

Table Talk

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

Vol. III, No. 15

January 31, 1967

WHAT YOU'RE MISSING...

(...if you don't attend this year's Washington Seminar for Lutheran Students! No-one from here attended last year's session of this vital yearly conference on Government and International affairs. In the hope of sparking some interest this year, Glenn Hilburn Steins, a '65 graduate of this seminary, was contacted to write the following article on her impressions of the '65 conference. Registration this year closes by February 20, and is on a first-come first-served basis. For further information see the bulletin board outside Dr. Herb's office or see Bob Woodside).

I received a letter the other day from a friend that I met in Washington, D.C. in 1965 at the Lutheran Student Seminar on Government. He's being shipped out to Viet Nam as a Navy Chaplain. He said, "I sure would love to hear the Pentagon lecture on Viet Nam policies again. Some of the plans and predictions we heard about in '65 are being practiced today. What about tomorrow?"

Frankly, I feel overwhelmed enough by the bad shape the government is in in California where I live! But it certainly would be exciting and worth while to fly back to Washington for the Seminar to find out what shape the federal government is really in!

Today's emphasis on preaching a "contemporary and relevant" gospel puts a great responsibility on the pastor and seminarian. Certainly the WORD is not the changing element--but, rather, the world to whom it is proclaimed. New dilemmas, new crises, new developments--all these effect the view of the world to whom the (Cont'd on page 4)

A CHRISTIAN-JEWISH CONFERENCE

Two days from now our seminary will be host to the first Jewish-Christian Conference of its kind ever held in the central Pennsylvania area. A lot of work has gone into the attempt to make this conference a success. Effort has been made to bring a number of excellent speakers, representing both the Christian and the Jewish viewpoints, to our campus. Yet, I find a surprising lack of enthusiasm about the conference among our students. There are doubtless numerous reasons for this--Seniors are pre-occupied with the February 1 thesis deadline, finals loom just around the corner, and we have all been bombarded lately by so many demands for our time that the conference may not seem worth the effort.

Nevertheless, I would attempt to arouse your interest in this conference. I think it may be an exciting day for all who will allow themselves to become involved. Perhaps I can spark some interest by referring your attention to an article which appeared in the January 28, 1967 issue of Saturday Evening Post. In an article entitled, "Don't Try to Sell Me Your Religion," Rabbi Howard Singer lambasts all attempts at interreligious dialogue between Christians and Jews. Dr. Wilken has responded to the article in a letter to the executive head of WGA-TV. I cannot go into the contents of either article now, but I am sure that some part of the controversy will be aired on Thursday. I invite you to attend all the sessions and to decide for yourself which viewpoint you think is more correct.

The following shows the various places in which the day's agenda will be held: 9:15A.M.--Registration--Social Room of the Ad. building; 9:45--Greetings and morning speakers--Chapel; 11:15--Discussion Groups-- (Cont'd on p. 6)

TRUDY TIEKKEN COLUMN

STAFF

Dear Miss Tiekken,

My beloved mother-in-law recently passed into the brighter world beyond the veil. To my breat distress, I have discovered that she was buried without her false teeth. This has caused me much concern because it seems to indicate that she will not be able to eat in heaven. Please advise.

Hoping you can help,
Worried

Dear Worried,

Your dilemma may actually be a blessing in disguise. Did you ever consider that your mother-in-law may be taking the primrose path to the everlasting bonfire and not the golden road to the pearly gates? In that case she will at least be spared the agony of the 'gnashing of teeth.'

Optimistically yours,
Trudy Tiekken

Dear Miss Tiekken,

I am a seminarian with a problem. In College I was fond of asking questions and entering into serious and worthwhile discussions with my professors. At Seminary it often seems that professors do not seriously entertain my questions. I am confused. What do you think I could do about this problem? Is it likely my fault in many respects or is the the professors' fault?

Your loyal fan,
Sam Seminarian

Dear Sam,
Precisely.

Trudy Tiekken

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Middler Editor - William Dreikorn
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DIALOGUE WITH ROMAN CATHOLICS

On Saturday, February 11, a group of 25 to 30 students from this seminary will travel to Mt. Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland for ecumenical dialogue and discussion. Students wishing to attend should submit their names to Jere Hock or Steve Yelovich of the Ecumenical Committee. Students will be accepted on a first-come basis. We shall leave the seminary at 11:15 a.m. in private cars and arrive at Mount Saint Mary's in time for lunch at the refectory. The schedule will be basically an informal one with the exception of two lectures given at 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon. Speakers will be a faculty member from Mt. Saint Mary's and a visiting professor from St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. Students are free to choose which of the two lectures they will attend. Dinner will be at 5:30 followed by Low Mass at 7:30, after which we shall return to Gettysburg.

