

THE LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
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# the seminarian

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## FROM THE SCHOLAR'S DESK...

Great Biblical scholars must suffer with the abundance of unintelligible literature which crosses their desks daily. Fellow scholars will understand my dismay at receiving the November 18, 1970 issue of the Seminarian, published by students (?) of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. This publication purports to present meaningful items for human consumption, but in defense of modern scholarship I must rise in protest and ask what is the purpose of this publication? Rather than attempting to answer my inflammatory question, or engaging in popular vituperation, I would rather call attention to the excellent cartoon on the back of the paper and try exegeting said cartoon. I believe it is the only redeeming feature of the issue.

Before digging into the Sitz im leben of this work, I should make some preliminary remarks and evaluations. I did not attend the affair visually recorded there, because I was down at the Schuylkill watching the oil slick go by. So I must rely on the oral traditions as they have come down to us, lacking eyewitnesses, and evaluate the cartoon on this basis.

It should be apparent to everyone that the scene depicted is typical of Seminary life. We know from our own experience that Seminary life is one frantic party after another.

(Excursus I: This meets with the complete sympathy of the faculty. They already know everything already/this redundancy was in the original.-ed.) and besides, if you got all your work done, you could be accused of being a works-righteousness man, or even a Presbyterian.)

We can easily see from the cartoon that all deaconess students are wild or wierd. They can be found sloshed, tangled up in body contact sports, or hanging on the wall.

(Excursus II: This is good to remember when you meet young women in your parish who are interested in the diaconate. Think of the endorsement you can give!)

At least they associate with liturgically correct people.

Another easily visible fact is the deep religious conviction in the senior class. "Beloved in the Lord" is practically canonical, and restores faith in the future of the church.

(Excursus III: This, in counter to the sign in the A\*Hall can, "The only good senior is a dead senior." Is there no decency among the middleers??)

We should add a fourth evaluation. Attempts at community are successful when alcohol is used in abundance. The artist defines community as crawling all over each other, and by his definition, the evening succeeded.

(Excursus IV: If so much success was encountered, we can only query why alcohol was not used before? It seems there is no parallel in the contemporary extant literature, unless one counts the rumored Guy Fawkes blast in North Dorm. But that lacks historical authenticity.)

The discerning eye will notice the sign pointing out the W.C. If the line is indeed five miles long, as indicated, then there must be many unseen persons upstairs. Skeptics (pax Bultmann, Heineken) say they are up there throwing up. However, it should be remembered that the Seminary's motto was "Puke as a group," not "Jesus loves you." Since members of the group are not upstairs, the skeptics are obviously wrong, and the line is merely answering nature's call.

(cont. on page 2)

(cont from front page)

We are now ready to find a Sitz im leben for this work. Although it is difficult to prove, I contend that this cartoon arose in the favored brain of a Seminary student who sought to interpret a mystical experience he encountered. I rely on the oral tradition which states that on that fateful Friday the 13th a group of certain forever anonymous persons set out to find the patron saint of community, but found instead Dionysus, Aphrodite, and Edward K. Perry. My main extant evidence for this statement is the young lady enveloped in the balloon-like cushion, a blatant example of being overwhelmed by opaque prose. (See p.1 of the Nov. 18 issue.) There is no accounting for how this original version was changed in the oral transmission, but then you know how rumors can spread around here.

Aside from this creative piece of relevance, the balance of the issue was devoted to a verbal shoot-out between the above-mentioned Mr. Perry and Editor Koons. Perhaps Mr. Koons would benefit from attending the next mystical experience? [Perhaps the author should be more selective in his oral traditions and check eyewitnesses when available--Mr. Koons was in attendance!!-ed.]

Lyman Gerhardt McCurley  
(Name withheld by request)

The Seminarian this week yields to public opinion. It has been stated in the above letter, that the cartoon was the only redeeming feature in the Seminarian of November 18, 1970. Since nothing different has come in this week that would fit the category of "meaningful items for human consumption" (at least since nothing before has fit this category), we present for your entertainment Mr. Henderson's artwork, and of course, the article concerning the party. I hope that the author will allow me this excursus of editorializing. I will forgo any further vituperations with Dr. Perry. Any further dialog with him will be carried on personally. Sorry you have been bored!! It is also my hope that Mr. Woods will forgive me for not upsetting LGM with the "unredeeming feature" of the announcement of the Arts and Crafts show which will be held November 30 thru December 14. (Sorry Mel, it just wasn't redeeming enough.) I do, however, invite the author to make concrete suggestions as to what this paper put out by students (yes STUDENTS) should be--if you will check the policy from issue #1, you will see my goals. However, my staff cannot and will not write everything. So unless contributions pick up the oft asked question shall be answered--Will there be an issue of the Seminarian every Wednesday?

Editorial Staff.

Please indulge this important BULLETIN:

I regret to report that the free phone has been removed from "F" hall, due to excessive violations of the restrictions which governed its use. This action was taken in compliance with the feelings expressed by the student body in its meeting in Sept. It is hoped that the student body will, in its Jan. meeting, take the appropriate action to restore such telephone service.

Jim Hulihan

P.S. Results of the letter-head contest will be announced next week. -ed.

"I'm STILL the head waiter, and YOU SAY GRACE!" (Besides, Thanksgiving's rolled around again.)\*

\*Standing in for Bill's finger is the flying fickle finger of fate which he was awarded last Friday. He would point himself if he could keep from falling on his posterior.

Henderson

