

Table Talk

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



Vol. XVIII

Issue 1

October 15, 1982

Editorial ~~~~~

Dear Wormwood,

Warmest greetings from your Uncle Screwtape. I am glad to see that the field is ripe at the seminary for subtle suggestions

Each year there are always some students who believe that the enemy's work is best done by caring for the neighbor. No doubt that the enemy is pleased by all this - it does play largely into His hands - but that is no reason to despair, there are perhaps still ways that we can pervert it to our ends. Try to keep them satisfied with middle class solutions and comforting middle class guilt. If it is true that they believe that the political left is always in the right in matters of human rights and such, urge them to only read those articles and books, and only call in those speakers which will strengthen the beliefs that they already hold. We can't let them get at the detestable situation of challenging what they believe so that they might actually try to look at things objectively. Static beliefs are what we want to encourage. (While they are dull to Him, they work very satisfactorily for us.)

Along with this, work on fostering the idea that being a Christian (bite my tongue) is an easy task. Help them to believe that their lives needn't be affected. Help them to believe that, however they have been living, they can continue living *ad nauseum*. Particularly you can make strides in this area if you can keep them from making any kind of connection between the theology that they study and their

every day lives. I once heard a pastor say that "Theology has no place in the day-to-day workings of the church." - keep them believing that! Try to help them see that their experience in life defines what the Gospel says (prohibit them from discovering that the Enemy intended the Gospel to define their experience.) A sure bet that if we can keep the clergy from discovering what the Enemy's servant Bonhoeffer meant by the Cost of Discipleship we can keep the laity in the glorious darkness as well.

In dark of the upcoming festival of the Reformation, encourage them to revel in a thing past, feeding heavily on their old foes. We musn't let them make any connection between that and the current state of the Church - they might see areas that need reform - and indeed that would set us back greatly.

You get to work while I toast them as they cover their tracks.

Affectionately,
your Uncle Screwtape

Thereupon he (Martin Luther) spoke of the very great folly of all men which consists of this; that we wretched men wish to make judgements concerning the Word of God, which we ought rather to give ear to. "It's as if a vessel tried to teach the potter how to make it," he said, "how many fingers to use in shaping it." (Romans 9:20-21) Even so we wish to set ourselves up against God, we wretched creatures against our creator. It is written, "Listen to him" (Matthew 17:5), and "Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear; forget your people and your father's house." (Psalms 45:10). . .

(Table Talk, Nov. 20, 1538 #4133
L.W., Am. Ed. vol. 54.)

Washington News

Bill, a disciple of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the community of saints at Gettysburg, my beloved:

"Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."

(2 Tim. 1:2) I give thanks to God for y'all constantly remembering you in my prayers. For you know beloved, the many blessed moments we shared studying the Word of the Lord.

Beloved, you yourselves know that our trip to you was not in vain. For you remember our toil to create a community spirit on our retreat. It was to our greater gain to come to you at this time for we had been gathered together as a Christian community for about one month. We opened the fall semester on September seventh with a service of Holy Communion and departed from the service with a "mass" of handouts from Dr. Roy Enquist.

Many of us are toiling at sounding forth the Word of the Lord on Capitol Hill, at interfaith conferences, among college students, etc., to fulfill our Action/Reflection requirement. We heard a fascinating presentation about the crisis in Poland at a public affairs sector meeting at Reformation Church. Joy of all joys was meeting you at Holy Name College on September 21st to celebrate the 800th birthday of Saint Francis of Assisi. As you may already know, some of us have decided to lead an ascetic life at St. Paul's College in hopes of practicing liberation theology and freeing some to fully understand the meaning of justification by grace through faith. One of our liberation tools was to invite all the Paulist Fathers to attend the movie The Emigrants, sponsored by the Lutheran House of Studies at Wesley Theological Seminary. That is ecumenism!

