

# Table Talk

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



Vol XX

Issue 2

November 8, 1984

## Bomb Threat

'Twas a typical night,  
And all through the town,  
Not a creature was stirring --  
Except for one clown!

It was 11:50 p.m. last Tuesday night, October 30, when a knock came at the door. I opened it to find a serious-looking Keith Runge. "Someone called in on the phone upstairs. They said there was a bomb in our building and that it would go off in 15 minutes. We're getting everyone out!"

Shouting that there would be a medal in this for him, I got ready to go outside while Keith, Karl Rydholm, Bill Deist, Stan Reep, and the others on the third floor of Baughman Hall continued on down the corridor, knocking on more doors.

The motley group assembled outside, most having been awakened out of deep sleep. I started to talk to the fellow next to me who was wearing a housecoat pulled over striped pajamas, when I noticed that his eyes were closed. He was standing fast asleep, comically buried ankle-deep in a pile of leaves!

After the building was completely evacuated and dozens of

## Social Events

It's astounding! The Social Committee wishes to thank all the people in the Seminary community who enthusiastically came out to make huge successes out of the social events to date: the softball game and Seminary picnic (complete with one of the most gorgeous fall evenings), the all-night games, and the costume Halloween party. Thank you! And now there's more to come:

Saturday, Nov. 10 Marty Party.

To help celebrate Martin Luther's 501st birthday, the annual Luther Bowl will be held in the afternoon, featuring Mt. Airy Seminary playing our own Gettysburg Gorillas in an exciting football match-up. Together with the Athletics Committee, we invite you to come and cheer at the game, followed by "Chili with Philly" at the Refectory (a free supper of homemade Texas-style chili! Yum!!).

Friday, Nov. 16 Fall Follies.

Starting at 7 p.m., we'll have a hayride around the campus to enjoy the brisk fall air while snuggling into the hay. Then at 8 p.m., we will start Stompin' at the Refectory with a square dance. Yee-haw! Swing your partner! Apple-bobbing, too. Y'all come out!

Peter Schwabe-Fry  
for the Social Committee

(Please turn to page two)

# Spouses' News

The spouses' group on campus is alive and kicking! We've been busy getting to know each other and members of the faculty through sharing common experiences and interests and meeting with guest speakers.

We began the semester with discussions among ourselves about teaching parish placements, CPE learnings, and internship adventures. We found it refreshing to get together and share stories. How often we heard our own feelings expressed in another's experience!

We learned more about vestments from Blanche Jenson. She instructed us on the purpose, appropriateness, and construction of vestments. We learned to appreciate vestments as both a political statement and as an art form. We thank Mrs. Jenson for sharing her talents, interests, and "stories" with us!

We are currently forming various activity groups, as follows, which are open to everyone (the contact person is named in parentheses):

Prayer Group (Ruth Bruner)  
Bible Study (Jill Wolpert)  
Aerobics (Mary Morton)  
Quilting (Jill Wolpert)  
Auto mechanics (Carl Price)  
Water color: Stan Reep, instructor  
(Terri Migliore-DiMatteo)  
Spinning (to be decided)  
Book Circle (Brenda Boldin)  
Cross-stitch (Joyce Keener)  
English smocking (Lynn Bittner),  
to be held during 2nd semester

Our group is in the process of renaming ourselves. Any suggestions?

There's talk of a night out at Wolfe's Pub, but no date has been set.

A special magazine for spouses of ministers is now available, called Partnership. The library is considering purchasing it. If you would like the magazine available in the library, let them know it!

Terri Migliore-DiMatteo

# Bomb Threat!

(continued from page one)

people had assembled in the parking lot, the brave Gettysburg policeman arrived on the scene: "I ain't goin' in there! I don't know what I'm looking for! Do you want to go in there?" he asked Blackie Lyons, the building manager. "Uh-uh, not me!"

More police arrived, announcing that they had received similar bomb threats phoned in to most of the dorms down at Gettysburg College. The three students from Valentine Hall came over, David Eck declaring loudly that he must have defused the bomb in their building, because they had also received a call, and it was now past the time when the bomb was supposed to go off! Finally the police said they had to go: all the hotels in town had received bomb threats, too. Someone was apparently methodically phoning all over Gettysburg.

