



Why is this man smiling? See the cross country story on page six.

President Sorensen Clarifies 'Essential Character' Concept

by Jim Gaither

Though the American press has had the freedom to print news uncensored, they have often been guilty, not of printing too much, but in fact omitting too much. The American people have rarely known the entire truth behind a major event. Newspapers have often printed only those things which would sway public opinion the way the editor or the financial backers of the paper wanted opinion slanted.

The *Observer* has been guilty of this same sin. We have printed only student's opinions concerning the Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities. In an attempt to rectify this, we decided to interview President Sorensen concerning his views and reasons for vetoing points 5, 8, 11, 14, and 15.

Following is the *Observer* interview:

Obs: When you came to Augustana in 1962, you said, "It is a high honor to become associated with Augustana College and the Augustana tradition." You men-

tioned that Augustana had a fine teaching staff. Did your idea or concept of the "Augustana tradition" at that time include anything else besides the excellent teaching staff, for instance some kind of moral code or the general structure of our academic requirements?

Sorensen: In responding to that question I believe I would note that I was not thinking of a particular moral code as such. Instead, I saw a tradition of a particular kind represented in a life style, so to speak, of the persons on this campus. This tradition, this life style, I suppose, reflects the value judgments of many people, certainly the persons who were present on the campus. And I think the life style reflects the perceived purposes of the institution as well. So that, in the honor of being associated with the college, I saw a composite picture of quality of faculty and student body, high quality. With respect to the general academic requirements, I think I did not have in

mind any particular requirements because even at that time I would certainly not have been familiar with them in detail. However, when I came to the college I understood that at Augustana the academic enterprise was taken seriously in teaching and in learning. I believe it still is and I applaud that decision.

Obs: When you said life style, did the idea of Christianity in the students' lives come in here?

Sorensen: I was thinking there of life style as being more comprehensive than as a student perceives his own life and lives his own life. His commitment certainly would be an essential element that would have much to do with his particular life style. So that it's a comprehensive totality of which I speak, rather than a particular element.

Obs: Do you feel that the fact that you were the first non-clergyman to be appointed as president had any effect on your attitude of what Augustana should be, or did it make you any more liberal than your predecessors as far as regulations or religious requirements?

Sorensen: In response to the question, regarding my attitude of what Augustana should be and the role of my being a non-clergyman in respect to that attitude in this context then, what does one say? In response I would note that I believe my attitude toward Augustana and its future or its life style is not related to my being a layman. Insofar as one considers a stance which is more or less liberal than one's predecessors, I likewise believe that one's judgment, my own judgment is not directly related to my professional background.

Obs: Has your original concept changed at all in your seven years here?

Sorensen: That's a good question and in response I would say that hopefully one's understand-

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Special Tour Resolves Library's Deep Enigma

by Bill Rettig

Someone once said, "This place is an enigma." (It was either McCracken or Franklin. One of whom has departed, and the other we sometimes wish would go.) Needless to say, I've spent many a sleepless night pondering that now-immortal statement.

Last Thursday on my 102nd sleepless night, as I was itching my foot and thinking, I heard a voice that was so hollow that each word echoed off the next.

Niched into my brain is the groove from that hollow voice.

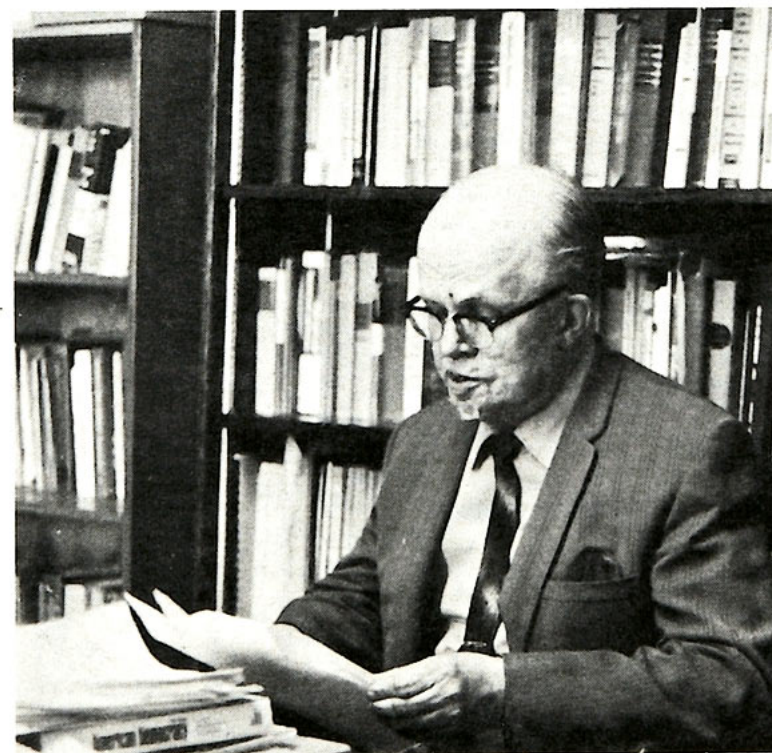
"Search the library, my son." Now I know well enough that when grace strikes, one just accepts it and asks no questions. So, the next day I was off to search the library.

Mrs. Espelie

I was just browsing in the special collection room of the library, when a very friendly lady came out of an office, introduced herself as Mrs. Espelie, and asked if she could help me. This isn't the kind of treatment I have come to expect from Augustana so I was pleasantly shocked into silence for a second. When I regained my composure, I told her who I was (from then on she called me Bill) and that I was writing a story for the *Observer* and that I just wanted to look around.

That's all I needed to say. She took me on a complete guided tour of the rooms, explaining each part in such an animated manner that I forgot all the trivial questions in my notebook and just enjoyed her liveliness.

