# table talk

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table talk

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# Washington House Of Studies Gets A New Look

By Charles Marshall

The Washington Lutheran House of Studies program is in for some changes beginning in September, 1980. That is when the new proposal for the program, adopted by the Board of Directors at its January 16, 1980 meeting, will take effect. This new look for the Washington program is largely the result of the efforts of Acting Director A. Roger Gobbel, based upon interviews with faculty members and upon consultation with students and others with an interest in the House of Studies.

According to Professor Gobbel, the new program is designed to make better use of the unique educational opportunities which our nation's capital affords. Students will be provided with more direction for their studies while in Washington, yet with enough freedom of choice to provide maximum flexibility. Each semester, several area concentrations will be offered which relate to the Washington scene, in fields such as public policy and ecumenics.

Students opting for a given area concentration would attend a seminar in addition to two other courses, one related to the area concentration and one free elective. A unique element in the program will be a required action-reflection experience in a church, a private, or a public agency related to the area concentration. This would combine scholarship with first-hand experience.

To facilitate communication within the program across area concentration lines, students in Washington would also attend a monthly colloquium.

While the new program will certainly improve the quality and range of education at Gettysburg, it also looks beyond this seminary. The new House of Studies hopes to attract Lutheran students from other seminaries and universities, and in general to open up the Washington experience to Lutherans across the country. In Professor Gobbel's opinion, the increased direction and focus of the new program will improve its attractiveness to other institutions of higher education.

Another result of the new program will be an increased involvement of Gettysburg faculty in the House of Studies, which should bring the two locations into a much closer relationship despite the eighty miles which separate them. Professor Gobbel's interviews with the faculty revealed "a tremendous amount of agreement" among the faculty in their willingness to support "a significant program" in Washington.

There are currently eight students enrolled in the House of Studies program, which according to Professor Gobbel is down from previous years, when enrollment had been as high as twenty-one. Gobbel expects that the new program, together with the leasing of additional housing for women in the Catholic University area where the program is

located, will in time draw a greater number both from Gettysburg and from other schools. Such growth is expected to include D. Min., S.T.M., and continuing education students as well as M. Div. candidates.

With the Board of Directors' approval of the new proposal for the Washington Lutheran House of Studies program on January 16, the search for a new director has begun in earnest. A search committee has already been formed, with representation from faculty, students, the Board of Directors, and the Lutheran House of Studies Council. According to Acting Director A. Roger Gobbel, notices have been sent widely throughout the church and related agencies. In addition, President Stuempfle will accept names of possible candidates until February 15.

Professor Gobbel reports that the committee has a big task to complete. Response to the notices is expected to be heavy, and the committee has been asked

to submit the name of their recommended candidate by April. With the program beginning in the fall of 1980, a director must be found and hired as soon as possible in order to be able to prepare fully for the fall semester.

The new director of the House of Studies would become a member of the faculty of Gettysburg Seminary, although with the heavy responsibilities in Washington he or she would teach a reduced load. This faculty position would not represent an addition to the total number on the faculty.

## Noted Speakers To Highlight Jubilate!

By Jake Jacobson
For those of you who have never heard of
JUBILATE! (You-bil-ah-ta) or have no
idea what is going to happen on April 17-19,
this article is for you. JUBILATE! is an
annual event sponsored by the Student
Association designed to highlight a
specific liturgical season within the
Church and to explore various methods
and media for expressing the various
themes of this season. The theme of this
year's festival will be "Advent: Preparing
the Way." It is the aim of this festival, with
the help of a rich variety of craftsmen and
professionals, to look at Advent from a
variety of perspectives.

Joining us this year will be theologian Dr. Charles Price, preacher Dr. Charles Rice, author and musician Carlos Messerli, and organist Walter Pelz. As part of this column I shall try to fill in the gaps and correct the rumors concerning these participants and other matters of interest regarding JUBILATE!

