

Table Talk

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



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Issue #1

TABLE TALK EXCLUSIVE

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT

On September 5, 1976, the Rev. Dr. Herman G. Stuempfle was inaugurated as the 10th president of LTSG. The following interview with President Stuempfle is the writer's edited version of a recent conversation.

TABLE TALK: Dr. Stuempfle, you've been in your new position officially now for nearly a month. Have your expectations been heightened or shattered or do you feel that you're "on course?"

H.G.S.: Well, I really think it is too soon to adequately assess things. My expectations have certainly not been shattered. One of the realities of my new office is to be viewing the seminary from a different angle than previously. As Dean I was aware of a certain segment of the seminary's operation. As President I am now involved in the totality of the position as chief executive. Now I must be aware of all segments of the seminary's "constituency." Of course, the local groups are here and visible, but now others become real and important and vital. Alumni and congregations and supporting synods all come into my view as part of my day to day activities unfold. I was, of course, aware and expecting contact with an expanded group of persons, but actually being in the "big office" makes me increasingly aware of the complexity of new demands and new relationships to continue and to build, all part of the seminary community.

TABLE TALK: Have you experienced any obstacles as part of the transition period into a new administration?

H.G.S.: Only physical ones. Moving around the corner and down the hall seems to be a rather uncomplicated task. Deciding what to take along and what to leave behind became increasingly important. Moving into a completely new and different filing system has been somewhat of a problem. Our primary hurdle right now is preparations for the annual meeting of the Board of Directors in mid-October. Everyone has been very helpful as we "learn the ropes" and attempt to discover where items are filed for reference. Dr. Heiges and Thalia Clapper have been very gracious in the transition period helping to locate papers of importance and matters of urgency. I suppose that this is not necessarily an obstacle, but I have had to do a lot of catching up on the oral and written traditions that are

(con't. on page 2)

inherent in the presidency. Important precedents have been firmly established over the years that need to be at least acknowledged if not always followed to the letter. On the other hand I have to be ready to answer questions from Mr. Gobbel regarding the established procedures from the Office of the Dean. It has been exciting learning the new office as well as retaining some ties to the old office.

TABLE TALK: Can you share with us some of your goals, both short and long range?

H.G.S.: Without a doubt, the main issue currently is the one of the faculty personnel. At this point there are three areas of concern. The first, of course, is the search for a Dean. The policy of a "rotating dean" elected from the faculty for a three year term has been changed in favor of elected a "permanent" dean. That is to say, this position would not be tied to a teaching position and would also be subject to review at the end of every fifth year. This would ensure that all concerned have a satisfactory attitude concerning the office. "Permanent" is not meant to imply that an individual would serve in that capacity for a life-time. There is currently a search committee composed of representatives from the faculty, the board, and the student body. The new dean may be selected from either inside or outside the seminary community. Mr. Straup is chairman of the committee which includes Mr. Christianson, and Mr. Jenson of the faculty, Dr. Otto Reimer of the Academic Affairs Committee of the board, and Ralph Smith, a senior student. The second major area is the approaching retirement of Dr. Myers at the close of this academic year and the capable replacement of his position. The third area is the homiletics position which I vacated upon assuming the presidency. As you can see this is a critical year for personnel and it is primarily a short range goal to have a full faculty. It is my continued view that the heart and strength of a seminary program is in its faculty.

Another area of prime concern is the strengthening of our fiscal situation. It is fairly certain that for the first time in many years, the seminary will be operating a deficit budget. This deficit could be in the range of \$25, 000. As I mentioned earlier this is an area of extreme importance for which I must be responsible, along with Jim Tipton, especially in relating to our supporting synods and congregations. Jim and I will be making several trips out into the territories of constituency seeking to meet both congregations and individuals to assist in the maintenance of the seminary's program. It is my belief that the President must enable the seminary in its many functions with financial stability and growth.

You know, I was just thinking once again of being here in this corner of Valentine Hall. As Dean I was not only aware of all the activity going on around in this building, but I was also a part of one of the segments. Here at this desk I hear the sounds and see the sights of activity among students, faculty, and staff. But this office makes me more aware of the comprehensiveness and totality of the seminary community.

Back to our area of discussion, the Boston convention has given us the obligation now to explore areas of "cooperation and community" with our sister seminary in Philadelphia. We need to determine what

is educationally feasible as well as effective in this area. At the same time we cannot allow this "new relationship" to endanger our relationships in Washington through the House of Studies program. It is not going to be easy to balance the tide between our Lutheran brethren and our ecumenical efforts. This new venture will add increasing demands from the two directions in terms of committee work for faculty and administration. We must have serious goals on both fronts, but we must also remain within reasonable bounds.

