

Table Talk

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



Volume XI

January 17, 1975

Issue #6

Curriculum Means "Race Course" by: Bob Dealey

The word "curriculum" is a Latin word which has crept into the English language. If it is translated literally, it means "race course". The more I hear about the faculty's new curriculum proposals, the more I think that they are trying to re-capture the literal meaning of the word "curriculum."

The present curriculum consists of two, fourteen week semesters, with the month of January sandwiched in-between. The current student load is four courses per semester, and one course during January. The faculty's proposals call for a quarter system, which would begin with a September term (the equivalent of a January term), followed by a ten-week term, a nine-week term, and a nine-week term. The new proposals call for a student load of four courses per quarter (nine-or-ten-week term). In addition to the regular course load, the students will be required to be responsible for a book list of approx. thirty volumes. According to Dr. Robert W. Jenson, the new curriculum proposals will "speed-up" the academic process.

Naturally, because the curriculum affects the entire Seminary community (including future members), the student body is extremely concerned about what the curriculum will be.

So, for the benefit of all concerned, here is the latest

in the faculty's attempts to produce a theological "race course." (Rat race might be a better phrase.)

FIRST YEAR:

SEPTEMBER TERM:

Introduction to Theological Studies

FALL TERM:

Interpretation of Scripture
Enduring Problems of Church History
Systematic Theology I
Religion and Personality
Field Observation and Discussion

WINTER TERM

A. (Students electing Hebrew)
The Synoptic Gospels (English)
Hebrew (double course)
1 elective

B. Students electing Greek
The Pentateuch (English)
Greek (double course)
1 Elective

C. Students with Greek who take no language at Gettysburg
The Pentateuch (English)
Modes of Communication
The Church's Liturgy
1 Elective

All: Field Education I

SPRING TERM

A. Students electing Hebrew
The Pentateuch (Hebrew)
Lutheran Confessions
Modes Of Communication
The Church's Liturgy

B. Students electing Greek
Synoptic Gospels (Greek)
Lutheran Confessions
Modes of Communication
The Church's Liturgy

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C. Students with Greek who take
no language at Gettysburg
Synoptic Gospels (Greek)
Lutheran Confessions
2 Electives
All: Field Education II

Summer Term: C P E

SECOND YEAR:

SEPTEMBER TERM:

C P E Debriefing
1 Project
Core Readings Proseminar
(or in 4th year)

FALL TERM:

Interpretation and proclamation I
Religion and Society
2 Electives

Pre-Internship Orientation

WINTER TERM:

Foundations of Christian Ethics
History of Lutheranism
2 Electives

SPRING TERM

Catechetics
3 Electives

THIRD YEAR: INTERNSHIP

FOURTH YEAR:

SEPTEMBER TERM:

Internship Debriefing
1 Project
Core Reading Proseminar
(or in 2nd year)

FALL TERM:

Seminar in Ministry
3 Electives

WINTER TERM:

4 Electives

SPRING TERM:

Interpretation and Proclamation II
3 Electives

AREA DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS

By end of 2nd year:

- 1 Old Testament Course in
Prophetic Literature
- 1 New Testament Course in
Pauline Literature
- 1 Church History Course in
Reformation or American
Lutheranism

- 1 Christian Education Course
from Selected List
- 1 Systematics Theology Course
in "Selected Loci"
- 1 Pastoral Theology Course

By end of 4th year:

- 1 additional course in Old Test-
ament
- 1 additional course in New Test-
ament
- 1 additional course in Church His-
tory
- 1 additional course in Systematic
Theology
- 1 additional course in Christian
Ethics
- 1 additional course in Church and
Community

TABLE TALK STAFF

We are happy to announce the addition of a new staff person to the "Table Talk" rolls. Kathy Reed, wife of first year Seminarian, Stephen Reed, has joined our staff as the new associate editor. We are most pleased that Kathy is able to join us, and we are looking forward to some exciting things in the future issues.

We are also happy to announce that during the month of January, Diane Burn will be the tabloid's typist. Diane is visiting from Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas. She is taking a January term course at Gettysburg College.

One sad note: January has taken its toll from our regular staff. Bill "Pot Shot" Stomski is enjoying the month in Washington, D.C., as is Steve Patrick. Our regular typist, Rae Bloomquist, is at home working diligently on an independent study project in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

STAFF

Diane Burn	Kathy Reed
Bob Dealey	Terry Robichaud
Bob Mitchell	Glenn Schoenberger

Next issue: January 31st

Some Professional Opinions Concerning
by Kathy Reed

In the interest of clarifying some of the issues surrounding the current curriculum revision controversy, two members of the faculty and an administrator were asked to give their opinions on the advantages and disadvantages of the quarter system over the semester system, the effects of the proposed revision on the work load; the purpose and effect of the reading list, etc.

