

Table Talk



Vol. II No. 3

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

October 7, 1965

WOTS PROJECT

FEATURE EDITORIAL

The WOTS are considering, as a project for the current year, making it possible for one under-privileged child from the Gettysburg community to enroll in the private kindergarten sponsored by Christ Lutheran Church. Since the tuition at the kindergarten is twenty dollars a month this means that WOTS would cover this cost for the child selected.

Gettysburg has no public kindergarten and at this point it does not seem probable that Operation Head Start will be in action this year. Gettysburg has a large number of children who are unable to attend a private kindergarten and at the same time come from an environment that gives them extremely poor preparation for beginning first grade where they are immediately in competition with children from middle-class homes. The middle-class child begins school with all the advantages on his side while the lower-class child is to some extent defeated before he begins and the deficiencies are apt to increase rather than decrease. In essence, precisely the children who most need kindergarten are the very ones unable to attend.

Thus it has been suggested that WOTS as an organization, together with any other interested groups or individuals on campus, might undertake to guarantee the tuition necessary to send one child to kindergarten and thus help the child to receive that very important "head start." Since the tuition cost is twenty dollars a month there is really no question but that WOTS could handle this

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In the past couple of years I was under the impression that there has been a real need on this campus to have a faculty dialog, forum, panel, or whatever you wish to call it. To my delight I noted in the weekly schedule that such a forum has been scheduled for October 15th. It is my opinion that such a forum is needed, because in our classes we do not always have the opportunity to view our professors in good academic debate, defending their own theological position. So often here at Gettysburg we study a course rather than study under a professor. This is good, but it seems that this is unfair to the professor and his point of view. The forum can provide a different setting in which a professor could pursue his own Christian viewpoint.

I propose that the forum will provide an excellent academic stimulus for students and faculty alike. However, I would also propose that it be more formally structured into the seminary program. Perhaps the Student Association could have a committee to select topics, books, etc., to be discussed and invite faculty members to participate in either a dialog or a panel with the position of moderator to rotate to a different professor on each occasion. Although the purpose of the forum is for professors to debate an issue from their own theological commitment, I would suggest that time be allotted for general questioning from the audience. Perhaps this faculty forum will, in time, become the exciting occasion that it is on other seminaries.

Ronald O. Heinze

PICTURES OF INTERNSHIP

When asked to reconstruct my year's experience with the aim that somehow it may help a Middler to engage in this fruitful experience and to help allay a Junior's concern over a wasted year away from the academic pursuits, I had originally thought that I would describe a day in the life of an intern in a large urban church (4,000 baptised) in the great American Midwest (Rockford, Ill.). But somehow a day's schedule such as if and when I arose and went to church, how many hospital calls, some juicy tidbit smacking of scandal among the parish just didn't seem to fill the bill. So let me paint a rather large, impressionistic overview of twelve months well spent.

The first significant feature about the picture is what it lacks. It lacks clearly defined answers to the practical matters that surround a life of a congregation. The painting has a rather nebulous assortment of forms which suggest that each situation is different from the other. The nebulous quality is caused by the fact that people who form congregations are of an unknown quality, therefore set answers will not work. Another feature in this portrait is the lack of determined lines which indicate that now I am ready, as a result of this year, to step into my place as a pastor in the life of the church. Rather the lines are now weak and illdefined, needing not only more years in the parish, but also more years of study to bring the picture in to focus. Also to be noted in the canvas are the gaps which appear due to the lack of vision on the part of the artist. It's strange how I acted like a Rembrandt during the Middler year, only to see that I was dabbling with a brush made to paint houses, not masterpieces. Perhaps that is the chief value of the year.

But there is a unity which holds this painting together. And that
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GRADUATE ENROLLMENT UP

Graduate semester I this year opened with an enrollment of 57, compared with an enrollment of 37 last Fall. Of the group involved in the grad program, 43 are LCA men, with the next highest being Presbyterian and Methodist, 6 and 3 respectively.

All but 5 of the 57 are pursuing studies for either the MA or STM degree. The remaining 5 are either auditing or special students.

Intern (cont)

is the rich background, against which the gaps and ill-defined lines are sometimes lost. But the background was not painted by this intern. It is formed from water, bread and wine and against this background all the rest of the painting falls in to place. It was seeing this background in a new light which brought me back to the Seminary ready for a year which would perhaps reveal more gaps in the painting or distort some of its features, but would help me to look through these weaknesses to the background.

David Clement

MADALYN MURRAY ON RELIGION

The October, 1965, edition of Playboy magazine carries an interesting interview with Baltimore's renowned atheist, Madalyn Murray. On the off chance that not all readers of Table Talk have seen the magazine in question, we reprint here excerpts from the interview which deal specifically with Mrs. Murray's views on religion.

Question: Why are you an atheist?
 Mrs. Murray: Because religion is a crutch and only the crippled need crutches. I can get around perfectly well on my own two feet, and so can everyone else with a backbone and a grain of common sense. One of the things I did during my 17 years as a psychiatric social worker was to go around and find people with mental crutches, and every time I found one, I kicked those g----- crutches until they flew. You know what happened? Every single one of those people have been able to walk without the crutches - better, in fact. Were they giving up anything intrinsically valuable? Just their irrational reliance on superstitious and supernatural nonsense. Perhaps this sort of claptrap was good for the stone age when people actually believed that if they prayed for rain they would get it. But we're a grown up world now and it's time to put away childish things. But people don't because most of them don't even know what atheism is. It's not a negation of anything. You don't have to negate what no one can prove exists. No, atheism is a very positive affirmation of man's ability to think for himself, to do for himself, to find answers to his own problems. I'm thrilled to feel that I can rely on myself totally and absolutely; that my children are being brought up so that when they meet a problem they can't cop out by foisting it off on God. Madalyn Murray's going to solve her own problems, and

nobody's going to intervene. It's about time the world got up off its knees and looked at itself in the mirror and said, "Well, we are men. Let's start acting like it."

Question: Even as an atheist, would you concede that religion, at its best, can be and has been a constructive force, a source of strength and comfort for many people?

Mrs. M.: If you're talking about Christianity, absolutely not. I don't think the Church has ever contributed anything to anybody, any place, any time.

 WOTS Project (Cont)

amount with nothing worth calling a "sacrifice" from any member of the group.

A committee has been organized to work out the details by means of which the plan can materialize. Further information will be provided in future editions of Table Talk. In the meantime, the extent to which individuals rally behind such a worthy cause is one indication of the integrity of our vocation as people of God existing for the sake of others.

Mrs. Lois Jordahl

 SOCIAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE
 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR 1965-66

Nov. 3 Recital - Soprano Bernice Fraction and accompanist. Operatic soloist from Washington, D.C.
 Oct. 29 9:00-11:30 P.M.
 Fall Dance- Entertainment- Dr. Heikkinen and Jim Bramer
 Attire - Sportcoat and tie
 Hayride and Ice Skating
 Advent Open House-Dec. 1 or 2
 Spring Dance
 String Quartet from the Peabody Conservatory

All suggestions will be appreciated
 Contact Dennis Trout Baughman Hall

(Cont. in col. 2)