

# Table Talk

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



Vol XX

Issue 3

December 5, 1984

## Ms. Proper

Dear Ms or Ms. Proper,

Why is there a period after Ms? I thought it proper to use the period after abbreviations. Come if I am wrong (I was wrong once before), but I do not think that Ms is an abbreviation.

Periodically Shortened

Dear PS,

You may be right, but mostly you are wrong. Mr. is an abbreviation for "Mister"; Mrs. is an abbreviation of "Mistress" but always now pronounced "Misses"; and Ms. is, in a way, an abbreviation of "Miz." Furthermore, for the sake of consistency, if you're going to put a period after Mr. and Mrs., it only makes sense to put a period after Ms.

"Miss" is definitely not an abbreviation of Miss, so you don't need to use a period with it. I wouldn't use a period after Mister, Mistress, or Miz, either.

Ms. Proper

Dear Ms. Proper

What's the difference between singing a Psalm antiphonally and singing it responsively?

Norma Normans

Dear Norma,

Although the words could be interchangeable, our usage is that singing or speaking antiphonally

is between two segments of the congregation, and singing or speaking responsively is between a leader and the congregation. Let's see if we remember this when we're writing worship directions in chapel bulletins.

Ms. Proper

Now for some spelling words for final-exams-and-papers time:

judgment. We read lots of British texts that add an e (judgement), so it gets confusing. But it is my judgment that we should spell it the American way, with no e after the g.

preceding means going before. No double ees, please. Proceeding, however, means going ahead, and does have double ees, please. Pay attention to the preceding sentences, and you will proceed with ease. But it's a tricky procedure.

preparation and separation. Here's how you can remember that the letter before the r is an a: There is "a rat" in those words. Can you find a rat, Class?

resurrection has one s and two rs. The prefix is re (again) and the root is surrect (rise), from the Latin surgere. Does that help?

Wittenberg means white mountain. Augsburg probably means Augs's town, just as Gettysburg means Gettys's town. Note the difference: -berg and -burg.

Happy Christmas!  
Ms. Proper

Report of Student Association  
President Nancy Rouse:  
Fall Semester 1984-85

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As this semester draws to a close, I am so very pleased with the flurry of activities in which our Student Association has been involved, as well as the general air of congeniality among our students.

Kudos should be sent to our standing committees for their fine efforts. The Social Committee has made our leisure time true fun: We have mastered the do-si-do, hit home runs, displayed creativity in Halloween costumes, and received every slice of the pie in "Trivial Pursuit." Volleyball games are in full swing, and our fine flag football team (we love ya, Martyrs!) played valiantly against VTS and Mt. Airy, thanks to the organizational work of the Athletic Committee. (We'll get 'em next year, Guys!)

Family Life Committee members have provided us with their annual talent resource list, as well as a community Thanksgiving dinner, and our Publications Committee has made Table Talk an interesting and delightfully funny forum. The Lecture Committee, while having no specific speakers thus far, is in the planning stages for events in the spring.

The Social Action Committee has been especially active this semester, keeping students aware of local, national and worldwide affairs. Voter information and registration opportunities, as well as a mock election, motivated us to become involved in the Presidential election. In addition, the horrible plight of the starving in Ethiopia has been brought to our attention, and a goal of \$1,000 in offerings for World Hunger was met in November. These committee members and our entire student body are to be commended for their involvement.

A new committee--the Task Force on Community Meals--has been working with the Social

and Family Life Committees, as well as the Refectory Board, to oversee several community meal-events in '84-'85. The softball game/picnic was the kickoff, but a meal prior to the Advent service is scheduled, in addition to get-togethers in January, around Valentine's Day, and in May. Not only does our recently redecorated refectory get optimum use, but our diverse groups of students, spouses, and children are able to spend time with each other.

The Martin Luther Colloquium was marked by the artistic and creative endeavors of the three classes, not to mention students from the Lutheran House of Studies in Washington. Congratulations for truly enhancing the festivities of that day.

