



The Seminarsian

KRAUTH MEMORIAL LIBRARY

RECEIVED

MAR 8 1979

LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY AT PHILADELPHIA

vol. 41

No. 16

March 8, 1979

LTSP Welcomes Prospective Students

From Sunday, March 11th to Tuesday, March 13th, approximately 30 prospective students will be attending the annual Pre-Seminary Visitation Retreat. This event is designed to help prospective students come to a better understanding of Seminary life and to help them determine whether the Philadelphia Seminary is the one they want to attend.

The retreat will begin with tours of the Philadelphia area on Sunday afternoon. Official registration begins at 6:30 pm, followed by a wine and cheese party in the dormitory. All students, faculty, and staff are invited to attend. During the party there will be greetings from Dr. Raymond Bost, the president of the Seminary, Dr. Faith Burgess, the Dean for Academic Affairs, and Mr. Jim Bowers, the student body president.

On Monday, prospective students will have an opportunity to attend classes, and will be given a tour of the Krauth Memorial Library and the Seminary's media center. In the morning they will attend a worship service at the chapel---a highlight of that service being the playing of a jazz band under the leadership of Mr. Michael Cobbler, senior seminarian. In the afternoon there will be a panel presentation at which time prospective students will meet with members of the faculty to discuss curriculum, field education, internship, and financial aid. The day will conclude with desserts in faculty homes.

On Tuesday, prospective students will again have an opportunity to attend classes, and to participate in a worship service. Following lunch there will be a brief evaluation and wrap-up.

Arrangements for the Pre-Seminary Visitation Retreat are being coordinated by Mr. Curt Wolff, a middler. He is being assisted by seniors Bruce Ewen and Craig Herrick, intern Thelma Cobbler, middle Carey Miller and Mary Wien, juniors Ruth Snyder and Larry Stiles, and staff member Donald B. Myrom.

GREETINGS AND WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

Dear Editors,

I now sit on the other end of those ringing pay phones in the dorm. I can say truthfully what it feels like when you're the caller and the answerer. Many times I walked by a ringing phone saying to myself, "I haven't got time to answer it," or I'd sit in my room and say, "That's not for me so I'm not going to bother." Or if I did answer it I'd do it in anger, feeling that I had been disturbed. But I listen to it ring now from the other end of the line and ask, "Why isn't anyone answering? I know someone's there," or I let it ring for 3 or 4 minutes in order to disturb people into answering it.

My thanks goes to many of you who do answer. It surprises me to hear "hello" on the other end before 10 rings, but you reduce my frustration level greatly when you do. And I promise to answer the phone as promptly as possible when I return next year, because I know what its like to be on th other end.

Cordially,
Nancy Anderson, Intern
8564 Sumac Dr., Apt. 2C
Baldwinsville, NY 13027

(Ed.- Nancy did not enclose her phone number in the letter)

PLEASE NOTE

Women's Concerns Committee will be holding their Sherry Hour on Monday, March 12th at 4:30 pm at the Refectory(upstairs). Topic will be a discussion of Women on internship and C.P.E., (What it is like out in that Cold Cruel World even if you've come a long way baby.) Bring your questions, your thirst and your quarters.

NEWS OF THE LCA - "Roots": Laudable Ethic/Deplorable Religion - John Hazel

Alex Haley's "Roots" offers a "very, very, very laudable ethic but a deeply deplorable humanistic religion." said the Rev. Dr. William Lazareth to the February meeting of LCA synods planning ways to make the LCA more racially inclusive.

"Our heavenly vocation relativizes all our penultimate commitments, whether they be race, or sex, or nation, or party or denomination... My friends, that is the chief painful lesson that 20th century Nordic and Teutonic Lutherans have had to learn the hard way," said the former LTSP theology professor. They learned that lesson, he said, "from Naziism, communis and capitalism as they continually capitulated all too often to Aryan, Marxist and Lockean heries, thereby remaining an exclusive North European sect rather than an inclusive universal church. I speak of Kunta because of what we've learned from Otto and Olaf."

