Table Talk

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

Vol. VII, no. 5 January 12, 1971

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME

Table Talk extends its congratulations and welcome to those who have joined this community through the institution of marriage during the Christmas vacation. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Randy Barr, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Janson, and Mr. and Mrs. Barry Martany (the former Beryl Miller).

Congratulations, best wishes, and welcome.

WOTS NEWS

During the month of December, WOTS involved themselves in many worthwhile activities. On Dec. 9th the group toured Dr. and Mrs. Heiges' house. On Dec. 15th, because of the group's interest in disadvantaged families, the group was given a family of seven (two adults and five children) from the Holiday Bureau of Gettysburg. They supplied this family with a food basket which included many necessary food items.

WOTS is now in the process of obtaining professors to speak on relevant topics for this month. As always WOTS is continuing its ability to aid seminary wives for their future roles.

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WELCOME

Table Talk also extends its welcome to three new students who have joined the community at the beginning of the second quarter.

August G. Lagaman, a recent graduate of Loyola and a member of the United Methodist Church, will be taking some courses here in addition to serving two churches in the Deer Park-Patapsco Charge. August lives with his wife Kathleen in Reisterstown, md. David McCullough is also with the United Methodist Church and is serving a parish in the Dillsburg area where he and his wife Norma live. David is a graduate of Messiah College. And finally, Frederick W. Noble has come to Gettysburg from his home in Setauket, New York via Tusculum College in Greeneville, Tennessee. From the Metropolitan New York Synod of the L.C.A., Fred is living in Baughman Hall.

Welcome all to Gettysburg.

ANONYMOUS QUESTION:

Are the students who called so vigorously for a pass-fail system at the beginning of the year the same students who are lamenting so loudly that grades have not appeared yet?

A LOOK AT THE NEW COMMISSION ON UNIFICATION

On December 15, 1970 the Commission of 18 on Lutheran Theological Education in the Northeast was called to order by President Robert J. Marshall. Following opening devotions, there were introductions of the 18 members. An indication as to therole of the commission was then set forth by Dr. Marshall. In assence, Dr. Marshall pointed out that the commission is an instrument of the BTE and responsible to it. All procedures must have the approval of the BTE. After the opening remarks by President Marshall, there was an election of chairman and vice-chairman for the commission. Walter C. Langsam was elected chairman. Dr. Langsam is president of the University of Cincinnati, Ohio. The vice-chairman is Kenneth H. Eckhert, a surgeon from Buffalo, N.Y. Both of these men are Board of Theological Education nominees to the commission.

Dr. Langsam offered the following as his understanding of the commission's task. "The commission is not to impose decisions upon the schools, but rather, is to make suggestions to them." At the end of the chairman's introductory remarks, he called for reports from Henry Horn, Planning and rôle of the BTE; Arthur McKay, Regional Planning in Theological Education (Dr. McKay is a Presbyterian who is president of Colgate-Rochester/Bexley Hall/ Crozer); Donald Herb, Inter-Lutheran Task force on Planning in Theological Education; Donald Heiges, Developments at Gettysburg; William Lazareth, Developments at Philadelphia.

The major thrust of Dr. Horn's remarks were directed toward a need for articulating the relationship of the seminary to the life of the church. In the opinion of Dr. Horn, the seminaries must evaluate and define their self identity.

Dr. McKay gave a report of the findings of the commission from his review of the findings of the Resources Planning Commission of the AATS. To me, these were relevant findings and suggestions which paralleled the work of the new commission.

Findings:

1- The enterprise of theological education is bankruptcy de facto.
There is an impoverished cash flow.

2- There is no long range expectations of constituency support. (This point will become clear when we see the statistics of synod support for Philadelphia.

3- Denominations have no explicit strategy for Theological Education. Individual schools have enterprenuership but no denominational strategy.

4- There is a gap between church and seminary and university. "This is not the irrelevancy syndrome. The seminary has little role in staffing and defining the mission of the church."

