

Table Talk

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



Volume X

March 8, 1974

Issue #7

DEVELOPMENTS IN DEVELOPMENT

--Ralph Strohl

The Office of Development at the Seminary became quite a substantial source of income in the 1971-72 fiscal year, when Mel Evans took the post as director of that program. The following year was a record year for gift income, showing a total of \$38,844, followed in 1972-73 with \$46,817. The year before the Office of Development opened, the total for all categories was \$15,251. Under Jim Tipton, the present Director, the goal for 1973-74 has been set at \$45,500, and he hopes that once again the total amount will exceed the goal.

The major elements of the development program are: alumni gifts; the auxiliary; "friends" of the Seminary; and special gifts from congregations. In addition, faculty, staff, students, parents of students, and the Board of Directors are sources of gift income.

The alumni gifts more than doubled in 1971-72 from the year before to \$8,709, and reached a total of \$11,271 the following year. Tipton hopes to maintain this element of giving this year, anticipating between 500 and 600 contributions in this category. This is a fairly substantial sum of money considering the source--pastors and their salaries.

The Auxiliary has always raised funds around a special project or emphasis, be it creation of a women's dorm, remodeling Administration offices, Library climate control, or whatever. Since 1964-65, Auxiliary contributions have gone into the scholarship fund, with an additional input into an effort to furnish the new dorms now taking place. Here, the increase in income has also been quite dramatic, from a figure of \$8,694 in 1970-71 to a figure of \$14,294 the next year. Tipton hopes to see an increase of fifty gifts in this category (to 300) with a resulting income of \$17,500 for the 1973-74 period.

"Friends" of the Seminary are people interested in the well-being of the Seminary who have no special connection with it, other than monetary. The number of givers in this category was a mere 65 in 1971-72, but they contributed \$11,775. The figures for 1972-73 were 101 contributions for \$13,023, and Mr. Tipton projects 120 gifts this year. It is interesting to note that this group of people contribute more money than the alumni each year--presumably, due to larger salaries and ability to contribute.

Mr. Tipton explained that every year a number of special gifts from congregations with Gettysburg-trained pastors contributes to the development program with end-of-the-year gifts. This income is all additional to the totals for each year already mentioned, and has increased from

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\$6,130 two years ago to \$20,289 this past year. Tipton explained that these gifts come from not only the churches within the supporting synods of the Seminary, but from all over the nation.

It is expected this year that the giving from congregations will go primarily into the Student Housing Appeal, rather than the annual fund. Over the period of 1973-76, Pastor Tipton expects to raise one million dollars for the Student Housing Appeal, and at the end of Jan., 1974, he has received over \$300,000 toward this objective.

With this growing program has come a sophistication of fund raising and record-keeping techniques. Categories of givers are more closely defined, and appeals for money are based on what it is felt a particular giver would wish to help. "For instance," explains Tipton, "parents of Seminary students are very receptive to an appeal for the maintenance and expansion of the library." Pastor Tipton also said, "A student at Gettysburg Seminary should remember that while the Seminary charges only \$600 tuition the actual cost of his education is approximately \$4,000 per year. He should be continually thankful to the Church for providing so much of our graduate education."

Asked if any area was of special concern to him, Tipton responded that he was very interested in student response to an appeal from the Seminary. "We all know that a student hasn't much money to give--that's not the point," says Tipton. However, as much as he appreciates class gifts (the 1973 senior class gave \$957 gift), Tipton would rather see individual student contributions. "The point is to establish a relationship with students with this office early in their careers. Their giving priorities ought to be thoughtfully established, and high on that list for a pastor ought to be institutions of theological education, particularly his own. If we establish contact with students while they are here, the results can only be beneficial," he explained.

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NOT FLASHES!!!

