

Table Talk

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



Vol XX

Issue 4

February 6, 1985

S.A. Highlights

From the Student Association Core Committee Meeting of December 11, 1984:

- * Athletics chairperson Mark Rossman reports that a seminary basketball team is playing in the city league, and volleyball intramurals are in progress.
- * Lecture committee reports that Dr. Franklin D. Fry, chairperson of the Committee on Design of the Commission for a New Lutheran Church, will speak on campus March 25.
- * Social committee is planning a Talent Night in the spring and a party in April to welcome next year's prospective students.
- * Social Action committee organized seminary participation in picketing at the South African Embassy on December 17. Aluminum can recycling will begin in the new year. Spring projects include a speaker from Denominational Mission Strategies, another on Central America, a showing of The Burning Bed, and a visit from the Lutheran Retirement Village.
- * Family Life committee organized community meals at Thanksgiving and Christmas, which were very enjoyable.
- * Dan Powell reported that if students need to use the library when it is normally closed, they may request keys from Dan, Mary Spence, Debbie Conrad, or Nancy Rouse. They must also sign in and out.

From the Core Committee Meeting of January 23, 1985:

- * Lack of quorum for conducting business, but reports were received and discussed, including the following:
 - * Pros and cons of J-term Greek and Transitions classes.
 - * The student committee's role in choosing the new Systematics instructor, Scott Gustafson.
 - * Faculty changes because of retirements, sabbaticals, and new teachers.
 - * The Buildings and Grounds Committee has told the Seminary Board that "if present circumstances continue," they will recommend that the current pet policy be discontinued, effective the end of the 1985-86 school year.
- Next meeting is Feb. 19 at 7pm in Valentine, Room 310. All are welcome.
- From the unapproved minutes of Jim Lockley, Secretary

A Question for Sally Kauffmann:

Why is there a metric conversion chart inside our LTS notebooks?

Could we order some with Greek or Hebrew conversion charts?

Partners/Spouses Report

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The members of Partners (formerly "The Spouses' Group") are eager to share our news of progress, change, and growth! Also, we wish to keep the seminary informed of our upcoming events and meetings.

First, we'd like to inform the seminary community that the magazine we requested, Partnership, is now available in the Library. The magazine is designed primarily for spouses of ministers, and deals with issues such as PKs, life in the parsonage, finances, and confidentiality--that is, how much does the minister share with his/her spouse. We express our appreciation to Mr. Matthews for being sensitive to our needs--both personal and financial!

Second, Partners members have expressed some concerns about the identity and structure of the group. We have asked ourselves some pertinent questions such as: What are our purpose and function? How are we structured? and Who are our leaders? We have come to realize that we want our group to serve our specific needs and concerns as husbands and wives of seminarians. We need to talk to each other. We want to explore our role possibilities. We need aid in preparing and choosing our prospective paths.

An ad hoc committee of four (Marti Good-Shroeder, Jill Wolpert, Mauri Lockley and Jackie Severa) was formed to address these concerns. As a result of this committee's time and effort, Partners now has a proposed purpose, written guidelines, and designated leader roles to be filled. This proposal serves as a foundation to implement change. The entire group will now "fine tune" this proposal at our next meeting on Monday, February 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge, Valentine. This will be a business meeting only! Your attendance is encouraged if you wish to contribute to the restructuring of Partners.

Finally, it is requested that the leaders of the Interest/Activity Groups submit a paragraph to the Partners mailbox. Please include the group leader's name, meeting place and date, what the group does, and any projects or new learnings that have taken place. We can then feature a group in future issues of Table Talk!

Terri Migliore-DiMatteo

Sportsbeat

The top sports story this past J-term was that stunning upset at the Superbowl--not the 49er's stomping of the Dolphins, but the fact that no one had to be taken to the hospital after the festivities at East Hall. The commercial break game was characterized by its fierceness and complete disregard for the safety of life and limb. Especially frightening to this sideline reporter was the ferocity and utter abandon exhibited by the seniors on offense. If only examining committees were as easily gotten through as the defense!

The bleachers were filled to capacity, but they cleared just as quickly when the score flashed to indicate that a commercial was coming up. Then the two stalwart teams ran, tackled, and stepped on each other to gain the much-coveted goal at the top of the stands. The recordskeeper was pretty shoddy, but he recalls the total of two goals scored. But in these contests, it's not who wins but, as our President so graciously reminded us, that no one got hurt and no one was arrested.

