

Table Talk

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

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FESTIVAL CELEBRATION

Wednesday evening May 19 will be the time of the Seminary's celebration of the Festival of the Ascension. Beginning at 7:30 in the Chapel, Dr. Jordahl and an as yet unannounced preacher will lead the community in a festival liturgy.

SEMINARY WEEK

Seminary week attendance among the student body as usual left a good deal to be desired. But for those of us who find some importance in such irrelevancies it was an extremely rewarding week. Dr. Bright's discussion of Covenant and his final lecture drawing it all together was well worth twice as many lectures. And Dr. Fletcher's presentation of issues all of us will have to face as pastors was very enlightening. Dr. Holloway presented some interesting insights into the area of politics and education and the church, and Dr. Folkemer was his usual self on the third article of the Augsburg Confession. The Chancel Players production of "The Wild Duck" was exceptionally well done. And all in all it was a plus year for Seminary Week.

CONGRATULATIONS

Table Talk joins the community in congratulating Win and Evelyn Devonshire at the birth of their 7lb. 4 oz. baby girl.

SPRING WEEK END

To all responsible and especially to Bob Hettlinger who headed up the whole thing, many thanks for the May 1 program of activities. Those who missed it, missed a good time and a chance to relax from the academe for a day. We hope there is more of the same in years to come.

THANKS

On behalf of the St. Mary's--Lancaster Ecumenical Day Committee, we should like to express our thanks, and the gratitude of all participants in the day's activities, to Prof. Leigh Jordahl, Mr. Russell Burr, Mr. Walter Startzel, Mr. Lee Hudson, and Mr. Ronald Morris, who led us in public worship. The service was one of the high points of the day, and will long be remembered by those who took part in it.

Prof. Paul J. Achtemeier
Mr. Harry Keppley

FINAL PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

The final issue of Table Talk for the year will appear Tuesday May 25. Anyone who has anything ultimate to say should get it to Ed Neiderhiser by Friday May 21.

The third quarter issue of Kethuvim will appear sometime that same week. Deadline for all literary masterpieces is also Friday May 21.

PASS-FAIL REVISITED

It seems somehow strangely ironic that the issue that was the subject of my first editorial of the year should be the subject of my last. For the push for a change in the grading system to a pass-fail or even an honors-pass-fail system has come to a head. At the faculty meeting last Thursday the APC was instructed to bring in a recommendation as to the grading system to the faculty by their next meeting. Although there seems to be no definite drift at the moment, one way or the other, there will be a decision made by the end of May.

Although some of us would prefer no grading system at all, we must face reality and recognize that man's nature is not one that allows such an arrangement. Some system of evaluation is necessary, and this writer along with many others has mixed feeling regarding a change to pass-fail.

There are many arguments. One must consider incentive factors, grad school factors, comps factors, and many others. And there is a very persuasive argument that says we will never know how a pass-fail system would work unless we try it.

But with all considered, this writer's opinion remains against a pass-fail system. One must remember that the cut off point between pass and fail would be at the present C level or perhaps slightly above. Under the present system one can fumble a course, perhaps get a C- or even a D, yet still pass the course. Under a pass-fail the course would be failed. Naturally the good student and even the average student has nothing to worry about. But the poorer, border line student stands to get burned and burned badly. Take this in light of the Seminary's move now to emphasize its role as one of professional school rather than a graduate school. (And we all know academic excellence does not necessarily mean pastoral competence).

I, for one, feel we must think of the few who stand to be hurt as well as the many to whom it really makes little difference, and ask that the APC and the faculty consider this also.

St. Paul calls us to responsibility with regard to our brothers. Allow me to paraphrase: "If eating meat offends my brother, I will not eat meat; and if a pass-fail system causes my brother to stumble, I will not want a pass-fail system."

Ed Neiderhiser

DATELINE WASHINGTON D.C.

Well once again, our hearts were uplifted over the tremendous outpouring of Christian witness here on April 24, as the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg responded to the message of the gospel and gave testimony to that fact as throngs of seminarians (to be exact, two) demonstrated in the streets of Washington, shoulder to shoulder, hand in hand with those who came in the name of peace.

It gives us great spiritual renewal to know and see that those who are preparing for the ministry and those who preach the "gospel" believe in and act through that same thing they preach about.

A.C.W.

CROP WALK

Table Talk announces that its sponsored walker in the CROP walk against hunger, Joel Springer, walked a total of 11 miles thus earning for the organization \$55.00.

Thanks, Joel.

SEMINARY SPORTS

The spring season is rapidly drawing to a close for numerous sports. The community basketball league has completed its schedule, the seminary edding the season with a record of 5-12. There is still some talk of trying to schedule a post season game with the round ballers from Philadelphia Seminary, but there have been no definate plans as of yet.

The tennis tournaments are nearly completed. In a long, well played match, the doubles team of Frank and Gilroy defeated the team of Scholl and Foy. The singles tournament is not yet decided with Paul Frank and Bill Gilroy scheduled to meet in the finals.

After several hard fought rounds, some close games, some upsets, and some deep thought the chess tournament came to an end with the final standings thus:

Neiderhiser	5
Wolpert	4
Frank	4
Bomgren	4
Scholl	3½
Springer	3
Noble	1½
Eastlack	1

With one eye on the weather, the annual spring softball competition has begun. With three teams in the league, there have been some good games already. As of this writing the standings are:

The Gobblers	2-0
The Juniors	1-1
The Saints	0-1
