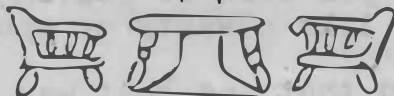


Table Talk



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

Vol. V No. 9

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COURSE EVALUATIONS

A first at the seminary! Evaluations of classes taught during the first quarter were received by the Student-Faculty Relations Committee on Thursday, December 5. These evaluations were written by the students as an effort to reflect objectively and constructively on the content, methodology, etc. of their courses. The evaluations were discussed with each individual instructor by those who wrote them. Copies also were forwarded to the Academic Policies Committee for their consideration and action as they continue to re-examine the curriculum and individual courses.

The evaluations were diverse and for the most part were general. This was to be expected since no guidelines were provided by the SFRC. A committee consisting of Chuck Miller, Bob Goehrig, Bill Janson and Mr. Folkemer has been appointed to bring a detailed questionnaire for course evaluations to the next SFRC meeting. It is hoped that by such an approach the evaluations for the next two quarters will utilize to a much fuller extent the creative imagination of the student body and our ability to reflect upon and to evaluate what happened in each of our courses.

It must be recognized that these evaluations do not preclude continuous dialogue with instructors as courses unfold. They are most importantly a means by which the student body can contribute their experience, knowledge, and ideas to the process of determining what theological education should be.

Tom Myers
Chairman, SFRC

RECEIVED
DEC 19 1968
A. R. WENTZ "ANTIGONE"
GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
"Antigone" is Chicago all over again. If you found yourself glued to your television set in August, you won't want to miss "Antigone". In the Chancel Players' drama, to be presented Wednesday and Thursday, December 18 and 19, you will see a McCarthy supporter battered by the police. Antigone will be doing what she thinks is right, but she will be opposed by the cool, yet treacherous "Mayor Daley" -- Creon, the king. The chorus will grip you and bring you into the middle of the tragedy.

The gods have ordained it all--and all who are meant to die will do so. But you will live, in order to observe the action and apply it to your own life. It's Greek drama that you will watch, but its message is contemporary--as is its language.

You do yourself a disservice if you miss "Antigone". It will be presented at 8:00 P.M. in the Aberly Room, Wednesday and Thursday, December 18 and 19.

USED RECORD SWAP SETS NEW RECORD
Eight members of this community brought together something like seventy-five records for a bargaining session last Tuesday.

This was a considerably larger affair than the shop and swap occasion last year. Indications are that there is interest enough in the idea of a record exchange to justify a repetition before too long.

Trading was brisk around the bargaining table, and records changed hands freely. While the formalities of politeness were

observed, the element of competition for certain items spiced the proceedings.

Your reporter, having walked away with a dozen new--to him--discs to listen to, is glad to turn in a story about one of the happier social events of the current season.

The exchanges and sales were final--up to a point. Since there was enthusiastic talk of having another round, some items may come back on the block.

One participant spoke for most of the group when he observed that he was surprised to find that records of his which he thought were not worth much were nevertheless eagerly sought by others. The principle underlying this greener grass effect may well account for much of the success of the occasion.

H.N. Bream

"You're the person who called from St. Anoa's Lutheran Church?"

"Yes."

"Come in and have a seat."

"Isn't the traffic just impossible during this holiday season?"

"Yes and without the cause of the holiday season you wouldn't have a St. Anoa's to sell would you?"

"Let's not say sell, but....let's say we wouldn't be able to ask you to join us at St. Anoa's"

"Why should I want to join you people?"

"First of all I'm sure we'd enjoy your fellowship, and secondly the time's come when the only way we can tackle the problems of our society is as members of a group."

"You mean problems like: social unrest, kids growing up in culturally deprived conditions, the movement towards alcohol and drugs as a source of values, automation replacing more and more people's jobs, and the pointlessness of the Puritan Ethic which turns us into automations when we are successful?"

"You've certainly mentioned some of the big ones."

"How do you work at solving a problem like poverty or social unrest?"

"We find that the best way to tackle this type of problem is through exerting pressure on the system to correct them."

"In what ways?"

"Through campaigns to make our society in general aware of the problems, with the hope of forcing politicians to speak out on them. Also by hiring lobbyists to exert direct pressure on legislative bodies in an effort to pass laws that demand social equality, and provide money to relieve the burden of poverty."

"Do you do anything more than act as a pressure group?"

"Oh, yes, we hire professionals to work among the people involved in social struggles or battling with poverty."

"How about the questions on values and security?"

"We do the obvious things like trying to force the system to guarantee more security to people; often through supporting the labor movement. We help people to see the hollowness of middle class ethics and goals, by showing them that life gets its meaning from working on problems like we've been discussing."

"Please forgive a naive question, but you are the people for whom the essence of this season is that the one you base your ideas on was born in a stable, where he cried and soiled his diapers like any other baby, and later practiced his belief's by running around with prostitutes like Mary of Magdala and a bunch of smelly fishermen, who didn't bother washing their hands every time they ate?"