Suggestions: Here the major theme is "Education for What?"

1- Must be ecumenical, urban centered, and university oriented. "Ecumenicity only succeeds when the richness of each tradition is presented at its best. We have finally gotten away from the sentimentality which previously underlaid the ecumenical movement."
Must ask what do we want to accomplish in Theological Education? What equipment is necessary? What do we have inour institution? What can university supplement? Our theology must be done in the community.

2- There are a variety of useful models for unification. Individual schools must first define what they want to do.

(cont. page 6)

SEMINARY EXPLORES

No one around here needs to be reminded of the tensions that exist between the Gettysburg community and the Seminary. And no one should need to be reminded that seminary self-righteousness and lack of the concern that we preach is more than a little responsible. But through the sooperation of WGET radio and the concern and iniative of several members of both communities, an effort is being made to provide for some better understanding between the two.

Through a weekly half-hour radio program to be broadcast every Tuesday evening at 5:30 on WGET the Seminary hopes to serve a two fold objective: 1) a two-fold ministry of service and reconciliation, and 2) an involvement of seminarians and members of the Gettysburg community. The program is entitled "Seminary Explores."

Under the leadership of coordinator, producer, director, commentator, host, and whatever Dr. Roger Gobbel, the program hit the air waves first on Tuesday December 8. Since then the weekly broadcasts have included the seminary choir in a presentation of Advent music; a half hour of folk music featuring Karen Sedgwick; the chancel players production of Santa Claus; and others.

The purpose of the program is not to impose advice or answers on the town, of which the hill has so often been guilty. But through the use of radio the sem can serve not as a "have-all-the-answers-know-it-all-from-the-hill" but as a concerned member of the Gettysburg community providing an open forum where issues and problems facing all can be looked at and discussed. It will not be a condescending to offer answers, but a participation in and with Gettysburg in a search for answers.

There are many types of programs being considered for future broadcasts. There will be, of course, programs dealing with events at the sem, ie. special services and events. There will be panel discussions and open discussions on issues facing the members of the local community, often with provisions made for phoned in opinions fromlisteners. A few of the proposed topics for future broadcasts are: A Seminary-What is it and what is it to be?; The Church, Politics, and Government; Middle Class Values--Failure or Fulfilling; The Myth of Pervasive Communism; Law and Order--Unifying or Divisive; and many others.

It certainly will be worthwhile for all totune in WGET during dinner on Tuesday evenings.

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BAUGHMAN HALL OPEN HOUSE

Baughman Hall held their annual open house on the evening of Jan. 6th after the Epiphany service. It was an action-packed evening with a stupendous turnout of five professors (some of whom didn't quite make it to everyones apartment), two girls from Richard House, some students from Washington (most of whom remained in one apartment, since communication with new students was not their bag), and all of Baughman's residents.

While Baughman's residents visited each other for the purpose of eating and drinking the special preparations that wives worked rather diligently with, our beloved professors presumeably spent a nice quiet evening at home, or enjoyed themselves at other festive events.

We of Baughman Hall (especially first year students) were very impressed with the love that our seminary has displayed through the active participation of the faculty. For after all, isit not they who set the example for us through their teaching and their relationship to us?

Harry Wolpert

BUSINESS AS USUAL--
OR, WHICH WAY TO THE BRUSH-FIRE?

As any good America-watcher knows, the United States is a business as usual nation. That is, it tries to fit everything into a normal pattern, one which can be adapted to the everyday life of any middle-class American. Example--the creeping commercialization of Advent, with Christmas decorations now up by Thanksgiving and Christmas store bonanzas on the shelves by Halloween. The method of making anything fit the business as usual approach is quite simple, do it slow and easy and don't rock the boat.

