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In Memoriam

Dr. W. John Weilgart
1913-1981

Dr. W. John Weilgart, professor emeritus of psychology at Luther College died at age 67, Monday, January 26. He suffered from leukemia. Weilgart served on the Luther faculty from 1964-78. He previously taught at the University of Portland, Mills College, Xavier University, Notre Dame, and California Lutheran College.

Born in Vienna, Austria in 1913, Dr. Weilgart attended the University of Vienna, where he received the Ph.D. degree in 1939. He studied at the University of California, Berkeley in 1940-41. From 1952-54 he served as clinical psychologist at the University of Austria at Innsbruck and then for a year as a child psychologist at the Swiss State Institute and the University of Zurich. He was a doctoral diplomate psychologist at the University of Heidelberg from 1955-57.

The Weilgart Ethos Rhyme Test (WERT) is a unique projective device usually administered individually. With this instrument Dr. Weilgart was able to make remarkably accurate assessments of various personality traits as well as moral and ethical tendencies. During the last months of his life he devoted the last of his waning strength to the creation of a manual for the use of the WERT. It is to be hoped that clinicians will be able to adapt this instrument to their work.

Always greatly concerned for the peace of mankind, Dr. Weilgart devoted prodigious time and energy to the creation of a universal language which he called the Language of Space. Consisting of 31 symbols, he had demonstrated that this language can be very quickly learned and can be adapted to the thought and communication processes of at least 20 modern world languages. In addition to its usability as a medium of ordinary communication, the language lends itself well to individual and small group psychotherapy. One reason for this usefulness is its capacity to clarify feelings and to convey that clarification to others. These two contributions (WERT and the Language of Space) offer promise of great usefulness. It is hoped they will endure.

Submitted by
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