

Table Talk

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

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TRUE AND FALSE

In response to "T or F Continued".

1) I also object to the "28-8".

It neither allows a man a place for specialization nor permits him to fill in areas of weakness. You may be sure that the Senior Class continues to voice many objections to the curriculum as it now stands.

2) Is the seminary here primarily to produce "parish ministers"?

Yes! The parish, in one form or another is not yet dead, no matter how badly it needs to be revitalized. The seminary has a responsibility to the church to give men certain minimum standards of background for their work in the ministry, whatever that may be.

3) There are more specialties every day, but many are being abandoned. For example, the white pastor in the black ghetto is a specialist who may soon be obsolete. His background should be adequate for him to move into another area.

4) We need specialists as badly as any other profession, but law schools and medical schools prepare their men for general practice before they permit them to specialize. Specialization should be during or after professional school.

5) I do not believe that this seminary is trying to mold you into a "typical parish minister". Your own sense of identity should be proof that you will fit a mold of your own choosing. Certainly no tightly structured curriculum will take away your freedom of choice.

6) Concerning the electives which you have suggested: Liturgical Renewal and Modern Secular Theology are being offered this year. Youth problems and counselling should be studied in light of general courses in pastoral theology and pursued in a fieldwork atmosphere. Clinical

pastoral education and internship, even in a typical parish, should supply you with sufficient material for your practice. I am at a loss as to what "Black Theology" may be.

7) All the electives demand some foundation. In Old Testament for instance, all 21 demand preparation and 11 demand Hebrew explicitly. This holds true for the other 58 as well.

8) There are options for those who have adequate background. One of your own classmates has indicated his proficiency in one field so as to be able to pursue another in depth. A number of seniors have taken advantage of tutorials.

9) If there is dissatisfaction with the foundation courses, there are numerous resources for strengthening weaknesses. I would hope that this individual work would continue beyond seminary.

10) The tutorial system would be an excellent idea, but would involve considerably more work than is to be found in most required courses. In my own case, one tutorial requires 6 to 8 hours of preparation for every hour with the instructor.

11) Freedom, in its truest sense, demands more responsibility and discipline than the structured curriculum. I am sure that you are aware of that.

12) Proper channels are to be differentiated from red tape. Proper channels exist to protect what is beneficial, although they are often used to avoid facing issues. Students are now part of the proper channels. What use have you made of them?

I encourage your specific and constructive criticism.

Martin Rathke

Your correspondent was recently horrified to learn that there are people on campus (and therefore presumably even more off campus) who have not observed and taken to heart the fact that the Wentz Library has unsighted doors. Not unsightly, just sightless.

It seems a fair bet that people of this status have not ventured (and that word is loaded with sinister implications) frequently through the opaque front doors of the library. For to approach them carelessly is to invite a collision.

In an article in these columns some time ago, the whole subject was aired and, more to the point, lighted. So reasonable is the crusade for fenestration in the front, outer doors of the library that I feel safe in trusting the common sense of readers to perceive how desirable it is to enlist in that campaign without further argument.

Still, the matter has been gathering dust while other things, such as the fine signs advertising the seminary at various points of the campus, have gotten action.

In order to get the show on the road, your correspondent is therefore announcing a contest open to anyone. Yes, there is a prize, of \$5.

Just submit a drawing of your conception of how the front doors of the library should be fenestrated. (Schmucker library at the college might start your thinking.) The criteria are practicality, artistic quality, and completeness. Cost is no consideration.

The contest is now on. It will run for the next two months. Plans should be submitted to the editor of this paper, or to Mr. Bream.

In case of a tie, duplicate prizes will be awarded. If there are a number of very good proposals, a second prize will be offered.

Remember, this is open to anyone, on or off-campus, in or

outside of the seminary community. Originality is not required. O.K.

H.N.B.

WOTS UP?

The Helges was the scene of the January 8th meeting of WOTS. A very enlightening talk was given by Dr. Jensen on "What Is Theology?". He says there are 2 parts to theology: hearing and practicing. Also in order to communicate one's theology, one must speak the "language" of the listener.

A course taught by Pastor Weiser on "Lutheran Study Course" will begin January 29th. Classes will be in 3 parts: Communion, Baptism; Confessions. The sessions will be at his house.

The girls were asked to save empty coffee cans and deposit them in a box on the first floor of the "ad" building. These will be used by the Interracial Nurseries for Children. Also old shirts may be put in the same box as the cans. Long sleeved shirts are preferred. These will be used at the Well Baby Clinic.

The next meeting of WOTS was January 22nd at 7:30 P.M. It was held at Mrs. Nieting's house. The guest speaker was Professor Hoffman. His topic was "Impressions in Sweden".

Donna Sacherich

LUTHER'S LITTLE LAP BOOK

It seems as if my last attempt at humor with a little sarcasm intertwined has offended some people. So what else is new? The same has been the case with everything I've written this year. Apparently, the ones who think themselves under attack by my words are not reading very well-- they read into me things I have no intention of writing, and they obviously miss the main point. Granted, this may say something about the clarity of my style of writing. However, when those who take offense are only remotely connected with the subject matter

about which I write, when the people directly connected are not offended, then I think that the fact that these few people are offended says more about those people than it does about my style of writing.

With some people failing to get the main point of my simple words, I wonder how these same people manage to read, with any amount of understanding, men such as Barth, Hegel, Schleiermacher, Calvin, Bonhoeffer, Paul, Augustine, Aquinas, Luther, etc..

Hopefully, this next little story of mine will not rouse the dander of anyone. I have done my best to keep things simple and direct.

Once upon a time there was a little bunny rabbit. (Are you with me so far?) He grew up to be a big rabbit. He found a girl rabbit. They had little bunny rabbits. (NOTE: so far I have not mentioned the color of the rabbits, nor the number of little bunny rabbits born to the parents, nor where they lived, nor the type of housing they had, nor the social standing of the rabbit family, nor their favorite activities, nor their religion, nor ...only that the rabbits WERE. By doing this I have refrained from mentioning anything which could offend even the most sensitive race minded people, the Planned Parenthood League, the housing board, the Anti-defamation League, etc. Not even the SPCA.) The bunny rabbit family was happy. They lived together and had fun.

Harry

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

Resolved, that I won't be late with assignments and stuff like that...

Resolved, that Mr. Benson will not win the table tennis tournament..

Resolved, that people will put their coke bottles back every time...

Resolved, that Laugh-in stay as funny and fresh as it is.....

Resolved, that professors don't lump tests in the same week or part thereof...

Resolved, that they get indoor-outdoor carpeting for around the table tennis tables..

Resolved, that Santa Claus not be abolished, yet....

Resolved, that there be more worship in this place....

Resolved that we have a classless seminary...

Resolved, to take that back.

Resolved, that people always park their cars in the proper places....

Resolved, that Mr. Sheneman consistently wear white shirts..

Resolved, that everyone has one real lovely and loving experience each day....

Resolved, that instead of a classless seminary we have a caste free seminary....

Resolved, that more people will sound off in Table Talk

A. Bessermann

POME

- A person may be uncertain.
- A minister may be sinister.
- A reverend may never end.
- A theologian may be an ocean.
- A pastor may be a bastard.
- An intern may be out of turn.
- A scholar may be holler.
- God may be odd.
- A Christian may be pristine.
- A person is uncertzin ?

Please try to get TABLE TALK articles in my mail box by 6:00 pm on Monday. I try to get TT out by Wednesday. Thank you,

Robert A. Martin