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students of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia

May 1, 1969

The Student Body of the Lutheran  
Theological Seminary at Philadelphia  
April 28, 1969

The Faculty of the Lutheran Theological  
Seminary at Philadelphia

Dear Sirs:

The Student Body of this Seminary wishes to express its deep regret that Messrs. Charles P. Sigel and Donald G. Luck will not be returning to the faculty in the fall of 1969. The relationships that we have established with these men, both inside and outside the classroom, assure us that their absence will be a significant loss to the teaching staff of this institution.

We are well aware that Mr. Luck's appointment was for one year only, yet we are not satisfied that his name was given sufficient consideration in regard to the proposed expansion of the Systematics department.

More emphatically we deplore the release of Mr. Sigel, who has served this institution so admirably in the past six years. This action seems to us to be inconsistent with the Faculty and the Board of Directors' responsibility to provide us with the best instructors available. We submit our testimony to the excellence of Mr. Sigel's teaching abilities, academic acumen, and personal interest and concern for his students.

It is unfortunate that the Faculty seemed to be relatively unconcerned about either soliciting or respecting student opinion regarding the expiration of these men's appointments. We, the students, stand in a relationship of confidence and trust with those whose prerogative and power it is to retain or release instructors--- trust that the faculty and the Board of Directors are unconditionally committed to provide those conditions necessary for a quality education. It is our feeling that the release of Messrs. Sigel and Luck, two men who have contributed and would continue to contribute to our growth and well-being both personally and professionally, is a betrayal of that confidence.

Sincerely,

The Student Body of the Lutheran  
Theological Seminary at Philadelphia

cc. The Rev. W.C. Berkemeyer  
Dr. Donald Heiges  
Dr. William H. Lazareth

The sending of the above letter, and its contents, were unanimously approved by the Student Body Assembled April 23, 1969

# A LETTER : TO THE EDITOR

Sir:

I am writing to express my appreciation for the kindness of the student body on my behalf. I recognize in the gift the crafty handiwork of D. A. who played his role of 'I Spy' to the hilt. Not only is your gift a Mark of good taste but, even more, your warm sentiments (reported to me by the ke-ryx of your choice) will be of encouragement in the days to come. You may be sure that it is I who stand indebted to all of you in ways too many to enumerate.

To avoid the maudlin, let out mutual good wishes suffice - with a generous sprinkling of God's blessing all round.

Again, many thanks.

Vale atque salve, *Charles P. Sigel*

P.S. I also appreciate your concern which has been expressed to me both informally and through official channels of the student body. Though I do not play at Daumen, nevertheless apropos in this regard is ROM. 8:28. Stoic it may be (depending, of course, on the text which you read and the context which you establish), it nevertheless crystallizes the foment of the moment, enabling us thereby to get some kind of a handle on the otherwise amorphous and enigmatic. So, with my long finger (like Albrecht Durer before me), to all those who have expressed concern, a pointer to ROM. 8:28 should suffice.

CPS

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## FLUSH FROM GORDON

Those of you who are busily preparing for exams might be interested in this little multiple-choice test as a warm-up. Choose one.

Question: "Why did the majority of the Mt. Airy Faculty pull out of the Cluster-wide curriculum discussion last Saturday before it really got started?"

- (a) They had planned a badmitten tournament back at the campus.
- (b) They aren't really interested in clustering anyway.
- (c) They don't see any possibility for improving upon our already verbally-inspired curriculum.
- (d) They felt uneasy at a meeting where students were allowed to express their opinions.
- (e) All of the above.

Perhaps none of the above really depicts the situation accurately. Perhaps it isn't even fair. Yet somehow what happened wasn't quite fair either. John Reumann, whose countless hours this year were to a large extent responsible for the curriculum under discussion, and Dean Lazareth, together with four faculty hold-outs, were left sitting with an otherwise empty Mt. Airy bag.

An action spoke much louder than any words could have. A particular feeling came across quite clearly: Disinterest. Suddenly the former characterization of Crozer and Lancaster as obstructionists in the Cluster movement began to lose its credibility. Perhaps it is some of our own faculty who are not yet interested in ecumenical education.

Gordon Simmons

## "PRISONERS"... PROS -

Credit, praise and thanks are due director Kate Shaffmaster and our Seminary Players for their fine performance of Christopher Fry's "A Sleep of Prisoners" Wednesday night. Once again Mt. Airy's cultural mirage has miraculously turned oasis, and we have found rare and delicious refreshment. Superb acting was the order of the evening: Fred Schneeberg as the adaptable idealist Peter Able, who wanted to live in childlike innocence and joy in an unthreatening world, must get top honors, however much one dislikes to rank a cast like this. His characterization was, to these eyes, flawless. But excellent work, of which Fred's was merely the epitome, was turned in by George Yoder, who played the militant, unreflective and sure-knowing David King; and by Timothy Waltonon, the wiser, older, more contemplative Tin Meadows; and by Mark Fritch, whose Joe Adams preferred normalcy, order and authority.

