



The Seminarian

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KRAUTH MEMORIAL LIBRARY
RECEIVED
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ARCHEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY ON THE CAMPUS OF LTSP

On February 29, 1979 a crucial discovery was unearthed by an archeological team headed by Ms. Tina, Esq., who reveals herself to us by taking on the form of a squirrel. Our resident expert on the topic of short people, Beth Johnson, interviewed Tina (my esteemed colleague was also present to aid in translation and verify the conversation). Ms. Johnson feels that this discovery is equally as important as the 1799 discovery of the Rosetta Stone by Captain Bouchard. The Rosetta Stone was the key for European scholars to deciphering much of Egyptian hieroglyphics. This new discovery may just prove to be the key to understanding some of the strange phenomena around this campus. We regret that only a small portion of the document is available for publication at this time, but hopefully the complete and unabridged version will appear in print at your local Fortress Church Supply Store in the near future. The document is entitled - "what you always wanted to know about gnomes but were too big to ask..." It contains the

following information concerning some all time gnomes favorites.

winter vacation spot - gnome, alaska	fruit - gnectarine
summer vacation spot - gnashville, tenn.	hobby - gneedlepoint
annual sports event - army/gnavy game	month - gnovember
old time tv show - the gnome ranger	philosopher - gnietzsche
old time song - gnome on the range	theologian - gniebuhr
local hangout - gnewark, gnew jersey	girl's name - gnancy
honeymoon spot - gniagra falls	boy's name - gnathaniel
old time bible story - gnoah's ark	bible figure - zaccheus
christmas hymn - the first gnoel	foreign city - gnaples, italy
topic of conversation - gnostalgia	indian tribe - gnavahos
gourmet dish - gnoodles romagnoff	insurance - gno fault
book - the family gnotebook	spice - gnutmeg
item of clothing - red flannel gnightshirt	poet - e.e.cummings
culture period - gneo classic art and literature	
old time saying #1 - see gno evil, hear gno evil, speak gno evil!	
old time saying #2 - good things come in small packages!	

There has been some concern on this campus as to the theological significance of gnomes. This document proves beyond a doubt that gnomes do have a pope, and he resides in gneizio, poland. A minority group of gnomes has been identified with the heretical group of the first century gnomed as the gnasty gnostics. Some discussion has surrounded the Lutheran position on gnomes - well this document clears up some of the problem. The gnome position on Lutherans is "gneisio!"

This is all the information available at the moment, because our source Ms. Tina seemed to get all choked up on a peanut butter cracker that was given to her by my esteemed colleague. The last words which could be understood by the illustrious Ms. Tina were, "BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH!"

Peter Breitsch, Co-editor
Beth Johnson, Eleven

I'm not sure if anyone reads these random comments. Statements two weeks ago on this page about the unique opportunity for learning something about alcoholism or my need for some more seniors for the Readiness for Ministry project produced a deafening silence. So it is with fear and trembling that I try once again to see if there is "anyone out there."

1- There is a place on the bulliten board to sign up if you are interested in a German course this semester. The program will follow the Temple University critical language format--totally self-motovational. So this course is only available for those who have the time and commitment. Please sign up by this Friday, March 16th.

2- There is also a note on the bulliten board about the possibility (basically for seniors) of taking part in a resource mobilization network seminar. This is a pilot project by DMNA to help people headed into the ministry learn how to identify and use resources available to them, particularly in urban settings. One learns, for example, how to write a grant proposal. The workshop will be available to some intern clusters next year as well. Please sign up by this Friday, March 16th.

3- One housekeeping note: Friday, March 23rd (a week from this Friday) is the last day to withdraw from a course without prejudice to your grade. If you have any questions, please see the registrar or the dean.

4- Originally we made the offer to seniors to participate in some Alcoholic Anonymous meetings to learn something about dealing with alcoholism. We can now open up that opportunity to the whole community. If you are interested please see the dean or Ric Elliott.

5- What a splendid experience the pre-seminarian retreat was. Many thanks to the committee for a job well done!

6- Spring does not begin officially until March 21st, but there are signs that it is just around th corner. Crocuses are blooming on campus and two wild ducks have taken over our swimming pool. What portents have you noticed?

