

Table Talk

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



Vol. XX

Issue 1

October 10, 1984

Mindbusters

Here it is! Fresh from the Social Committee: The exciting Fall line-up of get-togethers for the entire Seminary community! So let your "social-eyes" check out the following schedule -- and WRITE THEM DOWN ON YOUR CALENDAR:

Friday, Oct. 12 Seminary Picnic.
Softball game begins 4:10 p.m. on field behind refectory. Picnic 5:15 beside refectory. Refectory members needn't bring anything, but others bring food for potluck picnic (main dish, salad, or dessert).

Friday, Oct. 26 All-Night Games.
Trivial Pursuit and your other favorites! 8:30 in Coffee Shop, basement of Valentine Hall. BYOMAG (Bring Your Own Munchies and Games). Drinks provided. TRIVIA ATTACK! TRIVIA ATTACK!

Friday, Nov. 2 Halloween Party.
Costume party and dance 8:00 at Refectory. Prizes for funniest, most bizarre, most artistic, and best team costumes. Also a party for campus kids (complete with 4th Floor Valentine "Haunted House") is planned. Come on out for a fantastic party! I ain't afraid o' no ghosts!

Friday, Nov. 16 Fall Hayride or Square Dance. Details to come. Don't miss it!

Remember, T.G.I.F. means Thank God It's Fun!

Peter Schwabe-Fry

INTRODUCING - Mary-Paula Walsh

Irish eyes are smiling among the German-Scandinavian faces at meetings of the Seminary faculty this year with the addition of Dr. Mary-Paula Walsh to the staff of Division III. A Roman Catholic laywoman, she lends an ecumenical cast to the group as well.

A native of Brockton, Mass., Dr. Walsh received her bachelor's degree in religion and philosophy from Boston University. After that she taught for four years at St. Gregory's College, Shawnee, Okla., in the areas of Old and New Testament and social ethics. She then returned to school to take a doctorate in religion and social ethics.

While engaged in these studies, Dr. Walsh found a need to know more sociology, so she completed a master's in that field, and went on for the doctorate in sociology from Catholic University. With that kind of track record, we're sure the Ph.D. in religion will not be far behind!

Dr. Walsh's doctoral dissertation researched the variables that influenced clergywomen's perceptions of the difficulties they might experience in enacting what have been socially defined as male religious roles. We hope that sometime she will share with us some of the results of that research, for the subject has immediacy for us here.

(Please turn to page two)

S.A. Notes

INTRODUCING MARY-PAULA WALSH (continued from page one)

While doing her graduate work, Dr. Walsh also did research in the field of criminal justice for the government of the District of Columbia.

Pleased to be on the Gettysburg campus, she says she has appreciated the warm welcome she has received. Her classes this semester are the sociology module of the Religion in Human Behavior course and Town and Country Church.

At least for the foreseeable future, Dr. Walsh will be commuting to Gettysburg from her home in Hyattsville, Md. She's fortunate to be an early riser by nature, and finds commuting against the current not too difficult. As one who does that commute only once a week, I salute her fortitude.

We trust Dr. Mary-Paula Walsh will continue to feel welcome here, and we hope she will stay and become a tenured professor.

Muriel Nordsiek Heichler

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Highlights from the Student Association Core Committee meeting, September 20, 1984: (Nancy Rouse presided.)

*Newly elected chairpersons:

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Athletics | Mark Rossman |
| Lecture | George Minick |
| Publications | Muriel Heichler |
| Social | Deb-bie Conrad |
| Social Action | Mary Spence |
| Family Life | Karen Tews |

*Football game is scheduled with Virginia Theological Seminary on Saturday, October 13 at Alexandria. A game with Mt. Airy will probably be in November. Hoping to schedule games with Moravian Seminary in Bethlehem and Lancaster Seminary. Intramural schedules are forthcoming.

*Monthly issues of Table Talk will begin in October. Judy Helm is editor and Lans Alexis, assistant editor.

*Social Action committee hopes to promote voter registration, CROP walk, can recycling, Adams County Food Pantry, and inviting residents of the Lutheran Retirement Home to a Eucharist.

*A budget of \$3,800 was approved (subject to approval by Student Association). Funds are allotted to all committees listed above, plus seniors, Lutheran House of Studies, Seminary Players, Chaplain's discretionary fund, and general account. Treasurer is Jack DiMatteo.

*Student Association voters meeting set for October 8 at 7 p.m. in Valentine Hall, Room 206.