As most of us are slow to note, not everything can immediately fit into the business as usual approach, even though we accept this approach without hesitation for our daily lives. Crises--devils that they are--arise to plague us. However, these crises can be dealt with in two ways: 1) normalize the crises and make <u>them</u> business as usual, ie. when was the last time anybody got upset over Berlin, or the Vietnam war, prison conditions, or the U.N.?, or, 2) wait until the crises become truly formidable and then study them, ie. poverty inthe U.S. Approach #1 works well with problems of similar natures which often recur, and it has the advantage of reducing the problems to the level of banality. Approach #2, known as the brush-fire approach, allows the problems to heat up and explode inour faces without any effort required by us to cool it off. Under the brush-fire method, business ass usual is again the key--brush off the problem until it becomes too hot to handle, then blame it on somebody else, refer the whole matter to the Authority, and let the Suthority handle it. The brush-fire method and its variants, (substituting passing the buck for studying the problem), are quite popular in the United States, which may explain why this method is standard procedure in the State Department.

Of course, somebody has lost their shirt in the process, but, as many Middle-class sages quickly point out, that's all part of life, reality, democracy, the school of hard knocks, or the old Army game, whichever way you put it.

Before you despair and think I'm about to conclude another diatribe on conformity, apathy, and the silent majority, let me dispel your frustrations, fears, guilt and feelings of repulsion. You need not worry, sooner or later almost anything may become a crisis, a brush-fire. You won't have to take a stand. Just retreat behind the wall of the majority, (the ones that are always right), and let the Authority take over.

If you are losing your shirt, none of this applies to you. For you shirt-losers, such things as C.P.E., field work, comps, mass media education, social involvement, etc., are highly important. Why not work these things out now, before you lose more than a shirt? The risk of alienating the business as usual crowd is easily dispelled--just make it a crisis, this they understand.

(Must it be this way? I don't think so. It is possible to bring our various and sundry problems to the attention of the appropriate committees typed in triplicate, and resolve them before they become a crisis for anybody.)

E.L. Miller

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PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Next issue of Table Talk, Jan. 26
Deadline for articles, Jan. 21

EPIPHANY REVISITED

On January 6, 1971 the seminary community, and more people from the community of Gettysburg than this writer has seen for the three and a half years that he has been here, celebrated the Epiphany of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus the Christ.

It has been the writer's pleasure of having quite a number of opinions about the service thrown his way. They were good and bad alike, which isthe way things usually run around here! The comments ranged from, "Very good, we enjoyed the whole service," to "It just didn't seem like Eucherist." In between the above statements were comments which singled out good and bad things about individuals, music, and the service in general.

The writer of this article is of the opinion that the service, as a sharing in the manifestation of God in Christ in our lives, accomplished its purpose. The jazz idiom used in the liturgy was a very fluid form and capable of adapting itself to our worship. Ed Neiderhiser is to be commended on his attempt to express the sung portions of the liturgy with his compositions to Psalm 150, the Preface, the Sanctus, the Lord's Prayer, John I, the Agnus Dei, and all improvisations played by the jazz combo including Dave Harper, Rick Workman, Ken Diable, Ken Johnson, and Ed Neiderhiser.

It was expressed by some that perhaps in the next performance of such a service the range of the newly composed material be placed in a lower key to allow more participation by the congregation.

Other than the above comments, the service was indeed a festive occassion. Many thanks to John woods, Dr. Jenson, Ed Neiderhiser, and all the other participants for their part inmaking this year's Epiphany one to remember.

Any criticisms, remarks, opinions, etc., are welcomed in reply to the above.

In nomine Jesu,

Jack Keeler

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(NEW COMMISSION, cont. from page 2)

In an effort to be as brief as possible, I will skip over the written presentation of President Heiges on the Lutheran House of Studies in Washington. Most, if not all, students should be familiar with the program.

