



the SEMINARIAN

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SENIOR BANQUET SPEAKER ANNOUNCED

Dr. Gustave W. Weber, President of Susquehanna University, has been announced as the speaker at the annual senior dinner-dance being held on May 4, 1962.

A native Austrian, Dr. Weber received his early education in the public schools of Allentown, Pa. and graduated from Allentown High School in 1924. He earned the B.A. from Wagner College, the B.D. and S.T.M. from this seminary, and the Th.D. from Episcopal Divinity School, Philadelphia. While doing graduate work he was a Benjamin Stadtler Fellow, teaching Greek and German at Mt. Airy.

His first parish was St. James Lutheran Church, Pottstown, Pa. He was Director of Religious Studies at the Hill School in Pottstown from 1947 to 1950, and then became an industrial chaplain. In 1955 he accepted a call to Glenwood Lutheran Church in Toledo, Ohio from which he was called by Susquehanna in 1959.

DATES OF IMPORTANCE

April 29 - May 4 : Karl Barth lectures at Princeton Seminary. See April 20, 1962 issue of Time for feature article on Barth.

May 4 : Senior Dinner - Dance (the highlight of Mt. Airy's social year!)

May 5:: Ladies Day at Mt. Airy -- all day. 700 members of the Women's Auxiliary will be welcomed to our campus.

May 7 : Pic-a-nic sponsored by the Wives Club for all seminarians and their families.

Continuing through the week: Volley Ball Tourney. Results thus far have the Juniors over the Seniors, giving the former an excellent chance to win this year's Mt. Airy classic.

May 14-17 Spring Festival of Creative Writing.

MT. AIRY-CORNELL SEMINAR REPORT

Nine students and two faculty members participated in a seminar with five members of the Cornell faculty and the Pastor and Assistant Pastor of the Lutheran Association Lutheran Church held at Cornell on April 12-14, 1962. This seminar was the second of a series planned by Pastor John Vannorsdall to whom is due great credit for its success. All of the Cornell men participating were biologists or physical scientists and also members of the Church, which is, incidentally, a congregation comprised of University and townspeople. Each scientist presented the current understanding of some phase of his discipline and pointed out the challenge that this understanding presents to the Christian faith. It was obvious that these men had devoted a great deal of time and thought to their presentations. These challenges were then discussed by the group.

It is not possible to report here on all of the issues raised but six of them may be briefly mentioned:

1. There is no discontinuity between man and other forms of life nor between living and inanimate matter. A difference between man and animals does exist at this moment but this difference is not qualitative since all manner of intermediate gradations are visible as one looks backward in time. The statement applies as well to the realm of thought and to emotion as well as to physical characteristics of form and function. The statements that "God created man" or "me" are thus challenged.

2. Physicists are willing to accept the statement that the world always was as something given and not requiring an explanation. The steady-state theory of the universe makes this postulation. The statement that God created the universe thus has little meaning for the physicist.

3. The prospect is that the emotion of a God relationship like other emotions will be completely explicable in physiological (continued on page three, left side)

Sebastian Seminar Reports... The Challenge of the Scientist

The following was written by John Irwin, Teaching Assistant in Nuclear Physics at Cornell University and presented to the Mt. Airy-Cornell Seminar on "Christian Faith and the Natural Sciences" and serves to indicate some of the issues confronting Christianity and the Church in a very real way.

THE CHRISTIAN FAITH CHALLENGED-- A SOURCE OF CREATIVITY

Words from the faithful

1. God exists, is not observable, but does interact with the world.
2. God created.
3. Man is unique in the creation.
4. God is concerned about me.
5. I am a person, an "I". I will.
6. I encounter, i.e., have experience and revelation.
7. I am supported by community; the worshipping community is an essential feature of Christianity and a source of strength to the Christian.
8. My God is the God of Isaac and Jacob, a God that has acted in history.
9. The people of Israel, Christian response to God, indicative of God-man relationship.
10. "I am the way...." The Christian religion is the one authentic religion.
11. God answers prayer.
12. I believe in the resurrection of the body.
13. A Christian is called to be... It is the will of God that.... We confess the following doctrine.....
14. I am a fool (Paul, I Cor.).

