

# Table Talk

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

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## MATRICULATION

Perhaps the best way to get at the matter of the meaning of the Matriculation Service on January 25 is by attempting to answer some questions that are inevitably asked about it.

First, what is matriculation? Webster's New International Dictionary (it's not new--1931--and take my word on the definition; you could get a hernia just lifting the thing!) says: "to enroll; to enter in a register; specif., to enter or admit to membership in a body or society, particularly in a college or university, by enrolling the name in a register." If you want to get a bit more involved you will discover that its root is the Latin "matricula," meaning "a public roll or register," and that it has relationship to "matrix," which means a mother in the sense of propagation thus on the flip side related to "alma mater."

That's what the book says. Now, what does it mean at Gettysburg Seminary? Gettysburg follows the traditional graduate school usage of matriculation as being "admitted to degree candidacy." You may or may not know that students are admitted to Gettysburg Seminary in varying classifications running from full admission to a limited probationary entrance status. Students from non-accredited colleges and universities are not admitted to Gettysburg Seminary and therefore we have no limited classification of entrance for such students, even though the American Association of Theological Schools allows such admissions up to ten percent of the total student body without affecting accreditation of the seminary. The decision on status of admission is based mainly on college grade point average and type of undergraduate preparation.  
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## Editorial

### THE CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

As I understand it, Mr. Persiko's question of "Individualism vs. One Body in Christ" is the concern for community. And this, of course, is a concern which most of us share. That it is rarely, if ever, achieved does not in any way dispute this fact. It rather shows that the achievement of true Christian community may be a more difficult and complex problem than hitherto realized.

Mr. Persiko seems to suggest a two-fold approach to the problem. On the one hand he feels that "what we need is a kind of group-life approach to issues." And on the other hand the consensus arrived at by this approach would serve to undergird the community.

If this is a correct assessment of his proposal, then it would appear as though he has made three false assumptions: (1) The first aspect of his approach already assumes that the community which is sought exists. A "group-life approach to issues" cannot occur without a pre-existent group. (2) It is fallaciously assumed that a group of people (even if they are a "community") can always agree on what the important issues are and in what way they should be formulated. Experience dictates that the opposite conclusion is closer to the truth. Therefore it cannot even be said that a community comes into being as it encounters the issue, for this would again presuppose the ability of a group to decide on what is and what is not important. (3) It is likewise wrongly assumed that a group (again, even if they are a "community") can always arrive at a consensus. And here again experience dictates otherwise.

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THE TRUDY TIEKKEN COLUMN

STAFF

Here follows the first in a series of weekly articles in which Miss Trudy Tiekken, best known religious columnist in Adams County, answers your letters about personal, religious and theological problems.

Managing Editor - William Avery  
Senior Editor - Karl Pohlhaus  
Middler Editor - William Dreikorn  
Junior Editor - Harvey Weitzel  
Staff - Bud Persiko, Robert Pielke  
Typist - Carol Avery  
Printer - Kirk Bish

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Dear Miss Tiekken,

Realizing that the Word of God must take preference over outward appearance, I was compelled to buy numerous copies of the King James version of the New Testament as well as many other devotional books. Consequently, I have been unable to make payments on my VW. It has a good German Lutheran background and would be especially appropriate for use during Reformation, All Saints Day, Apostles', Evangelist', and Martyrs' Days. Driven very conservatively. Cross attached. Please advise as to how I could sell it.

Jeb

Dear Jeb,

Pray for guidance and remember, God delights in devoted followers-- whether on wheels or on foot.

Trudy Tiekken

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Dear Miss Tiekken,

Being profoundly religious, it has often bothered me that the Trinity symbol looks embarrassingly like the Ballantine Beer sign. Is there anything we could do about this situation?

With much concern,  
Charlie

Dear Charlie,

Recognizing that it would be difficult to change the Ballantine Beer sign by yourself, it might be a good idea if you would try to have an offering plate situated in the rear of your Church so that the worshippers could deposit money they might have used to (Cont'd next col.)

MISS TIEKKEN (Cont'd from col. 1)

buy beer. Perhaps the money could be used to hire a lawyer to negotiate with the Ballantine Beer Co. It's worth a try.

With hope,  
Trudy Tiekken

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Dear Miss Tiekken,

The low caliber of students of Gettysburg Seminary often admonishes me and the implications which they say before meals is often insincere. If this continues I will be forced to delay dinner so as to derive them of good food and then they will repent. Is this a good idea?

With food for thought,  
Chief

Dear Chief,

By all means. Of course man does not live by bread alone, but obviously good food is essential for a competent scholarly and spiritual attitude. Keep up the good work.

Trudy Tiekken

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Dear Miss Tiekken,

While driving to a preaching assignment along route 371, the road to Damascus, Pa., I suddenly saw a great flash of light. A voice asked me why I would accept fifty dollars to preach the Word of God, but I was speechless. Do you think I am a special agent of God?

Yours in the light,  
Paul T.

