

Table Talk

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

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INTERN IN THE SOUTH

The following are reflections of
Chuck Kindsvatter on his intern-
ship at Emmanuel Lutheran Church,
Dallas, Texas.

Dallas, Texas is a most interesting place to work. For one thing it's in the South and for another thing, most of the people down here don't know what a Lutheran is. (A good many of them think we are communists or anti-baptist!) Really, I can remember Dean Stroup telling me that the South was different...and it is. I have never seen so many conservatists or Baptists in my life. It sort of gives you a challenge. There is a great leaning towards fundamentalism in the city and thus, my Bultmann and "demothologizing" buttons are hidden. You can't really discuss with some of these people. I don't really mean to be painting a bleak picture of Dallas, it's just that it has been an education in itself to encounter the strength of such views. I'm beginning to believe that different parts of the country do think differently from other parts. And it's fun to meet up with these differences. The city itself is a beautiful city. It's so much different from the big cities in the East as most everything is modern and well planned. And the weather is just great. For the last month we have been having temperatures in the 70's and 80's. Spring has been here for a long time. Of course, the summer months are horribly hot, but it's nice right now.

The church down here is just great. It's just a small church, but it's so very much alive. There are 140 members who are determined to stay in the city no matter what happens. We are integrated with Negroes, Indians, Latin Americans, and Whites. It's a joy to witness this in itself. The church is trying to do all
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THE CENTER OF SEMINARY LIFE

When I became a member of the Gettysburg Seminary campus (I will refrain from using the word "community") I was told as were all of my class-mates that the chapel should become the center of our life within the community. I was not very open to this suggestion at the time for I had come out of an under-graduate background which forced this center of existence upon a student in order to graduate from the institution. At this level I found no meaning whatsoever in the chapel or its program and as a result I was very doubtful that I would find meaning in chapel attendance at the Seminary which would surpass an hour of good fellowship in the coffee shop which my college days had proven to me to be much more meaningful and beneficial.

In the time which has passed since that first evening "on campus" I am sorry to say that my opinion has not been altered very much. I am very cautious in believing stories which are obtained through the "grape-vine", but the time comes when you realize that these accounts are consistently the same and come from first-hand sources who are not in the habit of stretching a point. The general story which I have been writing in my mind about the attitude toward chapel tells me that it is the form with which we conduct our worship that has become the dominant factor and not the attitude with which one enters into this worship. I am seriously brought to asking the question if it really matters whether or not the officiant speaks his part of the service while those out in the pews sing their responses; or it is important to have the psalms done antiphonally beginning on the lecturn side? This seems to be the attitude of some who have appointed themselves the keepers of the "procedure."

I will grant that these are good things
(Cont'd on page 2)

FROM THE SPORT'S WORLDSTAFF

What a glorious time of year! The bright lights of the Fanagraph are dancing around joyiously announcing the return of Father Sun to our dear Mother Earth. The air is even alive with the refreshing stimulants which effect our senses: the sound of the Red bird calling his mate; the sight of dead buds on the trees; the smell of frost-bite on Foxie's sandaled feet.

Yes fans, spring is here and with it a renewed surge for activity. It won't be long until we are hearing that old familiar cry of "Play Ball--or get off my blanket!" It's a great time of year for "sports" of all kinds. The season is also ripe for a return to the little games which are always common in an institute of higher learning. For instance the annual game of "I'll bet my books have collected more dust than yours have;" a game which will be met this year with another which is called "Yes, but I've studied for my comprehensives." What a spring this will be!

On a more structured side of things, the fans will delight themselves this season to the first encounter of blood on the tennis courts. Already the participants are warming up by trying out little complimentary phrases like "you did a very nice job of returning that serve--down my partner's throat;" phrases which are bound to become part of the art of playing this gentlemanly game of ball and racket. There are also rumors to the effect that the student body would like to prove their superiority outside of the classroom again by putting the staff and faculty down to defeat in softball (actually there aren't any rumors; I'm just trying to instigate the slaughter).