Words from the scientist

1. What does not interact must say does not exist. What interacts but is not observable is very speculative.
2. A popular steady-state theory of cosmology says the universe always was.
3. There is an evolutionary principle.
4. You are a speck in the universe.
5. Your essence may be destroyed and changed by:
 - subliminal techniques
 - brainwashing
 - etc.
6. These concepts are soon to be scrutinized by physico-chemistry. Much of the chemistry of emotion is understood.
7. Mass psychology is involved.
8. Miracle oriented (Virgin birth, wine to water, Red Sea, burning bush) conceptually difficult for the scientist.
9. The people of Israel were unfaithful. The Christian response to God almost observable. No consistency, apparent lack of integrity, little social action (reform Church led), credo varies from man to man, Peter Berger analyzes the "social phenomena."
10. There are many flourishing religions-- anthropological studies analyze their sources. I sometimes wonder.
11. Unobserved. Unverifiable.
12. You choose the grave. I'll provide the shovels (just mean to criticize the imagery).
13. I ask, how do you know? Why are you so sure? The answers are many in variety and all rather cloudy. Unsatisfactory for resolution of such meaningful questions.
14. I believe it.

Footnote on The Pastor's Reading: It was generally agreed by the participating scientific faculty members that Scientific American would be the best means for the pastor to keep abreast of scientific developments. The style of writing and method of presentation are usually clear and educated.

MT. AIRY-CORNELL REPORT (CONTINUED)

and bio-chemical terms alone. The local sites of memory and emotional behavior etc. in the brain are being gradually mapped out. They can be stimulated by electrical impulses or excised so that the capacity for this response has been removed.

4. Because man can control his environment he can control his own evolution. Many phases of natural selection which formerly resulted in the removal of large segments of the population no longer operate, as, for example, because of the effect of modern medicine. Man is also capable of using his knowledge of Genetics to select individuals of superior quality for reproductive purposes. Is there a moral responsibility to the development of man as a species? Should malaria be eliminated in India so that more people might starve to death? Should society use all of its knowledge to deliberately breed a race better calculated to survive? If so, who makes the decisions?

5. Within two or three long generations each person will have only three square feet of living space unless the population explosion is controlled. Man has the capability for control in various ways. Should, or must, this control be exercised?

6. The Biblical witness to miracles presents serious difficulties to the scientist. This is true of the Resurrection as well as of the others. Miracle was understood in this context as a reported event in abrogation of natural law. There appeared to be some diversity of opinion among them regarding the nature and extent of the difficulty, but none on the fact that they present a difficulty.

They also commented on certain practices from the pulpit which, in their opinion, repel or irritate scientists.

1. Quasi-scientific statements which show that the preacher knows nothing at all about what he is saying.
 2. The use of images without any intimation of their significance. Also the interpretation of imagery as actual fact.
 3. Theological reasoning which hangs on hermeneutical threads.
- (continued, upper right)

We wish to emphasize that there are no easy answers to these challenges. The men who hold these positions are razor-sharp and have an impressive array of evidence to support their positions. They demand that one who chooses to disagree know whereof he speaks. The intensity of the conflict among those scientists who have received the gift of faith is best expressed by #14 on the list of contrasts on page two of this issue. By this its author means to say to us: Since I am a Christian I am also a fool because I thereby maintain propositions that my scientific knowledge can not verify.

The patience and understanding of these men is worthy of special comment. If we were attempting to understand unfamiliar ideas expressed in a strange language, so were they. A real feeling of fellowship developed among us.

It was pointed out to us that our congregations contain many people whose thinking is strongly oriented in favor of the challenging positions and that their number will increase very rapidly as time goes on. We ignore the challenges and the problems at the peril of betraying the task of witness entrusted to us.