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A THOUGHT WORTH CONSIDERATION

No doubt you have all read an article in last week's issue concerning the matter of overt drinking and contributing to a charity. While there may be a connection between these two topics, I would invite your consideration to the latter issue. The suggestion that an equal amount of personal funds be donated for a worthy cause as to "drinking" has something about it worth considering. The point simply is--what can or should we do for the community surrounding the seminary? If the answer is argued that as students, whether affluent or not, our primary responsibility is to graduate with good grades and then devote our lives to some sort of service then perhaps you needn't read further. If the answer is that most seminarians with the ever present pressure of subject requirements, don't have time to investigate where they can serve the outside community, then possibly there is an answer. Contributing in a quiet way to charities from a point of relative abundance is a partial answer. It certainly is not a new answer from any perspective. However there are other available avenues. Pastor Stuempfle mentioned one in Chapel-- a present need for tutoring cerebral palsy victims who happen to be children. Visitation to the Adams County Home is not an unknown avenue so it need not be further explained. If you are interested in helping these children by contributing of your time (I suspect no more than an hour a week) please speak to me about it.

Karl Pohlhaus

A CUP OF KINDNESS

Recently the "Jesus Saves" singers piled into a few cars and drove over to the Adams County Home. For the next half hour the old people had a special treat of old melodies they remembered and could appreciate. Needless to say this illustrious group, led by Martin Rathke, paid a very much needed and appreciated service home for the first time in many moons. It was fun for the fellows and fun for  
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FROM THE SPORT'S WORLD

"And the fans were pleased!" It was on this happy note that the seminary cagers along with their elder spokesman, Ron Long, left the hard-court with their second victory in two outings. The cheers were somewhat similar only four days before when the team turned in its first victory by downing a stubborn St. John's team 54-46 in the last quarter of play behind the outstanding performance of Clayton Rudolph who scored 28 of the Seminary's points. Rudy's part in the win was sparked by his unbelievable ten for ten record at the foul line. It was obvious that the Seminary was not playing up to its fine potential, but in the words of my dear old daddy, "It doesn't matter how you play the game, it's whether you win that counts," and win we did.

The second game, which found the Seminary handing the Pa. State Police a 46-36 ticket, was not an outstanding performance either, but it was a helpful game for Coach Long who was never under the pressure of loss and so had the opportunity to try out his bench strength. The game broke wide open in the third quarter when the front-court men (Rudolph, Latshaw, and Dreikorn) put a full-court press on the unprepared lawmen and boosted the score to a comfortable lead which was not relinquished for the remainder of the game. The latest report from the front office is that starting positions for the next game are wide open at the moment as a result of the last game and that the practice sessions prior to the next contest may well see the bench strengthen even more with starters.

The team would like to thank those of you who have been following them through the first two games and want you to know that it means a lot to know that they can leave the harassment of the whistle-jockies up to their loyal supporters. They also hope that you will continue your enthusiasm with your attendance throughout the remainder of the season in which they hope to bring the marbles home for the first time in many moons.  
(Cont'd on page 6)

THE MEN OF KPAUTH

Fred is a sacrament:  
he graciously encounters  
each of us personally  
and then withdraws to the inner loneliness  
that is Christ.

But we respond as better men.

Larry is the law and all its hopeless isolation.  
his hair is like a thunderclap  
which may affirm  
that wrath is never far away.

Do we mock or cheer him more?

Closer than the love of women  
is the love of Kim and Gerry.  
Together they bear the separation  
while yearning for the true and present Church.

Are they James and John or Cain and Abel more?

Close but ever distant are the others,  
always quick to laugh  
and yet their worlds diverge.

One never knows their thoughts.

And then the clown. . .  
the fool who stumbles on with stories  
and lives remotest of all--  
especially from himself.

Who knows what man he is?

--Barry Bence

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A few days before the dirt was scheduled to start moving at Ai, the local announcer (muezzin) broadcast a message over the local sound system from the minaret stating that workers would be hired the next Saturday. Applicants were to present themselves at beit Musa (staff headquarters house) at 10 a.m. The pay rate would be 45 piastres for an eight hour day. (At 2.8¢ per piastre, the daily wage was \$1.26). It was predicted that the turnout would be less than multitudinous.

The response was startling. In the picture, because of the lack of a sound track, the impression is not intense. In the flesh, the crowd seemed overwhelming because of the shoving, shouting, and  
(Cont'd on next col.)

elbowing; the zealous eagerness of the men and boys to get on the payroll. It pays to look carefully at the jumble of Jordanians. When the importunate crowd reached high tide, the trellis in lower right was overturned, and the director (mudeer) and his faithful Jordanian interpreter were busier than football officials trying to clear the field in the closing seconds of a big game. (puzzle: can you find the director?)

At the end of the week there was another mob scene when the men were paid off. The faithful Jordanian translator read off a name, and a smiling Arab shoved his way to the front and reached for the \$7.56 which was his due (well, mostly his due; it is thought that a few names might have slipped in by calculated mistake).

Dr. Howard Bream

ATTENTION

The American Red Cross has asked us to donate some items for our servicemen in Vietnam. WOTS has elected to undertake this as a "helping hand" project and needs the support of the entire Seminary Community.

Lists have been placed in mailboxes and additional copies are available under the boxes. Donated items can be placed in the WOTS - RED CROSS box in the Business Office any time this week.

