



THE CABBAGE

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MISINFORMING THE UNINFORMED

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AAL, Lutheran Brotherhood Merger Approved by Luther

APPLETON, WI—The recently announced merger of Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) and Lutheran Brotherhood (LB) moved one step closer to completion today. The long-regarded father of financially-savvy Christians everywhere, Martin Luther, gave his public support of the merger late this morning. The Great Reformer's backing is likely to result in the cooperation of members from both AAL and LB. In the wake of Luther's announcement, AAL president, John Gilbert, and LB president, Bruce Nicholson, began proposing possible names of the future financial monopoly of Midwestern Lutherans.

AAL, since its inception in 1902, has grown to include over 1.8 million members nationwide. Lutheran Brotherhood, based in Minneapolis, boasts nearly 1.2 million members since its inception in 1917. Prior to the recent news of a merger, the two religiously-affiliated giant com-

panies have had their share of grievances toward each other. During the Great Depression, for instance, the two organizations took opposing stances on suicide, a popular "way out" for many investors before the days of FDIC insured banks and a stable stock market. And in the Seventies LB raised moral questions of AAL's practice of selling fiscally irresponsible so-called "whole-life" insurance claims to unsuspecting elderly couples. Explained one LB spokesperson in 1978, "Sure, we sell whole-life (insurance) too. At least we inform our visually-impaired Lutheran elderly members using fine print of six-point pitch...(AAL) only uses five." With these differences forgiven and forgotten, Martin Luther's support of the merger will further help the two faith-exploiting companies to become one Christian ecumenically-minded corporation, with combined assets totaling nearly \$50 billion.

'Martin Luther' is the name both AAL and LB have used for nearly a century to sell insurance and other annuities. Luther voiced his support of the merger while speaking at a local fundraiser hosted by several Appleton area priests, men from the same Roman Catholic Church that attempted to kill Luther just centuries ago. "It's time to move on," said Luther. "If I can dine here with Catholic priests, the same ones who anathematize the very beliefs I've dedicated my life to, then why shouldn't Lutherans both in Wisconsin and Minnesota combine into one, big, happy, financially-sound, insured family? I mean, sure they sort of exploit my name for financial gain, but boy do they know how to put on a tasty pot-luck dinner...and they make good maps and cal-

endars, not to mention the reliable number two pencils. In fact, I wrote the Small Catechism with an AAL pencil."

Members of both AAL and LB, often ecumenically and doctrinally influenced by sound financial planning and basement-low premiums on their life insurance, praised Luther's decision as both "pragmatic" and "getting to the heart of what the Lutheran name is all about: selling insurance to unsuspecting whites in the Midwest, while at the same time bringing together all members of the community, regardless of doctrinal differences."

With the strong words of support and fraternal love echoing through the rolling hills of the Wisconsin and Minnesota border, AAL President and CEO, John Gilbert, met with LB CEO, Bruce Nicholson, in the Twin Cities to introduce a handful of possible names for the future conglomerate of Christian capital. "We want the new name to reflect the values shared by Lutherans everywhere," said Gilbert. "We may even consider scrapping the name 'Lutheran' in order to sell more insurance to non-Lutherans...you know, in light of our recent ecumenical spirit."

Among the names proposed are: *Money Changers at the Temple Credit Union*, *Gee! Look at Our Low Premiums!*, *Ananias and Sapphira Savings and Loan*, *Bank Three*, *Root of All Evil Insurance*, *Tithe Annuities*, *Evangelical Lutheran Bank of America*, *Ecumenical Savings and Loan*.

"Whatever name is chosen," says Gilbert, "you can be rest assured that we will divide the company into hundreds of branches under one name in order to please the fuzzy, ecumenical liberal Lutherans, while at the same time giving peace of mind to conservative Lutherans concerned with the threat of financial matters overshadowing their doctrines of fellowship and qualms over providing free advertising for a greedy insurance company in their churches and schools."

The Cabbage asked several students what they did over the summer. Here are a few of their answers:

AARON HARTIG: "I turned down fourteen emergency calls."

