

Table Talk



NEWS and VIEWS of the STUDENT BODY of the
LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY at GETTYSBURG

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TO THE EDITOR:

The following letter is written in response to the article which appeared under the heading of "Luther's Little Lap Book" in the November 6th edition of TABLE TALK.

In the past I have heard the Junior Class referred to by upperclassmen as both arrogant and immature. It is indeed unfortunate that the upperclassmen of our Seminary feel so strongly opposed to the activities and attitudes of the Junior Class. However, if they would only think back to their own Junior year, I am sure they could find the same characteristics to criticize in their own behavior.

No one enjoys being talked down to. It is extremely aggravating to have to listen to arrogant upperclassmen condemn attitudes they undoubtedly at one time held themselves.

Admittedly many of the beliefs and concepts held by the Juniors are naive. It seems to me though that the whole purpose of a theological education is to help the student synthesize mature concepts. It is neither the role of the upperclassman, nor his privilege to sneer at those who are just as dedicated to preparation for the ordained ministry as they are.

If engaging in harmless pranks is a criteria for classifying 21 and 22 year old graduate students as immature, then I have some others. Is it mature to stand before a looking glass admiring your mod clothes and handlebar moustache? Is it mature to pride yourself on holding the Seminary record for the most hot dogs consumed in one sitting? Is it mature to sit as a member in the Seminary choir and make a farce

of its attempts to achieve some sort of quality? Is it mature to place class representation above the ultimate goal of having students participate in conferences outside the Seminary?

We have all got our hang ups. Perhaps the Juniors have more than others. But I fail to see where a little more experience in the area of theological education gives anyone the right to look down on fellow members of the Seminary community.

The very attitude expressed in the article to which I am referring is one which shatters the community structure. If such attitudes are present on our campus, and undoubtedly they are, I hardly see how we can call ourselves a community.

As a final comment I would suggest that the upperclassmen climb down from their soapboxes and start looking at the Juniors for what they are. They may not be as well versed in biblical studies or pastoral psychology as the upperclassmen are, but nevertheless, they are as dedicated to the task of preparation for a life of service to Christ's Church as any.

With all due respect,
David P. Gleason

LAUGH-IN TAKES A STAB AT THEOLOGICAL

A few issues ago the Pink Panther took on the role of Mother Goose. This week, she turns all her CAT to comedy writing.

Now the first thing a comedy writer needs after innate wit is a controversial subject; so let's just pick one at random--

say the B.T.E. exam.

Soooooooooooo, direct from Beautiful Downtown Burbank, let's see what would happen if LAUGH-IN looked at Excedrin Headache #1968, The B.T.E. Exam. SOCK IT TO 'EM!-- which is exactly what 39 seniors would like to do. Very interesting, but evil! Whoopee! (Up with a handful of confetti). On with the show.

What's the news across the nation?

We have got the information;

In a way, we hope will amuse you.. da,da, de, da . . .

We just love to give you our views! da, da, de, da . . .

Laugh-in looks at the news!

And now..... Here's Dan!

and heeeeerrrrrrsssss Dickie too!

Dan: "Well Dick, it's time once again to present THE FLYING FICKLE FINGER OF FATE AWARD."

Dick: "Who gets it this week?"

Dan: "This week it goes to the B.T.E. and L.C.A."

Dick: "B.T.E. and L.C.A.?? Would I find that in my abbreviated Funk & Wagnalls?"

Dan: "What group does things that make about as much sense as cutting grass with a dull spoon?"

Dick: "Oh, that B.T.E. and L.C.A!! What are we giving it to 'em for?"

Dan: "Well, this week the L.C.A. through the B.T.E. tested the commitment of the seniors at Gettysburg Theological Seminary."

Dick: "Sounds so academic."

Dan: "That's exactly what the exam turned out to be!"

Dick: "Isn't that like questioning the competence of the seminary and faculty?"

Dan: "You bet your sweet bippy it is!"

Dick: "Oh, that B.T.E. and L.C.A! Well, they've certainly got it coming to them! Which reminds me of something one senior said after he had finished taking the exam."

Dan: "What did he say?"

Dick: "Well, he turned around to his mates and he said....(chuckle, chuckle)...and he said.... uh, no I'd better not!"

Dan: "Come on Dick, out with it, tell us what he said!"

Dick: "Well, he turned around (chuckle, chuckle) and ... no, I better not say what he said. But let's just say that it would take more than a handful of confetti to censor it."

Dan: "Before we present the award let's take a sneak preview peek-a'boo at next year's exam. I hear that it is even better than this year's."

Dick: "Hey, how did you manage to finagle a copy of it?"

Dan: "What do you think we pay the guru on our show for?"

Dick: "Oh, through transcendence and meditation he told you about the exam!"