Kunta Kinte, becomes a sort of Christ figure, symbolized by the sacrifice of his foot "inorder that his followers might be inspired with a resurrection like hope for their own run for freedom," Lazareth noted.

According to Haley, "We must exalt our roots, because only in our biological families can we overcome temptations of a rootless society." With this in mind Lazareth said "I think the message of Kinte is clear: 'You shall know them by their roots.' The message of Christ is equally clear, and a scandalous alternative: 'You shall know them by their fruits.'" The LCA once again stands before an either-or: either an ethnic theology of glory or and evangelical theology of the cross; either the roots of Kinte or the fruits of Christ.

CARTER

If the most recent round of Mideast peace talks produce substantial results they will provide President Carter with a much needed boost at a time when he is under attack from nearly every quarter. But whether the current round of talks proves successful or not, the President's foreign policy posture during the past several months deserves more support than it has gotten. Though it is true that Carter has as yet failed to provide this country with inspired leadership the present assault to which he is being subjected fails to appreciate some fundamental facts about the world and America's place in it.

The last several months has been tough on the American ego. Our ambassador to Afghanistan was killed and all we could do was complain. Iran "fell" and with the departure of the Shah the US lost one of its most dependable allies in that critical area of the world. China's most powerful leader used his week in this country to berate the Russians and then returned to his homeland to preside over its invasion of Vietnam. In Mexico, the President was publicly humiliated and responded with so weak a joke that the embarrassment was only compounded.

Carter, his critics assert, is allowing the course of world affairs to overwhelm the United States and in his failure to react decisively to situations is imperilling this country's power and prestige throughout the world. But these critics, like Ronald Reagan and Henry Kissinger, who are so quick to condemn are oddly reticent when it comes to offering sensible alternate policies. Behind their criticisms seems to be the assumption that the US must in some way act to teach the disrespectful a lesson, to show the world who is boss. This is the sort of reaction which is alot easier to talk about out of office than it is to impliment when in office. In point of fact, Carter's restraint in the realm of foreign affairs suggests that he understands better than do his critics that the world has changed since the Second World War. America's power to influence world affairs is simply not as great nor will it in the future be as great as it was during the decades following the War. Americans are so accustomed to thinking in terms of control and domination that it is going to be difficult for them to accept the new limitations on American power. Nonetheless this country's finitude and vulnerability are going to be realized by its people with increasing vividness as the world shortage of natural resources begins to make itself felt in ways which few people have anticipated.

The challenge of the coming decade will be in part a spiritual one. As a country we have generally assumed that we can control history and put it to our own use. We are just beginning to learn the central and enduring lesson of history -- that history cannot be controlled and that the challenge which it eventually throws up to every civilization is that of living creatively within its own destiny without attempting to possess that destiny.

Whether we as a nation can learn ~~to~~ live within a future which will include unpalatable reductions in our international power and a substantial lowering of our material standards of life here at home will depend partly on our quality of leadership. Carter has thus far failed to provide effective leadership, not because of his hesitancy to bomb Iran but because of his inability to communicate to his country any over-all sense of purpose behind his restrained and patient posture. But Carter's instincts have been good and if he acquires the ability to articulate and defend his policies he may not be as unelectable in 1980 as some people now think.

Galen Tinder

"After Roots...Riot?"

by Ramona Carroll

Harriet freed us from the South.
Now we're slaves of the North.
Lincoln proclaimed our emancipation.
What's an emancipation?

Marcus strutted down the street
pointing the way home. - But
Africa is still waves and waves
away.

Malcolm ran down the truth, as we
fell out laughing - he fell down
dead.

Martin stood peacefully against
illegal laws until he was taken
in mid-dream.

"Power to the people!" "Seize the
time!" "Self-determination,"
filled our relevant conversation.
Guns, dashikis, riot suits and Afros;
frowning faces and souls as cold
as Eldridge Cleaver's (was)
profiled down our streets.

And the revolution remained a rumor.
However:

There was a Man more than a man.
Born in a guttery smelling place.
He never did anything wrong, yet an
acquaintance turned Him in to
the law.

The powers that be, beat His bared
back with a cat o' nintails.
They stripped Him before the people
and spat on His innocent body.

