

Table Talk

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

Vol. VII, no. 1

October 27, 1970

LAY-SEM DIALOGUE

Conflicts and tensions between clergy and laity are the source and butt of innumerable jokes and stereotypes. Laymen are often seen from the vantage point of the Hill as stubborn, Pelagian, Bircher, tightwads; and who really knows exactly how the Hill is viewed by the laos. The need for communication and understanding between the two is more than obvious.

But, Yahweh be praised, someone is trying to do something. And as much as it may hurt our pride, the initiative is coming from the lay side of the coin. For several days last week the Seminary was host to five men representing the Lutheran Laymen's Movement. These men came here at their own expense for the express purpose of dialoguing with students in an attempt to air opinions of and express expectations of each other and also to share ideas about the changing shape of the church and the ministry in today's world. It was a good opportunity for members of our community to dialogue with some concerned laymen (heaven knows they're hard enough to find) in a constructive and educational way.

While it is to be admitted that the five men who participated do not represent a cross section of American society nor are they representative of the Lutheran Church at large, they are nevertheless men who have some concern about the church and its future and wish to share this concern with us.

As was to be expected there was to begin with some mistrust and some careful sparring on both sides. And as also was to be expected, some used the opportunity to once again ride their private pet peeves into

the ground. But in spite of this some heavy conversations did take place and some solid sharing was accomplished.

While it is difficult to evaluate what took place for those few days, it is hoped that some greater understanding developed among those involved and that the chance for dialogue proved beneficial for all concerned.

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LUTHER COLLOQUIUM

On Tuesday, October 27, our campus will participate in the annual Luther Colloquium. This year the theme will be Luther and Violence. The program, according to Dr. Eric Gritsch, director of the Institute for Luther Studies, will be adapted to give a reassessment of Luther in terms of the contemporary world. The instructors for the Colloquium will be Dr. Gritsch (Martin Luther and the Revolutionary Tradition of the West), Dr. Robert Jenson (Violence as a mode of Language), and Dr. Rosemary Ruether of Howard University in Washington, D.C. (Reformer Versus Radical). The day's activities will conclude with a festival of the Reformation Eucharist at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel. It is hoped that many will take advantage of the learning opportunity available at the Colloquium.

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C.P.E. APPLICATIONS

Juniors are reminded that Wednesday, October 28 is the due date for C.P.E. applications and autobiographies. These must be turned into the field office so interviews can be arranged.

SENIORS WIN FIRST
MIDLERS-JUNIORS BATTLE TO 6-6 TIE

With the 1970 football season fast drawing to a close, the Middlers promise to end up with an almost perfect record. Opening the season, the Middlers took command with an 18-0 win over the Seniors. The following day they found themselves trailing the Juniors 6-0 at the half. However, the combination of what seemed to be a misjudged play by the official and the quick thinking of quarterback Tom Quickel turned the tide as the Middlers came back to tie it up. Good defense saved the day as Jon Bomgren nailed Junior quarterback Charlie Brophy in the end-zone to cap an 8-6 victory.

The first half of the Senior-Junior game played on Friday of the first week saw Brophy hit end Dick Eckert in the end-zone for a 6-0 lead. In a well played second half, the Seniors managed to catch Harry Wolpert behind the line, but the game ended before they could get their offense moving. Final score, 6-2, Juniors.

The second week brought much more action, as the mighty Middlers rolled over the Seniors 24-0, the final touchdown coming on a beautiful display of broken-field running by quarterback Bill Scholl.

The next day promised great action as once again the Juniors, still fired from last week's game met the Middlers. The Juniors scored first on a Wolpert to Dwayne Michaels pass and went into the half with a 6-0 lead. The second half revealed the usual strength of the Middlers. The combination of the defensive backs and the hard rush of the line proved too much as the Juniors failed to cross mid-field. A pass by Quickel added 6, and the winning streak was broken by a tie.

The final game of the week was a new and invigorated Senior team as quarterback Ken Schott hit Ken Diabie (one of the two recruits picked up by the Seniors this year) with the "bomb" at the two yard line. On the next play the Seniors had gained a 6-0 lead in two plays. The second score came when Jack Keeler caught a pass at the five and ran it over.

With a 12-0 lead the Seniors played the rest of the game almost flawlessly until on the final play of the game the Wolpert-Michael combination struck for 6. It was the first Senior win in several years.