In the midst of all of this out-door ethos there is still the activity of our hard-court men. It is sad to report that on the whole the fans have not been pleased. While the team has been doing itself proud in many cases, the omens have not been with them when they were needed, (by the way applications are now being accepted for the open position of Athletic
(Cont'd next col.)

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SPORT'S WORLD (Cont'd)

Diviner). The basketball season will be closing out soon and it is hoped that as many of you as possible will try to make it to one of the concluding games.

In closing I would like to leave you with a small thought problem in the form of an incomplete verse.

"In the spring a young man's fancies lightly turns to thoughts of _____."
(please fill in the blank in duplicate and return to Professors Hale and Sponheim for studies in their respective areas).

Till we meet again this is your seminary sports-caster saying put a little fun in your life--nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Art Patterson

CENTER OF SEMINARY LIFE (Cont'd from 1)
to keep in mind when one is planning a chapel service, but should this become the deciding factor when some sort of judgement is made as to whether or not the service was conducted in a worshipful attitude? I must say for my own part that I cannot hold to this cause-effect relationship which seems to govern the meaningfulness of what goes on in the Abiding Presence. Form is good, but not when it over-rides the attitude in which the form is carried out.

It will be obvious to many that this letter is directed at certain individuals and that in many cases I am antagonistic to these persons. My purpose in doing this is not however to incur more antagonism, but only to ask some questions which I have been considering for over a year. It is my hope that there will be some honest replies to my concern as may shed some light on my darkness.

Art Patterson

WHAT'S WITH WOTS

WOTS has had a busy month this March. On the 16th Dr. Ralph Lindeman of Gettysburg College presented a Book Review in which he discussed the writing of J.D. Salinger. Special emphasis was placed on Franny and Zooey, Nine Stories, and Raise High The Roof Beams Carpenters and Seymour. The March 29th meeting featured Chaplain John Vannorsdall, also from Gettysburg College, who discussed "The Christian Stand on Social Issues."

Officers for the coming year were elected on the 29th. Mary Ellen Shearer will be our new President, Jan Weitzel the Vice President, Katy Bricker the Recording Secretary, and Delores Garrett the Treasurer. Also elected at the same meeting were the Recording Secretary and Treasurer for the school year '68-'69. It was necessary to have both of these offices filled because of year of mandated internship. Janet Fitch will serve as Recording Secretary and Ann Rudolph as Treasurer after they return from internship. Congratulations to all of those elected and best wishes for a successful year.

A clothing drive will be held again this year and WOTS members are asked to bring their contributions to the next meeting (April 12th) or to deliver them to the Child Welfare Office on Baltimore Street (open weekly and Saturday mornings). If neither of these alternatives suit the clothing can be taken to the home of June Camac. Start your spring cleaning early and help a needy family!

Our next and last regular meeting of the year will be held April 12th. Father Berger and Dr. Eric Gritsch will discuss "The Significant Differences of Lutheranism and Roman Catholicism". The final WOTS event of the year will be the Covered Dish Supper on Friday, April 28th. Although not a part of WOTS, Chancel Players will be presenting "Luther" by John Osborne that same night. Here's a good chance for an evening of "Dinner and the Theater!" We'll be expecting you.

Lanie Nagle

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

While the two smiling faces to be seen this week were both readied for the camera, one of them was somewhat self-consciously assumed, and the other just came naturally. They both represent the young Arab of today's Jordan, benefitting from relatively good education but with limited prospects of employment and future advancement. Mohammed, holding the better half of an ancient chalice, is a good artist, but did not know where he could get a job after the archeological job was over. Abdullah, recently a Boy Scout and proud of it, is numbering an old pot (with arabic numerals, of course).

