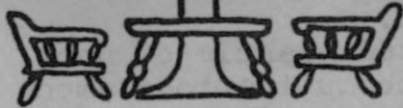


Table Talk



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

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October 15, 1968

QUESTIONS FOR SEMINARY PUBLICATIONS

give these thoughts consideration.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The following is a letter written to Bob Martin by Ted Tatman, who is presently interning as a hospital chaplain in Memphis, Tennessee.

Dear Bob:

I would like to say a few words about seminary publications. This area still concerns me, somehow, and you may quote me if you wish. I would like to pose some interrelated questions in this area, questions for which I will not suggest answers. The answers must come from the on-campus, printing students and faculty.

What can seminary publications do that will be useful?

What can they contribute to the alleviation of the aura of depression and confusion which exists at the practical level in a climate such as ours?

What can they contribute to the seminarian's sense of vitality?

What can they contribute to the seminarian's understanding of himself as a professional churchman?

The press is "a collective and communal image". As such, and as a tool, it has a part in providing a beneficial arena for the building up of the climate of our seminary community. It can and must contribute significantly to our higher education in preparation for service to the Church. A press which does not contribute to our reason for being a seminary is only so much drivel! I hope that those who work with you this year will

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Chaplain Ted Tatman
Box 10
842 Jefferson Avenue
Memphis, Tennessee
38103

God.....God, They tell us
You're not a personal being,.....
that You don't hear our prayers.
They tell us Your church has
come of age and doesn't need you
any more. They say it doesn't
really matter if You, Jesus,
rose from the dead or not.

But You do hear us! don't
you? You are with us now!
aren't You? God, You're not the
alter carved from a tree trunk
or hewn from a rock by the hands
of men; are You? It only repre-
sents You doesn't it? But God,
You are in the person kneeling
next to me; aren't You?

Is it wrong to know You are
with us? Is it wrong to know
that You hear our prayers? Is
it wrong to believe that we are
training as parts of Your body
to serve You, rather than di-
ssecting Your Spiritless corpse
after it has severed You from
being its head?

Dear Father of us all, and
our Lord Jesus, the Christ, its
easy to forget to talk with You
when we spend so much time in
classes, private study, and bull
sessions talking about You.
Thank You for giving us a time
each week when we can retreat
from the world into the Chapel,
just as You retreated into the
wilderness while you were walk-
ing with us, so that we may talk
to You about Your world and our
role in it as parts of Your body.

May we always praise, worship,
and glorify You; through our Lord
and Saviour, Jesus, the Christ,
who was, is, and shall be. Amen.

Myron Schevey

LUTHER'S LITTLE LAP BOOK

In the last issue of Table Talk, Luther's Little Lap Book expressed the views of a discontented student. In that article I was attempting to point out a seeming lack of communication in the seminary community. (It is realized that there are people who would seriously question my use of the word community juxtapositional to the word seminary, but I'll save discussion on that until a later date. By the way, juniors, why not write an article for the next issue of Table Talk and express your valid criticisms to everybody instead of in your rooms where only a few of us can benefit from them?) It was not my intention to question the discretion of the Student Faculty Relations Committee (hereafter know as SFRC). I firmly believe that it is absolutely necessary to trust these men to make the decisions that are necessary. However, this is not a pledge to accept in toto that which the SFRC may decide or recommend to the student body. It would be sheer folly to do so. Perhaps, as I wrote last time, if there is a failure of the representative system an equal portion of the blame would necessarily have to be attributed to those of us who are represented. It is our responsibility to question and change any recommendations which we feel are in need of revision or in error.

A great portion of the discontent here at the seminary, I think, may be attributed to a lack of communication on nearly all fronts. Administration to student body, student body to administration, SFRC to student body,

student body to SFRC, student to student.

A noted example of non-existing communications among students occurred last week in the sport's world. The senior football team voted to play the scheduled football game on Friday with the juniors in spite of a request to postpone the game. In return the juniors threatened to split the seminary community wide open unless the seniors would revoke and would agree to postpone. Finally, the seniors did agree to the request, but with some apparent hostilities resulting from the decision. Had the lines of communication between the two teams not been blocked by open hostilities in the first place, all of the above-mentioned proceedings might have been avoided and unnecessary.

A second example of poor communications is between the SFRC and the student body whom they represent. I have noticed that the minutes of the SFRC's meetings are posted on the bulletin board across from the mail boxes, but with all the other messages tacked to the same board and with such neatness, it was difficult to spot the minutes.

I would recommend that the SFRC make some effort to better publicize the proceedings and decisions of their meetings. Perhaps the decisions and important issues could be summarized and published regularly in Table Talk. By adopting this proposal, there could be open lines of communication between the SFRC and the student body.

I close with a question. What happened to everybody last Friday at the Eucharist? There were fewer Christians present than there were at the last KKK meeting I attended---and that's saying something.

Harry