

Table Talk

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



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Welcome

Welcome to another year of Table Talk! We hope to live up to our masthead's claim to print the news and views of the student body of LTSG, and to reflect what the community is thinking about.

Table Talk will be issued each month, and will need material to fill it. We welcome articles, letters, reviews, poetry, humor, cartoons--anything you would like to share with the community. Students, faculty, staff, and family members are all invited to contribute, to ensure a balance of serious and lighter content.

If you'd like to help with the publication, or if there's something you'd like to see addressed, please let the editor know.

Deadline for the November issue will be October 31. Table Talk has its own mailbox, awaiting your contribution.

Student Association
Publications Committee:

Roger Steiner - chair
Muriel Heichler - editor
David Eck - columnist

New Faces: Returnee....

He spoke proudly of the furnishings in his new office. When Scott Gustafson moved into his office in A.R. Wentz Library, there was a desk and a fly-swatter. All the necessities. "This is a nice desk. It's hard, and you can write on it." He wrapped on it with his knuckle to demonstrate. He was serious.

And the flies? "They know who's in charge. Those, (he pointed to the dead ones on the windowsill), they didn't know."

He says everything with a twinkle in his eye that takes up most of his face. Listening to him, one almost always feels herself on the verge of a laugh.

Scott Wharton Gustafson was born in Chicago, and tried out several cities before arriving in his hometown of Baltimore. His father was a pastor, and when he was ten, Scott wanted to be "anything but a pastor." His chief concern then was "getting out of an extra-long division problem. That was kinda where I was at. I had no real long-range plans for the future." What he did have was a crush on a Greek girl who lived up the street--Irene Antonopolis. "That didn't push me into studying Greek."

"When you're ten, life isn't as

(continued on Page 3)

Editorial . . .

SEPT. 6: SOME AFTERTHOUGHTS

Well, we had our birthday bash, and quite a bang-up party it was, too. Never mind that the caterers both on and off campus let us down badly. The women were there, and a sprinkling of men, to celebrate 15 years of women in ordained ministry, and to set agendas for the future. Hats off to the men in the audience who didn't walk out of what surely was to be perceived as a sexist event!

We were more than a little self-conscious, boastful, swaggering a bit. It wasn't quite a "Sweet 16" party, but let's hope it was something of a rite of passage, a coming of age; for although our gender will surely color our ministry, it should not shape it. We are to be ministers of the gospel of Christ, and I submit that this has nothing to do with gender.

What I missed in the lectures and the seminars was any sense of the unity of the Body of Christ. From the rhetoric, it seemed very much that in Christ there are indeed male and female. Dr. Anderson has a prejudice against 'assimilation', insisting on a pejorative definition of that word. But one antonym of assimilation is apartheid. Even in the worst-case scenario, no assimilating majority has ever succeeded in resisting influence from the assimiliates! Can't we be one, and help each other?

Lacking also was a sense of vocation, of a servant ministry. It all seemed to be a matter of what we want, not what we can do for the people of God. Like greedy teenagers, we want it all, and we want it now.

Let's not be too impatient. We

have just 15 years against the centuries of history we are trying to change. How many male pastors ordained 15 years ago are the senior pastors in team ministries, not to ask: bishops? Perhaps I have more confidence in my gender peers than do the feminists. I would like to be a successful pastor on my own merits, and not because of preferential treatment. I remain convinced that women will rise to the highest levels in the church, because they are able and called.

Certainly I have experienced only encouragement and affirmation from both the Seminary and my synod. I have no reason to think that will change with ordination. Could it be that our own attitudes affect our treatment?

PARTNERS Report

In case you hadn't heard, PARTNERS is alive and well and living on campus. Spouses of seminarians are invited to our programs.

We have prepared a roster of new discussion topics to encourage all spouses to attend our meetings. In the process, we discovered that getting to know one another well was a concern as important as that of exploring our future roles. Consequently, more social activities have been added to our agenda. Of course, we haven't forgotten past successes, so we shall again sponsor the ever-popular STUDY BREAKS.

Learning and worshipping together, sharing experiences, developing solid friendships and supporting each other are what PARTNERS is all about. Interested? We hope so. Check your mailbox or the Bulletin Boards for our next meeting, and join us.

Carol Kampa

TURNEE...

(Continued from Page 1)

simple as when you're fifty. . . Of course, I'm not fifty. (But) that's why I didn't tell Irene" about the crush.

Gustafson's list of degrees includes: B.S. '72 (Political Science), Juniata College; M. Div. '76, Gettysburg Seminary; M.A.Ph. '80, Catholic University; M.Phil. (Theology), '83, Drew; Ph.D. '85, Drew.

