

Table Talk

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

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THE THESIS--A PROPOSAL

Seniors at Gettysburg Seminary have just finished the first draft of their theses. In most cases, I am certain that this has been an exceedingly rewarding experience. A thesis can be an important part of one's educational experience. It gives a student the opportunity to attain some depth of understanding in a limited subject, and it also allows him to express his understanding in writing. In addition, the thesis program is designed so that the work may be evaluated and corrected, revised and rewritten, thereby enabling the student to have an even greater grasp of the material. Also, this is one of the few opportunities when a student may work in close association with a professor.

However, thesis-writing is exceedingly frustrating, because the Seminary, unlike most academic institutions, does not provide time for writing the thesis. It is quite obvious that the one credit-hour beyond the normal class load which is allotted to the thesis is nominal. Since the vacations are meant to be vacations -- and do not provide adequate time for a thesis in any case--it is not possible to expect that the thesis be done out of term. Thus it is clear, from both theory and practice, that a senior will do research for his thesis during the fall term, write his first draft during the winter term, and submit the finished thesis in the spring.

The ordinary course load is designed to occupy the student's full attention. With the added requirement of a thesis, every student knows that he must compromise his classwork in order to do his thesis adequately, or (but in most cases and) he must compromise his thesis in order to do his classwork adequately. (Cont'd on page 2, col. 1)

THE NATURE OF THE RESURRECTION

A discussion on this topic will take place on March 8 at 7:30 P.M. in the coffee shop. The participants will be Drs. Philip Hefner and John Loose. Each man will present his own position on this subject and discussion will follow including questions from any who are present.

Since many do not know anything about Dr. John Loose, the following resume may be of interest. Dr. Loose was raised as a Mennonite until he was seventeen years of age. After serving in the army, he entered Gettysburg College where he received his A.B. degree with a major in Philosophy. Systematic Theology was his major in receiving his B.D. degree at Gettysburg Seminary. Like Dr. Hefner, Dr. Loose took his graduate training at the University of Chicago where he received his M.A. in 1962 and his Ph.D. in 1963. Dr. Loose has a double discipline in theology and literature and his doctoral dissertation, entitled "W. H. Auden's Poetics," was written in the department of Theology and Literature. He is presently an Assistant Professor in the Biblical Literature and Religion department at Gettysburg College.

Dr. Hefner also received his M.A. (1961) and Ph.D. (1962) from the University of Chicago. His major at Chicago was in the department of Christian Theology and his dissertation, "Theology and History: An Interpretation of the Theology of Albrecht Ritschl," earned for him the Susan Colver Rosenberger Award for Original Research.

Since both men earned their doctorates at the same university, the methodology on which they develop their own positions should be somewhat similar, and the discussion promises to be enlightening. Mark March 8 at 7:30 P.M. as a time to be present for the discussion on this crucial topic.

William O. Avery

THESIS (cont'd from p. 1)

Is it right for a curriculum to be so structured that a student cannot do well in the material required of him? I don't think so. It is practically impossible for a student to maintain his academic integrity during his senior year because he knows that it is impossible to be a responsible student with regard to all the work expected of him.

It seems to me that those who have designed the new curriculum were well aware of this problem and have dealt with it by making the thesis optional and by offering time within the normal course structure for the thesis work to be done if the student chooses to do it. The present Junior Class began its work in September under the new curriculum and will thus benefit from the change in the thesis requirement as well as from the other changes involved in the new program. In view of the fact that the new curriculum involves a total course pattern, there was obviously no way to put it into operation for the present Middler Class. However, there does not appear to be any reason why at least the change in the thesis requirement involved in the new curriculum could not be put into force for the present Middlers.

This one change could be made without in any way otherwise altering the "old curriculum." And since it can be assumed that the change in the thesis requirement was based on educational principles, it would mean that the change would not imply a "concession."

I therefore offer for the consideration of the Academic Policies Committee of the Seminary the following proposal: that the thesis as a requirement be eliminated for those who are still under the old curriculum (seniors excluded) and that six of the normal elective hours of the senior year may be used by those who wish to write a thesis on a voluntary basis. Or that the thesis requirement be retained, but that six of the senior elective hours be granted for the thesis work.

Such an arrangement would better insure the opportunity for the student to (cont'd on page 3)

TABLE TALK

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CAMPUS DIALOGUE

When Dr. Robert Theobald spoke at Gettysburg College two weeks ago, he laid down two particular challenges to us: that our world is changing much faster, technologically, than we seem able to understand or cope with; and that this change will require new attitudes in interpersonal relationships for us all. Dr. Theobald himself has begun an informal chain of discussion groups on college and seminary campuses across the country which will have two aims: to meet regularly in extra-curricular discussions of the contemporary world and to forge bonds of personal loyalty to each other which will enable honest communication with each other and the fullest possible opportunities for the members of the group to find self-expression and adequate interpersonal involvement.

Mr. Theobald believes that such a chain of decentralized groups could raise our level of understanding concerning the "cyberneted age" of the future and also instill in us the type of honest interpersonal communication that is necessary for our society as a whole in the years ahead.

Theobald's movement is called, "Campus Dialogue on the Role of the Individual in the Community of the Future." A number of faculty and students have expressed an interest in forming such a group on the seminary campus. The group is open to all--students, faculty, staff, wives. In order to get the group started, with a subscription to Theobald's helpful newsletter, each participant will be asked to contribute one dollar.

A public meeting to form the "Campus Dialogue" will be called in about a week or ten days. If you are interested, attend this meeting.

Philip Hefner

THESIS (cont'd from page 2)

do well in those courses basic to his ministerial preparation and also to have time to do a worthwhile job on his thesis.

David Rhoads

How Miserable Am I? Let Me Count
The Ways!

The 1966 Hagerstown Almanack has printed a letter from a woman in Points, W. Va., who claims to be the most miserable person on earth. Here's what she has to say:

"I have been bawled out, balled up, held up, held down, hung up, bulldozed, blackjacked, walked on, cheated, squeezed and mooched; stuck for - tax, excess profit tax, state dog tax and liberty bonds, baby bonds and the bonds of matrimony, Red Cross, green cross and the double cross, women's relief corps, men's relief and stomach relief; I have worked like heck and been worked like heck, have been drunk and got others drunk, lost all I had and now because I won't spend and lend all the little I have to go beg, borrow or steal. I have been cussed, discussed, boycotted, talked to and talked about, lied to and lied about, held up, hung up, robbed and damned near ruined and the only reason I'm sticking around now is to see what can happen next."

Almanack editor's comment: Can you top this?

Our comment: Well, maybe.....

Leaf In A Bachelor's Notebook ---

Why some men should want a wife is a mystery, but why they should want two wives is a bigamystery.