

Table Talk

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



Vol. XX Issue 7 May 6, 1985

President's Report

REPORT OF THE STUDENT ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT - SPRING 1985

If someone were to ask me what aspect of the Student Association of 1984-85 gave me the greatest satisfaction, I would have to say that it was being part of an organization which employed sound stewardship and unfailing creativity in the use of its budget.

In the area of social activities, the Student Association was forever busy filling up some of our free time with events such as all-night movies, an "all-night" Talent Show (four hours of fun!), and get-togethers celebrating the opening of the spring semester (in addition to one planned for the closing!) and the prospective students' visit. Athletic events included the fiercely competitive ping-pong tournament, basketball, team and open volleyball, and pick-up softball games.

Table Talk continued its monthly publications, filled with everything from poetry of our students to a campus survey to articles regarding issues here on the hill. The Lecture Committee sponsored a visit by Dr. Franklin D. Fry, chair of the Committee on Design of the Commission for the New Lutheran Church, who spoke on the polity of this new church. The Family Life Committee is in the process of preparing its mailing to prospective students, and sponsored a potluck dinner on Easter Sunday for the community.

Especially to be commended on its stewardship and creativity is the Social Action Committee. The semester has held even more activities than the committee's busy fall semester: First, a Lutheran protest was held before the South African embassy in Washington, D.C., and several of our peers were arrested. In addition, there has been an aluminum can recycling project; speakers on the DHS situation in Pittsburgh as well as the issue of providing sanctuary for Central American refugees; a CROP walk; regular work days at the Lutheran World Relief center in New Windsor, MD; worship and lunch on campus with visitors from the Lutheran Retirement Village; and a viewing of the television drama "The Burning Bed" followed by discussion on domestic violence. All this, and one third of the Social Action Committee budget still remains!

We welcomed two campus organizations under the umbrella of the Student Association. In addition to the Seminary Players, we now provide monies for Quest, a women's and men's concerns group, and Partners, a group predominantly consisting of student spouses but open to the entire campus. Quest sponsored a workshop regarding language inclusivity, while Partners offered a variety of activities from lectures to arts and crafts, as well as a special study break filled with delicious refreshments at finals time.

(continued on page two)

President's Report, continued

Student Association funds were also used to assist people beyond the sphere of our students. As a ministry to others, the Core Committee allocated monies to help the campus Refugee Committee prepare for the arrival of a Romanian refugee to Gettysburg, and also gave funds to a local terminally ill cancer patient in desperate need of morphine. I believe these decisions were based upon a true understanding and application of the function of the Student Association to, as our constitution states, "promote consciousness of the social and spiritual needs of the immediate community, the nation, and the world."

We continue to honor and remember our faculty who have helped us to shape our own ministries in special ways. A reception to honor the retiring Dr. Lawrence D. Folkemer for his 25 years of service is to be held on Monday, May 6th, with students and faculty invited. We also note with great sadness the death of Dr. Howard M. Bream on April 13th. A contribution of \$50 has been made to the Hospice of Adams County in the memory of our professor and friend.

Beyond the actions of the Core Committee, students continued to be involved in the future of our seminary, especially through representation of the Mission Statement and Long-Range Planning committees. In addition, a student group was gathered to offer impressions to the Rank and Tenure Committee regarding Dr. William Avery as he was considered for reappointment.

However, inherent in any academic institution are problems and frustrations. 1984-85 was no exception. The Housing and Pet Committees spent many hours working out adequate guidelines for their respective areas, and the rewards are well worth the grueling sessions. Both committees appear to have achieved consistent and competent levels of handling their various responsibilities, and are effectively paving the way for next year.

The Student Association regrets the demise of the freedom, flexibility and creativity of the Middle Term, and I personally wish to express my disappointment at the rigidity which now exists with the curriculum requirements in our three January terms. The opportunities for some unique learning experiences will be sorely missed. My hope is that the Faculty will be able to offer some flexibility, especially during the Middle term which dealt with multi-cultural concerns. Perhaps a creative variety of options students could choose in order to fulfill the requirement would give us a sense of the freedom we so enjoyed in previous years.

Students also expressed concern regarding the transition the seminary appears to be in as its faculty members retire and take sabbaticals. As representatives, the class presidents and I constantly maintained a dialogue with the Academic Dean to register these concerns, and to begin the process of offering solutions. This representation was especially helpful in opening up a larger number of biblical studies courses for the fall term of 1985.