Out of all that education grew his ability to think.

On recreation: "I used to go over to Nautilus and lift things." Now, in Gettysburg, "I jump rope for 15 minutes and then I lift things. And then if there's someone playing basketball, I go in, and then they run up and down the court with the ball and I follow them."

On food: "I really like rice-a-roni." A frequent meal at the Gustafson house is stir-fried chicken ("maybe a little soy sauce"), rice-a-roni, and string beans from the can ("long ones, not cut"). "I eat it the most. Rather sick, but that's what it is."

On childhood: "I did the teasing when I was a kid. Mark Zimmerman teased me about my toes. He said they were funny-looking. I agreed with him. . . That's why I wear shoes."

On theology: "What this job happens to be is what I do for thrills. People think that'll wear off, but they assume it's a new job." At the mention of his dissertation topic, Gustafson's face goes into full beam. "Wow," he said. The topic was Gregory of Nyssa--a somewhat radical thinker regarding the doctrine of the Trinity. "He shows you what it is like to think like a Christian, and he's the only one. Augustine set the agenda for Chris-

tian thought--and he was wrong."

His birthday is October 9, and Gustafson remembers--with something of a smirk, a gleam and a note of wistfulness combined--the favorite birthday surprise he ever got. "I can't tell you that. I have a favorite one, and you can't print it. (Students) can speculate and think they know, but they will not ever get it. It's nothing real simple. (It's) something you can probably only get in Huntington, PA. That's where his college was. Which birthday got him this mysterious thing? Twenty-one.

He's married now, to Brenda Jean Lang-Gustafson, and they have a son, Matthew Todd, age 2½. And just like when he was ten, Gustafson says he has no real goals.

"Totally fulfilled. There's nothing that I want. . . I have to teach. It's not important for me to make money at it."

"There's no way I'm not going to do what I want."

"I don't care if I'm disagreed with. It's more important that discussion happens. (Knowing that) takes a little pressure off."

Preparing to join the faculty here, where he once studied, Gustafson said, his biggest fear, albeit a small one, was having faculty members think of him as a student. And that hasn't happened. A related adjustment for him was "like getting married--what do you call your in-laws?"

-- DEB-BIE CONRAD

* * * * *

WHERE was the action at the Allenberry Theatre the Saturday night of the Senior Stewardship Retreat: on-stage, or in the audience. Ask Scott Baker.

NEW FACES...

...Emissary

The seminary is host this year to an emissary from our fellows in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in the person of Jon Diefenthaler, who is teaching Lutheranism in America this semester. Six days a week he's pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church, Waynesboro, VA, but on Thursdays, he is one of us.

Bethany Lutheran Church, as his students now know, has at one time or another belonged to each of the major Lutheran bodies or one of its predecessors.

Raised in the Milwaukee, WI, area, Diefenthaler is a graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO, and he has a PhD in American religious history from the University of Iowa, where he worked under Sidney Mead, one of the father figures in the field.

Before beginning his parish ministry, he taught for three years at Concordia. The charge at Waynesboro was not his first venture into the Eastern territories: he served his internship at the Lutheran Church of St. Andrew in Silver Spring, MD.

His wife, Linda, is a PhD candidate at the University of Virginia in the field of adult development and human services. She has been a clinical psychologist at the Hospital for Emotionally Disturbed Children, and the director of programs there.

The couple have four children: Andrew, 16; Katie, 14; and 11-year-old twins Lisa and Heidi. Following their activities is one of his major leisure-time activities, along with jogging.

Having come through the LC-MS educational system during the 60s, when that body was very open to fellowship and cooperation, he felt caught in the middle with the reversal that occurred in the 70s

which has not blown over as he had hoped. He feels, however, that as long as the gospel is being preached and confession being made, there is hope for a turnaround. "Missouri cannot forever deny its own confessions," he said. Given the Lutheran penchant for celebrating anniversaries with break-throughs, he predicts the union of LC-MS with the new Lutheran body for 2017 - the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Meanwhile, he juggles scholarly interests with parish responsibilities thanks to an understanding congregation, but he admits to some difficulty in shifting gears from his writing to parish work.

That scholarly activity includes contribution of a chapter on Lutheran Schools in America to a book on Religious Schooling in America, and he is completing a book: H. Richard Niebuhr: a Lifetime of Reflection on the Church and the World, which will be published in 1986 by Mercer University Press. His own congregation sponsors a school from nursery through 6th grade, in which both faculty and student body are ecumenical.

