

Table Talk

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



Volume X

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Issue 15

TUITION INCREASE?

--Ralph Strohl

The Finance Committee of the Seminary will have its regular meeting on February 5, 1974, to consider various proposals, and, while nothing has been formalized on the matter, there is a strong possibility that tuition will be raised by either \$50 or \$100 as early as September, 1974. In the event that such a proposal occurred, it could be presented before the board of directors for consideration the following day.

This possibility reflects some interesting developments in the various sources of operating funds for the Seminary. It also makes budget planning an ever-increasingly complex and intricate operation. The question of tuition increases is best seen against the backdrop of the 1975 budget estimate, which was developed by the Finance Committee and approved by the board of directors in October, 1973. Negotiations with the three supporting Synods for funds will take place later in February.

As of the end of 1973, the Seminary has no outstanding deficit, according to President Heiges. "However, we do not have a surplus either," he went on to say, "and so we have to anticipate future fiscal problems." As far as 1974 is concerned, information released to this reporter shows a projected \$870,000 in income, and \$869,616 in expenditures.

Both President Heiges and Mr. C. Benson indicated that synodical funding for Gettysburg was very strong (this year the Synods provided \$539,000 of the \$870,000 projected income). For 1975, preliminary figures indicate that Synods will be asked to provide \$565,000 to an over-all projected budget of \$916,300. However, President Heiges noted that the Seminary has been informed by the Synods that it may project only a 3% increase in synodical contributions per year in safety, while a 4--5% increase appears to be necessary in order to maintain the Seminary's current financial position. Thus, income will have to be increased in other quarters.

(Continued on Page 5)

Senior Class Study of Seminary
-- Roy Steward

Eight years ago, a Senior Class undertook an evaluation of the quality of education here at Gettysburg entitled: "Academics at Gettysburg/. Student Appraisal." Since then, there has been no attempt by a Senior class to evaluate the Seminary. With this in mind, the present Senior Class Executive Committee authorized at its last meeting, the appointment of a committee to conduct an in-depth evaluation. This arises out of a conviction that students do have some insight into the validity of aspects of their training. This is particularly true of Seniors who, hopefully, have gained some hindsight from a cumulative four years, as well as insight.

The Senior Class Steering Committee, at its first meeting, consequently, made the following ground rules for the study of the Seminary:

- 1) To include all Seniors in the process of the study, beginning in January, 1974 through May 1, 1974;
- 2) To involve members of the Middler and Junior classes;
- 3) To send copies of the previous Senior Class Study (8 yrs. previous) to all students for information and reflection;
- 4) To begin by establishing sub-committees in 7 areas. Each to submit a specific statement with minority and majority views to the steering committee by March 1, 1974;
- 5) Committee reports minus Committee members names to be mimeographed and circulated to the entire student body for reflection, thought, and written comments and reactions or suggested revisions;

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- 6) Following this, an open campus forum for students only, to enable open discussion on the study to that date;
- 7) A return of document to the sub-committees for the purpose of possible revisions and/or additions;
- 8) Committees to submit final reports to the Steering Committee by May 1, 1974;
- 9) The Steering Committee to write a summary, to be attached to the document, highlighting gaps in training, specific issues, and suggestions for the future.

While this is slated to be primarily a Senior Class project, the committee recognizes that an evaluation of this nature should not be done in isolation from the other classes on campus. Therefore, the various sub-committees will have representatives from the other classes on them and it is hoped that members of all classes will freely contribute written comments, and vocally express themselves on the committee reports after March 1, 1974. The subcommittees will deal with the following areas:

- 1) C.R.L.; 2) Field work - pastoral - Internship; 3) Curriculum - Courses - requirements; 4) Worship - and Community; 5) Options of Study - (4-1-4 system) - Washington Program; 6) Faculty - Attitude - Advisory - Initiative; 7) Student needs beyond the Academic - Special Groups - In-laws - Married - Open - Refectory - Financial Aid - Housing.

Senior members of the Steering Committee on STUDY OF SEMINARY:

- J. Donovan
- F. Faust
- R. Steward
- C. Stumpf
- H. Volpert

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Christian Symbols

It is truly amazing sometimes how we become familiar with certain objects. That is even more amazing is that once we have accustomed ourselves to seeing certain objects or symbols, we very rarely if ever, give thought to what a certain symbol or object might mean, or for that matter, how a particular symbol became the symbol for which it stands. The same could be said about Christian symbols. There are many Christian symbols which are very familiar to all of us, but symbols about which we know very little.

One particular example of this might be of special interest to those students who are taking Greek this month. IHS, or IHC, or IHC is a frequently used monogram for Jesus. The IHS is, in reality, the Greek letters: Iota, eta, and sigma. These Greek letters are the first letters in the name Iesous. Another Greek symbol for Christ is the symbol XP, which is the first two letters in Christos.

The fish was one of the earliest symbols of Christianity. The word for fish in Greek is ichthus, and the letters of this formed an acrostic: Iesous Christos, Theou Uios oteros, which means, "Jesus Christ, son of God, Savior."

The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, Alpha and Omega symbolize the eternal Lord, the beginning and the ending (Rev. 1:8). An anchor symbolizes both the certainty of faith, and hope. A phoenix, a legendary bird believed in ancient times to rise from the ashes of its funeral pyre and to live another five hundred years, is a symbol of the resurrection.