I've suggested differences in the play's four characters; the types are crucial to Fry's meaning, for they are nature, closed and rather inclusive perspectives on existence. There is seemingly unresolvable tension among the perspectives, and Fry develops the differences on a near cosmic scale in a series of Biblically-based conflicts, including Cain and Able, David and Absalom, and Abraham and Isaac, which are enacted in the men's dreams of each other. Tim, however, has trouble sleeping; he is the waking one, the observant one. He doesn't dream; he sees. And so when the conflict and despair of the others reaches its height, and when they have helped each other through the storm and come through hell alive together, it is Tim who sees the answer to the painful question of "Where is truth?" and who shows it to the others and who is the prophet of hope. And, thankfully, he is not too vocal a prophet.

The whole play is written in poetry. It is beautiful language, explicitly meaningful. It is the sort of play you must listen to, but it isn't so bad if you miss a little. Fry builds on his theme, and the theme recurs.

There is some question whether the play achieves adequate resolution. While the philosopher Tim has most of the "great" lines, he is a less convincing character than the others. He has the perhaps unfair advantage of being a watcher, a non-participant in the struggle. David, Peter, and Joe, we must assume, have acquired their characters through conscious choices; they have had to, to be able to be and act. What is there to make us affirm Tim's wisdom over theirs? Isn't he just another well-rounded type like the rest? Perhaps he chooses his words more carefully; and this, in fact, may be what is required.

An audience of admirable size was in attendance. Congratulations, seminary community: you did yourselves a favor. And you discussed well afterwards. That wasn't so hard, was it?

What else remains to be said? The set was adequate. And the lighting, Larry, was very illuminating.

- Bob Simons -

# MUSIC SOOTHES..

On Wednesday, April 23, the voices of Lutheran seminarians rang under the huge copper dome of the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, which is the center of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The Seminary Choir was there at the invitation of the Church Music Association of America - Philadelphia Chapter. The CMAA was formed in 1964 by the merger of the two oldest church music societies in America, namely, the American Society of Saint Caecilia (1874), and the Society of Saint Gregory (1914). Mr. W. Joseph Walker, president of the Philadelphia chapter, asked Mr. Bornemann to illustrate a lecture on Lutheran Liturgy and Hymnody by the use of the choir.

Mr. Bornemann spoke to an enthusiastic audience in the Cathedral Chapel Hall and then directed the Choir in a program which ranged from "Erhalt uns, Herr" (Luther-Praetorius-Bach) to three variations of the Agnus Dei (including Bonnemere) to selections from the work of Hugo Distler. The main thought of Mr. Bornemann's talk was the dialogic character of worship. There are three main facets to the Lutheran view of worship. God's address to us is primary. He comes to man in worship and then man responds. This response is in thanksgiving and praise. The third aspect is a congregational-centered response. The dialogue is between God and the people. Church music must therefore be functional and any music which does not serve the function of such a dialogue does not have a place in the worship of the church.

The audience received the lecture and concert with an exuberant amount of enthusiasm. In a letter received by Mr. Bornemann from the president of the Philadelphia chapter the following comments were made. "I am still getting comments from various members who attended about the excellence of the program, and how gratifying it was to hear such expressions of faith and purpose in the Lutheran Liturgy and how compatible it is with our own. Your thoughts on worship and the place of music in it are so closely allied with ours as to be, in my mind, interchangeable.... It was a truly moving experience to see a nun standing and applauding with tears in her eyes and to hear her say later 'Just think that a few years ago this could not have taken place.' This then is an indication of the value of what you have done for us, and we are looking forward to a long and close association with you in the future."

Mr. Bornemann's lecture will be published in the national quarterly of the CMAA, Sacred Music. It will also be made available to members of the Philadelphia chapter due to an overwhelming amount of requests. Mr. Walker has asked that a recording of the Choirs performance be made available to the CMAA and Mr. Bornemann will be an honored guest at a CMAA dinner this month.

In the light of apparent eagerness on both sides, it would not be surprising if this event proved to be a major break-through in the striving for fellowship and understanding between our churches.