We all stumbled back into Baughman Hall, which had remained very unmoved by the whole experience. And as I got ready to go to sleep, I suddenly had the strangest impulse to check under my bed.

Peter Schwabe-Fry

# Our Sponsors

Publication of the 1984-85 Table Talk is made possible by a generous grant from Aid Association for Lutherans. We extend our thanks to AAL!

## A continuing commitment

... that's what AAL's symbol stands for. It's a commitment enabling Lutherans and their families to aid themselves and others. AAL does that through benevolence programs and fraternal benefits, including life, health and retirement insurance. So look at this symbol and think "commitment!" Then, think AAL.



Aid Association  
for Lutherans  
Appleton, Wisconsin®  
Fraternal Insurance

FRED COX  
304 Rhoda Drive  
Lancaster, PA 17601  
717-569-3845

# S. A. Highlights

FROM CORE COMMITTEE MEETING

OCTOBER 15

- \* The Athletics Committee of the Student Association is planning for the football game with Philadelphia Seminary, November 10.
- \* Intramural basketball will be held later in the year.
- \* The Social Action Committee is considering aluminum can recycling on campus; is supporting Pornography Awareness Week; is hoping to offer educational information for new voters on local candidates; and is planning a video tape showing of "The Burning Bed" later in the school year.
- \* A Family Life subcommittee has been formed to recommend rule changes for the use of Heiges Lounge.
- \* Community meals are planned as follows: December 5 in conjunction with the first Advent Eucharist; January 18 in honor of J-Term Greek students; February 14 for an adult get-together; and May 18 in honor of seniors.
- \* Student Health Fund Coordinator Carol Gesalman has agreed to summarize SHFC rules to place before the S.A. for approval next spring.
- \* Mark Anderson discussed alcohol problems on campus and urged our awareness of alcoholism. He particularly encouraged party hosts to provide alternatives for non-drinking guests. Mark volunteered to act as a resource on this subject.
- \* The Core Committee will meet again November 12 at 7 in Valentine Room 310.

From (unapproved) minutes of  
Jim Lockley, Secretary

# Introducing ~ Marie Smith

Marie Smith, administrative assistant to President Stuempfle, is a very private person. As such, it is understandable that she is a confidante of many people on campus. Although she is a busy woman, she manages to make time for those who drop by.

College campuses in the area know her well. While attending classes in business, she began work as the secretary to the president of Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg. Her skills and experience made her an asset at Gettysburg College, where she was secretary to the Dean for seven years. She was hired for the same position with the Central Pennsylvania Consortium before coming to our seminary.

Shortly after Mount St. Mary's, Marie married and began raising a family. Her daughter, now 23, is a graphic artist in Hanover.

Marie protects her private life. After work, her time is with her family. With the atmosphere she describes, she could be a native Californian, i.e., "laid back"! She always finds time for important things -- like walks with her husband. The pace is not rushed nor is the order set. Dinner may be by flashlight -- or at least the cooking of it on the grill -- but one can bet that there is no indigestion. "I love my life the way it is," she says. There isn't anything she'd change.

If, however, there were more time in her life, she would spend it with her pastimes -- fishing, hunting, gardening, and reading. With still more time available, she might study genetics, a "fascinating subject."

Oh, yes, fishing and hunting; ask her to tell you about her best fishing spot and about the turkey hunt.

Marina Flores

## TABLE TALK

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

## Editorial Alexis

Tradition -- just how good is it? Is it really the answer to the problems that the humanists and the counter culture gave us during those Psychedelic '60s and Selfish '70s? Can we throw the Bible and liturgical reform at whatever has happened to us and see our problems disappear? What are all these problems and why does Ronald Reagan think he has all the answers? And why do I ask all these questions if my midterms are done and I should stop thinking deep thoughts? Wow! If I had the answers, this would be a great column...or a bad doctoral thesis.

What kind of tradition should we follow, anyway? Most of the congregations I know think the SBH is a good tradition. Is the tradition of the early, persecuted church best for us, or the state church of the Roman Empire? What's wrong with Martin Luther's way of doing things? Does the Bible point to something and say "There it is"? Probably not, because then we'd be doing it.