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A pelican, believed in ancient times to feed its young with its own blood pricked from its breast, is symbol of the crucifixion and the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. A scroll is symbolic of God's written word, the Holy Scriptures. Two tablets of stone symbolize the law, the Ten Commandments. A crown is the symbol of majesty, or reward. The cross and crown are symbolic of the victory of triumphant faith.

For those of you who prefer Latin derivatives, there is always the symbol IHS. The symbol is taken from the initial letters of the inscription which Pilate wrote and had placed on the cross (John 19:19)--Iesus Nazarensis Rex Iudaeorum.

Pax Domini

(The above article contained some excerpts from a booklet entitled "The Church at Worship" by Edward T. Horn III, published in 1957 by Fortress Press of Philadelphia).

Found on a graffiti wall at St. John's University in New York:

Jesus said unto them: "Who do you say that I am?"

And they replied: "You are the eschatological manifestation of the ground of our being, the kerygma in which we find the ultimate meaning of our interpersonal relationships."

And Jesus said, "What!?"

4

Seminary Competition
-- Ralph Dunkin

As first semester drew to a close, we all had visions of Christ returning to us. But since the eschaton is still a future event, the wide world of Seminary sports will go on.

Last semester was a very successful one, as far as sports go. I am not sure how everyone's grades were, but the sports program has grown in size. Three new sports were introduced to our campus, and I think that they will remain with us--soccer, Co-ed Volleyball, and Co-ed Ping-pong.

Soccer gained a large following, and I wish to take this space to personally thank Dr. Hoffman for his assistance with the soccer program. His interest helped keep our interest going.

Co-ed volleyball went over fairly well. We ran into the problem of not having complete teams show up. Maybe next year a better night can be chosen.

Co-ed ping-pong was a huge success. We started with 12 teams. At present, the first place team, Beth Spitzner and Paul Schoffstall, have three matches to complete. They have a one game lead over the second place team of Jane Shields and Ralph Dunkin, who also have three matches to play. All of these remaining matches must be completed by the end of the January term, or else the matches will be forfeited. If any two teams tie for first place, there will be a play-off match, consisting of the best of five games. This will decide the winning team, in the event of a first place tie.

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During the January term, the Chess tournament is under way. Watch the student activities board for the results!

Also the Seminary ping-pong tournament has begun. Those participating in this tournament may play their games anytime now. The sooner the opening matches are played, the quicker the tournament will end.

On the student activities board is a sign-up sheet for intramural basketball. This will remain on the bulletin board until Jan. 29. Please sign up before this date. The athletic committee is hoping to begin the basketball schedule the second week in February.

When the basketball tourney has run its course, we intend to hold a double-elimination tennis tournament. This would include singles as well as doubles. We also hope to play some softball, if our fields dry out.

We would also like to have members of the student body approach us, Dale Biesecker or Ralph Dunkin, and give us your thoughts concerning a Seminary Bowling Tournament. If there is enough interest, we will then decide whether or not to form teams or just to have a one-day tourney with a high series Seminary Champion. Please let us know soon!

TABLE TALK STAFF

Managing Ed.: Bob Dealey
Associate Ed.: Ralph Strohl
Marcia Thompson

Next Issue: January 25, 1974

TUITION INCREASE? (Cont'd.)

The only two sources of income that are variable enough in nature to be tapped for further funds, President Heiges noted, were special gifts and student fees. It is clear that in the past fees have been tapped. Fees in 1967 comprised only 6% of the over-all budget. They reached a high of 15% in 1973, and it is now expected that they will be stabilized at 13-14% of the budget through 1976.

The last hike in tuition came in September, 1972, at which time, President Heiges met with the student body in the Chapel, and enunciated a promise that this would be the last raise in fees for at least two years. Thus, a further raise in tuition becomes possible in September, 1974.

President Heiges pointed out that other sources of funds were much more stable out of their very nature than fees and gifts. The endowment in this year's financial brochure is listed at \$1,864,000, a steady income, but rather small. Auxiliary enterprises are rather marginal sources of funds, in addition to which the Seminary cannot rely on board, since the Refectory is a Student Co-operative enterprise. Indeed, the endowment has contributed 12% of the funds over the past three years, and the auxiliary enterprises 9%. It is projected that this will remain the case through 1976.

Clearly, inflation is a major source of financial problems for any education institution. One indication of this at Gettysburg is the fact that faculty and staff have received no raises in salary beyond cost-of-living increases for the past six years, with the cost-of-living increase not meeting the actual rise in the cost-of-living this past year.

Furthermore, a faculty expansion is planned for the Seminary within the next three years. This would entail the possibility of hiring two new assistant professors, in addition to the replacement of Dr. Lloyd Sheneman, which is already budgeted.

President Heiges suggested that the two alternatives regarding tuition increases are: a) to plan a \$50 increase per year; or b) to plan a \$100 increase every other year for some specific period. "I prefer the \$50 increase per year for economic and psychological reasons," President Heiges commented.

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Coming Events and Activities:

- Wednesday, Jan. 23: Special Refectory Meeting/Election of 2 new Board members.
- Friday, Jan. 25: Community Meal/Festival Eucharist Service honoring the Conversion of St. Paul.
- Tuesday, Jan. 29: Memorial Service for Dr. Tappert of Phila., a noted church historian.