Finally it is our belief that every member of the Seminary community should be exposed to a dialogue of this nature. Although the problems are many we recommend to the Student Body and to the Faculty that every effort be made to make this possible. The faculty participants at Cornell have indicated their willingness to come to this campus.

The Mt. Airy Delegation

THE SEMINARIAN is published weekly during the academic year by the Student Body of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, 7301 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia 19, Pa. Editor: R.J. Zimmerman; Associate Editor: J.R. Kohrli; Staff Writers: C. Crumpton, L. Miller, B. Thorpe, G. Weckman. Idiots editing this issue in the absence of the Editor: W. Hamlin, L. Miller.

BULLETIN: FLASH: ETC. ELECTION RESULTS

Class of 1963: Pres., C. Herbert; V.P., A. Stott; Sec-Treas., P. Olsen; Soc., H. Maertens; Ath., J. Hager.

Class of 1964: Pres., W. Hamlin; V.P., C. Landis; Sec., R. Schlotter; Soc., P. Shumacher; Ath., A. Hahn.

From our News Service-- PRT

Choir Recordings

-- Two books, Prayer by Olive Wyon and The Beginning and End of the World by Dr. Heineken, are the best sellers among the books of the Fortess Series.

-- For 44 years America's largest Lutheran Church body, the United Lutheran Church in America yielded its front-ranking position in American Lutheranism to the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Comparable figures: ULCA 1961 baptised membership 2,495,763-- a net incrise of 754 or .03 percent over 1960. Small gain has been attributed to "a remedial and constructive effort to cleanse the membership rolls in preparation for the coming merger of four Lutheran churches."

Missouri Synod- 1961 baptised membership 2,544,544-- an increase of 75,508 over 1960.

-- The Rev. Victor C. Rickman, pastor of St. Philip's Lutheran Church, Chicago, writing in the new public relations manual, Telling the Good News, offers this public relations advice to ministers:

"Pray every night and shave every morning.

"Keep your conscience clean, also your linen.

"Let your light shine and shine your shoes.

"Press your advantages, your opportunities and your trousers.

"Brush the cobwebs from your brain and the gandruff from your collar.

"Be filled with the Spirit, but not with spirits.

"A delinquent debt in a parish is like an extra egg in an omelet.

"Be poor in spirit but not in vocabulary.

"You can't put fire in your sermons unless there is fire in your heart.

"Call in the homes of men if you would have men call in the house of God.

"Never allow temporal trivialities to displace eternal verities.

"The approval of God is more to be desired than the patronage of a rich member.

"Always be content with what you have but never with what you are."

Two Choir recordings are now available for purchase. The newest of these, released last week, was recorded in the Spring of 1961 and features the program of the Spring 1961 Tour. This is the Choir which highlighted the 1960 ULCA Convention in Atlantic City. The other recording features the 1959 Tour of the Seminary Choir. Of particular interest among the contents is the 13th. century liturgical play, Officium Pastorum, from the famed Cathedral at Rouen, as performed in the Seminary Chapel.

These records are high fidelity, monaural, 33 1/3 rpm. LP's. They sell for \$3.00 each. A program is included with each recording describing the selections and contains the names of the Choir members.

A third record featuring performances on the organ and harpsichord by George Weckman is also available. The supply is limited.

Records can be purchased at the Book Store (it is suggested that those interested check the contents of each recording at the Book Store display) or from Tom Reinsel, George Niedermayer, George Weckman, or Jules Auger. Records obtained from this latter group must be paid for in cash.

Jules Auger

Remaining Choir Concerts

The Spring Tour ends in Philadelphia with two concerts. On Thursday, May 3 at 8:00 PM, a concert will be given in the Chapel. The last concert will be performed at the Germantown Home on Monday, May 7 at 8:00 PM. If you have not as yet heard the Choir on their Tour, this will be your last chance to do so.

Special Tribute

After three years of service to the Seminary community in the Refectory Fred Pillmeir bows out today. Fred served this year as head-waiter. We are grateful for the services he rendered.