"You've asked your question in a weird way, but of course the answer is yes."

"Thank you."

"We'd love to see you in St. Anolia's next Sunday."

"I don't believe that I'll be able to find time."

"Oh, well, any Sunday you get a chance drop in. We're always delighted to have visitors or to enroll new members."

"Thank you, but I doubt that I'll be able to find time."

"I'm sorry, but I'll have to end my visit. It's been nice meeting you. Goodnight."

"Goodnight."

Myron Schevey

THEOLOG IN NEED OF MORE HELP

Steve Yelovich will edit THEOLOG this year. He can't do it alone, he needs your help. Steve and I feel that THEOLOG can offer a great deal to the intellectual exchange among students in our community and we feel that there is much that students can contribute to each other's edification. YOU have something to offer and you can offer it to the Seminary through THEOLOG. So, walk up to either Steve or myself and tell us that you would like to contribute to THEOLOG.

Steve Yelovich and Bob Martin

CAROL SING A BIG SUCCESS

Last Friday night about one hundred people from the Seminary marched from the Ad Building down Springs Avenue to the town square where we were joined by about another one hundred towns' people. The procession sang Christmas carols all the way to the square and back to the Refectory, where refreshments were served. All during the processing and the singing in the square, people from the Seminary handed out song booklets and invited passersby to join the singing. The result was a good experience for both the town and the Seminary. Mr. Gobbel and Tom Myers, who organized the carol sing, are to be commended for a job well done. However, they are the first to admit that the good response from our community was what

made the carol sing such a success. Thanks to the mayor of Gettysburg for his participation and help in this joint effort of the 'burg and the Seminary.

RAM

YES, VIRGINIA! NO, VIRGINIA!

Maybe not everyone saw the notice of the WOTS Christmas Party (printed below). So here is the last sentence from it: "The children should not know we purchased the gifts but should think they are from Santa Claus."

How does that grab you? me too.

But first, a fence needs mending. This is to say that WOTS deserves thanks, praise and admiration for thinking and doing the party, and I wholeheartedly say Amen to that.

It is the implications of the announcement (which may have been written by someone not of the female persuasion for all I know) which raise my eyebrows, not the project in its worthy self.

We shall not concern ourselves about whether Santa Claus is a myth. We all, including the small fry at the party, know Santa Claus is a mister.

But is it really right, fitting and proper that we should at this age encourage belief in him? Or is jolly old St. Nick really a work of the devil?

After looking this question over, I am moved to try a different tact.

Is the proper question this: can children grasp the truth about presents at this tender age? Would they be any better off if we said "God gave you these presents"? What would they get out of that statement?

At this point a memory intrudes itself. As enlightened parents, my wife and I sought to demythologize Santa Claus when the twins were approaching their

fifth Christmas. We sat down and explained soberly, carefully, the facts of life as they concern Santa Claus. We told the T R U T H. We said that Santa Claus is an idea or, better, like the stories we read to them. In fact, we confessed, we gave them all the presents, or Grandma, or Uncle Gray, etc. They listened wide-eyed. Come Christmas, their mother reminds me now, they were true believers. In Santa Claus, of course.

Actually, we must concede that Santa Clausness is a fact. So is Santahood. It is just that one particular form of the story isn't factual, and at this stage of holy life I don't for the life of me know how to make kids intellectually critical enough to appraise the situation accurately.

Anyway, I have the still small suspicion that the kids sense how important to many of their elders the Santa Claus bit is, so that long after the kids have become disbelievers inside, they profess belief just to make their parents happy. And happy parents may make better givers.

(signed)

A believing ex-believer

HNB

ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

All the gifts for the Christmas party should be in the Social room by 12:00 A.M. on Saturday. Mark the gift with the name of the child but do not sign who the gift is from. The children should not know we purchased the gifts but should think they are from Santa Claus.

Thanks

A TALE OF A CHRISTMAS PAST:

I wish to share with the community an incident which some people feel may be of especial relevance in this time and season. Let me emphasize at the outset that it is a true story. It happened to my father-in-law, and it was he who

related it to me.

In the waning months of 1941 my father-in-law, after participating in many of the major engagements of the South Pacific campaign, was assigned to the Army of Occupation, Tokyo, Japan. Japan in those days was quite a unique place. Having lost the war, its cities occupied by American troops, Japan was doing its best to accommodate these foreigners and in the process picking up many of the trappings of American culture. For instance, there was a thriving black market for Glenn Miller arrangements of popular tunes for Japanese orchestras, there was talk of organizing a baseball league, the red-disc Coca-Cola signs became more in evidence, and on the local radio one could hear an oriental radio announcer "call for Philip Morris".

It came as no surprise, then, when most of the Japanese merchants got into the swing of things and began to prepare for the December celebration of Christmas. Here was a chance to make a profit and in the process make the American Servicemen feel a bit more at home. (Bear in mind now that less than ten percent of the Japanese people at that time were Christian. Again bear in mind that for the most part Japan had just recently, in the course of history, come out of her isolation into the mainstream of western thought and life.) So in many parts of the big cities, Japan took on the garb of a typical American metropolis in the midst of the Christmas rush week.