Student involvement in the daily workings of the seminary continues to be strong. Two student groups offered important information to committees dealing with the tenure and promotion of two professors, and another student committee is interviewing each of five candidates for the position soon to be vacated in the Division of Historical-Theological Studies by the retirement of Mr. Lawrence Folkemer. In addition, the seminary is in the process of asking various students to be involved on committees dealing with the seminary's mission statement, the periodic accreditation review, and long-range planning. We are to be involved in crucial discussions of the future of our seminary. It is, thus, an exciting and challenging time for us.

Our Student Association has also reached beyond the hill--through our conversations with laypersons in the Lay/Seminarian Dialogue sponsored by the Lutheran Laity Movement, as well as our joint Eucharist with Virginia Theological Seminary. In addition, the year-old Christian Theological Students Conference of the United States will be sponsoring a conference in the spring. (Please turn to p. 3)

ORT, continued

The semester has been a good one, and there seems to be a sense of cordiality among our students that makes this a special place, indeed. In this Advent season, may we remember that all these gifts come from our loving Creator, and that the birth of our Savior is the most glorious gift of all.

Peace and Joy,  
Nancy L. Rouse

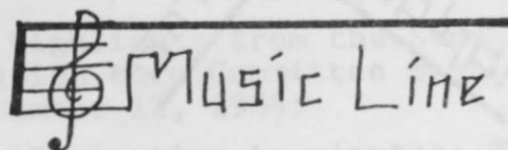
## Sportsbeat-t-t-t

Once again the Gettysburg Martyrs were compelled to live up to their name with a 12-0 loss to the football team from Mt. Airy Seminary of Philadelphia. It was a torturous season for our men in red, who finished with an 0 and 3 record. Despite the effective offensive charges led by Quarterback Jay Serafin and a brilliant day for Senior Woody Slater in defense, it was not enough to stop the fleet-footed halfback from Philly. But our team proved that no matter that you win or lose, you gotta love those cheerleaders!

The halftime spectacular produced by Impresario Stanley Reep featured a rendering of the Song of Deborah from Judges 5. The Greek Chorus, accompanied by Ralph Hamer's trumpet, bells, and a mixing bowl, sung of the stunning defeat of Sisera by that most blessed of tent-dwelling women, Jael. Too bad it wasn't enough to inspire the Martyrs.

After the game, the fans returned to the Refectory to slake their thirst with ice cold beer and fire their guts with Tex-Mex chili. The Martyrs had to wonder if it was worse to get pummeled on the field or scoured out by John Schier and Kris Franke's supernova chili.

Lans E. Alexis



Tired of hearing "Pass It On"? Well, Christian music has come a long way since then. And better yet, there's something to please everyone. Here's a sample of what you've been missing:

Amy Grant: A Christmas Album. This is truly one of the finest Christmas albums I've ever heard. Amy gives new life to some old favorites and also brings us some new tunes that you'll want to play over and over again. Tightly orchestrated with rich layers of keyboards, strings and vocals, this is an album you won't want to miss.

The God of Life--John Michael Talbot. Once again John Michael, a Franciscan monk, brings us another great album of worship and praise. The lyrics of these songs stem from the prayers of Celtic monks who brought Christianity to Ireland and Scotland over a thousand years ago. These songs will draw you away from the cares and anxieties of life to be renewed and refreshed by the God of Life.

Communication--DeGarmo & Key. Definitely a band for the '80s. DeGarmo & Key present us with high quality rock with a twist, namely, a string section and tight vocal harmonies. Following in the footsteps of their last album, "Mission of Mercy," "Communication" is a very enjoyable work.

Interested? These three and many other Christian albums are available for your listening pleasure. Just drop by 410 Valentine and borrow a few. You won't regret it.