-- March 4, 1974 may well mark history for Gettysburg Seminary's Student Government. Six members of this year's Junior Class were nominated for offices by the nominating committee. The following were nominated for President of Student Government: Jerry Cobb; James Jewart; and Fred Weiderhiser. Francine Biondo; Mike Sigler; and Paul Smaligo were nominated for the office of Vice President. Nominations will be fielded from the floor of the Student Government meeting of Mar. 11, 1974. The meeting will begin promptly at 3:00 p.m.

-- Anyone interested in holding the position of Supply-Coordinator for the school year 1974-1975, place your name, with the statement of your desire in Bob Eastlack's mailbox. (Interns that are returning next year, send them to Bob c/o of the Seminary).

The job consists of assigning all the supply pastors for vacant parishes in W. Virginia; Virginia; Maryland; and Pennsylvania. You receive \$300 per term for this responsibility, and the joy of helping seminarians serve our local congregations. Applications must be in before the Student-Faculty Relations Committee meets to choose someone on Monday, April 1st.

--HE IS RISEN!!!!

RELEVANT DISASTER IN FOCONOS

--Marcia Thompson

I have been informed of a tragedy that has affected some close friends of mine and would like to express the frustration I feel with what has happened. At first, I felt this situation totally irrelevant to bringing it out for the Seminary community, but when I threw the subject out and found the apathetic concern and tones of condemnation, I felt the problem very relevant to us.

The situation is like this. On Shawnee-on-the-Delaware, the government has been planning to build a dam for recreational purposes. So, with this in mind, they immediately demanded the sale of property in the area. Up to this date, there remained only a few privately owned houses in the area to be flooded. The remaining houses were abandoned (approx. 21 houses). Also in the area were three Lutheran camps, one of which has been recently abandoned to combine with the other camps.

The abandoned houses were taken over by what were labeled "squatters". They had been there for approx. four years; were growing their own food; and taking the task upon themselves to protect the land from being flooded. From what I've been told, the three L.C.A. camps put up their resistance, only in a milder form, but as we know Caesar still over-rules the church. So there we have it, a few privately owned houses, three Lutheran camps, and a variety of grungy looking squatters, who only Christ would have eaten with.

On Wednesday, February 27th, at 3:00 a.m., the government proceeded to perform its assinine muscle act to prove their might against a band of helpless renegades. Armed with an array of weaponry, they gave the individuals fifteen minutes to get out; some took nothing, some allowed to take whatever their arms could carry. Then, they proceeded to bulldoze down everything in their way, including all private belongings. When one of the squatters asked if he could be allowed to take his newly born baby's crib with him, leaving everything else behind, his request was refused.

The government officials cried that their justification was that the squatters weren't respecting federal property, yet they turn around and disrespect the personal belongings of the individuals concerned. The squatters weren't destroying the property, in fact, they were improving it with their gardens, if anything. Yet, the government considers trespassing legitimate justification for destruction of all property that had been theirs for four years. I wonder what happened to due process of law that they rave so much about. When our country was young, young people were encouraged to squat on abandoned land, and improve it, and if you lived there long enough, it became yours.

Passing all legal arguments aside, even the callousness and carelessness with which this action took place, is enough to nauseate anyone with any kind of humanistic trend let alone Christian spirit.

First of all, fifteen minutes is hardly enough time to move out your belongings, twenty-four hours might have been more human, but then the government is an institution without a soul. Secondly, in the effort to play great emancipator they bulldozed a legally rented house, and all belongings inside with no explanation. Thirdly, a thirteen hour old baby was forced into 15' weather.

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Disaster(cont'd)

The point here is not so much right or wrong; it's the inhuman machine we have running our lives. To cast people out, leaving them with no home or belongings is wrong. And if it's said they deserved it because they shouldn't have been there, we are virtually sentencing ourselves to damnation. If Christ always considered salvation according to whether or not we were law abiding people, I think our homes would have been bulldozed down much sooner. Christ never punished Mary Magdelene because of her past; he planned for her future.

