

# Table Talk

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



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Issue # 7

## CHANGE IN SEMINARY STRUCTURE FORESEEN

Last week the Seminary community got its first look at the report of the Sesquicentennial Long Range Planning Committee on possibilities for the future of the Seminary. Committees for the celebration of the Sesquicentennial year were divided into specialized study groups for finances, celebration plans, and for long range plans. Under the direction of sub-committee chairperson Dr. Paul Orso, Maryland Synod President, the Long Range Planning Committee has been at work for almost two years studying and proposing alternatives for the next decade in the Seminary's history. The committee was made up of lay and clergy representatives, Seminary faculty representatives Dean Stuempfle and Dr. Jenson, and student representatives Jane Shields, Jim Ellison, and Tom Peterson. After a year of brainstorming and fact-finding, the committee boiled its findings down into the final report distributed last week, which was edited by Dr. Clouser.

The report proposes radical revision of the seminary order, involving its structure and function, and revision of the nature of ordination and theological education. For the Seminary, the major proposal wishes to distribute general theological knowledge by decentralization. It proposes the creation of "energy centers", seminary clusters sored throughout the supporting synods, each a teaching center for students and laity. Through periodic changes of cluster personnel, these centers would constantly serve the dual purposes of educating the Church at large and encouraging fresh scholarly thought at Seminary level.

The report also proposes radical change in steps for ordination; after college, a student would complete a rigorous 24-month course of study at Gettysburg, and would then be ordained as a deacon for a three year contract of study, supervised by the localized energy centers. After these phases of study are completed, the student may choose a course which would lead him to ordination as a presbyter, to specific education in a specialized field like counselling, or to continued study. The chart of page 7 of the report outlines these options.

Though Dean Stuempfle sees the report as "opening up exciting horizons of new possibilities for the Seminary to serve its constituency and experiment in new forms of ministry", he also foresees some grave difficulties to be overcome before any of these goals can be realized. Approval of the change in ordination would have to be approved on the national level; the projects call for

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EDITORIAL

A letter recently published in the Hamma School of Theology student newsletter has come to our attention and we feel it bears reprinting here. It is addressed to Dr. Ben Johnson, Director of Admissions at Hamma, and reads as follows:

"Dear Ben,

I am contacting you to officially inform you of my transfer to United Theological Seminary.

The decision to transfer was no an easy one for me. Participating in the Hamma process has meant much to me. I have developed meaningful relationships, was able to minister and be ministered to, and learned a great deal about myself, my world, and God. My three years at Hamma have been very full and growing ones for me. Leaving a place that holds these kinds of meanings is very difficult.

My decision to transfer grows out of my feelings about the various changes that have occurred at Hamma over the past several months. Being gone for the summer and hearing information via phone calls and letters of the loss of five faculty, I returned to Hamma in the fall feeling very uneasy. After attending various community meetings and talking with members of the community, I gave myself some time to reflect on what I was feeling and perceiving in relation to the atmosphere at Hamma. I came to the following personal conclusions:

1. I feel the trust level upon which Hamma's style of education depends is lost.
2. I feel the spirit of collegiality which once enabled us to make decisions as a community is no longer operative.
3. I feel the paranoia and distrust within the community reflects an unhealthy educational situation. I find it difficult to learn in an atmosphere of fear.
4. I feel little or no hope of changing the situation that now exists at Hamma. Given this feeling, I believe it would be destructive for me to remain at Hamma any longer.

Reflecting on these feelings and perceptions, I have decided to finish my seminary education at United.

Nancy Wright"

(cont. on next page)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The express raison d'etre of this seminary is the preparation of men and women for service in the Church in its ministry to the world. It is then an interesting and, in my humble opinion, highly regrettable phenomenon that there seems to be an inordinate number of students bent on serving themselves in ministry to their own welfare and interests.

In direct and open violation of the Seminary policy on Preaching and Calls ("Seniors are eligible to consider calls four months before graduation," i.e. not before January 6), rumors run rampant about those who secured calls well before the close of the first semester. In a similar vein, despite Field Education office directives to the contrary, many Middlers have taken it upon themselves to "arrange" (read "put in the bag" or euphemistically "secure") their Internship placements well before the Intern Weekend in February. The divisive competitiveness, wining and dining, and general brown-nosing that was hoped would disappear along with the "meat market" method of arranging internships has, it seems, simply been hastened. It occurs subtly in the months before February instead of in a single frenzied February weekend.