Dr. Charles Rice, Associate Professor of Homiletics in the Theological and Graduate Schools, Drew University, will be leading the Continuing Education Preaching Seminar. He is the author of such works as: Interpretation and Imagination: The Preacher and Contemporary Literature, Proclamation: Aids for Interpreting the Lessons of the Church Year (B. Easter), and Preaching the Story (with Edmund Steimle and Morris Niedenthal). His sermons and articles have appeared in numerous journals and collections. He has conducted lecture series and preaching seminars throughout the United States. Dr. Rice has traveled throughout the world, including: England, Europe, East and South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, South Pacific,



Dr. Charles Rice



Dr. Walter Peltz

Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean. He is currently in the process of writing Proclamation: Pentecost, which will be published in 1981.

Dr. Walter Pelz has been on the music faculty of Bethany College since the fall of 1969. He received the Ph.D. degree in 1970 from the University of Minnesota, where he composed the original cantata "Genesis to a Beat" for four choirs, orchestra, taperecorder, and optional audience participation. Dr. Pelz has published 40 compositions for choral and instrumental rendition, including brass ensemble, organ, and other musical instruments. His 5-movement choral symphony, "Lord of Land," written to commemorate the nation's Bicentennial, was given its premiere performance at Bethany College November 6, 1976. He is a member of the American Guild of Organists and holds the Choirmaster Certificate in the A.G.O. His other memberships include the American Society of University Composers, and College Music Society. In 1978 Dr. Pelz was named Billue-Burnett Distinguished Professor in Music; head organist, recitalist, and instructor in organ. In March of 1978, the Kansas Federation of Music Clubs Inc. named Dr. Pelz Composer of the Year. While at JUBILATE!, Dr. Pelz will lead a festival of hymns as well as several workshops.

These are just two of the major participants joining us this year to celebrate Advent in April. In the next issue I hope to include information of Dr. Charles Price and Carlos Messerli as well as give an update of the various workshops and worship experiences being offered. Be sure to mark your calendars for April 17-19. Senior Seminarian Tom Lang is JUBILATE! Chairman for 1980.

## **EDITORIALS**

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february 25, 1980

## **Another Chance For Washington**

The renovated program for the Washington House of Studies recently endorsed by the Seminary Board of Directors appears to be a new lease on life. It is no secret that the Seminary Washington program has been stuck in neutral for at least a year, and street talk has had it that the entire program might soon have to be abandoned. This has been so as evidenced by the recent decrease in student participation, at least in numbers if not enthusiasm, and because the Washington program has been without a full-time resident director since last year. Now, it seems, the concept of having a Gettysburg "branch office" in an urban setting is headed for a welcome rejuvination. We therefore offer a reserved endorsement of the document, largely prepared through the efforts of Mr. Gobbel, which lists the new proposals for the Lutheran House of Studies.

The program description appears to give students a chance to enjoy an educational opportunity they could not have experienced either by spending three years in Gettysburg or even by living one or several years in Washington under the provisions of the "old" program. As the Washington option had been developed, students were required to satisfy some so-called equivalency requirements taught by consortium personnel or by Gettysburg faculty in D.C. Students also needed to take two courses a semester taught by Gettysburg faculty. This state of affairs resulted in redundancy, calling into question the need to be anywhere else but the Gettysburg campus. Furthermore, since the involvement of Gettysburg faculty was mostly academic, there was little if any opportunity for students in Washington to assimilate the intensive urban and ecumenical experience within the confessional framework and nurture of the Gettysburg community. That picture is now changing if the program proposals are taken seriously.

For one thing the distinctiveness of the Washington experience is being emphasized. That uniqueness is surely more than simply enjoying a different and novel location as an alternative to rural Gettysburg. It is also more than taking courses taught by Roman Catholics and others. Washington's uniqueness is an ambience occurring when persons of the Gettysburg community develop relationships with persons of a different stripe. Viewed in this way, Washington's uniqueness is being exploited more fully under the new program. For instance, the seminars for LHS students will probably allow disciplined, critical reflection — guided by Gettysburg faculty — that will help students "tie together" varied experiences and learnings in a

way truly ecumenical. That is a new and exciting idea.

