

# Table Talk

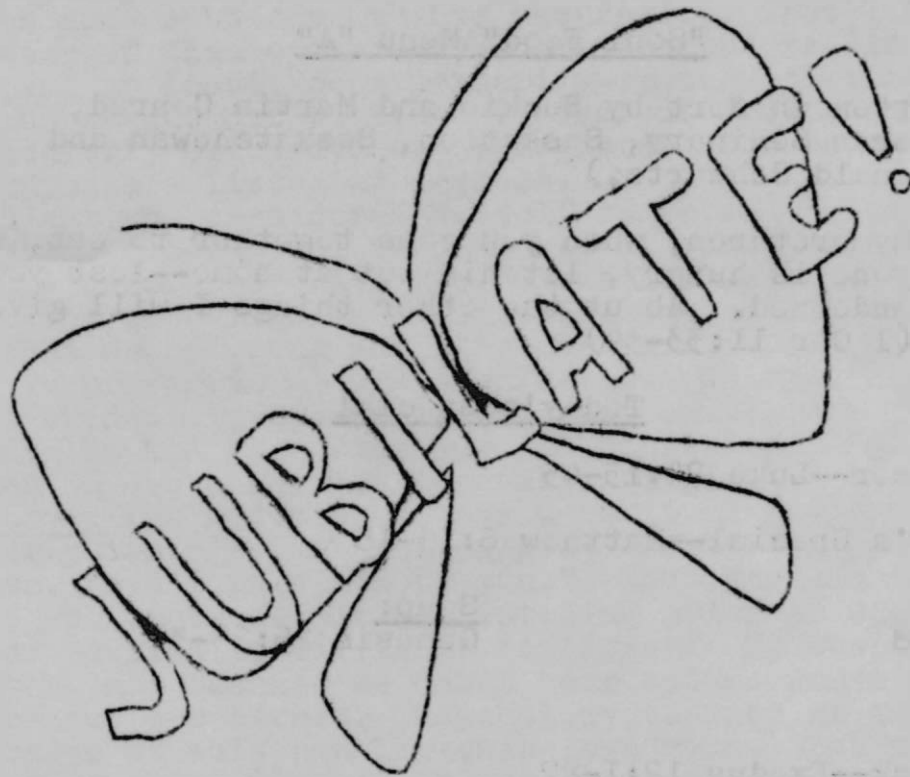
News and Views of the  
Student Body of The Lutheran  
Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.



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Issue # 7



IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH!

To all those who have unsparingly contributed their time and talents to this festival, we of the Table Talk staff thank you!!

The Hill's You Say

A column for letters to the Editor: Editorial comments by Jeff Otto. Policy: we will print signed letters only. Names will be withheld at writer's request.

After spending so much of our time indoors this winter, many are talking about gaining weight from lack of exercise. As a result, I hear a lot of talk about diets. All of this talk gave me an idea for Table Talk--a special diet for all. Since I am not a dietician though, I cannot guarantee you will lose weight. Infact, I hope you will gain something.

"Soup Food" Menu "A"

(written in sort by Beckie and Martin Conrad, Lutheran Seminary, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and by Donald Schwartz.)

So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another--if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home--lest you come together to be condemned. About the other things-I will give directions when I come. (1 Cor 11:33-34)

Today's Special

Revelation Dinner--Luke 24:13-45

or

Weight Watcher's Special--Matthew 6:16-18

Appetizers:

Proverbs 23:6-8

Job 10:10-12

Soup:

Genesis 25:29-34

Main Courses:

Passover Potluck--Exodus 12:1-27

Deuteronomy Dinner--Deuteronomy 32:12-14

Beverages:

Proverbs 23:29-35 (large size)

Proverbs 23:20-21 (small size)

Desserts:

Exodus 3:8

Matthew 21:18-22

I hope your meal will stay with you and nourish you for some time to come.

--Donald Schwartz

REMINDER: Next issue of Table Talk will be Thursday, Feb. 24. Article deadline is Saturday, Noon.

By Their Fruits you will Know Them

Articles from sister seminaries. This is from the December issue of Callings, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Towards Apologetic Ministry  
Ears, Eyes, Nose, and Throat Theologians

--Dr. Keith Bridston

During one of the periods of campus unrest a faculty-student dialogue was held on the PLTS campus. One of the students complaints was that the faculty didn't seem "to be equipped with ears." It seemed to me there was some substance to the accusation. But I think it may be characteristic of theologians--teachers or pastors--in general. We have, in the past at least, been primarily trained to teach and preach--to use our throats--but not to listen. That is perhaps why we have not been particularly effective as apologists. For an apologetic ministry presupposes a listening process.