Bill Munz



# AROUND CAMPI

Father Dennis O'Rourke is to be commended for his excellent endeavor in making this year's Spring Banquet a success... It has been rumored that the Dr. Harold Albert Relevancy Award will be given next year to another famed O.T. prof... ONE WEEK to catch up (cram) for finals... Next year's Middler Class Officers will be Steve Bomgren, President; Steve Tochterman, Social Chairman; and Royce (Mt. Airy's BIG AL) Shaddiger, Athletic Chairman!... What junior was nominated Transportation Specialist for next year? Accolades are to be given to Mark F., George Y., Fred S. and Tim W. for excellent jobs in the play-"The Sleep of Prisoners"- those who missed it are urged to attend today's play, "Endgame". Some after-Banquet thoughts: The noisiest class was the Seniors- boy are they happy. (they deserve to be) Who were the Eliot Ness boys at the banquet?... What junior spun his date around so fast that she screamed?... Here's hoping to destroy the all-faculty table in the corner and to establish integration-it won't hurt... Question puzzler of the week: Who pinched hit for Larry S. as he worked the lights for the play??... Quotes of the week: A member of the junior class who recently had a bachelor party at the N.Y.C. Playboy Club said after looking at the prices and the bunny quoting them, "With inflation everything is going up."... From a doubting Thomas in communications class: "It's not the food that you eat; it's that what comes out." The good fairy tells us that Martha L. lost a tooth ENJOY THE SPRING WEATHER EVERYBODY (ha-ha)

\*\*\*\*\* GUESS WHAT \*\*\*\*\*

YUP! Our valiant volleyball team has come home with another easy win; even though the other team showed up. With a big, really big show of 4-0... attaboy teammmmm... keep those rule books handy.

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PLEASE REMEMBER THAT: there will be an excellent opportunity for a fun night this Friday. "Endgame" will be presented tonight at eight (8) o'clock. No seats need be reserved.

## A REACTION TO THE COLLOQUY ON CONFIRMATION

(ED. NOTE- The following is taken from the Gettysburg Seminary Newspaper, Table Talk; April 17, 1969, Vol. V, No. 17)

A few months ago, I sat amazed, shocked startled and bewildered in a Junior Seminar Practicum after Mr. Hale mentioned that some congregations were experimenting with giving Holy Communion prior to confirmation. Now, after attending the Colloquy on Confirmation, I am exuberant at the thought that by removing admission to the Lord's Supper as a club with which we force young people to attend confirmation classes or a carrot we dangle before young people as a means of enticing them to seek to be confirmed, confirmation may be realized as an intrinsically meaningful rite and process for the whole Christian community.

I am extremely happy that the Joint Commission on the Theology and Practice of Confirmation has defined confirmation "as a pastoral and educational ministry of the church that is designed to help baptized children identify with the life and mission of the adult Christian community and that is celebrated in a public rite." I am especially happy that the definition has inherent in it an understanding of confirmation as a puberty rite which may be a means of grace.

Granted that a rite within the Church is not going to solve all the problems adolescents face, it is at least refreshing to ponder its implications for the young people who are confirmed and the congregations who "recognize the confirmand as capable of identifying with the life and mission of the adult Christian Community." (Dr. Evenson "the purpose of Confirmation", Confirmation and Education) At least, the church will be supplying one place in our society where young people can say, "Yesterday, I was a child, today I am a man." Obviously, the rite will be useless if the confirmand's role within the church remains the same after confirmation as it was prior to it, but if they are given an active role in adopting the life and mission of the church to the present time, both the parish and the confirmand stand to profit immensely. -Myron Schevey

(ED.- Please note that this is strictly the idea and conception of Table Talk and not necessarily that of THE SEMINARIAN; but I would like comments from this anyway.)

GARÇONS AWARDS FOR GASTRONOMY  
(Licky-fingers makes good!)

This year it is the privilege of the Seminararian to provide a special feature upon the recommendation of our illustrious waiters' staff (better known to us all as the dynamic trio in service) whose task it is each day to dole out sumptuous cuisine in tried and true Refectory tradition. We must in all honesty admit to ourselves they've given us so much already this year that it somehow just doesn't seem right for them to extend to all of us this incommensurate honor in the form of awards for the attitudes we've displayed in true Refectory tradition before them. Nevertheless, we've accepted this most noteworthy list and feel it only justifiable to publish it for the sake of posterity.

Mr. Licky-fingers of the Year: Brother Z.

Mr. Crumbs (two tons worth): Bob K.

Slowpoke of the Year: Marty T.

Runnersup in this same category: Bob S. and Craig T.

Mr. Punctuality (Time is like an ever-rolling stream): Dick P.

Mr. Pain in the Neck (or from whatever angle you care to look at it): Bob R.

Mr. Vielfrass: Peter S. (would you believe 6 frankfurters plus trimmings all at one sitting!!)

Mr. Muushsoup: Marty T.