David Eck

## Chaplain's Corner

On the sign-up sheet for intercessions at our weekly Eucharist, people who wish to may indicate the nature of their concern and their relationship to the person being remembered in prayer. This makes it possible for anyone in the seminary community, by reading the list, to know at least something about the concern, share it by conversation or in other ways with the one initiating it, and so to hear the intercessions on Wednesday with a sense of personal and community care rather than as "a meaningless list of names."

Intercession is an important part of our corporate worship and of our individual prayer life. It is a way of holding up the life of another person into the presence of God's love and mercy. It is a way in which we seek to participate in His gracious intentions for that life, whatever they may be. Intercessory prayer therefore implies our willingness to do whatever we possibly can as instruments for helping answer the prayer. Moreover, for a person to know that he or she is being remembered in prayer can be very encouraging and sustaining. I am willing, if requested, to write to persons who are named in our intercessions and tell them they are thus included in the petitions of our seminary community.

Douglas Steere in his book Prayer and Worship says, "There is no greater intimacy with another than that which is built up through holding...(that person) up in prayer." The statement seems extreme, but there is surely a profound truth to it. And a great risk! Can you imagine

what might happen if people, particularly the rulers of the world, would earnestly, sincerely pray for their enemies, as Christ has bled and died for them? It is for the most part a risk not taken.

If you are interested in reading more about intercessory prayer, you are welcome to browse among or borrow books dealing with it which are in my library.

Robert W. Koons

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### Whom Or What Are You Asking Me To Pray For?

I have been disturbed by some of the collects included in prayers at chapel services. While I can neither quote them directly, nor remember what date they were used, I will try to give the general themes. If I misconstrue the intentions of the authors, I apologize. But I think this subject needs to be examined critically.

During the first week of class, a collect was offered for a group of individuals in El Salvador, that their struggles be successful. I was expected to say Amen, So be it, to the struggles of people who were no more than a list of names. While I will pray for anyone, regardless of whether I agree with them, I will not necessarily pray that they be successful in their struggle. What was this struggle? Was I being asked to pray for the work of missionaries trying to bring the Word of God to non-Christians? Was I praying for a group's work in feeding the hungry? Was the work of this group to help the innocent victims of terrorism? If so, fine, Amen. But was I being expected to pray for the violent overthrow of a government? Was I praying that a group of killers of innocent children be permitted to continue their struggles? The major issue is that I do not know what the struggles were. How could I be expected to offer prayer in support of them?

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Another disturbing incident occurred during the apple harvest season in Adams County. A prayer was offered that the orchard owners not mistreat the migrant workers. Has this petitioner considered the orchard owners who strive to provide for the needs of their employees, physical, emotional, and financial? I do not doubt that there are some owners who cheat their employees. But there are migrant workers who steal not only from their employers, but also from the community in general. Did we pray that the migrant workers not steal from the people of Adams County? No, and I would not advocate that we do. There are two sides to this coin; consider both. I suggest it is appropriate to pray that these two groups treat each other with respect and dignity.

Consider for a moment the congregations you will someday serve. Will you stand before the altar of St. John's by the Gas Station and pray that the owners of businesses not mistreat their employees? What will be the reaction of the business owners in the pews? We must avoid condemning all for the actions of some. There are issues which require a Christian to take sides. Nevertheless, there remains a responsibility to remember the other side. When you lead a group in prayer, you ask them to endorse what you have decided is meet, right, and salutary to pray for. When you offer a one-sided petition, recognize that you may offend. Be aware of those who must say Amen to what you say. Therefore, choose your issue with care and be considerate of your phrasing.

Jim Lockley

Highlights from the Student Association Core Committee meeting of November 12, 1984:

\*Correction to minutes: The community meal honoring seniors will be May 8, not May 18.

\*President Nancy Rouse thanked all for their work on the Luther Colloquium, especially the Krauth House women for the reception, and the classes for their spirit.

\*Treasurer Jack DiMatteo reported bookkeeping corrections found \$300 more in the General Fund than was thought.