Paul Tillich, who considered himself to be an apologetic theologian, viewed the theological task as one of correlation--to correlate the "existential questions" with the "Christian symbols." And so, the discernment of the questions is a basic element in the theological enterprise. That means using not only our ears, but our eyes and nose as well, as professional diagnosticians. This kind of sensitive observation is evident in St. Paul's address on the Areopagus. Before he began talking he had been watching and listening: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'to an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you." That strikes me as a classical model of apologetics. It is listening prior to speaking.

But why do we find it difficult to listen? My suspicion is that we do not listen, not because we can't hear but we won't hear. And we won't because we are afraid. Psychology teaches us something about the dynamics of this non-listening syndrome. Let us look at just three: censorship, distortion, projection.

1. Censorship. We edit out (or audit out) all those questions or parts of the questions for which we do not think we have the answer or answers. To put it another way, we hear only that which we want to hear, and only hear that which does not make us afraid. We fear questions for which we have no rejoinder.

2. Distortion. We change what we hear into what we want to hear. We alter the sounds so that they become familiar to us, making harmonies with which we can sing-a-long. The jarring notes, the cacophonies and dissonances. But if real life is too hard for us to listen to, then we must distort life into what is reassuring, comfortable, and harmonic.

3. Projection. We do not listen to what is said. Instead, we project upon the other, the questioner, the questions which we think

(cont. on page 7)

New York City

Are the rumors about New York City true? Is the "Big Apple" really the most exciting city in the world? Is the pizza in NYC better than the pizza in Chicago? There's only one way to find out. Come, and join us on Saturday, March 5, when Table Talk sponsors a trip to New York City.

We'll be meeting at 4:30am in Valentine Hall, and drive by car. After breakfast in Phillipsburg, NJ, we'll arrive in NY at 9:00am.

It has been said that the only true way to get a feel for a city is to walk, and that's exactly what we plan to do. We'll be walking up luxurious 5th Ave., walking in Central Park, and at Radio City Music Hall, explore a couple of cathedrals, and tour the theater district. After a long day, and a sumptuous dinner in Times Square, we'll leave the excitement of NYC behind, and return to the serene hills of Gettysburg with memories we'll cherish forever.

The cost of this amazing trip is surprisingly low. It will cost approx. \$12 - \$15 per person. (It could cost more, depending on how extravagant your taste in food is.) The only fixed costs are: 1. \$4 for transportation, and 2. \$3.50 for Radio City Music Hall. The remainder of the expenses are taken up with food, souvenirs, or whatever else you might purchase. (Everyone is asked to bring a sack lunch. This will help keep your own expenses down.)

If you wish to join us for a day of fun, please sign the sign-up sheet in the basement of Valentine Hall, by Thurs. March 3. (This is so we can arrange for the proper amount of drivers.) For further information, please contact Bob Dealey, 108 Heiges Hall--334-4674.

NEEDED--REEL-TO-REEL TAPE RECORDERS FOR USE DURING THE JUBILATE FESTIVAL. IF YOU HAVE A TAPE RECORDER FOR US TO BORROW, PLEASE LEAVE A NOTE IN JOHN KOEHNLEIN'S MAILBOX.

COOPERATION

(from a parish newsletter)

Even though my typewriter is an old model, it works quite well, except for one of the keys. I have many times wished that it worked perfectly. It is true that there are forty-one keys that function well enough, but just one key not working makes the difference.

Sometimes it seems to me that our church is somewhat like my typewriter--not all of the key-people are working properly. As one of them, you may say to yourself, "Well, I am only one person. I don't make or break the church." But it does make a big difference, because a church, to be effective, needs the active participation of every person.

So, the next time you think you are only one person and that your efforts are not needed very much, remember my typewriter, and say to yourself, "I am a key person in the congregation and I am needed very much!"

Reflections

--Bob Dealey

Anyone who has studied anything about Martin Luther knows that he was afflicted with a disease known as Anfechtung. (Anfechtung is the German word for anxiety/despair, and other similar maladies.) Luther's despair was largely over the question of "How may I find a gracious God?"

As a seminary student, I have found that I have been afflicted with various shades of Anfechtung of a different sort. The source of my despair/anxiety has been the question: "What is my future?" My Anfechtung has taken the following forms:

1. Before I ever arrived in Gettysburg, there was the question of "Will I be accepted and when?"

2. During my first year, two types of questions arose. A. "What will my first year field ed. congregation be like?" and B. "Where will I do CPE?"

3. During my second year, my Anfechtung hit an all-time high or low, depending upon one's perspective. Once again, two questions came to the foreground. A. "Will I be able to make it through my classes without failing?" and B. "Where will I intern?"

(Aside: There was no Anfechtung experienced during internship as I had gotten married just prior to arriving at my internship congregation.)