The question naturally arises: is this new program a significant enough change to warrant continuing the Washington program? Time alone will tell. But it's obviously a substantial re-commitment in personnel, time, money, and creative energies. But now comes the reservation.

There seems only slight consideration of the pressing need for living quarters for Gettysburg students in Washington. This has been a perennial problem, and has been especially acute for women and married couples who do not find ready accommodations as easily as single male students normally housed in facilities borrowed from Roman Catholic religious orders. We believe there are considerable hardships associated with finding and maintaining residences, and this has discouraged many female and married students from seriously considering the Washington option. We are of the opinion that the WLHS should indeed have a "house" for living, working, and gathering. While it is true the House of Studies Council has recommended the Seminary "take every effort" to secure property for offices and some housing, still there ought to be a stronger commitment to channel the needed funding for this purpose.

Until the Lutheran House of Studies has a clear and cogent mandate from faculty and Board to acquire the needed facilities for dormitory and common gathering and worship space — even if it involves substantial investment in real estate — the Washington program, in spite of program modification, will be and remain tentative and timid.

# Letters To The Editor

To the Editor:

It is awesome what little children say. For a few weeks now our seven month old daughter has looked at her parents with longing eyes as we ate and drank at eucharistic meals. She gives the same look at home during our daily meals. Already at seven months she somehow realizes that she is too often left out of family meals. Sometimes we give her a graham cracker for her two teeth to chew on while we eat but already she realizes that her graham cracker is not the same food her parents are eating; she wants to eat what we eat.

We have for sometime thought — though abstractly — that infant communion was a "good thing" ... something that should be done. But we cannot forget that look ... our daughter's longing eyes. No longer is infant communion an abstract notion with us; our consciences are convicted: we could do nothing else but request that our baptized daughter be permitted to share in the eucharistic meal. To our dismay (though not to our surprise), our request was refused on the grounds that the LCA policy that precludes infant communion must be enforced.

Our consciences are convicted: the longing eyes of our daughter tell us that to continue to subject her and us to what we consider to be an abuse of the Gospel will do a great harm to her and to us ... and, we think, to Christ's Church. Therefore — and it is with great sadness, anguish, and grief that we find we must do this — therefore we must publicly proclaim our vow to refrain from participation in the Lord's Supper until the day breaks when our whole family is welcomed to the table of God's family. That day cannot come too soon. In the meanwhile, we ask your prayers for us and for Christ's children everywhere.

Thad and Sally Nielsen February 7, 1980

BERTHA PAULSSEN CONVOCATION WITH DR. RUSTUM ROY PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS MARCH 3

2:30 PM

# Black Concerns Proposal Accepted

By Ken Regan

Beginning with the incoming class of September 1980, a new graduation requirement will be instituted, in which all candidates for the M.Div. degree will "participate in a structured educational unit designed to deepen their awareness of racism in church and society and to give them insights into some aspects of the black experience, which would enable them to express the gospel more clearly within a racially pluralistic society".

This statement comes out of the proposal by the Black Concerns Committee. Members of this committee include Dean Krodel, Mr. Thulin, Mr. Nieting, and Mr. Jenson. Input from students, faculty and synod was also reflected in the proposal.

The requirement could be filled by field education, internship, or C.P.E. in black congregations or institutions, action-reflection courses offered through the Lutheran House of Studies in Washington, or attendance at Howard University in selected courses.