\*The reported loss of money from the Coffee Shop cash box was discussed, and it was observed that if anyone is in financial need, Chaplain Koons has a discretionary fund for such use.

\*Athletics Chair Mark Rossman reported that at the close of the football season, the seminary team lost only three games! He's working on plans for volleyball and softball games with Mt. Airy. Intramural teams for volleyball and basketball are being organized.

\*Family Life Committee Chair Maurie Lockley reported on complaints about parents allowing children to play unsupervised in the Heiges lounge. As a result, the place is often a mess. Frank Stinner and Muriel Heichler volunteered to draw up rules for the committee to recommend.

\*Lutheran Laity Movement's lay-seminarian dialogue visit in October was discussed. Some visitors said their preconceived ideas about second-career seminarians were

(please turn to page six)

TABLE TALK

Editor	Judith Beck Helm
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S.A. HIGHLIGHTS  
(continued from page five)

reversed. The dialogue was seen as an important learning experience for both laity in the program and the seminary community. Nancy especially thanked the student hosts.

\*The spouses' group was given \$100, at the request of Terri Migliore-DiMatteo, for projects such as activity groups, baby-sitting during Eucharist, and a break session during final exam week. The group would like to emphasize that their meetings are open to the community.

\*Nancy Rouse encouraged students to participate in the CTSCUS Consultation on Ecumenical Leadership Development at Catholic U, January 23-25.

\*Next meeting will be December 11, 7 p.m., Valentine 310.

From (unapproved) minutes of  
Jim Lockley, secretary

## Reader's Guide to Theological Jargon

paradigm: [Ital.] twenty cents

praxis: Anglicized Greek for practice; as in praxis makes perfect

exegesis: [Ital.] a retired messiah

myth: [Sanskrit] literally "lispering virgin"; but since the word yethe meant "why not!" and yesse meant "Not on your life," there were soon no lispering virgins to be found, and myth took on its present signification of something fictitious

eschatology: the very last thing that seminarians and divinity school students think about before falling asleep

predestination: a method of express delivery by which a package arrives before it is shipped

Joel Wells, Christian Century,  
February 1-8, 1984

## The Shepherd's Song

In the city of Bethlehem I've seen a newborn child  
I know that He's the Son of God and you should see His smile  
His smile brings love to all the nations  
Halleluia! Messiah has come to reign!  
All the nations shall call Him blessed  
And bow down to His name

And the baby was born in a manger that night  
And the star shone above in the heavens so bright  
The angels did sing and their chorus did swell  
They sang here's the King, He's called Emmanuel  
He will free you O Israel  
Lift you up from your sin  
So come now and worship the Child

The oceans roar and the great winds sing about the birth of our Savior  
And all the peoples and nations shall know of His presence on earth  
He will comfort the sad and oppressed  
He will strengthen the weak  
He will stretch forth His mighty hand and free those who follow  
His name

So arise all ye people!  
Sing praises to Our God, Most High  
For He has truly given us  
His Son in the form of a Child

David Eck

Rollercoaster

We don't like this rollercoaster.  
It's too bumpy.  
It's too boring.  
What we expected it to be  
it's not.  
I heard  
someone fell off  
Where?  
on the 4th one.  
We have to ride 4 of these?  
Why all these curves  
and climbs  
and dives  
and dips?  
Why not give it to us straight  
,huh? this is  
Not the way rollercoasters should be.  
Not the way. Not.  
Let's ride some other ride  
and say  
that we rode This One.  
Let's go on the merry-go-round  
the ferris wheel  
the Peter Pan ride  
and Dumbo, instead--  
Otherwise, after 4 rollercoasters,  
we'll be sick.  
(God knows what we'll have to ride later!)So  
let's not go upside down, OK?  
We could get killed  
or something.

David Hewitt

His Way

When will I wake and the night be gone?  
When shall I sing and my voice rise up gladly?  
So long as no dreams are conceived without darkness  
And no sharp reflections begun without pain,  
I must praise the Lord through my tears at his prompting:  
He silences light that his vision I speak.