Beloved, we must forego the pleasure of being with you on October 26th. We will be spending our time with our guest The Right Reverend Harold Jansen, ALC Eastern District. Other Scheduled events include: attending the movie The Chosen on October 12th; Public Affairs Sector

at Reformation Church on October 19th; dinner and liturgy at Saint Paul's College November 2nd. Proposed future events include bar hopping for evangelistic purposes and exchange of spirits; muggings designed to 'get them before they get us' (or) 'Do unto others as they do unto you'; attend the movie Rocky Horror Picture Show; and a visit to Valentine Hall for the second annual Cockroach Races, rain spout walking, bat calling contest, and reading of The Case of the Kidnapped Armadillo.

"Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in all ways. The Lord be with you all." (2 Thess. 3:16)

I, Bill Deist, wrote this letter with my own hand.

Convocation

In the newspaper business, as in anything, there are what we might call sins of commission and omission. Before I send this off to be printed, I need to put in a word about the recent Bertha Paulsen Convocation, lest Table Talk be guilty of a sin of omission.

The convocation sparked some lively debate which has resonated past the walls of the Aberly room to meet most of our ears. There were four speakers; Dr. Mary D. Pellauer, Associate Professor of Women in Ministry at Union Theological Seminary in New York, Dr. Dorothy C. Bass, Associate Professor of Church History at Chicago Theological Seminary, and two of our own church historians, Dr. Eric W. Gritsch and Dr. Christa R. Klein.

Dr. Bass gave a quite competent lecture on the subject of Women in American Theological Education in which she traced the history of, and drew verbal pictures of, those women who have preceded us in theological institutions. Dr. Eric Gritsch spoke on conflict and convergence in Lutheran and Feminist theology, and Dr. Klein addressed the question of Women's concerns in context.

As I listened to the lectures and the debates which followed, I was struck by two mighty pictures. Dr. Pellauer spoke in a language foreign to me, telling her story as prefatory material for her talk on Feminist Theology. I was surprised first by the many controversial things she said, and second by the rather overwhelming response from the audience, attacking her positions in light of Doctrine and Luther. While she is clearly Christian, and Lutheran (she is seeking approval for ordination in the Lutheran Church) she spoke at times with a 'Pelagian' bent, at times with a 'Donatist' bent, at times a 'Gnostic' bent.

second picture that struck me was Dr. Bin's lecture which, for me at least, made the entire convocation worthwhile. It was an excellent presentation placing Feminist's concerns in the framework of a Lutheran history and perspective, and offered much for reflection, study, and challenge.

Overall, my estimate is that it was a needed and useful convocation. All four of the lecturers were memorable, and I, as a woman seminarian, felt that both Dr. Gritsch and Dr. Klein represented the Feminist's cause superbly and with a great deal of theological integrity. If you weren't able to attend the lectures, they are on tape at the library, and are definitely worth your time.

a.e.c.r.

Interview ~~~~~

In The Spotlight: Dean Gerhard Krodel

One of the first persons a student sees on arrival at Gettysburg Seminary is the Dean -- the tall, bearded man who smokes cigarettes and is known initially as the one with the German accent, or the one who drives the silver Mercedes. ("I got it for a bargain!")

In an interview held just prior to the 30th anniversary of his ordination, Dean Gerhard Krodel shared his reflections on the seminary, its students, and their challenges; on Lutheran merger and ecumenism; and on his favorite orphanage in Lebanon.

Gerhard Krodel, 56, has been academic administrator at Gettysburg for five years, as both dean of the seminary and professor of New Testament; he taught at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (Mount Airy) for 13 years.

Born in southern Germany, the son of a Lutheran pastor, he flew sailplanes during his youth and was a pilot during the last year of World War II. He spent three months in Russian, American, and British prison camps; upon his release he studied theology and received a doctorate from the University of Erlangen. Krodel came to St. Louis in 1950, at age 24, and studied at the Concordia Lutheran Seminary (Missouri Synod), and met Joan Kretzmann, who became his wife. Given a scholarship to Union Seminary in New York (Paul Tillich was on the faculty then), he took a call

as pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church (ALC) Long Beach, New York, and was ordained there September 21, 1952.