Steve Yelovich

AN ATTACK ON ANONYMITY:
A DEFENSE AGAINST DOWARDLY REMARKS

When I first decided to write this article I was seriously considering that I should begin "Dear Trudy," however, I don't think I should give that columnist the satisfaction of receiving a direct reply and thus lowering myself to that cowardly individual's level. I was well aware that I would receive some negative comments to the original article which was published in Table Talk two weeks ago concerning the liquor consumption on this Christian campus. Furthermore, I respect an individual's opinion concerning the matter if he differs with me--on one condition. That is, this person ought to make himself known to me; and perhaps we could even sit down and discuss our views in a mature manner more becoming to the role of the minister than to the hot-headed politician, or for that matter the role of a cynic or a satirist.

Perhaps at this moment I should practice what I preach and end my comments concerning the publication of The Trudy Tiekken Column last week. Nevertheless, I feel compelled to make public my defense against the comments made in that column since those remarks were also made public. First of all I don't think there is any need to prove that the columnist meant to refer to me although he did not use my last name, and I don't think any further proof is needed than to just read the remarks and my first article for comparison. Secondly, I must strongly object to the first line which indicates that I consider myself to be profoundly religious." In my estimation this is a rather low and underhanded method of attacking an individual who, granted, has taken a stand on an issue which causes disfavor among some people. Since I began my studies at this seminary I have gradually become more and more aware of my purpose in life and my responsibility to carry out the will of God in helping other people, being able to talk with them, counsel them, and finally bring them to the faith in Jesus Christ through whom we have received eternal life.

(Cont'd on p. 5)

A PASTOR SPEAKS ABOUT SUPPLIES

(The following letter was received in response to Dick Graefe's article "Who Supplies What?" which appeared in the Dec. 9, 1966 issue of Table Talk)

Dear Mr. Graefe,

Forgive the delay in answering your article in the "Table Talk", but perhaps the fact that you are to supply one of the congregations of our Parish this Sunday has prompted this response. I intended to write long before this in regard to the article on "Who Supplies What?" I feel there is the congregation's side to be heard and as a pastor of a parish that has a supply every week, I get the "story" on the supply pastors after they have returned to the hallowed sanctuary of Seminary.

May I just say first, that the people of our congregation are gratified that the seminarians are interested enough (or at least interested in our \$15) to take the time to offer their services. The way our schedule is set up, we would have one church each week without services were it not for the help from the seminary. The people look forward to the opportunity of hearing the young ministers and often comment to me on what has been said and done during the service and sermon. Perhaps the fellows would also like to know that they are not forgotten--names are often remembered as well as sermons and our people have followed many of the fellows out of the seminary and into their parishes. Just the other day I had a member ask "What ever became of "So and So"? We had him for a supply several times."

Secondly, I feel there is a ripe field here for pastoral experience if the fellows take the responsibility seriously. Every parish and supply stop represents a different situation. If a seminarian regards this as more than just a certain amount of money, he will consider this in his preparation and presentation on Sunday morning. It would be good to try and imagine the needs of that particular congregation and then to fit a sermon to those needs. Obviously, every congregation presents a different challenge and these can be good learning experiences.

(Cont'd on page 5)

HAD JESUS FOLLOWED THE SCOUT LAW, OR
WHY I AM A BOY SCOUT AT AGE 23

Every charismatic leader has had his faults, and maybe Sir Robert Baden-Powell was a trifle overconcerned with "self-pollution", but the movement is in no way to be characterized as a Jehovah-Witness level nuisance.

In fact, I submit that Scouting offers just the answer to a lot of needs around here, and as one who always goes on to enumerate, may I suggest a few ways that the Scouting program might enrich certain individuals in our community:

- Herb - Cycling Merit Badge
- Jordahl - Swimming and Canoeing
- Tom Myers - "Do a good turn daily" or "a Scout is a friend and a bother to every other Scout."
- Chuck Miller - Girl Scouting
- Ron Long - Someone to help him across the street
- R. L. Wilken - Scout handclasp to accompany dominus vobiscum
- Dr. Heim - Mimeographing the Handbook for Boys
- Daun McKee - Middle class morality
- Al Ambrose - "A Scout is Clean"
- Sandy Taylor - Another chance to be one of the boys
- Mrs. Gritch - An opportunity to laugh at the Scout Oath

With all this treasure, what more can I add than the Scoutmaster's benediction--May the Great Scoutmaster (G.S.) of all scouts watch over us till we meet again. Two.

Barry Bence

WHAT YOU'RE MISSING (Cont'd from p. 1)

Gospel is preached.

It is with this thought to the changing society that the yearly Washington Seminar on Government is planned--and with the knowledge that not only pastors, but also the laity must be well informed if they are to be adequate servants and disciples in whatever vocation they are called to.

(Cont'd next col.)

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Although the men of Deir Dibwan who were hired for the dig all received the same rate of pay, there was a difference in status depending on the kind of work, and this was symbolized by the tool used.

Top men on the totem pole were those who wielded the pick. There must be, I think, an appeal in the violence in wielding it. It is a weapon of aggression requiring strength and skill. The pick man also, in the first stages at least, initiates the action while others wait. When he has finished, the others may move in while he rests and watches.