--FEB--

ATTENTION LEADERS OF TOMORROW

The Nominating Committee must make its report to the Executive Committee before March 29 for the Spring Elections. If you now are a junior and would like to serve the Student Body next year in the office of President or of Treasurer, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee within the next two weeks. The Committee is limited in its recommendations to two candidates per office, but nominations will be accepted from the floor at the Student Body meeting. See Paul Myers(chairman), Art Beck, Curt Wolff, or Dave Pastorello with your suggestions.

UNION 7301 invites the community to a series of 3 lectures on Lutheranism presented by Dr. Foster McCurley. The dates are March 15, 22, 29 - all Thursdays at 8:00 PM in the Tappert Room in the Library. Enjoy fellowship and refreshments! PLEASE MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND!!!

JEREL GADE ANNOUNCES CPR COURSE

A cardio-pulmonary resusitation course will be taught on Monday evenings March 19, 26 and April 2 & 9 from 7-10 PM in the Library Rotunda. If interested please sign the sheet on the bulliten board in Hagan Hall. PLEASE SUPPORT THE COURSE -- YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU MAY BE CALLED UPON TO SAVE A LIFE!!!

Suffering

It is not fashionable to talk about the value of suffering. The attitude that suffering is an evil which is antithetical to human fulfillment is one which is widespread in our culture and is one which has, unfortunately, found its way, sometimes insidiously and sometimes blatantly, into the church's proclamation. The church's reluctance to speak at all positively about suffering is understandable. As pastors we certainly do not want to celebrate the travails of our fellow humans nor advocate an ethic of masochism. In addition, we do not want to make the mistake which Luther made when confronted with the revolt of the peasants by using the concept of Christian suffering as the basis for political conservatism and repression. Nonetheless, despite these and other pitfalls, if the church cannot find the voice to speak of suffering as something more than an unmitigated and irredeemable curse then it cannot speak with a prophetic and pastorally effective voice which is grounded in the Biblical witness.

Christians have a three-fold starting point on which to base their thinking about suffering. First, the God we worship was beaten and humiliated and was then nailed on a cross and died on it. Second, the Bible says without any equivocation that if a person has faith in this person who died on a cross then that faith will manifest itself in discipleship. There is no Christian discipleship without the cross. One cannot share fellowship with Jesus on Easter morning without having shared in the fellowship of Good Friday. Third, and here St. Paul is crucial, suffering is not a curse but a blessing which brings a person into intimate communion with Jesus Christ.

We become so tied to the standards of the world that it is difficult to conceive of how suffering can bring us into a closer relationship with God. Yet there are at least two ways in which it can. First, suffering tends to rob us of our worldly securities. The Gospel tells us to put all of our faith in Jesus Christ but we don't. Instead we place our reliance on all sorts of proximate realities and tangible supports. This is sin. Suffering reminds us that the things of this world are not a reliable source of security for they are all, every one of them, perishable and finite. Suffering reveals the inherent unreliability of all worldly securities and drives us back to He apart from whom life is insupportable and without meaning. Second, suffering is incurred in the activity of discipleship to which our Lord calls us. For centuries there has been debate over what it means to take up the cross of Christ but Dietrich Bonhoeffer perhaps captured the essence of discipleship when he wrote from prison that, "To be a Christian does not mean to be religious in a particular way, to make something of oneself (a sinner, a penitent, or a saint) on the basis of some method or other but to be a man - not a type of man, but the man that Christ creates in us. It is not the religious act that makes the Christian, but participation in the sufferings of God in the secular life." This passage suggests what Bonhoeffer knew well -- that the person who lives faithfully within the secular world need not seek out the cross because the cross will find him.

The cross emerges through discipleship. The cross will manifest itself with unmistakable clarity in the life of the Christian who takes with the radical seriousness which it deserves Christ's command to love your neighbor as yourself. Abstract love has no independent reality. Love consists of concrete acts of love and to live with a

loving posture toward the world requires the crucifixion of oneself -- a self-abnegation and self-emptying which can be accomplished only if one has the confidence that in so losing oneself you gain your true self in fellowship with Jesus Christ. There is suffering in this discipleship but it is the kind of suffering which through grace can transform us.