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PERIODICAL DISCOUNTS

Two theological periodicals have offered student discounts to any seminary student wishing to take advantage of them.

The Christian Century, a weekly magazine, has been offered at a rate of \$4.25 for a nine month period. There is no deadline for subscribing and a subscription runs for thirty-six weeks from the date it begins.

Christianity and Crisis, a bi-weekly journal, is being made available for a September to May subscription at a rate of \$3.00. However, there must be at least a group of eight subscribers for the discount to be in effect.

If you are interested in either of these publications at the reduced rate, please see Ed Neiderhiser for details.

Student Publications Staff:

Managing Editor--Ed Neiderhiser
Faculty Advisor--Don Matthews
Editorial Staff--
Jack Keeler
Steve Dorsett
Harry Wolpert
Washington Correspondent--
John Keating

ART BUFFS:

The work of M.C. Escher has become very popular in recent years. If you are familiar or interested in the art of this man, Hawthorn Books announces that they have issued a new edition of THE GRAPHIC WORK OF M.C. ESCHER. (\$9.95).

If you are not interested in M.C. Escher, please ignore this article.

OPINION:

PASS-FAIL GRADING SYSTEM

Shortly after the beginning of the quarter, a petition appeared on several bulletin boards in an effort to gain support for trading in the present grading system in favor of an Honors-Pass-Fail system. My immediate reaction was, "Good Grief, here we go again!" And evidently someone else shared my thoughts as the petition was soon graced with the scribbling of an obvious dissenter: "Every year, the same damn thing!"

At this writing, no one seems to know the whereabouts of such petition. There seems, especially among the first year class, to be much favorable sentiment. But where is the movement? Is it in committee? Did it die on the board? Did it go underground? But where ever it is, this author feels the need to comment.

Joking aside, no grading system is or claims to be perfect. They are at best varying degrees of inaccuracy. But in the opinion of this writer, a move to a pass-fail system would be to the detriment of a great percentage of the student body.

In the first place, merely substituting three grade levels for five doesn't seem to follow much logic. But then this is a theological school and reason is regarded, by all good Lutherans anyway, as a whore.

But more than that. One must remember that a C level average is required to remain a member of this community. But a D or even a D- is still a passing grade in any given course. Should a pass-fail system be instituted the cut off point for passing would be at the C level, or above! Meaning, of course, that any course in which a student did less than C level work would be failed and thus would have to be retaken. (And how many of us would like to spend a fifth year here making up all the hours we failed?)

The academically oriented student, the good student, has no fear, of course. But there are many, many average, border line students who

stand to be hurt, and hurt badly. No one is willing to admit the present system is the best, but at least it offers some protection to the weaker student. One is able to fumble a course occasionally and still manage to pull through. The present system benefits and protects the weaker student without hindering the good student. (And we all know the best pastors don't necessarily come from the ranks of the academicians.) Society is plagued with laws that discriminate against the socially and economically weak, why should we now discriminate against the academically weak? Let us not forget the message of St. Paul as he says, "Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. . . . Therefore if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall." (I Cor. 8:9, 13). If a switch in the grading system will prove to be a detriment to any of my brothers, I want no part of it.

Where ever the petition is, whoever is tenderly embracing it, this writer asks you to look carefully at the implications of such a proposal. Same damn thing every year? Then let it die again this year for the benefit of all concerned.

"Woe to you who desire the pass-fail system!

Why would you have the pass-fail system?

It is darkness, and not light; as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house and leaned with his hand against the wall and a serpent bit him. Is not the pass-fail system darkness and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?"

(Amos 5:18-20, roughly)

Ed Neiderhiser

FOOTBALL STANDINGS

With one week to go at the time of this writing the standings are:

Middlers	3-0-1
Juniors	1-2-1
Seniors	1-3-0

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Student Publications as provided for in the Student Association Bylaws is once again trying valiantly to get off the ground. In the past several years, publications have been somewhat sporadic to say the least. But this year will be different. (Where have I heard that before?)

The Publications committee will be responsible for three periodic publications this year. First is, of course, the Table Talk, the newsletter and forum for student opinion. If you have an opinion on any subject, air it in the Table Talk.

