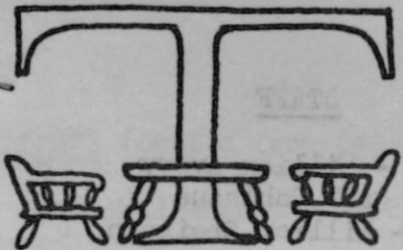


Table Talk



News and Views of the Student Body of The Lutheran
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AN IMAGE OF A LITTLE CHILD: A CHALLENGE TO THE SEMINARIANS AND PROFESSORS OF THIS INSTITUTION

There is a little child some place in this world, maybe five miles away or maybe 5,000 miles away. I don't know him and you don't know him. The other night, however, he walked into my mind; and what's more, I can't get him out of my mind. Funny thing about it though, he's standing at the bottom of this Hill on which we live and commune together. There he is again, in his tattered clothes, if indeed they may be called clothes, starving for some food to eat and for some milk to drink.

Now I turn my eyes to the top of the hill and my heart sinks at the thought. I see myself, my friends, my colleagues, my professors. We have a lot of warm clothes, we have plenty of food, everyone has at least two sport jackets or suits, several clean white shirts, warm blankets at night to fall comfortably asleep in. We have an abundance of books (yet, some of us let out book bills run sky high and never pay them!) and finally there we are emptying our liquor and beer bottles into the trash can after another evening of frivolity.

There's the image of the child again! If only 30¢ had been spent to buy him a quart of milk instead of a 12 ounce can of beer!

If some of you have been infuriated by the remarks above, I can only wish that you would have enough rationality left to listen still further. As the custodian of my floor in the apartment dorm, in one morning alone I found \$15 worth of empty liquor bottles which had been left to be thrown out. When the trash cans are put out on Wednesday, there is inevitably numerous beer cans (Cont'd on page 2)

INDIVIDUALISM VS. ONE BODY IN CHRIST

Since last week I have discovered a better way to formulate the question I tried to pose in "Table Talk" ("Do We Have a Rule of Faith?") Through some all too brief conversations with my professors and fellow students I have come to understand what is really bothering me. It is a problem common to the whole Church in our day, a problem linked to the characteristics of our society. For us it is the question, "How do we reconcile individualism with our membership in Christ's body?"

Individualism has two sides. On the one hand, when a person is his own authority and a slave to no dogma or institution he can be free in the fullest sense. The free man can discover new truth and become passionately involved in what he believes. He can be flexible in conversations, just as Paul could be all things to men. The open-minded student in a school where many options are represented and can be explored will learn more than his narrow-minded counterpart in a school where one point of view determines all that is expressed or experienced.

On the other hand, individualism can make true communication or cooperation impossible. The rugged individual is frequently indifferent to others and their views. Tolerance comes to mean, "I won't bother him if he doesn't bother me." It is this type of individualism that concerns me on this campus. I think it is encouraged when each of us reads his assignments, asks his questions, and goes to his own room to meditate.

What we need is a kind of group-life approach to issues. If we make the whole tradition of the Church our authority and not just scripture, we still need to explore issues on the basis of (Con't on page 3)

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Three representatives of the Jordanian Department of Antiquities took part in the dig at Ai last summer, working in the field and making reports to the office at Amman.

This husky young man, Ameen, was first assigned a "square", or 3 meter by 3 meter area, to supervise. He still had the romantic view of archeological excavation, namely that you should expect to find interesting and valuable objects.

As the dirt came out of his square, there stood forth to view rocks and some sherds of pottery, but mostly rocks. To the director, the rocks told a story and were well worth the effort to uncover painstakingly and to draw, photograph and describe accurately.

Ameen found little inspiration in the rocks, which after all could be found in all shapes and sizes all over the hills of that region, without digging for them. Work in his square lagged, and he was much in conversation with the landowner, who frequented that site and lent advice.

Then old tombs were discovered near Deir Dibwan, the village at the foot of the mound of Ai. Ameen was assigned to them. Antiquities in the form of lamps, other forms of pottery and even a few coins began to show up, and Ameen found the excitement he needed. They say he was a wonder to behold when he tore into a new cave hunting for archeological treasure.

Someone in the village came to the director with the story that there was a very old tomb buried in his front yard. After the household had agreed to pay part of the digging costs if no tomb was found, Ameen took a gang of workers and sank a hole where the villager thought he would find something. This picture shows the result.

Dr. Howard N. Bream

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CHALLENGE (Cont'd from page 1)

and liquor bottles in those receptacles used by the other floors in this dorm. In addition to that, there is the frequent call during the week of "Pub Call" or "Pub Time" or "Pub Train" issuing forth in the evening. The image of the child appears again. If his eyes could only see where those kind-hearted, benevolent future messengers of Jesus Christ are spending their money while he stands there pleading for that glass of milk.

Now some of you are probably saying that this is a sob story, ridiculous, and let's move on to the Sports action. The sad truth is that we have let this Hill become a barrier to the world. We are safe and excluded from a devastating war in Viet Nam. We are excluded aloof from the poverty that exists right here in central Pennsylvania. The image of that child is not helped by carrying out the proper liturgical functions and acknowledgments in Chapel. The 25¢ that someone puts into the collection plate on Friday at Communion doesn't compare with the \$5.00 which they will spend Friday night at the Pub.

I want to make it clear that I am not condemning drinking per se although I must admit that I was not joyful with the proceedings at this year's Open House. Somewhere that night that child was still pleading for something to eat and yet those wonderful Christians up on the Hill were drinking approximately \$100.00 or more worth of alcoholic beverages--drinking in excess.

(Cont'd on page 3)

CHALLENGE (Cont'd from page 2)

The challenge that I offer for consideration is this: that the members of this institution make a private pledge to match the amount which they spend on alcoholic beverages that this much might be given to a charity which will provide for the food and clothing of helpless children. I wish that there would be those who would be willing to give up alcohol entirely and each time that they would normally have a drink give that money to this cause instead; however, I hope that the first offer may have a more palatable flavor. Finally I would urge that this be done anonymously and therefore in a true Christian sense. Perhaps a special offering plate in the rear of the Chapel could serve as the place of contribution. God knows who are the pure in heart.

Please help to make the image of this little child light up with the joy that comes only through the spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Charles L. Stetler

INDIVIDUALISM (Cont'd from page 1)

that authority as a group. The meaning of the resurrection, for instance, should be explored by all of us, not just those taking the course in it this quarter, until we have reached some common understanding. This type of consensus can undergird us later when we are in our separate parishes or other ministering situations. Cooperation among congregations of the same denomination or of other denominations would be helped along by such a basic consensus on vital issues. Bickering about externals would not hinder cooperation as much if we learned to handle the important issues.

Bud Persiko