I wish to extend warm and sincere "thank-yous" to members of my Core Committee and the standing committees, and especially our three class presidents, for all their help. In addition, I am grateful for the hours spent talking honestly with both Dr. Stuenpfle and Dean Krodel. Their eagerness to hear student opinion was exciting to me, and we struggled, sometimes in the midst of differing opinion, to aid the seminary as best we knew how.

Finally, I offer congratulations to next year's Student Association president, Lindsay Rhodenbaugh, and wish him as much satisfaction, challenge and joy as I received in one year.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Rouse

April 27, 1985

S.A. Highlights

Highlights from the Student Association Core Committee meeting of April 22, 1985:

* President Nancy Rouse noted that at the Core Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 7, budget requests for next year will be considered.

* A letter was received from Mr. Hank Flor, thanking the Student Association for the gift of \$100 to help defray medical expenses incurred by his late wife.

* Treasurer Jack Dillatteo reported that the treasury is in good shape, with income exceeding expenses by \$1,166, as of April 22.

* Social committee chair Debbie Conrad thanked all who performed in and attended the Talent Show. Future events: Softball game and Lake Krodol party, Saturday, May 4; and a senior recognition/end-of-year party in the quad on Wednesday, May 8.

* Gary Spence reported that the social action committee plans included a report by community members who went to Central America, April 23; Bishop Kenneth May discussing DHS, April 24; a woman from South Africa, April 25; and a showing of "The Burning Bed" and discussion on domestic violence, with Drs. Wood and Stroup, April 27.

* Maurie Lockley reported that the family life committee will soon mail packets to incoming students.

* Four students attended the Women's Interseminary Conference in Pittsburgh. Quest sponsored a seminar on inclusive language April 24.

* Motion to raise Student Health Fund dues by \$1 next year will be referred to the entire Student Association at a meeting on Friday, May 3, at 10 a.m.

* In honor of Dr. Howard Bream, who died April 13, a contribution of \$50 will be made to Hospice of Adams County.

* Romanian refugee Ion Saliu was to arrive at the end of April. The Student Association voted to defray his insurance expenses of \$200.

* A search committee is being formed to fill the position of professor of Old Testament next year.

* Next meeting of the S.A. Core Committee will be Tuesday, May 7, at 4 p.m. Next year's budget requests are due then.

From (unapproved) minutes of
Jim Lockley, Secretary

Results of S.A. Elections for next year:

President - Lindsay Rhodenbaugh

Treasurer - Tom Bruner

Health Fund Coordinator - Sue Luttner

Note: At a meeting of the Student Association on May 3, the students voted to raise the Student Health Fund fee next year by one dollar.

Fryer Wins Piepkorn Prize

Senior Gregory Fryer's winning essay "Mary, the Archetype of the Church," has won him the second annual Arthur Carl Piepkorn Prize. The first winner, David Yeago, is a Gettysburg graduate of 1984.

The prize includes a \$2,000 cash award and a gift of \$500 to the winner's seminary. Our congratulations to Greg!

Birthdance/Godsong
Women's Inter-Seminary Conference

Gettysburg Seminary was well represented at the Women's Inter-Seminary Conference at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, April 19-21, 1985. Four Gettysburg representatives along with 60 other Lutheran women seminarians (from all Lutheran seminaries) enjoyed a very stimulating and exciting conference on the theme "Birthdance/Godsong." This was an interdenominational event as we joined with Presbyterians, United Methodists, Congregationalists, Roman Catholics, Baptists, and others to share our stories and journeys in ministry.

Activities included a keynote address by Judith Plaskow (assistant professor of Religious Studies at Manhattan College, New York City) on "Towards a Jewish Feminist Spirituality," a variety of worship experiences from the Black tradition, and a number of interesting and informative workshops. Workshops attended by June Habeck, Sue Winger, Susan Strouse, and Marty Sheaffer addressed such topics as Language and Liturgy, Women and the Church -- Tradition and Change, Civil Disobedience, Surviving Powerlessness, Homosexual Ordination, Print Media Issues, Clergy Couples, Feminism and Group Process, and Feminist Exegesis. These workshops provided a forum for a variety of issues and concerns for women in ministry today.

The ordination of women is not a new issue as most denominations enter into their second and third generations of ordained women. Indeed, the LCA celebrates its 15th anniversary of the ordination of women in November 1985.