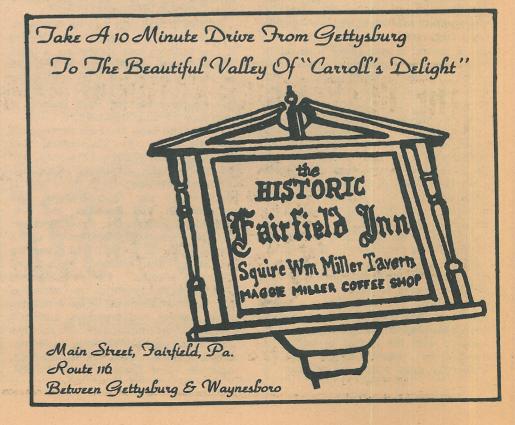
Students may also fulfill the requirement by taking certain courses, to be developed, on the black experience. But, clearly, the thrust of the proposal emphasizes the need for active involvement in programs which would, as the proposal states, "sensitize white seminary students to the racial problems in church and society".

Dean Krodel added that he felt the church should be doing whatever it can to eliminate racism.

The proposal also calls for prime consideration being given to eligible black candidates as future faculty positions become open.

While the proposal recognizes that Gettysburg cannot offer black students those features that attract them to Philadelphia or Chicago, it can take positive steps in educating and exposing white students to an awareness of a minority perspective, and the atrocity of racism.

The Black Concerns Proposal is a beginning in the right direction. The Black Concerns Committee will continue to move forward in its efforts.



### Heintzelman's Corner

By Warren Heintzelman

This is your lucky day! Instead of reviewing only one movie for this issue, I will review two! Now you can get an idea of what I did during Christmas vacation (what do you expect from a movie fanatic who has seen "The Exorcist" eight times)! Enough blabbering, here are the reviews.

#### Black Hole

Hurray! Walt Disney Productions has finally produced a film other than those typical mushy comedies (a la "Apple Dumpling Gang," etc.). What I am talking about is Walt Disney Productions new movie "The Black Hole." Without taking the time to brush off the dust on my old Einstein physics book to explain what a "black hole" is, the movie centers on a mad scientist who wants to send his humoid-operated spaceship into the largest black hole found in space. Maximilian Schell plays the Captain Nemo-type cracko scientist who detains a crew and their goofy-looking robot from an injured spacecraft in his huge spaceship. The captured crew tries to escape from the mad scientist before they all go down the tubes (excuse me, I mean the "black

The special effects at the beginning of the film seemed a little amateurish but soon started to improve. The mad scientist's spaceship looked like a giant erector set gone wild as it played a Mexican standoff game with the black hole. The acting was so-so despite a veteran cast of actors and actress. The movie had too many "Star Wars" type robots, like the mad scientist's bodyguard robot (looked like Darth Vader) and his security force (Storm Troopers). But since I love

science-fiction movies, on the whole I enjoyed "The Black Hole." It is one of the few new movies one can take the whole family to see and not feel cheated or embarrassed.

#### 1941

The Christmas season seemed to be a ripe time for the releasing of the so-called big smash movies. One such movie that has been released this Christmas season is "1941", and I was lucky enough to see it. Steven Speilberg, of "Jaws" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" fame, has ventured out into new frontiers of moviemaking by taking a stab at a comedy. However, in "1941" Speilberg did not want to venture totally alone, but he relied on the abilities of two of his "Jaws" cast members (Lorraine Gary and Murray Hamilton) to help out in the star-studded cast for the film. Even the very beginning "1941" mirrored the beginning of "Jaws". But that was the extent of reflecting past Speilberg movies because "1941" is definitely in a class all its own.

One wonders how America ever won World War II after seeing "1941." Even though "1941" is a slapstick comedy about the paranoia among the Californians about a Japanese invasion of the West Coast after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the movie does reflect a chaotic period in our nation's history. Fear is a very powerful force (especially on "the Hill" during exam time), and Speilberg has sensed how crazy and zany people can become in his portrayal of the mass invasion hysteria in California in December of 1941. Being frightened can also be very funny, and "1941" seems to capture this. There are really no dull moments in "1941," and don't be afraid! The Japanese are now on our side!

# January Board Meeting.

By Paul Lundmark

The new decade begins with some exciting proposals of new projects and programs at LTSG. A tri-synod committee has undertaken a study on "Planning for the 1980's" target-dated for completion in January of 1981. The Black Concerns Committee will implement an aggressive program to attract more black students to Gettysburg.