*Better communications were urged between Core Committee and the student body concerning the use of budget money for such things as faculty and S.A. officers' gifts.

*George Minick and Peter Schwabe-Fry were asked to report next month on the Student Health Fund coordinator's responsibilities.

(Please turn to page three)

IDENT ASSOCIATION HIGHLIGHTS
(continued from page two)

*A task force on community meals was formed, consisting of Deb-bie Conrad and two members of both the Family Life and Refectory Committees.

*A shared Eucharist with Virginia Theological Seminary is planned for October 3.

*Seminary Board of Directors will meet October 11. Concerns to be addressed to the Board should be given to Nancy Rouse or one of the class presidents.

*Students are needed to host the Lay-Seminarian Dialogue, October 22-24.

*Core Committee meets again on October 15, 7 p.m., Valentine 310.

From (unapproved) minutes of
Jim Lockley, Secretary

Editorial

On the Presidential Election -- And You

If you are registered to vote in the Presidential election on Tuesday, November 6, vote. If you are going to need an absentee ballot, write for it immediately. As our mock election demonstrated, your vote makes a difference. Do it.

Judy Helm

Notice: The LCA Division for World Mission and Ecumenism will sponsor a study seminar in Cuba January 10-25, 1985, and in El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua February 7-25. Contact the Rev. Arthur O. F. Bauer, DWME Interpretation, 231 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016.

Editorial

Sounds a little like a disease, eh? Actually it's an exegetical process for aspiring writers.

It's strange to be named the assistant editor of Table Talk without having applied for the job. It sounds like a funny way of saying gofer. But this gofer will not be silent. Here I type; I can do no more.

1. Politics. Vote, vote, vote. With all that's been written about politics and religion, it behooves us to get out there 100% for the candidate of our choice. My choice is Mondale. He's a PK, a Norwegian, and he could be a Lutheran if he wanted to be. Reagan doesn't attend church regularly, he campaigns for photo opportunities, and he's a close personal friend of Jerry Falwell. 'Nuff said.

2. Intercessions. We learned a great deal from Father Mark Gibbard on our weekend retreat (Thanksalot, Padre!), and the point came up that the intercessions at our Eucharists seemed inadequate. I spoke to Chaplain Koons about this, and he said that it would be brought up at the Worship Committee meeting.

What I found was the list of names did not really tell us what we were praying about. What is needed is some attention by those giving the names or concerns and those who'll be using them, to give the kind of information that we can use to make our own prayers more effective. It may be more difficult, but it is necessary in our community to be open and responsive to each one of our family of the faithful.

I'll climb out of the pulpit now and back to bed. Pax.

Lans E. Alexis

REGISTRATION AND VOTING TURNOUT
MAKE BIG DIFFERENCE

If nonregistered Seminary persons were to register and to vote on November 6, their support could add 6% to the Reagan-Bush ticket and 17% to the Mondale-Ferraro ticket in a Seminary election. But if 47% of the Seminary community decline to participate in the election, their preferences will not be heeded.

These are some of the conclusions drawn from the results of a mock Presidential election conducted October 2 at the Seminary by the Social Action Committee. The mock election was held to demonstrate what a difference a vote makes and to encourage registration and voter turnout on Election Day.

Ballots were distributed to 215 people -- faculty, staff, students, and spouses -- and 114 ballots (53%) were cast. Mock election voters were asked to indicate whether they were actually registered to vote. The results are as follows:

| | <u>Reagan- Bush</u> | <u>Mondale- Ferraro</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Registered Voters | 11.4 | 57.1 |
| Nonregistered Voters | <u>6.1</u> | <u>17.5</u> |
| Total Ballots | 17.5 | 74.6 |

Summary:

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Reagan-Bush | 17.5 |
| Mondale-Ferraro | 74.6 |
| Other/Undecided | <u>7.9</u> |
| | 100.0% |

From data provided by

Mary B. Z. Spence
for the Social Action Committee

YEAGO WINS \$2,000 PRIZE

David S. Yeago is the winner of the first Arthur Carl Piepkorn Prize, announced by Christ Seminary-Seminex. The \$2,000 prize is to be awarded at a convocation at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago on October 10.

Now working on a four-year Ph.D. program at the Yale School of Religious Studies, David is a 1984 graduate of the Seminary. His winning essay, "Doctrine of the Mystical Union: A Lutheran Contribution to Spiritual Theology," was one of 14 submitted from students at eleven seminaries and graduate schools.