One faculty member who has been at Gettysburg long enough to witness several curriculum changes, but wished to remain anonymous, characterized the "wholesale" revision "folderol." On the work load question, the professor said that he felt neither the students nor the faculty were presently overworked. He added that he did not believe that the faculty would adopt any proposal which would make their own work any harder. Students, on the other hand, would probably have to work harder, the load being expected to increase as professors attempt to concentrate a present semester course into a quarter.

The content of the curriculum, Dr. "X" felt, "deals too much in forcing the students into a unitary system," failing to treat the student as an individual.

Asked if the proposed revision would bring any substantive changes to the seminarian's academic experience as a whole, the answer was simply, "No."

Dr. Nieting, however, came out heavily in favor of the revised curriculum plan. He especially liked the September term for the purpose of introductions. Problems with coordinating with the Washington program, on the other hand, could be foreseen.

The change from semesters to quarters, he said, was "debatable in terms of work done," but he

felt that ten weeks seemed to be a more natural length for a course.

"Who can predict what the student mood will be," commented Nieting concerning the amount of work done by students, adding that "education is the student's responsibility."

Dr. Nieting, a member of the Reading List committee, favored the reading list. He defined it as a list of books not used in any courses, which were interdisciplinary and "epochal."

Commenting on faculty consensus, Dr. Nieting quoted one colleague as saying, "I just don't want to go through another curriculum change!" and another who asked that the faculty first sincerely commit themselves to making real adjustments on their own parts.

Dr. Heiges said he did not believe that the curriculum was his concern, but offered the following thoughts:

"To the making of curricula, there is no end."

The performance of the professors and students, good and bad, the President felt, will never be affected by the arrangement of the curriculum. He did feel, however, that the quarter academic calendar was to be preferred to the semester system.

Early Bird Announcement

Dr. James Glasse, President of Lancaster Theological Seminary, will speak here Monday, February 17 at 2 p. m. He will discuss his book Profession: Ministry and answer questions. He will also talk about new directions he is taking in relationship to the topic. In order to take fullest advantage of this opportunity, the book should be read before the lecture.

A Working Theology of Social Change

Bishop A. James Armstrong, resident bishop of the Dakota area of The United Methodist Church, will speak at Wesley Theological Seminary, 4400 Massachusetts Ave., Northwest Washington, D. C., February 13, 1975. The 7:30 p. m. address in Oxnam Chapel will conclude a day-long workshop at the seminary. The theme of the workshop is "A Working Theology of Social Change." Bishop Armstrong is currently serving as president of the United Methodist Church's Board of Church and Society. This board is the church's agency concerned with social issues.

Two student groups, The Social Action and Forum Committees, at the seminary are sponsoring this activity. Gilbert Wilson, of Alexandria, Virginia, chairperson of the Social Action Committee at Wesley, said of the workshop, "Our committees felt there was a need by local churches to learn the place of the church in social action and ways to develop workable methods for awareness and implementing social concerns through the local church. Area people are invited and urged to take advantage of this workshop. The resource people we have invited are authorities in their respective fields."

The February 13 event begins at 10:00a. m. with a cluster session concerned with "Racism" conducted by The Reverend Earnest Gibson, program director of the Washington Council of Churches. After a luncheon break, there will be a 1:00 p.m. address in the seminary Refectory by Dr. Earnest A. Smith, Associate General Secretary of the Division of Human Resources of the

Board of Church and Society. From 2:00 p. m. until 3:30p. m., sessions devoted to discussions of "Population" directed by Dr. J. Philip Wogaman, Dean and Professor of Christian Ethics at Wesley, and "Hunger" directed by Dr. Martin Mc Glaughlin of the Overseas Development Council, will be presented.

Dean Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology, Dr. L. Harold DeWolf of Wesley will conduct a 3:30 p. m. to 5:00 p. m. session concerned with "Penal Reform and Criminal Justice." The Reverend Fred Hoftrickter from the Council of the United Church of Christ, will lead a session devoted to "Health and Welfare Reform" from 3:30 p.m. until 5:00p. m.

The workshop is free of any charge. Pre-registration may be made by contacting Gilbert Wilson or the seminary. Registration will begin at 9:30 a. m., February 13. Additional information may be had by contacting Gilbert Wilson (703) 751-7863 or Wesley Theological Seminary (202) 363-2171. Wilson stated, "This workshop is open to all people interested in church involvement in social action and social change. We hope for a good response from District, Maryland, and Virginia people, regardless of church or profession."

Wacht Auf

If anyone has comments and/or suggestions concerning the current state of affairs about the curriculum, please submit them to the "Table Talk" mailbox. Thank you.