The YWCA projects completion of facilities on the LTSG campus during the fall of 1981. The Organ Fund has reached \$93,500 of the \$118,000 needed. A recently released detailed explanation of the recommendations for the Lutheran House of Studies culminates a thorough study headed by A. Roger Gobbel.

## **Chapel Offering Explained**

By Jake Jacobson

To those of you who may be interested in where the money you give in Wednesday's offering goes, or to those of you who do not contribute for fear the money may be going to the Moonies, here is the latest report on financial matters from the Worship Committee.

At the October meeting of the Worship Committee it was decided that the Committee could not adequately handle the disbursement of benevolence offerings. A subcommittee on Benevolence was formed for the purpose of reviewing appeals and managing the disbursement of the funds collected from the Chapel offerings. This subcommittee is made up of: Dr. H. Spomer, Bruce Hunter, Harold Jacobson, and Walter Still (Worship Committee); Stevens Lynn (Social Actions Committee); and Timothy Feaser (Financial Wizard).

As its first action of business the subcommittee reorganized the current fiscal situation and drew up a budget for the 1979-80 academic year. Under the existing financial organization much of the chapel accessories (candles, linens, etc.) came out of the Worship Committee's budget, hence out of the Seminary community's benevolence. Under the new budget all Chapel maintenance and replacements will be paid for by the Seminary. It was the subcommittee's feeling that our dollars given for benevolence should be used for benevolence.

In reviewing appeals for funds from various organizations and programs, the subcommittee set up a series of priorities to serve as guidelines. It was the subcommittee's feeling that organizations and programs within the Gettysburg-Adams County area should receive the highest priority. This decision was made in light of the fact that these programs rely on the Seminary as a major portion of their income and if we were to cut back our giving these organizations would suffer greatly, much more than some of the nation-wide organizations. It was also our feeling that these programs could be easily dealt with and also have personal contact; in other words, we could directly see the fruits of our giving. Our next priority dealt with Lutheran organizations both those covered by other L.C.A. benevolences and those not. Included within the parameters of this priority include: Strength for Mission, World Hunger, Center City Parish (Philadelphia), and the three contributing synods. Our final priority concerns those organizations outside of the Lutheran tradition and also those outside of the United States.

To date, (Feb. 4) we have received \$1650.00 in benevolences. This figure is

slightly behind last year's income at this time of the year. We have disbursed funds to various agencies in the amount of \$1412.00. These disbursements break down as follows: \$502 to Love Compels Action (World Hunger), \$405 Center City Parish, \$135 Adams County United Way, \$135 Adams County Rescue Mission, \$135 MAR Day Program (Christ Lutheran), \$100 Relief Fund for Spanish-Americans in Adams County.

As you can see your money is being spent in a worthwhile manner. The funds have been helpful if not crucial to some of the organizations (see Worship bulletin board for Thank You Notes from the various organizations). If you have any reactions or questions concerning the benevolence aspects of the Worship Committee please contact one of the above members. To those of you who have given faithfully through the year, thank you; to those of you who do not give, now that you see where the money goes dig a little (it makes for a great Lenten discipline).

### table talk



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Staff: Steve Fermier, Jane Huber, Gordon Smith, Bob Willse

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## **Old Friends**

By Warren Heintzelman

Living and working with a community of people in which the average age is 84 can be an enlightening experience. At least that is what I found out last month during January term at The National Lutheran Home for the Aged located in Washington, D.C. Being among the aged opened my eyes to what it is like to grow older. Where the average age is 84, one knows one's life will not go many years more.

An obvious way to find out what it's like

An obvious way to find out what it's like to be 84 is to visit and talk with an aged person. I did a lot of visiting with and listening to many of the residents. Each one had their own story. Each one had their own personality. Yet despite their differences, these residents had certain things in common: they lived in the same facility, and they were all old and getting older. Many of the resident's feelings and thoughts followed similar patterns. Many were concerned about their health (both physical and mental). Others were concerned about the nation and world they lived in. Still others recollected their past and took each day one day at a time. And some thought about their own deaths.

