

# Table Talk

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

NOV 2 1965

## A PARABLE

"Now it came to pass on a certain day at noon that the storyteller was a guest of a kindly man. And we sat down to meat together at a popular restaurant. And the food was good.

Now when the end of the meal was at hand, the waiter brought unto the host the reckoning of his debt. And the host, looking upon it, was somewhat displeased but said not a word. But as the time for our departure drew nigh, I observed that he layeth under his plate a gift of coins. However, I knew not how large the gift was. But the waiter, who stood nearby, smiled and was of happy countenance, which being interpreted, meaneth that the tip was satisfactory.

Now with such customs are we all familiar. And this parable telleth not what is right or wrong in the custom of the tip. But as I meditated upon the coins that become tips, to the north and south, the east and the west of our land, I began to think of tips and tithes. For the proverbial tip must be at least a tithe, lest the waiter or waitress turn against you.

And as I continued to think on these things, it came to me that few people who go to church treat their God as they honour their waiter. For they give unto their waiter a tithe, but unto their God they give whatsoever they think will get them by. Verily, doth man fear the waiter more than God? Or doth he love the waiter more than he loveth God? Truly, truly, a man and his money are past understanding."

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of St. Luke Lutheran Church,  
Silver Spring, Maryland

From a Baughman Hall Bulletin Board:  
"I hate the guys that criticize and minimize the other guys whose enterprise has made them rise above the guys that criticize and minimize."

Now there's a mouthfull!

## Vol. II No. 5

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### Guest Editorial

#### "MERGER AND RELOCATION"

The mere mention of the proposal to merge and relocate the seminaries at Gettysburg and Philadelphia has evoked a great deal of response both positive and negative. Few, if any, would admit to no opinion on this question. But while this is true, many of us are unaware of where our faculty members and fellow students stand and why. Perhaps this is due to the highly emotional nature of the question, but that should hardly deter us from becoming aware of the issues involved. It is for this reason that I would like to see the different points of view expounded upon by both students and faculty.

It is my opinion that a merger with Philadelphia involving a relocation to a University campus is not only good but necessary. As an additional qualification I would maintain that such a move should involve the seminary in a metropolitan area. Therefore, the proposal concerning the University of Pennsylvania sits quite well with me. Washington and New York as well as several other metropolitan areas would also satisfy what I consider to be basic necessities of a seminary education, but of course, Philadelphia is more feasible in our case.

Not only would all forms of academic cooperation be possible in a university atmosphere, but a great variety of cultural experiences would be available which a small school would not be expected to provide. Moreover, a large metropolitan center would add to this variety. It seems to me that there can be no arguing this point.

There is another advantage in locating the combined seminaries in a university-metropolitan setting which is at least as important as the others. This is the fact that students and faculty alike would inevitably come into contact with a large conglomeration of people. Not only would we confront a variety of races, religions, national-

(cont'd. p. 2)

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page 2

ities and political outlooks, but (when we also consider the metropolitan area as contributing to this conglomeration) we would encounter all shades of the socio-economic spectrum. It might be maintained, of course, that all such encounters could only be superficial and thus negate the value of such a location. I would argue that it is our business as seminarians not to let that happen.

I would consider it ideal for seminary students to live with the other students, and for married students to do likewise, if possible. This would at least insure a respectable minimum of contact with this conglomerate. Such a minimum alone should be reason enough for merger and relocation.

Underlying my support for such a proposal is the necessity for all dedicated Christians to maintain a direct involvement in our society and culture. A withdrawal from any phase of our world, especially as Christians, would not only be a misconception of our faith but would be criminal. And while I realize that mere location cannot insure such contact, at least a university-metropolitan location can make it available. From that point on, it is the individual's responsibility to take advantage of it.

It might be argued that such a location would, in effect, be a withdrawal from the non-metropolitan phase of our world. But while the point is well taken (I would certainly oppose any thought of abandoning our rural and small town areas) it seems to me unwise to sacrifice the great advantages of a metropolitan-university involvement when the importance of this aspect of our culture has so increased in relation to the other. Moreover, it does not seem like a simple choice between involvement in one or the other; by their very natures, small towns and rural areas do not permit the extent and depth of involvement possible in a metropolitan area. The fact that there are more and different people in a city ought to demonstrate this. So it would seem that to sacrifice a greater involvement for a far lesser one would be absurd.

No doubt other criticisms will occur which I have not foreseen, and I am most eager to read and/or hear them.

Robert Pielke

#### TABLE TALK

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#### THE DECORATING COMMITTEE

Following in the footsteps of some truly unique Reformation-Hallowe'en Decorating Committees, this year's Junior Class came up with a remarkable display of ingenuity and plain guts. The Luther statue was "shocking." The Chapel steeple, a previously neglected area, was thought provoking to say the least, while the flagpole was just "unmentionable." Participation in the project by the distaff side of the community has been praised by the leaders of the Committee.

A Presidential reaction to the Committee's efforts has been reported to Table Talk, but the Staff has considered it to be apocryphal and shall not comment upon it further.

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#### SEMINARY BOWLING LEAGUE

Last Tuesday night marked the first attempt of the Seminary Bowling League at the Edgewood Lanes, but only 6 hardy folk appeared for the fun. The league is open to any members of the faculty, staff, students and wives who would like to join the fun and fellowship. The bowling is of the tenpin variety and it is a handicap league, so don't let what you consider to be a poor average deter you. The league meets every Tuesday night from 9-11 PM.

As for last week's results, top score went to Steve Lorimer and the booby prize went to your Editor. The honorable mention award for the most unique form went to "Gimpy" Grothen.

For further information on the league see Roger Grothen, Mel Swoyer or Fred Krautwurst. The gang would like to see more members of the Seminary Community turn out for bowling tonight at 9 at the Edgewood Lanes, on Rt. 15  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile South of Confederate Ave.