Both of these conditions are deplorable. Both reveal a shocking amount of egocentricity and accompanying lack of concern about fellow students. Both rely for support upon the popular pagan philosophy "Ya gotta look out for Number One." And both, I would argue, are indefensible actions for students preparing to dedicate themselves to a lifetime of serving others and not themselves. I strongly urge those concerned to (re)consider their actions.

Mark Radecke

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Editorial, cont.

If this letter is at all true, and we have no reason to believe it is not, Hamma is in pretty bad shape. Morale is so low that both students and faculty are giving up hope and are leaving. Funeral services will likely be held at Boston this summer, interment following shortly thereafter.

Like Hamma, we here at Gettysburg have been under pressure to merge for some time. Unlike Hamma, however, we have lost neither our spirit nor our hope. We have endured great pressure, but we have endured--and this has been in no small part due to the strong and wise leadership exercised by Dr. Heiges during his tenure here.

We are presently engaged in the process of choosing a successor to Dr. Heiges. This man or woman should possess the same dedication as Dr. Heiges has shown to safeguarding the integrity of this institution. If not, he may not only be our next president, he may well be our last. We must choose wisely.

Editor

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## IN DEFENSE OF IGNORANCE

The new semester brings with it a renewal of hope. For some, however, the present and future are haunted by the past. Certainly this is the case for the Junior Class, duly honored last semester as "the most ignorant class in the history of this institution". This evaluation is largely due to their abysmally poor performance on mid-term and final exams. To expose their ignorance, and help upperclassmen review their first semester, the editors hereby print a sample of the questions these punks found to be difficult.

### Myers--The Pentateuch

Discuss how Christianity would have been affected if the Exodus had occurred 4000-6000 years earlier. Do not forget to give appropriate attention to the theological impact of the date.

Give twelve reasons why study of the Old Testament requires at least four semesters of Hebrew.

(Extra Credit) Give fifteen reasons why the Old Testament should find more general use in the church as texts for proclamation.

### Hale/Stroup/Ridenhour--Human Behavior

Grace Avenue Church of Smalltown, Pa. burned down yesterday. Explain the group dynamic operating within the church to provoke such a reaction, what leadership roles could have prevented it, and the influence of the repressed oral fixation of the organist.

(Extra Credit--Ridenhour) Give thirty reasons why one should not use the Old Testament as texts for proclamation.

### Jenson--Theological Foundations

Trace, based on your knowledge of their works, the major theological shifts of any three of the following: Gregory of Nicea, Alexander Beitel, Gloria Steinem, Justin Martyr, Robert Jenson. Support your evaluation with quotations from significant works (include appropriate references). It is not necessary to translate.

### Burgess--Introduction to the Bible

Take a position for, or against, truth. Prove the validity of your position.

Trace the history of the church. Be concise but detailed. Your answer should include (but not be limited to) the full texts of Conzlemann, Schultz and the appropriate passages in the Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible.

Submitted by a "Cowardly member of the most ignorant class.

ADIAPHORA

- January 22 Faculty Lecture Series--Robert Bloom, "The Case for the Tories" (3:00 pm in Bowen Auditorium, Gettysburg College)
- Lecture--"Powers of Positive Thinking" Raymond Naus (7:00 pm in Bowen Auditorium)
- Basketball Game (Seminary vs. Lincoln Estates)
- 23 Faculty Lecture Series--William Darrah, "The Centennial Celebration of 1876" (3:00pm in Bowen Auditorium)
- 24 Film Series--"Five Easy Pieces" (8:00 pm in the College Union Ballroom, Gettysburg College)
- 25 Voice and Piano Recital--Fred Petrich and Michael Matimko (3:00 pm in Gettysburg College Chapel)
- 27 Film Series--"Blues Like Shodows of Rain" (8:00 pm in the College Union)
- January 30 - "The House of Blue Leaves," a comedy by John Guare performed at the Lincoln Logs, four miles east of Gettysburg
- February 1
- February 2 Spring Semester Begins
- Student Associati on Executive Committee meeting (2:30 in room 310 of Valentine Hall)
- 5 The Peter Nichols' play, A Day in the Death
- 6 of Joe Egg, by our own hancel Players (Room
- 7 206, each night at 8:00 pm)
- 7 Jeane Dixon (8:15 pm in Hanover High School)

Coming soon to the Majestic Theatre: "Nashville"  
 "The Drowning Pool"  
 "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs"

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Don't get me all excited for nothing."