Such gains, however, do not signal the end of sexism in the church. Participants felt this particularly as they considered their collective experiences. For example, while there is no longer the concern for first calls, there is now concern

Summary Statement

We can only say we've come
This far
To this moment-
Unbelievable!
We shake our heads
In genuine gratitude and joy
Let's just leave it there
Without accolades or minute expectations
Tomorrow comes
On its own
Accord.

Janet S. Comings

for whether women can receive second and third calls. In addition, women are concerned about the length of time necessary to receive second or third calls.

There is also the concern that as women enter the institutional structure they are still viewed as tokens rather than as full human beings. Women have yet to experience the institutional structure as a fully inclusive church which can empower both women and men in their ministries.

Finally, there were occasional feelings of bleakness among the conferees as they struggled and grappled with these and other issues. These feelings did not override the feeling of support participants shared with one another.

The Women's Inter-Seminary Conference is an annual event, with next year's gathering planned for Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colorado, April 4-6, 1986. Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza is a scheduled keynote speaker. The theme will be "Celebrate the Time at Hand."

If you wish to know more about our experiences at this conference, feel free to ask June, Sue, Susan, or Marty.

Marty Sheaffer

Ms. Proper

Dear Ms. Proper,

We read with great interest the newsletter from Gettysberg Seminary. Thanks for sending it. (Now, is Gettysberg spelled with an 'e' or a 'u'?)

We will be sending you (communal -- or collective, whichever is correct) copies of our newsletter. Unfortunately I cannot type well, so you'll find all sorts of mistakes. Perhaps you'd like to syndicate your column! I could benefit from your knowledge, as I'm sure other students in Waterloo could.

I do have one comment for you: referring to several issues back, you made reference to the usage and spelling of 'practice' in Canada. We Canadians follow the British, spelling the noun with a 'c', and the verb with an 's'.

Best wishes, and our thanks for an informative paper.

B. Rachel Dart
Editor of Koinonia
Waterloo Lutheran Seminary
Waterloo, Ontario

Dear Ms. Dart,

What fun to get a fan letter all the way from Ontario! Ms. Proper is flattered that you think she should syndicate her column! But do you think it would pay as well as the parish ministry?

Thank you for the notation about practice and practise. I had no idea such a distinction existed.

We are looking forward to seeing your seminary newsletters. We hope you will continue to send them next year.

It's spelled Gettysburg.

Ms. Proper

Dear Ms. Proper,

I am unsure when to use the words "myself" and "me." Could you give me a way to remember when "myself" is to be used?

Hopeless Hilary

Dear Hilary,

Just remember that "myself" is to be used only as a reflexive pronoun -- that is, only when you are doing something to or for yourself -- such as "I told myself" or "I kicked myself." It is therefore not proper to say "Mary and myself are going," nor is it proper to say "Give it to George or myself." Remember, only you can give something to yourself. Best to say, "Give it to George or me" and "Mary and I are going."

Ms. Proper

* * *

Some minutiae (mye-nu-she-ee) to ponder:

Did you know that alumnus is the male singular and alumna is the female singular? that alumni is male plural and alumnae is female plural? Instead of using alumni for both male and female graduates, I note that Christ Seminary/Seminex is using the more inclusive alumni/ae. I guess it's pronounced alum-nye-ee. Graduates would be simpler, but would not include former students who did not graduate.

These are singular: Each, every, one, everybody. They take singular verbs like is, does, has. If you don't like saying "Everyone has his or her own book," say "All the students have their own books." I prefer the former, however.

"Com-plinn" is first choice for pronouncing the before-bed office "Compline." Complyne is the British way, like mo-byle.

Ms. Proper

SURVEY RESULTS

Terry Day and Judy Helm regret that results of the Survey on Curriculum and Calendar, printed in the February Table Talk, were not adequately tabulated and analyzed to allow them to be printed in this last issue.

It is hoped that the survey results will be presented or made available to the community at some time in the future.

Editorial

Many thanks to the talented contributors and the faithful readers who have made Table Talk so successful this year.

Its primary purpose, I have felt, is to communicate the activities and concerns of the seminary community, especially through highlights of the Core Committee meeting minutes and the calendar. Other announcements, reports, essays, and commentaries (especially those by Lans Alexis and David Eck on contemporary culture and music) have given us a flavor of the varied interests and viewpoints of the members of the body at this place.