EMILY FERCH: "Worked."

WILL HINZ: "Went to Florida to wrestle sharks."

CRAIG BREINLING: "Went and protested in front of Gary Condit's office in California, while he was away in Washington D.C."

JOHN BACKUS: "Not much."

MIDI YAMAKI: "I helped set up a fast-food restaurant game scam."

AARON DOLAN: "Adjusted back to small-town life."

ADRIAN SMITH: "I went to London to hang out with Roy Harper."

CASEY HOLTZ: "Who's Roy Harper?"

JESSE STERN: "Supplemented my ministerial training by reading all of Luther's Works in German."

L. CZER: "I left the Republican party and became an independent, thus drastically altering the nation's political make-up."

RENEE SCHILLER: "I saw 'Pearl Harbor' every single day...it's almost as good as 'Armageddon.'"

ANDY MONDAY: "I flew home to my ranch and took a month off."

TOM PARK: "Oh, I went out with Nicole Kidman a couple of times."

DAVE BERG: "I starred in a reality TV show."

JEN CLOUTE: "Uh, went up to the cottage a bit."

BEN TOMZACK: "Worked."

LUKE THOMPSON: "Barely won the PGA Championship over Phil Mickelson."

RENEE WILLIAMS: "I eagerly anticipated school."

SARAH UNDERWOOD: "Worked."

KARYN VIK: "Found a cure for cancer, then lost it during the move back here."

DONALD FURMANN: "I tried to create a new parody newspaper and found it wasn't that hard."

DAN TESS: "Failed to write articles for those on the summer mailing list."

KEEGAN DOWLING: "Got lost during internship in Senator's office, somehow ended up here."

DON ACHEY: "Finally got hired as NFL referee, only to go on strike the next day."

BEN STRACKBEIN: "Not much."

MATT SCHULTZ: "Went to two weddings every weekend; spent all money on tuxedo rentals and gifts."

ANDY LUEHRING: "I read all my back issues of *The Cabbage*."

JON OLSON: "I read all my back issues of *The Knight's Page*."

DAN WESTON: "Nothing."

Cafeteria to Enforce “Ten-Second Rule”

LSC—Pioneer Caterer manager Gary Schwichtenberg announced a new rule for MLC students on Tuesday. Due to the increased enrollment, diners in the school cafeteria will be required to adhere to the “ten-second rule.” Some dismiss the new regulation as both unenforceable and unhealthful. Others welcome the change, claiming that the new rule will help bring a more family-like atmosphere to the school.

Talk of implementing the ten-second rule began last year when enrollment broke one thousand. The further increase this year made it a necessity, says Schwichtenberg. “There’s just too many students now to let them simply throw food away or kick it under the table,” said the cafeteria director.

The ten-second rule has been around for years, usually in proximity to scrumptious—but scarce—foodstuffs. Under this rule, when a

morsel of food drops onto a surface not designated as a plate, bowl, tray, or other type of food receptacle, the food may be retrieved and consumed. The only stipulation is that retrieval must be within ten seconds of droppage. The cafeteria, pressured by various health violations in the past, will also allow the foodstuff in question to be cleaned prior to consumption. “It’s not like they have to eat it if there’s ants or hair on it. They can simply blow on it or even wipe it off on their shirt...or a napkin,” said Schwichtenberg.

The new rule will be strictly enforced, according to the cafeteria staff. “We’re going to be watching you,” said Donna. “We are going to enforce the ten-second rule as much as the rule against taking food from the cafeteria or making you take the napkins off your trays.”

While some students welcome the new rule as “just like back at my poverty-stricken WELS

teacher’s home,” others scoff at the idea. “What a joke,” said junior Lucas Buffner, carrying two bags of bagels under his arm.

Schwichtenberg also warns of other possible rules in the future. “We’re also thinking of implementing the you-only-get-dessert-if-you-clean-your-plate rule. We might also ban the protein diet...we’ve got guys like Schone asking for meat and no potatoes or a hamburger without the bun. That kind of stuff really throws off the staff.”