The question we all must answer is, "Is it right to forgive, and should the Church do something?" Do we sit back self-righteously, protected by the pulpit and collar, and continue to help only those who have been wronged when they are in the right? Isn't the gospel for the wrong, too?

The L.C.A. has contacts and clergy serving the Docono area. These homeless people could be given some aid through the church. In the flood, the other year, I know the church opened its doors to those who needed help. This is one way we can show the gospel to these people. Or must we wait till they become law-abiding citizens and presentable to God before we show them mercy?

(Ed.: Marcia would appreciate any comments and/or suggestions).

Now we turn to the Howard Cosell of G-burg, or Ralph Dunkin...

The wide world of sports continues to expand for the Lutheran Theo. Seminary at Gettysburg. A Bowling Tournament is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. at the Gettysburg College Union. The fee, paid by each individual, is fifty cents a line, and fifteen cents rental on bowling shoes. A sign-up sheet is on the student activities bulletin board. Please sign up if you intend to participate. An exact number of bowlers is needed. The Tournament is open to all members of the Lutheran Seminary (wives, lovers, secretaries, faculty, and husbands).

At present, we have two hot tournaments in progress. The basketball race has three teams with only one loss. We play our games at the St. Francis gym, Monday afternoon at 4:15 p.m., and Wednesday afternoon at 4:30 p.m. Come on down, and see a champion emerge from the throngs of the gladiators.

Our other hot tournament is the Seminary Ping-Pong Tournament. This tournament is running about a week late, but hopefully, we will make up for the delays. Several teams as well as individuals are left in the running. Jimmy the Greek refuses to set odds on this tournament, because you never know who is going to have a good day. Shields and Spitzner still have a chance to win it all.

Finally, we have a luke-warm tournament still in progress. The chess tournament is now one month behind schedule. But there is hope in sight that it will end before Easter. Players are encouraged to complete their matches as soon as possible. You never know when the Eschaton will end all earthly sports activities. (Ed.: Ralph, have you ever read the book of "Revelation?").

The following is a pre-paid announcement from Fred Opalinski...

Chapel attenders: Please remember that if you are interested in assisting with any of the eucharists (singing, reading, marching around, etc.) contact Tony Harvey (or Fred Opalinski). Also, please note the sign-up sheet across from student mailboxes for those wishing to offer bread and wine. (Faculty are welcome to sign up also!). "I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of the Lord..."

EDITORIALS
or
Letters to the Editor

From the Preface to Theological Study, Seminary Catalog 1972-73:

"At the center of this theological school is the worship of the Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The most prominent building on the campus is the chapel inasmuch as it symbolizes such worship and provides appropriate facilities for its corporate expression. Both corporate worship and the devotional life of the individual are essential to the enterprise.

The Church has the right to expect the graduates of theological schools to be, first of all, men and women who have been nurtured by Word and Sacrament during their seminary years, who by daily discipline have learned to live in the Presence of Christ, who by corporate worship and private devotion have come to know what it means to present themselves 'as a living sacrifice' to the glory of their Creator and Redeemer. Unless a seminarian daily kneels, alone and with his fellows, in the Presence of God, there to receive His forgiveness, guidance, and power, sooner or later the divine call will grow faint, the inner wells of the spirit will go dry, and there will be only a dusty land where the path of commitment has faded away.

Integral to effective theological education is the dimension of campus community life inclusive of both professors and students. Toward this life together such activities as touch football, open houses, coffee shop conversations, and seasonal festivities as well as an exciting academic program all make their contributions. At the center of this life stands the chapel: only as students and faculty members faithfully and joyfully assemble to hear the Word and receive the Sacrament of the Altar will they live in Christian community, that is, in Christ."

Perhaps Lent is a good time to examine ourselves corporately as well as individually. As I was reading the catalog I came upon this section of the preface. It seemed to be most applicable to the "community question" which is continually raised at one time or another during the school year. I have underscored a section which appears most relevant to our life together. Think about it!