A thorny wreath peirced His head
while officers shot craps for
His dashiki/tunic.

Crowds cheered, as His feet and hands
were nailed. Hanging for an
inhuman length of time, the Man
died...which was His plan. Yet
He lives for He's the Son of God
as well as of Man.

After Roots...real eyes:

The revolution occurred 2,000 years
ago. And Christ still has the
power and compassion to declare
us free.

Yes, free indeed!!!

NOTE TO EDITOR:

Do I remind someone of the great
Charlie? Or is it a typo? I keep
seeing "Chapleirs" Corner" instead
of "Chaplains' Corner"! You might
check this in the next edition of

the Seminararian.

P.S. You're doing a good job of
editing.

Margaret Krych

EDITOR: I would like to apologize
for the fact that Peter can't spell.
Ruth Hankins

AND NOW: the CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Monday, March 12, is the day
we celebrate the festival of Greg-
ory the Great, Bishop of Rome.
Since pre-seminary students will be
visiting the seminary there has been
a change in plans. Instead of eve-
ning compline there will be Jazz
Matins at 9:40 a.m. featuring the
LTSP Jazz Band.

Dr. Lee will be the preacher
and celebrant at the 9:40 Service
of Holy Communion on Tuesday, March
13'th.

The Seminary Sacred Dance group
will lead worship at 9:40 a.m. on
Wednesday. You are also invited to
the 7:30 p.m. Lenten service organ-
ized jointly by the Seminary and
Ascension Church.

The Rev. Thomas Sligh of the
Mt. Airy United Methodist Church
will be the guest preacher at the
9:40 a.m. Service of the Word on
Thursday, March 15'th. You are in-
vited to the coffee hour to follow
in the mailbox area. Spend this
brief time sharing fellowship with
students, staff and faculty and
greet our guest preacher who is
visiting us as part of the second
semester series of Black Expression
Events.

+++++

On Wednesday, March 14'th Dr. Luther
Lindberg of the Division for Parish
Services will present information
on the Parish Life and Ministry
Development program from 1:15 -
4:15 in the Tappert Room. His visit
is in connection with Course #860
but all members of the seminary
community are invited to attend. It
is important to know about PLMD.
This is a good opportunity to learn
about the program without having to
attend an off-campus workshop.

It has been our attempt recently to determine the Lutheran position on gnomes. Lacking an LCA Social Statement on this matter, we have had to look to other sources, as our article of the last week checked out the biblical, theological and historical perspectives of the existence of gnomes. - Noted biblical scholar Dr. Bob Jeske has pointed out that indeed our canon is not closed and that we should look to the NEW YORK TIMES for help. This witness, through its Bestseller List, goes against the position stated last week. It seems that a book concerning gnomes has been on that list for the past 59 weeks, but listed under the category of non-fiction.

Last week's article proved conclusively that gnomes do not exist. This week we have shown without a doubt that gnomes do exist. Thus we have arrived at the Lutheran position on gnomes, that is, a paradox. We will have more talk about gnomes in this column.

Hot Dogs: Will Bob Hughes ever again wave his doughnut in public?... New romance department: Linda Fearheller recently had dinner with Martin Heineken. Congratulations to Glenn Zorb on his recent diet. He lost 5 pounds in a matter of minutes... It's spring training time and news of trades is common but one this important cannot go unnoticed: Bruce Ewen, Jannene Sass and Mark Oldenburg were traded to the Heritage Choir from the Seminary Choir for two singers, a fifth round draft choice for 1981, and future consideration. In addition, Bob Ashburn was awarded \$170,000 and two beers for agreeing not to sing on the upcoming seminary choir tour (he doesn't yet realize that the money he received was play money!)... Following "Sunday Morning Live," some people have claimed to have figured out who the Brothers Bob are, but they were wrong, their identities remain secret... To whom did Jack Slotterback say, "We've got to stop meeting like this" and does this endanger his chances for ordination?... Dick Ringenwald has finally found a way to get into the shower... And what's the true story about Dorothy Stiles?