--H. Hand

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To A Fading Beauty Queen On Her Liberation

You stand, preserved against the threat of time.  
With Care, your hands sweep on the rouge, afraid  
They'll say, "That queen of ours is past her prime."  
But your vain eyes that scorn unsightly aids  
Can't see that sleepless age in darkness reigns  
And feeds with your own hungry dread the fire  
That wears to ash the light that still remains.  
Must we both suit ourselves with such attire,  
Like monks reined fast by fears of passion's pace?  
No! I with slowing steps break toward my grave,  
And timely winds steal past your watching face  
To make you bride to time's unbridled wave.  
So turn to meet your fate. Face me and die,  
And part the tide of fear that shrouds your eyes.

--Tim Bingman

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BREAK A SEMINARY TRADITION !

That's right--break a Seminary tradition. Over the years, students of this hallowed institution have established a tradition of dubious worth; namely, nonattendance at Seminary dramatic productions. No one knows for sure the origins of this ignominious nonritual, but indications are that it would be an easy pattern to break. Follow the step-by-step direction below.

Present yourself as an audience member in the Aberly Room Theatre (Rm. 206) by 8pm on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday, February 5, 6 or 7. On those days and at that time, the Chancel Players will present their production of Peter Nichols' insightful play A Day in the Death of Joe Egg. The play, a dark comedy, concerns a schoolteacher and his wife, the parents of a spastic daughter who is completely helpless and dependent upon them for everything. With great skill and wit, playwright Nichols raises the questions of euthanasia, institutionalization, and even more basic, the meaning of life and the problem of suffering.

The production is a part of the January Term Project "Euthanasia: An Ethical Discussion of the Issues in Nichols' JOE EGG," advised by Mr. Hoffman. The production is under the direction of Mark Radecke and cast members include Tom Hope, Jane Shields, Peter Kuritz, Kathleen Rystad, Beth Neubauer, and Kathy Reed. John Ranney is Stage Manager. The production is free and open to the public, but due to royalty costs, the hat will be passed (that's theatre jargon for "A free will offering will be taken up."). The play is also suitable for parish discussion groups for those of you connected with parishes. Break a tradition--come to the show.

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BIBLI-TRIV

This week: CANTICLES

Canticles are liturgical songs. Generally speaking they are taken from various parts of the Bible (excluding the book of Psalms), but a couple are later compositions.

1. The Nunc Dimittis (Post-Communion):
  - a. is from Luke 1
  - b. is from Luke 2
  - c. is from Matthew 2
  - d. is not a canticle
  
2. Luke 1 contains:
  - a. the Nunc Dimittis
  - b. the Magnificat
  - c. the Magnificat and the Benedictus
  - d. no canticles
  
3. Venite Exultamus (Matins):
  - a. is from Isaiah 12
  - b. is from Isaiah 38
  - c. is not from the Bible
  - d. is not a canticle; it is a Psalm
  
4. Te Deum Laudamus (Matins):
  - a. is from Matthew 2
  - b. is from Revelation 5
  - c. is not from the Bible
  - d. is not a canticle; it is a Psalm
  
5. There are a number of canticles which the Lutheran Church used to use (according to the 1917 Common Service Book), but which are not ordinarily used today. Which of the following is not one of these old canticles?
  - a. Confitebor Tibi--Isaiah 12
  - b. Exultavit Cor Meum--I Samuel 2
  - c. Beatitudes--Matthew 5
  - d. Cantemus Domino--Exodus 15
  - e. Domine Audivi--Habakkuk 3
  - f. Gloriamus Igitur--Ecclesiastes 11
  - g. Audite Caeli--Deuteronomy 32
  - h. Dignus Est Agnus--Revelation 5, 15, 19

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STUDENT HEALTH FUND

Due to the increase in price of a normal office call by all the area doctors over the last few years, we regret to announce that the Student Association Executive Committee has had to raise the cost of the health insurance from \$4 to \$6 a semester, effective the Spring '76 semester. If there are any questions concerning this move, please contact the Health Fund Coordinator.