Janet Comings

(Job 7:4a, King James:  
"When I lie down I say, 'When shall I arise  
and the night be gone?'" )

## INTRODUCING — Jean Hess

The Pub is well known to many here at the seminary; but Jean Hess, now of the seminary refectory, used to know the Pub very well. She worked there for eight years every evening while her husband Jim cared for their three little ones. During the day the situation was reversed.

It was because of this arrangement that the day job here at the seminary refectory did not seem possible. But when Mr. Shetter, the caterer for the seminary, explained about the living quarters above the refectory, she decided to go and see. A decision was made late in 1968, and the Hess family moved into its new home.

Jean has been involved with St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church over the years. In the beginning, raising children, she was active in the Christian Family Movement. Lately it has been with the widows' group. Both her church and this school helped her to readjust when her husband died a few years ago.

How does she spend her spare time? She has very little of it. What she has, she enjoys visiting her family, eating out--especially at a good salad bar--and shopping. Evenings at home, she sometimes watches TV. Her son, a former policeman, says that "Hill Street Blues" is the most realistic show, but she prefers the drama of "Knot's Landing" or the humor of "The Bill Cosby Show." "Why watch TV to get depressed?" she asks.

When her husband was alive, the two of them and Marie and John Roth would spend a Saturday night at the Host Inn Dinner Theatre in Harrisburg and return on Sunday. Nowadays it's January trips to Ocean City, and maybe in the summer, too.

Jean enjoys being here, being around the students. And they enjoy her. Many of them return, especially during the summer.

## Our #ponsors

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!

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But it was different when she first came. Jean did things to make it more homey, like adding the candy dish and the pretzels. She has also extended the Saturday breakfast to 11 a.m.--for which we're all thankful. Food service originally was family style, with lettuce, tomato, and mayonnaise on each table. Waiters wore white and served the students' every need. There were certainly more dishes to clean.

Back when almost all the seminarians were young, male, and single, her other odd jobs consisted of sewing buttons, sewing pants, and other things she would do to help out "her boys."

Jean notices the differences in students from one year to the next. "After CPE and again, after the return from internship, you notice it. They're more understanding about the food. They appreciate more."

If you really want to see Jean's eyes light up, ask her to tell you about her time at the priory in Weston, Vermont, with the singing monks and Father Bob. And the service where five or more people together in dialogue do the sermon.

A warm "thank you" and a hug to Jean Hess for feeding us so well all these years!

Marina Flores



## Book Review

Sheehan, Susan: Kate Quinton's Days.  
Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1984.

Problems of aging tend not to be uppermost in the minds of most seminarians, and yet they are problems we will face either with parents or with members of the congregations we will serve.

The full impact and ramifications of the subject are the import of Susan Sheehan's latest book. Sheehan, an investigative reporter for The New Yorker magazine, chronicles a year in the life of Kate Quinton, a chronically ill woman entering her 80s. We meet Kate first as a hospital patient, apparently fated to end her days, against her will, in a nursing home; we leave her, a little more than a year later, once more living at home, looking forward to spring. A miracle? Perhaps; but a miracle worked by the determination and courage of a number of people who respected Kate's dignity and independence.

In addition to being Kate's story, it is the story of the bureaucratic systems and processes that enter her life, and as such is an upbeat account of that system actually working for someone. The bureaucrats in Kate's life are far from faceless: the reader is drawn to react to them as to characters in a novel. You'd like to throttle Ida Winkel, the only real 'villain' of the piece; you want to pin medals on Herbert Sturz and Cindy Strong and a host of caring professionals who work to keep the system flexible and humane.

But most of all, you want to hug Claire Quinton for the unselfish love and courage that made her doggedly pursue all the avenues open to her to keep her mother at home. This is the thread that keeps the story moving, through the numbing bureaucratic detail, the succession of impossible home helpers, her sister's resistance.