THE JOHANNINE LITERATURE

Imbibio Ergo Sum - "I drink, therefore I am" - Monty Python

Last week I committed an error in the baseball analogy, namely, by omitting the essential phase of trivia and statistics. All ballplayers know their antecedents, and can quote some obscure figures from the past. We have Church History, the study of the theological ballplayers and playoffs in days gone by. For example, Ulrich Zwingli, who formed the Swiss Federation in 1526, tried to merge with Luther's Schmalkald League at the Marburg Winter meetings of 1529. However, agreement was reached on all but one issue: something about the communication of attributes. If Christ was both divine and human, does that mean he could switch-hit simultaneously in each "plate" (re: Supper) appearance?

On a more serious note, a copy of the proposal for student rights and responsibilities made its way to Patmos last week. The initial reaction was that an Honor Code, due process, etc., could be taken for granted on a Seminary campus; we should be above the petty competition for grades which fosters jealousy and redress of grievances. Such would be the case if the faculty was, across the board, open, cooperative and enthusiastic to students' concerns. Our faculty is exemplary in this regard: due process would be in writing for the case of one who can't bring himself to fit into a less-competitive community. More pass-fail and less plus/minus assessment would ease up on the pressure students place on themselves. Without becoming too verbose on the philosophy or pseudo-necessity of grades, let us just assert that some faculty member may come with a chip on his shoulder, daring students to knock it off; due process can protect the meeker students against these rare prima-donnas.

(continued on page 6)

FATHER JOHN'S CONFESSIONS
(and traveling road show)

- We've all heard the term "going thru a stage," used when speaking of children. As a service to future parents I will list the stages.
- STAGE #1 - Sleep only - This stage occurs when a newborn is brought home. Parents are left to their own devices during this time which is interrupted only by dirty diapers, meals and occasional burp. Many parents are lulled into believing parenthood is easy.
- STAGE #2 - Oral identification - simplified, this means that young children examine their world by putting it in their mouth. This explains why you will remove such articles as pens, rocks, the cat, and Aunt Lydia's diamond brooch from the child's mouth.
- STAGE #3 - Hair - This stage is marked by lack of hair. The stage is most severe in girls ("Oh what a cute little boy!").
Teeth - during this stage your child will always have six less teeth than the child of any friend.
Talk - while your relatives regale you with stories of how young you were when you talked, your child will have a vocabulary of 2 words. (Why?, and the word he learned from Uncle Fred and which he used to startle the President of the L.C.W.).
Crawl-walk - also something your child will do later than someone else's kids. This stage marks the end of the honeymoon. The child will no longer be where you put him when you look for him.
- These four stages fall into a category I call some have it and some don't. Simply stated it means that your child always does things slower than any child on the face of the earth (and their parents will surely let you know).
- STAGE #4 - Door-knobs - crawling means your child won't be in the spot you left him. This stage means he may not even be in the house.
- STAGE #5 - Toilet Training - nuff sed! (I still break out in hives at the sight of porcelain.)
- STAGE #6 - Dressing - kids master undressing at age 1½. The dressing stage of it occurs later, much later.
- STAGE #7 - Pre-restaurant - take your kids to a restaurant. If they say "is it ready yet?" you know they are still in the pre-restaurant.
- STAGE #8 - Stairs - up only (but always up).
- STAGE #9 - Spelling - "What does KXZLPZ spell daddy?"
Name - once they learn to spell it, they write it everywhere. (Raechel wrote it on her sheet)
- STAGE #10 - Choose your own - During this stage your child wants to make decisions. It doesn't matter what they end up with, as long as it's different from your choice.

THE END (first of 95 installments)

"Father" John
THE JOHANNINNE LITERATURE (cont. from page 5)

We would offer these words of consolation to our peers: relax, enjoy. Life in the Body of Christ is not meant to be an adversary relationship, and the implementation of the ideal in the real begins with each of us. Compared to the rigors of CPE, meet market, internship, waiting out calls and greek, the days of classes and papers may well be the most conducive to mellowing, reflective contemplation about your life, your faith, your call. Don't let a bad prof or low grades spoil the unique tranquility of life in school. You'd be surprised how easily the stuff flows once you have overcome trying to learn what the teacher wants you to.