Diefenthaler commented that the Southeastern District of LC-MS is quite open to the cooperation with other Lutheran bodies, partly because it has fewer churches in this part of the country, and thus more impetus to share. Progressive leadership has been present during most of the district's history. "We cherish the same things, and stand on the same confessional footing," he said, adding that the areas of difference are minimal and need not be fully reconciled for fellowship.

He commented that he enjoys his work as a parish pastor, and that it has been a good experience for him, but one senses at the same time that a move to academe full time would not be unwelcome.

We surely hope that his experience here will reinforce his openness to pan-Lutheranism.

REVIEWS

POP CULTURE God, Death and Comedy

While your culture-cultivator was watching TV Thursday night (as every red-blooded American does), the subject of death reared its comedic head, and I laughed in its face. Not necessarily because I've lost my own fears in the face of the Grim Reaper. My several losses during the summer had me tossing the notions of death around in my philosophies. It's that the comedies that had experienced loss of cast members over the summer did little or no such dabbling in "the meaning of life". Much to all our losses.

The Coach is no longer pulling those drafts for Norm, et al. at "Cheers" these days. Yes, it was handled well; there was no mawkishness, no cheap funeral scenes, just respect for who the character was. Dianne's few words of concern and her expression summed up well some of the grief processing. It was unfortunate though that we couldn't see more of that happening at the place "where everybody knows your name". So not all who are gathered are average bargoers, but can't we share some of what strikes all of us at some time or other?

"Night Court" was much the opposite in its approach. The Bull is still grieving Selma after months and goes to extremes to let people know it. "Well," said the writers, "we gotta have some answers for the nice people who watch our show. Anybody have any good reasons for why people die?" "Huh? I don't even know why I'm alive in LA." Hence we get such muddled thoughts as Harry Stone's, "I don't know why we live. I don't know why we die. But as long as we're here together, we have to hold onto each other tightly." So a big hug and Pop Culture gets another headache courtesy Pop Psychology.

And did you notice how many people were praying that night? I thought I was watching "700 Club", for Pete's sake. All of it was facetious and trite in its concerns--D.A. Dan Fielding's thanksgiving over the arrival of a sexy public defender, and Dianne's asking if Sam is the guy for her. Still, I guess it's better than the damage that we'll get from the theology of "Helldown". Now that's a pastoral role model for ya--Robert Blake. Get me a ticket for the inner city!

My hope then is that the passing of Mick's mom on HSB will help right the situation. But then again, they cut out Patsy Mayo, for which I will never forgive them.

Stay tuned for next month's journey into Po-o-o-op Cu-u-u-ul-tu-u-ur-r-e.

Pax,

Lans

MUSIC LINE

Welcome to the world of Contemporary Christian music. If the names Steve Taylor, Sheila Walsh and Petra are unfamiliar to you, I hope they won't be for long. Some exciting music was released over the summer by Christian artists. Here's what you might have missed!

UNGUARDED--Amy Grant--Just when you think you know what Amy is going to do next she surprises you. First it was the stunning and majestic Age to Age album and now it's Unguarded. Amy really cuts loose on this album and delivers some bold and gutsy music. The single from the album, "Find A Way," peaked at number 29 on Billboard's Hot 100; an amazing feat for a

Christian artist. The music ranges in style from rock to reggae and soul, and provides the listener with refreshing lyrics and powerful vocals. Favorite cuts: "Love of Another Kind," "Wise Up," "I Love You," and "Find A Way."

ART OF THE STATE--A.D.--A.D. was formed by ex-Kansas members Kerry Livgren and Dave Hope and represents Livgren's best work since Kansas' Point of Know Return album. A.D. is one of the few rock groups that can take Old Testament themes and work them into powerful and dramatic songs. Warren Ham and Michael Gleason deliver some fantastic lead vocals which are backed by synthesizers, guitars, horns, flutes and harmonica. If you loved Kansas, then this record is definitely a must. Favorite cuts: "The Fury," "Up From The Wasteland," and "The Only Way To Have A Friend."

MEDALS--Russ Taff--This album is definitely hot. Former Imperials lead vocalist Russ Taff gives us an album that I would consider to be the best Christian album of the year. Producer Jack Joseph Puig has just finished albums for Diana Ross, Kenny Loggins and Barbra Streisand and now brings his creative energies to Medals. The accompaniment tracks are virtually flawless and serve as a rich background for Russ' soaring vocals. The music is soulful, energetic and sets a high standard for the recording industry. You've got to hear this one! Favorite cuts: "Medals," "I've Come Too Far," "Rock Solid," "Solid Love," and "Vision."