An increasing area of awareness is in the maintenance of an "appropriate level of qualified students." The situation in recruitment of new students is much more competitive today than perhaps ten years ago. Mr. Christianson is involved currently in an active program of recruitment and preparations are under way to conduct a Seminary day for prospective students to view the campus and investigate the programs. The Board of Directors is also aware of this concern and has appointed a task force to study admissions priorities for the near future. Their study will include the need for a level of enrollment that is appropriate in teaching effect, physical facilities, fiscal realities, and requirements for professional leadership in the Church at large.

One of my own personal expectations is the implementation of a pilot project in the idea of "seminary in dispersion." This notion envisions several "energy centers" placed somewhere in the territories of our supporting synods. This would enhance the prospect of recruitment and would increase the possibilities of continuing education programs for the pastor as well as for the laity.

An inherited goal is the projected program for ministry to and among blacks. This program was proposed, you'll recall, several years ago, but has been slowed up in the search for a qualified staff person to inaugurate this venture. Financial backing has been made available from Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) and the Division for Professional Leadership (DPL) to get the program in operation by the summer of 1977. CLPEM, of which Dr. Heiges is now director, will be the agency to oversee this program and a grant from DIMA and a possible grant from the Lily Foundation will help to insure its success.

---Steve Patrick

WANTED:

Basso Profundos, Altoons,
Soprani, and Tenoritas (Basses,
Altos, Sopranos, and Tenors) are
being sought for both the Men's
Choir and the Mixed Choir. The
Men's Choir rehearses on Tues.
and Thurs. from 12:15 - 12:45,
the Mixed Choir rehearses on Mon.
evenings from 7:30- 9:00. Both
choirs are under the organist and
choir director at St. James Lutheran
Church in Gettysburg).

"O come, let us sing unto the
Lord." Experience is desirable, but
not necessary. For more information
please contact Mr. Grabani. Thank
you!

AUCTION:

On Wednesday evening,
Oct. 15, 1976, at 7:30 p.m.,
there will be an auction
in the coffee shop. Items
to be auctioned are books
from the Dr. Heiges collec-
tion. Mr. Tipton will serve
as auctioneer, and the pro-
ceeds will go to the Semin-
ary. Refreshments will be
served. Come one, come all!

YARD LINES

--Jon Holmer

The 1976 Seminary football season opened on September 14 with a game between the Middlers and the Juniors. Tied 6-6 at the end of regulation time, the Middlers pulled the game out by gaining more yardage in the overtime period. On the 21st the Middlers again took a close one, beating the Seniors 7-5. However, the following day the Seniors avenged their loss by trouncing the Junior squad 18-0.

The Middlers and Juniors met once again on Monday the 27th in the now famous (?) "mud dauber" game. Neither mud nor rain nor sliding Juniors could keep the Middlers from taking the game 14-12. But there was joy in Hudville the following day when the Juniors took their first victory of the season 18-14 over the Seniors (who incidentally, have put out an urgent plea for more players--any takers? We don't want them to get so worn out that they can't take a call next spring.)

After five games the standings are: Middlers 3-0, Seniors 1-2, Juniors 1-3.

For those who have been wondering (surely you've been wondering!) the games have not been sold out for the required 3 days in advance of game time and therefore have not been televised. This television blackout applies to the Gettysburg area--rumor has it that it may also be nationwide. Next game is Monday, Oct. 4, when the Seniors and Middlers meet once again.

REFLECTIONS

--Bob Dealey

"I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly."
(John 10:10)

The Greeks have two words for life: Bios and Zoa. They both mean "a mode of living," but, with regards to the mode, they are entirely different. Bios means "existence"; while Zoa means "Living" (in its fullest sense). Bios can be compared to mere subsistence, while Zoa can be compared to rich, meaningful living.

Both Bios and Zoa (and the varying degrees of each) are representative of the variety of modes of living present here on campus. Some students are here just "putting in time," doing a minimal amount of work. Other students are here trying to get the most out of what they do. (And, of course, there are those students who are somewhere in-between.)