The Chaplain's Corner, the interviews, Partners/spouses news, and poetry -- especially that of our poets Tim Craven and Janet Comings -- have been well received.

Ms. Proper especially wishes to thank her many fans for their appreciation as well as their arguments. Since she will not be here next year, there is no promise of a continuation. But Ms. Proper says she was running out of material anyway.

Muriel Heichler will probably be editor of Table Talk next year, so we leave it in

good hands. The returning seniors and new juniors who contribute will also give the newspaper a new perspective. There were certainly many features missing this year, but we don't apologize for being more comic relief than serious challenge. Just as Martin Luther's Table Talk demonstrated the more domestic side of his character and thinking, so Gettysburg Seminary's Table Talk shows the more informal side of our lives.

My thanks to Carol Fryer for her beautiful hand lettering of the headlines for each issue, to Louise White for her accurate typing, to Trish Crane for typing this last issue on her word processor, and to Lans Alexis for his enthusiasm and creativity. We continue to be grateful to Fred Cox and Aid Association for Lutherans for their generous support of our publishing costs.

Judy Helm

Our Sponsors:

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Letters

Thoughts on my year in Gettysburg: From a German Viewpoint

It is hard for me to believe that my two semesters here at the seminary will be over so soon. I guess it is time to take a look back. The experience of "culture shock" (note my two classes and a master's thesis, all under Mary-Paula Walsh) did not hit me too hard since I was already acquainted with many differences of the "American way of life." But there were still many new things and it was a year of learning and fun.

I learned about the differences between German universities and American seminaries (e.g., people have to be endorsed to study in a seminary; and there are a lot more second career people here). I learned about other denominations. I learned more about Lutheran theology than ever before and I learned that American theology students do not live with somebody of the opposite sex without having a marriage certificate, and many other things.

I was also surprised about the many extra-curricular activities that students are involved in -- here is where the fun begins: I had fun being a cheerleader for the first time in my life; I felt like Charlie Brown from Peanuts in my attempt to play softball. I loved to watch the many talents that became obvious in the talent show. It was fun to take part in the theater productions of the Seminary Players -- I will try to pursue my golfer/bellhop career in Germany; I enjoyed the many walks along the battlefield; and last but not least: what would we all be without the Pub?

Altogether I can say that it was a great year in Gettysburg, that it influenced me in many ways and that I'll never forget the seminary and all the friends that I have made here. You all, students, faculty, and staff helped me so much and made me feel at home and I would like to thank you all for that.

I would love to show Hamburg to anybody from the seminary --

hopefully I can start with Carol and Greg Fryer this summer; and Dennis -- if you hear a familiar laugh in one of Frankfurt's shopping centers some time during the next year -- it might be me!

I will miss you all! Friede sei mit Euch!

Konni Dressler

You Are Part of the Body

The end of the semester is soon to be upon us. Papers will be due, examinations will be taken by students. Faculty members will have the laborious task of evaluating and commenting on these papers and exams. Seniors are preparing for graduation and are very concerned with the call process.

It is a hectic time for all of us. But in our day-to-day worries and academic exercises, we often forget the central focus of our being here. That focus is to teach and to learn in order to serve God and proclaim the Gospel in the Church of Jesus Christ. But how are we to proclaim the Gospel if we don't come to hear the Gospel and receive it in Word and Sacrament?

Teaching and learning presuppose that this is an academic institution. That is true. We are an academic institution. But we are, to paraphrase a famous speech once delivered in this town, an academic institution OF the church, IN the church, and FOR the church. Our life here revolves around that life given to us in Word and Sacrament.

The Holy Spirit, through the Word of the One who died and rose for us, has called us into existence here. In these last hectic weeks of the academic year, as well as the rest of the year, let us not forget about the life given to us in Word and Sacrament. It is there in the corporate worship of the community, that we, faculty and students, are strengthened and refreshed to go through all of the hectic days of our lives, including these last, end of the semester days.