Krodel later served as associate professor of Greek, Latin, and religion at Capital University, Columbus, Ohio, and as dean of the faculty at Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque -- both ALC schools-- before moving to Philadelphia in 1964.

Although for years the question has been raised on whether Mount Airy and Gettysburg seminaries should merge or otherwise pool their resources, Dean Krodel says that such union talks are dead for the time being. The Philadelphia seminary, states the Dean, "deserves to exist in its urban setting."

But Gettysburg also serves a vital function in the church, he says. It is the oldest Lutheran seminary, with unique ecumenical relationships through the Washington Theological Consortium and unique constituency support of synods and congregations. Gettysburg now has the highest M. Div. and M.A.R. enrollments in its history, and will continue to "play an important role in the 20th century in the education of ministers."

"I just like the type of student who comes to Gettysburg. I've met European theology students, and our American Lutheran student of theology has a greater commitment to the faith, is more ecclesiastically oriented, has professional goals clearly articulated, and he or she knows that a pastor must get along with people! I watched European students interact, and found that rather disturbing. When it came to faith, theology, the center of the Gospel, lifestyle, willingness to serve in congregations -- I thought, Why are they studying theology?" He is especially impressed by the number of talented students in this year's junior class, with varied backgrounds in such areas as sign language, rural churches, and computers -- whose future for education and church excites him.

Dean Krodel believes we have good student-faculty relations at Gettysburg, and he would like to know the student's point of view about that. "Some students think faculty members should invite them to their homes; but they have a right to privacy, they have other obligations, and they do write and publish an extraordinary amount." -- a fact that he and President Stuempfle are proud of. But he thinks the faculty are accessible -- the student may just have to seek out a professor.

Concern for mutual respect by student and teacher is primary. He will not approve of a teacher's "putting students down."

He hopes that the male professors (including himself) are not guilty of sexism and he recognizes the inequality of students being called by their first names while professors are being called "Mr." or "Ms." (He says he has, in the past, encouraged students to call him 'Gerhard', but hasn't had much luck.)

In regard to the proposed Lutheran merger ("which I rejoice in"), Dean Krodel says, "The scandal of the divided churches doesn't consist in the LCA and the ALC having two headquarters. . . the scandal of Christendom is that Catholics, Orthodox, and other Christians, and Lutherans do not celebrate together officially the sacrament of the altar." Wishing we would put "all our energies" into serving the ecumenical commitment, the Dean expresses joy over the recent mutual recognition of Episcopal and Lutheran communions and the LCA's adopting a strong ecumenical statement.

For his part, Gerhard Krodel has participated in Lutheran-Orthodox dialogs since 1978. Although it is a slow process, "nonetheless the fact of dialog is tremendously significant, and the clearly stated objective of both parties is communion fellowship," which currently is not permitted.

In recent years he has finished a volume for Proclamation Commentaries on Acts (Fortress, 1981); he is also an editor of Proclamation Aids (Fortress) and of New Testament Commentaries (Augsburg). But one project that is very close to his heart is the Khirbet Kanafar Orphanage in Lebanon--the oldest Lutheran orphanage in the Middle East. Dr. and Mrs. Krodel are on the American Board for the Syrian Orphanage, as it is called, and work to raise money for it's support: "We hope someday to send a Gettysburg seminarian with family for a couple of years. Arab children, Christians and Moslems should meet American Christians."

--jhb--

"It's always my advice that after an engagement is announced one should proceed as quickly as possible to the wedding. Postponement is dangerous on account of foul-mouthed people who are incited by Satan. Friends of both parties generally start unseemly rumors. I know what happened to me in the case of Phillip's wedding and also Eisleben's. Only get