Tony Harvey

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Love for thy neighbor or lack of love for one's neighbor, that is the question. Whether it is nobler to bitch at a basketball referee or admit your own mistakes is at question. Whether to speak to the leader of today's chapel service or to make a mad dash for the door is also the question. Are we as human beings afraid to be intimate with our fellow seminarians?

For the past few weeks, I have witnessed irate basketball players in our intramural league, cry like babies because they were called for a foul. One is led to believe that all referees are blind and they only call fouls against people the referees hate. The referees are taking needless bitching at the players pleasure. The players constantly scream at any mistake the referee may commit even if the referee is correct. No student that I know of has taken the time to sit down and discuss the referee's job. All of this year's referees are very approachable guys. In case you have not learned their names, they are: Scott Gustafson, Fred Heiderhiser, Joe Donovan, and Gary Gaupp. Why is it that our student body is afraid to be a support group? We would rather put others down or pick a fight.

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Letters(cont'd)

This year's basketball tournament is becoming just that, a common brawl. When one team is losing to another, I can almost predict who will try to deck another player. The other day a fight almost broke out. Maybe it would have been better if they were allowed to fight. Students are not willing to sit down and discuss their differences with those they disagree. This is not confined to the wide world of seminary sports.

Chapel is just as bad. When students or faculty lead a Chapel service, it is rare when anyone commits to the leader their views of that service. Rather there is a mad dash for the door to the outside world. If the leader does something we do not like, then we criticize, condemn, and make fun of that leader. When I led chapel this past Jan., I was extremely nervous and afraid I would do or say something that my peers did not like. Now that I think back on that service I do not understand why I was afraid. If someone disliked what I did, I never heard about it. I'm not sure if anyone hears about their service from their peers. At least, not to their face. I suggest that if any of us have complaints, be they in the field of athletics or for that matter in the realm of life, take your complaints or praise to the individual person. I know that it is hard to be intimate with others, but I think a change of our present situation would do wonders for this campus. The next time you think someone is preaching the Gospel or speaking heretical, tell them so. To praise or question an individual can lead to new relationships and new understanding. Try it, you'll like it. If anyone would like to discuss their views with me, please do so!

Ralph Dunkin

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ADIAFHORA

Coming events:

Thurs., March 14th: Service of Penitence, 7:30 p.m., Chapel.

Sun., March 18th: Spring Recess through March 24th.

Fri., March 29th: Square Dance, 8:00 p.m., Refectory.

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"MY PRAYER"

I asked for popularity that I might be liked;

He gave me a friend that I might know its meaning.

I asked for the ability to lead so that I might do great things;

He gave me his grace so that I might know He leads me.

I asked for happiness that I might enjoy life;

He gave me His Son in order that I might live forever.

I asked for wealth so that I might live in luxury;

He called me to serve Him so that I might know life.

I asked for peace so that I might be free of turmoil;

He gave me challenges so that I might be able to understand His peace.

I received nothing that I asked for, all that I hoped for;

He answered my prayer.

Bob Hitchell

TABLE TALK STAFF

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Next Issue of T.T. will be April 5th, 1974, due to spring recess.

Since this is the Lenten season, I would like to leave you with these two thoughts:

"This is the beginning of a new day. God has given me this day to use as I will. I can waste it or use it for some good purpose. But what I do with this day is important because I have exchanged a day of my life for it. When tomorrow comes, today will be gone forever. I hope I will not regret the price I paid for it."

"Give me the strength to keep my acts and thought free from malice and bitterness; help me to stand for the HARD right against the EASY wrong; save me from habits that harm; teach me to work as hard and play as fair in Thy sight alone as if the world saw; forgive me when I am unkind and help me to forget quickly unkindness to me; keep me ready to help others at some cost to myself; send me opportunities to do little good day and the insight and understanding to grasp them; and let me grow in Christlike attributes with a humble and thankful heart."