Theolog-- Another Resurrection
by Ralph F. Smith

Student publications at Gettysburg Seminary began in the mid-1940's with a newsletter similar to Table Talk called the The Halo. It was short lived, however, and was replaced by Theolog in 1949, a monthly publication which survived until 1955. At that time Theolog expanded and became a student magazine, published quarterly, containing essays, poetry, stories, art work and news articles. It continued as the only student literary publication of the Seminary for another ten years except for three issues of The Lash in 1963. Though following a news and views format The Lash, as its name intimates, adopted a harsh tone. It chided students and faculty alike for their failure to publish articles in the seminary community (Mr. Gritsch supplied a rebuttal to the editorial position in the second issue.)

In 1965 Theolog was published for the last time. Table Talk had become the Seminary's newsletter in 1964, and all literary compositions were to be contributed to the Seminarian Quarterly-- a joint publication of the Seminaries of Gettysburg and Philadelphia. This joint effort failed to materialize, however, and our Seminary was without a literary publication during the next four years.

In 1968 a group of students published a single issue called Spontaneity. As the title suggests, it was a spontaneous creation which never appeared again. But the creative element of the Seminary arose in 1970-71 to produce three issues of Kethovin, a literary magazine containing poems, stories, and essays. Following the graduation of the editor in 1971, Kethovin ceased publication. Imaginative voices spoke once more during the 1972-73 academic year in a single issue publication entitled Ye Olde Apple Core. It, too, consisted of poems and stories by a few seminarians and friends.

At the behest of a few students and faculty members the idea of a literary publication was raised again this year. The result has been the appointment of co-editors Jim Drury and Ralph Smith who hope to resurrect the Seminary's longest running literary publication, Theolog. Both Table Talk and Theolog 1975 stand as inheritors of more than twenty years of student publishing tradition. Despite many ups and downs, lapses in publication, and variation in theme and quality students have continued to air their ideas, opinions, and imaginative whims in newsletters, journals, and magazines. It is hoped that students as well as faculty members, administrators, staff, family and friends will contribute their creations to this year's publications of Theolog. Surprises are in store for contributors and readers alike.

Information can be obtained from the posters in Valentine and the residential buildings or from the editors (Jim Drury, 201 Heiges Hall, 334-5606; Ralph Smith, 011 Heiges Hall, 334-9386). If you have some time and would like to find out what happened to professors and students over the past twenty years, a brief look at the past publications of the student body might prove to be a humorous and enlightening adventure.

Book Review: "The Devil You Say"

In 1971, Jon Erickson, then a student at Montana State University, began a relationship with Campus Crusade for Christ. From the beginning, he felt the Crusade's approach was limited and not quite honest. As time went on, he discovered that their dogmatic proselytizing was actually harmful to many of their prospective followers and emotionally, psychologically and spiritually damaging to students in the organization.

Jon's strained relationship with the Crusade lasted three years and resulted in three papers, complete with footnotes and appendices, exposing the almost dictatorial methodology the Crusaders use in "spreading the Gospel." By using first hand experiences and including actual Crusade material, he shows that "the very basis of the belief they profess is violated in the workings of the organization itself."

The Crusade is thoroughly investigated from the inside, an investigation into the structure of the campus arm of the group, a psychological study of its proselytizing method endorsed by the whole Campus Crusade International, and a recording of the history of its actions among students at MSU including Jon's personal experiences and those of the girl he later married.

Shortly before Jon entered the Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg, he spent the summer organizing and updating the papers and published them privately in a limited edition. Then, because of demand from campus ministries across the country who were finding the Crusade approach problematic to students, the papers were prepared in a six by nine book of 80 pages with the title of, "The Devil You Say, or Inside the Campus Crusade for Christ."

Copies of the book are available in the book store or from Jon Erickson for \$2.00 to cover cost of printing and labor. Write to Apt. B4, Baughman Hall, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, Penna 17325.

A Winter Retreat

Looking for Koinonia? A winter retreat with precisely this emphasis will be held Feb. 7-9 at the Marian Fathers Novitiate in Brookeville, Md. Under the leadership of Stan Jones (Director of Seminary Ministries, Faith at Work), we will existentially explore a relational-style ministry. (Stan Jones will be speaking at our chapel service on Jan. 27; he should be available after chapel for answering questions.)

Comments by seminarians who have participated in similar retreats may be found in the pamphlet on the bulletin board in Valentine and in the May, 1974 issue of Seminary Soundings (available by the mailboxes in Valentine). Cost of the retreat: \$10.00 per person. If interested, contact Ardelle Singer, Baughman B2 Ext. 38 or 334-2036.

Adiaphora

Fri., Jan. 17 and Sat., Jan 18 - Consultation on the examining Process
 Tues., Jan. 21- S. E. M.-Eric Gritsch "Church Foundations: Word and
 Sacrament" (Coffee Shop- 7:30p. m.)
 Wed., Jan. 22- Dinner meeting with Philadelphia Faculty
 Fri., Jan. 31- End of (the last?) January Term.