David gave a talk to the Seminary community last spring on the subject, which points to the 17th century Lutheran orthodoxy of Johann Andreas Quenstedt and Philip Nicolai and their standard authoritative work on spirituality. As Yeago says, "Lutherans should recover their traditional teaching of God's dwelling in people redeemed by Christ -- as a contribution to the ecumenical emphasis on spirituality."

The Piepkorn Prize also carries with it a gift of \$500 to the seminary in which the student has been enrolled. It is to be designated for a work of art or liturgical item to be placed in the school's chapel.

David is looking forward to the publication of his essay. He says, "This is an enormous honor for me because Arthur Carl Piepkorn has been important to me ever since I decided to be serious about theology."

The Seminary extends its congratulations to David S. Yeago.

Chaplain's Corner

On August 3, 1984, Seminary Chaplain Robert W. Koons was one of six speakers at a Hiroshima-Nagasaki memorial program at St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church in Gettysburg. The program, sponsored by the Adams County Campaign for a Nuclear Weapons Freeze, was preceded by a silent vigil on the streets near the church. Pastor Koons' remarks, as follows, were printed in The Gettysburg Times, August 9:7

For the following statement I have used Lincoln's Gettysburg Address as a model. I do this with deep respect for what is certainly one of the most highly regarded documents of our American heritage and with a sincere desire to uphold that respect as it is shared by people all over the world. I have chosen this model because our memorial for those killed or injured at Hiroshima and Nagasaki is occurring here in Gettysburg, because I believe the spirit of Abraham Lincoln once expressed in our town appeals also for an end to the horrors of war which are peculiar to our own day, and because I hope the remembrance of his words will reinforce our yearning and that of people everywhere for peace in our time.

One score and nineteen years ago our forebears brought forth upon this planet a new weapon, conceived in fear and dedicated to the proposition that whole populations may be destroyed as a means to achieve an end. Now we are engaged in a great armaments race, testing whether that weapon or many weapons so conceived and so dedicated can make nations secure.

We are met on a portion of this global battlefield to remember the innocent people who unwillingly and unknowingly gave their lives to an annihilating way which must not endure. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. For all human life is sacred, and in the largest sense we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow what has already been blessed by its Creator. It is for us, his children, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work of caring for the whole creation which as human beings we have in limited ways thus far so nobly advanced.

It is for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to the cause of making peace, that we here highly resolve that never again shall these dead be joined by others made victims of a nuclear bomb -- that all nations, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom from war -- and that the peaceable hopes and life-fulfilling dreams of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.

Robert W. Koons

The Adams County Nuclear Freeze Walk will be Saturday, October 13, beginning at 9 a.m. Walkers will cover a ten-kilometer (6.2 miles) route and raise money through pledges for each kilometer walked.

The Social Action Committee urges you to join the effort supporting a freeze on nuclear arms, by walking or by sponsoring a walker. Ask Chaplain Koons or Mary Spence for more information.

Mary B. Z. Spence

Philological Outlaw

I am a seminary student with a black patch over my eye
I kick the pious and associate with known human beings
I think books look good on the shelves, like paintings
I think discussions of language should be confined to
what people talk about in the grocery store
I play cards in class and read odd magazines
I can be found wandering the Gettysburg battlefield
smoking cigars and admiring stone carvings

I play music at three in the morning
and defend the western perspective at four
I'm on Ernest Angley's mailing list
I think Ethics is doing the dishes if your wife cooks
Last night at midnight I heard a loud noise:
Somebody had dropped a pile of heavy books down the steps
My son looked afraid and asked me, "What's that?"
"I think it's a bunch of Creeds," I said,
"Don't be afraid. They mean well."

I thank God Luther liked beer
I have a horse in Baughman Hall. It takes me into the mountains
where I have robbed the train of scriptural analysis many times
with a six-shooter of angry faith

I believe that by careful study we can come to a clearer understanding
of what the authors of scripture really meant
I believe that the Dallas Cowboys are really America's Team
I believe that Velveeta Cheese applied topically will cure warts

I would rather be beaten with branding irons than go to a meeting
If God would have intended us to go to meetings
We all would have been born with paper cuts on our hands

Somebody told me that I wasn't smart enough to be a pastor
I called him a gnostic and punched him in the face
I talked to Gustav Adolphus yesterday
He said all of these activities were OK

Someone said,
"Augustine is not popular
among the dead."

A waitress in a bar told me,
"Better to take a stand and to be shot down
than to hold on to the fort and find that the town was built
a hundred miles away."