Please do your part in this worthwhile project!

Ann Rudolph

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MATRICULATION (Cont'd from page 1)

So, when a student is admitted to Gettysburg Seminary, he is admitted to the Bachelor of Divinity course program. At the end of the first quarter's work, all new students--Juniors and transfers--individually considered and if their academic work is above the grade point average required for graduation, the faculty then declares them to be eligible for matriculation, i.e., to be admitted to candidacy for the Bachelor of Divinity degree. The change in status is from admission to a program without reference to a degree, limited or otherwise, to full candidacy for the degree. Students who are not eligible for matriculation go on probationary status and, if successful in clearing probation in a later quarter, are admitted to matriculation the following year.

The final question: Is a service necessary? Of course not. The whole process could be handled by a secretary typing on a student's permanent record card the notation of faculty approval--plus a "canned" note from the dean's office saying: "Congratulations. You have just been academically baptized, in absentia."

We have chosen as faculty and students at least temporarily, to continue to make a good deal more of this step at Gettysburg by holding a service in which public recog- (Cont'd next col.)

MATRICULATION (CONT'D from col. 1 this p.)

inition of degree candidacy is given to students and at which time students pledge to take their theological studies seriously. Following the service, you are invited to sign your name in the matriculation book, a custom of some long standing here at Gettysburg which follows the proper definition of matriculation.

A few closing comments:

1. The matriculation book is decrepit and obviously was rather cheap when purchased eons ago. Some caustic comments have been made concerning its unimpressive condition. But it is a refreshing academic change from the chrome-plated consolidated schools that dot our countryside. A bit of academic understatement, don't you know.

2. I found that in the 1940 class mine was the first name to be registered. As I think back, it was not because I was impressed; rather, it was done quickly before the faculty could change its mind.

3. When and if the merger ever occurs and we are all one big One, then Webster will require an addition to our definition of matriculation. He refers you, as a partner word, to "matrix," and section (e) defines this as "a material used to bind together the materials in an agglomerated mass." On, brave new world!

Dean Stroup

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Editorial (Cont'd from page 1)

Underlying these three false assumptions, however, seems to be a more basic error, and that is that Mr. Persiko has not correctly analysed the problem. It cannot be over-emphasized that an accurate and comprehensive analysis of the problem must precede any attempted solution. But while a comprehensive analysis cannot be expected in Table Talk, an attempt can be made to determine the true nature of the problem. I would suggest that Mr. Persiko's article be seen as the initial contribution in a series of such attempts. Though I disagree that "individualism" is the correct characterization of the (Cont'd on page 6)

Editorial (Cont'd from page 5)

problem, it most certainly is procedurally correct.

At this point I would like to offer a few preliminary comments as to my analysis of the problem. They are not intended to be exhaustive but merely suggestive of a particular aspect of the problem which I feel should be kept in mind, the empirical data. It seems to me that these data can be separated into two general categories: physical and psychological.

The physical factors of the problem are many, and the following two examples hopefully will suggest their nature. For one thing, our curriculum structurally divides the four classes. Aside from the fact that our courses are for the most part held separately, no class will be with any other one for more than a year. Another factor is that of physical proximity. Many married students live off campus, and this tends to separate them. The positioning of the three dormitories also has a separating effect. One need only note the various small groups on campus and where they live to see this effect.

The psychological factors also are many and perhaps more important. People with conflicting personality make-ups will hardly congregate together. Differing interests and opinions will similarly have a divisive effect.

The question now arises as to whether anything can be done to alleviate these factors. And an even more fundamental question is should anything be done. Perhaps the physical element can and should be dealt with, but concerning the psychological element, I doubt whether anything can be done, and I strongly doubt whether we should try.

This raises the questions which should really be dealt with at the very beginning: What are we trying to do? What is a Christian community? What do we mean by striving for oneness in the body of Christ? What form should this take?

Robert Pielke

MISS TIEKKEN (Cont'd from page 2)

Dear Paul,

This vision is obviously a sign of your unique calling. There seems to be no question that you are truly a special agent of God. My advice therefore is to absolutely refuse to preach unless you are given a minimum of \$100, plus 10¢ per mile for travel. Best of luck.

Religiously,  
Trudy Tiekken

CUP OF KINDNESS (Cont'd from page 3)

us listening. Because the quality was also good, the more astute and mentally alert patients could close their eyes and in a very contemporary fashion act as modern critics to a well-presented performance. In a sense they were once more permitted to be "with it."

The "Jesus Saves" singers have received a unanimous vote for their cup of kindness to come back at the earliest time and have consented to sing later in this quarter. Thanks from the Missions Committee.

Karl Fohlhaus

SPORT'S WORLD (Cont'd from page 3)

In a different light, it was decided by the Athletic Committee that something was needed to fill in the card of spring sports. With this in mind, a great deal of consideration is being put into the purchase of a Bible Baseball Game from the Pub House. It is hoped that this will be met with a great deal of participation on the part of the community.

In closing fans I'd like to add to the collection of thought provoking statements to be found in a book entitled Security Is.. Security is a 4-D lamented with good intentions.

Art Patterson