the other hand, we are saddened because this move means the loss of an excellent member of our faculty. It is unfortunate that future students at Gettysburg will not have the opportunity to study under him, both to challenge and to be challenged by him. He has done much to impress upon us the necessities and the possibilities of engaging in the theological task. His full participation in all aspects of our community life has complemented his excellence in the classroom, and has served to illustrate the necessity for both in the role of a seminary professor.

It is hoped that through such men as Dr. Hefner we may all see the possibilities of excellence in theological education. So while we regret his decision to leave, we are encouraged by his desire to commit his abilities to the best possible service. In the end, this is the primary task of us all--to decide how we can best utilize our abilities. It is in light of this basic commitment which we all share, that we can understand and appreciate his decision. If the church as a whole will profit from this move, can it be anything but a gain for Gettysburg also? It is with these thoughts that we extend our appreciations for Dr. Hefner's service here and wish him and his family well for the future.

Bob Pielke

DR. BREAM TO TALK ON SABBATICAL

Dr. Howard Bream has kindly consented to make a report to the entire Seminary community (students, faculty, staff, wives, etc.) on his recent Mid-Eastern tour on Thursday evening, Nov. 10 in the Aberly Room at 8 P.M. You may expect to hear (and see via selected slides) both anecdotal and technical (not too technical, we are told!) information.

Says Bream about his 3 months in Jerusalem: "No study of atlases and pictures could prepare me for the vision of the Holy City as it really is. Stripped of the raiments bestowed upon it by pious imagination and Sunday School art, it is disappointing, frustrating and in some respects almost disgusting at first. Then after the shock of seeing it in the light of reality passes, almost as an after thought, one realizes that Jerusalem was also the despair of Jesus. And one feels close to Christ in loving the city, particularly the people."

We invite you and encourage you to share in this event, a unique and pilot one in the life of our community.

Seminary Extension Com.

"HEAVENLY DISCOURSE" PRESENTED TONIGHT

As its first production for the year Chancel Players has chosen a series of readings by Charles Erskine Scott Wood entitled "Heavenly Discourses." Wood, a turn of the century Twainsian figure, has the knack of satirizing brilliantly most of our theological and patriotic foibles. Chancel Players thinks it has brought to life these heavenly conversations between God, Jesus, Peter, Elmer Gantry, Mark Twain, Voltaire, Carrie Nation and sundry other notables. A little preview will be presented in this morning's chapel which we hope will spur you to come out tonight and take in some culture. The program will last approximately one hour, but we assure you that you will find that hour to be one that will tickle your theological funny-bone. The festivities begin at 8 p.m. in the Aberly Room.

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LAST ISSUE THIS QUARTER

Table Talk will not appear next week due to finals. However, the staff plans to publish an issue during the first week of the second quarter. It is hoped that with all the free time available to students over the Thanksgiving holiday, many of you will find time to write an article for the paper. All articles should be in the editor's hands no later than Friday, the day after Thanksgiving so, if you plan to go home during this time, please mail articles to the editor (seminary address).

ARTICLES BY FACULTY MEMBERS

Many students have expressed the desire to see more articles by the faculty in Table Talk. While the staff realizes that the paper is primarily an organ for news and views of the student body, we welcome with open arms any articles which any faculty member might care to write. W.A.

IT'S A GIRL!

The staff of Table Talk joins with the entire student body in congratulating Pastor Steumpfle on the newest addition to his family. Rumor has it that when our Professor of Homiletics heard the baby was a girl, he promised that his next sermon would be entitled, "What it's like to be taken up into the third heaven as St. Paul was!"

MT. AIRY VICTORIOUS!!! ATTENTION !!!

It is with heavy heart that this reporter passes on the news that Gettysburg went down to defeat before Mt. Airy on Friday by a score of 30 to 18. The valiant Gettysburgians were thrown off guard by a sneaky on-side kick-off which led to the first Aorist touchdown. The first half was all Mt. Aorist whose blitzing aerial attack couldn't seem to be countered. The quarterback--right end combination connected repeatedly with 10 completions out of fifteen attempts. Not that our boys were inactive. Quarterback Clayton Rudolph scored sizeable running yardage and connected on a 30-yarder with Burl Latshaw for a touchdown. Working against a stiff northerly wind our team left the field at half-time trailing 18 to 6.

The second half, however, showed that our boys were in no way inferior to the Philadelphia team. We matched them score for score--our defense broke up the pass patterns which had given them the edge in the first half and our passing offense really began to click. Two long fifty-yarders from Rudolph to Chuck Miller brought the fans to their feet screaming for more. All of our receivers, Little, Dice, Miller, and Latshaw picked up decisive yardage, and Rudolph gained crucial yardage on the ground when it was needed. Unfortunately, Mt. Airy played a good second half too, scoring two additional touchdowns. Our defense, however, stopped them in their tracks on four occasions so that they were forced to punt. As nearly as Ron Long and I could compute them, here are some partial statistics:

	G-burg	Mt. A
First downs	6	9
Pass attempts	24	35
Completions	10	17
Yds. gained passing	128	(approx.)200
Rushing yardage	118	90
Interceptions	0	1

Our gallant troupe of 14 players, one official, two members of the press, and two spectators left the field proudly,
(Cont'd next col.)