So we do what has always been done -- compromise. Work things out as best you can, putting all your knowledge and discernment on the problem, and then remember that you're human, and wait for the Rapture. I know that's all I have to look forward to.

Pax,  
Lans

P.S. If you have the answers or want to argue about it, put it in a letter for the paper. I'm no fun to argue with, 'cuz I'd probably agree with you. That's why they call me Chameleon.

The Social Action Committee announces that since November is World Hunger Month, all worship offerings in November will go to LCA's World Hunger Appeal. The committee's goal is \$1,000, or \$250 from each Wednesday's Eucharist offering.

There are many connections between the Eucharist and hunger. Martin Luther pointed to one in his 1519 Treatise on the Blessed Sacrament:

"When you have partaken of the sacrament...you must in turn share the misfortune of the fellowship...all the unjust suffering of the innocent, with which the world is everywhere filled to overflowing. You must fight, work, pray, and -- if you cannot do more -- have heartfelt sympathy."

Our heartfelt sympathies will lead us to fight for greater U.S. food aid to Africa, where millions face starvation in Ethiopia alone; to work to educate ourselves and others about food production, distribution, and consumption; and to pray that God's mercy will help all who suffer and all who give and work to end the sickness, suffering, and dying caused by the long drought.

Bread for the World invites us to a meeting this Thursday at 7:45 p.m. in Room 307, Valentine Hall. BFW is a wonderful Christian organization that lobbies for changes in food policies here and abroad. It's time our community joined their efforts.

Judy Helm

### Notice:

Jack DiMatteo announces that anyone may do his tests and his papers for him this semester and thereby fulfill the ethnic/minority concerns requirements.

An offer you can't resist!

Criteria for Candidates (Female)

or

In Search of the Perfect Shepherdess

She writes concise reports, but can she manage tough committees?  
She bakes all her own communion bread, but how is she with kids?  
Will she keep our old folks happy and that teen crowd entertained?  
When we add a wing, can she review the bids?

She should have a pulpit presence, but no ego seeking credit,  
She must breathe a soothing spirit when the grumbles start to gale.  
A true paragon of virtue with a dash of civic pride  
And a photographic mem'ry for detail.

It would help if she were humble when the Sunday School wants cleaning  
But sophisticated in her dress and manner when on call.  
Now, the choir'd prefer soprano with some skill on the piano  
And it wouldn't hurt if she could play softball.

Let her hand and heart be gen'rous, but her lips spare of opinion--  
Brimmed with leadership potential, but no fancies of dominion.  
Some evangelistic fervor? Fine -- for souls as yet unwon,  
But yet never far from home in case the bulletin wants done.

Only two more things are necessary: charisma and drive,  
Well combined with toleration when the rank-and-file won't move.  
Yes, a pastor who's self-winding is a congregation's joy,  
For with God behind her, she'll live on his love.

Janet S. Comings

The Call

Proverb

With eyes closed  
the ocean is an animal  
lapping at my side

But with eyes open  
it is I who curl helplessly  
at the side of God

Tim Craven

It is a wacky wind which stops  
short of your porch  
like a car driven by Keystone Cops  
hesitating like a hungry dog  
circling like yesterday's news  
looking for the water of your  
tomorrow

Open the window, lover  
It is your God who awaits your smile  
protecting your house  
from your absence

Tim Craven

# Pop Culture

I've been buying a lot of albums lately, more than I should, considering my limited budget. But they've all been great, so as a public service to those who want to spend their entertainment dollar wisely, I recommend the following records:

Legend -- the Best of Bob Marley and the Wailers. From the man who brought reggae to the world, this compilation is lively, happy, and very danceable. The liner notes are extensive, even though they assume that I know more about rastafarian religion than I do. But Bob's message is love and justice for all, laudable subjects no matter who preaches them.

Goodbye, Cruel World -- Elvis Costello and the Attractions. It's another excellent album from this, the best songwriter in England. There is no form of music that Elvis cannot master, and I don't know anyone who can just write so many songs, with credible lyrics and very good messages. Most fun song: "Sour Milk-cow Blues"; best lyrics: "Peace in our Time."