Schwichtenberg also confirmed rumors that students may be limited to only five bowls of Cinnamon Toast Crunch per meal. “He’s asking for war,” commented the entire student body, all of whom love Cinnamon Toast Crunch, despite the fact that the school is too cheap to have it down there every day.

NASCAR Receiving Criticism Is NASCAR Selling Out?

BRISTOL, TENNESSEE—NASCAR, now America’s most popular spectator sport, has recently been receiving criticism from several longstanding members of the traditional sporting community. Charges of rampant commercialization, an ignorant, bloodthirsty fan base, wearisome, repetitive entertainment, and semantic arguments regarding the basic term, “sport,” are just some of the problems facing the NASCAR conglomerate.

The National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) was created in the 1940s in Daytona, Florida. The featured auto series for the world’s best oval drivers is the Winston Cup, with 34 points-races across the country each year. The Winston Cup’s minor league is the Busch Series, and the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series is the latest NASCAR

creation. Since 1948, interest in stock car auto racing has been growing, and today it is more popular than ever, inciting a backlash from more traditional sports fans.

“I’ve seen it happen before,” said Thomas John, longtime baseball fanatic. “Once the sport becomes too commercialized, it’s no longer pure sport. It (NASCAR) used to be pure. Now it’s hard to find a car without at least one advertisement somewhere on it. And once even your league name is from some corporate product, you know you’ve sold out. Imagine if Major League Baseball were all of a sudden Miller League Baseball, or Pfizer League Baseball with the Viagra World Series. It would be a sad day in sporting history.”

Cigarettes, beer, and tools are the basic fiscal foundations of the three NASCAR circuits,

leading others to question the intelligence of the fan populace. “Millions of inebriated, tattooed, shirtless, overweight people come together to form a mob in the hot sun just praying to see some bloody accident. What kind of entertainment is that?” asked bitter CBS Golf on-the-course correspondent David Feherty. “And honestly, how athletic are these drivers? All they really need is a driver’s license and the ability to turn left.”

Michael Johnson, one of the best athletes in the world, was quite blunt on the issue of NASCAR’s validity as a sport. “If NASCAR’s a sport, then everyone in America over age sixteen is an athlete.”

As criticism grows, NASCAR is attempting to make concessions. A new rule is pending that will restrict car bodies to a maximum of 250 corporate logos. Also, since Dale Earnhardt’s death, drivers will now be required to wear all safety equipment, and have a legal heir, preferably with the same name, to carry on their driving legacy after their untimely, unfortunate deaths.

Student Impressed by Campus Improvements

MLC—Upon his arrival at Martin Luther College on Saturday, August 4, Jason Prell was quick to notice the improvements made on campus over the summer. The excitement of returning to school for another year was only heightened for Prell, now a sophomore, by the apparent changes all around the college.

“I can’t believe all the cool things they did over the summer—I mean, it’s only a few short months,” said Prell. “I can’t believe they could get so many things done in such a short time. I couldn’t even read an entire book over the summer. But they planted all those flowers, and, uh,

I see they put in new windows in the girls’ dorm across the way.”

Prell was not the only returning student to be impressed by the many campus changes; several students offered comments about the improvements.

“Yeah, the campus looks great,” remarked junior music major Sarah Ledow. “Well, you know, it would be neat if the organ were working, but at least I have an extra wooden strip in my dorm room this year to hang posters.”

Said sophomore David Orwell, “I heard that big changes were happening in the cafeteria, and

boy were they right! This morning at breakfast, the conveyor belt was moving so fast that the number of people standing in line waiting to deposit their trays was significantly less. That was awesome! Thank you, MLC!”

The administration is pleased with the results of all their hard work over the summer months, and hope that the students continue to appreciate the improvements. More changes are still to come, say some professors. Said Professor Gosdeck, “Who knows what’s next? We might even change the library hours again! There’s a world of possibility, baby!”

Mr. Trite Conversation-Starter-of-the-Week

**“So what did you do over the summer?” (listen to answer), then say:
“Did you hear that (insert name) isn’t coming back?”**