Because they spoke English rather well, they provided an exegesis into the world of the village where the work was going on. On the other hand, it was not easy to explain to them that in America not everyone is considered rich (by our standards, that is), that American women are moral despite the many things they do that no Arab wife would be permitted, and that there was a serious purpose and worthwhile ulterior goal to the careful handling of the old crockery they were being paid to work with.

Here is the dead past in the hands of the living present. And here is youth, smiling into an unknown future. Their American friends, particularly those of us who worked at their side, hope that the future will smile back at them.

Dr. Howard Bream

INTERN (Cont'd from page 1)

it can in the community in which it finds itself. We are surrounded by a poverty area on one side and then "middle-class" apartment houses on the other side. It's a most unique setting. The church is under aid from the Board of American Mission and in fact, I am paid by the B.A.M. The church has a Day Care Center which operated every week day. The building for the center was built by the B.A.M. and is marvelously built and planned structure. The people in the church (Cont'd on page 4)

INTERN (Cont'd from page 3)

decided that this building was to be for the surrounding community and not just for Sunday use. (I know it sounds like something from a book, but I have never experienced such a mission-directed congregation in my life). Thus, some of the programs of this congregation are as follows: Day Care Center each day from 7:00A.M. - 6:P.M.; a study center for the neighborhood kids to do their homework each evening from 6:30 P.M. - 8:00P.M.; a community movie night once a month... we rent Hollywood films and charge 10¢ per person; baby showers for mothers in the neighborhood who have nothing; and so on. It's most fun to experience an inner-city church which is trying to relate to it's surrounding neighborhood.

Of course, the pastor is one of the big reasons this congregation has become mission directed. His motto down here is that we are called to be faithful and not successful. I have never met a man who is so willing to experiment with all sorts of programs. If it works, fine... if not, then try something else. Pastor Swanson is very much liturgically centered. He was on the first Una Sancta staff and thus, he centers the life of this parish on worship and the eucharist. He's fun to be around as I am learning a great deal on liturgical practices as related to an inner city setting. As in everything else, he is constantly experimenting with the liturgy and we have done some very meaningful things here. We had an outdoor street mass on Christmas Eve which we held in the poverty area of the neighborhood. It's still being talked about. Oh well, it's great fun working with Pastor Swanson. He's a liturgical bug who is also human.(do you know what I mean?)

You will be interested in knowing that I moved over into the poverty area this past month (March). I have found a great joy in working in the poverty area and so I thought, well if I can work with them, I ought to be able to live with them. It's not Harlem, but it's a different world than from anything I've ever been (Cont'd next col.)

INTERN (Cont'd from col. 1)

use to. I am finding that poverty in the inner-city is a fantastically evil thing which sort of eats away at the person. Some of these people are literally trapped by their circumstances. It's so true that the rich get richer and the poor get poorer (or children!) I have simply had a great time living over in the neighborhood. Already I can sense that the people don't only think of me as working there, but now I am a part of the neighborhood. It's a new world. The apartment I got is actually very comfortable. It's in a house that is literally crammed with kids. Parents don't really care about them except to have them. I am also situated right across the street from the neighborhood "fun" house better known as house of ill-repute to some. Yes, there is much excitement. In the past three nights I have been awakened to a gunshot, a drunken brawl between a girl and her boyfriend, and a police arrest of a man who had just been knifed with a straight razor. Like I said before, it's a whole new world!

And yet the joy of it all is that I can live there and be respected. I don't even begin to think that I will convert many of these people and I question if that is even my main task. I am finding that just by being there and living among them, I am saying that the Church can and does care and that to be in Christ is to be very much aware of life. I'm not afraid nor too good to live with any person whether they be Rockefellers or the poor. I sort of look upon it as being a ministry of being present, being with the people. Thus, I'm becoming a pretty good poker player and have enjoyed many back alley basketball games. As Pastor keeps telling me, we are called to be faithful and not successful! Well, I could go on and on, but I better stop. It's going to be so much fun getting back to school and just sharing one another's experiences!

Chuck Kindsvatter