

LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
KRAUTH MEMORIAL LIBRARY
PHILADELPHIA, PENNA.

the

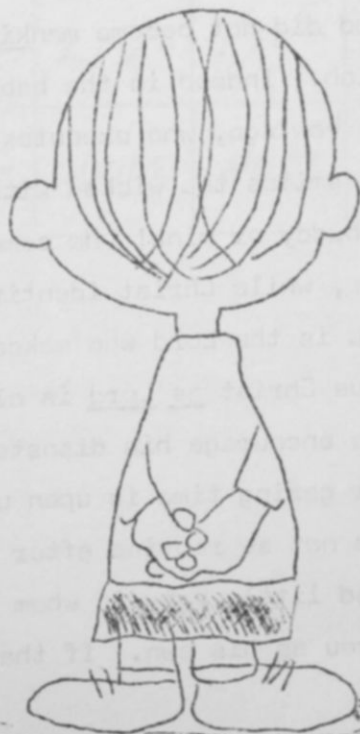
seminarian

Published by the students of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia

Vol. 31, No. 11

Dec. 17, 1969

Peace on Earth
Goodwill to all



MANGER - GAZING:

Two weeks ago a lonely and confused man, shoeless and shirtless, stood atop one of the huge stone eagles over the Schuylkill River by the 30th Street Station. Life was obviously one big disappointment to him, for as he contemplated ending it all in the icy water below, he cried again and again, "Nobody loves me. Nobody loves me." His feelings seemed to have been confirmed when the usual crowd who gathered to see some excitement yelled to him, "Jump! Jump!" Finally, after several hours a priest with outstretched hand convinced the man to climb down from his perch and to allow someone to help him. As the priest led the man into an ambulance, the disappointed crowd boomed! To them the whole scene was a cop-out! The poor lonely man meant nothing to them but some possible excitement to liven up an otherwise dull day. His creatureliness had no significance; he was virtually nothing.

With the Advent season rapidly coming to its routine close, we Christians look toward the coming of God in human form--as a baby in a manger. Now that immediately says something about a man's creatureliness: God became man, and thus the importance of creatureliness becomes obvious. God, the Holy One, got so down to earth that humanness was given a dignity it could not have known before. The God who promised blessings to the patriarchs and who worked in history to fulfill his plan came to identify himself with lonely and confused men, with the down-trodden, the oppressed, and the poor. The manger is God's answer to those who stand on the precipice of despair and to those who yell "Jump! Jump!"

But the message of Christmas goes beyond this audio-visual demonstration of the dignity of man. For while God in Christ identified himself with the despaired and the poor, he did not become identical to that or any other class of society. Or to put it another way, God did not become mankind; he became a man whom we call Jesus the Christ, i.e., the Messiah. Indeed in the baby of the manger you and I encounter the One who reigns over the New Age, who executes justice and righteousness, who is triumphant and victorious, who smites the wicked with his Word! The Christ of the manger scene comes not to be your buddy or mine! He comes to be our Lord, the King of the New Time in which we live. And so, while Christ identifies himself with such creatures as you and me, at the same time he is the Lord who makes his claim on us, who rules over us, who saves and who judges. Thus Christ as Lord is also God's answer to the one on the verge of suicide and to those who encourage his disaster.

Manger gazing time is upon us once more. But there's always the possibility that all this is not so routine after all. And so I offer fair warning: Be Careful! That sweet haloed little baby to whom you draw near with starry eyes may reach out as Lord and claim you as his own. If that should happen, your life may never be the same.

Foster R. McCurley, Jr.

K NIGHT'S MOVE

- Eliud Rodriguez

Write down the syllable marked "START". Cross (X) that square: use squares only once. By making successive knight's moves spell out a famous quotation from the 64-syllables or words.

"Rots o' Ruck!!"

START
↓

RY	THE	FOR	NOUR-	SCEN-	MAN	FOR	IS
AND	ISHED	E-	CURVE	FLOW-	LOOK-	ED	IS
LONG	A-	ROAD	AN-	LY	I-	HOPE	ING
BY	REC-	THE	ERS	CHOICE	OR	AC-	PAT-
ROUND	A-	OF	TIONS	TIC-	AL-	MERE	ROADS.
DI-	HOPE,	FOR	IS	TA-	IS	FAITH	TU-
ITS	IT	IS	LOOK-	TION.	LIV-	PEC-	NO
HOPE	ING	FRUI-	TION,	EX-	WHILE	HOPE	ING

ANSWER TO LAST WEEK'S Knight's Move:

Rude by day and lewd by night;
 Bedwarfed the man, o'er grown the brute,
 Ruled by boss and prostitute;
 Purple-robed and pauper-clad,
 Raving, rotting, money-mad;
 A squirming herd in mammon's mesh,
 A wilderness of human flesh;
 Crazed with avarice, lust and run,