Despite her own ill health and all obstacles, Claire makes things work for Kate.

Kate Quinton is one of the patients you met in CPE, her daughter Claire a quiet member of your internship congregation. Thanks to Sheehan's tenacious research and reporting, you'll know them better than you knew most patients and parishioners. Sheehan draws with a deft chiaroscuro touch, highlighting here, shading there, to bring to life this story of Kate and Claire. The writing is spare and unsentimental, documentary, but it draws the reader in with its relentless movement.

I became painfully aware, in reading this book, of the total absence of any clergy involvement in Kate Quinton's story. The social services staff of Brooklyn's Lutheran Medical Center gets high marks for its caring and effective advocacy of Kate's case and its innovative approaches to home care for the aged. But where were the hospital chaplains during the weeks of waiting for things to happen?

Where, for that matter, was the Quintons' parish priest? Claire Quinton spent one and a half years in a convent before illness forced her to give up her dream of a religious life. Although Kate is housebound, Claire still attends mass six times a week. Yet there is no evidence that a priest ever visits the Quintons, ever offers Kate the Eucharist. One sees many opportunities in the course of the narrative for pastoral intervention.

We can work creatively with our social institutions to maintain a healthy balance of professionalism and compassion. Continued ministry to parishioners, wherever they are, remains a critical imperative.

Muriel Nordsiek Heichler

# December-January Calendar

Wed Dec 5	5:30 Community potluck, Refectory 7:20 Prelude Concert 7:30 Eucharist--First Week in Advent
Fri-Sat Dec 7-8	Maryland Synod Examining Committee on campus
Mon Dec 10	Refectory members' Christmas dinner
Mon Dec 10	Faculty meeting
Tues Dec 11	Bishop Howard McCarney (Cent Penn) meets juniors in Lounge, 9-11 a.m.
Tues Dec 11	Student Assn Core Committee meeting. 7 p.m. Valentine, Room 310
Wed Dec 12	Spouses Mtg: Chaplain Koons on prayer and spirituality, 7:30-9. Lounge
Sat Dec 15	Staff Christmas party 6:30, Lamp Post Restaurant
Mon Dec 17	Student-Faculty Relations Committee meeting
Wed Dec 19	Close of fall semester: Last classes
Fri Dec 21	Final deadline for fall term papers
Tues Dec 25	Christmas!
Thurs Jan 3	First J-term class sessions
Sun Jan 6	6:15p.m. Epiphany supper and celebration at St. James Lutheran, Gettysburg--procession & bonfire
Mon Jan 7	Faculty meeting to go over fall grades
Tues Jan 8	M.L. King, Jr. Commemoration, 7:30 Christ Chapel, Gettysburg College, the Rev. Charles Adams, Detroit Mich.
Wed Jan 9	Spouses' meeting: Mr. Gobel on teaching children the Bible 7:30-9, Lounge
Thurs Jan 10	Sue Minick's basket party
Thurs Jan 10	Bread for the World meeting
Tues Jan 15	M.L. King, Jr's Birthday
Wed-Thur Jan 16-17	Board of Directors meetings
Fri Jan 18	Community meal for J-Term Greek students
Sun Jan 20	Inauguration Day, Washington, D.C.
Mon Jan 21	Spouses meeting. Mr. Stroup & Ms. Wood on marriage in ministry. 7:30-9, Lounge
Mon Jan 21	Lecture by Robert Jay Lifton, author of <u>Indefensible Weapons</u> . Gettysburg College.
Wed-Fri Jan 23-25	Christian Theological Students Conference at Catholic U., 401 Michigan Ave., N.E., Washington. Ecumenical leadership development. See <u>Consortium Bulletin</u> for details.
Fri Jan 25	6:30 Refectory: Candlelight buffet and After-dinner Bach (his 300th birthday year!). Michael Matsinko, harpsichord, and friends. Music, Gettysburg!
Wed Jan 30	Close of January (Middle) Term