

Table Talk

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

Vol VIII, No. 6

Dec. 10, 1971

APOLOGIA AND ANFECHTUNG

In the past few weeks there has been an issue weighing on my mind which has resulted in certain actions on my part. I do not apologize for these actions as such, namely the composition and circulation of the two petitions concerning the Washington Program of the Seminary. But I do wish to make apology to those for whom these actions may have been offensive.

The petitions and my convictions were not and are not now directed at anyone. They stem, instead, from the sincere conviction on my part that to make the Washington Program mandatory is an act which is not in the long-range best interest of the Seminary and the training of future men and women for the service of the church. It is evident by the number of signatures upon both petitions that a substantial majority of the students of all the classes represented here this year oppose establishing the program as mandatory - not the program itself. Many of the various reasons for opposition are itemized on the second petition. I do not feel these reasons are superficial or that they should be taken lightly but that they should necessitate the deepest consideration. My fear was and remains that these considerations will be dealt with in a political manner with a desire and goal of disposing of the issue quickly and quietly from sight and mind.

Perhaps this represents solely my own imagination and/or exaggeration, if this be the case then I earnestly ask forgiveness, but if not I feel I cannot in conscience keep silent on an aspect of our society which may well be unethical and immoral. This issue is not the Washington Program, it is rather a deeper problem: one of manipulation.

I think it is increasingly evident to many that our society is saturated in a philosophy of life which actually urges individuals in Corporations, Government, Church, Labor, etc., to achieve their goals by outright maneuvering the opponent through political skill and duplicity. In the whole business the real issues, more frequently than we would like to think, become lost and obscured in tests of charismatic skill and power. To the victors then belong the spoil - not only spoil in the sense of booty and reward but also the negative sense of spoil in relations and natural resources (human and otherwise) and to the loser (actually inclusive of everyone) the statement of 'Majority rules.' What in fact occurs in each instance is the Tyranny of the Powerful, the best organized, the most skillful, and even occasionally the majority. But even when the majority does approve this does not obviate the fact that oppression and injustice have also occurred.

I question, therefore, the Democracy of this approach. I question its very potentiality of making progress toward harmony, well-being, and love among men and women. And I question in my own mind the Christianity of those who use manipulative methods. I realize, fully,

to next page

that my own questioning is done in comparison with an Idealistic picture in mind and that attempts to establish Utopia have a long history. I am not here proposing the establishment of one. But my thoughts presently center around a deep feeling that the Gospel calls us individually into question daily and that it also calls the people who run our Institutions into question on a daily basis that they not forget the very reasons for the existence of their institutions. The Church is very rich in the world and it has perhaps been inevitable that it absorb much that is not in accord with the Gospel message but this I think is no excuse for silence and complacency that allows illegitimate practices to continue.

My charge is a serious one and in it I also implicate myself - I feel that much of what appears to be Political and manipulative in the Church government and in the Seminary is Unethical and Immoral; that what is aimed at perpetuating solely the institution in terms of program and building for the institutions sake is divisive and blind; and that to dismiss our shortcomings as simply sinful Human nature is a Criminal escape hatch. I strongly feel as I write this that each of us in this Seminary community is called to Repentance. With NONE escluded! I feel we are called (whether we are Optimistic or Pessimistic of the chances) to strive for the building up of this Community through Honest encounter with each other. I pray God that I have been wrong in my interpretation of our society. And I Pray for Love, consideration, openness, acceptance, and forgiveness of each other that this very divided community might be brought together and built up.

Roy Steward

* * * * *

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Nov. 24, 1971

Re: Melvin Dick's Modest Proposal as set forth in Table Talk Vol. VIII No. 2

Internship is a year of "experiencing and ministering to 'real' people in the 'real' world." No small part of that "ministering" are wives who spend their days educating the wee folks or catering to the whims of \$1 a day gourmets or sitting behind a desk correcting bureaucratic spelling errors. We do this so that our husbands may go out and bring the "real world" to salvation and we go along to "furnish the Quonset hut", "roll the drunks", "put up with the insults", and feed our families on "fishheads and gruel."

