

Table Talk

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

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WASHINGTON TRIP

On January 31-Feb. 2 a number of first year students and several upperclassmen attended an introductory session to the Washington program at Washington. Among those attending were Russ Burr, Randy Barr, Carolyn Stumpf, Joe Donovan, Randy Neubauer, Dwayne Michael, Karl Myers, Brad Wallace, Al and Mrs. Wenrick, Sue Frey, Les Stephenson, and Steve Dorsett.

The students were housed at the seminary of the Paulist Fathers and were given the opportunity to attend various classes and projects which are available to them if they participate in the program.

On Sunday night, some of the Washington students and their wives, including Frank and Mrs. Barth, Roger Barnes and his wife, Lance Braun, John Keating, and Dr. Folkemer, presented a discussion session concerning the program. Information concerning costs, housing, job availability, etc., were given, and the evening was rounded out with a unique movie on the ministry produced by Al Shands.

The remaining time was spent touring Washington, shopping, attending classes, discussions with some of the Paulist students, or visiting special projects in which the Washington students had engaged.

The time was a very interesting and educational experience, and we would like to thank both the Washington students for their taking time to answer our questions and the Paulists for their hospitality.

Steve Dorsett

LENTEN SERVICES

The beginning of Lent will be marked this week by two special services.

Shrove Tuesday evening there will be held in the Chapel at 9:00 p.m. a service of confession. Led by Dr. Jordahl, those in attendance will follow the order for confession and will individually receive the pronouncement of absolution from the presiding minister.

Then Wednesday evening at 7:30 the annual Ash Wednesday Eucharist will be held with Dr. Jordahl presiding and Dr. Gobbel preaching.

KETHOVIM

The second quarter issue of the literary journal, Kethovim, will be published during finals week. All members of the community are invited to contribute to the journal, the deadline for articles being Thursday March 4.

ROUNDBALL

The seminary basketball team has so far racked up a 2-4 record. This however is no indication of the strength of the team which is finally beginning to get it together. Take an hour off and come out and see your team play in the tight town competition.

Thurs., March 4, 7:00 p.m.
Mon., March 8, 7:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL PRESS CONFERENCE

Last Thursday, February 18, President Heiges held a news conference in the chapel for the seminary community. This conference was called in order to relate to the seminary community the proposals and decisions adopted by the recent Board meeting. The Board meeting discussed essentially four subject areas: The Lutheran House of Studies, the Future of the Seminary, the Organization of an Office of Development, and a possible adjustment in curriculum.

Concerning the Lutheran House of Studies, the faculty made three proposals to the Board namely: 1) "that the Board of Directors approve the continuation of the Lutheran House of Studies for the academic year 1971-72; 2) that the Board approve the incorporation of the Lutheran House of Studies program into the regular budget of the Seminary for 1971-72; and 3) that the Board approve extending an invitation to other seminaries of the LCA and seminaries of the other Lutheran bodies to participate through students, faculties, and support in the Lutheran House of Studies in Washington." All of these proposals were passed by the Board.

The next subject, the Future of the Seminary, is a pressing problem confronting all seminaries not excluding Gettysburg. Because of the significance of this topic, the Board was divided into three groups which met in three different areas last summer (Baltimore, Harrisburg, and Pittsburgh). The conclusion reached during these meetings were: 1) the support of the Brauer Proposal; and 2) the attitude that the seminary should become a first rate professional school. The Brauer Proposal was written by Dr. G. Brauer in hopes of finding an acceptable forming unification of Philadelphia Seminary and Gettysburg Seminary.

During the middle of December 1970, we were surveyed by a group of men for the purpose of gaining accreditation from the Middle States Association. The primary purpose of this accreditation was to function effectively in the Washington Consortium. This survey of our seminary displayed many good to excellent features and a few weaknesses. One weakness was the fact that if the seminary does not develop sources of income other than presently existing sources, then the future will not be very promising. The Board immediately responded to this critical condition by proposing that an Office of Development be organized. This office will enhance our financial situation primarily by public relations and fund raising programs.