Secondly, the committee will publish once each quarter a literary journal containing all contributions from any member of the Seminary commu-

ity in any literary medium. If you dabble in poetry, short story, drama or any other literary form you are invited to submit a sample to this publication.

And thirdly, once each month the minutes of all Student Association committee and Student Association meetings for the preceding month will be published for general circulation.

All three publications are to be the sounding board of the student body. Therefore you are urged to contribute to them.

Below are the policies governing all three publications.

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Student Newsletter, Table Talk

1. To be published bi-weekly on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.
2. Articles are to be submitted to the managing editor on or before the Thursday before publication.
3. Articles submitted must be typed and must contain the name of the writer. All subjective articles must be published with at least the initials of the writer.
4. All changes or condensations will be cleared with the writer before publication.
5. The editorial staff will have the final decision in choosing what is or is not to be published.
6. The newspaper will not represent the opinion of the Seminary or of the staff but will reflect the opinion of the writers of the articles.

Minutes of committee and Student Association meetings

1. To be published the first week of every month.
2. To include minutes of all Student Association committee and Student Association meetings for the preceding month.
3. Each Student Association committee secretary and the Student Association secretary will submit copies of their minutes to the managing editor. The chairmen of each committee at his discretion may withhold any part of the minutes from publication.
4. Minutes of various class meetings may also be included in this publication if the various class secretaries submit a copy of the minutes to the managing editor.

Literary Journal

1. To be published the last week of each quarter.
 2. To include original efforts by students and faculty in any literary form.
 3. Articles are to be submitted to the managing editor on or before a deadline to be set by him.
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PLAYERS TO PRESENT SANTA CLAUS

The Chancel Players are in full swing this year. Their first presentation of the year will be Santa Claus by E.E. Cummings, a one act, five scene play about twenty minutes in length, under the direction of William Rex. Santa Claus is a modern morality play on the death of Saint Nicholas. It will be done in the sermon portion of the Advent service this year.

The style of the play is "Reader's Theater" which has never been done here before. Bill Rex recommends that those of us who will be participating in the Advent service get a copy of the play and read it so that we can both better understand and discuss it in the coffee shop after the service. You can get copies from director, library, or cast members.

There is a definite need for more people in the casting of the play for the part of the Mob. If there is anyone interested in the part, please see Bill Rex! Bill says he can use seven or eight people, perhaps more.

The image of Santa Claus is that of love and understanding. The imagery of death and the mob can be the brutality of a sick society. There is much depth to be experienced on the theological level. The play speaks to the situation of today.

The cast includes:

Santa	Fred Opalinski
Death	Larry Miller
Mob	more people are needed
Girl	Carolyn Stumpf
Woman	Ruth Gritsch
Minister	to be chosen from the faculty

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WOTS NEWS

The Women of the Seminary kicked off their 1970-71 season with a bake sale and the annual C.P.E. night. The Clinical Pastoral Education program began with the upperclassmen Ed and Linda Rhode, Dave Anderson, Jim Cobb, and Dave Hunsberger, informing the first year students of what their experiences meant to them and what the students who will participate in the program this year might expect. Information was then given to the students by Dr. Sandstet concerning the necessary preparation required for participation.

Carol Michener, president of WOTS said that she hopes the organization can have "a little bit of everything, education and fun." In the immediate future, WOTS will sponsor a hayride at Hickory Bridge Farm on Friday November 6 and a Birth Control/Abortion program given by the Planned Parenthood Group of Gettysburg on Wednesday, November 18. Still on the drawing board are an evening at the Heiges' and a series of programs in which the professors will present talks that "will be beneficial and educational to a minister's life."

Details on any of these events can be obtained from any of the officers which include:

Carol Michener--president
Diana Vance--vice-president
Judy Gobers--recording secretary
Liz Miller--corresponding secretary
Diane Werner--treasurer

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REFORMATION EUCHARIST

This year we are celebrating Reformation with the Eucharist on Tuesday evening, October 27, 1970 at 7:30 p.m. The service is the last event of the day concerning the Luther Colloquium.

The choir under direction of Mr. Robert Clippinger will sing their usual Reformation number, "Lord Keep

Us Steadfast in thy Word" a hymn composed by Martin Luther.

Mr. Stuempfle will preach and Mr. Jordahl will preside. The service will take the form and style of a liturgical renewal celebration.

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