But wonders of the ancient mystics, wives also become part of the evaluated. The congregations judge the pastoral prowess of the intern only secondarily on his ability to preach and make hospital calls, primarily judging on the wife's ability to keep house, cook, dress her husband, and smile at still another LCW committee meeting.

Such facts are never consciously taken into account when the intern is evaluated. By the same token, neither is her experience or opinion solicited when the intern center is evaluated.

I am in complete agreement with Mr. Dick that the evaluative red tape should be expanded to entangle also the female of the species. The results would be far more interesting and informative than "it was a good experience"!

Much to the dismay of Germaine Greer this is not a pitch for

to next page

women's lib; many of us are glad that the male chauvinists have to be the pastors. But as long as we are part of the package, we would like to have some say about those who are trying to wrap it.

So there Melvin is some "meaningful sharing." Right on jocks!

Mrs. Cathy Neiderhiser and
Mrs. Pat Diable
Intern wives

* * * * *

CHARISMATIC COOKING

In our last column we provided for you one of the most traditional items for the eating season. But it is interesting to note that some people have attached to this portion of the year another name -- the drinking (Das Trinken) season. Rather than offer just one more punch recipe, however, since tastes vary widely, we would like to present an item which you should find useful for any of your favorite liquid creations. We proudly dedicate the following to the residents of Baughman Hall, whom we have been assured will have ample room in which to perform the required operations.

Ice Punch Bowls

A punch bowl which is ice itself -- particularly useful if you wish to dilute a cold drink as little as possible. Place in the kitchen sink a 50 lb. cube of ice. Choose a round metal bowl of at least 3 qt. capacity. Chip out a small depression in the center of the ice block and set the bowl over it. Fill the bowl with boiling water, being careful not to spill any on the ice beneath. As the heat of the bowl melts the ice, stir the water. As the water cools, empty and refill the bowl each time, bailing out the depression in the ice until the desired volume is displaced. Now, move the ice block onto a square "tray" of aluminum foil. Set it where you wish to dispense the drink. The tray should be a couple of inches larger than the block, constructed of heavy-duty material in leak-proof fashion, the edges turned up about 1 1/2 inches all around to form a gutter. Any crudities can be masked by greenery or flowers.

If the bowl is not to be used immediately, it may be stored in the freezer until needed.

Paul Xander
Larry L. McDaniel

* * * * *

The New Testament is based exclusively upon the possibility of a new order absolutely beyond human thought; and therefore, as a prerequisite to that order, there must come a crisis that denies all human thought.

- Barth

ADVENT

- 1 Come, great Promise made of old,
As once you came that night so cold.
And bring us true redemption.
For, bound in sin and misery
Are we now found despairing.
- 2 Our lamps are lit, we pray you, Lord,
We wait. Prepared, now, we shall go,
Repented, to meet the Bridegroom.
At last he comes to stir us up,
That we, like hot coals, brightly shine.
- 3 Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted ones,
For the Shepherd comes to get us
Out of the thicket this dark night.
Behold, men of the earth, he is at hand
With mighty arm and strength stirred up.
- 4 O heavens pour down your righteousness,
Let salvation come forth, o earth,
And together declare the glory of God.
Come quick, Lord, in grace accomplish all,
Your praise I sing, my help and my deliverer.