James William Roth  
Coordinator

SESQUITENIAL MINUTES

By early 1826 plans for the new theological seminary were well underway, Several communities were busily securing pledges of money and property in hopes that thier town would be chosen as the site, and all were looking forward to the upcoming meeting of the Board of Directors in Hagerstown.

S. S. Schmucker was of course deeply involved in this activity. The letter below attests to this involvement but, in addition, shows a deeply human side of Schmucker we do not always get from our history books. It is written from "Washington City" and is dated February 2nd, 1986.

My Dear Wife,

When I count up the days which have elapsed since our separation, it seems to me impossible that they should amount but to a week. When I left you I did indeed expect that I should suffer much during my absence, & find the sacrifice which I was called to make a very serious & painful one: yet really, my dear, I was not fully aware of the extent of my dependance on you for happiness or even for contentment of mind. My days have passed away heavily, my mind has generally been restless & unhappy & often times for hours together I do nothing out think of the dear wife I have left behind. That you have been the subject of similar feelings, your distress at my departure fully assures me: & though I certainly take now pleasure in your pain, yet your own feelings will doubtless teach you that true love desire reciprocity & rejoices in every evidence of its existence. Under these circumstances, my dear, you will no less be pleased to receive than I am to give you the information that I shall probably reach you a few days after you receive these few lines. From information received since I left you, I find that it will be necessary for me to attend the meeting of the directors in Hagerstown. I find too that I could only spend 10 or 12 days in Phila before I should have to leave it to return to Hag. I have therefore resolved to make this only a visit to Washington, & return to your arms & spend the intervening 2 or 3 weeks with my dear wife, hoping that by that time, I may have perseverance enough to go through the tour. As I cherish the delightful expectation of seeing you so soon, I shall say but little about "the things that did befall me here." I stay at Browns Hotel, which I find a less comfortable house than I expected. The company is very numerous & no less promiscuous, and the barkeeper an unpolished fellow in manners, though he is dressed up in a very handsome green coat. The most amusing thing I have seen is the far famed John Randolph. The most attentive friend I have found is my old classmate Dr. Staughton. He has devoted several days to my amusement & we were mutually delighted to see each other after a lapse of 7 years. The debates in congress are much less able than I expected. I heard only 3 or 4 speakers who were above mediocrity. I have spent several days listening to the congressional discussions & gazing at the distinguished men of the nation. Tazwell very much resembles the likeness of John Locke. Randolph's lips bear a slight resemblance to those of Judge Tucker.

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Minutes, cont.

Tomorrow I expect to leave this place for Mt. Airy, but as the stage makes the tour in 3 days, this letter will reach you, before you press the hand that is now writing it.

Accept the assurance of my warmest attachment & believe me

ever your devoted

husband

And that's the way it was...

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MEMOIRS OF A SEMINARY TOURIST  
or  
WHICH WAY TO THE RESEPERBAHN?

Last month a group of students and faculty members participated in a study-tour of Germany. Two group members, Sharon McLaughlin and John Palko, have written some of their reflections on that experience for Table Talk.

Sharon's Memoirs

December 9th may have started out like any other day, but for 21 of us from this seminary it was the beginning of an entirely unique experience. The group of us spent most of the time from the 10th to the 30th under the very good care of Dr. Horst Albrecht of the Prediger- und Studienseminar of Schleswig-Holstein. If I understand correctly, Preetz is about the same size as Gettysburg.

There were many other things to which one had to get accustomed. Many small problems were involved in adapting to the new environment. For example, I have a hobby of collecting recipes. I only asked for one while we were in Germany. We had a really difficult time translating it. Of course it is one of those that would read "a pinch of salt" or "just a little milk" in English.

Another thing is that I found that I could not communicate with the Germans as well as I had been able to with my classmates in German. It is very frustrating to realize that even though you are able to understand someone, it doesn't necessarily mean you can get your ideas across. (And anyone who knows me knows that I love to talk).

There is no way that I could possibly tell you everything there is to tell. Perhaps you would like to ask Russ Hale about the day we all sang Christmas carols on a street corner in Lübeck. Or you could ask several members of the group how much time they spent on their logs. Perhaps you would like to find out a little about the German beer. Steve Reed and John Palko could probably give you some help there. Then again, you could come to the Community Meal in February. Steve and Kathy Reed, as well as others, took

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Memoirs, cont.

many slides and have agreed to share them with us. The date has not yet been decided upon, but we will be letting you know about it very soon. Everyone is invited and urged to attend.