In a related story, no one's been arrested at the city league basketball games, although the scores have just been criminal. But there is light at the end of the tunnel. Our seminary team, under the capable leadership of Jay Serafin and John Yost, showed itself a team to not be given pause, losing by only about 20 points in the January 24th game

as opposed to 40 points in the previous two contests. This was due to the hot hands of Rich Zuber, who, being shut out in the first half, scored 20 points in the second. Even this reporter, hampered by a sprained ankle, scored once and fouled two opponents without being seriously injured by the defensive tackle masquerading as a forward. If you're interested in seeing any of these exciting exercises in basketball skill and daring, ask any of the dozen or so players to take you along. Remember, our watchword is Bench Strength!

Lans E. Alexis

Pop Culture

This month's installment of Pop Culture was at the movies. And if you're talking Pop Culture, then it's gotta be Science Fiction. Some long-awaited epics came out over the holiday season; some disappointed, some delighted, and some went "Huh?"

"Dune" was a fine flick if you had read the book. If you hadn't, then you missed most of the story and couldn't enjoy the characters as much as those of us in the know. I felt the casting was excellent; everybody was as I would have envisaged them, even Sting! But with a book of such immense proportions, no one can be fully realized. So you're left with a somewhat complicated power struggle without feeling the spiritual and social weight that propelled the book to classic status.

"The Terminator," while it certainly isn't what I'd recommend for a Lutheran night at the movies, doesn't pretend to be any more than a B-flick, which it does with some restraint (which I understand "Beverly Hills Cop" could use) and a lot of healthy scare-'em-up scenes. No one will accuse Arnold Schwarzenegger of wasting his talent on this movie when he should be doing Hamlet, but he brings the needed

quality of the engine of destruction to this unpretentious battle between good and evil. Sure it's a high-tech see-through parable, but if you have \$2 on a Saturday afternoon, it's better than wasting it on video games.

"2010" is an overextended epilog to a movie that deserves to stand on its own. At the end of "2001," nobody knew what the Star Baby was going to do, but you knew he was going to be "wonderful." So he's back in this second flick, ready to do "something wonderful" for the human race. If "2010" were true to the first movie, then we could all take that cosmic trip thanks to the hallucinogenic Monolith (what it really is is a giant LSD blotter) and all become Star Babies. But instead we get another Sun/Son that is going to be a symbol of the Peace and Love thing that was gonna save us in the Sixties. And here I always thought that the Son we were given 2000 years ago was enough to give everyone peace and love. I really like Arthur C. Clark, but I'd like to tell him I prefer my savior to be human. I mean, when was the last time a star did anything important?

Oh, yeah, well there was that...


Pax,
Lans

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Ms. Proper

Dear Ms. Proper,

Why can't I use comprised, composed, and constituted interchangeably? How can I distinguish between them?

Shirley Eugeste

Dear Shirley,

First of all, you must distinguish among them, for there are three. Between is used if you're comparing only two.

Comprise means to embrace. That's why you shouldn't say the book is comprised (embraced?) of 12 chapters. The book is composed of 12 chapters, the book comprises 12 chapters, and 12 chapters constitute one book.

Likewise, our school is composed of four classes--junior, middle, intern, and senior. Ms. Proper recognizes that this school also comprises special students, and that they constitute a growing minority.

Thanks for writing!

Ms. Proper

Dear Ms. Proper,

I will bring this question to your attention. Or should I take it to someone else?

If I wish to carry a book to another place, am I bringing it or taking it along with me?

In another case, if my friend gives me a gift, would I bring it or take it home with me? Yes, I suppose I would.

Ms. Proper, please clarify this question on usage of bring and take, so that we don't need to take it up (bring it up?) again.

Bringing Taking Classes
in Gettysburg

Dear TCIG,

To bring is to carry something with one toward the place from which the action is regarded. To take is to carry along to a place other than the place from which the action is regarded.

For example, at home I say, "I will take the book to school, and I will bring it back home." At school, I say "I have brought it here; now I'll take it home."

Further, "My friend will bring her gift to me here (wherever I am now); or else tomorrow she will take it to me there (wherever I'll be then)."