Mark Fischer

Headlines of Stories that Never Made it
Into the National Enquirer or Table Talk

Dan Coy Surfaces:
Mystery Senior Identified

Ridenhour Announces
Law of Hedes and Persians
"Down the tubes"

Christianson, Kysar
Vie for Tallest
Stand-up Comic Award

Sears Spring Fashions:
Cheryl Tiegs Look "OUT";
Mary-Paula Walsh Look "IN"

Cobby and Terry Day Name
Twin Girls Agnes and Gloria

Ms. Proper Arrested at
Marvelous Harv's for Taking
Liberties with Language

Ripley's "Believe It or Not":
Palance Returns to Record
Kouni Dressler's Laugh

Lincoln Diner, Pub "OUT,"
Say Seminarians;
Christopher's Hot Wieners "IN"

VCR Addicts Anonymous
Group Formed by Matthis;
Confesses "Hooked on Films"

Marcoux Endows Chair
In Coffee Shop

Deb-bie Con-rad Sub-mits
Resig-nation: Says Red-actor
Nev-er Hyphen-ated

Hugh Daley Transfers to
Wackyaus School of Theology:
"Once a Student, Always a Student"

The Littlest Devil:
James Keener Holds
Ping Pong Balls Hostage

Idaho Awareness Backfires:
Montana Roots Revealed;
Nelson, Guenther Shunned

Haircutter to the Preachers:
Miss Tami Tells All

Sue Ellen gets Laryngitis:
"God is Punishing Me!"

Transvestism at Seminary:
Is it Only on Halloween?

Why Notre Dame Loves Jenson:
"60 Minutes" Investigates

Is Prayer Effective Under Water?
Dick Thulin Responds

The Farewell Party

My friends are leaving
Duty bound
And I'm left naked
Chasing sound

Chasing sound
That falls to feet
Clings to glass
And turns to meat

Death comes in
He's dressed to kill
The party's over now
But still

Huddled in the corner
Beauty
Stares at Death
And fondles Duty

Tim Craven

Calling My Bluff

Would I really like to meet you, Jesus,
Some unsuspecting Sunday
You'd appropriate the pulpit,
then preach with authority,
And I'd find reason
to slip out the other door.

Would I really care to greet you, Jesus,
My quick run-into-town day
Should I recognize your face
among the conglomerate throng,
To say hello
would take more courage than I own.

Do I really want to find you, Jesus,
Some ordinary workday,
When you'd been hired for my crew
and put to task right beside me
I'd probably sulk
and resent the intrusion

In my private life
I want no confrontations,
No turbulent forces,
No uneasy feelings,
No changing the rules --
Do you hear?
You have ears!
Won't you listen?

Yes, of course, I'd love to have you, Master,
The moment that I'm ready
I'll leave the side door ajar
some Christmas Eve or Easter morn
Drop by on my terms
or don't stop to knock at all.

Janet S. Comings
April 6, 1985

TABLE TALK

Editor	Judith Beck Helm
Headlines	Carol E.A. Fryer
Typist	Patricia Crane

Calendar

Wed. May 8	7:30 p.m. End of the year party at quadrangle (if good weather) or coffee shop (if bad weather).
Mon. May 13	8-12 p.m. Study break sponsored by Partners, Coffee Shop
Thurs. May 16	7 p.m. Vespers: Ascension of our Lord
Fri. May 17	Close of spring semester! 3 p.m. Commencement 7 p.m. Eucharist
Mon.-Tues. May 20-21	Internship Workshop

Description of Courses for Fall

Lutheran Confessions. Martin tells the truth about himself and Phil Melancthon.

Introduction to American Christianity. Shake hands and say Howdy to Jon Edwards, Sam Schmucker, Billy Graham, and Marty King.

Dialectical Theology. Preaching in British accent, Scottish brogue, Hispanic lingo, and Cotton Patch dialect.

Eve of the Reformation. Katie Luther's story: a feminist view.

Theology of St. Augustine. Retired Floridians' views of God.

Luther and Late Medieval Thought. Midnight ruminations on listening to "We All Believe in One True God."

Issues in Youth Ministry. Back issues to April 1956.

Children in the Church. How to keep 'em quiet during your sermon.

Christian Initiation and Confirmation. Dinks, hazing, rushing, and even the secret handshake.

The Prophets. How you can prophet from the coming Apocalypse.

Elementary Hebrew. "Hava Nageela" and kibbutz life for children.

Exodus. The Leon Uris novel in 13 weeks.

Jeremiah. About bullfrogs and why Three Dog Night disbanded.

Reading of Selected Greek Texts. The Odyssey, Life of Kazantzakis, and Never on Sunday.

Selected Theological Loci. Wentz's Library, Jenson's living room, Gritsch's kitchen, and Wolfe's Pub.

Town and Country Church. How to play tennis and golf in exurbia.

War and Violence. Dungeons and Dragons seminar.