Dean Lazareth gave a brief history of Philadelphia Seminary, including a run down on the negotiations since their inception in 1955. To keep students up to date on recent happenings, I feel the following information is important. The $4 millionraised for relocation by the Philadelphia constituency has been invested and is frozen fromuse in normal operating of the seminary. Philadelphia presently has $750,000 tied up in land purchase at the 42nd & Walnut St. site. This site was disregarded for use in 1969 when the estimated cost of a complex to be set up there ran in the neighborhood of $12-20 million. Phildelphia is also feeling the economic squeeze that Dr. McKay talked about. Through November, 1970, synods have met 50% of their obligations to the seminary. Dean Lazareth then laid a bombshell on the commission. He informed the members that the Episcopal Seminary in Philadelphia (PDS) must have a clear indication by June of 1971 as to what Philadelphia Seminary plans to do. The two schools are presently under negotiations concerning a joint venture on the present PDS campus. PDS has offered ½ its land and shared use of buildings to the Philadelphia Seminary free. This offer has a net value of approximately $4 million. Obviously this demanding of intention of Mt. Airy would necessitate the new commission to propose a final unification plan by May of 1971. Most of the members agreed that this was impossible, although they wanted to leave open the PDS site as a possible alternative. The sober mind of Dr. Mckay suggested that "an Episcopal gun held to the head of a Lutheran Seminary " is not the way to go about proper negotiations. With the aid of Dr. Marshall a statement was drawn up which is to be sent to PDS asking them to reconsider the demanded time period. The statement also explains that the PDS site will be under consideration by the new commission.

After lunch, the agenda called for a definition of unification. I immediately had the feeling that this would take the rest of the afternoon. The first question asked was, "Does unification have to mean a joint effort of education at one location?" Through discussion, and an interpretation offered by Dr. Marshall, it was decided that unification need not mean a joint effort of education at one location. The latitude offered by this conclusion allows much leeway in the way the commission can now proceed.

It was basically agreed upon that 2 members from each group (synod nominees, seminary nominees, and BTE nominees) would sit on subcommittees. The executive committee will make the selection of members to these subcommittees and these subcommittees will meet the evening and morning prior to the next full commission meeting which is to be held the latter part of March.

I left the meeting with mixed emotions. More had been accomplished than I had anticipated, but as with any commission, there was much more that should have been accomplished. For instance, between Dec. 15 and March 25 absolutely nothing will take place, except the selection of men to various committees. Since time is of the essence, I was hoping that committees could have been organized and given detailed jobs to prepare before the next meeting. As it now stands, we will probably return in March and have to cover some of the same ground before starting anew. This is how it now stands on unification--somewhere between PDS and Washington, the same place it was before Dec. 15. It will probably continue to stay there for some time.

Bill Scholl

NEW SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

Beginning with the second quarter new hours have been announced for the library. The revised schedule is as follows:

Monday through Thursday,

8:30 to 5;00 and

6:00 to 10:00

Friday, 8:30 to 5:00

Saturday, 8:30 to 4:30

Sunday, 6:30 to 10:30

OPEN HOUSE

The girls of Richard House announce an open house on Wednesday evening, January 13, beginning at 9:00. All members of the community are invited to join the koinonia at Richard House.

STUDENT ASSOCIATION MEETING

All students are reminded of the Student Association meeting to be held this thursday, January 14 at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel. Several issues of importance will be discussed and all are urged to attend.

EVENING PRAYERS INSTITUTED

At the urging and iniative of some of the student body, Evening Prayers have been instituted in the community inaddition tothe regular daily chapel services. Beginning Monday evening with Vespers, evening worship will be held in the Chapel each evening at 6:00. It is hoped that there will be enough support and attendance to continue the evening office.

BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

The seminary basketball team has begun its season of competition. All games are played at the Gettysburg Junior High School Gym and the community is invited to attend and cheer on its team.

Thurs., Jan. 14, 7:00
vs. Westinghouse.

Mon., Jan. 25, 7:00
vs. Sites Insurance

Further schedule to follow.