John Sieglund

STUDENT ASSOCIATION MINUTES

The second meeting of the Student Association was held on Dec. 2nd, 1971. President Heiges held a brief news conference discussing:

1. The schedule of meetings for January, 1972. On Jan. 5-7 presidents of the Northeast synods, 11 in all, will be present on campus to discuss student housing, Washington House of Studies, and senior calls. Philadelphia Seminary students will be arriving on the 5th to be interviewed with Gettysburg seniors on the 6th and 7th. Also on Jan. 7th the presidents of these synods will be meeting with six representatives of each seminary, Philadelphia and Gettysburg, to discuss the needs of theological education in the northeast. Also from Jan. 3-5, pastors of upcoming interns will be on campus for an orientation program.
2. Dr. Heiges next introduced Mr. Hart Beaver, Chairman of the Board at Gettysburg Seminary. Mr. Beaver discussed the board's concern for student housing and their intentions to produce more and better married housing and to upgrade single housing. Jan. 5th is scheduled as a first meeting to begin planning for such improvements but the entire project will take between two to three years to complete. Student representatives will be on any planning committees and will be able to assist in producing ideas concerning needed space and building design.
3. Dr. Heiges then asked Mr. Evans, newly appointed to set up Gettysburg's first office of Development, to discuss matters of concern which his office is in charge of. Mr. Evans explained the purpose of his job to be to: 1. set up annual giving and support programs for the seminary, 2. to set up deferred gift programs, 3. to initiate special grants given to the seminary for special projects such as housing, 4. to be the official source of news release for the seminary, 5. to keep up with and represent the seminary to those concerned and to keep the records of the Development Program. Mr. Evans discussed the priorities in his work as being, first to build up the annual giving program, second to begin new programs such as a Board of Directors Fund which has currently set a goal to raise \$3,600, and thirdly, to request from parents of students monies to be used to purchase library books. Finally, there will be a mailing to non-alumni pastors in the supporting synods asking for their financial support.

Mr. Evans went on to explain that the deferred giving program has the greatest potential and that great effort to solicit contributions will be conducted in Jan. and Feb. Mr. Evans also discussed how students could assist in the development program through 1. working in the visiting program, where students of the seminary go out to colleges and explain the program the seminary has to offer and talk with interested students, 2. working with the Speakers Program which includes speaking to church congregations and auxiliary members to both explain the seminary program and to solicit financial assistance and, 3. by letting the development office know of any people who might be interested in assisting the seminary financially either through deferred gifts or immediate contributions.

President Heiges resumed his news conference by telling students that the two petitions concerning studies in Washington, the first of which was explored by a meeting of representatives from Washington and Gettysburg, would be passed to the faculty at their next meeting and that their conclusions based on the two petitions will then go to the Board of Directors for final action. Dr. Heiges also reported

(to next page)

that the management program suggested and turned down by the BTE was to be reconsidered by the BTE due to concerted effort of the Gettysburg Board who strongly recommended the program. Mr. John Horn, the developer of the program, is also to be on campus before the end of the year to discuss management with seniors.

At the conclusion of the news conference, Jim Weiss was asked to explain the new procedure for course evaluation. The procedure for this year will be as follows: evaluation forms which were prepared by Mr. Jordahl will be given out to students by their respective professors, will be completed by the students and then returned to the same professor who will have a chance to examine them and will then turn them into the dean. Students will not be expected to tabulate the results of the evaluations for any given class.

The regular business meeting of the Student Association was then called to order by Randy Neubaer, president. The treasurers report was read; there is presently \$201.09 in the account plus an additional \$400.00 from student dues which has not been transferred to the student association account from the business office.

Committee reports were then heard. The Social Committee reported on the success of the coffee house night and also thanked all those involved in the two open houses at Baughman Hall. Plans are being made for an open house after the service in January to be hosted by the single students. A reminder was given that a list of those going Christmas Caroling on Dec. 10th is on the bulletin board across from the business office and every one is encouraged to participate.

Bob Hettlinger discussed plans for students to attend the Dallas convention this summer. The purpose of having students would be to produce a daily newspaper of the happenings of the convention to keep delegates informed of areas which they cannot personally cover, and to learn how items come to the convention and how they effect the churches. Plans are presently underway regarding travel, lodging and expenses. Interested persons may see Bob Hettlinger, Bill Stickley, or Lee Hudson.