Stop Making Sense -- Talking Heads. I'm not a great fan of live music; the best places to hear music are in a club or in the studio. But I saw the concert that this music was taken from, and it's a great show and will probably be a wild movie. But the best part is the book they included; David Byrne's brilliance and skewed vision shine through his "wisdom": "GROWING UP: Drugs affect children the opposite way they affect adults. Adults think with their mouths open." And David's solo version of "Psycho Killer" is pure fun.

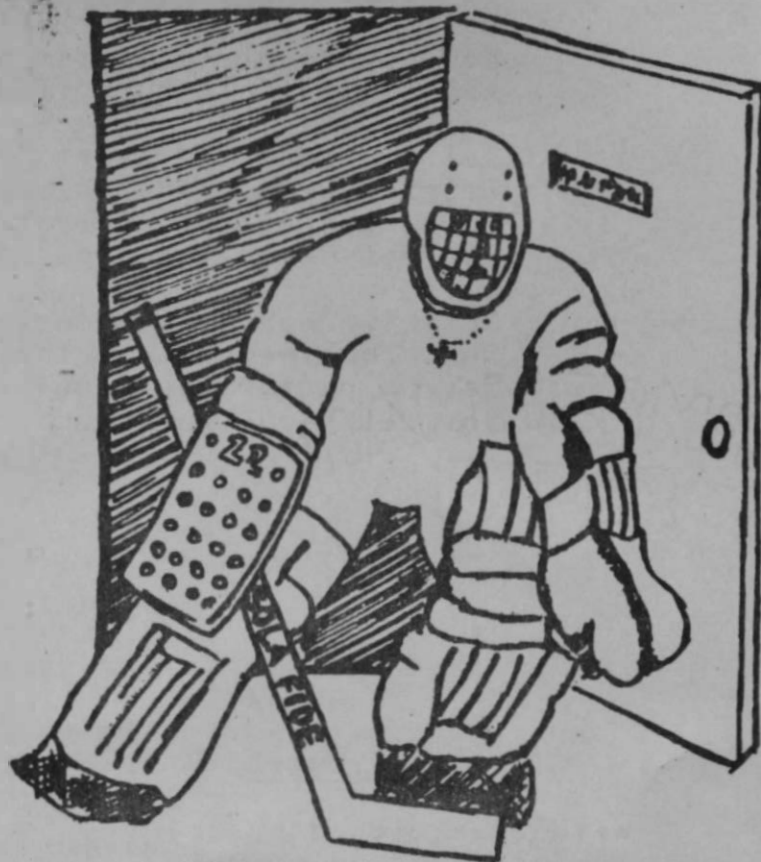
More news on Pop Culture from the edge of Reality and the bottom of my wallet.

Pax,  
Lans

# Brief Quiz

When, in oral or written announcements for matins or vespers, the word "psalmody" is used, from the rubrics on page 131 or page 145, to what does this word refer?

R. Jenson



**OKAY, I'M READY FOR MY SENIOR INTERVIEW NOW.**

Courtesy of Luther *By Dave Potter*  
Northwestern Concord

Open Volleyball at YWCA  
every Tuesday and Thursday night  
8:30 to 10 p.m.  
for students and spouses  
Bring your YWCA card

# Ms. Proper

Dear Ms. Proper:

My question concerns baptisM. Why is baptisM spelled with an S, and baptizE spelled with a Z? I'm also confused by baptisT. He's the person who works in the baptisTry, the place where we see the baptizement of the baptizEE by the baptizER at the baptisMal font.

BaptisMally Confused

Dear Confused:

Britons and Canadians use baptise and realise; we Americans use baptize and realize. All of us use surprise and surmise, which is very ecumenical, of course, but confusing.

On the surface, I would say your problem is with the basics of American English spelling and usage. Below the surface, however, I suspect the real problem is your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. If you are, in fact, baptismally confused, I suggest you discuss your problem with your pastor or chaplain.

Ms. Proper

Dear Ms. Proper:

What is the proper possessive: Jesus' or Jesus's? Moses' or Moses's? And is the spoken form different from the written form?