4. As a senior, once again, Anfechtung comes in the forms of two questions. A. "Will I pass my examining committee interview?" and B. "Where will my first call be?"

Unfortunately, during the course of my studies, I wasted a "lot of good worries," because my worst fears were never realized. "The Gospel is a message of hope." So many times I have heard that expression, but never really felt what it meant.

For those colleagues who may be experiencing similar forms of Anfechtung, please allow me to quote two passages of Scripture to you:

"...do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day." (Matthew 6:34)

"...If God is for us, who is against us?" (Romans 8:31b)

Amen.

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The Committed Marriage--by Elizabeth Achtmeier

Reviewed by Meredith Schwartz

Elizabeth Achtmeier presents her ideas on the Christian marriage in the first of a series of books labeled "Biblical Perspectives on Current Issues." If this book, presented by Westminster Press, Howard Clark Kee, general editor, is any indication of the true character of the series, the series need not be continued. The book is both idealistic and simplistic; certainly good for insomnia.

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ADIAPHORA

Feb. 17-19--Jubilate Festival

18--Junior Recital--Laura Ondrush, Piano & Studio Recital--  
Brua Hall, 3:00pm

21--Student-Faculty Relations Committee--President's Office--  
3:30pm

23--Ash Wednesday Eucharist--Chapel--7:30pm  
Film: The Jackal of Nahueltoro (Spanish)--Bowen Auditorium,  
7:30pm

25--AAL Dinner for Seniors--Sheraton Inn--6:30pm  
Junior Recital--Holly MacEwen, soprano and Kim Kicc, oboe--  
Brua Hall, 3:30pm  
Senior Recital--Doug Rutan, euphonium--Brua Hall, 8:00pm

27--College Choir Concert--Christ Chapel, 8:00pm  
Planetarium Show, Northern Stars, Southern Stars--Hatter  
Planetarium, Masters Hall, 2:30 & 4:00pm

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TO THE POINT

--Jack Evert and Phil Huber

In this column on Nov. 12 it was suggested that the pingpong tournament be rearranged this year to allow for more participation and community spirit. In accordance with this, the athletic committee agreed to restructure the doubles tournament, dividing the tournament into groups, with 5 teams in each group. Restructuring the tournament this way allows each team to play more games and it does allow the opportunity for more community spirit.

However, we find a mere restructuring allowing opportunities for community spirit does not necessarily mean that our initial goal has been met. Case in point: Two people (friends) from "outside" our community have been excluded from the tournament. A ruling by the athletic committee stated that "due to the communal nature of the tournament" we need to exclude those outside our "community." We have to wonder had the two players who were excluded from the tournament not been such excellent players, would they not now be playing their four matches inside group one. They were not strangers at all to us here at Seminary.

We do indeed doubt that the issue of an "outsider" participating in the tournament is the issue at all. We have seen the benefits of having other friends of the seminary participate in our intramural basketball league. It seems the real issue is excluding two players from the tournament because they might advance out of the bracket and win the tournament. Is that concern really worth excluding friends of the seminary? We strongly feel it is not.



Apologetic Ministry, cont. from page 3

they ought to be asking. Of course, those questions are likely to be questions for which we have all the answers. But what is really happening is that we are only talking to ourself. That is neither ministry or apologetics.

My point is that theological diagnosis--the listening, seeing, smelling to discern the questions is far more difficult than we sometimes assume. And that is because it is not simply a matter of the sharpening of our God-given senses, but because of the underlying fear of what our senses may reveal to us--not only about the world outside but about my world inside. In the play Harvey the main character tells the doctor: "I've been fighting against reality for over 40 years and I've finally won out over it." Some theologians have been equally successful. But I won't say more.

Book Review, cont. from page 5

Basically, Achtemeier says treat your mate as you would the Lord, and things will be just fine. Wonderful advice, but not much to sink your teeth into. Certainly a Christian marriage has its advantages, but even the most Christian of couples have problems that cannot be solved by their belief in Christ. Perhaps what the book needs, then, is more vodka and less orange juice! That is, some basic steps that can help stabilize a faltering marriage by giving the reader concrete guidelines to follow.

P.S. There is one redeeming factor: Dr. Achtemeier recommends the reading of The Intimate Enemy by Dr. George R. Bach and Peter Wyden. This is a book worth its weight in natural gas!

Meredith has promised to do more reviews for us. She is a graduate of Susquehanna University where she majored in English.

Have you read something lately? Why not review it for the seminary community.

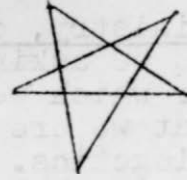
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# TABLE TALK'S TACK-UP OF THE WEEK



CPE Students  
\$ .89/lb

fresh Interns  
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