-4-

AYE PILGRIM

JETSAM

In the October tides

brooding beneath an urgent moon

Ominous - gravid with winter's storms

Jade green, perfused with foam

turning

swirling

like some predawn beast,

The swelling surge may seize a boat,

frail human cockleshell and hurl -

all shattered on the bearded rocks -

cargo and craft....and hope

And in the tides of blood

secret beneath the hopeful flesh

Ominous - gravid with memories and desires

Wine red, perfused with longings and with fears

sea salt

ancient

as its own predawn

Some swelling surge may seize a heart

frail human cockleshell and hurl -

all shattered on the reefs of now -

cargo and craft....and hope

Bill Berglund

BOOK SALE ↗

Dave Howell is selling his library. The book list will be with
Bruce (Bay-be) Arma, so if you need a book and want to help a guy out -
see Bruce.

John Schlotterle.

EDITORIAL:

It seems people look for things that just aren't there. Mr. Garver was asked about "the derogatory comment" in the last issue of Sitz Im Leben. Well, for one: it was neither derogatory nor was it a comment. It was meant in jest and it was a quote. People are ready to misunderstand anything, and everything just for conversation and excitement (which just isn't there!)

So, the staff of the Seminarian apologies to Mr. Garver for having others inconvenience him and his family for which there was no just cause.

AROUND CAMPI...

(CONTINUED)

Christmas joy was celebrated early by some joyful juniors and we all shared in their joy at 2 a.m.!!...

Accolades are due to Dave Newhart, and all the actors & actresses for their superb performances last week. Anyone who missed these should give themselves a good kick...

Molasses Protweiler has been seen... he's returned from his pilgrimage!!

Thanks to Bill & Betsy M. who threw an open house for the middlers. Thanks also to Dr. Lee for his get-together - what was the name of that stuff you served? - Glück?

Merry Christmas Wishes:

- To Bruce A. - may all your bills be paid.
- To Dean B. - may you find monastic happiness.
- To Steve B. - may your mts. be big ones.
- To Bob H. - a new pair of coke bottles.
- To Dave K. - a bottle of Compoz
- To Steve J. - may his stencils not slip!

Advent Vespers Service begins with a concert on the organ by the talented fin-

gered Dean Bickel at 5:30 p.m. The service will immediately follow. Everyone is urged to attend this service of the spirit of Christmas.

Dave K. & Steve B. wish to thank all for their Bachelor Party (both).

Safe journey homeward to all!! Enjoy your vacation (if you have time between reading and doing papers!). See you next year!...

"Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year to all!"



EDITORIAL

The Mt. Airy Friars did a creditable job on two , one-act plays: The Evening and The Morning, and No Snakes In The Grass, presented last thursday and friday evenings.

The Evening And The Morning, by Norman and sandra Dietz, featured director Dave Newhart, Carol Hold, Carol Beckwith, Hank Beljean, and Luther Johnson. The play, subject to various theological interpretations by those who saw it, was handled admirably by the five actors, who narrated as well as played their respective roles. In addition, the five were required to remain seated during the performance, adding to their task of putting the play across.

No Snakes In This Grass, an updated interracial version of the Adam and Eve story, put a strong message of the need for human harmony across in a humorous vein. Barry Lacey as an ogotistical Adam and Mary Margaret Woods as His black Eve served up author James Magnusson's lines ("we'll send cain and Abel to separate schools") in lively rapid-fire fashion, while william beckwith, cast as God ("numero uno") was superb.

The Library Rotunda was filled for both the Thursday and Friday night performances.

Set and technical direction for the plays was fine. Lighting for the productions was handled by Skip Ericson.

Gary Kull

THE SEMINARIAN is still a student newspaper, which is a publication of the Lutheran Theological Seminary. We appreciate any and all contributions whether they be poetry, prose, nursery rhymes, criticisms, letters, or cartoons. This week's weak are:
Editor: Ray Ursin
Assistants: Steve Jensen and John Schlotter
Santa's little helpers of the week: Dean Bickel, and Dave Roppel.
Articles by: Gary Kull, Foster McCurley, William Berglund, John Morrill, John Schlotteric, Eliud Rodriguez, Ray Ursin.
P.S. Happy Hlidays to Martha, Beth, Kari, Kathryn, Clarence, Beth, David, LeRoy, Becky, Amy, and all the rest of the neighborhood playmates!!! copps, hope no one reads this-- there will be another scandal!!



Merry Christmas Wishes:
To Bruce A. - may all your bills be paid.
To Dean B. - may you find happiness.
To Steve B. - may your mta. be paid.
To Bob H. - a new pair of coke bottles.
To Dave K. - a bottle of Lapski
To Steve J. - may his stomach not aigh!