Lourdes Mae Shepherd

Dear Lourdes:

Your question is answered on page one of Strunk & White's Elements of Style, which we grammarians call our bible (you will excuse the expression): "Form the possessive singular of nouns by adding 's," whatever the consonant. Thus, Charles's friend and Burns's poems. Exceptions, however, are the possessives of ancient proper names such as Moses', Isis', and Jesus'; the spoken form should be the same (Jesus' and Moses'); but one way of avoiding the question, especially in speaking, is to say the laws of Moses and the disciples of Jesus.

Ms. Proper

Now for my three pronunciations for the month: schism, loci, and foci.

Schism has always properly been pronounced sizm; but since so many people have for so long ignorantly said skizm, Webster's Collegiate Dictionary now offers skizm as second choice: A sad but realistic example of how the language changes. Even Ms. Proper has to admit that arguing over pronunciation is not worth schism in the seminary!

Loci (places, localities, centers of activity) are pronounced lo-sye, lo-kye, or even lo-kee, according to Webster's. (That's the way it is with Latin.) But get this inconsistency: Foci (points of convergence, points of concentration) are fo-sye, fo-kye, or focuses! (One thing that's out, apparently, is fo-kee!)

Let's try to be proper and stick with sizm, lo-sye, and fo-sye.

\* \* \*

Spelling lesson for November. Believe it or not, there are some seminarians who slip on these basics:

altar. That's the table on which Eucharistic elements are placed. Alter means to change, make different.

deity (deé-itty). That's what God is. Ain't no such thing as "diety." While we're at it, a deist (dee-ist) is a person who swears by deism (dee-ism); look it up. But Bill Deist pronounces his name Diced.

Robert Jenson doesn't get mispronounced, but it does get misspelled. It's Jenson, as in Christianson and Nelson.

laity. There is no e in the word. Just remember, in the laity there is no gaiety.

lectern. The stand where the lector reads.

parishioner. Parishioners have two eyes.

Thanks for your questions! More to come next month!

Ms. Proper

# Calendar

- Wed Nov 7 Spouses meeting: Mr. Nieting on New Testament ethics. 7:30-9, Lounge
- Thurs Nov 8 Bread for the World 7:45 Valentine Room 307
- Fri Nov 9 Rev. Herbert Carlmark, Illinois Synod, on campus
- Sat Nov 10 Football game with Philadelphia Seminary (here) at 2 p.m., followed by chili supper, Refectory
- Sat Nov 10 Martin Luther's 501st birthday
- Mon Nov 12 Student Association Core Committee, 7 pm. Val 310
- Mon-Wed, Nov 12-14 Pennsylvania Pastors Conference, Penn Harris Motor Inn, Camp Hill: Gettysburg Sem luncheon Tues 12.
- Fri Nov 16 Fall Follies: hayride and square dance
- Mon Nov 19 Spouses meeting: Mr. Gritsch on American cults 7:30-9, Lounge
- Mon Nov 19 A. Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, 1863
- Mon Nov 19 Interfaith Concert at National Shrine (Catholic University), Washington, DC. Traditional and contemporary liturgical music from many faiths 8 p.m. \$5.00
- Mon-Tues, Nov 19-20 Central Penn CPP meets with seniors
- Thurs Nov 22 - Thanksgiving Recess  
Sun Nov 25
- Mon Nov 26 Student-Faculty Relations Committee 3:30 p.m.
- Mon-Tues, Nov 26-27 Register for Spring semester
- Fri Nov 30 Central Penn Lutheran Church Women reception 7:30-9:30, Valentine Lounge
- Sat Dec 1 Deadline for Table Talk
- Sun Dec 2 First Sunday in Advent
- Wed Dec 5 Community Meal and Eucharist; First Week in Advent
- Sat Dec 8 Maryland Synod's Examining Panel meets with seniors
- Wed Dec 12 Spouses meeting: Chaplain Koons on prayer and spirituality, 7:30-9, Lounge
- Wed Dec 19 Last day of classes before Christmas vacation Also Hanukkah
- Thurs Jan 3 January term begins