What is the difference between those students who exemplify a Bios life-style, and those who exemplify a Zoa life-style? I would like to propose the thesis that the difference between those who exemplify a Bios life-style, and those who exemplify a Zoa life-style is their attitude. Perhaps the behaviorists would say that this explanation is too superficial, and, perhaps, indeed, it does go deeper, but put in simple terms: One who knows Jesus Christ, one, who has been set free from the bonds of sin, knows the difference between "existence" and "Living." The individual who knows Christ has been set free to live a richer, fuller, and more meaningful life. The individual who has been set free also knows that "just putting in time" is poor stewardship of time and talents.

Let each examine his/her own conscience. What is your "mode of living?"

ADIAPHORA

- Sun. Oct. 3...Film "Paper Moon" (Gettysburg College Ballroom, 8:00p.m.)
- Mon. Oct. 4...Football: Seniors vs. Middlers (3:30)
Intern Orientation Night (Valentine 203, 7:30p.m.)
- Tues. Oct. 5...VA Representative on Campus (Valentine 309, 10:00a.m.)
Gary Groffman Piano Concert (Christ Chapel, 8:00p.m.)
Football: Juniors vs. Middlers (3:30)
- Thurs. Oct. 7...Fims "The Odessa File" (GC Ballroom, 8:00p.m.)
- Fri. Oct. 8...Organ Recital (Christ Lutheran Church, 12:15-12:45)
Dr. George Ritchie Lecture: "My own Death Experience
and its Motivating Influence upon Me, My Friends
and My Patients" (Chapel, 7:30-9:00)
- Sat. Oct. 9...Dr. Elisabeth Kübler-Ross Lecture: "Death and Life
after Death" (Chapel, 8:30-10:00a.m.)
- Mon. Oct. 11... Football: Juniors vs. Seniors (3:30)
- Tues. Oct. 12...Football: Seniors vs. Middlers (3:30)
Chapel Council Lecture by Congressman Andrew Young
(GC Ballroom, 8:00p.m.)
- Wed.. Oct. 13...Book Auction of Dr. Heiges' books (coffee shop,
7:30p.m.)
- Fri. Oct. 15... Organ Recital (Christ Lutheran Church, 12:15-12:45)

BIBLI-TRIV: PSALMS

The Psalms were a great source of devotional reading for Martin Luther. How many of the following can you identify?

1. "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night."
2. "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'"
3. "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."
4. "O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise."
5. "Happy shall he be who takes your little ones and dashes them against the rock!"

QUOTES OF THE WEEK:

"To thine own self be true." ...W. Shakespeare

"...The truth will make you free." ...John 8:32

At the Saint Michael and All Angels Eucharist, the offering received was, at the request of the Chaplain, to be forwarded to the NAACP in support of their continuing existence. The amount given by members of the seminary community totalled \$175.13.

The Suggestion Box:

No suggestions or recommendations for improvements have been submitted. Everything must be going smoothly. Right?

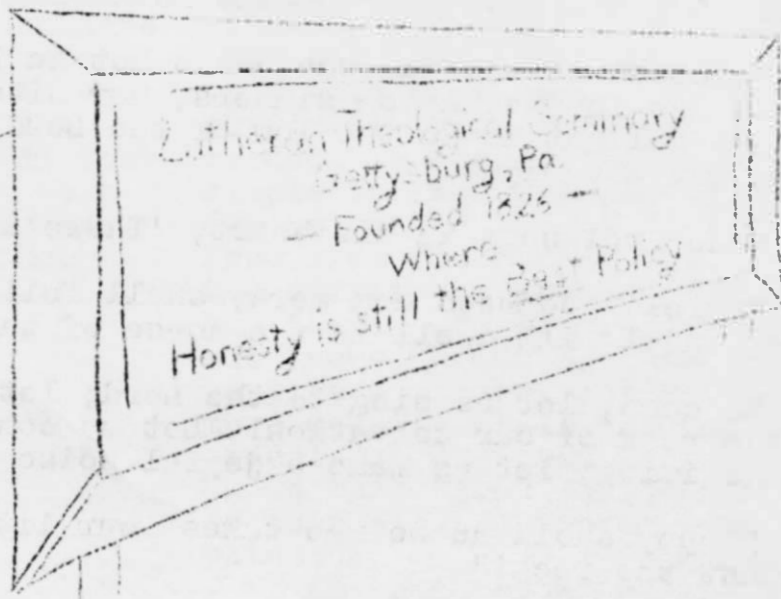
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Pot-Shots '76

Deadline for next issue:
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Next issue:
Wed. Oct. 15



ABELLE TALK'S TACK-UP OF TREE WEEK



It's Time for Empty Christianity!