John's Memoirs

Now that I have your attention, I hereby warn the reader that this article is supposed to be a condensation to the nth degree of my experiences while studying the Lutheran Church in the northern parts of Germany. Ridiculous, you say? The following shall indeed prove your suspicions. I can but begin to share my impressions and hope that this provokes enough interest that the reader may inquire as to what it all means and thus seek the truth.

The purpose of the trip was to study, but we knew we were really tourists. But seriously: The Evangelical Lutheran Church of West Germany (BRD) is one step this side of being a state church, the state controlling the purse. It is a dying church, with hundreds of thousands of "members" leaving each year (depending on whom you believe). Although this financial situation is still growing dilemma, I feel, I am impressed with the practical ministry, the outreach, and the diakonie work that they do, e.g., in the shipyards. I tried to be optimistic. However, an Hungarian once wrote that the difference between an optimist and a pessimist is that the latter is better informed. Maybe so...

In East Berlin I sensed a different situation. Although the Church there appeared rather restricted and quietly persecuted, it showed hope and promise by its very existence within such an environment. It made me wonder if God really had American citizenship. It was too bad that our meeting with the socialist education director was so dominated by the debate over political ideology, of which I was very much a perpetrator.

In spite of the hectic schedule that the group had, there were more leisurely moments. Under the gentle urging of Dr. Horst Albrecht, our dear friend, co-ordinator, and translator, I became "my own chairman," creating for myself and a few others many adventures, some unintentionally. Consider as examples; the time that I became separated from the group (i.e., "lost") in East Berlin; the night Dan Biles and I hawked tickets at the West Berlin Philharmonic to hear Beethoven's "Ninth," and afterward tried to see some of the night-life; the night a total stranger bought drinks for Dick Johnson and me at a pub in Kiel, and at different times Dick and our "new" friend called each other a "gangster;" the Evening Phil (Cisco) Squire and I enjoyed the food and the scenery in an Hungarian restaurant in East Berlin, and eventually found our way back to the West; and more.

Never before have I lived each day for itself as I did this past December. Often I could not believe that it was really happening, and for that reason I welcome all the more the opportunity to share these times with anyone interested, and I believe the rest of the group would also like to do so.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

How would you like to be part of an assembly of the young and the young-at-heart, neighbors and strangers, rich and poor, all involved in a powerful witness of concern? You can be. The Social Action Committee has invited Mr. Wesley Albin, regional director for CROP of Pennsylvania, to help us organize such an event-- a CROP walk. All who are interested are invited to discuss with him CROP's fight against world hunger--in Room 308 of Valentine Hall on Wednesday, February 4, at 7:00 pm.

What is a CROP walk?

It is a group of people who walk a designated distance to raise money for CROP's hunger projects. Others may pledge contributions to these walkers for the distance that they complete, e.g., 10¢ per mile for 10 miles would comprise a pledge of \$1 to a walker who completed 10 miles.

Why walk?

We walk because the hungry walk, to identify with those who walk, often for great distances and in all kinds of weather to get food, water, fuel, and medical aid; to work; to escape war, flood, and famine.

Won't you join us in pledging and-or walking to fight hunger?

The Social Action Committee  
John J. Palko, Chairman

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S.E.M. ANNOUNCES

ONCE AGAIN IT'S INCOME TAX TIME! How about you? Any questions? Will how you file change now, as a student, as a married couple, or later as a pastor? PAUL WARNEKE (Junior & former accountant) will attempt to answer some of these and other questions. For the ENTIRE COMMUNITY--MONDAY, FEB. 9th at 7:30pm in the COFFEE-SHOP.

The Seminary Enrichment Movement, SEM, had been sponsoring various small group activities last semester. They will continue this semester. These groups are: Art, Cake Decorating, Knitting, Vestment Sewing, Guitar, and Crocheting. If anyone is interested in these groups or in seeing a group started on another topic, please contact Chris Wetzel (334-9467).

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STAFF

|                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Tim Bingman--Adiaphora & Poetry | Lovise Klaven--Art  |
| Rae Bloomquist--Typist          | Ken Phelps--Humor   |
| Bob Gago--Printing              | George Post--Editor |
| Harold Hand--Sports             | Mark Radecke--Humor |
| Tom Hope--Feature Reporter      | Bill Stomski--Art   |

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