together swiftly! If I hadn't married secretly, all my friends would have cried, 'Not this woman but somebody else!'"
(Table Talk, June 1532 #3179a
L.W., Am. Ed. vol. 54)

~~~~~ Book Review ~~~~~

When I was first approached by Ann, and asked to be the book review editor, I agreed much too quickly. Imagine my surprise when I later found out that I actually had to read books! Oh well, nothing like rediscovering a lost art.

It is the avowed intent and purpose of this column to keep the student body informed of any and all recent faculty publications, and other new books of interest. As editor, I am keenly aware that initially at least, this column will reflect my interests, and although I would like to think that I'll be objective, fair, and impartial, the truth is I'm a slanted, opinionated SOB. Actually, other students (and possibly faculty) will contribute to this column, reflecting a wide range of interests and abilities. Eventually, I hope to do nothing more than sit back and edit the column, so I can get back to watching Dallas with the rest of you.

The Double Redaction of the Deuteronomistic History, Richard D. Nelson, JSOT, 1981
avail. Bs. \$14.20

The first thing you may notice from the title of this work is, it's exceedingly long. Fortunately, the book is not, expensive, yes, expensive, no. This is not to say that the author, Richard D. Nelson, short-shrifts the subject matter, quite the opposite, it is to say that he is somewhat of a rarity among Old Testament scholars, he can make a point without being verbose.

The tone of the book may be characterized by this quotation ". . . the simplest solution to this dilemma has never been suggested." Nelson convincingly argues for two levels of redaction of the Deuteronomistic History (Joshua through II Kings) via a complete, and somewhat novel, blending of two disciplines, 19th century literary criticism, and 20th century, post-Martin Noth historical criticism concerning DTR. Nelson's hypothesis is based on the work of Harvard scholar Frank Cross, who first postulated that DTR was authored during the reign of Josiah, and later edited by some unknown

...lic author(s), thus two levels of redaction. This, in contrast to Noth who believed in the single redaction by an exilic author(s). Nelson simply does what Cross did not, convincingly support the dual-redaction theory. The author stresses this, and describes his own work as a "... valuable lesson in proper methodology." I agree, besides the book is interesting, a real bonus!

The author begins the book by recounting the previous theories concerning DTR, and then follows with a complete literary analysis of certain texts (especially those debated), by which he demonstrates rather well the presence of a 'second hand' throughout the work. He ends the book with a theological summary that again reinforces his hypothesis.

Although it is hard to imagine that this particular question will ever become a raging debate within the field of Old Testament studies, any serious student of the Old Testament should read, and will savor, this book. I highly recommend it, in spite of the price tag.

CLF

NEW BOOKS OF INTEREST

(Li = Library; Bs = Bookstore)

Theology

Li Gritsch, E.W., Born Againism, Bs Perspectives on a movement, Fortress, 1982.

Li Hanson, P.D., The Diversity of Scripture, A Theological Perspective, Fortress, 1982.

Bs. Heschel, A.J., Quest for God, Studies in Prayer and Symbolism, Crossroad, 1982

Bs Jenson, R.W., The Triune Identity, Li Fortress, 1982.

Old Testament

Bs Aharoni, Y., The Archeology of the Land of Israel, Tr. A. Rainey, Westminster, 1978.

Li Burke, D.G., The Poetry of Baruch, A Reconstruction of the Original Hebrew Text of Baruch 3.9 - 5.9, Scholar's Press, 1982.

New Testament

Li Farmer, W.R., Jesus and the Gospel, Tradition, Scripture, and Canon, Fortress, 1982.

Bs Robinson, J.M., The Problem of History in Mark and other Marcan Studies, Fortress, 1982.

Bs Schweizer, E., The Letter to the Colossians, a Commentary, Augsburg, 1982.

Early Church

Li Harnack, A., Militia Christi, the Christian Religion and the Military in the first Three Centuries, Tr. D. Gracius, Fortress, 1982.

Psychology/Religion

Li Pruyser, P.W., The Minister as Diagnostician, Personal Problems in a Pastoral Perspective, Westminster, 1976.