Auf Wiederschreiben,
Johann

ATTENTION! SOCIAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR INPUT!

We need your opinions concerning a couple of unresolved issues regarding the Spring Banquet. Here are the two problems:

We have access to a professional quality sound system company that provides a disc jockey and a variety of music for wedding receptions, proms, nightclubs and discos. We are interested in your opinions as to whether this would be acceptable for the banquet as an alternative to a live band. Because a member of this company is a friend of ours, we can rent their services at a cost sufficiently low that we can hopefully drop the ticket prices for the banquet (as yet not finalized) one dollar per ticket. If the live band concept is kept, we must risk booking a band of unknown quality at two or three times the price. With the help of your responses on the form below, the committee will be making the final decision.

The second problem regards the issue of whether to have an open or closed bar. We have gotten conflicting opinions on this in the past and would like your views on the following possible compromise. We introduce it with the following hypothetical situation. If the base ticket price for the banquet were ten dollars apiece, would you be interested in buying a ticket priced five to seven dollars higher for open bar privileges? There would be under this system two types of tickets at two prices, only those paying the higher price would be accorded the open bar privilege. This would obviously be a complicated system, but we are willing to consider it if the response warrants it. Once again the committee will make the final decision.

We hope to have a final price structure and tickets available in about a week. To facilitate this, we ask that you respond by Friday, March 9. LACK OF RESPONSE TO THIS FORM WILL BE INTERPRETED AS WHOLEHEARTED APPROVAL FOR WHATEVER SOLUTION THE COMMITTEE COMES TO. If you have any questions, see Bobb Bolz or myself.

Bill Henderson

ENTERTAINMENT (check "we" if responding for spouse also)

Yes, I () we () would like the sound system alternative.

No, I () we () would like to have a live band.

OPEN OR CLOSED BAR

Yes, I () we () would pay the higher price for an open bar ticket.

No, I () we () would not be interested in such a ticket.

Please place this form in the box provided near the mailboxes.

THOMAS ACQUAINT US

Where do we go from here?

or

Where do we go? forum ... here!

Inasmuch as there is so much with which to be acquainted and only one Thomas (as opposed to abundant "jobs") I have decided to invite your writings to this page.

There is much we can learn from each other and I welcome the opportunity for you to "acquaint us" with something of interest which we all can share.

Here's the format: "Thomas Acquaint Us" will continue as a weekly column for as long as the editors of THE SEMINARIAN can stand it. Articles for "Acquaint Us" should be informative in nature and concern themselves with interesting happenings, things, or people. Contributions to the column will be received in mailbox #319. In order to publish your article on a particular week, I need it by 5:00pm, Monday of that week.

Suggestions:

- How about acquainting us with the culture and climate of your intern area? ("Wonderful Wantagh" or "Sheboygan by Night")

- I look forward to hearing from "Swish 'n Sauer" for a review of local eating establishments.

- Very soon I will be doing a series of articles on the "Diagnosis and Treatment of Spring Fever" - - maybe you can help me out!

In any case, "Thomas Acquaint Us" will continue to come to you each week (most weeks) either under the authorship of Thomas . . . or an acquaintance.

Looking Forward to hearing from you,

Thomas

ATTENTION ALL SENIORS !

Rich Sauer (of LTSP COOP Bookstore fame) has found it possible to order Ceramic Drinking Steins with the Seminary seal and "Class of 1979" glazed on the front. In order to have these by our graduation, we must ORDER NOW, so sign up on the order form hanging on the Hagan Bulletinboard (where else?!).

You have a choice:

A. Pint size or B. Quart size
(price: about \$7) (price: about \$13)

The Last Day to order is Wednesday, March 14th so, DO IT NOW!

CREDITS

EDITORS * Ruth Hankins & Peter Breitsch
Production Manager - Ashja George
Typists - Peter, Ruth, Wanda & Galen & Bill
Collators - (Last week) Sarah, Ann, John

THIS WEEKS COLLATORS ARE UNKNOWN AT PRESENT BUT THEIR HELP IS APPRECIATED.

THE SEMINARIAN
7301 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19119

=====
FIRST
CLASS
=====