The curriculum committee at this present time seems to be directed at adopting the proposed four-one-four term system. To enlighten those in dissonance on this decision, it may be interesting to know that the Board of the Washington Consortium has already approved the four-one-four term system.

According to Dr. Heiges this new system has unlimited possibilities. However, one benefit seems to be very outstanding. The benefit relates to the "J-term" or the one term which will be instituted in January. This month may be taken anywhere, but one must obtain the consent of any qualified advisor for his project or program. These experimental projects or programs, which will not be graded, will probably be quite different than anything offered during the regular terms, a fact which gives the program unlimited potential. Not only Gettysburg students, but also wives, pastors, and other seminary students are invited to participate.

Harry Wolpert

LINGUISTIC PROBLEMS

It has often been said that a little knowledge can be a dangerous thing. This phenomenon may be nowhere more evident than on the campus of a theological seminary.

A minimal working knowledge of Greek is, as we all know, required (although that sacred cow may now be in its death throes); Hebrew, unfortunately, has long since fallen to popular fright; and Latin hasn't been "in" since 1517. However, it seems the more violently we react against such subjects the more interested we are in picking up and using certain phrases that make us appear to know about what we know nothing. There have recently been brought to my attention a few Greek and Latin phrases that have been and are being misused. Perhaps a brief remedial language course would be beneficial.

For example, the word "to dikaiomi" does not exist. And no one seems to have ever heard of a noun with a verb ending. "dikaiosunei" may mean justice, but "dikaiomi"?

As for the greeting shared by the liturgically aware, "Dominus (or Pax) vobiscum" is most certainly correct. However "vobiscum" is plural. Proper for a singular greeting is "tecum." In the same vein, "Domino" as in "Pax Domino" is in the dative case--The Peace to God? As if he needed it, or we could give it to him. It seems "Pax Domini", the Peace of God, is more desirable.

And there is still a raging controversy over the proper use of "maranatha". Is it a salutation, or is it strictly a liturgical expression. There doesn't seem to be an agreement.

There are others, of course, but these are perhaps the most common. For those who find such exercises in lack of knowledge disturbing, the following prayer has been suggested: "Libera me Domine de ignorantia aeterna ." He who has ears, let him hear.

en

EXEGETICAL PROOF

All of us here being accomplished exegetes know the value of proof texting. Nothing supports an argument like a list of proof texts, and the well trained scholar is the one who can dig out proof texts for anything he wants to support.

For example, we all know that modern sports had their origins in Old Testament times. Baseball, in fact, began in the Garden of Eden--"In the big inning." And our first records of tennis come from the book of I Samuel where it is written that "David served in the king's court." Basketball was very common throughout the Bible as there is a substantial list of famous "Basket makers." And Cyrus may go down in golf history for his "long drive into Babylon."

But due to the recent exegetical work of a senior who wishes to remain buried in the anonymity of his dusty manuscripts, a proof text has been found to support that dreaded activity condemned not only by the surgeon general but also by a "substantial minority" here at Gettysburg--Smoking. Consider if you will the Old Testament passage that reads "and Sarah came in from the desert and lit off a camel." Of course it can also be pointed out that Gideon had his men put their "Touiches into jars."

The value of this exegesis is, as the value of all exegeses, subject to debate. But it can not be denied that the proof texts are there.

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PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Table Talk and Kethovim will both appear on Tuesday March 9. The deadline for articles for inclusion in either publication is Thursday March 4.

PING PONG TOURNEY

The 1971 Ping Pong Tournament has moved into the third round of play. To date, the standings are as follows:

Bomgren defeated Matthews and Keeler defeated Frank. Benson beat Foy and Gilroy has yet to meet Hoffman. In the double elimination tournament, Keeler then defeated Bomgren to win a spot in the finals. His opponent has not yet been decided. The winner of the Hoffman-Gilroy match will play Benson, with the winner going against Frank for a berth in the finals.

In the doubles tournament, Frank-Bomgren beat Barley-Keeler and Scholl-Springer downed Matthews-Benson in a tight battle. Barley-Keeler then defeated Springer-Scholl and will go against Frank-Bomgren in the finals.

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