~~~~~and a little Art



Martin  
Luther's  
Seal

**T**HE first thing expressed in my seal is a cross, black, within the heart, to put me in mind that faith in Christ crucified saves us. 'For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness.' ♦♦♦ Now, although the cross is black, mortified, and intended to cause pain, yet it does not change the colour of the heart, does not destroy nature — i. e., does not kill, but keeps alive. 'For the just shall live by faith,' — by faith in the Saviour. ♦♦♦ But this heart is fixed upon the centre of a white rose, to show that faith causes joy, consolation and peace. The rose is white, not red, because white is the ideal colour of all angels and blessed spirits. ♦♦♦ This rose, moreover, is fixed in a sky — coloured ground, to denote that such joy of faith in the spirit is but an earnest and beginning of heavenly joy to come, as anticipated and held by hope, though not yet revealed. ♦♦♦ And around this groundbase is a golden ring, to signify that such bliss in heaven is endless, and more precious than all joys and treasures, since gold is the best and most precious metal. Christ, our dear Lord, He will give grace unto eternal life.

Amen

Martin's Luther

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- October 15 7:30 p.m. "The Emigrants", Room 206, Valentine Hall  
 8:00 p.m. "The Importance of Being Earnest" Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa.  
 8:00 p.m. Sr. Recital, Stephen Swartzbaugh, Baritone, Schmucker Hall, G.C.
- 16 7:00 p.m. Vespers Service at Upper Temple, Camp Nawaka.  
 8:00 p.m. "The Importance of Being Earnest", Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa.  
 8:00 p.m. McLain Family Bluegrass Concert, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa.
- 17 3:00 p.m. Faculty Recital, Michael Matsinko, Pianist, Schmucker G.C.  
 8:00 p.m. "Return of the Seacacus 7" College Union, G.C.
- 18 12 noon, SAC Concert, Milton Thomas, Violinist, 1st Floor Lounge, G.C.  
 3:00 p.m. same as above
- 22 3:00 p.m. Studio Recital, Schmucker, G.C.
- 23 3:00 p.m. Lecture, Harold Vogel, Chapel  
 7:00 p.m. Organ Recital, Harold Vogel, Chapel.
- 24 3:00 p.m. Sr. Recital, Menton Frable, Clarinet, Schmucker, G.C.  
 8:00 p.m. "Cousin Cuisine", College Union, G.C.
- 26 MARTIN LUTHER COLLOQUIUM
- 29 HALLOWEEN PARTY sponsored by Valentine Hall.
- 30 8:00 p.m. "Chariots of Fire", College Union, G.C.
- 31 8:00 p.m. "Ghost Story", College Union, G.C.
- November
- 3 8:00 p.m. Performing Arts Committee Concert, Schmucker, G.C.
- 4 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. "New Breakthroughs in Christian Unity", Dr. Frank Senn, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, York, Pa.
- 5 3:00 p.m. Studio Recital, Schmucker, G.C.
- 6 10:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Cartoons for kids, 206 Valentine Hall (????)
- 7 8:00 p.m. "Arthur", College Union, G.C.
- 12 8:00 p.m. Gettysburg Community Concert, Claude Frank, Pianist, G.C.
- 13 Trip to inner harbor, Baltimore.  
 8:00 p.m. "For Your Eyes Only", College Union, G.C.
- 14 3:00 p.m. Sr. Recital, Tammi Stephens, Bassoon, Schmucker, G.C.

TABLE TALK began years ago in a converted Augustinian monastery in Electoral Saxony. Then, due to the untimely death of it's sole contributor, it ceased publications. It was started up again in 1964 by seminary students who were clearly not bothered by humility. In 1980, due to an all too literal Diet of Worms, it once again expired. It is being hauled back from the grave for one more go round due to the publications committee chairman's highly developed sense of responsibility. The staff includes: Ann E. C. Rinderknecht, General Editor; Carol E.A. Fryer, Art Editor; Craig Fourman, Book Review Editor; Judith Beck Helm, Interview Editor; Mary McWilliams, Washington News Editor; Sue B. Mielke, Pastoral Issues Editor; Leann M. Fourman, Typist; Scott Noon and Bill Weider, Business managers; Bill Deist, Contributor in this issue. Articles (including Letters to the Editor and Classifies Ads) may be submitted to A. Rinderknecht no later than the last friday of each month and must include your name. Staff deadline for columns is the first friday of each month. TABLE TALK will be circulated on the second friday of each month.

*f~f~f~finis est, amici!*