Well, that's it for this month. If you're interested, these three albums plus many more are available for your listening pleasure. Just drop by C9 Baughman Hall and borrow a few.

Keep on singin',
David Eck

ON THE OTHER SIDE

She peered through wind-whipped plastic,
taped and stapled over the broken storm door,
a crying, sniffing child slumped on her hip,
three days' worth of Gerber burps staining
her faded and ripped Grateful Dead t-shirt.
Embarrassed, I slipped into my rote remarks:
"Hello, I represent a private concern.
Do you mind answering several questions?
We're updating our records, you see."
No, she said.
Ask away.
Man and woman.
Unmarried. Unemployed.
Eight children. All under eighteen.
Late-winter wind bore the smell
of bodies and dirt and garbage
past the kerosene house-heater to my nose.
In dim light, broken toys strewn
and a full crib tilting on crippled legs
cluttered the threadbare-throwrug-covered floor.
The instant of intersection passed,
and I hurried
on my way,
crossing to the other side.
The sunset-elongated shadow
of the stone's-throw-distant church's steeple
darkened and chilled my face.
Shivering, I turned up my collar.

David M. Frye

Ms. Proper

Ms. Proper of last year's well-deserved popularity having gone on to bigger and better writing where she can practice what she preached in church newsletters and the like, she has asked her old Grammar Proper to carry on the fight to preserve the English language in its truth and purity. We will continue to welcome your inquiries and/or your comments. Simply address them to Table Talk.

Let's look and see what's in the bottom of the mailbag. . .

Dear Ms. Proper:

I was somewhat disconcerted to hear someone refer recently to the book The Media (sic) is the Message. I always thought it was The Medium Is the Message. Am I wrong? Is Marshall MacLuhan wrong? And what's the difference?

Sammy Narian

Dear Sammy:

You and Marshall MacLuhan are both right. It's that tricky business of those Latin plurals. Medium is the

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singular, media the plural. One could thus never use a singular verb (is) with a plural subject (media), as you heard. One could, of course, say that "the media are the message, but MacLuhan said what he meant: The Medium Is the Message.

A medium is the carrier of messages, whether from the Beyond or from one person to another. Therefore, Grammar Proper winces to hear people refer to "newspapers and the media", as though newspapers did not carry messages equally with radio and TV.

Dear Ms. Proper:

What's the difference between 'flaut' and 'flaunt', besides the letter 'n' in the latter? One of my papers came back with a circle around 'flaut'.

Wondering in West

Dear Wondering:

Well, there's more than usage involved here! "Flaut" is a German flute, and I can't imagine that you meant to use that word--or did Katie Luther play a flute?

Grammar Proper thinks you were confusing flout with flaunt. To flout means to express, by word or action, contempt for something or someone. To flaunt, on the other hand, means to display oneself ostentatiously or conspicuously, to show off. Just because they sound somewhat alike. . .

Let's put it this way: you might flout custom on this campus by flaunting a pectoral pentagram instead of a crucifix!

MUSINGS. . . Ms. Proper does not want to be prissy, but she does wish that speakers would be a little more precise in pronouncing near homonyms. One error that grates on her shell-like ears is that phrase "the profit of the most high." As Hosea probably would tell you, there's no profit in being a prophet! Sound your "et", please.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- October 9 7:30 Quest
- October 10 Board of Directors/Faculty Retreat
CLASSES CANCELLED, except for "Lutheranism
in America"
7:30 Partners
- October 14 4:00 SA Core Committee
- October 16 7:00 Music, Gettysburg! Bach Chorales and Preludes
- October 23 7:30 Quest
- October 26 10:00 Football game here against VTS
- October 30 Martin Luther Colloquium
10:00 am Arriving for Refreshments
10:30 am Opening Remarks: President Herman
G. Stuempfle, Jr.
10:45 am Lecture and Discussion: "Luther's
Hymns and Johann Sebastian Bach,"
Karlfried Froehlich, Benjamin B.
Warfield Professor of Ecclesiastical
History, Princeton Theological
Seminary
12:15 pm Lunch
2:00 pm "Almut Rössler Presents Bach in Word
and Music." Professor Rössler,
Internationally Known Organist,
Dusseldorf, Germany.
3:30 pm Break for Refreshments
4:00 pm Part II of Lecture-Concert with
Almut Rossler
5:00 pm Closing Remarks: Eric W. Gritsch,
Director, Institute for Luther Studies
7:00 pm Festival Worship of Reformation/
Reconciliation, Eucharistic Setting
by Bach

CLASSES CANCELLED

- October 31 7:30 Halloween Magic Party - Coffee Shop