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Dangerously philological
I sit beneath the October moon
satirically cursing deism

I note a leaf

A star explodes and I whisper to my closest friend,
"You know, I'm sure glad I'm in the Church...
...Nature doesn't know what it's missing."

I want to do my internship on a tramp steamer
I want to be the first Lutheran pastor on the moon
communing rocks, big rocks and baby rocks
A coffee cup will be my liturgical tool
The Lutheran Book of Worship will be replaced by
Billy Budd, Sailor and ecumenical Irish drinking songs
Choir members will walk the plank
From the riggings hang the Church's colors
In the bowels of the creaking ship
slaves of Christ, led by anonymous Paul
shouting, "Stroke, stroke, stroke!",
row, making for Los Angeles

I eat ten Christian Education directors every morning for breakfast
I live under a bridge
Hair grows out of my theological roots
I preach five sermons every Sunday
Nobody knows what I'm talking about
I have fifteen awards for homiletical achievements
I once convinced a bus load of teenagers to go to Wendy's
instead of McDonald's

I've thrown away my appointment book
I watch television all day
Maybe I'll sell insurance instead
My Master of Divinity degree hangs on my wall next to the window
The window imitates a town I used to be a part of
I sit next to a rubber plant with a Coke and yesterday's newspaper
My wife has left me
My kids are all homosexual deists

I don't know how this all happened
Jesus died for me
Surely humanity and misunderstanding will follow me
all the days of my life

Tim Craven

Ms. Proper

Dear Ms. Proper:

I'm new to this high church stuff, but I'm trying to get it all straight. Now, I know the long white robe is called an alb; but how to you pronounce that: like in Albany or in albino?

And the old-fashioned black and white jobs that are being brought out of the closets for matins and such. Why are they called hassock and surplus?

Stumped Seminarian

Dear Stumped:

Your willingness to ask foolish questions is certainly admirable. Your classmates will be forever grateful that you ventured to ask what they would be too embarrassed to utter.

The a in alb is pronounced as if it were the beginning of albino or the name Al, as in "You know me, Al" (Ring Lardner, 1916).

The venerable long black robe with its mandarin collar and long fitted sleeves is a cassock, of course. (You were pulling my leg, weren't you?)

The white garment worn on top of the cassock is a surplice, and is pronounced surpliss, not as in Army-Navy Surplus! The dictionary informs us that surplices were originally worn by clergy in northern climes over their fur coats (superpellicium in Latin). Good to keep in mind in unheated chancels.

While we're at it, I'd like to speak about the Eucharistic vestments called chasubles. They do not rhyme with plausible, but with jazz-able! Let's try to be proper.

* * * *

Now for my two important pronunciations for the month: grievous and nuclear.

If you pronounce grievous in three syllables (gree-vee-us), it is your fault, your own fault,

your own most greev-us fault! Go and sin no more!

And if you insist on saying nuke-you-lar, you deserve to be nuked! (Ha, ha, just kidding; I thought the microphone was off.) The correct pronunciation, freeze fans, is nuké-lee-ar.

A basic principle of Ms. Proper: No matter the worth of your argument, you will gain more respect from your hearers if you pronounce everything correctly and refrain from saying like, you know, and hopefully.

Spelling lesson for October: Get out your Bics, Class, and copy the correctly spelled words, as follows:

acquaintance. Don't forget the c before the q.

inconsistent. I know there's no consistency about which words are ents and which are ants. Just keep a list until you've got them memorized.

intramural. Means within the walls of the school. Intermurals would be among the walls or among the schools, hey?

its. Please don't use an apostrophe unless it's a contraction for it is. Its is a possessive like hers and his -- they don't take apostrophes either. (I forgot: also yours and mines.)

Lorenz Nieting. Pronounced Lawrens Neet-ing. If it were spelled Neiting, we'd have to say Night-ing.

pericope. Of course it's purr-ik-o-pee, and rhymes with calligraphy; but it's just fun to say peery-koap. At any rate, spell it right.

personnel. Phonetically, you'd like to use one n and two ells; but don't.

practice. Britons and Canadians use practise. We are Americans.

This should be enough for one month! Let me know your questions for the next issue.