Mr. Absentee (waiters' favorite): Tie between Dave H. and Frank M.

Favorite Guest of the Year: Carol H.

Favorite Table of the Year (Animal Farm in Action): Lee B., Bill V.,  
Frank M., Clark K.,  
Dave S., Conway S.

And last but not least the waiters feel a special vote of praise should go to our Refectory Committee whose "ultimate concern" has been ever directed toward our epicurean emanations: John S., Chairman

(ed. note: It is indeed with deep regret that we announce the retirement of this year's maître d', Paul Jann, who, after giving us a full year of his time, trouble and temperament, is hastening on (Aug. 24th) to "greener fields" a la connubial bliss. We would like to vote him a special award in recognition of his past service. To you, Paul, goes the Mr. Agility of the Year Award! Who else could set plates on a table as if he were dealing cards and not break a one? Who else could come close to almost pouring the coffee down your neck instead of in your cup? Who else could lose his grip on a whole tray full of breadpudding and come out of it all with only one broken cup, and that one split perfectly in half? Come visit us next year just for laughs, Paul, but make sure you have your meal ticket with you.)

-DJH-

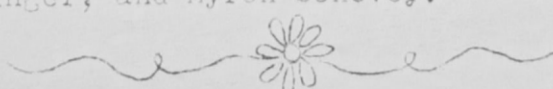
THE SEMINARIAN is a student publication of the Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia. Offices are located in "F" Hall, facing the empty tennis court. We welcome any unsolicited articles, newsworthy items, criticisms, and cartoons.

Editor: Rat Ursin

Co-editors: Dave Howell and Bill Muntz

Co-Assistant to the Editor: John Merrill

Articles: Bob Simons, Gordon Simons, Bill Munz, John Sabatelli, Bob Karli, Dave Alderfer, Charles Sigel, Dave Howell, Paul Jann, Larry Snoose, Royce Shaddinger, and Myron Schevey.



# 'FROM THE TIP OF THE TONGUE'

LET'S FACE IT! That was the best darn banquet we've been to, in a long time. Everything went well: the dinner, the drinks, (especially the drinks), the music, ah yes, the drinks .... even the faculty had a very enjoyable time (sure beats those church basements!).

The evening was highlighted by an AWARDS programme:

1. The Harold Albert Relevancy Award went to Dr. Foster McCurley for his three day abridged version of his El Shaddai lectures.
2. The J.H.P. Reumann Snappy Dresser Award went to Nelson Gaetz for his comment, "So what's wrong with wearing bleached socks and clerics!?"
3. The Andrew J. White Wide Scope Ministry Award went to Alfred Assa for his work with the inner-city rats.
4. The St. Ignatius Loyola Award went "to those who have staunchly defended Holy Mother Church from the arch-heretical Lutheran sect", Miss Judith Hird and Mr. Robert Lutz.
5. The Robert J. Karli, "Boy Are You Stupid", Award went to John Morrill for accepting the Sacristan position.
6. The Dave Newhart Drinking Award was shared this year by Mr. Robert Bornemann and Mr. Paul Jann (who later that evening proved his worthiness).
7. The Mt. Airy Profundity Award went to Dr. Theodore Tappert for his profound statement, "The Scotch-Irish were difficult to rule because, as a people, they were unruly."
8. The Nelson Gaetz "God Is On My Side Driving" Award went to Mr. Dave Alderfer.
9. The Most Likely To Succeed Award went to Mr. Bill Phillips who after trying two other professions is bound to succeed in this one.
10. A special prize went to Mr. Robert Bornemann for his superlative work with our choir both this year and last. The prize: one long-playing record of Dr. Theodore Tappert chanting the entire Lutheran liturgy.
11. The Perfect Non-Attendance Award was shared this year by two Presidents, - Pres. Gordon Simmons for his non-attendance in Liturgics class and Pres. Donald Heiges for his non-attendance on the Mt. Airy campus.
12. The Emmy Television Award went to Dr. Harold Albert for his great performance in I AM CURIOUS ANY COLOR YOU WANT.
13. The Procreator et Deo Award went to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Luck, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis O'Rourke, Mr. and Mrs. David Genszler, Mr. and Mrs. Tim Waltonen and any other expectant parents who might have been omitted from the list.
14. The Martin J. Heinecken "A Bust In The Bed Is Better Than A Halo On The Head" Award went to Dr. William Lazareth who just authored a new book entitled, "Sex: The Lazareth Position"

All in all, whether married, dating or dateless, everyone had fun, frolicking!!

> Attention! Faculty!  
 > You are "condually"  
 > challenged to a game of  
 > Volleyball - May 6th 6:15

