

Table Talk

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

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Guest Editorial

KIERKEGAARDIANS NOTE

"The Creation of Life"

With the lightning advances of modern science and technology, the traditional Church is threatened on all sides by an equally rapidly changing society. This, rightly so, I think, because only in an atmosphere of constant reevaluation and change can the Church best equal its task; indeed, even exist. A recent series of articles in Life magazine has exhibited the rapid strides in the areas of medical and experimental biology. Obviously there are countless ethical and religious implications involved in the "control of life," as the series was entitled. More important implications, it seems, will manifest themselves with the advent of the creation of life.

Let me hasten to add that man has not yet been able to create life. But in 1953 S.L. Miller placed methane gas, ammonia gas, hydrogen and water in a sterile glass tube, and applied discharges of electricity; and in this way forming amino acids, urea and sugar. Amino acids are basic organic molecules which form the building blocks of life. J. Oro in 1960 showed the further possibility of synthesizing purines, which are basic units of the DNA molecule--the genetic material characteristic to all forms of life. It might be mentioned that viruses, considered the simplest forms of life, are little more than DNA enclosed in a gelatinous sheath. The only real problem left confronting the experimental biologist is to correctly organize these synthetic organic substances into a functioning unit. It seems it is only a matter of time until this will be accomplished.

Many people today refuse to believe that man will create life, just as (cont'd next col.)

A big event for all students of Søren Kierkegaard is planned for Friday the 12th of November. Our guest on campus will be Domprost Valter Lindstroem of Karlstad, Sweden, a noted Kierkegaard scholar. The order of the evening will be a presentation and discussion for all who are interested. The time is from 7:30 to 9 PM in the Aberly Room.

In the words of Dr. Gritsch, "This is your chance, 'Kierkegaardians!'"

ON RELOCATION.....

Table Talk is collecting some of the various reactions to the article in last week's edition by Bob Pielke. If you have 2 to 5 cents worth to add to the collection, please do so. The issues will be collated and presented in an edition of Table Talk to appear following the quarter break. Contributions may be placed in the Editor's mailbox, and the sooner the better.

(editorial cont'd)
people refused to believe that man would ever fly, or reach the moon. One of the most threatening implications of man's artificially creating life is that many people feel they will have to discard their traditional religious beliefs (indeed, many will need to anyway), and perhaps their entire concept of religion will collapse together with God. But I maintain that man's ability to create life will be a revelation to Christian man, and will be an emphasis of the truth of biblical religion.

Harvey Cox, in his Secular City, describes a partnership of God with man. This idea he bases on the first two chapters of Genesis. Cox says, "Then, after He creates man, He enlists him in this creating activity." And further (page 74), "God does not simply insert (cont'd on page 2)

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man into a world filled with creatures which are already named, in relationships and meaning patterns already established by decree. Man must fashion them himself. He doesn't simply discover meaning; he originates it." Surely, in the beginning God was the initiator and the judge of what was created, and in the last days He will be judge of what is to be done with His creation. Isn't a product of man really God's creation anyway, since He will have created it through us?

To say that man is creator with God, isn't to give him a kind of power equal to God. And here must be entered the ultimate limitation of man. Regardless of whether man is able to extend to indefinitely the life expectancy of his species, or create life, even if he were able to endow his creation with a genuine soul; the fact remains that just as man had no power over his own being initially (i.e. his own coming into existence), he has no power to give himself salvation; and thus he has no power over the salvation of the soul of his own creation. Thus man will have nothing to say about what finally becomes of the life he creates. And therefore man is once again ultimately and entirely dependent upon God the Creator.

As in the years following the acceptance of Darwin's thought, God did not die, but He was redefined, as He must be in every age.

Vaughn Erickson

POETRY"The Proper Way for a Man to Pray"

"The proper way for a man to pray,"
Said Deacon Lemuel Keyes,
"And the only proper attitude
Is down upon his knees."

"No, I should say the way to pray,"
Said Reverend Doctor Wise,
"Is standing straight with outstretched
arms,
And rapt and upturned eyes."
(cont'd next col.)