Ms. Proper

Calendar

Wed-Thurs Oct 10-11 Seminary Board of Directors meeting
 Thurs Oct 11 Bush-Ferraro debate on TV
 Fri Oct 12 Seminary picnic 5:15 p.m. outside Refectory
 Softball starts 4:10
 Sat Oct 13 Clown workshop 9-12 Valentine Hall Rm 206
 Sat Oct 13 Adams County Nuclear Freeze Walk starts 9 a.m.
 Sat Oct 13 The New Lutheran Church: Wm Kinnison, chair, CNLC
 Christ Lutheran, 29 S. George St, York, 1:30-4:30
 Mon Oct 15 Student Assn Core Committee mtg. 7 pm Valentine 310
 Sat Oct 20 Central Penn Synod Worship Conf, 9-4, St. Paul's LC,
 Carlisle: "Holy Baptism: Its Meaning and Celebration,
 Its Confirmation and Affirmation." Ralph Van Loon
 and John W. Becker
 Sun Oct 21 7:30 at Seminary Chapel: The Chesapeake Brass and
 Karen Buckwalter, organ. Music, Gettysburg! concert
 Sun Oct 21 Reagan-Mondale debate on TV, 8 p.m.
 Mon-Wed Oct 22-24 Lay-Seminarian Dialog, sponsored by LLM for Stewardship
 Wed Oct 24 Intern and Spouse Orientation Night, 7 pm Valent 206
 Thurs Oct 25 Clinical Pastoral Education Day
 Fri Oct 26 All-night Games, Coffee Shop 8:30-on
 Sun Oct 28 Begin Standard Time. Set clocks back 1 hr Sat night
 Sun Oct 28 The American Boychoir, 4 p.m. First Lutheran Church,
 Carlisle: E High and S. Bedford Sts. \$5.00
 Sun Oct 28 Reformation Sunday
 Mon Oct 29 Second half courses begin
 Tues-Mon Oct 30-Nov 5 Pastor in Residence: The Rev. John Cochrane,
 Center City Lutheran Parish, Philadelphia
 Wed Oct 31 Martin Luther Colloquium, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
 10:30 Lewis W. Spitz, "Luther and Humanism"
 1:30 James M. Kittelson, "Luther and Education
 for Ordination"
 3:45 Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., "From Wittenberg
 to Gettysburg: A Proposal"
 7:00 Music concert
 7:30 Festival Eucharist of Reformation/Reconciliation
 Richard Nelson, preacher

continued next page

CALENDAR, CONTINUED

Thurs Nov 1 Bishop Harold Weiss, Northeast Penn Synod, on campus
 Thurs Nov 1 Deadline for Table Talk November issue
 Fri Nov 2 Costume Halloween Party 8 p.m. Refectory
 Wed Nov 7 Spouses Meeting 7:30
 Mon-Wed Nov 12-14 Pa State Pastors Conf, Penn Harris Motor Inn, Camp Hill
 Speakers: Dorothee Sölle, David H.C. Read, Anthony Campolo. Seminarians register for \$20.717/545-4761
 Fri Nov 16 Fall Follies -- Hayride or square dance

Confession, Sort Of

sins?
 Well...
 Yes--I guess
 I must admit
 There have been some
 (few)
 (isolated)
 peccadilloes
 Actually
 Nothing
 Worth capitalizing
 You understand
 My life is basically solid
 By comparison
 I could tell you
 About others
 Far more
 Obviously lacking
 When it comes to a good repentance
 With a grateful heart
 And a new resolve
 I appreciate your (misplaced) urging
 But I simply don't feel
 (at the moment)
 (myself)
 In need of a Savior's love.

Janet Comings
 April 6, 1984

| | |
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| TABLE TALK | |
| Editor | Judith Beck Helm |
| Assistant Editor | Lans E. Alexis |
| Calligraphy | Carol E. A. Fryer |

WE AWAIT YOUR CONTRIBUTION

How about writing a review of Eco's The Name of the Rose? or of Embodiment? How about commenting on the theological or other aspects of Purple Rain? or Ghostbusters? We'd like book and movie reviews.

Would you like to interview Jean Hess or Billy Sanders? Roger Gobbel or Norma Wood? We'd love up-close-and-personals.

Don't you think Table Talk needs your artistic touch? your cartoons? your satire of a Pentateuch mid-term? your original hymn parody? your poetry?

Will we hear from the Washington students? Will some of the faculty have a go at it?

Are you brave enough to write a defense of your stance on a theological, liturgical, pastoral, or community concern? Will you let us publish you before you submit your work to Christian Century?

Table Talk is published monthly, by and for the seminary community. Deadline for contributions and calendar events is the first of each month. Put your contributions in the Table Talk mailbox or give/mail them to Judy Helm at the Seminary.