The Christians in our parishes bear crosses, many of them silently without drama or complaint. As pastors and future pastors we are mandated to do everything in our power to lighten the burden of those who suffer. But if our sole tactic is to attempt the eradication of these burdens then we will fail in our pastoral responsibilities. We must also recover and proclaim the faith which led St. Paul to declare that "as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too." Without this faith we ourselves could not enter the ministry of Jesus Christ and perhaps the firmest foundation for our ministry is the personal posture of faith which does not cling to every available worldly security but accepts suffering with the surety, yea even the joy, that there is nothing in the whole of creation which can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Galen Tinder

A SALUTE TO A MINORITY

In these days when many people are concerned over the nation's minority groups, I think it is appropriate to say a word or two about one of our campus minorities-- the spouses of our students. Being a student and the spouse of a student, I have concern and admiration for both groups. Yet at this time I would like to acknowledge our spouses on campus who are not here because they chose the ministry as their profession, but because the person they love the most has chosen it as their profession and their lifestyle. What this means for the spouses is that until the seminary time is over they must be the major family supporter which may mean taking a job they don't especially like or one that is not in their field. For some it means stopping their education for a while so they can work, or waiting a little longer before starting a family. It also may mean trying to amuse themselves every night while their husbands or wives are busy studying something about which they know nothing. Generally, the lives of the married couples seem to be in a four year limbo. And yet, everything won't be back to normal (at least the way most people live) even after the first call. It may involve moving to a strange part of the country into a house that is chosen for you so that you will have to decorate around it the best you can. Once you are settled in though it's hard to tell just how long you will be there before it's time to move on again. Ministry is not just a profession, it is a lifestyle that involves husband, wife, and children. Even though the decision to enter the ministry may have been one person's, I just hope that we all (married and single people) realize the role and sometimes the plight of our campus spouses. The ministry certainly can be a meaningful experience for a couple but the initial adjustment, i.e. at seminary, may be difficult for those spouses who are not directly involved in most of the seminary affairs. I, and hopefully all the students, would like to salute you for being

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supportive, for working hard, and for being willing to be here. May your future ministry make it all worth it!

Mary W. Anderson

THE JOHANNINE LITERATURE

To my readers: Beware the Ides of March!

There was a young Monk, Brother Martin;
Church teachings he saw little art in.
Left Albrecht in pieces
With 95 Theses;
The Reformation he was a-startin'.

The peasants had fire in their eyes;
Against Dr. Luther they did rise.
But Martin was cooler,
He said to his ruler:
"You're my kind of guy, Fred the Wise."

The gentle Melancthon, young Phil
Had less of a radical will.
Preventing a riot
At the Augsburg Diet
Confession became Rome's bitter pill.

The order did Martin shun;
And he took for his wife an ex-nun.
Dear Katy loved he,
But celibacy?
'Not to burn' is not only better, it's fun.

Ah, Martin, you almost got fried;
There you stood, with nothing to hide.
But no worldly power
Is like a good "tower":
For by faith we are all justified

Now what have we learned from this verse?
The Reformation, for better or worse,
Gives appreciation
Of doctrinal formulation:
Gospel, unlike the Law, does not curse.

About Johannine authorship: no sane person will take credit for drivel of the quality like the above. That should provide an excellent clue. Any ideas for editorials or lampooning are welcome, and can be submitted via the editors.