For the elderly, the past is cherished, the present is tolerated, and the future is inevitable. By listening to these residents, I realized the aged have an amazing ability to adjust, to cope with life. I suppose they learned this trick by the fact of their age. The elderly have had more experience in coping with what life may bring and adjusting to new life situations.

During my month with the elderly at the Home, I realized that aging is a process of losing. In aging one may lose one's health, home, friends, relatives, status, and prestige as the years go marching by. To one resident I talked with, aging and moving into the Home is a case of losing her past prestige and previous enjoyable lifestyle. To another resident, her long life made her the only surviving member of her family. I observed that many of the residents were learning to cope with their losses. Learning to handle one's losses seems to be the name of the game in aging. Where the average age is 84, the muscles ache and the body is sore.

Aging is not exclusively a process of losing, but it is also a manner of winning. Even though the losses seem to increase and the feelings of hopelessness, helplessness, alienation, and anxiety surface, all is not lost. The Creator and Sustainer of all life does not forget the old.

I have the impression, after spending a month with those residents, that one's faith becomes stronger with increasing age. Or perhaps, it is just that the elderly seem to understand their relationship with God as their years grow closer to leaving this world. It may be as one grows old in age, one puts one's trust in God and his Son Jesus Christ more readily. One can not go it alone at age 84.

My month's visit with the elderly in the Home for the Aged came quickly to a close. It seemed that I was just getting into the swing of things when my stay was over. I must admit that I now look at aging and the aged in a different and more understanding way. I have my old friends at the Home to thank for that.

CONTEMPORARY TRENDS IN ASIAN THEOLOGY WITH DR. J. RUSSELL CHANDRAN MARCH 24

2:30 PM

### Thespian Review

By Jeff Cartwright

The Stonehenge Restaurant has continued to present fine local entertainment with the dinner-theater production of "The Owl and the Pussycat". The play by Bill Manhoff was a hit on Broadway in the 1960's and continues to be an enjoyable work suitable for the '80's.

The play centers around F. Sherman, a surrealistic author who has had trouble selling his works, and Doris W, a model, actress and prostitute, but not necessarily in that order. She enters his apartment and his life on the night she was kicked out of her apartment. This was brought about by F. Sherman calling the landlord after watching her engaged in her profession. The large vocabulary of F. Sherman

The large vocabulary of F. Sherman only angers Doris, who responds with various four letter words which annoy him. The play progresses through the next several weeks of their relationship as they find themselves falling in love with each other. Doris is elated but F. Sherman cannot tolerate the idea that someone of his intellect has fallen in love with someone whose life has been reduced to a "Reader's Digest Mediocrity". The situation lends itself well to many humorous scenes. (They would be a joy in a counseling situation.)

Melaine Rice was outstanding as Doris and was constantly in command and control of her role. Dennis Randall was good as F. Sherman, with his performance improving and tightening through the second and third acts. Dennis Smyers used the clever set well in directing the two players, and although there were several technical problems throughout the play, they were not really distracting.

they were not really distracting.

Over all, the delicious dinner, delightful comedy, and the dancing afterwards proved to be an enjoyable evening. The next show at the Stonehenge will be "Play It Again Sam" by Woody Allen. This show is of special interest to the Seminary since our own Linda McGurn has a part in the play. "Play It Again Sam" will be presented Feb. 19, March 1, 2, 7, 9, 14 & 15, with Friday nights being the most expensive due to the live music and dancing.

The arts are of great interest to the Consortium members in Washington and plans are being formulated for a Lenten worship and program March 19th, as well as future meetings dealing with specific art forms.



Students learn sign language for the deaf during January term at Gettysburg.
First-year student Andy Weisner (standing) taught the course under the auspices of the Dean. Seated are, from left, Alan Ford, Steve Folkemer and Beth Bergeron.

PHOTO BY DON MATTHEWS



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