I'm so glad you brought this (here) to my attention. But I can't take it (there) anymore!

Ms. Proper

* * * * *

Ms. Proper has noticed that some people seem unable to pronounce the final letter in "asked." They say, "I ask Jane to do it," when all they have to do is to add a t sound: "I askt Jane to do it." It does require slowing down for a second, to do it properly. Now is that so hard?

Other pronunciations to stop and think about (the preferred pronunciation is presented first):

in'-te-gral instead of in-teg'-ral

es-cape instead of ex-cape

et-cetera instead of ek-cetera

imp'-ee-us instead of im-pie'-us (impious)

lin-ee-uj instead of line-uj (lineage)

ur instead of air (err)

fort instead of for-tay (forte)

sher-bet instead of sher-bert

Poetry

Psalm at Midnight

Rescue me
 God
 You promised
 You promised
 A special relationship
 I could call you
 "Dad"
 Are you busy?
 Or have you just forgotten
 I'm precious
 And I'm drowning.

Come see for yourself
 It doesn't take a tidal wave
 To swamp a life
 Little ones do nicely
 One after the other
 When you can't touch bottom
 You get tired of thrashing,
 Choking,
 And spitting,
 But told to keep looking
 For salvation
 Off on the generally storied
 horizon

Out of reach hope isn't much help
 When I need a hand
 Soon, Lord,
 Please,
 If not today, then tomorrow
 At least
 Remember me.

Janet Comings

Self-identity

Self-identity;
 no mirror can show
 the creature who dwells within.

Self-identity,
 I am told,
 lies in a name;
 like Three-in-one,
 which identity I worship.

Self-identity
 and names.
 Female, Democrat;
 Texan, liberal;
 American, Christian.

TABLE TALK

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But self-identity
 also depends upon perspective.
 Some perspectives
 would deny
 Texan and liberal
 in one being.
 Many perspectives would see
 American-Christian
 as a negation.

A Lutheran,
 student,
 middle-class,
 white,
 and socially concerned.
 Such "names" produce skepticism
 in others and in me.
 How concerned can
 a middle-class Lutheran be?
 Concerned, maybe.
 Active? --doubtful.

Self-identity
 includes breaking labels.
 Because labels confine
 and reduce self
 to a list of components.
 Labels must be broken--shattered--
 so that Lutherans can be active,
 and Americans can be Christian.
 And both can be useful.

Self-identity.
 Who I am,
 who I want to be,
 who I will myself to be.
 Defining factors--
 who makes the definitions?
 Who decides which factors will dominate?
 Christian?
 Texan?
 Activist?
 Who decides
 depends on self-identity.

Kris Franke

The Gospel Message: Just Add Water?

Contemporary Christian music has often been accused of being too "sugary" for the Lutheran palate, with lyrics that are so watered down that the Gospel message is hard to find. It is true that some artists offer nothing more than "sugar cane in cellophane"; but there are those who want to give the listener something more substantial.

Anne Herring and Matthew Ward, of the pop group 2nd Chapter of Acts, address this subject in "Room Noise."

Pseudo gospel music	I don't want to be room noise
Music everywhere	Generically speaking
But not a single drop	I don't want to be room noise
To drink anywhere	No one will stop and hear me
Gospel gospel music's	Hear me
An alternative	Hear me
Then you never have to	Hear me
Change the way you live	

Steve Taylor takes a satirical, but honest, look at recent trends in evangelicalism in the song "Guilty By Association."

So you need a new car? Let your fingers take a walk
Through the business guide for the "born again" flock
You'll be keeping all your money in the kingdom now
And you'll only drink milk from a Christian cow
Don't go casting your bread to keep the heathen well-fed
Line Christian pockets instead--avoid temptation
Guilty by association.

There are also great songs of praise being written that may be the standards of tomorrow. Here's a sample by Kemper Crabb called "The Danse."

Jesus danced into the world	We must danse, danse, danse
Singing His heavenly song.	Danse in God's honour.
He taught the Danse to those	We must yield all our steps unto
Who would listen and learn	The King.
As He moved along.	We must danse, danse, danse,
But the steps of His Danse led to	Danse in God's honour.
A cross where He died while the	Let His praises ring throughout
Haters mocked on.	The earth.
But He danced through death's	
Arms and over hell's gate and in	
Three days danced forth from His	
Tomb.	