This week's picture shows a pickman at full extension, preparing to deliver a blow full on the face of the earth. It was a candid shot, which prevented it from being perfect, because the human tortoise got into the background and flawed the composition.

The angle of the sun was just right to show the texture of the fresh cut along the side of the low rise in the background. Actually that whole mound was dirt from an earlier archeological expedition some thirty-five years ago. It was so much dead weight on the site, and removing it was no more significant than taking the barnacles off the hull of a ship.

You will notice that every head is covered. This was more than a convention of style. Look carefully at the shadow of the pickman, and calculate where the sun was.

Dr. Howard Pream

From March 19 to March 22, 1967 Lutheran college students and seminarians from all over the USA and representing the three major Lutheran bodies in America will meet in Washington, D.C., to discuss and learn about the USA--its politics, policies, international involvement and its future goals within the country itself. They will meet with leading Lutheran and non-Lutheran congressmen and government officials and have an opportunity to see (Cont'd on page 5)

WHAT YOU'RE MISSING (Cont'd from p. 4)

and hear committies and congress itself discussing vital issues of the day. Contact with government public relations men and top news-casters will give some first-hand examples of news 'interpretation' for the general public.

I found the "Spirit of Washington" to be an exciting thing--even though I had been in the Capitol many times before. Having attended the Washington Seminar in 1965 I can assure you that every participant will return with quire a bit more than he expected.

Actually, the Washington Seminar on Government shouldn't have to be SOLD... ..it should be experienced by concerned Christians.

How about you?

Gwenn Hilburn Steins

ATTACK (Cont'd from col. 1, this page)

If a man wishes to take a stand or wishes to poke fun at someone, he should have the guts enough to make his identity known. Perhaps this is why that in America people are afraid to let their opinions be heard--because someone like "Trudy" will cut them up for their remarks and yet keep himself unknown.

I might close this article with some word of kindness towards the writer of the column, but I must admit that I fear that my forgiveness would only be cut up also. I can only say that I am always willing to sit down and discuss any question and particularly any concerning drinking. If a man can give me a clear explanation of why drinking ought not to be criticized, then I will certainly consider his views in their relationship to my own.

Charles L. Stetler

ATTACK (Cont'd from page 3)

Nevertheless, it is an individual such as this anonymous writer who makes a mockery of my whole endeavor to live a more perfect life. I am well aware that I am a sinner and I don't know why God has such love for a wretch such as I am, but at least I believe in trying to live up to His expectations knowing full well that I never will succeed. I am by no stretch of the imagination the pietistic individual which to me this "profoundly religious" statement connotes.

Furthermore, as a third point I must say I was amused at the comparison of the sign of the Trinity and the symbol for a certain brand of beer and ale. However, I must deny also that this ever bothered me, in fact I noticed the resemblance several years ago and thought it was quite hilarious. I hope maybe this gives some idea that I am not really that "profoundly religious" and that I can laugh at things like these. To me a minister must have a good sense of humor but not one that is warped. He ought to be able to make people laugh in a friendly way.
(Cont'd next col.)

A PASTOR SPEAKS.. (Cont'd from page 3)

Thirdly, I feel these experiences are good because they show the seminarian that these are different churches--some not as active and large as perhaps the church he came from, or some larger and more active than his home congregation. I regard as some of my fondest memories of seminary the supply stops that were different like Harpers Ferry where there was a congregation of all women (can't go wrong with that), or Sugar Valley, where I learned that a good rural pastor had to be willing to work and be on the move if he wanted to do a job--there you have three services, 9-10-11 AM. What's wrong with having to preach in a church where there are only 10 people and they are wondering how to keep alive, or in a church where they use a piano instead of an organ--and they like the piano better?

In fact, if there is to be an article on supply preaching I would suggest an investigation of the seminary faculty as supply pastors. These are the ones I hear the most comments about. These are the supplies who seem to read the lessons from
(Cont'd on page 6)

A PASTOR SPEAKS.. (Cont'd from page 5)

the pulpit and preach from the lecturn-- who ride the motor scooters--who bring the wrong colored stole--who don't follow the service as it is printed in the hymnal. It seems the seminarians are remembered for their personalities and sermons, and the professors for their mistakes (maybe the congregation feels that since they are professors, they should not make mistakes.)

I would heartily support the supply program of the seminary. One piece of advice I offer from the congregation-- when you supply, the congregation would like to know a little about you, so why not take two minutes and give your name, hometown, year in seminary, and any other interesting facts. They also enjoy meeting the wife--she is the best public relations the seminary has to offer.

I hope the supply program will continue to function in serving our parishes-- for the sake of our congregations, and for the sake of the seminarians.

Bob Hyson
Pastor Smithburg Lutheran
Parish
Smithburg, Maryland

CHRISTIAN-JEWISH CONFERENCE (Cont'd from page 1)

in various rooms of the Ad. building;
1:45P.M.--Afternoon Session--Chapel;
3:30--Discussion Meetings--Ad. Building;
4:30--Report Session--Aberly Room.

William Avery