Auf Wiederschreiben,
Johann

It's a good Lutheran custom that each year during Lent individuals give

up something that is important to them in order to follow the Lenten theme of self sacrifice. We are now far enough into the season of Lent that we can tell through our observations what everyone has given up. Here are a few of our conclusions: George Koch-his beard; Pete Amerman-counting; Bud Gustafson-work; Faith Burgess-clone jokes; Foster Mc Curley-Lobsters; Ray Bost-his southern accent; Gerry Sanders-showers; John Hazel-turnips; Dick Ringenwald-dancing; Mary Wien-driving; Rafael Malpica-rice and beans; Bob Bornemann-gin; Phil Gustafson-phone calls; Jerel Gade-trips to New York; Peter Breitsch-women; John Burkhart-comedy; Bob Ashburn-sanity; Bobb Bolz-laziness; Bob Stott-procrastination; Nancy Miller-nasty comments about Carey's field pastor; Tom Taylor-golf; Don Myrom-choral direction; Heidi Neumark-dental floss; Linda Fearheller-looking ugly; Bruce Todd-playing with his organ; Mark Livermore-safe driving; Ed Dufresne-Revelations 24:14; KSC-dead clowns; Ruth Hankins-gnomes; Beth Johnson-looking 11; Bob Hughes-preaching; Tom Walters- watching television; John Kaufman-saying "good night" Arlene Stofflet-letting others use her car; Lou Forney-eating; Curt Wolf-basketball; and Linda Wagner has given up.

HOT DOGS...What's the problem with Linda Fearhelle's tongue?...Has anybody noticed that Joanne Slotterback is getting to look a lot more like Ray Miller?...Galen Tinder takes the world seriously-what is he doing here?... Over heard recently: "Asha George is God's gift to the Lutheran"...Peter Breitsch, what's your secret?...And can anybody believe Fran Ormond?...Amen.

SPECIAL NOTE: SPRING HAS ARRIVED! Scott Larson reports that he has recently observed one of the portents of spring right here on our own campus. No, not Robin Red Breast, No, not the crocus, but Cheryl Meinschein is back once again sitting in her tree!!!

CORRECTION: from last week's issue: the noted biblical scholar who helped steer us towards last week's Lutheran position was really Dr. Bob Bornemann, and not Dr. Bob Jeske as was erroneously reported. This week's Lutheran position: Standing Up.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

On Monday, March 19th we remember Joseph, guardian of our Lord. Prof. Hughes' advisees will lead 5 pm Vespers.

There is a change next week from the usual schedule of chapel services. Holy Communion will be held on Thursday in order to coincide with the conference of seminary professors organized by the Division for Parish Services. We hope that as many members of the community as possible will attend the eucharist at 9:40 am on Thursday to share worship with faculty from other seminaries and members of national LCA staff.

Services for the remainder of the week will be as follows:
 Tuesday at 9:40 am Rick Reeser will preach at the Matin's service.
 Wednesday 7:30 pm joint Lenten service with Ascension(no morning service)
 Thursday at 9:40 am Professor Robert Hughes will preach and celebrate Holy Communion. Thursday is the day we commemorate Jonathan Edwards, teacher and missionary to the American Indians.

After the Communion service on Thursday, there will be a coffee hour in the mailroom area in Hagan Hall. This time of fellowship is proving very valuable to students, staff, and faculty. Everyone is invited to participate

Margaret Krych

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

First of all, we would like to thank those of you who took the time to respond to the questions that were printed in last week's Seminarian issue. The results seemed to us to be conclusive and are as follows: the sound system with a live disc jockey was preferred over the live band option by 92% of those responding, and a cash bar system was preferred over an open bar by 70% of those responding. The total count of responses numbered 40 people.

The responses seem to indicate that people would like the costs of the banquet kept to a minimum level, and we have tried to do just that while still providing the community with a most enjoyable evening. With this in mind, here are the details:

L.T.S.P. SPRING BANQUET 1979

DATE: Friday evening, April 27th, 1979.

TIMES: Bar opens- 7:00, Dinner- 8:00, Dancing- 9:00-12:30 pm.

PLACE: Casa Conti Restaurant, Easton & Jenkintown Rds., Glenside.

PRICE: \$9.00 per ticket.

MENU

Fresh fruit cup

Tossed green salad

Entrees

Your choice: Prime rib of beef or Combination sea food platter

Baked Idaho potato

Green beans almondine

Ice cream dessert

TICKET SALES: Sales begin Monday, March 19 and end Friday, April 20. Tickets will be available weekdays from 10:30 - 11:00 near the mailbox area, and before lunch and dinner at the Refectory. Please specify your choice of entree at the time of purchasing tickets.

We would like to encourage all members of the community to attend and to buy your tickets early. We hope all will feel free to come with or without dates. If, however, you are married, we encourage you to bring your own spouse, thus avoiding physical harm. Hope to see you all on the 27th of April!

Bill Henderson