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"Oh no, no, no!" said Elder Slow,
"Such posture is too proud;
A man should pray with eyes fast closed
And head contritely bowed."

"It seems to me his hands should be
Austerely clasped in front,
With both thumbs pointing toward the
ground,"
Said Reverend Doctor Elunt.

"Last year I fell in Hidgkins well
Head first," said Cyrus Brown,
"With both my heels a-stickin' up,
My head a-pointin' down."

"An' I prayed a prayer right then and
there,
Best prayer I ever said,
The prayingest prayer I ever prayed,
A-standin' on my head!"

by Sam Walter Foss

ABOUT THE MASCOT.....

In response to many questions about Table Talk's mascot, here is the whole scoop. Byrde is a parakeet, about 1 year old, with a green body and a yellow head. He talks profusely, saying things such as, "Pretty bird," "Hello there," and "What 'cha doin'." He also has a very sexy wolf whistle. Byrde, named after the style of Olde English, is the pet of the Editor and may be seen in the latter's quarters, if you don't believe it.

NOTE: The following poem, occasioned by the death of Dr. Doberstein, was submitted by a member of the Mt. Airy Student Body.

JWD

Joy! to behold, each autumn, the sacrificial cloud
Of offered leaves, wafting to some deity unseen
High amongst the sleepy boughs which, lately green
Now ambered, hang smothered in a smokey shroud.
Delight! to watch some holy priest bowed
On All Saints' Day dropping frankincense between
Bright red coals--the rising fragrance seen
Enveloping the train who read the Blessings to the crowd.
Recently he died whose heartbeat I
Scarcely knew--acquaintance of a month! Who knew
To warn us this mellowing season had ripened
Every inch of him? Whose quick eye
Intuited aright the final billows few,
Now whisps from a fire quenched, for whom these lines I penned?

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WOTS NEWS

During the past weeks the column of WOTS news has been rather scant or actually non-existent. Perhaps it should have contained a recant of what took place at the previous meetings. The trip to St. Francis Xavier Church for instance, relating Father Wildeman's explanation of symbolism in the Roman Catholic Church. But if I had done this it would have been old news for those of you who attended and a way of justifying the informative material for those of us who did not attend.

Another meeting which was informative on a different theme was that directed to the homemaker in us. Instruction in making our own draperies and slip covers is very valuable for us who live on limited incomes and someday we will rely on what was learned that evening in order to have a more attractive and comfortable parsonage. But this meeting was also purposely left unreported because those who attended saw first hand how to "do it yourself." Those who did not attend either already know these valued procedures or were not disposed to attend.

However there is one phase of the

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past meeting in which all women of the seminary should find a challenge. That is the suggestion brought to the floor that as members of this body we have a duty "to serve." As an outgrowth of this suggestion, which was unanimously approved, has come "OPERATION CARE". To care enough about the needs of others and then DO something about it.

The first project of "OPERATION CARE" has been a call for aid from the Holiday Bureau of Adams County. This is a community project to help those in need during the Christmas Season, a service which asks for volunteers (both men and women) to give one hour a week of their time to help others. The service is not difficult--it just requires someone to be in an office downtown to answer phone calls and give information. The office is open Mon. through Fri. from 2-4 pm. and 7-8 pm. Saturday hours are from 2-4 pm. The program starts the first week of December and closes the Week of Dec. 22. Please remember that each volunteer is asked to serve only ONE HOUR A WEEK. If you "Care" to volunteer a list will be placed on the bulletin board where you can sign your name and phone number, NOW!
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This is just one need that is asking you for help. There are many others that require perhaps a little more of your time and talent, such as: The need for people to make stuffed toy animals for underprivileged children.Some one to collect blankets, food and toys for two destitute families....
 ...Some one to visit elderly people in their homes--just to talk or read to them.

These are but a few of the places where you can be of service--there are many more we do not even know about. If you feel you would like to serve but don't know where there is a need, please contact "OPERATION CARE" at 334-4159, June Camac; 334-6507, Carol Avery; or 334-6402, Kathy Bricker. If you know of a need, please tell us about it by calling any of the above numbers and we will try to answer it.

The members of WOTS also have a need, they NEED YOU.