So instead of giving you the answers to how many books are stolen each year and how much we had to pay for last year's library eards, I'll just let you enjoy my tour vicariously.



Dr. Stanley Erikson, political science professor, spent last semester in South Africa studying the racial situation.

industrialized communities so that eventually the flow of blacks to white areas will be reversed.

Dr. Erikson explained that these homelands would be self-governing states and that only blacks would have rights there.

Only one of these black states, Transkei, has been created but has met with small success. **Dr. Erikson** spent a week in the state which is the homeland of the country South Africa's largest tribe, the Xhosa tribe. According to **Dr. Erikson**, Transkei is still far from being a reliable community. "The majority of its inhabitants still live in a very primitive fashion. If this is to succeed, the South African government will have to do much more," he said.

Doubts Success

"Although I don't like the policy, probably the best solution to South Africa's problem is if they really can create these states,"

Dr. Erikson continued. "But white South Africa would have to pay a large part to make the policy succeed. I don't think they would do it."

Before journeying to South Africa, **Dr. Erikson** visited the Virgin Islands since his brother lives there and because it offers an interesting comparison to South Africa, racially speaking. The two places are alike yet different. The majority of people in the Virgin Islands are black and can be found in all walks of life. South Africa too has a black majority, but the whites hold all the power.

"I think that on the whole the multiracial society works out well in the Virgin Islands," **Dr. Erikson** commented. Comparing the racial turbulence of South Africa to America's racial crisis, **Erikson** said that South Africa's situation is much more complex and requires different solutions.

Children's Books Best

There were so many fascinating books; I'm not sure where to begin. The books I liked best were the many fantastically illustrated children's books. There were children's alphabet books, original Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale books, old English fairy tale books, and almanacs beautifully illustrated and full of fascinating facts.

See witch trees grab little boys, giants with pigs tied to their belts and cows on their backs, and men with long beaks, and what else can I say? For one time a picture really is worth a thousand words.

Did you know that the library has 16 first editions by John Milton? We have both *Paradise Lost* and *Paradise Regained*. Along with these are many first editions of Scott, Dickens, and Thackeray, as well as many 19th century American first editions. Included in this set are 100 different first editions of Izaak Walton's *The Complete Anglar*.

All About Rock Island

Nearly every book published about Black Hawk and about the colonization of this area is in the library also. These books have enabled Augustana to offer a graduate course in the history of the Upper Mississippi Valley Region.

In the Swedish-American collection every major work done by Swedish immigrants or about them is available. This collection is one of the most complete sets on this topic in the United States of America.

Also, King Charles XV of Sweden donated a collection of books. Oddly enough, the heaviest concentration of these books is on the French Revolution.

Augustana Artifacts

Every archive of the history of Augie is there also. Everything from the "Rules and Regulations for the Information and Guidance of Students" published in 1897 to all the information concerning the current Bill of Rights; from a picture of Old Main showing the mud street where Seventh Avenue is now to current photographs; from the earliest publication to last week's copy of the *Obs*.

"Amid the flare of a hundred torches, several hundred of the student body paraded the streets of Rock Island . . . in a downpour of rain, giving vent to their feelings." No, this isn't a description of the Moratorium's March of Death. It's a quote from the February 1909 issue of the *Observer*, describing a "Hooray-we-have-our-library parade."

Here is more of that story from the *Augustana Observer*, a monthly magazine, February 1909.

A New Library!

"A one hundred thousand dollar library for Augustana! It seems hard to believe, but it is nevertheless true . . . In short, Augustana is to have a library as splendid as that possessed by any college of its class in the state of Illinois.

"A library! Who can grasp fully the deep consequence which it will have in the development of Augustana, and the far-reaching influence which it will exert in promulgating the great principles for which Augustana stands!" (Not I.)

Three Cheers and a Tiger!

Dr. Andreen, president of Augustana in 1909, made the announcement of the \$100,000 Denkmann Memorial grant at a chapel service. Here is the *Observer* account:

"Staid, old, Augustana chapel perhaps never heard a more joyful announcement, and the scene that followed was one of those rare spontaneous outbursts of en-

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Erikson Comments On African Race Situation

by Kathleen Welch

"As an American with a built-in preference for a policy of gradual multi-racialism, it was, for me, quite an experience to visit a land which practices a racial policy regarded as wrong by the vast majority of Americans."

This is just one of the reflections of **Dr. Stanley Erikson** about South Africa in a letter to be published in the magazine *The New Nation*.

Chairman of Augustana's division of social sciences, **Dr. Erikson** spent most of the second semester of the 1968-69 academic year in South Africa on sabbatical leave.

While studying South African politics, **Dr. Erikson** had the unique opportunity to interview members of the parliament, social scientists at virtually all of the country's universities and political leaders.

Commenting on the overall picture of the volatile African country **Dr. Erikson** said, "When anyone goes to South Africa he is bound to find out about the racial problems because they are more acute there than anywhere else in the world."

Varied Population

According to **Dr. Erikson**, the tense racial situation is due in part to the complexity of the racial structure which consists of twelve million black natives that the South Africans call the Bantu, almost two million colored people (those of mixed blood), 700,000 In-

dians and three and a half million whites, most of whom are of Dutch descent.

The whites have continually held control of the country. The Nationalist party came to power in 1948 and the policy of this dominant party has been one of segregation between Europeans and non-Europeans. Supporters of this practice say that segregation is the only way in which they can prevent the blacks from taking over. Public support for segregation was brought about by the large flow of Bantu from their native homelands to the cities during World War II. The whites were fearful of being overwhelmed.

Apartheid

The concept of separate development, or apartheid, is being widely discussed as a possible solution to some of the country's racial ills. Part of this concept is the theory that the government will develop the native homelands (now similar to American Indian reservations) to become valuable