Resurrection Band, a heavy metal band whose ministry is located in the inner city of Chicago, challenges us to reach out to those in need. Their message speaks strongly in "Stark/Spare."

Slumming ain't the answer
to the cancer poverty
That so many of the poor
Slip into by degree
Jesus walked among them
Pausing to refresh
Finally giving to the point
of blood
To share their emptiness

And we must walk among them
For we can do no less
Than what the Savior taught us
By His life and by His death
For the truth is on our tables
The crumbs are on our floors
We must give as we are able
Both Lazarus and our Judge are
at the door

You'll always be able to find sappy lyrics no matter what musical style you examine. Fortunately, there are artists who don't water down the gospel but deliver a strong and powerful message.

Keep on singing,

David Eck

BATTLEGROUND

Y'see

I was fightin' up on that Seminary Hill
That first day--shootin at the goddamn rebs--
When a youngster all 'way from Minnesota
comes up 'n says

Who are we fightin I says
Why, the goddamn rebs o' course--start shootin'
but he don't

He just looks at me kinda strange.

Can't see 'em in the smoke
he says Well, I says

They're there somewhere
(Almost gettin our heads shot off!)
Then he grabbed my arm

looked me in the eyes, real scared-like

Sayin'

What if we shoot our own
or my reb brother

This this is God's ground
this battlin' won't solve nothin'

I turned away, shot a reb, and said,
Then run, coward

But he just stands there, frozen-like
while someone right beside me gets shot

And

And then he dropped his gun
picked up the wounded feller
looked back at me with with

peaceful

eyes

And ran to the seminary hospital
--strangest thing

Dan Guenther

David Hewitt

DEAR RABBI:

What would have happened if Mary, Joseph, and everybody in Bethlehem had been rich? Would it have changed religion as we know it today?

--PONDERING

DEAR PONDERING:

It probably wouldn't have changed much, but the Gospel according to Luke might have been reworded a bit, thusly:

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, to meet with tax accountants and file a joint return with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in a terry wrapper and laid him on the credenza; because there was no nursery at the Hyatt.

And there were in the same country businessmen prospering in their fields, keeping watch over their stocks by night.

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid, for sudden appearances of the heavenly host usually cause fluctuation on Wall Street.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

(ALL people? the businessmen thought, for they were capitalists, yet they said nothing.)

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in a terry wrapper, lying on a credenza.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth nuclear disarmament and a strengthened economy.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the businessmen said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying on the credenza.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the businessmen.

But Mary kept all these things to herself and read the "Roman Futures" section of the Journal, and smiled.

--written by Holly Hamor
submitted by Debbie Conrad

"Old Tom Muentzer"

As I came home last evening
so tired and full of sleep
I laid on my soft pillow
and fell into it deep

I dreamed that I was Luther
just layin' on his bed
and knockin' at the window
a voice awhispering said:

Chorus: "Oh, Brother Martin,
what about the land?
You've got all the answers
and I've got blood on my hands."

I sat up in a hurry
and said "Pray, who can it be?"
He said, "It's Old Tom Muentzer, man,
don't you remember me?"

"You once approved of me, my lord,
but things turned out all wrong
and now I'm left to walk this world
in ghostly rags and song."

I woke up scared and wondering
just what could this all mean?
I am a hardy Lutheran
and not a man of dreams

But now each face of every man
to me looks like the head
that dispossessed of Muentzer
lay down in Germany dead

I travelled with this vision
from town to sadder town
And there is not a parish, Lord,
can keep my ramblin' down

Oh, every Sunday morning
I see the parish throng
and think of old Tom Muentzer
and sing his dreadful song:

"Oh, Brother Martin,
what about the land?
You've got all the answers
and I've got blood on my hands."

[These are the words to a song I wrote for the occasion
of Mr. Gritsch's Reformation class party. He's going to
take a copy of the song along with him next summer when he
goes to East Germany.]