Do you want an exciting, enjoyable, and enriching summer? Is there a summer, perhaps before intern, after intern, or next summer, for which you do not yet have any plans? Then why don't you look into the possibility of being a priest-worker in the scenic wonder and exciting resort atmosphere of a National Park?

Through "A Christian Ministry in the National Parks," you (and your wife) can get that opportunity of which you have always dreamed, to work in a National Park resort. And you can get enriching experience in preaching, teaching, and leading by providing Christian worship and activities for those who live in, work in, and visit our National Parks.

To find out more about these opportunities, check the bulletin boards and come to the meeting on Tuesday, November 15, at 3:30 P.M. in the Aberly Room, when the Director of "A Christian Ministry in the National Parks" will be here from New York to talk informally about the program, show some colored slides, and interview all interested students (and their wives). This is a chance which I'm sure that you won't want to miss. See you then.

Mark Grubemeyer

MT. AIRY (Cont'd)

congratulating the victors. We received a cordial, if not effusive welcome from our hosts; and the encounter was good for the relations between the two schools. The defeat lies in the Aorist, so to speak. But we will live to fight another day--to prove what we all know to be true: The future doesn't lie with a "past-tense" school without an augment to its name.

John Woods

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

(Biblical Division: Read Ps. 53:1a)

The Speakers' Square in Hyde Park, London, had a strong attraction for me, as well as for about two or three thousand other people. It is a show place for free speech, and quite a few people were being very free with it.

The man in this picture struck a pose at a fortunate time for my camera lens. (There was freedom of picture-taking as of speech). He was getting a fair amount of reaction from the crowd, most of it silent. The man in the white, clerical-looking collar seen under the speaker's right elbow is a good example. (At other stands serious hecklers would push their way to the front and break in on a speech with pointed and loaded questions).

This picture offers proof, incidentally, that the soapbox cliché may need overhauling. It is also safe to assume that it isn't Jacob's ladder which the speaker has climbed.

Behind the center of attention is a member of the same group standing, head bowed as if in silent prayer, waiting for his turn to ascend those steps.

Dwarfed by distance, the figure of another speaker can be seen projecting above the level of the crowd, located under the speaker's right wrist. Paradoxically, this other man was touting spiritualism, but much less spiritedly than the man in the beard. The professional spiritualist also had a more substantial platform, not metaphysically speaking, and as his clothing showed and his audience quickly noticed, was materially well blessed. As a result his listeners were few.

Dr. Howard Bream

STATE OF THE CHURCH (Cont'd from page 1)

particularly theological education, is bubbling not only in the seminary but also in the parish. Here a more highly educated Lutheran is asking, even demanding, that his church give him answers to the dilemmas of society. He is not satisfied with the answers his father and grandfather had a short time ago.

This is really not unusual, as this grass-roots demand occurs repeatedly in history. Perhaps the most outstanding recent example of this is in relation to birth control. The medical profession, the church, the government are now acting as its champion and sponsors of this idea. In truth, the credit for the very rapid public adoption of birth control goes to Mary and John Q. Citizen. They knew about birth control and practiced it in spite of prohibitions and regulations. The whole idea is now not only acceptable and desirable, but respectable.

Professional excellence involves two fundamental areas:

First: scholarship and curriculum within the discipline.

We of course expect the highest qualities of our entering students, and insist on the highest quality of instruction. Are we getting what we expect in our entering students? Our testing and screening procedures certainly are doing the best they can with those who apply; but certainly few would deny that the caliber of the entering seminary student is on the average not as high as his counterpart entering many of the other professions. We know there are many reasons for this. However, we can and must do many things to raise this caliber, and one is to upgrade his professional education.

Incidentally, as I observe the work load of the seminary student, on the average he does not seem to carry nearly as heavy an academic schedule as his counterpart in other professions.

Our seminary faculties who are devoted to their fields should be encouraged (Cont'd on page 5)

STATE OF THE CHURCH (Cont'd from p. 4)

in every possible way and should be provided with every necessary facility and tool, as well as with adequate compensation.

Secondly:--and this is the harder part--ways and means must be provided for students and faculty to live in a style of life that encourages professional pride and stimulation. To do this there must be opportunity for close relationship within the seminaries and the church as well as with other disciplines.

This in essence is best available in a university environment, simply because the university has become a major instrument of change in contemporary society. This is where the church belongs, and where it can best train its new clergy. The climate of the university, embracing all disciplines from anthropology to zoology, provides points of reference, and stimulates critical analysis so that the student can develop a theological understanding of scientific, social, and
(Cont'd next col.)

cultural forms. The recognition that the world is changing must be correlated with all disciplines and the church must become enmeshed in this change.

Professional excellence in any field is acknowledged by all other professionals as well as laymen. True respect, however, is earned not only by knowledge within a specific discipline but by additional involvement in a broad way with other professions and fields of learning. It is indeed unfortunate that we are in danger of becoming experts in minutiae.

As our seminary students become more involved with other professionals, they enhance their own position in the community and provide greater horizons for their ministry.

As this involvement with other professions grows, the opportunity to provide training for both men and women in many new facets of ministry will develop.

We must have highly trained, universally respected church professionals in all areas of society if the gospel of Jesus Christ is to be proclaimed and accepted.

Kenneth H. Eckhard M.D.