Dan: "No, through gutsy cunning he broke into their office and stole a copy."

Dick: "HERE COME THE FUZZ, HERE COME THE FUZZ!"

Dan: "O.K., let's sneakiepo in on the exam and see what goodies it has to offer!"

TAKE IT AWAY, B.T.E....

Dear Seminarians,
Once again it is getting to know you time! So hi, and how have you been? Fine and bursting with commitment and knowledge we hope! Speaking of commitment and knowledge, we're about to test yours. Although we would like to get to know each one of our boys individually, four years just isn't enough time. We feel that the following exam will, though, bridge the gap and help us to get to know the real you. Let us appeal, first of all to your sense of logic to accept what we say on faith alone, which is: that any likeness this has to an academic or seminary exam is purely

coincidental. Well, we'll buzz out for now. Good luck!

Your friends,
The L.C.A. &
B.T.E.

(Sample Questions from Exam)

- 1) THEOLOGY-One day you are walking along and a middle-aged plumber comes running up to you. He, pantingly, says, "Pastor, pastor, I was plumbing away on a stopped-up sink and I suddenly got this uncontrollable urge to ask if Rudolf Bultman in his whole notion of analogy, which he takes pains to distinguish from myth and which is one of the most unilluminated facets of his thought; and I do not mean to presume upon his answers to certain questions (e.g., analogia entis or analogia fidei?) by what I ask, but is Bultman conceiving that the relation of God to the world significantly illuminated by the analogous relation that exists between the self and its world?" Answer the plumber. Remember, he is a layman so gear your answer accordingly.
- 2) OLD TESTAMENT-A mother asks you to counsel her son, who has been taking L.S.D. You do. While talking to the boy, he poses the following question to you: "O.K., Rev., you say it is wrong to take L.S.D. It's wrong to escape reality through drugs. Trips or visions are wierd and unreal. So what about Jacob, Joseph, and all them prophets? You really don't think they saw all them wierd visions without some kind of stimulant, do you? Man they took trips to end all trips!! Answer the boy's question, and restore his faith by justifying these vision-seers. Include in your answer appropriate Biblical documentation. Exact quotes with book, chapter, and verse notation are preferred.
- 3) NEW TESTAMENT-One afternoon you receive a phone call from the psychoanalyst of one of the typical middle-aged housewives in your congregation. He says that she is

suffering from a severe case of "Unsolved Synoptic Problem Syndrome", and would like to enlist your help. how would you handle this situation? Include the thinkology of at least 5 New Testament Scholars such as Reine Bein Kummel, Rudolf Bultmann, etc in your answer. Again, it is to be remembered that this insane middle-aged housewife, like the plumber is a layman.

Dan: "Well, there are just a few goodies from the exam."

Dick: "They're real mind blower: aren't they?!"

Dan: "Just think what they would ask if the exam was an academic one!"

Dick: "I'd rather not!"

Dan: "It's time to present the award, soooo B.T.E. and L.C.A. here's to you---ZAP!!"

Dick: "And may the good fairy lay an egg on your headquarters!"

Dan: "About time to wrap it up?!"

Dick: "Hey Goldie, what's sarcastic, pejorative, and chucked full of hostility? (and rightly so)."

Goldie: "Aw, that's easy. Even I know that--the answers to the B.T.E. exam."

Dick: "You bet your sweet bippy!"

Dan: "Before we close, I think that the faculty at G-burg L.T.S. deserve a hand and a vote of thanks for standing behind the students." (CLAP, CLAP, CLAP)

This article has been brought to you from beautiful Uphill Gettysburg, because Downtown Burbank wouldn't touch such a subject with a 10 foot pole.

PAX,

The Pink Panther

THEOLOG is Dying

To date only one person has indicated any interest in publishing a THEOLOG. It is doubtful that this student journal will be published unless more interest is shown by us students.

If anyone is in the least bit interested in helping to produce such a publication, please put a note in Bob Martin's mailbox.

SOMETHING'S COMIN'

The time for weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth has almost arrived! At this time each quarter the management at Wclf's mourns a population decrease, while the Seminary library celebrates a sudden miraculous population explosion. Chapel services are overcrowded. Professors become BOSOM BUDDIES and LIFE LONG PALS. The "smart guy" everyone hated all quarter becomes MR. POPULARITY. Ping-pong and football take a back seat to scholarship. Those dust catchers called text books come out of hiding. You start regretting you didn't write your notes in English, if you took any to begin with. Everyone wonders if Professor _____ was bluffing when he said that the final counted 3/4 of the grade and class attendance the other 1/4. The "23rd Lament" looms to #1 on the hit parade. SINCERITY becomes your middle name.

A still, somber HUSH falls over the campus.

FINAL EXAM WEEK IS AT HAND!!!!!!!

The Pink Panther