A few days before Christmas my father-in-law got a three day pass to go into the city of Tokyo. He spent most of the time walking about the city, seeing the sights, and generally

absorbing the Christmas spirit which was all about him in this exotic city. Imagine his surprise and shock then, when he came upon a large department store, all decked in Christmas finery, with its largest display window taken up with a huge Santa Claus nailed to an equally huge cross. Getting over his initial feeling, he followed it up by seeking out a floor walker within and inquiring about the reason for such a bizarre display. The answer he received was as follows: "But Sargeant, isn't that what Christmas is all about to you American Christians?"

Now I am sure that there are some among you, knowing my fertile imagination, who will accuse me of making all of this up. Not a chance! This really happened. I honestly wish I could assert the former rather than the latter. But I can't. Through the honest ignorant eyes of that Japanese merchant, we have a chance to see our Christian witness on the Incarnation as it really is. Anything more I could possibly say would be redundant.

GLORIA IN ALTISSIMIS DEC,
ET IN TERRA PAX HOMINIBUS BONAE
VOLUNTATIS.
S. F. Yelovich

GETTYSBURG IS THE VICTOR

The Gettysburg All-Star football team avenged two previous losses to the Mt. Airy team with a 31-6 victory on November 15 in Philadelphia. Our team had lost to Mt. Airy in 1966 by a score of 24-12; and last season we were beaten 20-0.

Gettysburg dominated the game both offensively and defensively. Ray Dice scored two touchdowns on passes from Clayton Rudolph. The other scores came from Burl Latshaw, Ed Smith, and Chuck Miller. A strong defensive attack highlighted by five important pass interceptions

by Junior Barnes (2), Fred Aigner (2), and Darrell Layman.

The strong team was coached very ably by Harold Truax and Fred Aigner. We want to thank everyone who helped in any way to make this All-Star game such a success.

The regular football season ended in a tie for first place between the Juniors and Seniors. Unfortunately, one of the games that would have decided the championship had to be postponed several times because of bad weather and schedule conflicts. Final team records were:

Juniors 5-2
Seniors 4-2-1
Middlers 1-6-1

Again, thanks to everyone who participated in the football program this past Fall.

WOPS UP?

A very enlightening talk followed by discussion was given on the topic, "The Problem of Belief", by Professor Jordahl at the November 13 meeting of WOPS. His talk centered on the fact that though man is basically religious, in that he takes for granted there is a supernatural being, he no longer shows as great a need for God as he once did. Man's belief is changing because of findings in the sciences. Professor Jordahl suggests that "religion" is done for. But he says "religion" isn't Christianity. Christianity perhaps does not explain why things happen. It is hearing the word of God and doing it.

At the business meeting the girls decided that \$20 would be taken from the treasury and a special offering to be sent to Montana to buy Christmas packages for those living on an Indian reservation there.

A special meeting of all interested WOTS members was held at Mrs. Jordahl's home November 20. The purpose of the meetings was to let the girls make suggestions as to how WOTS can be improved. The girls decided they'd like their meetings to be less formal. The future attire is to be slacks. Donna Sacherich

FLASH: GOD MAKES HISTORY!!!!

Members of the Junior Class, wrote headlines for the Bible Times and Gazette, as they might appear over stories of outstanding Old Testament events. Some of their conceptions are here reproduced.

GOD CREATES WORLD IN SEVEN DAYS

NOAH PREDICTS SHORT RAINY SEASON THIS YEAR - ONLY FORTY DAYS

ADAM LOSES JOB AS CARETAKER OF GOD'S FABULOUS GARDEN OF EDEN

ISRAELITES WIN QUICK VICTORY AT RED SEA - MOSES SAYS EGYPTIAN ARMY ALL WET

ABRAHAM HELD FOR CHILD NEGLECT - SEEN ALMOST KILLING SON ISAAC

MOSES LEADS NONVIOLENT SLAVE UPRISING IN EGYPT; PHARAOH'S COMMISSION ON CIVIL DISORDER DOES NOT ABSOLVE HIM

SAMSON GOES STRAIGHT - LOSES HAIR

NINETY YEAR OLD WOMAN BEARS SON, FATHER ABRAHAM SAYS, "I THOUGHT IT COULDN'T BE DONE," GIVES CREDIT TO GOD

ABRAHAM GETS CALL TO LEAD NATION SAYS HE'LL TAKE THE JOB

WORLD POPULATION REDUCED ONE QUARTER AS CAIN SLAYS ABEL

DAVID FLEES - SAUL ORGANIZES SEARCH

SURPRISE OF THE YEAR: "BEHOLD - IT WAS LEAH"

DAVID TAKES ON PHILISTINES AT STADIUM TODAY - ODDS BACK GOLIATH

SPECIAL EDITION FROM GOD GIVEN TO MOSES AT SINAI