The Ecumenics Committee reported that the field trip to Washington planned by them had been completed but due to uncancelled reservations they had been left with a bill from St. Paul's College for meals. Those students who signed up to go but did not make the trip are asked to pay the \$2.50 for dinner to defray the bill the committee now has. Also planned jointly by the Ecumenics Committee and Mt. St. Mary's is a social evening when students from Gettysburg could visit Mt. St. Mary's seminary.

A report was next heard on the coffee shop. Bob Eastlack reported the loss or profit to be: coke-\$112 profit; Lance Machine-\$26 profit; coffee-\$61 loss; the net profit being \$77. Bob explained that in order to cut costs they had dropped the Lyons brand coffee which was costing 85¢ a lb and had changed to a brand which could be purchased cheaper. Also cream and sugar is now being bought in larger quantities, which allows a discount on these two items. Mrs. Small's salary has been changed to an hourly rate which saves \$3.00 a week. In Jan. there will be a LOCKED money box in the coffee shop and a change box in the business office to assist students who have trouble making correct change.

The report of the Social Action Committee was next heard. An amendment to the constitution which had been read at the last meeting and posted two weeks was voted into acceptance. The amendment was to double the membership of the Social Action Committee. It will now have two members from each resident class, two members from WOTS

and two faculty members. The class presidents are asked to hold elections for the additional class representative and WOTS is asked to appoint another member. The faculty member will be by invitation of the committee. The committee also reported that Gettysburg Seminary was now a member of the D.C. Divinity Student Alliance which produces a journal currently being distributed to all students here. Students were encouraged to watch for new material on the information table in the coffee shop. There is to be a meeting in Harrisburg of the Student Government Commission to discuss student consumer protection and political action. All interested students should contact Larry Miller for information.

The case of divinity students vs. the selective service system, taking place in Evanston, Illinois, was explained by Larry Miller and students were asked to read the article concerning it in the current issue of Commonwealth. Larry Miller also moved that the Student Association join the National Student Lobby in Washington, D.C. The cost for the first year is \$30 and the cost for the coming years is prorated and would be very little. The purpose of joining would be to have the information which this group makes available concerning current legislation. This is the only full-time registered organization which represents students.

The Lecture Committee reported that Tony Scoblick had been down for an evening of discussion with students and faculty. The committee would be interested in having suggestions for future speakers.

The Athletic Committee reports that Gettysburg has again joined the Community Basketball League. The Ping Pong Tournament list is posted and all interested in playing should sign up. Mt. St. Mary's has been contacted and both basketball and baseball games are planned for the future.

Fred Faust, who had been asked to explain the Student Health Fund, summarized the rules for coverage which exist in addition to those stated in the student handbook distributed in October. He added that any doctor's visits must be in the community of Gettysburg to be covered and that students must turn in a bill from the doctor to Fred before he can pay the bill.

The Publications Committee reported that they will publish a literary journal and that students wishing to contribute should do so soon. The date of publication will be toward the end of Jan.

New Business: The petition concerning the Washington program had been removed which necessitated another petition. Those students who signed the first petition and have not signed the second are asked to do so. Those students interested in working on the recruiting program in January should see Mr. Gobbel. Those students who would like to help with the development program are asked to see Randy Neubauer. Randy encouraged all who could to become involved since the program directly concerns us and needs our help.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Hudson
Secretary

REQUEST: old 45 r.p.m. records-
that you have left in your attic or
basement since childhood. If you
could be of help contact Geoff
(Gopher) Curtiss, 322 Baltimore St.,
334-8284.

The Staff

Co-editors: G.S. Lenihan
Bob von Frisch
News editor: J. Siegmund
Sports editor: F. Terhune
Circulation: J. Nussen
C. Bergstresser

Note to Poet/Author of "twelve Trees":

Because of recent flare-ups, in
order to avoid conflagrations, it is
the policy of this-here rag sheet NOT
to publish initials-only articles,
poems, or what-not.

In plain English: please sign your
full name to your submissions.

Post Script: the same applies to
"Brother Sisyphus."

Editors