Tim Craven

February Calendar

- Mon Feb 4 First Day of Classes
- Mon Feb 4 7pm Children's Choir (every Monday)
- Wed-Thurs Feb 6-7 7:30pm Seminary players, "Sign of Jonah" at Kline Theatre, Gettysburg College
- Fri Feb 8 8pm Back-to-School Party, Coffee Shop
- Mon Feb 11 8pm St. Olaf Choir, Kennedy Center, Washington
- Wed-Thurs Feb 13-14 Intern Matching Workshop
- Thurs Feb 14 Valentine Dessert Potluck, Refectory
- Fri Feb 15 7:30 Organ concert, William Whitehead: Bach Rediscovered
- Sat Feb 16 9:30am to 5pm Church Music Workshop: Dr. James Forbes, preacher, and William Whitehead, musician
- Mon Feb 18 7:30pm Partners: Richard Thulin on Listening to Sermons
- Wed Feb 20 11:50am Imposition of Ashes
8pm Ash Wednesday Eucharist at College Chapel
- Thurs Feb 21 7pm Koinonia Partners: Group presentation
- Fri Feb 22 Table Talk deadline for March issue
- Mon Feb 25 1:30pm Field Ed practicum: Dr. Betty Amstutz, exec. dir. for Church Relations and Congregational Services, "Tressler and Lutheran Social Services" (Valentine Rm 206)
- March 2-10 Spring Break

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Survey

by Terry Day

On Curriculum and Calendar

We offer members of the Seminary community this informal survey as an opportunity to consider offerings of the curriculum and the structure of the academic calendar at the Seminary. The survey is designed to elicit information and opinions. Your thoughtful consideration of the questions will be appreciated. When it is completed, please return this survey to Terry Day or to the Table Talk mailbox (to the left of the Emergency Bulletin board) by February 15.

The results will be tabulated and summarized in an upcoming issue of Table Talk. The completed forms may be made available to appropriate committees or individuals.

1. While maintaining the academic traditions of the Seminary, would you be interested in more time available for, or more emphasis placed upon, spiritual development in the academic year? Yes _____ No _____

(IF YES, CHECK THOSE YOU MIGHT PREFER, AS FOLLOWS:)

- _____ a. Required course in prayer, including personal spirituality and faith.

COMMENTS: _____

- _____ b. Elective courses in prayer, personal spirituality, and faith.

COMMENTS: _____

- _____ c. Special days of prayer and reflection integrated into and observed within the academic calendar.

COMMENTS: _____

- _____ c. Retreats held at the Seminary, scheduled and organized to enable all those interested to participate.

COMMENTS: _____

2. This year the Chaplain's office is sponsoring special speakers, events, and Koinonia groups to encourage spiritual development. Have you participated in any of these meetings? Yes _____ No _____

COMMENTS: _____

3. Would you be interested in more courses at the Seminary that better interpret the traditional teachings of the Church with the "realities" of the 1980s? Yes _____ No _____ COMMENTS: _____

4. What other recommendations do you have for enhancement of spiritual development or affirmation of current practices?

COMMENTS: _____

SURVEY, continued

5. Of the eight schools participating in the Washington Theological Consortium, LST-Gettysburg is the only one to conduct lectures throughout the exam period, to the semester's end. Is this satisfactory for you?
Yes _____ No _____

(IF YES) Why?

(IF NO) What changes do you recommend, and why?

6. What other comments do you have about exams and paper requirements as they relate to the class schedule?

7. LST-Gettysburg is the only seminary in the Washington Theological Consortium to begin second semester on the first Monday in February. The other schools begin between Jan 10 and 15. Therefore, Consortium classes have already met two or three times before Gettysburg's spring semester starts. Is this satisfactory to you? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, why?

If no, what do you recommend, and why?

8. Greek for juniors is offered only during the four weeks in January. Is this satisfactory for you? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, why?

If no, what do you recommend, and why?

9. The Seniors' Department for Professional Leadership (DPL) written exams are scheduled separately each year by the various synods, with different deadlines. Is the coordination and scheduling of this exam satisfactory to you? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, why?

If no, what do you recommend, and why?

10. The Seminary has responded to the needs of families of students by providing Communion classes, choirs, and special events for children. Are you satisfied with this involvement? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, why?

If no, what do you recommend, and why?

Student: Junior _____ Middler _____ Intern/3rd year _____ Senior _____

Spouse of: Junior _____ Middler _____ Intern/3rd year student _____ Senior _____

Other _____ (please designate)

Please indicate whether the original or a copy of this completed survey form may be made available to appropriate seminary committees or individuals:

Yes _____ No _____